

**STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD MEETING
IN PERSON WITH OPTIONAL TELEPHONIC/WEBEX ATTENDANCE
9:00am, January 12, 2024
City of Maricopa
39700 West Civic Center Plaza
Maricopa, Arizona 85138**

Call to Order

Chairman Gary Knight called the State Transportation Board Meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Pledge

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Floyd Roehrich, Jr.

Roll Call by Board Secretary, Linda Hogan

A quorum of the State Transportation Board was present. **In attendance (in person):** Chairman Gary Knight, Vice Chairman Richard Searle, Board Member Jenny Howard, Board Member Ted Maxwell, Board Member Jenn Daniels, and Board Member Jackie Meck. Board Member Jesse Thompson participated virtually via WebEx. There were approximately 58 members of the public on-line and approximately 75 attendees in person.

Opening Remarks

Chairman Knight reminded members of the public, to keep their computer or phone muted during the meeting, unless called to speak during the Call to Audience.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act

Floyd Roehrich, Jr., read Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. Floyd also reminded individuals to fill out survey cards, with the link shown on the agenda.

Call to the Audience

An opportunity was provided to members of the public to address the State Transportation Board. Members of the public were requested not to exceed a three-minute time period for their comments.

ARIZONA STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

BOARD MEETING

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

BOARD MEETING

VIA WEBEX AND IN PERSON AT:

City of Maricopa
39700 West Civic Center Plaza
Maricopa, Arizona 85138

January 12, 2024
9:02 a.m.

REPORTED BY:
TERESA A. WATSON, RMR
Certified Reporter
Certificate No. 50876

Perfecta Reporting
(602) 421-3602

PREPARED FOR:
ADOT - STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

(Certified Copy)

1 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF EXCERPT OF ELECTRONIC
2 PROCEEDINGS, ADOT - STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD MEETING, was
3 reported from electronic media by TERESA A. WATSON, Registered
4 Merit Reporter and a Certified Reporter in and for the State of
5 Arizona.

6

7 PARTICIPANTS:

8 Board Members:

9 Richard Searle, Chairman
10 Jenn Daniels, Vice Chair
11 Jackie Meck, Board Member
12 Ted Maxwell, Board Member
13 Jesse Thompson, Board Member (via WebEx)
14 Gary Knight, Board Member
15 Jenny Howard, Board Member

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

CALL TO THE AUDIENCE

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

SPEAKER:	PAGE:
Nancy Smith, Mary of Maricopa.....	7
Rich Vitiello, Maricopa Council Member.....	10
Jones Tembo.....	12
Arthur Hardy, Jr., Greasewood Springs Chapter President....	13
Rhonda Mattachione.....	15
Jack Mattachione.....	15
Isaac Jackson.....	18
Ron Angerame.....	19
Tena Dugan.....	21
William Robertson.....	23
Kelly Anderson.....	26
Randy Dodson.....	28
Rachel Leffall.....	29
Bill Kell.....	31
Nancy Campbell, Lake Havasu City Council Member.....	32
Barby Ingle.....	34
Jarom Prows.....	35
Keith Seaman, State Representative.....	54

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

AGENDA ITEMS

Item 1 - Board Organization 2024.....	5
Item 2 - Director's Report, Jennifer Toth, ADOT Director.....	38
Legislative Update, Anthony Casselman.....	44
Item 3 - District Engineer's Report, Randy Everett, Central District Administrator.....	49
Item 4 - Consent Agenda.....	56
Item 5 - Financial Report, Kristine Ward, Chief Financial Officer.....	XX
Item 6 - Multimodal Planning Division Report, Paul Patane, Division Director, Multimodal Planning Division.....	57
Item 7 - Priority Planning Advisory Committee (PPAC), Paul Patane.....	64
Item 8 - State Engineer's Report, Gregory Byres, Deputy Director of Transportation/State Engineer.....	75
Item 9 - Construction Projects, Gregory Byres.....	78
Item 10 - Suggestions, Floyd Roehrich, Junior.....	91

1 (Beginning of excerpt.)

2 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: We'll now move to the Item
3 Number 1 on the agenda, and that is board chairman and vice
4 chairman designation for 2024. I will entertain a motion to
5 move forward and transfer the roles of chairman to Richard
6 Searle and vice chair to Jenn Daniels if I have a motion.

7 MR. MAXWELL: So moved.

8 MS. HOWARD: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: I have a motion from Board
10 Member Maxwell and a second from Jenny.

11 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

12 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

13 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Any opposed?

14 And, Floyd, will you poll our virtual member?

15 MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Thompson, how do you vote?

16 MR. THOMPSON: Vote for yes.

17 MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Chairman, it's a unanimous
18 vote. The motion carries.

19 MR. KNIGHT: Okay. Thank you.

20 In that case, Richard, you're now the chair.

21 I'll hand you the gavel, and he will take over the meeting.

22 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Thank you, Gary.

23 And if anybody was wondering, it's in statute as
24 to the chair and the vice chair, and it's not because we don't
25 like Gary or he didn't do a good job. We all get a turn in the

1 barrel, and this is my turn. And other than Jackie, who somehow
2 or another was smart enough to dodge this bullet, everybody's
3 going to get their opportunity to chair this board.

4 And, Gary, I appreciate everything you've done
5 this year, and Jesse the year before that. And Board Members,
6 feel free to correct me or speak up if I do something wrong,
7 because it won't hurt my feelings a bit.

8 So with that, we'll now move to the call to the
9 public, and I believe we have a number here that want to address
10 us. Please be aware there's a three minute time limit. We do
11 have two on the phone, and the instructions, I believe, are on
12 the agenda, so I don't know that I need to repeat that.

13 So, Floyd, if you would, go ahead and take care
14 of the call to the public.

15 MR. ROEHRICH: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I do want to,
16 though, ask one thing real quick. Does the incoming vice chair
17 have any comments? Normally, the chair and the vice chair have
18 an opportunity to comment. I didn't want to pass that chance.

19 VICE CHAIR DANIELS: Thank you, Floyd.

20 I always have comments, but I won't necessarily
21 need to share those today, and appreciate the hospitality here
22 in Maricopa and a special debt of gratitude I think we all have
23 for the way that Chair Knight has led us this past year and his
24 commitment to this board. I don't think anyone logged as many
25 miles as Chairman Knight did this past year, and I really

1 appreciate his commitment to the State. He's led us well and
2 represented us well as a board, and just really grateful for
3 that. Worked closely with our staff who have just been
4 incredible and generous in their knowledge and information. So
5 thank you so much, Gary, and glad that we can have you as a
6 friend and keep you on for as long as you'll keep on logging the
7 miles, I guess. Appreciate it.

8 Looking forward to your leadership as well,
9 Chairman Searle.

10 MR. ROEHRICH: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and Madam
11 Vice Chair.

12 Our first speaker -- and I've got quite a number
13 here, so we'll start with our first speaker -- is Mayor Nancy
14 Smith. Mayor Smith.

15 MAYOR SMITH: Thank you and welcome. We really
16 appreciate you being in the city of Maricopa, to the Board, to
17 the Director and to the staff members. It's always awesome to
18 have you here in our community so that you can see things
19 firsthand.

20 I also want to thank our residents for being
21 here. I see so many of them, and they've answered the call to
22 come out and support this meeting and to speak in some cases,
23 and so I know you'll probably hear the words "State Route 347"
24 several times today, but I also want to out the group that's
25 responsible for all those emails you're getting.

1 I hope you guys don't mind, but in the first
2 couple rows, we have several of them. They're doing a great job
3 influencing the public in terms of getting the word out to you
4 in regards to how we feel about State Route 347 and the
5 emergency need for improvement on that road. As you know, we've
6 talked about the number of incidences, crashes, collisions,
7 deaths, the safety issues, people riding on the median. It's
8 just a crazy world out there, and the sooner we can get help,
9 the better.

10 But first I want to thank you for the partnership
11 with our commercial vehicle enforcement efforts. We actually
12 looked a year ago and started talking about commercial vehicle
13 enforcement, because we have a significant number of big trucks
14 that travel through the city of Maricopa and on our main roads,
15 State Route 347 and State Route 238, and our city has done a
16 great job. Our police chief was talking this morning about it
17 in regards to the partnership that we have with ADOT and the
18 training that you're going to be providing, and we really
19 appreciate that. We're looking forward to being able to control
20 the weight of trucks more significantly, and you guys have the
21 expertise. So we appreciate that partnership.

22 I also want to thank you for the new news about
23 the crossovers. I spoke with Director Toth this morning about
24 that and the project that will be happening on State Route 347.
25 That was one of our low hanging fruits in our meeting that we

1 had with ADOT, and so I appreciate that. And our hope is that
2 once those crossovers are perfected that DPS can use those to
3 reroute traffic when we have major closures on 347. So I know
4 that will be a process. Director Toth says it's in partnership
5 with DPS. So we look forward to that.

6 And lastly, I think what you'll hear a lot today
7 is that we just need something to get started on 347 in regards
8 to the commute and the amount of traffic. In my mind, State
9 Route 347, the Riggs Road overpass is fully funded. It's
10 currently slated for 2027. I'd like to see that date moved in,
11 if possible. Being that it's funded as soon as design is over,
12 I'd like to see if there's a way to move it closer so that we
13 can get started on a project on 347 that helps alleviate the
14 traffic. And, of course, widening will be important as well,
15 but we all know that we're still working on the funding, full
16 funding for the widening part of it, but the funds are there for
17 the overpass, and I'd like to see us move that sooner rather
18 than staying where it currently is, and definitely not later.

19 So thank you very much.

20 MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Chair, I felt confident
21 announcing Mayor Smith's name, but some of these others, not so
22 confident, and I apologize at this point for all of you. Please
23 when you get up here, please go ahead and announce the correct
24 way to say your name. Thank you.

25 Our next speaker is Mr. Rich Vitiello, Vitiello.

1 I will not call him worse.

2 MR. VITIELLO: Good morning, Chair, Vice Chair.
3 Rich Vitiello, City Councilmember for this largest city in Pinal
4 County and the number one city.

5 And thank you residents of Maricopa for coming
6 out to show how we get together to make sure that we can get
7 what we need to make sure that you guys get home safe every day
8 in and out of this city. This is a personal -- something very
9 personal to me. And by the way, Ted, that -- if you'd like to
10 come stand outside, please do. I'm there come election season
11 this year, around (indiscernible), 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. to
12 watch 30-, 40-, 50,000 of our residents drive out of here, and
13 you can wave with me in the morning. I'm there two to three
14 days a week. So I -- give you my phone number. Be more than
15 happy.

16 But this is personal to me. I have a very close
17 friend of mine -- and you've heard this story several times
18 before. We're going to have our seventh annual softball
19 tournament for Izzy Calderon, who is -- he's in a state of
20 vegetation in a home today. He'll probably never come out of
21 it, but we pray for him every day and his family. We raised
22 around 15 to 20,000 dollars to help them pay for the bills.
23 It's one of many stories that you have heard, but the same story
24 you've heard from me for the last seven years that I've stood in
25 front of you. It's personal, because unfortunately, he was just

1 minding his own business when a part flew through the window and
2 hit him in the head. He wasn't even in the accident. He's got
3 two children. He's got a wife. He's a correction officer here
4 in Florence. We miss him dearly. We miss him on the softball
5 field. We miss him around our city. It's personal. I'll say
6 that over and over again, because I got to play with him for
7 many, many years.

8 I want to make sure that our residents in the
9 city get home every day so I can see them when they come to our
10 council meetings and complain to me about stuff that's going on
11 in this great city, and I love doing what I do, and I know you
12 do, too. It's a very difficult job. I appreciate what you do
13 day in and day out. It's tough to come up with the millions of
14 dollars that we all need, but this one is not only just for the
15 city of Maricopa. It is for everybody who needs to get to Yuma,
16 everybody who needs to get to Rocky Point, everybody who needs
17 to get to San Diego. This is going to be a hub that people need
18 to come through to get to these places, and we want to make sure
19 they get there safe, and hopefully stop at our restaurants every
20 once in a while on the way in and out. But

21 The bottom line is I do want to thank you,
22 because I know it is a difficult job. I know you've heard me
23 say it over and over again. I do appreciate. I do bless you
24 every day that you sit here, go through all these meetings and
25 hear about the tragedies that go on within our different cities,

1 and all I ask is that you just try to figure out a way to get us
2 3-, 400 million dollars to get this road fixed.

3 So thank you very much. Merry Christmas, happy
4 new year to everybody, and God bless you all.

5 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Mr. Joe
6 Thompson. Mr. Thompson? I don't see Mr. Thompson.

7 Mr. Drew Degrazia? Mr. Degrazia?

8 Mr. Jones Tembo? Mr. Tembo?

9 MR. TEMBO: Hi. Good morning, everybody. I'm a
10 new resident to the city of Maricopa. I lived 20 years in Pima
11 County in Tucson, and I love this town. I'm here to stay.

12 I work in the industry of pavement designs and
13 stuff like that, and so while people are bothered by the
14 construction, I actually love it, because things don't just pop
15 up. People have to work and build a new road. So there is the
16 frustration of the traffic congestion coming into the city.
17 Actually, I live on the north fringe of it in Rancho El Dorado,
18 and so I'm part of those people that it takes too long to get
19 home, but I understand, you know, that these are growing pains,
20 and they're going to go away at some point.

21 But what I -- what I've noticed is currently
22 there is work going on, I guess, to improve the traffic
23 congestion in the interim as maybe we wait for the big
24 construction, and so I don't have the construction details of
25 how they are doing it, but what I've noticed is when we --

1 southbound on 347, and going either Cobblestone or Lakeview
2 Drive, we are slowing down because of the condition of the road.
3 So you slow down because it's too bumpy to move at a normal
4 speed as you are turning left or right. So I'm just wondering
5 if part of this current construction will include improvements
6 kind of like a milling and repaving of that entire section, in
7 fact, going even further south, going to 238. That road is
8 deteriorating as well.

