

# WMAT DOT NEWS

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



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## DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

Happy Valentines! Spring is just around the corner. This month’s issue will be a highlight of our Fort Apache Connection (“FAC”) Transit program. Fort Apache Connection Transit began back in 2017 where we started off with two drivers and only two routes. DOT is proud of how the transit program has progressed, which now has five drivers and five routes in service. We plan to expand our transit program and continue adding more routes. Future routes include, Cibecue to Show Low and Hon-Dah to Holbrook, which would be on a monthly basis.

All transit rides are still free due to the CARES Act funds received back in 2021. So, I encourage all Tribal Members to take advantage and ride the bus. I would also like to acknowledge our FAC transit drivers who do their daily requirements of pre and post bus trips inspections; Keeping all transit buses clean and sanitary at the end of the day; and making sure all passengers are comfortable and reach their destination safely.

Division of Transportation has recently hired another driver and is offering one more transit driver position. You can apply at our Tribal Human Resources Office. The last day to apply is March 15, 2024. We also have our bus stop schedules on our DOT website at [www.wmatdot.com](http://www.wmatdot.com) and on our Facebook page at WMAT Division of Transportation. - LaReesa Sanchez, Director

# MEET THE WMAT DOT FORT APACHE CONNECTION TRANSIT STAFF



**Lisa Tessler**  
Transit Dispatcher



**Anthony Hill**  
Transit Driver



