



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL PACKET

MEMO TO: ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
FROM: RANDY HEISS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DATE: FEBRUARY 2, 2023
SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Please see the details below for the Administrative Council meeting date, time, and location.

Thursday, February 9, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

In-Person:

Cochise College Benson Center
[1025 Highway 90, Benson, Arizona](#)

Via Zoom:

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86751677332>

Meeting ID: 867 5167 7332

Phone-in Option: +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

This will be a hybrid meeting. Anyone wishing to attend in person may do so with no limitations on the number attending. Anyone unable to attend in person may attend via Zoom. Members of the public will not be allowed to attend in person but are welcome to attend via Zoom. **The address above is also a link to a Google Map showing the meeting location.** If you are unable to attend, please send an alternate to ensure that we will have a quorum at the meeting.

The Administrative Council Packet will be sent to members through e-mail (via a link to the packet posted on the SEAGO website) to save postage and copying costs. **We will not be mailing a hard copy of the packet unless you request one.**

If you have any questions, please call me at (520) 432-5301 Extension 202. You can also send an e-mail to rheiss@seago.org.



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL AGENDA

9:00 A.M., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023
IN-PERSON AND VIA ZOOM (see Cover Letter for Zoom details)
1025 HIGHWAY 90, BENSON, ARIZONA

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / INTRODUCTIONS	Secretary Brown	
II. MEMBER ENTITIES' DISCUSSION (Common Critical Issues)	Secretary Brown	
III. CALL TO THE PUBLIC	Secretary Brown	
IV. ACTION ITEMS		<u>Page No.</u>
1. Consent Agenda		
a. Approval of the November 3, 2022 Minutes	Secretary Brown	1
b. Nomination(s) to the Advisory Council on Aging	Laura Villa	5
2. Discussion and possible action to recommend the Executive Board authorize staff to publish a Request for Proposals for a Compensation Study	Randy Heiss	6
3. Discussion and possible action to recommend approval of Resolution No. 2023-01 serving notice of SEAGO's intention to de-designate as a planning agency under Section 208 of the Clean Water Act	Randy Heiss	7
4. Discussion and possible action to recommend approval of SEAGO 2023 – 2027 TIP Amendment #4	Chris Vertrees	12
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D. SEAGO Economic Development District Report	Stephen Peterson	20
E. AAA Updates	Laura Villa	22
F. Transportation Program Updates	Chris Vertrees	35

VI. RTAC REPORT	Kevin Adam	N/A
VII. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS / CURRENT EVENTS	Secretary Brown	N/A
VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS	Secretary Brown	N/A
IX. ADJOURNMENT	Secretary Brown	N/A

DIRECTION MAY BE GIVEN TO SEAGO STAFF ON ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA.

Individuals with disabilities who require special accommodations or who have limited English proficiency and wish to have an interpreter may contact Diane Becerra at (520) 432-5301 extension 207 at least 72 hours before the meeting time to request such accommodations.

Individuals wishing to participate in the meeting electronically may do so by contacting Diane Becerra at (520) 432-5301 extension 207. Contact must be made at least 48 hours before the meeting in order to obtain the call-in information. Please note that the option to participate electronically may not be available unless requested as instructed above.

Si necesita acomodaciones especiales o un intérprete para esta conferencia, debe ponerse en contacto con Diane Becerra al número (520) 432-5301, extensión 207, por lo menos setenta y dos (72) horas antes de la conferencia.

**Draft MINUTES OF
THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING
9:00 A.M., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2022
VIA ZOOM
COCHISE COLLEGE BENSON
1025 HWY 80, BENSON, ARIZONA**

OFFICERS PRESENT: Coxworth, Dan- Cochise County (Chair) **(In-Person)**
Brown, Heath- Town of Thatcher (Treasurer) **(Zoom)**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pauken, Steve – City of Bisbee **(Zoom)**
Batty, Vernon – Town of Pima **(Zoom)**
McLachlan, Matt – City of Sierra Vista **(Zoom)**
Hinton, Terry – Town of Duncan **(Zoom)**
Urquijo, Ana – City of Douglas **(Zoom)**
Vivian, Vicki – City of Benson **(Zoom)**
Welker, Dustin – Graham County **(Zoom)**

STAFF PRESENT: Curtiss, Dina – Accounting Manager **(Zoom)**
De La Cruz, Marisa- Community Coordinator **(In-Person)**
Dennis, Keith – Community Development Program Manager **(In-Person)**
Heiss, Randy – Executive Director **(In-Person)**
Merideth, John – GIS Analyst **(Zoom)**
Peterson, Stephen – Economic Development Program Manager **(In-Person)**
Vertrees, Chris – Transportation Program Administrator **(In-Person)**

GUESTS: Adam, Kevin – RTAC **(Zoom)**
Stein, Richard- Sierra Vista Transit **(Zoom)**

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Coxworth called the meeting to order at 9:03 am

II. MEMBER ENTITIES' DISCUSSION

Ana Urquijo, City of Douglas, gave an update on their port of entry progress. She reported they recently approved a donation acceptance agreement where they will be donating an 80-acre parcel to GSA. They continue to work with their stakeholders and are beginning to move the needle on the project. **Vernon Batty, Town of Pima**, reported that their big challenge has been planning for their new high school. There will need to be a new stoplight to get traffic on and off the highway safely. **Steve Pauken, City of Bisbee**, stated that last month they received a \$4.5 million dollar grant for the Bisbee bike ways project. They also received an ARPA grant through the governor's office of \$4.6 million dollars to renovate Camp Naco. **Vicki Vivian, City of Benson**, stated they recently held their lantern festival and it was very successful. On October 29th they had their first ever Zombie run. They look forward to seeing that event grow. Work has begun on their City Hall Facility. They had the inside of the building done and are hoping to move in first of the year. **Dustin Welker, Graham County** reported their CDBG grant to put a rubberized floor at a large playground was stalled due to a fire that destroyed the playground equipment at the fairgrounds. A new shade structure and playground equipment has been ordered and is now on its way. They hope to have the new playground and structure in place by the end of December and the rubberized floor done by the April deadline. **Terry Hinton, Town of Duncan**, reported that the Army Corps of Engineers had finished with the repairs to the levees that protect Duncan from flooding. He also mentioned that they are in

the process of beginning an automatic meter reading program for the water system. **Dan Coxworth, Cochise County** reported the county was awarded another EPA assessment grant. Funding was to begin on October 1 but he was notified by the EPA that that funding is on hold.

III. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No one from the public was present.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

1. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of the August 4th, 2022, Minutes

Chair Coxworth called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Vicki Vivian made the motion; second by Dustin Welker.

MOTION: Vivian Vicki
SECOND: Dustin Welker
ACTION: Unanimous

2. Discussion and possible action to recommend approval of the proposed Calendar Year 2023 SEAGO Policy Principles

Randy Heiss presented the updates that staff has recommended for the Calendar Year 2023 Policy Principles. He explained that these principles enable SEAGO staff with talking points to support or oppose legislation, policies or various initiatives at the state and federal level that impact delivery of SEAGO programs and/or our effectiveness in serving member entities and constituents. Randy offered to answer any questions. Ana Urquijo made a motion to recommend that the Executive Board approve the SEAGO Policy Principles for Calendar Year 2023 as presented by staff; Second by Matt McLachlan

MOTION: Ana Urquijo
SECOND: Matt McLachlan
ACTION: Unanimous

3. Discussion and possible action to recommend approval of Resolution No. 2022-04 establishing SEAGO's Rural Regional Priority List of transportation projects for consideration for funding by the Arizona Legislature

Chris Vertrees explained the process used by the TAC to establish the RTAC Rural Regional Priority Projects list for the SEAGO region. He further explained that Resolution 2022-04 expresses SEAGO's desire to include this list of priority projects in the RTAC Rural Regional Priority List and urges the Legislature to enact legislation appropriating State General Fund revenues for the projects included in the RTAC Greater Arizona Regional Priority Project List. Chris offered to answer any questions. Dustin Welker made a motion to recommend approval of Resolution No. 2022-04 to the Executive Board; Second by Vicki Vivian.

MOTION: Dustin Welker
SECOND: Vicki Vivian
ACTION: Unanimous

4. Discussion and possible action to recommend approval of the 2022 CDBG Regional account application.

Keith Dennis gave an overview of the CDGB Regional Account projects (Benson, Clifton, Safford, and Santa Cruz County) that were awarded for fiscal year 2022, along with two Colonias set-aside projects (Bisbee and Patagonia) and one State Special Projects set-aside project (Tombstone) that were also awarded. Keith explained the SEAGO bylaws require Executive Board approval of fees and/or assessments such as those charged for application preparation or administration of new CDBG contracts by SEAGO for member entities and offered to answer any questions. Steve Pauken made a motion to recommend approval of the 2022 CDBG Regional Account application. Second by Ana Urquijo.

MOTION: Steve Pauken
SECOND: Ana Urquijo
ACTION: Unanimous

5. Discussion and possible action to recommend approval of Resolution No. 2022-05 authorizing the development of a collation of private and public entities to build a Bi-National Workforce Program and diversify regional talent pools.

Stephen Peterson explained the purpose of the Resolution was to request approval for the formation of a coalition to develop a Bi-National Workforce Program. The intent is to diversify the regional talent pool by supporting the recruitment of technically skilled workers residing in Sonora, Mexico, whom are either US Citizens, or qualify for temporary work visa programs. Many the region's major employers are unable to recruit qualified applicants and the hope is establishing the program will help employers fill critical vacancies with workers with degrees or technical certifications earned in Mexico that can be converted to US degrees or technical certifications. Stephen offered to answer any questions. Ana Urquijo made a motion to recommend approval of Resolution 2022-05 authorizing the development of a collation of private and public entities to build a Bi-National Workforce Program and diversify regional talent pools; Second by Steve Pauken.

