

ATSPT AND THE NAVAJO NATION/ADOT/BIA/FHWA PARTNERSHIP PARTNERING SUCCESS STORY

Situation (provide a description/background of the situation):

The Arizona DOT together with its partners, FHWA, BIA, and tribes that are members of the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, have established an ADOT Tribal Strategic Partnering Team known as ATSPT. The mission of ATSPT is to be a trusted coalition of multi-jurisdictional advisors who facilitate strategies to resolve tribal transportation issues by maintaining relationships and educating and upholding laws and policies through communication.

Partnering Practices (what were the behaviors/attitudes & steps taken that promoted collaborative teamwork and a win-win outcome?):

ATSPT has held a series of State-Tribal Transportation Forums that were designed to improve tribal-state-federal relations and coordination by improving tribal knowledge of the statewide transportation planning and programming processes. As a result of those forums the Navajo Nation/ADOT/BIA/FHWA partnership was established and development of an ADOT/Navajo Nation MOU was revived. The ATSPT, in conjunction with the Navajo Nation/ADOT/BIA/ FHWA partnership, has established a web site that serves as an umbrella for all state-tribal transportation related activities. The web site is located at <http://www.aztribaltransportation.com>.

Outcomes (results; what happened as a result of partners' efforts?):

It has taken an enormous amount of time, patience, and cooperation by all partners involved to make the ATSPT and the Navajo Nation/ADOT/BIA/FHWA Partnership successful. The ATSPT's and the Navajo Nation/ADOT/BIA/FHWA Partnership's effort to promote partnership in the Tribal Transportation Planning arena is considered a National Best Practice by FHWA and have both been nominated for a 2006 FHWA/FTA Transportation Planning Excellence Award.

The Transportation Planning Excellence Awards Program is a biennial awards program that was established by the FHWA and FTA and is co-sponsored by the American Planning Association to recognize outstanding initiatives across the country to develop, plan and implement innovative transportation planning practices through partnerships.

Lessons Learned (what insights or new information are you taking away from this situation, whether the outcome was the desired one or not?)

We at FHWA-AZDIV greatly value our partners and partnerships. The ATSPT and the Navajo Nation/ADOT/BIA/FHWA Partnership are crowning examples of our partner's efforts to go the extra mile to ensure that Arizona's transportation plans, processes, and products demonstrate excellence and reflect the needs of the communities that we serve.