



TRANSPORTATION PLANNING, NON-METROPOLITAN and TRIBAL CONSULTATION PROCESS Nevada Department of Transportation

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Nevada Department of Transportation

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Table of Contents

SECTION 1: PURPOSE.....	3
SECTION 2: Planning Documents.....	5
2.1 – Program Development	5
2.2 - Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).....	5
2.2.1 - STIP Development Process	5
2.2.2 - eSTIP Application.....	7
2.3 – One Nevada: Planning Our Transportation Future	7
2.4 - Corridor Studies.....	8
2.5 - Intermodal Plans	8
SECTION 3: Local Government Consultation Process.....	9
3.1 County Consultation Timeline	9
3.2 County Tour.....	9
3.3 County Workshops	10
3.2 - State Long-Range Guiding Principles	10
SECTION 4: Tribal Consultation Process	11
SECTION 5: Other Planning Outreach Strategies.....	12
5.1 – Transportation Planning Advisory Committee (STTAC).....	12
5.2 - NDOT Website.....	12
5.4 - Other Meetings, Functions, and Conferences	12
Acronyms Descriptions.....	13

SECTION 1: PURPOSE

The Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) supports the outreach and communication with our non-metropolitan communities, especially in the transportation planning and programming processes. An open exchange of information among a wide array of transportation users, government officials, and tribal leaders results in better decision-making and more publicly supported programs and projects. With increasing demands on limited public resources, transportation programs and projects require strong public support through an open and collaborative planning process. NDOT has developed the Transportation Planning Non-Metropolitan, Local, and Tribal Consultation Process. This document outlines plans to provide for ongoing consultations during transportation planning and programming activities including the development of the Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan, One Nevada, the Transportation System Projects (TSP) document which includes the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) and the Work Program. This Transportation Planning Non-Metropolitan and Tribal Consultation Process are separate and in addition to the Statewide Transportation Planning Public Participation Process, the public participation process for the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

23 USC 135 (f) and (g) requires NDOT to have a documented process for consulting with non-metropolitan and tribal local officials representing units of general-purpose local government and/or local officials with responsibility for transportation that is separate and discrete from the public involvement process and provides an opportunity for their participation in the development of the long-range statewide transportation plan and the STIP. In addition to consultation with local officials and government NDOT shall also provide interested parties a reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed programs. Interested parties may include citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of public transportation employees, freight shippers, private providers of transportation and providers of freight transportation services, representatives of users of public transportation, representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, regional development authorities, and representatives of the disabled. Copies of the process document shall be provided to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Additionally:

- (1) NDOT shall continually review and solicit comments from metropolitan, non-metropolitan, and tribal local officials regarding the effectiveness of the consultation process and any proposed changes. A request for comments shall be provided after each workshop and County Tour meeting. A specific request for comments shall be directed to the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO), the Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities, regional planning agencies, and directly to metropolitan, non-metropolitan local officials and tribal government leaders.
- (2) NDOT, at its discretion, shall be responsible for determining whether to adopt any proposed changes that resulted from the consultation process. If a proposed change is not adopted, NDOT shall make publicly available its reasons for not accepting the proposed change.
- (3) In accordance with Nevada Revised Statute [233A.260](#), we provide an annual Tribal Summary and Report to the Nevada Indian Commission. For each area of Nevada under the jurisdiction of an Indian Tribal government, NDOT shall work with tribal leaders to develop the long-range statewide transportation plan and STIP in consultation with the Tribal government and the Secretary of Interior. States shall, to the extent

practicable, develop a documented process that outlines roles, responsibilities, and key decision points for consulting with Indian Tribal governments and Federal Land Management Agencies in the development of the long-range statewide transportation plan and the STIP.

NDOT has chosen to perform annual Workshops and Tribal Consultation visits to specific locations in Nevada. NDOT will also work directly with the FHWA and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to annually update tribal transportation projects and Central Federal Lands Highway Division (CFLHD) projects for the Federal Lands Transportation Program and the Federal Lands Access Program. In addition, CFLHD performs annual in-state visits to discuss ongoing and potential projects. Tribal and CFLHD projects will be entered into the Work Program and/or STIP.

The Transportation Planning Non-Metropolitan and Tribal Consultation Process, Section 2 below lists and defines planning and program documents. Section 3 outlines the non-metropolitan local official Workshop and County Tour consultation process. Section 4 outlines the tribal government consultation process. Section 5 provides other planning outreach strategies including the roles of the Statewide Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (STTAC) and NDOT liaisons.