MOTION: Ana Urquijo
SECOND: Steve Pauken
ACTION: Unanimous

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Future Meeting Dates

Randy Heiss mentioned that the next meeting of the Administrative Council will be held February 9, 2023. He also mentioned that there would likely be a need for the Administrative – Executive Committees to meet December 1st telephonically to conduct program related, time sensitive business between regular meetings of the Administrative Council and Executive Board. He asked the officers to please mark their calendars.

B. Strategic Plan Progress Report

Randy Heiss gave a brief overview of the Strategic Planning retreat to be held following the February 9th meeting of the Administrative Council and continuing on February 10, 2023. He then went through the matrix of Strategic Plan objectives and tasks that staff had prioritized for consideration at the retreat and asked for any feedback or suggestions.

C. Quarterly Finance Report

Dina Curtis provided an update on SEAGO's finances and responded to questions.

D. Community Development Report

Keith Dennis provided an update on Community Development Programs and responded to questions.

E. SEAGO Economic Development District Report

Stephen Peterson provided an update on Economic Development and responded to questions.

F. AAA Updates

Randy Heiss provided an update on AAA programs and responded to questions.

G. Transportation Program Updates

Chris Vertrees provided an update on Transportation Programs and responded to questions.

VI. RTAC REPORT

Kevin Adam provided an update and responded to questions.

VII. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS / CURRENT EVENTS

Randy Heiss announced that Marisa De La Cruz will be leaving. Her last day will be November 11, 2022. He also mentioned that SEAGO received a request from the Arizona Eastern Railroad; they would like SEAGO to be the applicant for a Federal Railroad Administration grant to help finance to improvements to their infrastructure to make it more resistant to climate change.

VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Randy stated that he intends to bring an agenda item to de-designate SEAGO as the regional Water Quality Management Agency. He also mentioned that an update to SEAGO's classification and compensation plan is badly needed due to lack of competitiveness of our salary structure. This will require procurement of consulting services to perform the work.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Coxworth adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL PACKET

MEMO TO: ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
THROUGH: RANDY HEISS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FROM: LAURA VILLA, AREA AGENCY ON AGING PROGRAM DIRECTOR
DATE: FEBRUARY 2, 2023
SUBJECT: NOMINATIONS TO ACOA – PATAGONIA AND SIERRA VISTA

On January 19, 2023, the Advisory Council on Aging (ACOA) nominated and recommended the appointment of **Ms. Susan M Lange** to represent the Town of Patagonia and **Ms. Eva T McElroy** to represent the City of Sierra Vista on the ACOA.

Ms. Susan M. Lange is a registered nurse and has served in her community for many years. Susan has a BA in Psychology and has worked with the local hospital and hospice care. She volunteers at the Patagonia Museum, is currently the President of Senior Citizens of Patagonia (Senior Center Board), and is a Patagonia Library Advisory Board member. Susan takes pleasure in helping others and her involvement with the ACOA will allow her to do that.

Eva T. McElroy is retired and currently volunteers at the Salvation Army in Sierra Vista. Eva most recently worked for four years as a paralegal for the U.S. Army, and has since retired from the military after 24.5 years of service. Eva wants to be part of our mission and help elderly individuals who need a hand.

ACOA members are selected to represent incorporated cities, towns, and the unincorporated portions of each county in the SEAGO region. There is currently one (1) vacant seat on the ACOA for a representative for Santa Cruz County unincorporated. If you know of someone willing to serve in this position, please reach out to me at lvilla@seago.org or call 520-432-2528 Extension 208.

Attachments: None

Action Requested: Information Only Action Requested Below:

A motion to recommend approval of Ms. Susan M. Lange to represent the Town of Patagonia and of Ms. Eva T. McElroy to represent the City of Sierra Vista on the Advisory Council on Aging.



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL PACKET

MEMO TO: ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
FROM: RANDY HEISS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DATE: FEBRUARY 2, 2023
SUBJECT: REQUEST TO SOLICIT PROPOSALS – COMPENSATION STUDY

SEAGO's Compensation Plan has not been updated since it was adopted in 2005. While adjustments to salary grades for certain positions have been made as needed, it's become clear our salary grade and range structure has become increasingly uncompetitive when compared to other COGs, MPOs, and many of our member entities. In addition, we've added positions to our classification plan without knowing what a similar position earns in the southeastern Arizona job market. As a result, we continue to lose employees and experience considerable difficulty recruiting qualified professionals to replace those who have left the organization.

In an effort to increase our wage competitiveness, I would like to issue a solicitation (Request for Proposals) and identify a qualified consultant to perform a Compensation study for the organization. I anticipate the cost of such a study may exceed \$20,000 and according to SEAGO's procurement policy, purchases valued more than \$20,000 must have prior Executive Board approval to go to bid.

At this time, I am requesting your recommendation to the Executive Board to authorize me to prepare and publish a request for proposals, evaluate proposals received, and enter into a contract with the most qualified consultant to perform the study.

I look forward to discussing this with you and will try to answer any questions you may have at the meeting.

Attachments: None

Action Requested: Information Only Action Requested Below:

A motion to recommend that the Executive Board authorize the Executive Director to publish a request for proposals, evaluate proposals received, and enter into a contract with a qualified consultant for a compensation study as requested by staff.



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL PACKET

MEMO TO: ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
FROM: RANDY HEISS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DATE: FEBRUARY 2, 2023
SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2023-01 DE-DESIGNATING
SEAGO AS A SECTION 208 DESIGNATED PLANNING AGENCY

On January 27, 1976, Governor Raul Castro designated SEAGO as a Designated Planning Agency (DPA) under Section 208 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). At that time, in addition to the funding allocated to the State's DPAs to perform their requisite planning activities under the CWA, resources were available to the DPAs that enabled them perform water quality planning activities to the benefit of the regions they serve. Examples include updating regional water quality management plans or commissioning studies to enable communities to better understand the sources of surface or groundwater contamination and identify potential mitigation measures that could be undertaken. Unfortunately, what started out as a robust program that could make a measurable difference in our region's surface and groundwater quality has devolved over the years to a program so underfunded that it's no longer possible to deliver even the most basic planning responsibilities required by our contract with ADEQ.

Every fiscal year, the Environmental Protection Agency reserves a minimum of \$100,000 for each State to be used for carrying out water quality management planning. Each State is required to allocate at least 40% of the amount granted to regional public comprehensive planning organizations (or DPAs) "for payment of the reasonable costs of developing and operating continuing areawide waste treatment management planning processes" (See CWA Section 205(j)(2)). Under our contract with ADEQ, DPAs assist ADEQ with:

- Ongoing maintenance of the Continuing Planning Process and State and Regional WQM plans;
- Processing of consistency reviews and/or regional plan amendments;
- Ensuring local government participation in the WQM planning process;
- Ensuring requisite Public Participation requirements are met;
- Providing technical assistance to local entities in the WQM plan development and amendment process; and
- Ensuring a regional and statewide perspective in the development, review, revision, and implementation of State WQM policy and programs.

In the case of Arizona, the total amount of annual funding allocated to the State's eight DPAs is only \$40,000, with just over \$5,500 of that amount distributed to SEAGO. If even one wastewater project in our region were to require a consistency review under the current SEAGO Water Quality Management (WQM) Plan that triggers the requirements for public notice and public hearings, the entire funding allocation for the year could be used in that effort alone leaving SEAGO to use its own resources (our fund balance) to perform planning activities for the balance of the fiscal year.

Currently, the Department distributes the remaining 60% (or \$60,000) of the annual EPA reservation (\$100,000) through a statewide, competitive grant process. Under the Department's funding

announcement, eligible entities include undesignated planning agencies such as certain counties, conservation districts, cities and towns. While the DPAs do not dispute the ADEQ's authority to seek water quality management planning proposals on a competitive basis, it is the consensus of the DPAs that the intent of the federal regulations relating to WQM funding is for payment to DPAs for the reasonable costs of developing and operating continuing areawide waste treatment management planning processes within their planning areas (See CWA Section 208(f)(1)).

We have expressed our views to ADEQ leadership, but they have opted to offer these funds to undesignated planning agencies on a competitive basis instead of directing the funding to DPAs to supplement the annual funding allocation or perform studies that could provide information to enhance water quality planning efforts. The amount of funding offered to operate a program is a statement of values. ADEQ's decision to limit the funding allocated to DPAs at 40% when 60% more funding could be made available to DPAs for WQM planning activities sends a clear message that they no longer value their longstanding relationship with DPAs or the work that we do. In addition, ADEQ has been unable to articulate its long-term vision for the Section 208 WQM program nor has the Department been willing to commit to the annual planning allocation to DPAs beyond the end of FY 2024.

Pursuant to 40 CFR Part 130.5(a) each State is ultimately responsible for managing its water quality program to implement the processes specified in the continuing planning process (CPP), including the process for incorporating elements of any applicable areawide waste treatment plans developed under CWA Section 208 and the process for updating and maintaining these plans. Federal regulations, the Department's CPP (last updated in 1993), its WQM Plan (last updated in 1979), and the Arizona Administrative Code R-18 all point to State partnerships with DPAs as the preferred vehicle to ensuring the requisite intergovernmental cooperation and participation, public outreach, participation and involvement, and information exchange in the WQM planning process. This is due to DPAs' multi-jurisdictional composition and representation from local elected officials. But over the past eight years ADEQ has clearly demonstrated that these partnerships are no longer necessary to meet the State's obligations under the CWA.

