

Transportation Planning in Tribal Communities

National Transportation in Indian Country Conference
Louisville, Kentucky | August 2022



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration



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Federal Highway Administration

Session Agenda

- Welcome and Research Overview
- Preliminary Research Findings
 - Common Challenges
 - Common Opportunities
 - Gaps and Limitations
- Next Steps for the Research
- Case Study: Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
- Discussion

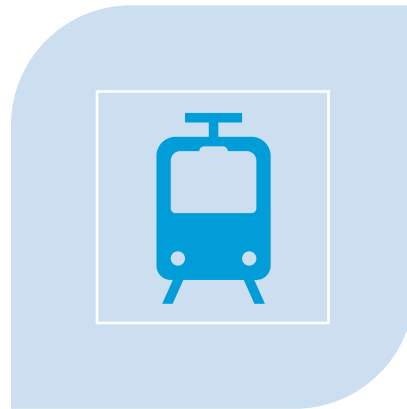




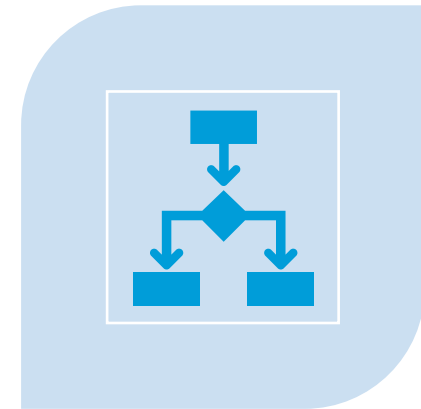
Purpose



Align planning tools to the specific tribal planning need



Ensure long-range transportation plans are implementable by tribal staff

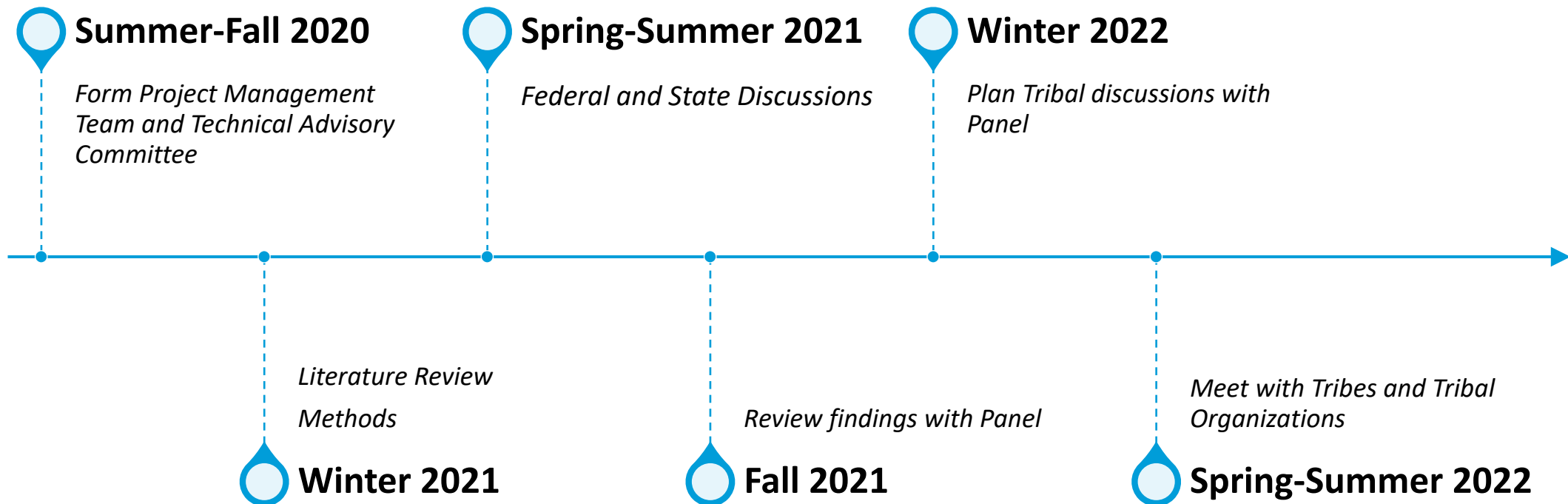


Link planning phase to project design, construction, and maintenance



Technical Advisory Committee

- Bad River Tribe
- Chickasaw Nation
- Karuk Tribe
- Makah Tribe
- Navajo Nation
 - Iyanbito Chapter
 - Tolikan Chapter
- Ohkay Owingeh
- Seminole Nation
- Consultant to Native Village of Eagle
- Red Plains Professional
- Arizona Department of Transportation
- Minnesota Department of Transportation
- FHWA
 - Louisiana Division Office
 - New York Division
 - Office of Tribal Transportation
 - Resource Center
 - Western Federal Lands Highway Division
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
 - Alaska Region
 - Eastern Region
 - Great Plains Region
- U.S. DOT Volpe Center
- Federal Transit Administration