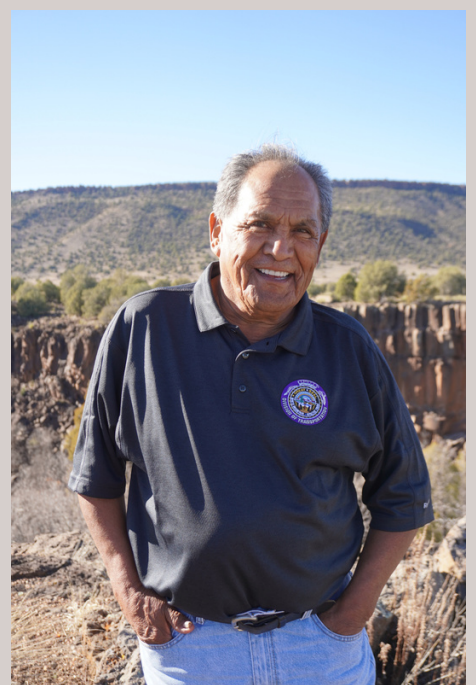
**Marcus Baca**  
Transit Driver



**Daniel Kessay**  
Transit Driver



**Melvin Truax**  
Transit Driver



**Ronnie Altaha Sr.**  
Transit Driver

# FORT APACHE CONNECTION TRANSIT BUS STOP SHELTER PROJECT UPDATE

Carrizo Bus Stop  
Shelter - is  
currently being  
installed



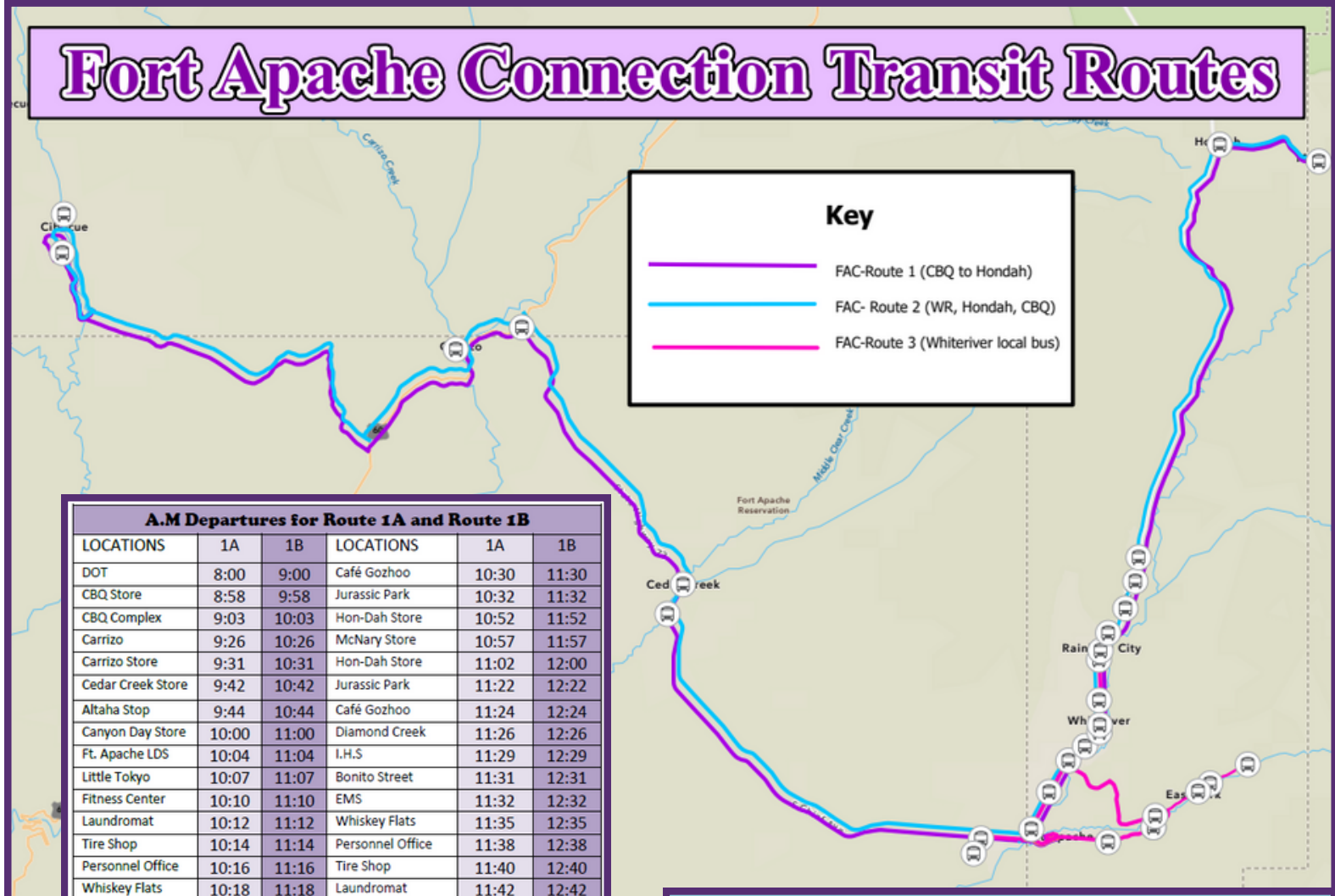
Altaha Bus Stop  
Shelter - complete

*Photo: (from right to left)  
Carlos Hernandez, LaReesa  
Sanchez, District II Councilman  
Jerold Altaha, & Lerona Massey*



# FORT APACHE CONNECTION

## Fort Apache Connection Transit Routes



**Key**

- FAC-Route 1 (CBQ to Hondah)
- FAC-Route 2 (WR, Hondah, CBQ)
- FAC-Route 3 (Whiteriver local bus)

A.M Departures for Route 1A and Route 1B					
LOCATIONS	1A	1B	LOCATIONS	1A	1B
DOT	8:00	9:00	Café Gozhoo	10:30	11:30
CBQ Store	8:58	9:58	Jurassic Park	10:32	11:32
CBQ Complex	9:03	10:03	Hon-Dah Store	10:52	11:52
Carrizo	9:26	10:26	McNary Store	10:57	11:57
Carrizo Store	9:31	10:31	Hon-Dah Store	11:02	12:00
Cedar Creek Store	9:42	10:42	Jurassic Park	11:22	12:22
Altaha Stop	9:44	10:44	Café Gozhoo	11:24	12:24
Canyon Day Store	10:00	11:00	Diamond Creek	11:26	12:26
Ft. Apache LDS	10:04	11:04	I.H.S	11:29	12:29
Little Tokyo	10:07	11:07	Bonito Street	11:31	12:31
Fitness Center	10:10	11:10	EMS	11:32	12:32
Laundromat	10:12	11:12	Whiskey Flats	11:35	12:35
Tire Shop	10:14	11:14	Personnel Office	11:38	12:38
Personnel Office	10:16	11:16	Tire Shop	11:40	12:40
Whiskey Flats	10:18	11:18	Laundromat	11:42	12:42
EMS	10:21	11:21	Fitness Center	11:44	12:44
Bonito Street	10:23	11:23	Little Tokyo	11:47	12:47
I.H.S	10:25	11:25	Ft. Apache LDS	11:50	12:50
Diamond Creek	10:28	11:28	Canyon Day Store	11:54	12:54

