

Title VI Annual Report



Prepared By: Irene Higgs, Executive Director/Title VI Coordinator
7/1/2023

2023

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

INTRODUCTION

The Sun Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is committed to ensuring the full participation of all populations in regional planning activities. The Sun Corridor MPO nondiscrimination policy addresses Title VI, Environmental Justice and federal and state statutes. Extensive public outreach and data analysis is conducted to provide equal benefit to protected populations and to protect those populations from shouldering a disproportionate burden during the planning process. This annual report details progress made, activities undertaken, and goals for involving the public in the transportation planning process.

For more information about this report or other civil rights concerns, please contact the Sun Corridor Title VI Coordinator, Irene Higgs, at (520) 705-5143.

REVIEW OF PROGRAM AREAS

To ensure compliance, each program and subrecipient is reviewed by the Sun Corridor MPO staff as contracts and planning agreements are developed. This includes a review of Title VI provisions to ensure adherence.

Program Areas

The Title VI Coordinator provides oversight to the program areas. Annually, the Title VI Coordinator will report data collected throughout the year and outline, in the Annual Report, the steps for each program area to comply with Title VI Program requirements.

- Executive Board Meetings
- Technical Advisory Meetings
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Air Quality Conformity
- CAG/SCMPO Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan
- Planning Studies

Listed below is an overview of each program area, data collected and program review.

Sun Corridor MPO Executive Board Meetings

It is the function of the Executive Board to act as a policy body, coordinating transportation planning and related implementation activities within the Sun Corridor MPO transportation region. The Board must approve all agreements and contracts, and the Chairman must sign all appropriate documents related to contracts and agreements.

The activities include, but are not limited to, approving previous meeting minutes, approving various federal required documents and discussing and planning various transportation related activities. Additionally, there is open discussion regarding the Regional

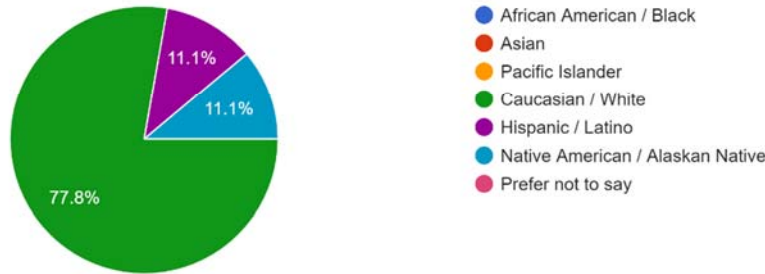
Transportation Plan, Air Quality Conformity, Transportation Improvement Program, Coolidge Route Optimization Study, HSIP Application Project, and CAG/SCMPO Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan.

At all Executive Board meetings, the Sun Corridor MPO staff reads the Title VI statement, posts the Title VI Notice to the Public, makes available as handouts “Your Rights Under Title VI,” and the “Self-Identification Survey”. The Self-Identification Survey (English/Spanish) is also included on all agendas, website, and included in the MPO email meeting blast. No LEP services were requested for any of the meetings. 9 Self-Identification Surveys were completed by the public on-line; the remaining entries are based on our best guess:

ETHNICITY/RACE

What is your Ethnicity / Race?

9 responses



SUN CORRIDOR MPO EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

Self-Identification Survey		12-Jul-22	13-Sep-22	8-Nov-22	10-Jan-23	14-Mar-23	9-May-23	13-Jun-23	TOTAL
ETHNICITY/RACE:	American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	Hispanic/Latino	2	2	1	2	4	2	2	15
	African American/Black	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	5
	White	12	7	13	10	18	12	13	85
	Other	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
	# Survey's Completed - Hard Copy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	# Survey's Completed - On-Line	4	0	1	1	2	0	1	9

The July 1, 2022– June 30, 2023 Executive Board meetings are generally held on the second Tuesday of every other month at 10:00 A.M. and are rotated between the cities of Casa Grande, Eloy and Coolidge. The public meetings are held at locations that are easily accessible and ADA compliant. Accommodations based on language and disability are available with at least 48 hours prior to the meetings. No special accommodations were requested.

