NOVEMBER 2020 | ISSUE 2

WMAT DOT NEWS

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE
WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION

SEE PAGE 3 FOR AZ STATE REPRESENTATIVE ARLANDO TELLER'S VISIT TO THE WMAT DOT CONSTRUCTION SITE [PICTURED WITH WMAT DOT DIRECTOR TARA CHIEF AND TRANSIT MANAGER CASSIE KENTON-GARCIA]

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CONTACT WMAT DOT:

PHONE: 928-338-5155
WEB: WMATDOT.COM
FB: @WMATDOT
716 E General Crook St.
Bldg 105 [Second Floor]
Fort Apache, AZ 85926

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Happy Thanksgiving! As we begin November 2020, I would like to express how incredibly grateful I am to all the support we've received for the Division of Transportation. Our team works hard every day for the ultimate goal of providing a service to the White Mountain Apache Tribe and we are thankful for this opportunity. We continue the work on our WMAT DOT Transportation Complex and we have received some visitors that are highlighted in this newsletter. Although we are not fully operating the Fort Apache Connection Transit, we were able to provide a "Gila County Voting Route" with EOC guidelines in place. Gila County did not provide a drop box anywhere on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation and we feel it is very important for everyone to have the opportunity to vote so we are happy to be able to provide this service to our Gila County Tribal Members. We hope everyone can take the time to cast your vote in the 2020 Elections.

Thanks!

-- Tara Chief, WMAT DOT Director

GILA COUNTY VOTING TRANSPORTATION

The White Mountain Apache Tribe Division of Transportation Fort Apache Connection understands that there is no voting drop box in the Gila County communities on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. Fort Apache Connection Transit will be providing free public transportation for Gila County Residents to vote from Tuesday, October 27, 2020 to Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

You must schedule an appointment with the Transit Dispatcher 24 hours in advance at 928-338-5155, as seats are limited. Fort Apache Connection will comply with the WMAT Emergency Operations Center safety guidelines. All riders must consent to the following safety guidelines:

- Passengers must consent to a temperature check prior to boarding. Passengers with temperatures above 99.0 degrees will not be permitted to board the bus.
- Passengers must observe social distancing guidelines aboard the transit bus.
- Masks are required at all times while riding the transit bus.

Fort Apache Connection Transit is committed to driver and passenger safety. Hand sanitizer will be provided to those riding the transit bus. Drivers will clean and sanitize every handrail, seat handle, seat belt and bus seat, in addition to our standard cleaning procedures. The transit bus schedule for the Gila County Voting Route is included below. Should you have any questions, please contact Fort Apache Connection Transit at 928-338-5155.

GILA COUNTY VOTING ROUTE

BUS STOP	RUN 1	RUN 2*	RUN 3*
WMAT DOT	8:30 AM	10:30 AM	12:30 PM
CANYON DAY	8:38 AM	10:38 AM	12:38 PM
ALTAHA STOP	8:53 AM	10:53 AM	12:53 PM
CEDAR CREEK STORE	8:55 AM	10:55 AM	12:55 PM
CARRIZO STORE	9:10 AM	11:10 AM	1:10 PM
CARRIZO	9:15 AM	11:15 AM	1:15 PM
GLOBE COURT HOUSE	10:30 AM	12:30 PM	1:30 PM
DEPART GLOBE COURT HOUSE	11:30 AM	1:30 PM	2:30 PM

* THESE ROUTES WILL BE BASED ON TRANSIT DRIVER AVAILABILITY

REPRESENTATIVE TELLER VISITS WMAT DOT CONSTRUCTION SITE

On Monday, October 19, 2020, Arizona State District 7 Representative Arlando Teller met with WMAT DOT staff and visited the construction site for the new WMAT DOT Transportation Complex. In their meeting, Congressman Teller pledged his full support for WMAT DOT and all its projects. Additionally, Teller expressed that he is committed to assisting WMAT DOT wherever he is able.

Teller serves as a State Representative for District 7 in the Arizona House of Representatives. Congressman Teller's knowledge of the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) is extensive. Teller's background is in aeronautics and transportation. Prior to his 2018 election to the Arizona House of Representatives, Teller served as the Senior Transportation Planner for the Navajo Nation's Division of Transportation, and finished his career with NNDOT as the Deputy Division Director of the Navajo Nation Department of Airports Management.

WMAT DOT WELCOMED COUNCILMAN TESSAY TO THE WMAT DOT CONSTRUCTION SITE

On Thursday, October 15, 2020, WMAT DOT was honored to welcome District 1 Councilman Tessay to the new transportation complex site. Due to strict safety regulations on-site, all construction activities were stopped for twenty minutes for Councilman Tessay's visit. WMAT DOT would like to thank Councilman Tessay for his leadership and his continued support of WMAT DOT. Councilman Tessay was accompanied by WMAT DOT Director Tara Chief, Fort Apache Connection Transit Manager Cassie Kenton-Garcia, Administrative Assistant LaReesa Sanchez and Transportation Specialist Marco Burnette.