9 So without any details, maybe this is covered
10 already in the current construction plans, but I was just
11 curious if somebody could speak to that as to whether they would
12 just add the lane and move out or if there is kind of like a
13 milling and an overlay with a new pavement that will decongest
14 those turning lanes with more traffic going out as people move
15 at a fairly normal speed, then slowing down to turn. Thank you.

16 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Mr. Thomas
17 Akin. Mr. Akin?

18 Mr. Arthur Hardy. Mr. Hardy?

19 MR. HARDY: Good morning. My name is Arthur
20 Hardy. I want to say good morning to all of you, members of the
21 State Transportation Board committee, our representative, Jesse
22 Thompson, from District 5. I am the newly-elected chapter
23 president from Greasewood Springs, Arizona, which is on the
24 Navajo Nation reservation. We have about 1,100 or so residents
25 within our community. And don't listen to Wikipedia, because

1 that's all wrong.

2 We have a project there that I want to bring up
3 to your attention and hopefully gain support. It's the N9003
4 bridge project, which is -- it's located on an earth road, earth
5 road route, and it -- it separates our community. We do have 60
6 families that live on the other side of the wash. It's about
7 two miles from the main highway. Within that wash, as it
8 gains -- as right now, it's -- we've got snow up there that's
9 probably about a foot deep in some areas, especially in
10 Greasewood.

11 As this wash begins to run, it separates our
12 community, and we can't get emergency services. The students,
13 they can't get to school. Folks can't get to work. So that's
14 why I'm bringing this up to the State -- to the State's
15 attention. We needed financial support for this bridge. We're
16 looking at \$1.6 million for the construction. We do have
17 designs and engineering with a final cost estimate that was
18 given to us by Dibble's Engineering, which is located within
19 Phoenix, Arizona. We have legislation that has been put -- that
20 is being represented by Arizona state representative Myron
21 Tsosie from District 6, and I believe that's -- that has been
22 dr- -- this past week on Tuesday.

23 After speaking with Jesse Thompson, we had
24 formulated a plan that we needed to bring it to your attention
25 as well, so that if this project does come up in the future, you

1 would be able to see it, recognize it. And that's where I
2 would, I guess, as a chapter president -- I will be making more
3 visits to your meetings and bringing this up from time to time.
4 So that's under the direction of Jesse. So I really appreciate
5 his help and his attention to our community, as well as all of
6 you in your capacities and how you represent the state of
7 Arizona.

8 So again, thank you for that, and that's all
9 we're looking for. Thank you.

10 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Ms. Rhonda
11 Mattachione. You even told me how to do that beforehand and I
12 missed it up.

13 MS. MATTACHIONE: Good morning, Board. My name
14 is Rhonda Mattachione. I'm a candidate for Board of
15 Supervisors, District 5, Pinal County. I'm here to represent
16 the persons of Pinal County and opening up the historic Apache
17 Trail Route 88, allocating the \$4 million that was discussed at
18 the sunset review January 4th at this -- downtown at the Senate
19 office, and just hope that you'll address that today. Thank
20 you.

21 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Mr. Jack
22 Mattachione.

23 MR. MATTACHIONE: Yeah. My name is Jack
24 Mattachione from Apache Junction. Of course, that's my wife.
25 Outstanding person who's going to hopefully become a new board

1 of supervisor.

2 But I'm here today pretty much to commend the
3 ADOT people that sometime ago -- a few months ago, actually,
4 myself, my wife and a person named Kim Grady, who put together a
5 plan for ADOT on how to get the trail open, which I suggested
6 rather than wait for three or four, six more years and just
7 messing with the planning and NEPAs and everything else that we
8 just go ahead and do a clear the trail, and they listened, which
9 is outstanding. I -- they listened to us through a lot of you
10 might say political fog, but it came to fruition, I think, where
11 they suggested that they developed this where they can possibly
12 get \$4 million and clear the trail, because our community,
13 actually, is losing probably about 10 million a year in just
14 tourist attraction.

15 That's the second most visited spot in Arizona
16 besides the Grand Canyon. People come and take pictures. They
17 hike through there. You know, my wife and I have an Airbnb
18 there that we sit on the property. We rent to people that come
19 in from all over the world, doctors, lawyers, authors,
20 everywhere, just to hike the trail, just to go down there. They
21 actually hear about the Apache Trail. They come, they want to
22 go down, and it's closed, and that kind of irritates them, but,
23 you know, we -- being my wife's a native of Arizona, we can give
24 them a lot of different things to do and how to get around
25 things.

1 But the main thing I just wanted to say, being
2 a -- myself an international logistics engineer, also retired
3 psychotherapist and also a medically retired U.S. Army Airborne
4 individual, 100 percent disabled vet, I really believe in going
5 for the gusto, you might say, and taking the hill, and I think
6 it's demonstrated by ADOT here that they are doing that. They're
7 thinking outside the box and are going, okay, this is what we're
8 going to do.

9 And one thing I'd like to suggest is, because I
10 have a background in logistics engineering and accounting,
11 multi-, multi-million dollar programs, I know about fudge
12 factors, and sometimes you can find excess money in government
13 funding. At the same time, I also know that you can do
14 (inaudible) like with the federal government. We're going to
15 put \$4 million down. We're going to have a whole bunch of money
16 coming back in from revenue from tourists. But you know what?
17 Shouldn't -- there's no reason why ADOT can't go to the U.S.
18 Forest Service and say, get your (inaudible) off of our road.
19 You know, we've been storing it now for four years, and time for
20 we charge you for storage fees, and time that you start paying
21 for keeping that road closed, because they're responsible, too.
22 It's on federal land.

23 And you can do an MOU with them. I know you've
24 got -- you've got an agreement on the easement agreement with
25 them. You can do an MOU with them and say, look, you're going

1 to share the cost in this. We're going to front the money,
2 we're going to clean the road, but we expect some reimbursement
3 back. Okay? And I think that's how -- at least that's how I
4 used to operate in the federal government.

5 And anyway, I know my time's up. I appreciate my
6 time to talk with you guys. I'll (inaudible). Thank you.

7 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Mr. Isaac
8 Jackson. Mr. Jackson.

9 MR. JACKSON: Good morning. Thank you, Board.
10 Thank you, Director and staff for having me. My name's Isaac
11 Jackson, and I am the president of the board of the Chamber of
12 Commerce here in Maricopa. So I'm going to represent the
13 businesses of our community and myself, because I'm also a
14 business owner here in Maricopa.

15 The 347 obviously has been -- and you will hear
16 it all day, so thank you for standing in front of the firing
17 squad -- is going -- is going to be my topic. A lot of
18 businesses do do business in and out of Maricopa a lot. And
19 being that I have employees that do have to go outside of town,
20 I can speak for all the businesses that do the same thing, that
21 they don't want the route that goes outside of Maricopa.

22 A lot of homes that we visit and do business
23 with, there's a lot of times where they're leaving. We lose a
24 lot of great people in Maricopa because of the 347, and we like
25 to keep good people here. We talked about it at breakfast that

1 we're all friends and they're great people here, but when they
2 get on 347, they turn into kind of a monster. And it's kind of
3 true, but also, the bigger thing for me is my wife complains
4 about it a lot, she says, you miss family time. And I think a
5 lot of Maricopans can understand that, is that we miss a lot of
6 our times with our kids and our loved ones because we are stuck
7 for an hour at Riggs to get back in just to the city limit or
8 the city entrance.

9 So if we could -- I agree with the mayor, if we
10 could possibly move up the timing on that Riggs project, that
11 would be amazing, and so that's my time. I appreciate your
12 time. Thank you.

13 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Mr. Ron
14 Angerame. Angerame.

15 MR. ANGERAME: That's impressive. Very few
16 people get that.

17 Good morning. My name is Ron Angerame. I want
18 to thank you all for coming to Maricopa, and I appreciate this
19 opportunity to talk this morning.

20 My topic is also about 347. You know, on the --
21 I couldn't -- this morning, when I -- when I came in, there was
22 a social media post, which I think is unfortunately becoming
23 more typical than atypical, and the headline was -- it was like:
24 347 sucks. If you want to move, I can help. It was an ad from
25 a real estate agent saying that if you can't take living here

1 anymore, they can help you move and stuff like that. And
2 unfortunately, when you look at a lot of the social media posts
3 today, it's like becoming more and more representative of it's
4 like the answer to 347 is to move away from Maricopa, and that
5 is such a tragic decision, because Maricopa's such a wonderful
6 community here.

7 You know, I think to go on some of the other
8 things about what we're saying about the commute time, another
9 problem that I've become aware of is that a lot of people -- you
10 know, they have to get to work in Phoenix. The traffic is
11 building, but they really can't leave earlier, because they have
12 to take their kids to school and stuff like that. So it creates
13 a pretty untenable situation where it's like, I can't take my
14 kid earlier. I can't get to work late. The commute is
15 increasing.

16 So the net result is they're like, well, I have
17 to drive on the shoulder. I can't get trapped on this light.
18 You know, I have to drive poorly, drive in a way that's not
19 safe, right? I have to tailgate. I have to -- I'm going to not
20 be caught at this traffic light, so I'm going to gridlock,
21 right? And it's a move of desperation. It is not a move of
22 because they want to be a poor driver or something else like
23 that. It's that I have to get to work. I cannot be late.
24 Right?

25 So this situation with 347 is only getting worse,

1 and, you know, I understand that there's process and stuff like
2 that, but let me leave you with this thought, is if God forbid
3 tomorrow there was a 100-year flood, or worse, a 1,000-year
4 flood and it wiped out a big part of I-10 between Phoenix and
5 Tucson, would it really take 10 years or 12 years to fix that
6 road? Of course not. And that's the kind of mindset I think we
7 have to have when it comes to 347. I think we have to take a
8 different view and a different kind of mindset.

9 It's like, you know, today, if people from NASA
10 met with people from SpaceX and Blue Origin, and NASA says, oh,
11 it takes ten years to build a new rocket engine. Well, the guys
12 from SpaceX and -- they're like, no, it doesn't. And it's like
13 are the people from NASA any smarter? No. They've got a lot of
14 smart people at NASA, but it's just the kind of thing, it's like
15 no, these things take 10 years and we're going to fulfill on
16 that destiny. And I would encourage everybody to not fulfill on
17 that. Think about it in a much more serious, much more
18 catastrophic way.

19 Thank you so much for your time.

20 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Tena Dugan.

21 Ms. Dugan. Dugan? Dugan?

22 MS. DUGAN: Good morning, everyone. I think this
23 is time three for me talking to you guys. You still haven't
24 taken me up on dinner, and Mayor Smith and I talked. We're
25 waiting. I'm telling you.

1 And also, your little thing about sitting on the
2 side of 347, Rich takes his life in his own hands. Oh,
3 Councilmember -- sorry, Rich. I'll put you in my car. I'm a
4 former cop. I know how to drive it, and we'll just drive back
5 and forth, and I think you'll get a better idea of what the
6 347's all about, so come on over.

7 I, of course, am here to talk about the 347, and
8 I would like to touch on just a couple things. I had to go to
9 Mayo Clinic twice last week, once in Scottsdale, once in
10 Phoenix. My commute home on Monday, 1 hour and 48 minutes. My
11 commute home on Tuesday, 1 hour and 57 minutes. Two hours of my
12 life, some of it spent on the 101. I'm not here to talk about
13 that, but the 347 was backed up all the way to the museum at
14 Maricopa Road and was stop and go for the entire way into
15 Maricopa. Part of it and the majority of it right now is due to
16 the construction, which will hopefully alleviate some of the bad
17 pavement and add another lane going out of town, and I
18 appreciate that, but part of it is because of that construction,
19 they lowered the size of the left turn lane into Rancho El
20 Dorado.

21 So cars coming southbound in the afternoon have
22 to turn into Rancho El Dorado to get to their home. My
23 suggestion is it either be lengthened or else you just close it
24 off altogether, because right there it goes -- just after that,
25 it goes back to three lanes, but you basically taking it down to

1 one lane for a good portion from three o'clock on in the
2 afternoon.

3 And I don't know about you, but a two-hour
4 commute to get home -- I don't live in California. I don't want
5 to. I live in Arizona. Been here since the day I was born, and
6 I'd really like to get home a little sooner than that.

7 The other thing, I wanted to touch on Ron's
8 point. I do believe that there's some red tape and bureaucracy
9 that could be looked at to make it happen faster, not just for
10 us, but for every resident of the State of Arizona. I believe
11 that most of you have held elected office, served the citizens.
12 Let's remember the little guy sometimes. Sometimes we had so
13 many positions and so many things, and the paperwork sits on
14 this desk and sits on this desk. Let's see if we can find a way
15 to make it quicker.

16 Thanks, guys, for coming to Maricopa. We always
17 love to have you here. Have a great day.

18 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Mr. William
19 Robertson. Mr. Robertson.

20 MR. ROBERTSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Board,
21 staff. We appreciate you coming to Maricopa. I think this is
22 probably the third or fourth time I've addressed the Board, so
23 you might hear some repeats, but I'll try to change it up just a
24 little bit.

25 I'm a resident of Maricopa. Also serve as vice

1 chair of the City Planning and Zoning Commission, and I serve on
2 what we call our Media Focus 347 Committee that gets the emails
3 out to everybody, tries to keep people focused on what's going
4 on. Thank you for opportunity.

5 I'm here to speak about 347. First of all, 347
6 expansion needs to be moved to the highest priority possible.
7 We understand how the sausage is made. We also understand that
8 the State of Arizona has gone from almost a billion dollar
9 surplus to almost a billion dollar deficit this coming year, and
10 that probably freaks you out as much as it does us.