Sun Corridor MPO Executive Board Meetings

Date	Location
July 12, 2022	City of Eloy Council Chambers
September 13, 2022	City of Casa Grande Council Chambers
November 8, 2022	Pinal County Complex, Casa Grande
January 10, 2023	City of Coolidge Council Chambers
March 14, 2023	City of Eloy Council Chambers
May 9, 2023	City of Casa Grande Council Chambers
June 13, 2023	Telephonic Meeting

Agendas were posted a minimum of 5 days prior to the meeting at the following locations:

- Sun Corridor MPO website: scmpo.org
- City of Casa Grande City Hall
- City of Casa Grande Public Library – Closed for a portion of time due to COVID-19

The annual calendar of meetings was published in both English and Spanish on November 24, 2022, in the Casa Grande Tri-Valley and posted on the Sun Corridor MPO website at scmpo.org. The notice states the date of the meetings, time of the meetings, and location of the meetings. It also provides meeting agenda location information. Upon request, citizens may request and receive, at no cost, an e-mailed meeting agenda or mailed a hard copy.

Sun Corridor MPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The TAC has the authority, and primary responsibility to conduct technical reviews regarding all work activities of the Unified Planning Work Program; to recommend project awards; and to advise the Executive Board on appropriate actions to be taken for the overall planning direction of the region.

The activities included, but were not limited to, approving previous meeting minutes, approving various federal required documents and discussing and planning various transportation related activities. Additionally, there is open discussion regarding the Regional Transportation Plan, Air Quality Conformity, Transportation Improvement Program, Coolidge Route Optimization Study, HSIP Application Project, and CAG/SCMPO Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan.

At all TAC meetings the Sun Corridor MPO staff reads the Title VI statement, posts the Title VI Notice to the Public, makes available as handouts “Your Rights Under Title VI,” and the “Self-Identification Survey”. The Self-Identification Survey (English/Spanish) is also included on all agendas, website, and included in the MPO email meeting blast. No LEP services were requested for any of the meetings. No Self-Identification Surveys were completed by the public; however, based on our best guess the following were in attendance:

ETHNICITY/RACE

SUN CORRIDOR MPO TAC MEETINGS									
Self-Identification Survey		25-Aug-22	27-Oct-22	30-Nov-22	15-Dec-22	23-Feb-23	27-Apr-23	8-Jun-23	TOTAL
ETHNICITY/RACE:	American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	Asian/Pacific Islander	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
	Hispanic/Latino	1	1	2	1	0	1	1	7
	African American/Black	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	White	14	10	9	9	9	10	6	67
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	# Survey's Completed - Hard Copy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	# Survey's Completed - On-Line	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 TAC meetings were generally held on the fourth Thursday of every other month at 1:00 P.M. through Webex and in person. Participants also had the option to call into the meeting. Accommodations based on language and disability are available with at least 48 hours prior to the meetings. No special accommodations were requested.

Sun Corridor MPO Technical Advisory Committee Meetings

Date	Location
August 25, 2022	WebEx
October 27, 2022	Casa Grande Public Safety Complex
November 30, 2022	WebEx
December 15, 2022	Casa Grande Public Safety Complex
February 23, 2023	Casa Grande Public Safety Complex
April 27, 2023	Vista Grande Library, Casa Grande
June 8, 2023	Vista Grande Library, Casa Grande

Agendas were posted a minimum of 5 days prior to the meeting at the following locations:

- Sun Corridor MPO website: scmpo.org
- City of Casa Grande City Hall
- City of Casa Grande Public Library

The annual calendar of meetings was published in both English and Spanish on November 24, 2022 in the Casa Grande Tri-Valley and posted on the Sun Corridor MPO website at scmpo.org. The notice states the date of the meetings, time of the meetings, and location of the meetings. It also provides meeting agenda location information. Upon request, citizens may request and receive, at no cost, an e-mailed meeting agenda or mailed a hard copy.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Air Quality Conformity for the pinal county pm-10 and pm-2.5 non-attainment areas

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a multi-year (4–10 years) program of transportation projects that is consistent with and implements the goals and objectives described in the Regional Transportation Plan 2040 Update. The TIP is required to be prepared in complete detail identifying projects, assign projects in appropriate periods, and to identify costs associated with each project as well as funding source. All federally funded transportation projects within the Sun Corridor MPO planning boundary must be programmed in the Sun Corridor TIP. All regionally significant transportation projects that are local or privately (developer) funded and that impact air quality conformity are also required to be programmed in the TIP.

