

# SOUTHWESTERN TRIBAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

DATE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2023

TIME: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

LOCATION: INDIAN PUEBLO CULTURAL CENTER, SILVER ROOM, ALBUQUERQUE, NM

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## In-Person Meeting:

### 1. Welcome

- a. Start 10:13 AM
- b. 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the 1<sup>st</sup> year

### 2. Prayer

- a. Raymond Concho, Acoma Pueblo

### 3. SWTTAP Stakeholder Introductions

- a. Todd Macalady, SWTTAP Co Director, 22-23<sup>rd</sup> year of working with TTAP, part of our team is here.
- b. Owen Laluk, SWTTAP Staff Assistant.
- c. Tara Chief, SWTTAP Co-Director, 13 years in Tribal Transportation, former White Mountain Apache Tribe Division of Transportation Director.

### 4. Role of SWTTAP

- a. There have been a few changes with TTAP, TTAP will be separated from LTAP and TTAP will be put under Erin Kinley of OTT, funding levels will remain the same. Brief history of TTAP, original structure had difference mapping of centers, after the break, TTAP was divided again. Currently, NIJC, California, has disbanded. NM, CO, AZ, NV, CA, UT Tribes are being added into SWTTAP. This will affect how much training we can have. We have expanded our SWTTAP team. SWTTAP is the only TTAP center that is not education based. Example: the NW Region is based out of Washington State University, the university takes 40% of their funding and they only have one employee, Hollyanna. We are not university based; we only have a minimum of 10% of overhead that gets taken out. Since more Tribes are added, we will have to figure out how to move money around. As a steering committee we take what they (Tribes) say and take that back to FHWA.
- b. Question asked by Ute Mountain – will training be only here in Albuquerque? Year 2 will have more technical training. 8 based trainings for year 2, 4 in NM and 4 in AZ. We can go directly to a Tribe if needed.

### 5. Marketing and Communication

- a. Website [www.swttap.com](http://www.swttap.com)
- b. Fall 2023 Newsletter was sent out:
  - i. We like to highlight Tribes. If you have job openings, projects, etc. The Newsletter does go up to DC to get approval. We will send out a newsletter every quarter, the last week of every quarter. It is a resource for you to find information. If you don't see something in there that you would like to see, let us know. This last issue has an introduction for SWTTAP staff and our areas of focus. Ed Hermees – trainer for contracting. John Velat – past TTAP director for eastern region.

- ii. Funding opportunities – NOFO for safety fund was put out 2 years ago. Deadline is January 15<sup>th</sup> of every year.
  - iii. TTP Bridge Program – one of the concerns Todd has, it does not allow innovative delivery methods, Tribes either get funding for design or construction, not both at the same time. If they allowed design build it would have worked better. Encourage everyone to go after bridge funding. This does not fund pedestrian bridges. Originally allocated just for construction but now allow the bridge program allows design. Two other bridge programs under FHWA but the TTP Bridge Program is just for Tribes. Example – Iliamna application is 34 pages, the application for the bridge program is only 3 pages long but leaves a lot of questions. Tribes need to tell a story so the funding agency can understand it. A project must be on the TIP and LRTP.
  - iv. High Priority Project Funding – before investing a lot of time and money on it, look at the matrix to see if you fit the matrix.
- c. Western TTAP NOFO was supposed to come out last month but when it does come out will more than likely be a university base.