11 Very concerned about the Riggs Road overpass
12 money being clawed back if we don't use it. It's been in place
13 almost three years now. The design, we're told, is underway.
14 It really needs -- we need to pull the trigger on this, because
15 I'm very fearful that our Legislature's going to start looking
16 at these projects. The Governor had, I think, last year or the
17 year before -- last year -- requested a review of all major
18 projects, because they saw the storm coming. How we get from a
19 billion dollar surplus to almost a billion dollar deficit in 12
20 months is pretty incredible.

21 Anyhow, the City of Maricopa, we have a general
22 plan, just like you have a five-year plan, and ours gets
23 reviewed and updated regularly, and we know that the five-year
24 plan also gets looked at annually. It may be a five-year plan,
25 but every year you look at it and can move things forward. So

1 it's hopeful that you can move this needle a little bit forward
2 on 347, especially Riggs Road and some of the other interim
3 projects that would fit into the long-range plan.

4 The city of Maricopa currently has about 30,000
5 residential rooftops that residents -- that represents about
6 70,000 residents. There are over 50,000 rooftops entitled to be
7 built in the next decade. We are about 43 square miles in the
8 city limits. We have a 250-square mile planning district that
9 we are trying to work on and manage appropriately, along with
10 Pinal County is also -- their planning and zoning commission is
11 starting to authorize subdivisions in and around Maricopa at a
12 pretty high rate of speed, as well as what's going on in the
13 city.

14 We know that this is a buy right property right
15 state. We can't shut people down from building. If it's
16 compliant, we have to allow it. If it meets the code, we have
17 to allow it. We've been asked several times, why don't we put a
18 moratorium on building until the road gets fixed? Well, that's
19 probably a 20-year moratorium. The state law doesn't allow for
20 20-year moratoriums. The state law says you can only issue a
21 moratorium on construction and building and growth if you can
22 fix the problem. The City of Maricopa has no authority to fix
23 the problem on 347. So therefore, a moratorium makes no sense.
24 It would not work. And they time out in about 18 or 24 months
25 anyway.

1 So a project that's on the five-year plan, let's
2 assume for a minute that the design gets done, the scoping study
3 has a couple different options, has some estimates, and we do
4 know that those estimates are climbing --

5 MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Robertson, your time is
6 expired. Could you please finish your comments?

7 MR. ROBERTSON: Yes, sir. I will, sir.

8 So we're here to thank you for your attention and
9 all the work you do. We know how the sausage is made, and we
10 know it's not easy, and we're glad that you're here listening
11 for us. Thank you very much.

12 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Kelly
13 Anderson. I feel confident with that name.

14 MS. ANDERSON: I usually follow my introduction
15 with "not that one."

16 Thank you, Director Toth. Thank you,
17 Transportation Board members. Thank you for taking the time and
18 logging the miles to be present here in our community and
19 listening to those most affected by the challenges of the 347.

20 My name is Kelly Anderson. My family's lived in
21 Maricopa for over a decade. My husband and I own a business
22 here, and I'm the executive director of the Chamber of Commerce.

23 Like everyone in this room, I have a multitude of
24 personal stories, of headaches and heartbreaks as a result of
25 both the congestion and especially the tragic loss of life on

1 State Route 347. I'd like to share three quick stories with
2 you.

3 One morning on my way to work -- I used to work
4 in downtown Phoenix -- there was a fatality on the 347, but the
5 information of the road closure had not yet reached many of my
6 fellow commuters. I happened to hear about the closure and was
7 able to turn back and work from home that day, but I received
8 many calls and texts from friends who were unable to even leave
9 their driveways because traffic had backed up into the
10 subdivisions and in the neighborhoods of people just simply
11 trying to access the 347. It's unbelievable for me to think
12 that people couldn't even leave their homes because of a
13 disaster on the 347.

14 Two summers ago, my husband and I were headed out
15 of town with our RV and our off-road vehicle. I was towing the
16 trailer in the right lane, leaving town, and the condition was
17 absolutely atrocious. It was so bad, presumably from the
18 incredible amount of heavy truck traffic, that my trailer
19 actually began to wag. The wag became so significant, I started
20 to truly become scared. So did my husband, who was driving just
21 behind me. He called just as my panic set in the heaviest, and
22 I knew that I couldn't hard brake, because I would have quickly
23 been the cause of a very serious accident on that 347.
24 Fortunately, I was able to keep my wits about me, slow my truck
25 and pull safely to the shoulder, but I'll never forget the fear

1 I felt in that moment and then the relief when I was able to
2 finally stop and collect myself.

3 My third story comes from my brother, shop
4 foreman at a local mechanic. During the recent construction on
5 the 347, he told me of the increased number of vehicles using
6 his parking lot as a bypass for the congestion on John Wayne
7 Parkway. He was concerned not only for the number of vehicles
8 coming through the lots, but their speed. Vehicles using
9 parking lots instead of roadway increases safety hazards to
10 customers and employees at our local businesses.

11 The three take-aways from my three separate
12 stories are, one, people should never be trapped in their own
13 homes because of congestion on our roadways. Two, people should
14 never be afraid to use our public roadways. And three, people
15 should never face unsafe conditions while shopping and simply
16 walking in the parking lots of their employment. All of this
17 has happened in this community because of State Route 347.
18 Please prioritize the State Route 347 completion. Thank you.

19 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Mr. Randy
20 Dodson.

21 MR. DODSON: Good morning. My name is Randy
22 Dodson, and I'm just here to speak on (audio interruption) thank
23 you (audio interruption) --

24 MR. ROEHRICH: Your time -- your time is not up.
25 Mr. Dodson, your time is not up.

1 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: You know, we're doing
2 everything we can to speed this up.

3 MR. DODSON: I'll be quick. Just wanted to speak
4 on 347. I am so thankful that I'm retired and I don't have to
5 drive that on a daily basis, because it really is atrocious, as
6 many people have said. And I know you all understand that. I
7 can't stress it enough.

8 Unfortunately, there's only essentially one way
9 to get to the Phoenix area where most people work, and that's
10 347. We've been offered alternatives of driving down Maricopa
11 Casa Grande Highway to get to Pinal, to get on the 10. That's
12 at least a half an hour to 45 minutes longer. So although it's
13 an alternative, if 347 is closed for an accident, which has
14 happened on occasions, it's not a viable option from our
15 standpoint.

16 So whatever you can do to improve and accelerate
17 any improvements on 347 would be much appreciated. So that's
18 it. Thank you very much for your time.

19 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Rachel
20 Leffall. Ms. Leffall.

21 MS. LEFFALL: Good morning, Board Members.
22 Congratulations to the newly-appointed Chair and Vice Chair, and
23 thank you for your service, Chairman Knight.

24 I won't belabor the point. I am here to mention
25 State Route 347 and ask that the Riggs overpass be brought to

1 the top priority. One of the things that I want to mention is,
2 yes, there are lots of accidents. Yes, some are fatalities.
3 Yes, it does inconvenience the residents of Maricopa. Yes,
4 there is a cost.

5 The funds are there. We don't want to lose them,
6 but I also want to mention the funds that will come forth from
7 moving the 347 Riggs overpass as a priority. We have businesses
8 who are wanting to come to the city of Maricopa, but they --
9 there are these challenges that are faced, because we're being
10 considered as a bedroom community. If we can do what we can to
11 expedite 347, the widening from the state level -- because the
12 city is doing what we can do on our end, and we thank you for
13 releasing, you know, some of that to us so that we can move that
14 forward, and as you can see, we have been very diligent in what
15 we can do as a city.

16 The -- our overpass within the city was
17 expedited. We were able to complete that in a fraction of the
18 time that was initially planned. So if you could expedite Riggs
19 Road, just think of the revenue that will be generated, not just
20 to our city from these companies who are coming in with the more
21 high paying jobs. There will be less travel, because we can
22 have our residents who are going outside of the city to work to
23 be able to work inside, because we'll be able to bring in those
24 high paying jobs.

25 In addition to that, we'll be able to get the

1 revenue not just within our city, but that also benefits our
2 state. So if we can look at it from a more broad perspective
3 where it's not just impacting our city and benefiting our city,
4 but it's benefiting the state as a whole.

5 So we have a survey that was completed where we
6 have workers who have stated that they would be willing to take
7 pay cuts in order to work in the city of Maricopa. So working
8 within the city of Maricopa will save traffic on 347. It will
9 improve the safety factors, because we will have less traffic
10 there, but it will also bring in more revenue. So I want -- I
11 want us to look at it from that perspective as well. Yes, it
12 will cost, but there is also a long-term benefit.

13 So I thank you for your time. I thank you guys
14 for coming here. It was a pleasure meeting you all at the
15 breakfast, and have a safe trip back home.

16 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Bill Kell.
17 Mr. Kell.

18 MR. KELL: Bill Kell. I am a resident of Apache
19 Junction, and I'm here to -- on Apache Trail 88.

20 It's been four years that road has been closed,
21 and I want to put a little comparative. A couple months ago,
22 there was a landslide on the road going out of Sedona, on that
23 road up there. I understand that landslide -- and that was part
24 of Forest Service, too -- was repaired within weeks, yet Apache
25 Junction's suffering the financial loss of businesses of

1 \$40 million, \$10 million a year, to sit there for four years.
2 There has not been a sense of urgency. We see Sedona with the
3 prima donnas. So Apache Junction feels like peasants. Please
4 get a sense of urgency and get it fixed. Thank you.

5 MR. ROEHRICH: Next speaker, Nancy Campbell.
6 Ms. Campbell.

7 MS. CAMPBELL: Good morning, Chair, Board and
8 Director Toth, along with the ADOT staff.

9 I appreciate what they're saying here with
10 Highway 347, because Highway 95 coming in and out of Lake Havasu
11 City is our only road in and out. As the vice chair of the
12 Rural Transportation Advocacy Council and the Executive
13 Committee for -- on the Executive Board for Lake Havasu MPO and
14 a planner -- it's just what I do as -- I'm a developer and a
15 planner, so I look at things for future -- I'm extremely
16 thankful for the repavement that we received, the milling and
17 the filling on Highway 95, which was much needed. The citizens
18 are extremely happy, and I want to thank the ADOT staff for the
19 outstanding work they've done facilitating that.

20 The road looks so beautiful, and I'm going to
21 take my expertise, which is owning an asphalt company and a
22 concrete manufacturing company, along with two rural mines, to
23 understand Arizona's heat and the UV issues. I want to be
24 proactive and keep my road the best I can keep it, and that
25 means I would like to request in maybe 2026 an early pavement

1 preservation. It is proven that the oil evaporates quite
2 quickly in the high heats and the UV, and easy fog seals or
3 there's a lot of other project -- products out there that
4 definitely can keep my road, our roads, all of them, healthy and
5 happy longer.

6 So as an asphalt company, I don't want to have to
7 be milling and filling all these roads earlier than we need to.
8 It's not about my pocketbook. It's about saving taxpayers
9 money, and I think we need to look at our roads a little
10 differently.

11 I'm extremely excited about the \$850 million
12 appropriation bill that RTAC pushed through, and we have a lot
13 of new paving in rural Arizona, and I'm extremely excited about
14 that, but I don't want to turn it into -- oxidations, early
15 oxidations. So again, it's not that expensive in the long run.
16 Lake Havasu City, between collaboration and communication, saved
17 taxpayers almost \$6 million in the cost to that road to start
18 with. So Representative Biasiucci asked me to step up here. He
19 was one of the advocates to get that road for us, and he asked
20 me to please be here today and ask you for a possibility of
21 spend some money in 2026, just a small fraction of what a new
22 road costs to preserve our road. And we would love to be the
23 first one to prove to the rest of you that this is really
24 important. Thank you much.

25 MR. ROEHRICH: So Mr. Chairman, that's the

1 requests to speak in person. We do have some online, but I
2 would like to go back just to see if these in-person requests,
3 if the people did show up.

4 Mr. Joe Thompson? Drew Degrazia? Thomas Akin?

5 Okay. Mr. Chair, we now will go to the online
6 requests, and the first speaker is Ms. Barby Ingle. I see she's
7 already raised her hand. Caroline, if you could please work to
8 unmute Ms. Ingle.

9 MS. INGLE: Chairman, the Vice Chairwoman and the
10 Board Members of the Transportation Committee, my name is Barby
11 Ingle, and I'm a resident of Apache Junction and Pinal County,
12 and I'm also a candidate for state rep, LD 7, and I am here to
13 ask you to support the fixing of State Route 88 Apache Trail.
14 And as I've gone around and asked different residents of San Tan
15 Valley, Gold Canyon and Apache Junction what their pain points
16 were, this is one of the topics that has come up. And I do
17 understand looking into this and researching that there is a
18 plan in place thanks to Jack and Rhonda and Kim. And I also
19 researched, going back to 2019, that there was -- there was a
20 fire, as well as the landslide, and the -- it was asked for
21 three to four years for healing of the burn scars. That has --
22 that time has passed and I feel like it's time to repair the
23 Apache Trail.

24 I, myself and my family and extended family use
25 Roosevelt Lake and Apache Lake, and at this time, we and other

1 members in this area that that live around here are having to
2 drive an hour and a half, 84 miles around, because we cannot
3 take the direct route of Apache Trail, and it's adding 40 miles
4 each way to our trip time.

5 I believe that there is a great plan in place, as
6 I said, and that I would love to have your support for the
7 \$4 million to start this repair and get this Apache Trail opened
8 back up for the people, not just here in Arizona, but the
9 tourists that are coming in. There's about 40 -- since the road
10 has closed down, we've had about 45,000 people that have had to
11 take an alternate route, adding to our -- to our route. So I'm
12 really hoping that you can support this, and I appreciate your
13 time. Thank you so much.

14 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Mr. Jarom
15 Prows. Mr. Prows, please raise your hand. Oh, I see he raised
16 his hand. Caroline, could you work to get him unmuted, please?