In 2012, SEAGO's Areawide WQM Plan was rewritten to eliminate unnecessary plan amendments and expedite the consistency review process as much as possible. It's unclear what will become of SEAGO's WQM Plan when we de-designate as a DPA, but according to 40 CFR Part 130.9 (attached), "once an areawide planning agency's designation has been withdrawn, the State agency" will be required "to assume direct responsibility for continued water quality planning and oversight of implementation within the area."

Perhaps statewide de-designation of the DPAs and assuming responsibility for Section 208 WQM planning is what ADEQ has been envisioning all along despite their reticence to articulate that vision to the DPAs. Regardless, it's become clear that it's time to step aside and allow ADEQ's vision to unfold before us, whatever that vision may be.

At this time, I am requesting your recommendation to the Executive Board to approve Resolution 2023-01 to provide notice to the Governor of SEAGO's intention to de-designate as a planning agency under Section 208 of the CWA. I look forward to discussing this with you and will try to answer any questions you may have at the meeting.

Attachments: 40 CFR Part 130.9; Resolution No. 2023-01

Action Requested: Information Only Action Requested Below:

A motion to recommend that the Executive Board approve Resolution 2023-01.

This content is from the eCFR and is authoritative but unofficial.

Title 40 - Protection of Environment
Chapter I - Environmental Protection Agency
Subchapter D - Water Programs
Part 130 - Water Quality Planning and Management

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*

Source: 50 FR 1779, Jan. 11, 1985, unless otherwise noted.

§ 130.9 Designation and de-designation.

- (a) **Designation.** Areawide planning agencies may be designated by the Governor in accordance with section 208(a) (2) and (3) of the Act or may self-designate in accordance with section 208(a)(4) of the Act. Such designations shall subject to EPA approval in accordance with section 208(a)(7) of the Act.
- (b) **De-designation.** The Governor may modify or withdraw the planning designation of a designated planning agency other than an Indian tribal organization self-designated § 130.6(c)(2) if:
 - (1) The areawide agency requests such cancellation; or
 - (2) The areawide agency fails to meet its planning requirements as specified in grant agreements, contracts or memoranda of understanding; or
 - (3) The areawide agency no longer has the resources or the commitment to continue water quality planning activities within the designated boundaries.
- (c) **Impact of de-designation.** Once an areawide planning agency's designation has been withdrawn the State agency shall assume direct responsibility for continued water quality planning and oversight of implementation within the area.
- (d) **Designated management agencies (DMA).** In accordance with section 208(c)(1) of the Act, management agencies shall be designated by the Governor in consultation with the designated planning agency. EPA shall approve such designations unless the DMA lacks the legal, financial and managerial authority required under section 208(c)(2) of the Act. Designated management agencies shall carry out responsibilities specified in Water Quality Management (WQM) plans. Areawide planning agencies shall monitor DMA activities in their area and recommend necessary plan changes during the WQM plan update. Where there is no designated areawide planning agency, States shall monitor DMA activities and make any necessary changes during the WQM plan update.



SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization

Serving our member governments and their constituents since 1972

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA GOVERNMENTS ORGANIZATION SERVING NOTICE TO THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF SEAGO'S INTENTION TO DEDESIGNATE AS A PLANNING AGENCY UNDER SECTION 208 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT

WHEREAS, the SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization (SEAGO) is the regional planning agency for the counties of Cochise, Graham, Greenlee and Santa Cruz; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 1976, Governor Raul Castro designated SEAGO as an Areawide Designated Planning Agency (DPA) under Section 208 of the Clean Water Act (CWA); and

WHEREAS, despite increasingly inadequate levels of funding to operate the water quality management program provided by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), SEAGO has, to the best of its ability, faithfully discharged its duties as a DPA since the date of Governor Castro's designation; and

WHEREAS, CWA Section 604(b) requires that Arizona reserve each fiscal year one percent of the sums allotted to the State under this section, or \$100,000, whichever amount is greater, to carry out planning under section 205(j); and

WHEREAS, CWA Section 205(j)(3) requires ADEQ to allocate at least forty percent of the amount allotted under Section 604(b) each fiscal year to regional public comprehensive planning organizations, an amount that has remained static for more than a decade; and

WHEREAS, 40 CFR Part 130.11(a) enables regional planning agencies to request funding allocated to a state by CWA Section 205(j) to carry out their required planning and management activities; and

WHEREAS, due to increasing costs of operations, pursuant to 40 CFR Part 130.11(a), the State's DPAs have appealed to ADEQ to direct additional funding from CWA Section 604(b) to the DPAs to supplement and enhance their planning activities; and

WHEREAS, ADEQ has rejected the appeal from the State's DPAs, and instead, offers the remaining sixty percent of the annual EPA reservation to designated and undesignated planning agencies through a statewide, competitive grant process; and

WHEREAS, 40 CFR Part 130.9(b) provides that the Governor may withdraw the planning designation of a designated planning agency if the areawide agency requests such cancellation or the areawide agency no longer has the resources or the commitment to continue water quality planning activities within the designated boundaries; and

SEAGO Member Entities

Cochise County

Benson

Bisbee

Douglas

Huachuca City

Sierra Vista

Tombstone

Willcox

Graham County

Pima

Safford

San Carlos

Apache Tribe

Thatcher

Greenlee County

Clifton

Duncan

Santa Cruz County

Nogales

Patagonia

SEAGO Main Office

Administration Community and Economic Dev. Transportation

1403 W. Hwy 92

Bisbee, AZ 85603

520-432-5301

520-432-5858 Fax

Area Agency on Aging Office

1403B W. Hwy 92

Bisbee, AZ 85603

520-432-5301

520-432-9168 Fax

www.seago.org

WHEREAS, SEAGO management has determined that it can no longer meet its obligations as a DPA with the limited funding resources provided by ADEQ.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the SEAGO Executive Board as follows:

THAT, the Executive Board has reviewed the required functions, responsibilities, and related funding and expenses of continuing as an areawide planning agency under Section 208 of the CWA and hereby finds that funding levels are inadequate to meet the required functions and responsibilities; and

THAT, by approval of this Resolution, the Executive Board hereby serves notice to the Governor that, as of July 1, 2023, SEAGO intends to de-designate as an areawide planning agency under Section 208 of the CWA; and

THAT, as of July 1, 2023, SEAGO will no longer perform the following or associated functions of an areawide planning agency under Section 208 of the CWA such as:

- Ongoing maintenance of its Areawide Water Quality Management Plan;
- Processing of consistency reviews and/or regional plan amendments;
- Ensuring local government participation in the WQM planning process;
- Ensuring requisite Public Participation requirements are met;
- Providing technical assistance to local entities in the WQM plan development and amendment process;
- Participation in the Statewide Water Quality Management Working Group meetings; and
- Ensuring a regional and statewide perspective in the development, review, revision, and implementation of State WQM policy and programs.

AND THAT, between the date of this Resolution and the end of State Fiscal Year 2023, SEAGO stands ready to assist in the process to transition water quality management planning responsibilities in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee and Santa Cruz Counties from SEAGO to ADEQ.

Passed and adopted by the SEAGO Executive Board on this 24th day of February, 2023.

David Gomez,
Vice-Chair, SEAGO Executive Board

Randy Heiss,
Executive Director



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL PACKET

MEMO TO: ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
THROUGH: RANDY HEISS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FROM: CHRIS VERTREES, TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR
DATE: FEBRUARY 2, 2023
SUBJECT: SEAGO REGION 2023-2027 TIP AMENDMENT #4

On January 19, 2023, the SEAGO TAC approved the following amendment to our 2023-2027 TIP:

SCC 21-01 – Santa Cruz County (Pendleton Drive - Roadway Dip Elimination): This is an HSIP project that is programmed for construction in FY23 for \$424,350 in Federal funds. The bids for the project greatly exceeded the amount programmed. The overage for Santa Cruz County is \$348,903. SEAGO has \$125,000 in unused FY23 STBG that can be used to offset Santa Cruz County's costs. If approved, additional project funding will be added to the TIP in the following manner.

FY2023: Construction; Federal - \$125,000; Local - \$7,556; Total - \$132,556

Santa Cruz County is responsible for the remaining balance of \$223,903.