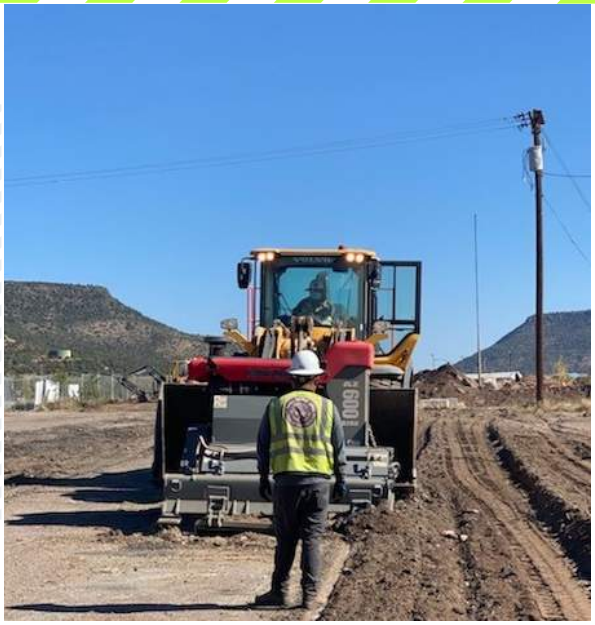
FORT APACHE CONNECTION TRANSIT (FACT) UPDATE

The Fort Apache Connection Transit (FACT) Program operates within the White Mountain Apache Tribe Division of Transportation. FACT was awarded two grants under the 5339 Bus and Bus Facility Grants through Federal Transit Association (FTA) and the Arizona Department of Transportation. Grant funds were awarded to FACT for the purchase of two transit buses to implement the connector route with the San Carlos Apache Tribe. FACT currently has eight transit buses to operate three existing routes: Route 1 (Cibecue to Whiteriver), Route 2 (Whiteriver to McNary), Route 3 (Turkey Creek, East Fork, Seven Mile, Fort Apache and Canyon Day). FACT is currently in the planning stages of developing Route 4 (Cibecue to Show Low).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all FACT transit routes have been temporarily suspended. Transit routes are expected to resume when the Tribe enters Phase 4 of the reopening process.

WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE DOT
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX

SITE PREPARATION: WMAT DOT STAFF PREPARED THE CONSTRUCTION SITE FOR COMPACTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE INSTALLATION



SITE CLEARING: AFTER THE SITE WAS CLEARED, TRENCHES WERE EXCAVATED.

PIPES FOR WATER LINES AND FIRE HYDRANTS INSTALLED IN EXCAVATED TRENCHES.

WMAT DOT FUNDING Q&A

HOW IS WMAT DOT FUNDED?

WMAT DOT receives its funding from the Highway Trust Fund. This funding is allocated to tribes, and then dispersed through the United States Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, Office of Tribal Transportation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Funds are allocated among Tribes using a formula based on tribal population, road mileage and average tribal shares of the former Tribal Transportation Allocation Methodology (TTAM) formula.

HOW CAN WMAT DOT USE THESE FUNDS?

All Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) funds provided to Tribes can be expended only on eligible projects and activities identified in the federal regulations and included in an FHWA-approved Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Funds can be used for the following:

- Transportation planning, research, maintenance, engineering, rehabilitation, restoration, construction, and reconstruction of tribal transportation facilities
- Operation and maintenance of transit programs and facilities that are located on, or provide access to, tribal land, or are administered by a tribal government
- Any transportation project eligible for assistance under this title that is located within, or that provides access to, tribal land, or is associated with a tribal government

WMAT DOT prepares the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), a 5-year plan for improvements on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. Each project on the TIP is supported by tribal resolution. WMAT DOT submits the TIP to the BIA Division of Transportation (BIADOT) for review and approval. BIADOT reviews, approves, and forwards the TIP to FHWA Federal Lands Highway Office (FLHO) for approval. WMAT DOT can allocate TTP funds for its projects once the TIP is approved by FHWA,

WHAT IS THE TTP?

The Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) is the largest program in the Office of Federal Lands Highway. Established in 23 U.S.C. 202 to address the transportation needs of Tribal governments throughout the United States, the program will receive $505 million in FY 2020, as established in Public Law 114-94, Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (the FAST Act). The purpose of the TTP is to provide safe and adequate transportation and public road access to and within Indian reservations, Indian lands, and Alaska Native Village communities. A prime objective of the TTP is to contribute to the economic development, self-determination, and employment of Indians and Native Americans. The Tribal Transportation Program is funded by contract authority from the Highway Trust Fund and is subject to the overall Federal-aid obligation limitation.

THIS IS A PUBLICATION OF:

WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION

TEMPORARY ADDRESS:
716 E GENERAL CROOK ST.
BLDG 105 [SECOND FLOOR]
FORT APACHE, AZ 85926

PHONE:
928-338-5155

BUSINESS HOURS:
MON - FRI: 9 AM - 5 PM

SOCIAL MEDIA:
FB - @WMATDOT

WMAT DOT STAFF

TARA CHIEF
WMAT DOT DIRECTOR

CASSIE KENTON-GARCIA
FACT [TRANSIT] MANAGER

LAREESA SANCHEZ
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

MARCO BURNETTE
TRANSPORTATION SPECIALIST

IDA ROSE COSAY
GIS TECHNICIAN

LISA TESSLER
FACT [TRANSIT] DISPATCHER

CARLOS HERNANDEZ
FACT [TRANSIT] DRIVER

ANTHONY HILL
FACT [TRANSIT] DRIVER

LEONARD PECHULI
FACT [TRANSIT] DRIVER

MARTY CELAYA
ROAD MAINTENANCE

VELDA MASSEY
ROAD MAINTENANCE