Administrative changes as well as TIP Amendments are posted on the Sun Corridor MPO website at scmpo.org. The Sun Corridor Technical Advisory Committee meetings as well as the Sun Corridor MPO Executive Board meetings are open to the public, thereby providing opportunity for the public to comment on any TIP changes done by the Sun Corridor MPO. Air Quality Conformity Analyses and TIP Amendments go out to the public for 30-day review.

On November 24, 2022 the legal advertisements for the 30-day Public Notice for the Winter Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the 2020-2029 Sun Corridor MPO TIP and Sun Corridor MPO Regional Transportation Plan 2040 Update, were published in the Casa Grande Tri-Valley paper and posted on the Sun Corridor MPO website at scmpo.org in both English and Spanish. Following the 30-day comment period, no comments were received by the public.

On April 27 2023 the legal advertisements for the 30-day Public Notice for the Spring Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the 2023-2027 Sun Corridor MPO TIP and Sun Corridor MPO Regional Transportation Plan 2040 Update, as amended, was published in the Casa Grande Tri-Valley and posted on the Sun Corridor MPO website at scmpo.org in both English and Spanish. Following the 30-day comment period, no comments were received by the public.

CAG/SCMPO Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan Update 2023

CAG, in partnership with the Sun Corridor MPO, provides Mobility Management (MM) for both Pinal and Gila counties. The Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan (Plan) identifies transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults and people with low incomes; provides strategies for meeting these needs; and prioritizes transportation services for funding and implementation. Demographic maps and data are reviewed annually to ensure that services are being offered to the minority and low-income populations. CAG and Sun Corridor MPO are committed to providing outreach to nonprofit agencies providing services to persons with disabilities to discuss regional coordination and collaborative planning opportunities in human services transportation. This includes outreach to

stakeholders in both Gila and Pinal County to ensure agencies from the small urban and rural areas have an opportunity to participate in regional coordination efforts.

To ensure equal benefit to protected populations and to protect those populations from shouldering a disproportionate burden during the planning process public participation is welcomed and encouraged by CAG and the Sun Corridor MPO. There are numerous and varied techniques/activities to provide the opportunity for public and stakeholder involvement. CAG and the Sun Corridor MPO obtain input in a variety of ways including, but not limited to public hearings, newspaper advertisements, small and large group presentations, committee meetings, website postings and e-mail correspondences.

On November 10, 2022 the legal advertisements for the 30-day Public Notice for the CAG/SCMPO Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan was placed in the following newspapers:

- AJ News
- Casa Grande Dispatch - (Through Tri-Valley Dispatch)
- Florence Reminder
- San Manuel Miner
- Copper Basin News - (Kearny, Dudleyville, etc.)
- Superior Sun
- Silverbelt - (also Apache Moccasin, Copper Country News)
- Maricopa Monitor
- Payson Roundup

Committees: The formal process to review and approve this Plan included input from the following committees and local stakeholders beginning in September and concluded in January.

- Gila-Pinal Rides Committee Review– September 9, 2022
- CAG Technical Transportation Advisory Committee – Recommend Approval of Plan Update – December 15, 2022
- Sun Corridor MPO Technical Advisory Committee – Recommend Approval of Plan Update – December 15, 2022
- Sun Corridor MPO Executive Board – Approval of Plan – January 10, 2023
- CAG Management Committee – Recommend Approval of Plan Update – January 11, 2023
- CAG Regional Council – Approval of Plan Update – January 25, 2023

Gila-Pinal Rides Committee Meeting

The Gila-Pinal Rides Committee is the steering committee for transit coordination issues within the CAG and the Sun Corridor MPO Region. The committee is comprised of transit providers and stakeholders from both Gila and Pinal Counties and rotates meeting time and locations or being held virtually. Presently, the Regional Mobility Manager brings together the 5310 and 5311 providers, as well as interested stakeholders, to help coordinate transit, and to advance innovative ideas for the CAG and Sun Corridor MPO Region as a whole. The Gila-Pinal Rides Committee holds bi-monthly meetings with attendees from various agencies

interested in public transportation. The meetings act as a forum to determine where the greatest needs are, to identify gaps in service, look for opportunities to coordinate services, provide collaboration among providers and help overcome the challenges faced throughout the Region.