SECTION 2: Planning Documents

2.1 – Program Development

In compliance with Title 23 U.S.C. and the Nevada Revised Statutes 408.203, NDOT produces the Transportation System Projects (TSP) document as needed to reflect a current STIP. This is done in cooperation with federal, state, and local governments, Regional Transportation Commissions (RTCs), and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) so funding can be made available for necessary transportation improvements in Nevada. The TSP contains information on the following programs: The STIP, Short Range-Element (SRE), and Long-Range Element – One Nevada.

2.2 - Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

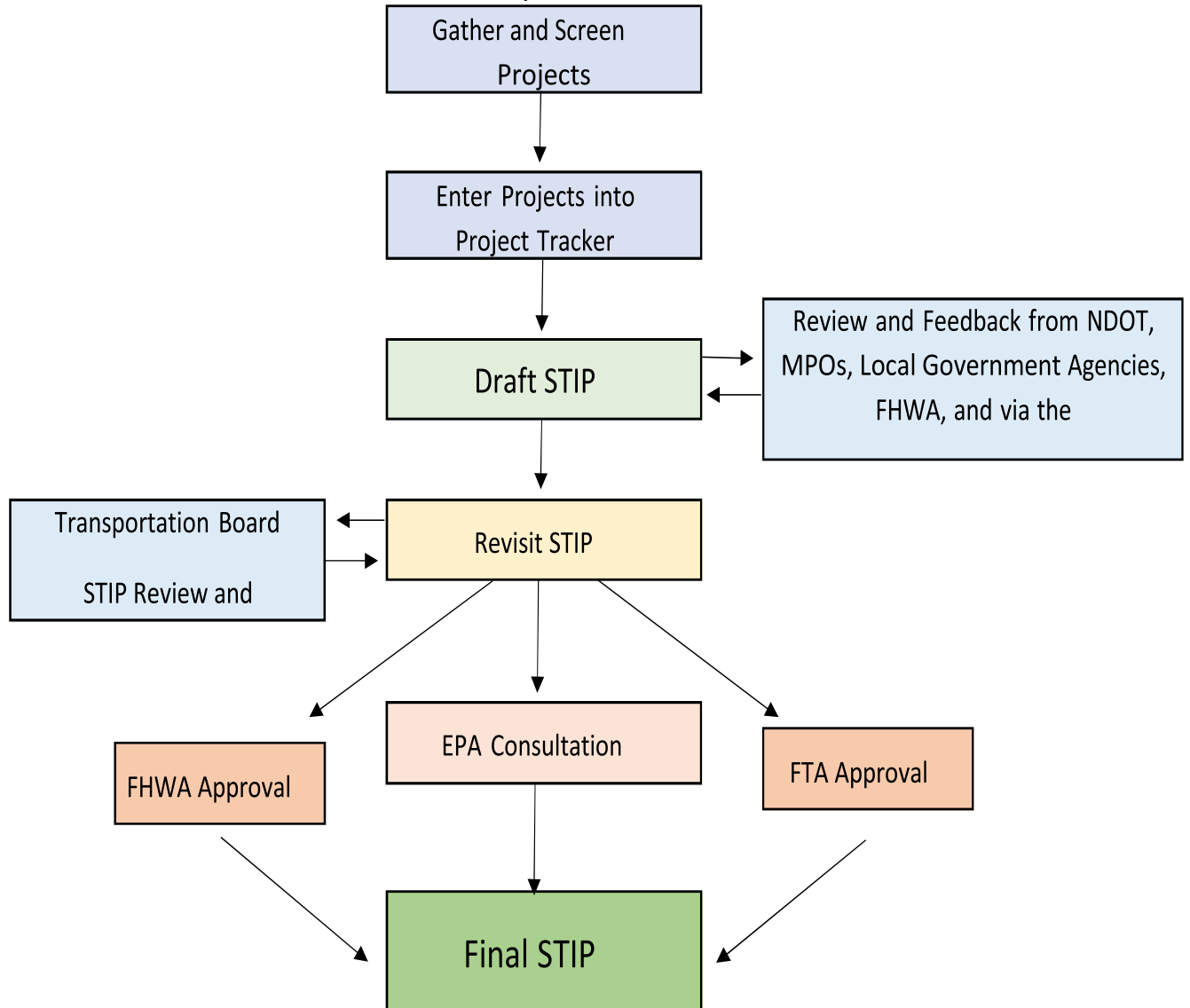
The Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is the state’s transportation capital improvement program. Federally funded and regionally significant projects across the state are included in the STIP. The Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) STIP is a four-year plan and includes funding levels by year for project obligation and is fiscally constrained. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) approves the STIP. The STIP is prepared in cooperation with the state’s four Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) and includes the projects identified in their respective Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP). Though the STIP is required to be updated a minimum of every four years, NDOT produces a STIP annually.

