



METROPLAN

GREATER † FLAGSTAFF

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METROPLAN STRATEGIC ADVANCE

Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Time: 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Location: Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) Northcentral District Offices
1959 Woodlands Village Blvd. Suite B

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Executive Board Members

- Jim McCarthy, Flagstaff City Council, Chair
- Jeronimo Vasquez, Coconino County Board of Supervisors, Vice-Chair
- Patrice Horstman, Coconino County Board of Supervisors
- Tony Williams, Mountain Line Board of Directors
- Miranda Sweet, Flagstaff City Council

TAC Members

- Myrna Bondoc, ADOT
- Brendan Foley, ADOT
- Nate Reisner, Coconino County
- Jess McNeely, Coconino County
- Michelle McNulty, City of Flagstaff
- Anne Dunno, Mountain Line

Management Committee Members

- Greg Clifton, City of Flagstaff
- Josh Maher, NAU

MetroPlan Staff

- Kate Morley, Interim Executive Director
- Dave Wessel, Planning Manager

- Mandia Gonzales, Transportation Planner
- Sandra Tavel, Transportation Planner
- Karen Moeller, Administrative Assistant/Clerk of the Board

Other

- Kevin Adam, RTAC

GOAL:

To evaluate the success of our 2022 strategic workplan and apply those lessons to crafting a 2023 workplan.

AGENDA:

- Welcome and Introductions
Jim McCarthy called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm. He welcomed the group and took care of housekeeping.

Kate Morley gave an introduction to the group and clarified the purpose of the meeting and the group expectations.
- *Stride Forward* | Regional Transportation Plan
Dave Wessel spoke about the persistence, engagement, accessibility, usefulness, and insight which went into the development of *Stride Forward!* Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). *Stride Forward!* goes to the Board on 06/01/2023 for adoption.
- Year in Review
Dave Wessel celebrated the year's successes in administration, technical capacity and support, planning, and funding.
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) 101
Kate Morley talked about who MetroPlan is. She then gave the group examples of inspirational MPOs around the country to lead the group toward future thinking. The members were given napkins and pens to record Aha moments from these national MPOs for MetroPlan to understand what is meaningful to the members.
- Strategic Plan Overview (1-3 year)

Sandra Tavel presented an overview of the Activity “I Like, I Wish, I Wonder” which would accompany the Strategic Goals presentations.

- **Strategic Goals**

Sandra Tavel presented Goal #1

Dave Wessel presented Goal #2

Mandia Gonzales presented Goal #3

Kate Morley presented Goal #4

Members contributed feedback that will be represented in the draft Strategic Work Plan presented to the Board at the June 1, 2023 meeting.

- **West Route 66 activity**

Mandia Gonzales led the Group brainstorming activity focused on defining, “The Finest Transportation System” as stated in the MetroPlan vision.

Dave Wessel reported for Group 1. Strongly multi-modal-transportation; affordable housing for all; we need people who can afford to live in Flagstaff, accommodate freight to bring goods and services into the community; more than one way into town for goods; evacuation routes, crossing to connect to bus stops. Choice and equity were driving values, as well as economic development and interests, wildlife corridor crossing and dark skies, and community character through such as overpasses and other art.

Michelle McNulty report for Group 2. Pedestrian bridge, separated intersections, forward-facing buildings giving a reason to walk about the area even though there are not many businesses in the area, and separated bike lanes-safety, Flagstaff is a gateway city. These ideas are important for economic development and tourism, community, and health (environmental and physical). Safety was a key value.

Anne Dunno reported for Group 3. Consider land use of the area—why are people here and want to stay, potential future development which would give community opportunities, gateway feature off I-40 integrated into the corridor, roundabouts to keep traffic moving, provide a pleasant environment such as landscaping, art in roundabouts, bi-directional bike lanes separated, freight safely moving through the area, access points to this area of the W. Route 66 corridor? Getting from Bellemont to this area, frontage roads are an option.

- **Group Share (aha moments)**

Kate Morley asked the group to share any aha moments.

Members shared ideas about “What is MetroPlan’s role in transportation?” Responses included: planners, implementers, innovators, coordinators, bringing partners together, funders, brainstormers, collaborators.

Members of the group further shared some aha moments from the presentations and discussions—collecting data of crash data for bikes, knowing what is happening in the community, bike share, e-bikes, involvement in nationwide competitions, mode shift-gamification, curb popouts creating a smaller crossing area, the importance of snow removal, and leftover cinders, extend agencies which are working with limited resources, innovation possibilities, inductive lane for charging EV’s—access shops, create revenue

- **Wrap-up and Next Steps**

Kate Morley wrapped up the day and shared the next steps for MetroPlan.

Jim McCarthy asked a question: What are the pros and cons of roundabouts. Greg Clifton responded that they can be very safe for bikes, ped, transit, keep traffic moving, reduce emissions, accidents might not be lessened in number the severity is lessened—no t-bones but sideswipes and fender benders. Dave Wessel added they need to realize we can slow down in our environment—roundabouts are meant to slow down. Kevin Adams added design is key—interfacing commercial vehicles and passenger vehicles.

- **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m.