Attachments: SEAGO Draft 2023 – 2027 TIP Amendment #4

Action Requested: Information Only Action Requested Below

A motion to approve the SEAGO Region 2023-2027 TIP Amendment #4

SEAGO REGION

2023- 2027 TIP (Admenment #4)

Approved By: TAC- 1/19/23 Administrative Committee- Pending Executive Committee - Pending

TIP YEAR Project ID	PROJECT SPONSOR	PROJECT NAME	PROJECT LOCATION	LENGTH	TYPE OF IMP - WK - STRU	Functional Classifications	LANES BEFORE	LANES AFTER	FED AID TYPE	FEDERAL FUNDS	HURF EXCHANGE	LOCAL MATCH	OTHER FUNDS	TOTAL COST
2023														
CLF21-01	Town of Clifton	Chase Creek Bridge #1 Replacement	Structure# 08536 Frisco Avenue - 0.1 mile north of Junction with Park Avenue	.01 mile	Construction	Rural Local	2	2	Off System Bridge	\$726,821		\$43,933		\$770,754
SCC 21-01	Santa Cruz County	Pendleton Drive - Roadway Dip Elimination	Pendleton Drive Dip at Sonoita Creek Wash	.25 miles	Construction	Minor Arterial	2	2	HSIP	\$424,350		\$25,650		\$450,000
SCC 21-01	Santa Cruz County	Pendleton Drive - Roadway Dip Elimination	Pendleton Drive Dip at Sonoita Creek Wash	.25 miles	Construction	Minor Arterial	2	2	STP	\$125,000		\$7,556		\$132,556
CCH 21-01	Cochise County	Double Adobe Road, SR 80 to Frontier Road, Installation of Rumble Strips	Double Adobe Road, SR 80 to Frontier Road	4.9 miles	Design	Major Collector	2	2	HSIP	\$264,000		\$0		\$264,000
GGH 21-01	Graham County	Golf Course Road, Cottonwood Wash Road - Shoulders and Rumble Strips	Golf Course Road from Hoopes Avenue to just west of 20th Avenue; Cottonwood Wash Road from Cottonwood Wash Loop to 1200 South.	5.1 miles	Construction	Major Collector	2	2	HSIP	\$1,992,408		\$186,830		\$2,179,238
NOG 20-02	City of Nogales	Frank Reed Rd MUP, Nogales HS to Grand Ave.	East side of Grand Avenue from Baffert Drive to Country Club Drive. Intersects with Grand Avenue path on south side of Frank Reed Road to Nogales High School	3 miles	Design	N/A	N/A	N/a	CMAQ	\$18,860		\$1,140		\$20,000
NOG 20-02	City of Nogales	Frank Reed Rd MUP, Nogales HS to Grand Ave.	East side of Grand Avenue from Baffert Drive to Country Club Drive. Intersects with Grand Avenue path on south side of Frank Reed Road to Nogales High School	3 miles	Design	N/A	N/A	N/a	CMAQ	\$136,735		\$8,265		\$145,000
BIS 23-01	City of Bisbee	City of Bisbee Shared Use Path	SR80 from Downtown Bisbee to Erie Street	1.43 miles	PE/Design	Urban Principal Arterial	4	3	EDA	\$1,147,137		\$12,964		\$1,160,101
NOG 21-01	City of Nogales	Multiuse Pathway along Patagonia Highway (SR82)	Patagonia Highway (SR82) from Morley Avenue to Royal Road	1.4 miles	Design	N/A	N/A	N/A	CMAQ	\$32,576		\$1,970		\$34,546
	LTAP								STP	\$10,000		\$0		\$10,000
		TOTAL FOR 2023								\$4,151,066		\$244,375		\$4,395,441
2024														
NOG 21-01	City of Nogales	Multiuse Pathway along Patagonia Highway (SR82)	Patagonia Highway (SR82) from Morley Avenue to Royal Road	1.4 miles	Construction	N/A	N/A	N/A	CMAQ	\$1,090,546		\$65,919		\$1,156,465
CCH 21-01	Cochise County	Double Adobe Road, SR 80 to Frontier Road, Installation of Rumble Strips	Double Adobe Road, SR 80 to Frontier Road	4.9 miles	Construction	Major Collector	2	2	HSIP	\$383,940		\$0		\$383,940
	LTAP								STP	\$10,000		\$0		\$10,000
		TOTAL FOR 2024								\$1,484,486		\$65,919		\$1,550,405
2025														
BIS 23-01	City of Bisbee	City of Bisbee Shared Use Path	SR80 from Downtown Bisbee to Erie Street	1.43 miles	Construction	Urban Principal Arterial	4	3	EDA	\$3,375,000		\$36,899		\$3,411,899
DGS17-01	City of Douglas	Chino Road Extension Phase 2	Chino Road: 9th Street to SR90	.85 miles	Design	Urban Minor Arterial	2	2	STP	\$75,440		\$4,560		\$80,000
	LTAP								STP	\$10,000		\$0		\$10,000
		TOTAL FOR 2025								\$85,440		\$4,560	\$0	\$90,000
2026														
	LTAP								STP	\$10,000		\$0		\$10,000
		TOTAL FOR 2026								\$10,000		\$0		\$10,000
2027														
DGS17-01	City of Douglas	Chino Road Extension Phase 2	Chino Road: 9th Street to SR90	.85 miles	Construction	Urban Minor Arterial	2	2	STP	\$2,829,000		\$171,000		\$3,000,000
	LTAP								STP	\$10,000		\$0		\$10,000
		TOTAL FOR 2027								\$2,839,000		\$171,000		\$3,010,000
		5-YEAR TOTALS								\$8,569,992		\$485,854		\$9,055,846
		FUNDING OBLIGATED IN 2022												
NOG 21-01	City of Nogales	Multiuse Pathway along Patagonia Highway (SR82)	Patagonia Highway (SR82) from Morley Avenue to Royal Road	1.4 miles	ADOT Review/PDA Fees	N/A	N/A	N/A	CMAQ	\$28,290		\$1,710		\$30,000
NOG 21-01	City of Nogales	Multiuse Pathway along Patagonia Highway (SR82)	Patagonia Highway (SR82) from Morley Avenue to Royal Road	1.4 miles	Design	N/A	N/A	N/A	CMAQ	\$171,371		\$10,359		\$181,730

SEAGO REGION
 2023- 2027 TIP (Amendment #4)
 Approved By: TAC - 1/19/23 Pending Administrative Committee- Pending Executive Board - Pending

GGH-BR-02	Graham County	Ft. Thomas River Structure No. 8131 Phase 3	Ft. Thomas River Road @ Gila River		Construction	Minor Collector	2	2	Off System Bridge	\$938,000		\$210,000		\$1,148,000
		LTAP							STP	\$10,000				\$10,000
		TOTAL FOR 2022								\$3,140,069	\$0	\$222,069	\$0	\$1,369,730
		Future Construction Projects												
CCH12-10	Cochise County	Davis Rd. Improvements	Davis Road MP 13	1 mile	Construction of Safety & Drainage Improvements	Rural Major Collector	2	2	STP	\$924,560		\$55,885		\$980,445
SCC 22-01	Santa Cruz County	Ruby Road Bridge at Potrero Creek Replacement Project	Ruby Road- 1500 feet east of I19	.27 miles	Bridge Replacement	Minor Arterial	2	2	TBD			\$4,500,000	\$1,517,304	\$13,631,315
GEH 22-01	Greenlee County	Soapbox Canyon Bridge (Structure 8149) Replacement	Soapbox Canyon Bridge (Structure 8149)	.10 miles	Bridge Replacement	Local	2	2	TBD	\$240,000		TBD		\$240,000
CCH 22-01	Cochise County	Davis Road -Central Highway to SR80 Roadway Improvements	Davis Road -Central Highway to SR80	22.3 miles	PE/Design	Rural Major Collector	2	2	TBD	\$6,320,641		\$382,054		\$6,702,695
CCH 22-01	Cochise County	Davis Road -Central Highway to SR80 Roadway Improvements	Davis Road -Central Highway to SR80	22.3 miles	ROW	Rural Major Collector	2	2	TBD	\$1,131,600		\$68,400		\$1,200,000
CCH 22-01	Cochise County	Davis Road -Central Highway to SR80 Roadway Improvements	Davis Road -Central Highway to SR80	22.3 miles	Construction	Rural Major Collector	2	2	TBD	\$61,084,658		\$3,392,286		\$64,476,944
CCH15-01	Cochise County	Davis Rd. Improvements	Davis Road MP 5	0.61 miles	Construction of Safety & Drainage Improvements	Rural Major Collector	2	2	STP	\$1,045,000		\$63,165		\$1,108,165



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL PACKET

MEMO TO: ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
FROM: RANDY HEISS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DATE: FEBRUARY 2, 2023
SUBJECT: FUTURE MEETING DATES

The Administrative Council normally meets at 9:00 a.m. on the first Thursday of February*, May, August and November at the Cochise College Benson Center, located at 1025 Highway 90 in Benson, Arizona. The Executive Board normally meets at 10:00 a.m. on the Fridays two weeks following the Administrative Council meetings unless there is a holiday, or unless the Board sets an alternative date. The location of each Executive Board meeting is determined by the jurisdiction hosting the meeting, and therefore varies.

Administrative Council	Executive Board
May 4, 2023	May 19, 2023 - Graham County
August 3, 2023	August 18, 2023 - Greenlee County
November 2, 2023	November 17, 2023 – Santa Cruz County
February 8, 2024*	February 23, 2024 - Cochise County*

*Moved to avoid possible conflict with the ACMA Winter Conference.

Also, please find the tentative schedule for our combined telephonic Administrative and Executive Committee meetings in the upcoming 12 months below:

Combined Administrative and Executive Committee Meetings (telephonic)
March 30, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.
June 1, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.
October 5, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.
November 30, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

Attachments: None.

Action Requested: Information Only Action Requested Below:



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL PACKET

MEMO TO: ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
THROUGH: RANDY HEISS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FROM: DINA CURTISS, ACCOUNTING MANAGER
DATE: FEBRUARY 2, 2023
SUBJECT: FINANCE REPORT

The SEAGO Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the quarter ending December 31, 2022 is attached for your review.

Colby & Powell is currently preparing the audit report and with the help of Heinfeld Meech. Colby & Powell indicated during their field visit that no findings were anticipated for FY2022. The Independent Auditor's Report will be available before the May 4, 2023 Administrative Council meeting.

I will be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures at our meeting.