The formal procedure and guidance for the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) can be found [here](#).

2.2.1 - STIP Development Process

See next page

STIP Development Process



2.2.2 - eSTIP Application

The electronic Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (eSTIP) is an online portal that reflects up to date STIP information. The eSTIP application has a public-facing site that provides access to current projects, financial, and mapping information, as well as any modifications or amendments completed throughout the year. The eSTIP helps to promote transparency and encourage public involvement. The eSTIP program can be visited at estip.nevadadot.com.

2.3 – One Nevada: Planning Our Transportation Future

The One Nevada Transportation Plan equips the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) and its partners with the strategic direction and essential actions to meet Nevada’s current and future transportation needs. This plan provides a common foundation and shared policy framework for making more informed, transparent, and responsive transportation investment decisions.

Please see our One Nevada Transportation Plan available [here](#).

The One Nevada Transportation Plan is built on a foundation of six critical goal areas. These goals encompass an array of transportation issues and opportunities and reflect the priorities of Nevada’s public and transportation partners. Each goal is discussed in detail in the following subsections, along with strategies for achieving them.

 ENHANCE SAFETY	 PRESERVE INFRASTRUCTURE	 OPTIMIZE MOBILITY	 TRANSFORM ECONOMIES	 FOSTER SUSTAINABILITY	 CONNECT COMMUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crash reduction potential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pavement condition improvement • Bridge condition improvement • Other asset improvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population accessibility • Travel time reliability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business accessibility • Economic development potential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental risk • GHG reduction and other environmental enhancements • Resilience • Reduce future maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project connectivity • Multimodal access • Access to community destinations

2.4 - Corridor Studies

Corridor studies are comprehensive reports analyzing current and projected demographic, socio-economic, environmental, and transportation conditions and are most often conducted along with elongated areas that span across multiple counties, communities, and NDOT districts through coordination with local, tribal, and state officials. Such areas are likely to include multiple transportation modes, including vehicles, railroad, transit, aviation, bicycle & pedestrian, and a mix of land uses. Corridors are of strategic importance to the NDOT and the communities adjacent to the corridor, such as an interstate highway, state route, or part of the freight highway network. Other data such as vehicle crash information, traffic projections, pavement condition, and outdated roadway design may also warrant a study to be conducted.

The purpose of a corridor study is to assess existing and forecasted conditions along the highway corridor and develop an implementation plan of prioritized projects based on need and when they should occur. From the implementation plan, the NDOT district(s) can then begin the process of planning and programming these projects into their respective project portfolios for further study and funding. However, there is no guarantee that after the study that any and all identified potential projects would be funded or implemented in the timeframes recommended in the corridor study.

Alternatives for transportation improvements can vary along a corridor and may include but are not limited to, constructing new main lanes and/or frontage roads, limiting access, constructing grade separations, changing vehicle clearance height at bridges and overpasses, changing frontage road orientation from two-way to one-way, and changing overpass and interchange configuration. Transportation system management components such as traffic signal optimization, intersection improvements, and intelligent vehicle/highway system elements may also be appropriate solutions.

Local and tribal officials are invited and encouraged to participate in the corridor study process in, or adjacent to, their geographical areas. The final reports for corridor studies are made available to local and tribal officials, and the public for download on the [NDOT website](#) or printed and mailed by phone, postal mail, or email request, along with other inquiries and questions to our customer service division at info@dot.nv.gov.