17 WEBEX HOST: I think you're unmuted, sir.

18 MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Prows, we can hear you, so
19 please make your comments.

20 MR. PROWS: Okay. Thank you all for having me
21 this morning. My name is Jarom Prows. I'm a representative of
22 Sage Memorial Hospital. It's a small rural hospital located in
23 Ganado, Arizona. We are -- the reason why I'm here today is we
24 have a project, we're erecting a new hospital there in Ganado,
25 Arizona. It's right off of the Highway 264, which is a -- which

1 is an ADOT highway.

2 Part of this project is we're being required to
3 construct two traffic signals on that 264 route. The -- with a
4 total cost of \$6.1 million. Our issue with this is we're in the
5 business of health care. We're really not necessarily in the
6 business of road infrastructure. One of the traffic lights does
7 serve the hospital directly, which is off of 264 and Cedar Hills
8 Drive. We understand that by us building a new hospital that we
9 should be erecting that traffic light, but there is another
10 traffic signal that's only 500 feet away from that traffic
11 light, and that's coming in at about \$3 million.

12 These are -- the \$6 million should be utilized in
13 other avenues that will serve the Navajo people, specifically in
14 a -- in a form of dialysis center there on campus. We had to
15 stop plans for that dialysis center to reallocate those funds to
16 build these two traffic signals. We have gone to state
17 legislators this past week at the Capitol to lobby for them --
18 for their support on trying to help us recoup some of these
19 funds so we could invest these funds into the public healthcare
20 system.

21 Rural healthcare is already faced with a lot of
22 implications and a lot of factors, and by us having to invest
23 all this money into building these lights is further impacting
24 the burden for the -- for the healthcare that we could be
25 providing to our Navajo people. So again, I just wanted to

1 bring that up to the -- to the Board that -- so when it does
2 come to you guys' attention, we might be able to work together
3 to help us pay for these traffic signals.

4 Thank you for the time. I appreciate it.

5 MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Chairman, those are all the
6 requests to speak that I received.

7 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: All right. Thank you,
8 Mr. Roehrich.

9 With that, I will go ahead and close our call to
10 the public. And just a clarification. As board members, we
11 really can't address the issues that are brought forward on the
12 call to the public. We do appreciate hearing from you. We
13 understand your frustration, and I think speaking for the Board,
14 we have -- we're well aware of the issues on 347 and the 88, and
15 we understand your frustrations. We really do.

16 So with that, I'm going to -- I'll move to Item
17 Number 2, which is the Director's report.

18 VICE CHAIR DANIELS: Chairman Searle. Real
19 quickly. Pardon me for interrupting.

20 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Yes.

21 VICE CHAIR DANIELS: I just want the public to
22 know that we to have ADOT staff that is capturing all of the
23 comments that are made, and there is a response that's provided
24 after. So we do track those. Those are provided in the
25 response so that we can do the follow-up over the -- over the

1 course of the month before the next board meeting as well. So I
2 just wanted to make sure people know that they don't just come
3 here and speak to us, but we are capturing the information and
4 making sure that there is follow-up done, next steps.

5 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: That's correct. Thank you,
6 Board Member Daniels.

7 And with that, we'll now move to our Director's
8 report. Item Number 2.

9 DIRECTOR TOTH: Good morning.

10 MR. ROEHRICH: Jennifer, can I quick?

11 Christopher, could you please go ahead and show
12 the presentation? Thank you, sir.

13 DIRECTOR TOTH: All right. Good morning,
14 Mr. Chair, members of the Board. Thank you, Mayor Smith and
15 council and staff for welcoming us to your city. We're very
16 happy to be here in Maricopa, and I'd like to share a few
17 updates with everybody, in particular on the projects that have
18 been brought forward today.

19 Trying to forward that. So next slide, please.

20 MR. ROEHRICH: Wonder if this has to be up there.

21 Christopher, the -- yeah. If you could just go
22 ahead and -- the director will say next slide. Please advance
23 the slides. Thank you.

24 DIRECTOR TOTH: All right. As I indicated,
25 because we are here in the City of Maricopa today, I wanted to

1 start off with a quick update on some of the State Route 347
2 corridor improvements that we have on the horizon.

3 First off, thank you to the members of the public
4 who spoke today. We do appreciate all your feedback, and our
5 goal is to reduce traffic congestion and improve travel times
6 for drivers.

7 Our senior district administrator, Randy Everett,
8 will also provide an update in a few minutes on some of the
9 projects that are currently underway and under construction, but
10 I want to touch on a few of the more long-range projects.

11 First, the traffic interchange at 347 and Riggs
12 Road, this project will create a new grade separated interchange
13 to separate 347 from Riggs Road traffic on a new bridge. It's
14 in cooperation with the Gila River Indian Community and other
15 project partners. We are currently conducting an environmental
16 and engineering study to evaluate the different interchange
17 design alternatives and select a preferred alternative. The
18 project will begin final design this year, with construction to
19 start in 2026. As indicated, the goals for the project are to
20 reduce traffic congestion, improve safety and enhance
21 regional mobility.

22 Next I want to talk about the intersection
23 improvement at Casa Blanca Road and also at Mammoth Way. The
24 State Legislature has provided funding to advance the
25 construction of improvements at those two intersections, and

1 we're in the process of developing those intersection designs.
2 Anticipating advertising for the construction in the late --
3 this year, and construction to take it approximately a 12-month
4 time period.

5 So definitely be on the lookout for details to
6 come. We expect to hold some public meetings for the Riggs Road
7 traffic interchange this spring, and we'll also have public
8 hearings for the review of the draft environmental documents and
9 that preferred alternative. We'll also hold public meetings for
10 the Mammoth Way and the Casa Blanca Road intersections later
11 this year.

12 I do also want to share that we have heard
13 questions from the public on why these projects take so long,
14 and I just want to remind everyone that we do have to go through
15 certain processes from a federal perspective and environmental
16 compliance. Those projects are also located on the Gila River
17 Indian Community and require that thorough environmental review
18 of those potential impacts, as well as the Community's consensus
19 on the preferred design in order to minimize the impacts. So we
20 are working as diligently as we can with our partners to
21 continue improving this corridor.

22 Next slide, please.

23 So let me -- there's some photos here of an
24 update, and I'll give an update on State Route 88. As you've
25 mentioned, there was extensive damage to State Route 88

1 following a severe flood back in 2019. For public safety
2 reasons, ADOT had to close that section, and you can see some of
3 that damage that was done here. We do recognize that this is an
4 important route for residents in the area, as well as for
5 tourism and the local businesses, and we do want to get some
6 momentum in opening this road.

7 So today, we have proposed an interim improvement
8 plan that you'll consider later on in the agenda. The
9 improvements are designed to restore limited access while we do
10 pursue funding to advance longer-term improvements.

11 Next slide, please.

12 This is a general overview of the area. The
13 interim improvement plan would restore the unpaved roadway to a
14 condition that can accommodate vehicles with the high clearance
15 or a four-wheel drive as well as utility terrain vehicles.
16 Because State Route 88 does follow an easement through federal
17 land, we have begun meetings with The Forest Service to discuss
18 the maintenance and construction activities that we do plan to
19 perform.

20 And if the Board approves the funding today,
21 maintenance crews will begin preliminary work in February to
22 remove vegetation, clear culverts and fill in eroded areas of
23 the road surface east of Fish Creek Hill. Design and NEPA
24 clearance would begin this spring to repair the damage at Fish
25 Creek Hill caused by the previous storms with contractor

1 selection plan for later this spring.

2 Our interim plan calls for removing those
3 boulders on Fish Creek Hill, mitigating the rock fall as needed
4 between Fish Creek Hill overlook and Fish Creek, making repairs
5 to retaining walls, installing new signage and cleaning and
6 potentially replacing some damaged culverts.

7 As I said, these improvements are only to restore
8 limited access. Those longer-term improvements that were
9 identified in the design concept report completed late last
10 year, those improvements do total 33.7 million and include
11 chipsealing, widening in those steeper areas, increasing
12 drainage capacity, bridge rehabilitation and safety
13 enhancements. That longer-term plan does not have dedicated
14 funding at this time, and we are going to continue to pursue
15 grant funding for those particular improvements.

16 Next slide, please.

17 Just a quick update on the I-10 projects.
18 Interstate bridges over the Gila River. This project will
19 replace the existing two-lane bridges with new three-lane
20 bridges and wider shoulders. Work also includes reconstructing
21 the existing roadway approaches.

22 On December 15th, we received seven bids for
23 construction all under our state estimate. The apparent low
24 bidder came in at approximately 51 million, and this will be --
25 this is on the agenda for later today. So if approved,

1 construction activities on the bridge would begin later this
2 spring. And historic preservation treatment plan activities
3 will continue in advance of the bridge construction activities.

4 So it's an exciting and very important step
5 forward in our ongoing efforts to expand I-10 between Phoenix
6 and Tucson, and we're very appreciative of the Gila River Indian
7 Community for the coordination that continues on all the
8 projects throughout the I-10/Wild Horse Pass corridor.

9 Next slide, please.

10 Next I want to update to you on ADOT's recent
11 sunset review, which was brought up in a comment earlier, and
12 two performance audits that were performed by the Arizona
13 Auditor General's office last week. Our agency went before a
14 legislative joint committee to discuss the audits and ADOT's
15 response to the findings. I am happy to say that we were able
16 to report to the committee that we have worked quickly and
17 diligently to address and implement the Auditor General's
18 recommendation.

19 Of the 49 recommendations, 43 items are at 90 to
20 100 percent complete, meaning that ADOT has implemented specific
21 actions to address the issues, and we have sent it to our
22 internal auditor to review and finalize. The remaining six
23 items are at about a 50 to 75 percent range, and we expect to
24 fully address many of those recommendations prior to the Auditor
25 General's initial follow-up review, which will start in the

1 January and March time frame.

2 The committee ended the meeting with a vote to
3 recommend continuation of the agency for four to six years.
4 From here, we'll work to -- we'll continue to work with the
5 Auditor General's office to demonstrate that we have implemented
6 all the recommendations.

7 As I told the legislative committee, I am
8 extremely proud of the work that our employees do to safely
9 connect people and empower this economy, and I'm confident that
10 our plan of action and response to the audit will meet the
11 intended needs, and it will improve the agency.

12 If you do get questions about the audit, please
13 reach out to us. We're very happy and -- to talk through any
14 questions that people may have, and with that, I will turn
15 things over to Anthony for our legislative report.

16 MR. CASSELMAN: Good morning. Can you hear me
17 okay?

18 MR. ROEHRICH: Anthony, we can barely hear you.
19 Is there a way to speak closer to your microphone?

20 MR. CASSELMAN: Yes. Can you -- how about now?

21 MR. ROEHRICH: Yes. We can hear you.

22 MR. CASSELMAN: Okay. Perfect. Thank you.

23 Mr. Chairman, Board Members, good morning. I
24 wish I could be there with you in person. With the session
25 starting, it's been a little bit busier for me, so I will do my

1 best to be there in person at future board meetings.

2 As I just mentioned, the 2024 legislative session
3 kicked off this past Monday, January 8th. There were opening
4 day ceremonies on Monday, along with the Governor's State of the
5 State Address.

6 It's been a -- it's been a busy first week for
7 ADOT. We presented at the Senate Transportation and Technology
8 Committee this week, and the team will present at the House
9 Transportation and Infrastructure Committee next week as well.

10 In addition, we just -- again, as the Director
11 alluded to, on January 4th, there was a sunset audit hearing of
12 the two joint transportation committees, and there was a
13 recommendation made that the agency be continued for four to six
14 years. I would just mention that the department will pursue
15 legislation to essentially enact that continuation of that four-
16 to six-year recommendation.

17 Yesterday there was a seven-bill limit at the
18 House, so there was a large influx of bills. You heard a few
19 comments about some legislation that's been introduced already.
20 The House is at 624 bills introduced at this moment, and then
21 the Senate's at about 77.

22 With that being said, and with the first week of
23 session behind us, I just did want to mention that the ADOT
24 Government Relations Office, myself, I'll work with Floyd to
25 continue to provide a tracking list of all of the bills that are

1 relevant to the State Transportation Board on a weekly basis.
2 You should start getting that, that tracking list beginning next
3 week.

4 Finally, I would just mention the Governor's
5 scheduled to release her executive budget proposal later this
6 afternoon, and then there are some subsequent budget hearings
7 taking place at the Legislature next week with the Governor's
8 office and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee as well.

9 That concludes my legislative update. I'd be
10 happy to answer any questions.

11 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Are there any questions at this
12 time?

13 MR. MAXWELL: Anthony, this is Ted Maxwell. I'm
14 just curious. The recommendation you said was four to six on
15 the sunset and extension. What was the year time frame for the
16 last extension or authorization of ADOT?

17 And, Director, you may have the best answer.

18 DIRECTOR TOTH: It was eight years previously.

19 MR. MAXWELL: Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Any other questions for
21 Director Toth or staff?

22 I do have one question on Gila River Bridge and
23 I-10. Do we have -- is that construction going to -- how are we
24 going to handle the traffic that we've got right now with the
25 construction project going forward on that?

1 DIRECTOR TOTH: Mr. Chairman, members of the
2 Board, I'll like to call our state engineer up to address that.

3 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Okay. We'll go to the -- right
4 to the horse.

5 MR. BYRES: Mr. Chairman, Board Members,
6 actually, the way it's going to be constructed is the new bridge
7 is actually going to go between the two existing bridges. So
8 the two existing bridges will be in place during the course of
9 construction of the new bridge. The new bridge will actually be
10 elevated about four feet higher than the existing bridges, but
11 it will not be to its full width. So once the main portion is
12 constructed, then the two existing bridges will be demolished
13 and then extended outwards to get to the three lanes in each
14 direction.

15 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: All right. Thank you.

16 If there's no other questions or comments, I'll
17 go --

18 MR. THOMPSON: Chairman. Chairman.

19 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: -- ahead and move to Item
20 Number 3, which is the district report.

21 MR. THOMPSON: Chairman.

22 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Mr. Thompson. Jesse, did you
23 have a question?