Attachment: Statement of Revenues and Expenditures, Quarter Ending 12/31/2022

Action Requested: Information Only Action Requested Below

SEAGO

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures - R&E that ties to Budget - Unposted Transactions Included In Report
From 10/1/2022 Through 12/31/2022

(In Whole Numbers)

		<u>Cur Pd Actual</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>Total Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget Used</u>
Revenue					
General Fund	101	14,201	8,819	150,000	5.87%
Agency Response	301	(3,094)	67,653	43,745	154.65%
Community Development Block Grant	302	32,023	110,523	436,684	25.30%
Economic Development	303	21,844	50,506	110,358	45.76%
Environmental Quality	306	0	0	8,500	0.00%
Public Transit	308	2,391	13,540	20,000	67.69%
State Planning & Research	309	42,848	81,643	200,150	40.79%
Area Agency on Aging	310	344,477	581,112	1,388,540	41.85%
Regional Mobility Management	311	40,169	40,169	168,750	23.80%
RMM Training	314	31,758	43,408	87,500	49.60%
End of Life - Lovell Foundation	327	0	0	166,950	0.00%
Santa Cruz Co RTA Feasibility Study	329	903	1,586	80,000	1.98%
Region Transit Emergency Coordination Plan	346	25,009	44,757	80,000	55.94%
Benson Route Efficiency Study IGA	348	0	8,022	20,000	40.11%
Total Revenue		<u>552,527</u>	<u>1,051,738</u>	<u>2,961,177</u>	<u>35.52%</u>
Expenses					
General Fund	101	0	0	150,000	0.00%
Agency Response	301	6,455	12,146	43,745	27.76%
Community Development Block Grant	302	49,684	87,520	436,684	20.04%
Economic Development	303	21,844	37,629	110,358	34.09%
Environmental Quality	306	0	0	8,500	0.00%
Public Transit	308	2,391	13,540	20,000	67.69%
State Planning & Research	309	42,848	81,643	200,150	40.79%
Area Agency on Aging	310	338,370	571,536	1,388,540	41.16%
Regional Mobility Management	311	40,169	40,169	168,750	23.80%
RMM Training	314	31,758	43,408	87,500	49.60%
End of Life - Lovell Foundation	327	0	1,220	166,950	0.73%
Santa Cruz Co RTA Feasibility Study	329	903	1,588	80,000	1.98%
Region Transit Emergency Coordination Plan	346	25,009	44,757	80,000	55.94%
Benson Route Efficiency Study IGA	348	855	8,878	20,000	44.38%
Total Expenses		<u>560,286</u>	<u>944,032</u>	<u>2,961,177</u>	<u>31.88%</u>
Balance		<u>(7,758)</u>	<u>107,707</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.00%</u>



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL PACKET

MEMO TO: ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
THROUGH: RANDY HEISS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FROM: KEITH DENNIS, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM MANAGER
DATE: FEBRUARY 2, 2023
SUBJECT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM UPDATES

Regional Account Updates

We are in the public participation portion of the CDBG Regional Account cycle. Applications from Cochise County, Duncan, Nogales and Pima will be eligible for awards this year. Late spring is when ADOH usually announces final funding numbers, and we will provide updates as this information becomes available.

In 2024 applications from Bisbee, Duncan, Patagonia and Thatcher will be eligible for awards from Regional Account CDBG. 2024 is also the next Colonias Set-Aside round. It is never too early to begin planning for either source of funds. SEAGO Community Development stands ready to assist or member communities in building shovel-ready projects for competitive CDBG funds.

Continuum of Care

As may be recalled from our last update, we ran into an issue with ADOH regarding that agency's expectations versus the funding provided - and we communicated this to ADOH. We are pleased to report that our feedback, as well as those of other agencies in the Balance of State, had a positive impact. This year ADOH is rolling out a robust funding package for the Balance of State Continuum of Care: an estimated \$120,000, per County, per year, for two years. The dollars were appropriated from the State Housing Trust Fund.

The announcement of new funding proved timely: due to staff turnover in Community Development, we had no choice but to step away from our role in leading the Cochise and Santa Cruz Local Committees to End Homelessness, and our commitment for building one in Graham/Greenlee. At the same time, ADOH's new, historic investment to address rural homelessness means there is adequate funding for a new agency to take over - an agency with the knowledge base to be effective at the job.

While we are proud of our efforts and our success in building out the Continuum of Care in our part of the state, we recognize that agencies in our region trying to address homelessness deserve better. As of this writing Community Partners of Southern Arizona

has been accepted as the Lead Agency for Santa Cruz and Cochise County’s Continuum of Care efforts. Announcements regarding Graham and Greenlee have not been made as yet. This is excellent news for our region, as Community Partners is a very capable organization already working in our region.

Having done our part, SEAGO Community Development can now move on with confidence, trusting that the program is well-funded and in good hands going forward. In our 2018 Strategic Plan, Goal 2 was “Enhance awareness of SEAGO and the value of its services.” Tactic B under this goal was to “Convene and Facilitate Regional Continuum of Care (CoC) Planning Group.” With the closing of this chapter, we consider the tasks directed to us in our 2018 Strategic Plan update to be complete.

Attachments: None

Action Requested: Information Only Action Requested Below



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL PACKET

MEMO TO: ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
THROUGH: RANDY HEISS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FROM: STEPHEN PETERSON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM MANAGER
DATE: FEBRUARY 2, 2023
SUBJECT: RECENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

The purpose of this memorandum is to advise the Administrative Council of recent activity in the SEAGO Economic Development District (EDD).

Recent Activity

1. Broadband

Background: Telecommunications Technology such as broadband internet, continues to be a priority for all four counties of the region as a substantial way to improve resiliency. The “tool” in this case is the strategic planning capacity SEAGO is able to provide to the region’s stakeholders currently involved in broadband expansion and adoption.

Current Status: Finley Engineering has completed 98% of the data collection. We’re attempting to coordinate with San Carlos Apache Tribe to see if they’re interested in taking advantage of Finley’s consulting services for their purposes. No affirmative response have been received as of yet. The qualitative portion of the study is ongoing. We’re coordinating with school districts, small business owners, and other members of community to create engagement. The director of the broadband office at ACA has collaborated with us on several occasions to aggregate the best possible data to submit to FCC, which will be used to calculate funding allocations for infrastructure throughout the Nation and subsequently, the State of Arizona. SunCloud’s project is scheduled to complete June 30, 2023, which will display one version of a public-facing data coverage tool usable by planners.

2. Economic Development Planning

Background: Economic Development Planning activities include a range of technical assistance services, e.g. providing data, reports, network introductions, economic development best practices, and grant writing assistance. These planning efforts are in alignment with SEAGO’s CEDS, the strategic document informing regional focus and priorities.

Current Status: We’re in the negotiations phase of a technical assistance contract with Willcox Theater and Arts to help them with their EDA construction project. To-date 3 Specific Award Conditions have been met. SEAGO is next going to support the

development of a bid document to present to EDA before publishing the Invitation to Bid. A new cycle of the EDA planning grant is scheduled to begin on October 1, 2023. We've successfully submitted our scope of work which flows from the regional CEDS. The CARES Act grant has been closed. Seagotoolkit.com is live and functional.

3. Economic Advisory Council

Background: The EAC is a continuation of the CEDS Committee and will act as a community coalition to foster economic development collaboration with regionally strategic initiatives. The EAC is a platform, and acts as a hub of information to share resources and updates on economic development initiatives throughout the region.

Current Status: The next EAC meeting is scheduled for March 14, at 2:00 PM. Stakeholders will report updates on projects from Q1 of 2023.

4. New Initiatives

The Cochise Economic Garden is scheduled for grand opening at the end of February, 2023. Although the date has yet to be established, there will be a campaign to award 5 startups a scholarship for the U of A Tech Innovation Incubator that will be hosted out of the Garden. This gives SEAGO an opportunity to be connected to a hub of innovation, with plans to stay coordinated to the other regional incubators.

Action Requested: Information Only Action Requested Below:



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL PACKET

MEMO TO: ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
THROUGH: RANDY HEISS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FROM: LAURA VILLA, AREA AGENCY ON AGING PROGRAM DIRECTOR
DATE: FEBRUARY 2, 2023
SUBJECT: AAA PROGRAM UPDATES

Administrative Updates

Area Plan on Aging: An Area Plan is the document submitted by an Area Agency on Aging to the State Agency on Aging to receive awards or contracts from the State Agency's grant provided under the Older Americans Act, as amended. The Area Plan contains provisions required by the Act, the Federal rules and regulations, State policies, procedures, and assurances and commitments that the Area Agency will administer activities funded under the plan in accordance with all Federal and State requirements. The plan is the blueprint by which the Area Agency develops and distributes a comprehensive and coordinated system of services and serves as the advocate and focal point for older people in the Planning and Service Area.