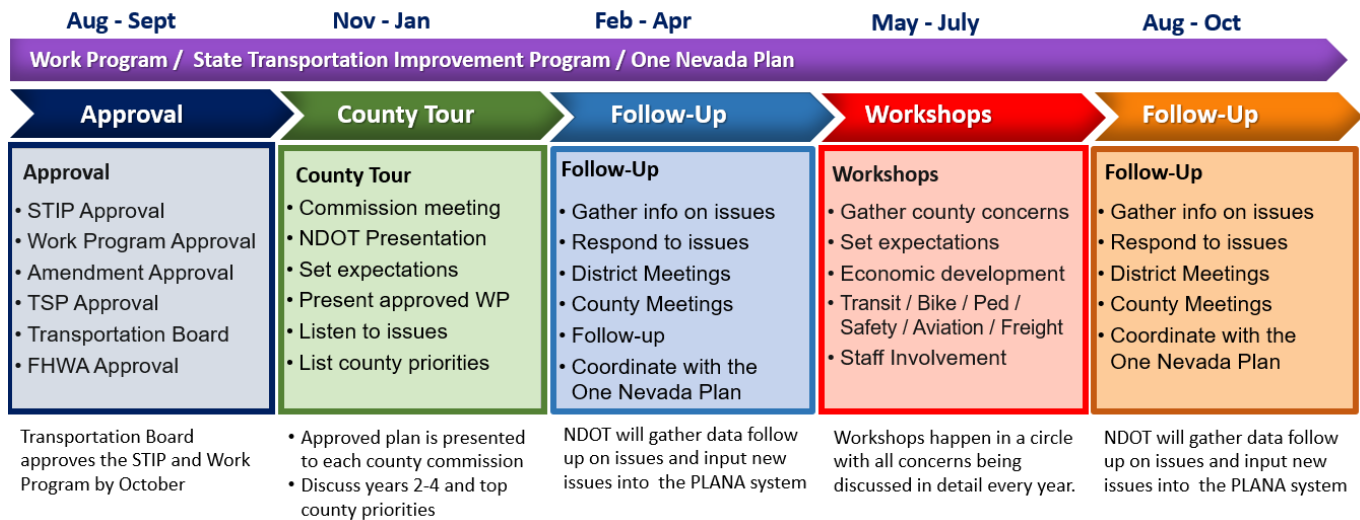
2.5 - Intermodal Plans

NDOT also develops and maintains plans for intermodal programs. Examples of these plans include the State Management Plan, the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan, the Nevada State Rail Plan, the Nevada Airport Systems Plan, the Nevada Statewide Bicycle Plan, and the Pedestrian Plan. These plans are reviewed by the intermodal committees for each discipline and by the STTAC. The draft and final copies of these plans are distributed to the respective committees, the STTAC, and are sent out to local officials. The plans are available on the NDOT website and are available by request (via phone, mail, and email) from NDOT Multimodal Planning Division.

SECTION 3: Local Government Consultation Process

The Local Government Consultation Process allows local governments to identify and communicate what projects they would like to have included in the STIP and potentially secure Federal and State funding to have those projects included. It is also an opportunity for NDOT staff to share what projects are already in the STIP and to discuss transportation issues and needs in the local communities. The Annual Local Government Consultation Process begins in October of each by preparing a draft Work Program. That draft program is shared with each of the 14 rural counties within Nevada before their scheduled consultation visit which takes place in the summer of the next year. The Work Program is developed in coordination with the STIP development as follows:

3.1 County Consultation Timeline



3.2 County Tour

Beginning in the fall of each year we provide an annual report to each of the rural county commissions that provide the following information:

1. Work Program for the county
2. List of concerns that the county has shared with NDOT over the recent years
3. Road classification for roads and highways in the county
4. AADT for all state and federal roads in the county
5. Setting expectations for the county

When we meet with each county commission, we share the list of concerns that we have heard from the county during the workshops and updated the county on progress made on some of the key items. Since these lists are rather large, we have asked each county commission to provide the top two concerns, so we know what the county priorities are. This provides NDOT with a focus that will assist us in our prioritization.

We also share the work program that is made up of both state and federally funded projects along with transit-funded projects. This is listed by the current year that has been approved by the Transportation Board as well as potential projects for outlying years.

3.3 County Workshops

The workshops are the workhorse of the county consultation process. We have learned that without an effective workshop preceding the county tour our process is hampered. This is where the county can add new county concerns and we can discuss them in detail. During the workshops, we walk through each of the issues that the county has mentioned to us over the years and provide updates on what we have discovered in our follow-up. We validate each concern to make sure we understand the issues and share any updates or progress.

During the workshops, we educate attendees on transportation matters that could be of interest to the county as well as educate them on how the project process works. Eventually, this process will include the One Nevada Plan prioritization process. A priority piece of this process is setting expectations for how the county should anticipate these items to move forward and how they will move through the NDOT planning system.

3.2 - State Long-Range Guiding Principles

The annual consultation workshop and county tour process focus directly on the development of the Work Program and STIP. However, the NDOT will also consult with non-metropolitan local officials during the development of the State Long-Range Transportation Plan and planning studies. NDOT has developed guiding principles that represent the department's goals, core values, and standards of conduct that will guide decision-makers as they move forward:

1. **SAFETY** – Improve safety for all modes of the transportation system.
2. **CUSTOMER SERVICE** – Improve internal and external customer service and satisfaction.
3. **FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY** – Secure the highest amount of funding possible for our state and ensure that it is invested responsibly and properly.
4. **ASSET MANAGEMENT** – Protect the public's investment in our transportation system.
5. **MOBILITY/ACCESSIBILITY** – Provide a statewide, multimodal, interconnected, efficient transportation system that enhances Nevada's Economic Competitiveness.
6. **FREIGHT MOVEMENT** – Improve the safety and mobility of freight movers.
7. **ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP** – Ensure the human and natural environments are considered when developing the transportation system.