24 WEBEX HOST: Mr. Thompson, you're muted. Hold on
25 one second. If you'll unmute yourself.

1 MR. THOMPSON: Can you hear me now?

2 WEBEX HOST: Yes. If you'll speak up, we can
3 hear you loud and clear.

4 MR. THOMPSON: Okay. Chairman Searle and also
5 members of the Board, congratulations to being appointed
6 chairman and the vice chairman.

7 I just want to let the board members know that we
8 were well represented at the Indian Nation Tribes (inaudible)
9 legislative day at the Capitol on Wednesday. I commend the
10 attendance of Director Toth as a tribal liaison, as well as the
11 staff of ADOT. Everywhere you look, they were talking to
12 leadership of the tribes about the ADOT program, and I certainly
13 do appreciate them for having done that.

14 I commend as well the late Senator Jack Jackson,
15 Senior, for initiating this effort. Now we're able to come
16 together, tribal leadership and the State Legislature, and talk
17 about many of the issues that impact them on the reservation.
18 You have just heard one today and how the school bus routes are
19 very important to the Native American communities. My brother,
20 Art Hardy, presented these projects regarding a need for a
21 bridge over a wash, and this is also true for many of the
22 communities that impact the learning process of our students.

23 Again, I do commend our director and the staff
24 for being there, talking about how they could assist, although
25 we're not able to do everything, about how we can work things

1 out together. So again, thank you, Chairman, and the members of
2 the Board.

3 DIRECTOR TOTH: Mr. Chairman, members of the
4 Board, I believe Jesse was -- Mr. Thompson, sorry -- Board
5 Member Thompson was referencing the tribal liaison -- the tribal
6 legislative days that was held this week and complimenting ADOT
7 and participating and being there to listen to the issues on
8 the -- on the reservation.

9 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Thank you, Director Toth.

10 With that, we'll now move on to Item Number 3,
11 which is the district report.

12 MR. EVERETT: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, members
13 of the Board. If I could get my presentation up. I am Randy
14 Everett. I'm the district administrator for the Central
15 District. That's this area right here. We're small, but we are
16 obviously in Phoenix and the general area, so we are big. We've
17 got a lot going on.

18 I always like to bring up what we have just
19 accomplished. We just finished the I-10, that's the SR-85 to
20 Verado, out on the west side of the district. That is a big job
21 that's done. We now have three lanes in both the outgoing and
22 in-going into the Phoenix area, and we have finished the Miller
23 and Watson interchanges.

24 We have just completed the big project on 303,
25 which is 51st Avenue, 43rd Avenue. Both those interchanges are

1 now done. That job is now open.

2 And we just finished diamond grinding on a
3 section of the I-17 from Dunlap to Deer Valley. Why that is so
4 important is because old asphalt tends to throw a lot of rocks
5 and chip windshields. We do not think that was going to happen
6 now for a good, long time. So we're very proud of this job.

7 Some of the jobs that are now currently active,
8 obviously, this is a big one. It's the Broadway Curve. It is a
9 \$615 million job. We're pretty much on time and on budget with
10 this one, which is really good.

11 Another active project going on right now is our
12 16th Street screen wall on the SR-101. Again, that is about 50
13 percent done at this point, both in time and in budget.

14 This one just started. This is State Route 101
15 up in the Pima to Shea. This is in the Scottsdale area. Just
16 started last weekend. We've just started breaking ground. We
17 are taking off the asphalt in both directions. The second will
18 be this weekend, and then the construction will be behind
19 barriers, and we will be open -- the whole road will be open to
20 traffic through the events of Scottsdale through the spring.

21 60 X Sossaman to Meridian, it's a small main
22 route up north of the US-60. We are going to be giving this
23 road ultimately back to Maricopa County, so we are doing the
24 construction at about five miles of that. That starts in just
25 another month.

1 And then, of course, there is the SR-347 and
2 Lakeview Drive that is happening right now. I know there's a
3 lot of interest in this room on this one. It's a small project
4 money-wise, but it's very important. It does allow for Lakeview
5 traffic to get out northbound onto 347 in a three-lane
6 configuration. That should help a lot of people getting out of
7 town, but I do know it is the subject of a lot of things going
8 on, so I did want to bring out a couple things for the community
9 that are happening right now on the project.

10 We do have the new northbound and southbound
11 lanes. They are now paved. The contractor has been very good
12 at trying to stay off the road as much as possible and keep
13 those two lanes open to traffic. We realize that is not always
14 easy.

15 There was a comment made this morning that the
16 southbound is being heavily congested because we don't have --
17 we only have one lane now going into the Lakeview area. In
18 time, and you're going to see in about two, three weeks, by mid
19 February at the latest, we hope to open two left turns into the
20 Lakeview community. That's 430-foot sections, both lanes.
21 That's a lot of storage, so it allows that left turn traffic in.
22 It will be a lot easier. There will be a new northbound left
23 onto Cobblestone at that time. New traffic signals are coming
24 in February and March. Final paving for this job is in April
25 and May, depending on temperatures, and we really hope to be

1 completely out of there by end of May, early June.

2 As -- we also have a couple jobs coming right
3 around the corner. Obviously, the Gila River that Jennifer just
4 talked about is coming in the near future. We've got a very
5 large project on the 202 San Tan from SR-101 to Val Vista. And
6 then we also have a large project coming up in the fall, SR-101
7 from 17 to 75th Avenue. Those are some of the big ones we've
8 got coming up.

9 So as the Mayor pointed out this morning, we have
10 done also a few refreshes of median crossovers on 347. That is
11 so DPS traffic can sit in there and get out of those areas
12 easier and more efficiently.

13 That's what I got. If there are any questions
14 this morning, please feel free.

15 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Any questions for Mr. Everett?

16 VICE CHAIR DANIELS: Yes. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Jenn.

18 VICE CHAIR DANIELS: Can you go back to the
19 Broadway Curve slide?

20 MR. EVERETT: I sure can.

21 VICE CHAIR DANIELS: I know this is, I think,
22 previously the largest reconstruction project we've ever seen in
23 our state?

24 MR. EVERETT: Yes.

25 VICE CHAIR DANIELS: Can you define what "pretty

1 much on time and on budget" means?

2 MR. EVERETT: I hesitate to go too far into it.
3 That is one job that is actually in our major projects group, so
4 I don't have the details of what exactly "pretty much on time
5 and on budget" means, but the numbers show here 77 percent, 73
6 percent. That means we are hoping to finish that project in the
7 end of 2024, sometime early '25, and so far we're pretty much in
8 a good pattern to finish at that time.

9 Does that give you enough information?

10 VICE CHAIR DANIELS: No, but I'll work with
11 the -- what we've got --

12 MR. EVERETT: Yeah. The major project team will
13 have more of --

14 DIRECTOR TOTH: Yeah. I -- Mr. Chairman, Member
15 Daniels --

16 VICE CHAIR DANIELS: Sorry I'm so short.

17 DIRECTOR TOTH: Yeah. Sorry. I would say pretty
18 much on time, on budget means that pending any major monsoon
19 season, you know, things of that nature that would cause any
20 delays, but we are on track for complete -- as Randy said,
21 completion by the end of the year.

22 VICE CHAIR DANIELS: I was, I think, more not
23 surprised by the on time component of it, but I am a little
24 surprised by the on budget component, just given what we're
25 seeing across the state. And so I'll dig in a little deeper on

1 that component, but appreciate the update. Sounds like the
2 district's been very, very busy. So well done.

3 MR. EVERETT: We're busy and getting busier,
4 which is great.

5 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Any other questions?

6 Thank you for your report.

7 MR. EVERETT: Thank you for your time.

8 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Yeah. I understand we've got a
9 request from Representative Seaman to reopen the call to the
10 public, so we will go back and reopen, and sir, you have three
11 minutes.

12 MR. SEAMAN: I'm a politician. I need more than
13 that. But thank you. I appreciate it. I didn't get on the
14 agenda because I didn't know what to do, but what's happened
15 today, I wanted to -- I'm on the -- represent -- live in Casa
16 Grande. I represent this district, and very happy to meet all
17 of you. I've met the director a couple times. Thank you,
18 Maricopa, (inaudible).

19 Anyway, I'm on the Transportation Committee in
20 the House, and as Director Toth said, we had a joint meeting
21 with the Senate and the House the other day, and I was impressed
22 with what's going on already in the transportation department.
23 Director Toth and her agency had a -- it's public notice. They
24 had an audit that -- there was -- there were some issues, but
25 since she's taken over in, what, January? She's been able with

1 her staff to take care of a lot of those audit issues.

2 And I was very impressed, and as she said, the
3 recommendation, it's not -- doesn't happen until we vote for it
4 in the House or the Senate -- it's four to six years. I'll tell
5 you public, I'll vote for the six years. I think we need to
6 give the department some time to correct those.

7 On 347, we have worked -- we, meaning myself,
8 Representative Martinez, (inaudible), everybody here,
9 (inaudible) very important. And you know, somebody mentioned
10 earlier that this is a -- going to be a lean budget year, and
11 the money is not there or (inaudible) money not there, but I
12 have -- I will work really hard to keep that money in for 347.
13 They're already talking about pulling money from different
14 places to meet that budget, so I would recommend what you all do
15 is -- you've got my vote, and I know you've got Teresa
16 Martinez's vote, and probably Shope, but talk to your
17 legislators. Talk to the people who do the appropriations.

18 We understand there's an issue, but 347 has been
19 on the book for a long time. And I've heard all these stories
20 that we need to get that fixed. You know, the transportation
21 department can't do anything about it until we -- so the --
22 until they get the authorization. So do what you can. Don't
23 waste your time talking to me or Martinez or Shope. We're
24 there.

25 But there's always -- so there's already talk

1 about taking money that hasn't been -- hasn't been -- I'm
2 working on also the '24, how (inaudible) that goes over across
3 Pinal County. We will -- we'll do what we can, but you're lucky
4 in Pinal County, because most -- a lot of our representatives,
5 myself, Martinez, Representative Carter, several Pinal County
6 representatives are on the Transportation Committee.

7 So we have a good -- a good a representation
8 there, but also, who talked about the Broadway Curve? Get that
9 done. I go back and forth, my house to my office, I know
10 every -- every week, and I get (inaudible). I (inaudible) bring
11 up what's going on. So we're working on these issues, but we
12 need the money. So make sure it says there. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Thank you, Representative
14 Seaman. And with that, I will reclose the call to the public
15 and now move to Item Number 4, which is the consent agenda.

16 I would entertain a motion, unless someone wants
17 something removed.

18 MR. KNIGHT: Mr. Chair, I move to approve the
19 consent agenda as presented.

20 MS. HOWARD: I'll second.

21 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: I have a motion and a second,
22 and if there's no other discussion, I'll call for the vote.

23 MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Chairman, just so we have the
24 record, the motion was by Mr. Knight, and the second was by
25 Mrs. Howard. Was that right?

1 MS. HOWARD: (Nods head.)

2 MR. ROEHRICH: Okay. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: All right. So with that, I
4 will call for the vote. All those if favor say aye.

5 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

6 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Any opposed?

7 Would you poll Mr. Thompson, please?

8 MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Thompson, your vote, sir?

9 MR. THOMPSON: Aye.

10 MR. ROEHRICH: Thank you.

11 Mr. Chairman, the motion carries unanimously.

12 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: All right. Very good. Let's
13 go ahead, and apparently we do not have a financial report,
14 so --

15 MR. ROEHRICH: So, Mr. Chairman and Board
16 Members, Ms. Ward had said that she -- it was too early in the
17 month for her to have the updates for the financials, but what
18 she is doing is she's finalizing the financials for the June --
19 the February 1st board meeting, the study session to talk about
20 the tentative program, make sure she has that ready. She'll be
21 prepared to answer questions about the financials, but she'll
22 have a full report at the regular February meeting.

23 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: All right. That is fine. So
24 we'll go ahead and skip Item 5 and move to Item Number 6, which
25 is -- which is our Multimodal Planning Division report with

1 Mr. Patane.

2 MR. PATANE: Thank you. Good morning, Chairman
3 Searle, Board Members. I'm Paul Patane with the Multimodal
4 Planning Division, and thank you for the opportunity to give you
5 an update.

6 So items that I'll be covering today are our
7 tribal transportation update. I'll talk a little bit today
8 about our airport development guidelines and the overview and
9 the proposed changes. Also a little update on the pavement life
10 extension projects, along with the -- an update on the 2025-29
11 five-year program timeline.

12 BOARD MEMBER: Mr. Chair, Paul, I don't mean to
13 interrupt. I think we're having some audio challenges up here.
14 Mayor Smith, are these -- do these speakers work up here on the
15 dais? Because they're not operating, and we can hear pretty
16 much everyone, but there's some that we just can't hear very
17 well, so I'm --

18 MR. ROEHRICH: So, Mr. Chairman, Board Members,
19 when the green light is on, the audio is on, and when you push
20 the button, it -- obviously when it's off, the audio's off. I
21 did check. The audio is on there. Maybe you just need to get a
22 little bit closer to the microphone.

23 MR. PATANE: Okay.

24 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: And I think that would help
25 you, Paul, if you get closer to the mic. Yeah.

1 MR. PATANE: Okay. Thank you.

2 Moving on to the tribal transportation update.
3 Board Member Thompson mentioned earlier the 29th Annual Indian
4 Days Nations and Tribal Legislative Day event that was held this
5 past Wednesday. It was mentioned it was a very successful
6 event, well attended by ADOT staff and our tribal partners. It
7 was a great way to pay tribute to the history, the culture of
8 American Indian people and their contributions to Arizona. And
9 so I won't belabor on this too much, but, you know, ADOT had a
10 booth, and we were very proactive in meeting and talking about
11 some of the issues that are around the state.