P.M Departures for Route 1A and Route 1B					
LOCATIONS	1A	1B	LOCATIONS	1A	1B
Canyon Day Store	1:05	2:05	CBQ Complex	2:07	3:07
Altaha Stop	1:20	2:20	Carrizo	2:33	3:33
CedarCreek Store	1:22	2:22	Carrizo Store	2:37	3:37
Carrizo Store	1:33	2:33	Cedar Creek Store	2:48	3:48
Carrizo	1:38	2:38	Altaha Stop	2:50	3:50
CBQ Store	2:02	3:02	Canyon Day Store	3:06	4:06

A.M Departures for Route 2A and Route 2B								
LOCATIONS	2A	2B	LOCATIONS	2A	2B	LOCATIONS	2A	2B
DOT	8:00	9:00	Hon-Dah Store	9:02	10:02	Carrizo Store	10:17	11:17
Canyon Day Store	8:04	9:04	Jurassic Park	9:19	10:19	Carrizo	10:22	11:22
Ft. Apache LDS	8:07	9:07	Café Gozhoo	9:21	10:21	CBQ Store	10:51	11:51
Little Tokyo	8:10	9:10	Diamond Creek	9:23	10:23	CBQ Complex	10:55	11:55
Fitness Center	8:13	9:13	I.H.S	9:26	10:26	Carrizo	11:26	12:26
Laundromat	8:15	9:15	Bonito Street	9:29	10:29	Carrizo Store	11:31	12:31
Tire Shop	8:17	9:17	EMS	9:30	10:30	Cedar Creek Store	11:42	12:42
Personnel Office	8:19	9:19	Whiskey Flats	9:32	10:32	Altaha Stop	11:44	12:44
Whiskey Flats	8:21	9:21	Personnel Office	9:35	10:35	Canyon Day Store	12:01	1:01
EMS	8:23	9:23	Tire Shop	9:36	10:36			
Bonito Street	8:24	9:24	Laundromat	9:38	10:38			
I.H.S	8:26	9:26	Fitness Center	9:40	10:40			
Diamond Creek	8:29	9:29	Little Tokyo	9:43	10:43			
Café Gozhoo	8:32	9:32	Ft. Apache LDS	9:45	10:45			
Jurassic Park	8:34	9:34	Canyon Day Store	9:48	10:48			
Hon-Dah Store	8:51	9:51	Altaha Stop	10:04	11:04			
McNary Store	8:56	9:56	Cedar Creek Store	10:06	11:06			

P.M Departures for Route 2A and Route 2B								
LOCATIONS	2A	2B	LOCATIONS	2A	2B	LOCATIONS	2A	2B
Canyon Day Store	1:05	2:05	Diamond Creek	1:34	2:23	EMS	2:40	3:40
Ft. Apache LDS	1:08	2:08	Café Gozhoo	1:37	2:37	Whiskey Flats	2:43	3:43
Little Tokyo	1:13	2:13	Jurassic Park	1:40	2:40	Personnel Office	2:45	3:45
Fitness Center	1:16	2:16	Hon-Dah Store	1:58	2:58	Tire Shop	2:47	3:47
Laundromat	1:18	2:16	McNary Store	2:03	3:03	Laundromat	2:49	3:49
Tire Shop	1:21	2:21	Hon-Dah Store	2:08	3:08	Fitness Center	2:51	3:51
Personnel Office	1:23	2:23	Jurassic Park	2:26	3:26	Little Tokyo	2:54	3:54
Whiskey Flats	1:25	2:25	Café Gozhoo	2:29	3:29	Ft. Apache LDS	2:57	3:57
EMS	1:28	2:28	Diamond Creek	2:32	3:32	Canyon Day Store	3:01	4:01
Bonito Street	1:30	2:30	I.H.S	2:36	3:36			
I.H.S	1:32	2:32	Bonito Street	2:39	3:39			