5310-funded providers in the CAG/SCMPO region also identified the following anticipated funding needs in the upcoming fiscal years:

Agency	Description Request	Fiscal Year	Federal Share \$	Local Match \$	Estimated Amount \$
Central Arizona Governments	Regional Mobility Management	FY24	\$110,000	\$27,500	\$137,500
	Regional Mobility Management	FY25	\$110,000	\$27,500	\$137,500
Payson Senior Center	Replacement – 6-Pass Van w/Ramp	FY23	\$70,400	\$17,600	\$88,000
	Preventative Maintenance	FY23	\$12,000	\$2,000	\$10,000
	Preventative Maintenance	FY24	\$12,000	\$2,000	\$10,000
	Operations	FY23	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$30,000
	Operations	FY24	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$30,000
	Plus Ride Management Software	FY23	\$20,000	\$5,000	\$25,000
	Plus Ride Management Software	FY24	\$20,000	\$5,000	\$25,000
Pinal Hispanic Council	Replacement – 7-Pass Van w/ramp	FY23	\$27,826	\$6,956	\$34,782
	Replacement – 7-Pass Van (no ramp)	FY24	\$30,608	\$7,652	\$38,260
	Preventative Maintenance	FY23	\$6,400	\$1,600	\$8,000
	Preventative Maintenance	FY24	\$6,400	\$1,600	\$8,000
GRAND TOTAL:		FY23	\$147,626	\$48,156	\$195,782
		FY24	\$190,008	\$58,752	\$248,760
		FY25	\$110,000	\$27,500	\$137,500

The Gila-Pinal Rides Transportation Coordination Committee is the steering committee for transit coordination issues within the CAG and SCMPO Region. This steering committee is comprised of transit providers and stakeholders from Gila and Pinal Counties and meets six times a year (bi-monthly).

Each meeting focuses on provider updates to provide insight, harvest best practices, and determine where coordinated efforts can be enhanced among the active group within the region. The Committee, in turn, will measure their activities with the goals and future of coordination in the CAG and SCMPO Region. Primary goals were identified as well as recommendations to enhance regional training efforts and reach out to transportation stakeholders currently using, directly or indirectly, 5310 and 5311 transportation resources. The “Title VI Notice to the Public” is provided at all committee meetings. No special accommodations were requested.

**Table 17: Gila-Pinal Rides Transportation Coordination Committee
2022 Proposed Meeting Schedule**

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday - January 25, 2023	10:00 AM	Virtual Meeting / TBD
Wednesday - March 22, 2023	10:00 AM	Virtual Meeting / TBD
Wednesday - May 24, 2023	10:00 AM	Virtual Meeting / TBD
Wednesday - July 26, 2023	10:00 AM	Virtual Meeting / TBD
Wednesday - September 27, 2023	10:00 AM	Virtual Meeting / TBD
Wednesday - November 15, 2023	10:00 AM	Virtual Meeting / TBD

Coolidge Route Optimization Study (ROS)

The Sun Corridor MPO in partnership with the City of Coolidge was awarded FTA 5305e planning funds to do a route optimization study for the City of Coolidge. The scope of work includes: the evaluation of the current transit systems and conditions, identification of route efficiencies as well as administrative and organizational efficiencies, identification of possible route adjustments for Cotton Express, creation of marketing materials that can be used by city staff to promote the system, and the creation of a final document/implementation plan for use by city staff. This project was advertised in August 2021 and award to Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

Public Involvement

A Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Four Factor Analysis was conducted early in the study process to determine if public engagement materials needed to be provided in any languages other than English. The FTA sets standards for when materials need to be provided in additional languages. The CART study area was compared to these standards, and it was determined that public engagement materials should be provided in Spanish in addition to English.



A variety of public engagement has been performed to identify the community’s use of CART and what factors may be stopping people from utilizing CART more. Previous and current public engagement efforts were assessed to determine trends in needs of those within the community and CART ridership.

On September 28, 2022, a public open house was conducted to communicate the findings of the study to the public. The public meeting was held from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the

Coolidge City Council Chamber which is located adjacent to the Coolidge Transit Center to allow CART riders to easily access the open house. The facility was fully Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible, and signage was provided in both English and Spanish to direct attendees to the meeting space. Title VI materials in both English and Spanish were also provided at the meeting.