12 Next is the little update on our Intertribal
13 Council of Arizona, our partnership with the group. The intent
14 of this working group is to improve consultation, coordination
15 and cooperation between ADOT and our -- and the various tribes
16 within Arizona. And so many of you may have known Esther
17 Corbett, Esther Corbett, but she moved on, and so we had our
18 initial meeting with Mr. Thomas Throssell, the new assistant
19 director for ITCA. And so we have an upcoming meeting later
20 this month, and some of the areas we'll focus on are the Highway
21 Safety Improvement Program funding along with the Arizona
22 Highway Strategic Safety Plan. And so we look forward to this
23 ongoing partnership that really enhances our relationship with
24 the tribal communities.

25 Just a little bit update on some of the new

1 leadership roles within the tribal community. First with the
2 Kaibab band of the Paiute Indians. They appointed the Honorable
3 Roland Maldonado as their tribal chairman, and so we look
4 forward to that collaborative partnership with the new
5 leadership. And then also at the Navajo Nation, the Navajo
6 Nation Division of Transportation appointed a new division
7 director, Mr. Tom Platero, and so we extended our welcome and
8 look forward to those ongoing relationships as well.

9 Some ongoing activities in the northern region.
10 We're working with the Hualapai Tribe on giving them information
11 related to the Transportation Alternative Program, and there's
12 been some discussions related to the upcoming 2026 Route 66
13 Centennial.

14 Then also, with -- on the Hopi Tribe, next week
15 we have our partnership meeting, and that's going to be up in
16 Flagstaff, and some of the items that we'll be discussing will
17 be the State Route 264 and some of the improvements, such as bus
18 pullouts. We also look forward to providing information related
19 to the AZ SMART program along with our transit program.

20 So next, I just wanted to touch a little base on
21 the airport development guideline. We're in the process -- this
22 manual is really the blueprint in how we administer the
23 aeronautics program, and so this manual was -- it's pretty much
24 outdated. It's from 2011, and so we're in the process of making
25 modifications and changes to it, and I believe one of the

1 attachments to the board information was some of the proposed
2 changes.

3 And one of the biggest changes that we're
4 proposing will impact the Airport Pavement Management System,
5 the APMS program, which is in kind of Chapter 4 of the book.
6 And what we would like to propose, currently for the -- on the
7 APMS program, it's a 90/10 match, and so the applicants, the
8 local agencies are responsible for that 10 percent match. What
9 we would like to do is change the percentages where they match
10 the APMS -- the APMS will match the state/local program when it
11 comes to the match requirements associated with the projects.
12 The state/local program, that match requirement is 95/5, and so
13 we're looking to modify the APMS program to be 95/5 as well,
14 only for the general aviation basic category of the -- of the
15 airports.

16 And so to make that change would require an
17 amendment to the board -- the board policies. Specifically,
18 Board Policy 39, and so that's where we -- we're -- I wanted to
19 bring it to the attention. So if the -- if the change is
20 accepted and we would take action on that at a further board
21 meeting, we would have to modify the board policies -- or board
22 policy.

23 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: (Inaudible.)

24 MR. ROEHRICH: So, Mr. Chairman, could you please
25 use your microphone? I couldn't hear you.

1 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: You're right. Green light.

2 Paul, when are you expecting this -- changes to
3 be brought before the Board?

4 MR. PATANE: It will be to -- at the March board
5 meeting.

6 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: All right. Thank you.

7 MR. PATANE: And so some of the general aviation,
8 the basic airports, categorized as GA basic, these are the
9 airports that would be impacted. There's 13 total, with six of
10 them being tribal airports.

11 And so the next steps moving forward, we would
12 put the changes to the current that we're proposing to the
13 development guidelines. Those would go out for a 30-day public
14 comment period. Then we anticipate providing a recommendation
15 to the Board to amend Transportation Board Policy 39. Then we
16 would present it to the Board at the March board meeting. Then
17 the guidelines would be finalized.

18 MR. ROEHRICH: So, Paul, if I could, and
19 Mr. Chair, the updated guidelines were sent to all the board
20 members this week as well. It was sent out as the Word document
21 that had the track changes on it so you could see the edits that
22 are being proposed as well. If board members have comments
23 between now and obviously then, as well as the public during
24 that 30-day period, please let myself or Paul know any other
25 edits so we can get those guidelines all edited and up-to-date

1 so when they present it to you in March for approval, it will be
2 the final document with all edits accepted in the guidelines.

3 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Thank you, Floyd.

4 MR. PATANE: Thank you, Floyd.

5 So, Chairman Searle, Board Member Howard, at your
6 request, we brought this up as far as the projects that were
7 funded with the \$90 million from FY '23 and FY '24, and so today
8 we've completed 14 of the 16 projects. We've treated
9 approximately 125 centerline miles, and to date we've encumbered
10 and used approximately \$82 million. And so we anticipate
11 finishing up the other two remaining projects later this year,
12 and it will be a big help for some of the roads that were in
13 poor condition due to the significant weather events that we had
14 last year.

15 Just a reminder. You know, the five-year
16 program, we have the board study session coming up in February,
17 and I will present the tentative program, and just want to
18 emphasize that, you know, there is the opportunity for the
19 public to come or comment on the five-year program. That
20 happens during the time frame in May at the public hearing, but
21 just -- it's a lot of work ahead as far as a lot of work effort
22 from staff putting the program together, and we look forward to
23 presenting that in a few weeks.

24 Any questions?

25 MR. MAXWELL: Yeah.

1 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Mr. Maxwell.

2 MR. MAXWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

3 Paul, not to steal the thunder. Is there
4 anything significant in the tentative draft as you have it right
5 now moving forward on moving anything around in the five-year
6 plan?

7 MR. PATANE: Unfortunately, because some of the
8 increase in prices are happening in the first two years of the
9 program, we had to redo some rebalancing of the program, and it
10 could possibly push out -- it will still be in the program but
11 move out some of the expansion projects.

12 MR. MAXWELL: So we've got things moving,
13 unfortunately, toward the right, towards later --

14 MR. PATANE: Yes.

15 MR. MAXWELL: -- in the plan, but none of the
16 programs are -- what I heard you just say is none of the current
17 projects that were in the previous five-year plan dropped out?

18 MR. PATANE: Correct.

19 MR. MAXWELL: Nothing's been added, but nothing's
20 dropped out either?

21 MR. PATANE: Correct, sir.

22 MR. MAXWELL: Okay. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Any other questions?

24 That completes Item Number 6. Should we move to
25 Item Number 7, which is our PPAC items.

1 MR. PATANE: Okay. Chairman Searle, Board
2 Members, for your consideration, the proposed changes to the
3 2024-2028 Five-Year Transportation Facilities Construction
4 Program, Items 7A through 7C project modifications.

5 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Can I have a motion?

6 MR. KNIGHT: Mr. Chair, I move to approve
7 Items 7A through 7C as presented.

8 VICE CHAIR DANIELS: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: I have a second by Board Member
10 Daniels.

11 All right. Any questions on these three items?

12 No questions. I'll go ahead and call for the vote.

13 All those in favor say aye.

14 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

15 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Any opposed?

16 Floyd, would you go ahead and poll Jesse?

17 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Thompson, how do you
18 vote?

19 MR. THOMPSON: Aye.

20 MR. ROEHRICH: Thank you, sir.

21 The motion carries unanimously.

22 VICE CHAIR DANIELS: All right. Now move to
23 Items D through F.

24 MR. PATANE: Yes. Thank you, Chairman Searle,
25 Board Members. For your consideration, the proposed changes to

1 the 2024-2028 Five-Year Transportation Facilities Construction
2 Program, Items 7D through 7F, new projects.

3 MR. ROEHRICH: Paul, do you want to move forward
4 a slide?

5 MR. PATANE: Sorry.

6 MR. ROEHRICH: It's that green button. There you
7 go. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Okay. Are there any questions
9 for Paul before I call for the motion? If not, I'll call for
10 the motion.

11 MR. MAXWELL: Mr. Chair, I move that we approve
12 Items 7D through 7F.

13 MR. KNIGHT: Second.

14 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: I have a motion by Board Member
15 Maxwell and a second by Board Member Knight. If there's no
16 other comments or questions, I'll go ahead and call for the
17 vote.

18 All those in favor say aye.

19 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

20 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Any opposed?

21 MR. ROEHRICH: So, Board Member Thompson, was
22 that your vote?

23 MR. THOMPSON: Aye.

24 MR. ROEHRICH: Thank you, sir.

25 The motion carries unanimously.

1 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: All right. Let's now move to
2 Items Number G.

3 MR. PATANE: Yes. Thank you, Chairman Searle,
4 Board Members. For your consideration, the proposed changes for
5 the FY '24-2028 Five-Year Transportation Facilities Construction
6 Program, Item 7G, Airport Development Capital Improvement
7 Program.

8 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Do I have any questions on
9 Item G?

10 I've got a question, but if you'd like to go
11 first. I'm trying to pull it up, and I'm just -- I was looking
12 at the five-year plan with the Grand Canyon National Airport,
13 and we've got 3 million for '24, we've got 35 million in '25, 20
14 million in '26, 10 million in '27, and 10 million in '28. Where
15 are these funds coming from?

16 MR. PATANE: This funding is from the Aviation
17 Fund.

18 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: I mean, is this -- is this
19 federal money or is this state money or...

20 MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Chairman, members of the
21 Board, it's a combination of both. There are some federal
22 grants in there. The 20 -- or the 35 million is a federal grant
23 that we do have a match to that. Some of those other funds are
24 a combination of grant as well as aviation funds. So I'd have
25 to look at the specific program, but it is a combination of

1 both, but the majority of the funds are federal.

2 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: And I guess my only concern is
3 it seems like Grand Canyon Airport's taking about 50 percent of
4 all funding for the next five years.

5 MR. ROEHRICH: So, Mr. Chairman, Board Members, I
6 do know from the airport itself and from the audit inspection
7 that the FAA did, they found a number of deficiencies that we
8 are in the process of trying to correct, which is why we were
9 given the one grant, the 35 million for the pavement, and why
10 we're going to be able to go after those other grants. Those
11 funds in there are a combination of anticipated grants as well
12 as state funds, but there's still performance measures we're
13 going to have to complete to ensure that we'll be able to get
14 those funds to move forward with the improvements. So it is
15 taking quite a bit, but it is in response to the condition of
16 the airport and our ability to get it within the FAA
17 requirements.

18 MR. MAXWELL: Mr. Chair? Thank you, Mr. Chair.
19 And I've talked with Floyd a lot about it this week.
20 Historically, 91 percent of the airport projects are covered by
21 federal funds eventually. So what I learned talking with him
22 this morning was that '24 and '25, we've got a lot of federal
23 funds already obligated, but we don't have those for those out
24 years. So why we're improving them, we're approving at this
25 time, and there's problems with the airport that probably need

1 to be addressed. We may not have those out year funds when it
2 comes right down to it unless we get some of these grants or the
3 federal funds. We just -- it's -- there's a lot of great
4 airports in this state. Love going in and out of the smaller
5 ones, because I learn a lot about the communities, but that kind
6 of money, we've got to have federal obligations.

7 And the Grand Canyon National Park Airport has a
8 lot of federal visibility. For those who maybe don't know, most
9 small airports are about 4- to 5,000-foot runways. That one's
10 almost 9,000 feet. Air Force One's landing there. It's got a
11 lot of visibility. It's got a lot of aspects, but the pavement
12 is in a position. So I think in this case, what we're seeing is
13 the -- expected to address the promise, the reality is we've
14 only got the funds for '24 and '25 lined up right now.

15 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Thank you, Mr. Maxwell. My
16 concern is we've got a lot of airports in this state, and they
17 all need some work, and I just make sure that we know what
18 we're -- how we're going forward and prioritizing -- I can't
19 even talk -- you know, the one airport that we maintain seems to
20 be getting a big chunk of money, so it's -- I was -- just
21 clarification that it is a federal grant.

22 So with that, any other questions for Mr. Patane
23 at this time?

24 With that, I would entertain a motion.

25 WEBEX HOST: There's one question from Mr. Munden

1 virtually.

2 MR. ROEHRICH: I'm sorry. Who was talking?

3 MR. PATANE: It's Matthew, Floyd

4 MR. ROEHRICH: Oh, Matthew Munden? Did he --

5 MR. MUNDEN: (Inaudible.)

6 MR. ROEHRICH: Matthew, you either get online and
7 confirm what Paul and I said, or if you're going to contradict
8 us, send us an email.

9 MR. MUNDEN: No, no. Yeah. So for that airport,
10 91.06 percent of those dollars are coming from the FAA, and that
11 leaves 8.94 percent from the State Aviation Fund for all five
12 years. All of those projects for all five years are essentially
13 FAA grants, and only 8.94 percent will come from State Aviation
14 Fund.

15 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: All right. Thank you for the
16 clarification.

17 BOARD MEMBER: Makes me feel better.

18 MR. MUNDEN: No problem.

19 MR. MAXWELL: Well, I think that's a great point,
20 Mr. Chair, and -- but to your point and concern, it's still a --
21 if you take even just 10 percent of all those projects, it's
22 still a significant portion of our statewide aviation funds.

23 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Yeah.

24 VICE CHAIR DANIELS: And I was just going to ask
25 a little bit more specific on that component. Is the 91 percent

1 federal grants that are discretionary for us, or were they
2 lined -- applied for and delineated specifically for the -- this
3 particular airport?

4 MR. PATANE: I'll let Matthew -- Matthew, can you
5 address that?

6 VICE CHAIR DANIELS: We're phoning a friend at
7 this point.

8 MR. MUNDEN: Yeah. Of course. So the grants,
9 that large number you see in FY '25 is discretionary. As for
10 the others that are beyond 25, I have not been told if those are
11 also discretionary or not, but the FAA does have funds that
12 they're willing to move forward for the airport. That's as much
13 as I know at this time on that. The airport may have more info
14 on '26 and beyond for specifics on where those funds are coming
15 from, from the FAA, but 25 is discretionary. That much I do
16 know.