Criteria for Selecting Tribes for Data Collection Phase

- Geographic Diversity
 - State
 - BIA Region
 - FHWA Federal Lands Highway Division
 - Climate Zone
 - Urban/rural setting
- Tribe Characteristics
 - Number of members/residents
 - Size of landholdings
 - Oversight agency (BIA or FHWA)
 - Governance structure
- Transportation Network
 - Total roadway mileage
 - State route access
- Funding
 - FY21 Tribal shares
 - FY21 Tribal planning funding
 - Use of ERFO funding



Data Collection Participants





Common Challenges

Staff Resources

- Tribal planning staff wear many hats
- Many Tribes hire contractors for LRTP development/planning studies
- Some Tribes experience high turnover in planning positions

Funding

- TTP funding alone is not sufficient to address all transportation needs
- Pursuing grant funding can be burdensome and may not be worth the effort if odds of receiving the grant are low

Access to Data

- Tribes may not have access to quantitative data necessary for grant applications
- Data collection can be expensive or relies on second-hand data



Common Opportunities

Knowledge of Transportation System and Use

- Tribes are acutely aware of how their members and others use their transportation networks
- Tribes know where and when congestion and safety issues occur

Partnerships and Collaboration

- Tribes partner internally to share resources among departments
- Tribes partner with States, MPOs, counties, and municipalities for funding, design, construction, and maintenance

Community/Member Engagement

- Some Tribes have robust, community-centered events to engage members in transportation planning
- Other Tribes use Tribal Council meetings to engage members



Gaps

**Translating
knowledge of
transportation
system for funding
opportunities**

**Making meaningful
transportation
planning more
implementable with
limited staff
resources**

**Making identifying
funding
opportunities and
pursuing grant
opportunities more
accessible to Tribes**

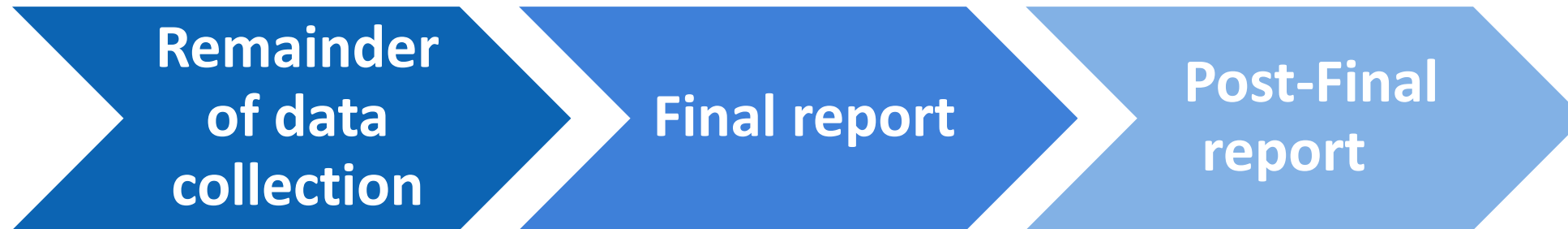
**Using partnerships
and collaboration to
increase funding
opportunities**

**Taking advantage of
member/community
engagement to
increase awareness
of transportation
needs**

**Accessing resources
for new Tribal
planning staff to
understand planning
processes and
requirements**



Where We Go From Here



**Continue learning
from Tribes and
Tribal
organizations**

**Analyze and
document research
findings and make
recommendations**

**Disseminate
findings and
implement
recommendations**



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Case Study Presentation

Jennifer Jack

Public Works Roads Section Manager

Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community



Discussion

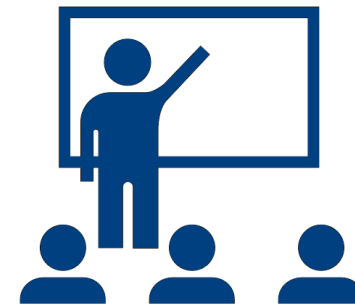
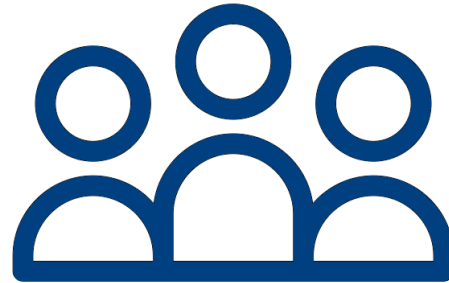
What are some of your Tribes' successes in transportation planning?

- **PLANNING ACTIVITIES** What planning activities does your Tribe engage in besides LRTP and TIP development?
- **PROJECT DELIVERY** How did your transportation planning process help advance a priority project?
- **PARTNERSHIPS** How have partnerships with other entities helped you address your Tribe's transportation needs?
- **FUNDING** How have you been able to secure funding that supplements TTP funding to advance projects?



Discussion

What resources would help your Tribe implement a more meaningful and beneficial transportation planning process?



Thank you!

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Transportation Planning in Tribal Communities Research Study: <https://highways.dot.gov/federal-lands/ott/study>

