

PARTNERING CHARTER

Arizona Councils of Governments (COGs), Arizona Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT)

Transportation Planning, Programming and Project Implementation

We, the partners (COGs, MPOs, ADOT), commit individually and as a team, to conduct transportation planning, programming, and project implementation through open, honest, timely and active communication, mutual respect, trust and cooperation. We will work proactively to address the transportation needs at all levels of government, while maintaining close interagency coordination, a common understanding of issues, and a willingness to be flexible in light of changing conditions. As one team, we will remain focused to ensure that no issue becomes larger than the ultimate goal of providing efficient and effective transportation services to the traveling public and Arizona businesses, leading to opportunities for personal growth and a strong Arizona economy. The extent of our success will be measured by our ability to achieve the following:

- Recognizing that there is a shared responsibility among the partners to ensure that every effort is made to conduct an open, coordinated and cost-effective transportation planning, programming and project implementation process in the State of Arizona.
- Conducting regular partnering meetings at both the agency executive level and the agency planner/staff level that are appropriate to the issues being covered, with major policy issues addressed at the executive level and more technical/procedural matters addressed at the planner/staff level.
- Consulting with partner agencies in advance of establishing new policies or procedures that affect transportation project implementation, establishing the principle of “no surprises” related to project and program funding and development requirements.
- Making the commitment to seek solutions to mutual problems that recognize the demands placed on all agencies involved, as opposed to unilateral declarations of policy without prior consultation or consideration of a full range of agency views.
- Conducting “problem-solving” partnering sessions focused on specific issue(s), with the goal of reaching agreement or compromise on the best approach, and addressing the concerns of all agencies involved.
- Providing timely financial, programming and project status information and data, so that project implementation can proceed efficiently, maximizing opportunities for leveraging limited local and State resources and avoiding any loss of federal funding.
- Placing an emphasis on timely execution of project and programming procedures, and maintaining a sense of urgency in recognition of the agency staff resources that are tied up in project implementation.