17 VICE CHAIR DANIELS: So I think at this point we
18 have to trust staff that you're directing the discretionary
19 federal grant funds to the highest priority within the state,
20 and if -- there obviously are some extenuating circumstances on
21 that particular -- at that particular airport that are dictating
22 this concentration of funds, but I do think maybe a broader --
23 and I'm not an aviation expert, so I'm sort of looking this
24 direction to say, you know, perhaps there should be some
25 additional ties or oversight on this component to ensure that we

1 continue to put these dollars where they are most needed across
2 the state.

3 MR. ROEHRICH: So, Mr. Chairman, Madam Vice
4 Chair, those funds -- and Matt, I think you didn't quite answer
5 the question. Those funds are directed towards the Grand Canyon
6 Airport specifically. They were not given to the department to
7 discretionary program them. They were given to the Grand Canyon
8 Airport directly for improvements in those airports. Matt, is
9 that correct?

10 MR. MUNDEN: That is correct. Yeah. I believe
11 you have that correct. So those funds for all five years for
12 the airport are directed from the FAA, and the FAA chose those
13 projects in conjunction with the airport itself.

14 Aeronautics is only providing the state match
15 that is being asked of us for all of those projects. So those
16 project totals that you're seeing for all five years for the
17 airport is 100 percent including the FAA funds. Again, the
18 State Aviation Fund match will only be 8.94 percent for those.

19 VICE CHAIR DANIELS: Okay. That does indicate
20 that they're not discretionary, meaning we don't get to choose
21 where those funds are directed. They've been directed by the
22 federal agency.

23 MR. ROEHRICH: That is correct, and I think
24 that's where the confusion was.

25 VICE CHAIR DANIELS: That's why we're asking.

1 MR. ROEHRICH: -- the FAA discretionary funds,
2 not the state of Arizona discretionary funds.

3 MR. MUNDEN: That is correct. Yes.

4 VICE CHAIR DANIELS: When we apply for a grant,
5 we're applying for a specific purpose in most cases. Sometimes
6 we're applying for a pot of money and we have 17 projects that
7 we've sort of put in there, and we get to prioritize those. I
8 think that's what we're trying to clarify in this case.

9 DIRECTOR TOTH: Mr. Chairman --

10 MR. MUNDEN: I see. Okay.

11 (Speaking simultaneously.)

12 MR. ROEHRICH: Hold on, Matt. The Director's
13 speaking.

14 MR. MUNDEN: Yes. Oh, okay. I can't see
15 anything.

16 DIRECTOR TOTH: Mr. Chairman, Member Daniels, so
17 in our world, the federal discretionary grants are grants that
18 we apply for. So that's where probably the confusion in the
19 language is coming from. So similar to the Federal Highway
20 Administration, those are called discretionary grants that we
21 apply for. Very similar on the FAA situation. So that's where
22 the confusion's coming in, I think.

23 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Okay. If there's no other
24 questions or comments, I would entertain a motion for 7G.

25 MR. MECK: I would make a motion.

1 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: I have a motion by --

2 MR. KNIGHT: Second.

3 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: -- by Mr. Meck and a second by
4 Mr. Knight.

5 DIRECTOR TOTH: Thank you, board --

6 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: If there's no other questions
7 or comments, I'll go ahead and call for the vote.

8 All those in favor say aye.

9 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

10 MR. MAXWELL: Mr. Chair -- oh, I'm sorry. Got to
11 get...

12 MR. ROEHRICH: And Board Member Thompson, your
13 vote?

14 MR. THOMPSON: Aye.

15 MR. ROEHRICH: Thank you, sir.

16 Chairman, the motion carries.

17 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Mr. Maxwell.

18 MR. MAXWELL: Mr. Chair, I just wanted to
19 comment. Some -- you know, it's not very often we see a map
20 like the one we've got up in front of us right now, and that
21 shows you how many different airports there are actually in the
22 state for small aviation, especially for the GA or the general
23 aviation, so the smaller planes to go in and out of. So there's
24 a lot of responsibility to us.

25 What I think, both from the military -- my

1 military experience, as well as working with Tucson Airport
2 Authority, as the Director said, the FAA never gives you
3 discretionary funds unless you've got a very specific purpose
4 for it, and it is their discretion, not really ours, and I think
5 that's what you've seen. You're -- and that's why I'm pretty
6 confident with the fiscal year '26 through '28 we will also get
7 those discretionary funds unless there's a big FAA issue that
8 means they don't have any of those funds. It's a brutal process
9 for the airports, including for Sky Harbor and for Tucson
10 Airport Authority, and the biggest challenge for them is they
11 can get it -- they've got to come up with the matches, and then
12 they have to execute, and that's kind of where we play on this
13 authorization. If we don't, those funds will go away, because
14 the FAA will sweep them back and put them to other projects that
15 are ready to go.

16 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Thank you, Mr. Maxwell.

17 With that, we will now move to Item Number 8, the
18 state engineer's report. Mr. Byres.

19 MR. BYRES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Board
20 Members. We'll start off with our normal report. We've had 92
21 projects under construction worth \$2 billion. Five of those
22 projects were finalized in December, worth \$10.3 million. And
23 fiscal year to date, we've got 30 projects finalized.

24 I'm going to kind of change it up a little bit
25 from what I've done in the past at a request of Board Member

1 Howard. You wanted to know what all was happening across the
2 rest of the state, not only in the districts that we're in. So
3 what I've done is I've polled all of our DEs across the state
4 and asked them to give us at least four of the projects that
5 they have in each of their districts so that every -- the
6 Board's aware of what's going on.

7 So in our Southcentral District, we have a
8 project on I-10, the widening project, which is running from
9 Ina-Ruthrauff. It's been under construction for the last year
10 or so. It is on schedule so far. The -- we also have the
11 Country Club to Kino. It's a design build procurement that's
12 underway at this point in time. That is on I-10 as well. Down
13 on I-19, we have the Irvington TI, which is currently in design.
14 And down off of SR-90, we have a pavement preservation project,
15 the Border Patrol Station to Moson Road.

16 So our next one is the Northcentral District.
17 For it we've got the Virgin River Bridge, which has been under
18 construction for quite a while. It's nearing completion. The
19 North Lake Powell Boulevard roundabout, which is getting going,
20 as well as the JW Powell Bridge replacement on I-17. And then
21 Lion Springs widening, which is just getting going on SR-260.

22 In the Southwest District, we've got the I-10
23 Dome Rock from -- it's from Rock Road to Skaddan Wash. That's a
24 pavement preservation project. On I-8, we have another pavement
25 pres. project, which is Aztec-County Line. And then also on I-8

1 we have another pavement preservation project, which is 135
2 Pinal to the county line.

3 For the Southeast District, we've got the Tonto
4 Creek Bridge construction. That's nearing completion. It's
5 getting close to there. We have also have the Queen Creek
6 Bridge bridge replacement, which is just getting kicked off. We
7 have the Armory Road, the US-70 on US-191. That's scheduled to
8 advertise coming up here in a couple months. And then we also
9 have projects down on SR-10 B and SR-186. That -- those are
10 legislative appropriation projects that are about 32 percent
11 complete to date.

12 In the Northwest District, we have the Willow
13 Creek Bridge on I-40 that's under construction. The Walnut
14 Creek to Holy Moses, which is a pavement pres. project. We also
15 have another project on US-93, which is north of Nothing.
16 That's -- there really is a Nothing on --

17 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: I love that one.

18 MR. BYRES: And that's a pavement pres. project
19 as well, as well as the Wickenburg Gap B project, which is a
20 widening project on 93, which has been under construction for a
21 while and is nearing completion.

22 So the Northeast District, we have the -- a
23 project on 87, Coyote Wash Bridge replacement. Work is
24 beginning on it coming up here in the next couple months. Just
25 starting to kick of. We have a project on I-40, which is the

1 Pinta to McCarrel. That is a pavement pres. project. We have
2 another one on B 40 in Holbrook, from Crestview to Joy Nevine.
3 That is -- the bid opening on that one's coming up here in the
4 next couple months as well. And then another project on SR-377.
5 This is from 277 to the forest boundary, and that's starting up
6 this summer.

7 So those -- that's what we've got going across
8 the state. So again, that's not all the projects, but those are
9 the projects that are most current.

10 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: And there is activity on the
11 191 overpass on 10.

12 MR. BYRES: There is. So they're actually
13 getting ready to -- they're doing clearing and grubbing starting
14 up next week.

15 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Yeah.

16 MR. BYRES: That is the state engineer's report.

17 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Any questions for Mr. Byres at
18 this time?

19 Thank you for the report and the update, and I
20 think a statewide update like you did was good. Thank you.

21 MR. BYRES: Well, we'll start doing that every
22 month.

23 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: All right. This takes us to
24 Item Number 9, construction contracts.

25 MR. BYRES: So this is a -- gives you an idea of

1 what we currently have going. We had the four projects that
2 were in the consent agenda. So thank you very much for
3 approving those. We've got three projects that we're going to
4 be going through as well, but this kind of gives you an overall
5 of what we're doing.

6 The monthly totals for construction contracts to
7 date, right now at this point in time, we're roughly -- we're
8 running roughly \$42 million under what our state estimates were.
9 So that's keeping our contingencies running in place. That --
10 again, that's -- that doesn't go straight out, but that is a
11 contingency that we do keep running on an annual basis, so...

12 The first project that I have, this is the Gila
13 River Bridge that we've been talking about. For this one, we
14 had seven bidders, which is the most number of bidders we've had
15 on a project in a long, long time. Keep in mind that this is
16 the first project on a very large corridor, so there's a lot of
17 people trying to get their feet in the door.

18 The project was -- the low bid was \$50,999,972.
19 The State's estimate was \$64,609,341, a difference of
20 \$13,609,369, or a difference of 21.1 percent. The biggest
21 differences we saw was the projection for bridge demolition.
22 The State's estimate was considerably higher than the
23 contractor's. The contractor actually brought in a
24 subcontractor that specializes in bridge demolition and could do
25 it in an extremely short period of time compared to the estimate

1 that we had conducted. Also, the cost of structural concrete
2 was much lower. The low bidder, Pulice, in this particular
3 place is also doing the I-10 Broadway Curve, so he has personnel
4 just 15 miles up the road. And then the drilled shaft costs for
5 construction were much less, and again, all of that equipment is
6 15 miles up the road on the Broadway Curve.

7 So after analysis of the low bid, it is a
8 responsive and responsible bid, and we recommend award to Pulice
9 Construction, Inc.

10 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Any questions for Mr. Byres on
11 this one?

12 I do have one clarification. On -- the State
13 estimate was 64 million, and if it's my recollection, the
14 majority of this project is being funded by State Legislature
15 funds that was allocated for this; is that correct?

16 MR. BYRES: This is a combination of State funds,
17 federal funds. Actually, we have two different sources of
18 federal funds on this project. There's a \$50 million State
19 appropriation that's on this bridge.

20 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: So with the savings from the
21 estimate, will that allow some of the State money to go to the
22 rest of the widening project, or how does that get -- how does
23 that work?

24 MR. BYRES: That will go into our contingencies.
25 So as we kind of go through this entire project, those

1 contingencies can get redistributed through this project.

2 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: All right. Mr. Maxwell.

3 MR. MAXWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4 Just a quick follow-up. So when you say it goes
5 into contingencies, it goes into contingencies specifically for
6 the I-10 project, or does it go into a contingency bucket we've
7 got for the entire state?

8 MR. BYRES: The entire state.

9 MR. MAXWELL: That was my guess.

10 MS. KUNZMAN: Mr. Chairman, members of the Board,
11 I'd just like to make a clarification. So if it's a
12 legislatively-appropriated funding, we have to go back to what
13 the law says in terms of -- and I -- if I remember right, I
14 believe this one could be redistributed to the additional I-10
15 projects, but we will look into that specifically and get you
16 the specifics on that. Other federal -- if it's the federal
17 fund part, as Greg mentioned, it goes back into the contingency
18 and gets reprogrammed.

19 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: It just -- this project's been
20 out there, and I know we've been hitting the Legislature up for
21 funds, and it's nice to see some things come in under estimate,
22 which hopefully will help us on the rest of that project.

23 Is there any questions or comments before I call
24 for a motion? Can I have a motion, please, then?

25 MS. HOWARD: So moved.

1 MR. KNIGHT: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: A motion by Howard and a second
3 by Knight.

4 All those in favor say aye?

5 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

6 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Chairman votes aye.

7 MR. ROEHRICH: And Board Member Thompson, could
8 you vote, please?

9 MR. THOMPSON: Aye.

10 MR. ROEHRICH: Chairman, the motion carries.

11 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: The motion carries.

12 Let's go to Item 9B.

13 MR. BYRES: Mr. Chairman, Board Members, Item 9B
14 is a pavement preservation project up on SR-79. The low bid --

15 MR. ROEHRICH: Greg, would you please advance the
16 slide?

17 MR. BYRES: Thank you.

18 It is a pavement pres. -- pavement preservation
19 project on SR-79. The low bid was \$1,686,811. The States's
20 estimate was \$2,117,088, a difference of \$430,277, or 20.3
21 percent. The biggest changes that we had or the biggest
22 differences that we saw in the bids and the estimate was the
23 contractor's milling and paving operations. They're looking at
24 a considerably shorter duration than what was estimated for the
25 project, which we saw a considerable savings in.

1 As such, after an analyzing the low bid, it was
2 determined that the bid is responsive and responsible bid, and
3 we recommend award to Granite Construction Company.

4 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Any questions on this contract?
5 Hearing none, I would entertain a motion.

6 MS. HOWARD: So moved.

7 MR. KNIGHT: Second.

8 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: We have Howard and Knight
9 again.

10 All those in favor say aye.

11 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

12 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Thompson?

13 MR. THOMPSON: Aye.

14 MR. ROEHRICH: Chairman, the motion carries.

15 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: All right. Let's go ahead and
16 move to Item Number 9C.