ADES-DAAS proposed that all Area Agencies on Aging meet five goals. There are multiple objectives that fall under these goals. The Needs Assessment Surveys indicated the top five **serious problems** in southeastern Arizona:

1. Telemarketing or in-home sales rated at 26.6%
2. Affordable dental care rated at 25.9%
3. Maintenance of the yard rated at 24.1%
4. Maintenance and repair of the home rated at 20%
5. Ability to benefit from technology rated at 19.3%

The next steps are to include objectives that allow the AAA to address these problems over the next four years. As we move forward in completing the plan, the AAA staff have sent out Key Informant surveys in the four-county region to gather information from those professional entities who work directly with our vulnerable population. These surveys were sent out on **February 2, 2023**, and are due back **by February 10, 2023**. The timeframe allows the time to draft the report and share it during our Community Public Hearings scheduled on:

- February 23, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at Santa Cruz Council on Aging in Nogales
- March 6, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. at Oscar Yrun Community Center in Sierra Vista
- March 9, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the Clifton Senior Center
- March 9, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. at the Graham County Complex, in Safford

Direct Care Worker Incentives (DCW) and Wage Increase: An ADES-DAAS alert was issued on September 15, 2022, to enable DCW incentives to continue and an increase in wages paid to DCWs starting January 1, 2023. DCWs are those who work for our service providers and deliver Non-Medical

Home and Community Based Services (NMHCBS) to our elderly clients in our four-county region. AAA worked with our service providers to create a plan that includes:

- DCW Incentives based on hours produced with AAA clients.
- DCW wage increases in the four-county region
- DCW recruitment campaign to explore jobs @ WWW.AZDoesCare.org
- Reporting requirements to DES-DAAS

Case Management Update

Our efforts to recruit Case Managers continue as some of the case managers previously reported in our last meeting are no longer with SEAGO AAA. The departure of these two individuals left us to expand our recruitment efforts again. As I am sure all of you are aware, in this job market, recruitment has been a significant challenge, but we have been fortunate to bring a couple of new staff on board.

- **Sarah Guerrero** comes to the AAA with four years of experience from Community Provider Enrichment Services (CPES), a community human services and healthcare organization, and left in 2020 when the agency closed in Cochise County. Sarah lives in Sierra Vista and accepted the position to oversee case management in the area of Benson/Willcox. The case management office and will be housed at the Benson Hospital. Sarah began her employment on Monday, January 23, 2023, and will complete her training under Carrie Gibbons and Seana Riffle before she opens her office in Benson.
- **Elizabeth Torres** comes to us with two years of experience from DARC as a delivery driver for the home delivered meals program. Elizabeth wants to expand her knowledge and career to help provide our seniors with available services. Elizabeth began employment on Monday, January 30, 2023, and is training under Carrie and Yolanda Thomas in Douglas.
- **Yolanda Thomas**, our temporary case manager, is currently helping us maintain the caseload in Douglas and Benson until Elizabeth Torres is fully trained as her replacement. The agreement is for her to stay on board until February 28, 2023 when Elizabeth is ready to be on her own. Yolanda is open to staying with SEAGO-AAA part-time if needed in the future.
- **The Bisbee Case Manager** position is still vacant; please help us pass the word along so we can cover the area. In the meantime, Carrie continues to oversee the caseload in Bisbee.
- A lease agreement will be established by Benson Hospital and SEAGO to allow us to office our case manager there at a minimal or no cost. The ability to do this is huge as it impacts our clients positively when we do not have to pay for space. SEAGO AAA continues to look for other options for the office space in Sierra Vista and Douglas. Please contact the AAA director with information on facility options you might have that will help the AAA support the needs of our clients in Cochise County.

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

Our Health and Nutrition position remains vacant since the departure of Cindy Meyers. AAA will advertise this position soon. Please visit www.seago.org for details; encourage individuals you feel can qualify for this position to apply or send their resumes to Diane Becerra at dbecerra@seago.org.

Attachments: DRAFT Area Plan Goals and Objectives; [Final Needs Assessment Report](#) (Link)

Action Requested:

Information Only

Action Requested Below:

SEAGO AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Goal One: Older adults in Arizona have access to quality care

Objective 1.1: Strengthen and enhance the dementia capability of the aging network to promote independence

Action Step	Completion Date	Person Responsible	Outcome/Output
<p>AREA AGENCY ON AGING staff forms part of the Alzheimer's Association Regional Council Coalition and partners with the Graham County Health Department to enhance the Dementia Friendly communities. We participate in monthly meetings and support the Alzheimer's Association efforts to increase visibility and awareness of dementia. Given this, we hope to disseminate additional resources to Graham county to best be able to cope with dementia stigmatization.</p>	<p>Ongoing, however monitored on yearly basis for improvements.</p>	<p>AAA Director and Program Coordinators</p>	<p>Increase the amount of dementia friendly communities in our region.</p>
<p>Three AAA staff are certified by the Boston University CADER program to deliver care transitions effectively in SEAZ. With the integration of case managers from Santa Cruz County and Cochise, the certification will improve their knowledge and effectiveness of delivering services to all older adults, disabled individuals and caregivers who qualify not only for HCBS services but for all AAA available programs. This in order to best be able to refer our clients to pertinent resources that will attenuate any hardships.</p>	<p>All In-house case managers and intake specialist will complete after their 6 month probation period</p>	<p>AAA Case Managers</p>	<p>Formulate better connections with the healthcare system to increase visibility of AAA services 0-+</p>
<p>Trualta enables new caregivers to have resources at the tip of their fingertips and helps promote the programs we deliver. Working in tandem with casemanagers, we will aim to disseminate awareness pertaining to the existence of this resource to all relevant actors within our network. Namely by strengthening the bond between caregivers and case managers. This will be done through usage of our existing community forums and outreach appartuses.</p>	<p>Ongoing, however monitored on yearly basis for improvements.</p>	<p>AAA Director and Program Coordinators</p>	<p>Caregivers participation within trualta will become more prevalent and this will correlate to a more profound understanding of their work.</p>

Objective 1.2: Increase access to care coordination, healthcare, and other social services for all seniors

Action Step	Completion Date	Person Responsible	Outcome/Output
<p>We brought the Santa Cruz and Cochise County Case Management programs in-house. This helped us decrease the waitlist by educating our communities about the Older Americans Act requirements and eligibility matrix. The Ability to educate and oversee case managers in ALL AAA program services will enhance their performance and increase the number of individuals we can assist with all programs, not just for HCBS services. We are still working on the integration of these new case managers to optimize our efficiency in aforementioned efforts. The inclusion of Central Intake has allowed linkage between case-managed services and, in general, from congregate settings, local resources, programs, or other available services that individuals might need to learn about. SHIP-SMP continued to provide education to caregivers and retired or disabled individuals by using Medicare.gov and coordinating with Social Security, the VA, and the Department of Security if and when qualified. FCSP will facilitate a "Train the Trainer" model of education of current caregiver programs and Trualta for in-house staff.</p>	<p>Ongoing, however monitored on yearly basis for improvements.</p>	<p>AAA Director, Program Coordinators and In-house Case Managers, SHIP-SMP</p>	<p>By integrating these programs within our purview. Participation in all in-house programs such as the family caregivers support program, SHIP-SMP, and HPDP access will become more ubiquitous.</p>
<p>The Community Connections were established to increase awareness of AAA resources with community organizations and to bridge programs, services and resources within our region. It facilitates new partnerships that will help strengthen the aging network. In essence, Community Connections outreach aims to make communication within our region more fluid and strengthens caregiver awareness and self-identification to increase referrals from our partners.</p>			<p>Increase in number of referrals from healthcare networks, faith based organizations, local organizations, and local government. This step promotes increased awareness of the Older American's Act, which implicates additional possibilities for funding increases.</p>

Objective 1.2: Increase access to care coordination, healthcare, and other social services for all seniors (continued)			
Action Step	Completion Date	Person Responsible	Outcome/Output
The SHIP-SMP and FCSP programs are increasing their volunteer base to help increase visibility and effectiveness throughout the region. Existing partnerships are engaged and new partnerships are formed with the Salvation Army, local libraries, community housing, health facilities etc to deliver assistance to family caregivers, low income and non-english speaking individuals with bilingual staff on board.	Ongoing, however monitored on yearly basis for improvements.	AAA Director, Program Coordinators and In-house Case Managers, SHIP-SMP	Strengthen commitments by becoming independent to facilitate counselling education within underprivileged, and marginalized communities.
Objective 1.3: Provide information and promote understanding of options, benefits, and available services through a variety of formats.			
Action Step	Completion Date	Person Responsible	Outcome/Output
SEAGO-AAA SHIP-SMP will enhance education and target pre-Medicare beneficiaries to inform individuals and families of Medicare timeframes and requirements that will help reduce penalties incurred by not applying within the appropriate timeframes. SHIP-SMP will continue to educate on Medicare frauds in healthcare field by collaborating with CM in healthcare network and AAA.	Ongoing, however monitored on yearly basis for improvements.	AAA SHIP-SMP, FCSP, LTCO, CMG	The overall decrease in penalization frequency for eligible recipients within our communities. Thus granting greater financial liberty to our senior populations. Build partnerships that will provide SHIP-SMP increase referrals to the AAA programs.
SEAGO-AAA Program Coordinators mutually collaborate on delivering information, education and resources throughout the region. The ability to do this in coordination helps each program meet its goals and objectives. The FCSP works together with the Case Management program to help bring caregivers on board with Trualta. The SHIP-SMP and LTCO work together to deliver the Elder Abuse Taskforce (SEAEAT) which brings partners to the table and address issues that arise in our region.			Cross Integration of distinct programs to diminish existing communication barriers. This will form heavily intertwined service networks that allow actors to intervene for better outcomes when necessary across programs within the agency.

Objective 1.3: Provide information and promote understanding of options, benefits, and available services through a variety of formats. (continued)

Action Step	Completion Date	Person Responsible	Outcome/Output
The FCSP will continue to collaborate in the AZ Caregiver Coalition and the State Caregiver strategic planning coalition to provide feedback regarding our region. By integrating central intake, the AAA is able to identify client available resources to refer to appropriate AAA programs and enhance delivery of services.	Ongoing, however monitored on yearly basis for improvements	AAA SHIP-SMP, FCSP, LTCO, CMG	It will create a better referral system for all programs within the agency. It will help educate our communities in Spanish and English on the eligibility matrix for services.