## 6. Core Services: Training, Technical Assistance, Technology Transfer

- a. 8 based trainings: 4 in NM, 4 in AZ
- b. We will be having a Summit in Twin Arrows SWTTAP Summit March 12-14, 2024, Agenda Discussion – overview of agenda [DRAFT AGENDA NEEDS TO BE ADDED]
  - i. Ramah Navajo – “Women in Transportation” & “Importance of Tribal Leadership in TTP” need to be combined or held at separate times since they are important.
  - ii. Maybe put “Importance of Tribal Leadership in TTP” as the general session for the 3<sup>rd</sup> day close out
  - iii. Cut the session times in half instead of long sessions, to allow for more sessions.
  - iv. Combine “Leadership and National Leadership and Women in Transportation” all in one day, first day, all together.
  - v. To get secretaries there we are asking Tribes to request the secretaries to attend the meeting.
  - vi. Funding – FHWA is frustrated in the fact that their funding is reduced but there is no explanation. Todd – TTP funding is taken off the top and it goes to the States NOT the Tribes.
  - vii. What is the difference between BIA Self Governance and FHWA Self Governance? FHWA Self Governance is so new and have limited staff. Only Cherokee Nation is FHWA Self Governance.
- c. Road Scholars Program – in the past. We are currently working with Front Range Community College to add more programs to their already accredited Highway Maintenance Associate of Applied Science. Dorothy Claw has completed this course. LaReesa with WMAT has signed up. They are willing to take this program and develop different pathways. TTAP can sign off on trainings that we can do. Our goal is to keep moving forward and get this set up by the end of the year. How to pay for it? Can use your TTP funds. Ron Hall used TTP funds to pay for Todd’s Master’s Degree – using funding for education.
  - i. An accreditation will be good, but we should maintain the types of trainings we have now. If we can attach accreditation for the trainings you take with SWTTAP, we have right now that would be good.
  - ii. What is the cost of the program? Ramah Navajo found this program online; the

program is supposed to be 2 years, but she completed it in a year. She was able to work with the associations in NM training, to substitute electives. Between \$4,000-\$5,000 for one semester. It is a good program.

- iii. Need to gear this more towards Tribes. That's why we are developing these courses to specifically address how it generally works on Tribes.
- iv. Pueblo of Acoma – it sounds good and for new people it will be beneficial.
- v. Has SIPI been talked to? We talked to them about GIS. Suggest SWTTAP talk to SIPI about creating a program, yes, we need to create the curriculum and give it to them for review.
- vi. Some Tribes are so small, and we cannot maintain workers once they get trained (CDL) they leave. So, the free training is best.

d. CDL – we can do a prep class for CDL training but still must go to an approved CDL school/training.

e. SWTTAP – assessments/surveys – do you want short surveys or one long one?

7. TTAP Center partnering opportunities discussion.

8. Peer Exchanges, Conferences, etc.

9. Lunch, provided.

10. Steering Committee Workplan Discussion & Development

a. Workplan overview – We are expanding – now provide services to AZ, NV, UT, NM, CO, CA, Navajo Nation.

b. If you would like greater services or expanded services – send a request to us, SWTTAP, and make sure your request is specific to what is needed. If you say more funding that is too general.

c. Objectives overview – Required from FHWA.

i. One of the best things is peer discussion.

ii. Build a Better Mouse Trap – can submit a project, innovate approach to road maintenance, etc, to FHWA. One way is using GPS. Example, if paving, make the General Contractor use GPS when paving. Ways to use technology.

iii. Sharing results – have roundtable discussions and workshops. Example, road maintenance guys can all get together and discuss what works and what doesn't.

d. At the end of this year, they are going to reevaluate TTAP, to see if the program is delivering to expectations.

e. Budget – TTAP budget rolls over, SWTTAP rolled over \$150,000.00 from last year. We haven't spent a lot of travel money. We can upscale training needs and requests. Don't be shy about requesting for training. Example, Pueblo of Cochiti, it was approved to get Pueblo of Cochiti an "Owl System", a video conferencing system. We can buy one for all Tribes if requested. We must follow the same federal process. Request freely from us for training.

f. TTAP does not put on the NTICC we attend it, this year is in Choctaw Nation, we are trying to do a double rodeo with heavy equipment and transit.

g. Point of Contacts – we have assigned points of contact within the SWTTAP staff. We will send this out as well.

h. We have road maintenance books, guides, we can pass them out to everyone too. If

interested let us know.

- i. The biggest things to know is we are here for Tribes. We are flexible and nothing is written in stone.
- j. Tribes will get a copy of the workplan so they can comment.

#### 11. Closing Comments/Questions:

- a. Clarify what "Technical Assistance is" – can you help review a grant? "Can you write a grant for us?" – that is not technical assistance.
- b. Road Scholars Program – important, it is structured and organized but those of us that do not have the time to participate in it we need to keep the current trainings.
- c. Pueblo of Acoma – discussion with Supervisor, accreditation is important especially with FHWA and in having those discussions. Acoma Pueblo does support. In reference to Program Agreement, Charles made a request to change the Program Agreement, it was amended, and the Program Agreement is going to be signed later this week. After being told a Program Agreement cannot be modified.
- d. Road Scholars program will be taken out more in March, may ask for Front Range to come down.
- e. PowerPoint Presentations – do not use a small font.