17 MR. BYRES: Thank you.

18 Mr. Chairman, Board Members, this is a project
19 for installing flashing signs and so I need to kind of give a
20 clarification on this before we start.

21 The low bidder on this particular project, or the
22 apparent low bidder, I should say, did not respond with his
23 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise paperwork within the time
24 frame that was required, which makes him ineligible for award of
25 the project.

1 We went to the second bidder. The second bidder
2 did turn in all of his DBE paperwork, so therefore he was
3 responsive to the bid, and so we are going with the second bid
4 on this particular project.

5 So the low bid was \$333,333. The State's
6 estimate was \$336,003, a difference of \$2,670, or .8 percent.
7 With that, we analyzed that second low bid, and it is a
8 responsible and responsive bid, and we recommend award to Hawk
9 Contracting, LLC.

10 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Just for clarification, the
11 333,000, that is the second bid?

12 MR. BYRES: That is the second bid.

13 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: All right. Any questions on
14 this item? I would entertain a motion.

15 MR. THOMPSON: Chairman, I would so move for
16 approval as presented. Board Member Thompson here.

17 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Thank you, Jesse.

18 MR. KNIGHT: Second.

19 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Second by Board Member Knight.
20 If there's no other discussion, all those in
21 favor say aye.

22 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

23 MR. THOMPSON: Aye.

24 MR. ROEHRICH: And Board Member Thompson. Board
25 Member Thompson, your vote?

1 MR. THOMPSON: Aye.

2 MR. ROEHRICH: Thank you, sir.

3 Chairman, the motions carries.

4 MR. BYRES: Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: All right. And I think that
6 concludes Item Number 9. Thank you Mr. Byres. Oh, that
7 question, Mr. Maxwell.

8 MR. MAXWELL: Yeah. Greg, sorry. I don't want
9 you to sneak away yet. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10 So three bids -- I mean, three projects that we
11 approved today all under budget. That's great. It's been a
12 long time since we've had that. So my question to you is are
13 you seeing the costs start to normalize and come down a little
14 bit, or is this just your estimates have reacted to the previous
15 increases -- I mean, are -- can we expect to keep seeing this,
16 or are the costs starting to droop?

17 MR. BYRES: Mr. Chairman, Board Member Maxwell,
18 what we're seeing is the construction costs are still
19 escalating.

20 MR. MAXWELL: Okay.

21 MR. BYRES: They're nowhere near where they were
22 a year ago, but they still are coming up with a little bit, but
23 we've gotten much better at trying to predict where we're at
24 with our costs. So that's -- since they've normalized, we're
25 not having to play catch-up all the time, we're pretty much

1 staying on an even keel, so...

2 MR. MAXWELL: Thank you, Greg. Thank you,
3 Mr. Chair.

4 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Item 10, suggestions for future
5 meetings.

6 MR. ROEHRICH: So, Mr. Chairman, if I could,
7 before we go to suggestions, what we'd like to do, if you're --
8 with your approval, is we'd like to recognize Board Member
9 Jackie Meck. We got a few gifts for him. Just a recognition
10 again, as his term ends here on the Board. And I would ask
11 Chris, if you could, could you please remove the presentations
12 and just -- there you go. Thank you. Just show the dais.

13 With your permission, the director and I would
14 like to come up there and kind of present those awards. I guess
15 you have some comments first, and then we'd like to present some
16 gifts to Board Member Meck.

17 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: I appreciate that. You guys
18 have to give me a little patience as I get in chairman mode. It
19 takes a while.

20 So anyhow, yes. Mr. Meck. This is your time.
21 Director Toth, if you'd like to...

22 DIRECTOR TOTH: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Meck, we want
23 to recognize you. You've been -- you've brought a great
24 experience to this board. I'm very thankful for the opportunity
25 that you've had to help and serve the State of Arizona. You

1 were appointed in 2021. You stepped up, you know, to fill an
2 opening in the Board and just immediately got to work, and we
3 really appreciate that, that you were able to, one, step in so
4 quickly and share your perspective with the Board. Having been
5 a former mayor of Buckeye, you brought a wonderful level of
6 experience that you've shown over and over and are a true
7 advocate for transportation.

8 Obviously, our agency's vision is to connect
9 people and empower the economy, and you've been able to serve
10 that very well in the projects that you helped the department
11 move forward with with the Five-Year Transportation Program, and
12 then most recently the approval of the Long-Range Transportation
13 Program, and we just want to say thank you for your service and
14 the service to the department as well.

15 MR. MECK: Mr. Chairman, if I may. Having coming
16 out of a community called Buckeye, we're right at 120,000 right
17 now, and this morning I mentioned to one of your council person
18 that we were 1,200 people in the day that I was born, which was
19 1941. Long time ago. And to be able to see what you're going
20 through in Maricopa, we went through exactly the same thing. As
21 the community grows and the roads get smaller and smaller and
22 smaller, that's going to happen, and that's what's happening
23 here.

24 But I will tell you that I knew Louis Johnson.
25 The road's named after Louie Johnson -- Louis Johnson. Maricopa

1 is built on Johnson and Wayne farm. I used to come there quite
2 a bit. The difference that I see now is the planning that you
3 have done, not only today, but what you're doing for the future,
4 and your general plan, I'm impressed. Having seen my community
5 go from 1,200, 1940, five years ago, six years ago, we were
6 something around 50-, 60,000. We're sitting on 120,000 right
7 now. Buckeye's headed for 1,500,000 because of the massive land
8 that we have in our general plan.

9 So all of you showing up today took me back.
10 I've heard all of that before. I congratulate you that you're
11 getting your people out. That's the way to do it. The only way
12 you get something done is speak up. So many of us don't like to
13 speak out because you feel bad or you think you're doing
14 something wrong. You're not. You're doing exactly what you
15 should do.

16 I admire this board, and I've been looking at the
17 numbers. Having been through pandemics, not only at the state
18 level, county level, as well as cities, and to see we're coming
19 out of it now, and I -- like Mr. Maxwell mentioned, the costs
20 today that you see, when I read this last week, I thought how
21 come prices are going down? But they are, and that's good. We
22 do not have the money. So I'm just going to suggest that if you
23 can look down the road 20, 30, 40 years, not five years down the
24 road and keep talking, keep speaking, keep complaining, keep
25 writing emails, calls, whatever, whatever it takes, do it,

1 because that will get some things done. I was sitting here
2 thinking, you know, this money, some of its being saved, and I
3 thought if I could write a check, I'd write a check today and
4 give it to 347, but I'm only one vote. I am not running for
5 anything.

6 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: What office are you running for
7 right now?

8 MR. MECK: But this, it's been a pleasure and an
9 honor, and also, all of you, I've enjoyed this. I will stay
10 until you get my replacement, but thank you. It's been a good
11 ride.

12 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Yeah. Jackie, we appreciate
13 you stepping up, and I think the Director's got a few things for
14 you. And as a Board, we have something for you as well.

15 MR. MECK: Okay. Thank you.

16 MR. ROEHRICH: I think I'm just going to come
17 here.

18 So the first gift we do have is one that I do not
19 have on me. It's a three-year subscription to Arizona Highways
20 magazine. Hopefully you've started to receive it. If not, you
21 should get it very soon, but that is a gift, again, from the
22 from the agency.

23 The next gift that we have is just a presentation
24 signed by the Director and all the board members again thanking
25 you for the commitment and the time that you've given to the

1 Board. It is an appointed position. You volunteered for this.
2 This isn't the Army. I don't think you were conscripted, were
3 you? So the time you gave is so appreciative, and thank you
4 very much for that. That's a token from the Director and the
5 Board.

6 We have a commemorative ADOT pen and pencil set,
7 engraved pen and pencil set, again, to kind of commemorate your
8 time here. Hopefully something you'll be able to find useful,
9 just as you've been useful for us, that you'll be able to use
10 that.

11 And our third gift is a commemorative copper
12 license plate that you personalized with "GOMOM12" on it.
13 Again, this is just another little token that says thank you for
14 your commitment and -- to ADOT transportation and the State of
15 Arizona, so thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Could someone explain GOMOM12?

17 MR. ROEHRICH: It's personalized. He chose that.

18 MR. MECK: What is the GOMOM12? Go Mom is my
19 wife, and she wrote three books on Buckeye, and they're -- they
20 are very well received. Arcadia Publishing Company publishes
21 small communities, and as Buckeye was growing, Arcadia was --
22 was an East Coast publisher, and they moved to the West Coast,
23 and I was asked if I would like to write a book on Buckeye, and
24 I said no. I have trouble reading what I have today. I don't
25 want to read my own thoughts. And so they -- I told them talk

1 to my wife. She's a high school librarian, retired, and so she
2 uses Go Mom.

3 The number 12 is when I was in school, in 1959, I
4 was all state, all conference with football, basketball and
5 baseball. I received a full ride scholarship and went one year
6 to the University of Arizona, and then I went to ASU and got on
7 a baseball scholarship. And so in my office, I have two hats,
8 ASU and U of A. So if Mr. Maxwell came in, I'd put on my U of A
9 hat, but if someone from ASU came in, I'd put my ASU hat on. So
10 I got along and was voted for many years. That's the story.
11 The number 12 went with me, with all the awards with athletics.
12 So that's where I am. Number 12.

13 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: And, Jackie, as a Board, we all
14 kicked in some funds, and we'd like to present you with a watch.
15 It's engraved: In appreciation, Jackie Meck, Arizona State
16 Transportation Board, 2021 to 2024.

17 MR. MECK: Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: And I wound it this morning.
19 The time should be correct.

20 MR. MECK: Okay.

21 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: And we appreciate you hanging
22 on until your replacement comes up.

23 MR. MECK: You bet. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: All right. Thank you.

25 MR. ROEHRICH: So, Mr. Chairman, for suggestions,

1 just also want to quick remind the board members, the public,
2 there is the February 1st -- Thursday, February 1st is the board
3 meeting study session. We are looking at potentially maybe
4 having a specialty PPAC item discussion that wouldn't require
5 action. Then the other items would be the tentative five-year
6 program overview, and then an overview of our litter programs
7 that we have, and that was requested by Board Member Maxwell to
8 talk about what we do with the public and how we deal with the
9 litter condition around the state.

10 So that would be the study session, and then the
11 regular session, February 16th, is in the city of Douglas.
12 We've already started the coordination with them, so we should
13 be good to go for that, that meeting. And, of course, we'll
14 have the agenda out for both those meetings the week prior to
15 like we normally do. So that's what we have coming up here in
16 the next month for board meetings.

17 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: All right. Is there any
18 request for future agenda items?

19 MR. MAXWELL: No agenda items, but what time is
20 is the study session?

21 MR. ROEHRICH: The study session will be at nine
22 o'clock, as we do the traditional time starting for the Board
23 meetings, and the one on February 1st is all virtual.

24 MR. MAXWELL: Virtual.

25 MR. ROEHRICH: As a reminder, it will be all a

1 WebEx virtual meeting.

2 MR. MAXWELL: Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: So if there's -- Ms. Daniels.

4 VICE CHAIR DANIELS: I have become increasingly
5 concerned with the safety of our system, and I think it's a
6 multi-faceted challenge that we have, some within our control,
7 most not within our control, and going over the 2022 safety
8 report, and I know we're going to have another one -- I think it
9 comes in July -- the July time frame.

10 As we look towards that to date -- and I know I'm
11 asking this in January. Hopefully gives us enough time to
12 prepare. I would love to overlay corridors, the safety data
13 that we have and also enforcement. I think that's a critical
14 component as well, and so if we can -- and I'm happy to talk
15 offline, sort of like what we're -- what we're -- what I may be
16 aiming towards. I'm super flexible on how we deliver that, but
17 I really do think that the trends -- we've been on an upward
18 trajectory for the last five years.

19 Any preliminary data that we have is indicating
20 that last year was not a better year for us, and so if we could,
21 I think, turn our eye towards that and -- that would help us to
22 inform additional dollar allocations for the following five-year
23 plan that we would develop, and so that's kind of in my brain
24 what I'm thinking.

25 I know it's an extensive overview, but I'm happy

1 to discuss offline additional details there. I -- as I look at
2 our system, and I got a very unfortunate email from Mayor
3 Herrera in Wickenburg the Friday before Christmas where he was
4 indicating there had been an additional fatality, and, in fact,
5 two fatalities on the 93, and some of the comments that the
6 residents made today that I knew were forthcoming as well as
7 some of the additional details and data that we've been getting.
8 I have some serious concerns both about our collaboration with
9 enforcement but also the prioritization of some of our dollars.
10 I know pavement preservation is incredibly important, but I
11 think there are some true safety concerns that we may have
12 across the state that we should perhaps prioritize. So that's
13 my request, and it gives us about six months to look towards
14 that data. So appreciate it.

15 CHAIRMAN SEARLE: Okay. If there's nothing else,
16 I'm going to go ahead and adjourn the meeting. Thank you very
17 much.

18 (Meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m.)
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 STATE OF ARIZONA)
2 COUNTY OF MARICOPA) ss.

3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

 BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were reported by me, TERESA A. WATSON, Certified Reporter, Certificate No. 50876, State of Arizona, from an electronic recording and were reduced to written form under my direction; that the foregoing 94 pages constitute a true and accurate transcript of said electronic recording, all done to the best of my skill and ability.

 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am in no way related to any of the parties hereto, nor am I in any way interested in the outcome hereof.

 DATED at Phoenix, Arizona, this 10th day of April 2024.

 /s/ Teresa A. Watson

TERESA A. WATSON, RMR
Certified Reporter
Certificate No. 50876

Adjournment

Chairman Richard Searle adjourned the State Transportation Board Meeting on January 12, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 11:24a.m. PST.

Not Available for Signature

Richard Searle, Chairman
State Transportation Board

Not Available for Signature

Jennifer Toth, Director
Arizona Department of Transportation