Goal Two: Increase Awareness and understanding of aging issues to help prepare Arizona for an aging population

Objective 2.1: Strengthen and enhance information sharing on aging issues to promote support

Action Step	Completion Date	Person Responsible	Outcome/Output
The Central Intake unit screens and identifies gaps in service by referring clients to the appropriate programs and resources. Before central intake was established this process was more convoluted and less adhered to by relevant actors.	Ongoing, however monitored on yearly basis for improvements.	AAA Central Intake staff, coordinators, CM's, director	This results in increased use of the mobile app, FB page and our website. Also induces increased participation in volunteer opportunities to further expand our reach.
The AAA program Coordinators are more engaged in their communities and bring more volunteers who are qualified and dedicated to deliver our programs in their communities.			Further promotion of volunteer participation to advocate and disseminate aging issues to their communities.
Will expand public and consumer education to promote the visibility of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, FCSP, LTC, SHIP-SMP, and HCBS services. This will be done through a myriad of intermodal mediums that facilitate participation and access to vital information.			Increased visibility of available program knowledge.

Objective 2.1: Strengthen and enhance information sharing on aging issues to promote support (continued)			
Action Step	Completion Date	Person Responsible	Outcome/Output
Will continue to collaborate with the Arizona Falls Prevention Coalition and distribute information within health networks to refer effected clients to a matter of balance, tai chi, and other programs.	Ongoing, however monitored on yearly basis for improvements.	AAA Central Intake staff, coordinators, CM's, director	Further educate our communities and promote the use of fall screenings that will help us determine best practices in reducing falls in SEAZ. As well as help clients not only recuperate from incidents but help implant the seed to prevent further falls.
Increase partnerships that include younger adults such as high school students and faith-based organization members through our organizations such as SEAHEC.			Promote education within younger adults to be cognizant of existing services to assist their fellow elderly family members.
Objective 2.2: Promote the usage of positive person-centered pronouns of older adults and other ageism terminology			
Action Step	Completion Date	Person Responsible	Outcome/Output
Will participate in webinars, training, and available resources in AZ to be better informed of positive person-centered vernacular that accomodates and respects older individuals preferences on self identification.	Ongoing, however monitored on yearly basis for improvements.	AAA Staff, coordinators, CM's, director	Increase our usage of positive pronouns within our organizations that will promote a positive environment of inclusivity.
Will work closely with the Alzheimer's Association and the USAgging to study best practices to be effective on delivering in a very multi-cultural region that compels usage of a preponderance of means in effecting change.			Education of existing sub contractors on different ways to engage within their communities to encourage senior participation.

Objective 2.3: Address Senior Homelessness			
Action Step	Completion Date	Person Responsible	Outcome/Output
AAA will work closely with SEAGO Community Development team and join efforts when feasible to help support advocacy for the housing program to address homelessness in SEAZ.	Ongoing, however monitored on yearly basis for improvements.	AAA Director, CMG Coordinator	Create new bonds that will help our agency promote ongoing efforts by sister agencies who are working to ameliorate housing discrepancies as they may relate to our seniors.
AAA will participate in coalitions that address homelessness. Previously, in Santa Cruz County the SEAGO-AAA was involved in a coalition that helped reduce senior homelessness and provided services when placed in housing. We wish to continue this endeavor and work on alternative options to address this issue.			Fewer homeless seniors and increased knowledge of services that may help ease financial hardships that may push seniors into adverse housing situations.
Goal Three: Older adults in Arizona can maintain individual wellbeing and safety to remain active, healthy and independent			
Objective 3.1: Promote healthy lifestyles to reduce long-term illness and mortality from preventable and chronic diseases.			
Action Step	Completion Date	Person Responsible	Outcome/Output
Partner with local health departments to promote the AAA CDSMP and Falls Prevention program. To increase participation by 10% each year for each county.	Ongoing, however monitored on yearly basis for improvements.	AAA Coordinators, AAA Director	As health departments are required to deliver health promotion services, collaborating with them will help generate more units of services for more individuals.
Work closely with all nutrition sites to prepare in addressing mal-nutrition. Our program coordinators will orient them towards the proper avenues for accessing resources pertinent to promoting healthier lifestyles . Being part of NANASP we will help our nutrition centers cope with the changes post COVID.			The AAA staff will increase their participation in webinars and help deliver the information to our nutrition sites for implementation, thus helping increase the number of clients who socially engage.
AAA will find ways to develop closer ties with AHCCC's broad network in order to apprise them of the various programs the AAA delivers. Thus making individuals more amenable to receive programs which can be of use, but have previously been obscure due to a lack of an existing partnership for referrals.		AAA Coordinators, CMG, AAA Director	Disseminate knowledge of vital programs to a previously untargeted group of eligible participant and increase program participation by 10% across the board.

Objective 3.1: Promote healthy lifestyles to reduce long-term illness and mortality from preventable and chronic diseases. (continued)			
Action Step	Completion Date	Person Responsible	Outcome/Output
Will enhance and maintain HCBS which enable older adults to remain at home, decreasing long-term care institutionalization costs.	Ongoing, however monitored on yearly basis for improvements.	AAA Staff, coordinators, CM's, director	Induce individuals to seek means to remain in their houses/ communities and thus implicitly improve quality of life.
Will increase participation in coordination meetings and planning efforts. Thus increasing administrative presence in relevant dialogue pertaining to long term care centers and hospital settings. Promote outreach to Increase public awareness and recognition of family caregivers.		AAA Director, AAA coordinators	Increase in referrals from long term care centers and hospitals to help individuals recuperate from rectifiable incidents using existing services.
Objective 3.2: Support aging services and programs that promote independence and self-determinations of choices			
Action Step	Completion Date	Person Responsible	Outcome/Output
Will continue to prioritize individuals with higher needs for Attendant Care and home delivered meals, based on the scoring method obtained from CMG.	Ongoing, however monitored on yearly basis for improvements.	AAA CMG Coordinator and CM's	Higher Need Individuals will receive expedited assistance for the aforementioned services to prolong their need for services that are detrimental to their independence and well being.
Encourage identified individuals through central intake to participate in congregate settings, in order to increase socialization and promote healthier lifestyles conducive to longevity that isolated services can not impart. FCSP and program coordinators will promote intentional engagement outreach to increase awareness of AAA and Caregiver support services at congregate sites.		AAA CMG Coordinator, central intake and CM's , Program Coordinators	Senior center participation will see an increase, and general advertisement of senior center proximity will be more diffuse.
Develop ways to enhance our reach within regional transportation services to share AAA resources to riders and to encourage them to participate in their available programs.		AAA staff, SEAGO TSP staff	Both physical and interactive methods of display of services within transportation services for individual awareness.

Objective 3.2: Support aging services and programs that promote independence and self-determinations of choices (continued)			
Action Step	Completion Date	Person Responsible	Outcome/Output
Will increase the number of caregivers receiving Trualta licenses by reaching out to providers of healthcare and long-term services and supports. Trualta provides caregivers with tools to be able to diminish the effects of caregiving trauma. FCSP is promoting the inclusion of family caregivers in all relevant care coordination and transitions as essential members and partners in the care recipient's care team.	Ongoing, however monitored on yearly basis for improvements.	AAA FCSP, HPDP, CMG	Be able to track caregivers who may be at the onset of experiencing trauma and provide them with adequate assistance and community to prepare them. Identify Caregivers as partners in Health care and long-term services and supports
Objective 3.3: Strengthen efforts to enhance a multi-disciplinary approach to prevent, detect, assess, intervene and investigate elder abuse, neglect and financial exploitation			
Action Step	Completion Date	Person Responsible	Outcome/Output
The collaboration between SHIP-SMP and LTCO enables AAA to bring essential partners to the table and share ideas, issues and solutions to address elder abuse in our region. While the AAA is part of TASA, the issues in our region are very different than in other parts of the state.	Ongoing, however monitored on yearly basis for improvements.	AAA SHIP-SMP, FCSP, LTCO, CMG	The Southeastern Arizona Elder Abuse Taskforce (SEAEAT) will help increase involvement in elder abuse prevention, multi-disciplinary teams offer training and education of community partners to respond to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
AAA will search for possible legal assistance opportunities for the SEAZ region.		AAA Director	Establish at least one robust partnership apart from referrals to legal aid to better assist individuals undergoing any form of elder abuse or exploitation.

Objective 3.4: Foster inclusion and diversity of underserved and underrepresented populations in accessing NMHCBS within the Aging Network in Arizona

Action Step	Completion Date	Person Responsible	Outcome/Output
AAA staff has participated in the PCOA diversity and inclusion training and plan to participate in the Culturally and linguistically appropriate services (CLAS) provided by SEAHEC as a way to show respect and be responsive to the health beliefs, practices and needs of diverse patients	Will be completed by 2023 and monitored on a yearly basis for progress.	All AAA staff	Ensure both current and future staff members will have the tools to assist our community member's idiosyncratic cultural needs to encourage participation in our programs.