A.M Departures for Route 3(R3)					P.M Departures	
LOCATIONS	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3	R3
DOT	8:00	9:00	10:00	11:00	1:00	2:00
Seven Mile Store	8:05	9:05	10:05	11:05	1:05	2:05
East Fork Bus Stop	8:09	9:09	10:09	11:09	1:09	2:09
EF Bus Turn Around	8:13	9:13	10:13	11:13	1:13	2:13
McNeil Lane	8:16	9:16	10:16	11:16	1:16	2:16
Dove Street	8:19	8:19	10:19	11:19	1:19	2:19
EF Trading Post	8:24	9:24	10:24	11:24	1:24	2:24
Fitness Center	8:30	9:30	10:30	11:30	1:30	2:30
Personnel Office	8:34	9:34	10:34	11:34	1:34	2:34
I.H.S	8:39	9:39	10:39	11:39	1:39	2:39
Personnel Office	8:44	9:44	10:44	11:44	1:44	2:44
Fitness Center	8:48	9:48	10:48	11:48	1:48	2:48
CD West Street	8:55	9:55	10:55	10:55	1:55	2:55
Canyon Day Store	8:57	9:57	10:57	11:57	1:57	2:57

# FORT APACHE CONNECTION



## INFORMATION & SERVICES

- The FAC Transit currently operates three bus routes;
  - Route 1,
  - Route 2 and,
  - Route 3
- The FAC Transit has a seasonal connector route with San Carlos Apache Tribe to meet at Seneca.
- The FAC Transit will pick up and drop off passengers at designated bus stop locations from Monday to Friday.
- The FAC Transit will deviate off the three routes, UP TO 3/4 of a mile Monday to Friday. Must call ahead of scheduled time.
- You can connect with the Four Seasons Connection at Hon-Dah Store. All transit buses are wheelchair accessible and operated in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- **NO ALCOHOL OR DRUGS** are allowed on the transit bus. If you are intoxicated you will be denied a ride.

# FORT APACHE CONNECTION



## HOURS & HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- Transit Service Hours:
  - Monday to Friday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- Transit does not run on the following holidays:
  - New Year's Day
  - Memorial Day
  - Independence Day
  - Labor Day
  - Veteran's Day
  - Thanksgiving
  - Christmas
  - Any days the White Mountain Apache Tribe deems a Tribal Holiday

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Times listed on the schedule are arrival times and vary due to connecting with other transit buses, traffic, weather conditions and bus stops.

AM times are shown in LIGHT face type. PM times are shown in **BOLD** face type.

# CANYON DAY SOLAR LIGHTING PROJECT

## CANYON DAY SOLAR LIGHTING

- Estimated Completion Date: May 2024
- Location: Canyon Day
  - Marigold Ave.
  - S West Street
  - S. 7th Street
  - S. East Street
  - Hastings Street
- Total # of miles: 2.5 miles
- Total Cost: \$1.5 million
- Marigold Ave has concrete forms complete and poles installed.
- Project was delayed due to muddy conditions.
- When weather is permitting, the project will run smoothly.
- Be careful of workers.
- Drive slow and use caution



# CANYON DAY SOLAR LIGHTING PROJECT





# ROUTE 12 CIBECUE ROAD RAISE GRANT APPLICATION

Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program, provides a unique opportunity for USDOT to invest in road, rail, transit and port projects that promise to achieve national objectives. Since 2009, Congress has dedicated nearly \$12.1 billion for fourteen rounds of National Infrastructure Investments to fund projects that have a significant local or regional impact. In 2023, RAISE awarded 162 projects across 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

The WMAT DOT has submitted an application three times for Route 12 Cibecue Road to widen and reconstruct 14.7 miles, from Cibecue Junction to the end of pavement, by the school. The design of the project is complete, we will need \$50,699,908.85 to complete the construction. We scored in the higher levels but have still not been awarded. We submitted our fourth application, it was due February 28, 2024.