SECTION 4: Tribal Consultation Process

The NDOT tribal consultation process is similar to the non-metropolitan local official Workshop and County Tour consultation process as discussed in Section 3. The State of Nevada has 27 federally recognized tribes with 2 additional tribes that own land with the state boundaries not counted in the 27. NDOT recognizes that tribal transportation issues are unique and will work closely with FHWA, BIA, and the tribes to ensure a collaborative environment for all stakeholders. NDOT Planning will make every attempt to schedule an annual tribal consultation visit or invite tribal governments to a central meeting location to address funding opportunities, project lists and discuss tribal concerns. A copy of the draft TSP will be provided (via email, mail and/or hand-delivered) to each tribe for review and comment. If an NDOT project is planned for a certain area of the state that would affect a tribe, meetings will be scheduled to discuss the project and tribal involvement. These meetings will be attended by representatives from NDOT involved in the project delivery, which may include District, Design, Right-of-Way, Environmental, Safety, Planning, and others. The meetings will be held at a location mutually selected by the tribe and NDOT.

The NDOT tribal liaison is also coordinating with the cultural resources team under environmental to jointly work with tribal leaders around the state to bring forth a unified NDOT team in working with the tribes on an annual basis.

Tribes are also invited to participate in the planning Workshops and County Tours discussed in Section 3 and tribal governments can request a meeting at any time to discuss transportation issues. Tribal governments can contact the NDOT County Liaison at (775) 888-7000. Additionally, tribes will be invited to participate during the development of the State Long-Range Transportation Plan and other planning studies that may impact the tribe.

SECTION 5: Other Planning Outreach Strategies

5.1 – Transportation Planning Advisory Committee (STTAC)

The TPAC is intended to advise, solicit input, and interact with NDOT’s Planning management team and staff on issues that affect transportation planning in Nevada. This advisement/interaction may include review, comment, and making recommendations on NDOT planning studies, plans, and guidance as well as special duties such as serving as the Steering Committee for the One Nevada Transportation Plan. An additional purpose of the committee is to help NDOT with its public outreach efforts by providing valued input into the transportation planning decision-making process.

5.2 - NDOT Website

The NDOT website <https://www.dot.nv.gov/> is another avenue for non-metropolitan local officials and tribal leaders with responsibility for transportation to receive information. The website has the latest information on a wide variety of NDOT projects, programs, and documents. Some of the topics available on the website include Traveler Information, Doing Business with NDOT, Public Involvement, Reports and Publications, Announcements and News, and links to other websites that provide transportation-related information. The Statewide Long-Range Plan, One Nevada, TSP, Corridor Studies, Project Initiation Form, STIP, and Transportation Alternative Program are all available online.

5.4 - Other Meetings, Functions, and Conferences

To reach out to an even wider audience, NDOT staff attends and participates at events hosted by other entities, agencies, communities, and tribes. Examples include local and state economic development meetings, tourism events, conferences, Regional Transportation Commission meetings, Citizen Advisory Committees, and others. NDOT speakers can also be requested through the NDOT Help Center website under “[Other Topics](#)”.

NDOT assigns a Planning Liaison in both the Northern and Southern region with County Tour and Workshop responsibilities to ensure an ongoing consultation process on all types of transportation issues. Local officials and tribal governments may contact these liaisons at any time. All divisions in NDOT will seek to provide continuous coordination and regular updates to local officials and/or tribal governments either directly or through the liaison.

This document rescinds and supersedes the Transportation Planning Non-Metropolitan Local Official Participation Process document from 2015. It should be reviewed annually by Planning prior to and during the county tour process.

Acronyms Descriptions

3R	Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, and Repaving
AADT	Annual Average Daily Traffic
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CFLHD	Central Federal Lands Highway Division
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
IRR	Indian Roads Reservation Program
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
NACO	Nevada Association of Counties
NDOT	Nevada Department of Transportation
STIP	Statewide Transportation Improvement Program
STTAC	Statewide Transportation Technical Advisory Committee
TAP	Transportation Alternatives Program
TIP	Transportation Improvement Program
TSP	Transportation System Project
WP	Work Program