Objective 3.5: Respond to the ongoing effects of Covid-19 Pandemic

Action Step	Completion Date	Person Responsible	Outcome/Output
Collaborate with SEAHEC and their SOW to deliver Covid education in SEAZ. AAA plans to be more involved in assisting with existing NMHCBS clients through the CMG program.	Ongoing, however monitored on yearly basis for improvements.	All AAA staff	Increased information about disease prevention and mitigation efforts throughout the region.
AAA will work on implementing a robust Emergency Preparedness Plan that will include all subcontracted service providers.	Completed by 2024 with continuous opportunities for revision in the future, as new information surfaces.	AAA Director	Formulation of a comprehensive Emergency Preparedness Plan that extracts valuable information in regards to deficiencies and strengths this previous pandemic elucidated.

Goal Four: Providers for older adults in Arizona can provide an integrated and well-trained informal, paraprofessional and professional workforce.

Objective 4.1: Strengthen, expand, and evaluate the Family Caregiver Support Program

Action Step	Completion Date	Person Responsible	Outcome/Output
In Collaboration with two existing partners who help deliver transportation services by use of volunteers, AAA will look for possible ways to enhance the service to include emergent needs which are non-existent to clients and or their unpaid caregivers.	Ongoing, however monitored on yearly basis for improvements.	AAA Director	Make funding available that will help clients and caregivers address their emergency needs.

Objective 4.1: Strengthen, expand, and evaluate the Family Caregiver Support Program (continued)			
With use of the Trualta platform, central intake and the transition of case management in two of most served counties, we can track utilization of caregivers services, units, and education provided.	Ongoing, however monitored on yearly basis for improvements.	AAA CMG, FCSP	Allows identification of gaps in service which can then be propelled to advocate for increased funding in deficient areas.
Objective 4.2: Develop a direct care workforce sufficient to meet the growing care needs in Arizona			
Action Step	Completion Date	Person Responsible	Outcome/Output
In Collaboration with our existng services providers AAA is strategizing ways to expand the direct-care workforce, by increasing wages. In advocating as a member of the AZAging network, we will push to address this great issue not only in the state but at the federal level.	Ongoing, however monitored on yearly basis for improvements.	AAA Director, AAA staff	Retain valuable DCW's in a turbulent labor market and in return increase client case load as DCW's acclimate to the system.
Goal Five: Arizona has the necessary infrastructure to deliver needed supportive services			
Objective 5.1: Develop programs and approaches to close the current gaps in aging services infrastructure and delivery system, especially to underserved areas.			
Action Step	Completion Date	Person Responsible	Outcome/Output
As 50% of our in-house programs are added to DAAR's reporting system, we are able to gather more necessary data which is utilized to develop a framework for posterior targetting of needs. Furthermore, the AAA utilizes the AAA Analysis tool to track use of provider services and allows the Agency to better track and project for changes to our budget.	Ongoing, however monitored on yearly basis for improvements.	AAA Director, AAA staff	With increased reliance on data, we will be able to better assess shortcomings and target funding for vital programs which are not receiving funding comparable to the need.
The Volunteer manual was established to share on the AAA requirements for volunteer opportunities, the manual helps identify the strengths and weaknessess of those who apply and what area of our agency they would be better in.		AAA FCSP, HPDP, LTCO, SHIP-SMP	With training and certification, volunteers feel more valuable to the work they perform and their involvement in each programs increases with time. Thus providing better service.

Objective 5.2: Develop methodology for setting service rates that provide adequate network coverage			
Action Step	Completion Date	Person Responsible	Outcome/Output
SEAGO-AAA region is too small to be able to set service rates. However, as a member of the AZAging network and in conjunction with all other regions in the state we are able to join forces and advocate for one another. We meet bi-monthly with AHCCC's and we stay informed of the changes that affect their population as these impact the AAA's tremendously.	Ongoing, however monitored on yearly basis for improvements.	AAA Director	Develop a system for awareness of inter region fluctuations in population which may alter service rate attractiveness relative to other regions which prepares us for shortcomings in addressing regional needs.
In order for our five service providers to sustain our current and possible increase in caseloads it is imperative that we stay as close as possible to others throughout the state as we generally use the same service providers.		AAA Director, CMG Coordinator	By promoting a climate of interconnectedness we will better be able to cope with increased caseloads while precluding the deterioration of our existing services. Ultimately, collaboration is the only feasible avenue towards improvement and expansion.



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL PACKET

MEMO TO: ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
THROUGH: RANDY HEISS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FROM: CHRIS VERTREES, TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR
DATE: FEBRUARY 2, 2023
SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM UPDATES

The following is a brief update regarding the Transportation and Transit planning projects that SEAGO is currently involved in:

SEAGO Road Pavement Assessment Project. The SEAGO Administrative Council and Executive Board approved this project in August for the amount of \$200,000 Federal (STBG). This project will utilize new artificial intelligence road assessment technologies that convert a cell phone into a data collection device that can conduct pavement assessments, pavement marking assessments, road condition inventories, as well as traffic sign inventories, and sign condition assessments for SEAGO member jurisdictions. SEAGO staff will perform the ground work of driving local roadways and collecting roadway data. The data will be sent to a vendor that will analyze the data, establish a roadway inventory, and assign condition assessments to multiple segments of roadway. The data will be made available to all of our jurisdictions through a licensed database. All public roads not on the State system will be evaluated (approximately 4,000 miles).

Update: *The SEAGO Data Portal has opened and invitation sent to all member agencies as requested by TAC members. If you would like access to the portal, please submit a request to John Merideth at jmerideth@seago.org. Since May 1, 2022, SEAGO has collected over 900 miles of data.*

RTAC Priority Project List: Last year, the SEAGO TAC developed a list of list of local projects for submission by RTAC to the State Legislature for consideration in the FY23 State Budget. The list was approved by the SEAGO Administrative Council and Executive Board last August. Although not included in the final budget, they were still up for consideration as late as mid-June. RTAC has requested that Greater Arizona COGs/MPOs develop a project list for FY24 budget discussions. In September, the TAC completed an application review and application ranking process. The SEAGO TAC's Project List was approved by our Admin Committee and Executive Board at our November meetings.

Update: *The project booklet has been completed and is available to view at: <http://www.keepandshare.com/doc12/view.php?id=256060&da=y>. We have a sponsor for the legislation; Representative Timothy Dunn (Legislative District # 25). We also have a bill number for the priority project legislation (HB2543). The bill can be viewed and tracked at: <https://apps.azleg.gov/BillStatus/BillOverview/78930?SessionId=127>.*

Regional Transit Emergency Coordination Plan: On December 30, 2020, SEAGO received notice from ADOT that it received an \$80,000 FTA Section 5305(e) Transit Planning Grant. During the initial outbreak of COVID-19, we found that many of our FTA Section 5311 and FTA Section 5310 providers lacked emergency planning tools and protocols to not only address pandemic issues, but lacked basic procedures to address a variety of potential internal and external

emergencies. The grant provides funding for the development of a Regional Transit Emergency Coordination Plan. SEAGO began work on this project in August 2021 with a series of four County-specific stakeholder meetings. Meetings were attended by 33 emergency preparedness professionals. In April, SEAGO was awarded an additional \$90,000 in funding to continue our work. SEAGO held advisory committee meetings with our regional transportation providers in July and August. Working Papers #1, #2, and #3 have been completed and are available on www.seagomobility.org.

Update: The Draft Study has been completed and will be made available for a 45-day public comment period following Project TAC review. SEAGO will be providing training on the plan to our transit provider in late February.

Fixed Route Public Transit in Graham County: A public transit feasibility study is a requirement by ADOT to access FTA Section 5311 (Rural Public Transit) funding. In general, those studies are good for a 5-year period. In 2015, a Public Transit Feasibility Study was completed for Graham County. The study's useful life has expired and an update of the plan is required. SEAGO has partnered with the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) to update the study. NADO secured a USDA grant for this project. This has brought national transit planning organizations to the table that SEAGO would not normally have access to. This includes Western Transportation Institute and the National Rural Transit Assistance Program. A transit needs survey has been completed and data analyzed. SEAGO has used the survey data and current ridership data provided by Easter Seals Blake Foundation (ESBF) Community Transportation Project to identify high demand route originating locations. Those locations have been heat mapped through GIS. With that data, draft fixed-route options, maps and schedules have been completed. In May, Easter Seals Blake Foundation expressed a desire to be a lead applicant for an FTA Section 5311 project.

Update: The TAC has been paused to allow ESBF the opportunity to have internal discussions involving their pursuit of an ADOT/FTA Section 5311 application. The next window to apply for FTA Section 5311 funding will occur in January 2024.

Santa Cruz County RTA (Regional Transportation Authority) Feasibility Study: In FY19, SEAGO had approximately \$50,000 in carry-over State Planning and Research Funds that needed to be spent on a planning project. After discussion with the TAC, this project was identified. The project will be completed in multiple phases. Phase 1 is a research project. SEAGO has collected Santa Cruz County transportation/transit related studies completed at the state or local level during the last 15 years. In February 2019, SEAGO conducted a review with the City of Nogales and Santa Cruz County to determine the aspects of each plan that are still valid in our current economic and transportation climate. As a result of that meeting, SEAGO is developing an updated list of potential projects.

Update: Due to COVID-19 and the public participation demands of this project it was delayed until the SFY23. The project has been forwarded to our FY23/24 ADOT Work Plan. We will have until June 30, 2023 to complete the project. We have established a work group to identify the transit needs for the County. In December, SEAGO applied for ADOT Transit Planning Funds to complete the transit section of the study. We are currently updating project lists on the roads/streets side, identifying project TAC members and expect to reboot the TAC this in March.

I will answer any questions you may have at the meeting.

Attachments: None.

Action Requested: Information Only Action Requested Below