# WHAT MAKES A GOOD RAISE GRANT APPLICATION?

What goes into submitting an application for a project this big?

## **1. Clear and Concise Proposal**

A clear outline of your project or program.

## **2. Alignment with Funders Priorities**

Show how your project fits within funders mission and goals.

## **3. Strong Impact Statement**

Clearly articulate how the grant funding will make a difference and bring positive change.

## **4. Budget and Financials**

Ensure that your budget is realistic, transparent, and aligns with the proposed activities.

## **5. Evidence- Based Approach / Crash Data**

Support your proposal with data, research and evidence that demonstrate the need for your project. Accurate and up to date crash data provided by the White Mountain Tribal Police Department is critical.

## **6. Partnerships and Collaborations**

Highlight any partnerships or collaborations that strengthen your project and demonstrate community support. Support letters from schools, Tribal Council, Counties, etc.

## **7. Evaluation Plan**

Include a robust evaluation plan that outlines how you will measure the success of your project and track outcomes.

## **8. Compelling Narrative**

Craft a compelling and engaging narrative that captures the attention of the reviewers. Using storytelling techniques to convey your projects importance.

## **9. Lobbying in Washington D.C**

Tribal Council assistance in lobbying for the Project in Washington, D.C.

# WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE

**SNOW AND ICE MUST BE REMOVED FROM THE ROADWAYS DURING OR AFTER WINTER STORMS.**

**THE DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION SNOW PLOWS WILL BEGIN THE PROCESS OF SNOW REMOVAL WHEN 4" - 6" OF SNOW ACCUMULATES ON THE ROADWAYS.**



## COMMUNITY TIPS:

- SLOW DOWN
- BE PATIENT
- ONLY DRIVE WHEN NECESSARY
- ALLOW MORE TRAVEL TIME DURING OR FOLLOWING A SNOWSTORM
- DRIVE AT LEAST 50 FEET BEHIND SNOWPLOWS AND CINDER TRUCKS

## FRIENDLY REMINDER:

- KEEP ROADWAYS CLEAR FOR SNOW PLOW TO REMOVE SNOW.
- NO TRASH BINS, BASKETBALL GOALS, VEHICLES, ETC (WMAT DOT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DAMAGES)

**LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO HELP EVERYONE STAY SAFE DURING AND AFTER SNOW STORMS.**



# CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

## LOCK IN THE FUTURE

Buckle Up: Every Age, Every Trip

The best way to protect children in the car is to put them in the right seat at the right time - and use it the right way.

It is crucial to our survival to have our future generations in a properly installed car seat.

Our car seat technicians are available for presentations as well as one-on-one appointments

Call a WMAT DOT Technician at  
928.338.5155

***Schedule an  
appointment today, it  
could save a life!***



# CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

Transit Currently only has booster seats available for child passengers.



## Booster seat raises child so seat belt fits correctly

Raises and positions a child so the vehicle's lap-and-shoulder belt fits properly over the stronger points of a child's body, the hips and across the chest.

### Types

**Booster Seat With High Back:** This type of booster seat is designed to boost the child's height so the seat belt fits properly. It also provides neck and head support and is ideal for vehicles that don't have head rests or high seat backs.

**Backless Booster Seat:** A backless booster seat is designed to boost the child's height so the seat belt fits properly. It does not provide head and neck support. It is ideal for vehicles that have head rests

**Combination Seat:** As a child grows, this seat transitions from a forward-facing seat with a harness into a booster.

**All-in-One Seat:** This seat can change from a rear-facing seat to a forward-facing seat (with a harness and tether) and to a booster seat as a child grows.

# 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.





**Meeting with ADOT Representatives, Tribal Councilmembers District IV  
Mariddie Craig and Gary Alchesay, and WMATDOT**

# **We Want To Hear From You**

Please share your thoughts at  
[info@wmatdot.com](mailto:info@wmatdot.com)



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