The public open house was advertised through several types of media, including:

- Local newspapers. The open house was advertised in the Saturday edition of the Casa Grande Dispatch and the Coolidge Examiner website.
- Social media. The open house was advertised through the City of Coolidge's Facebook account and a link to a fact sheet (both in English and Spanish) containing information on the project and open house was provided.
- On buses. Notices were printed and placed on buses to alert riders of the open house. Meeting attendees were also offered free rides on CART to access the open house.
- At the Coolidge Transit Center. A large notice was placed at the Coolidge Transit Center to alert CART and Cotton Express riders to the open house.

Four informational boards were developed to explain the study process and short-term recommendations to the public. Informational board content included:

- Welcome. The study purpose, goals and objectives, and the existing CART map and schedule.
- Alternatives Overview. High-level information on the service alternatives that were analyzed and a pros, cons, and overall impact table of each of the alternatives.
- Streamlined Route. The short-term recommended changes to the existing CART route, a summary of the major benefits of the recommendations, and a map of the proposed streamlined service.
- Streamlined Schedule. The proposed streamlined schedule for CART service as well as key travel times that will be reduced as a result of the service changes.

Project Team staff were available to guide the public through the informational boards and answer any questions the public had. Five members of the public attended the open house to learn about the study recommendations.

Project was completed on February 6, 2023.



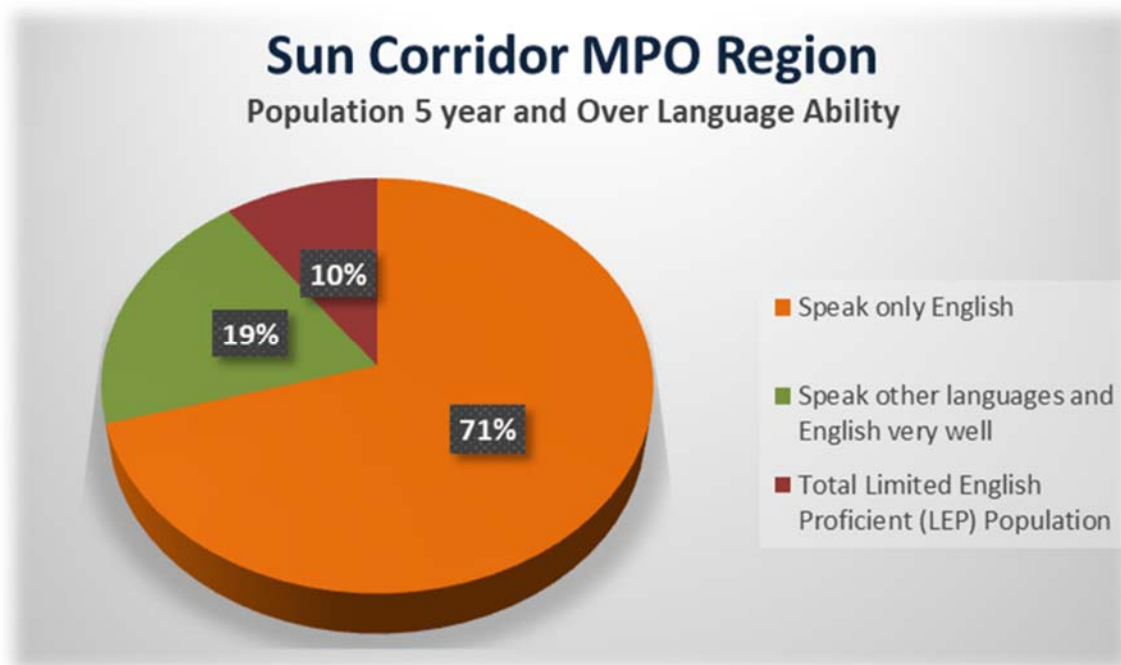
Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) 2050

The Sun Corridor MPO published a Request for Proposals on October 13, 2022 to utilize a consultant to complete the Regional Transportation Plan for the Sun Corridor MPO Region. The contract was awarded to Wilson & Company on December 12, 2022.

Public Involvement

A Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Four Factor Analysis was conducted early in the study process to determine if public engagement materials needed to be provided in any languages other than English. The FFWA/FTA sets standards for when materials need to be provided in additional languages. Using available census data, SCMPO determined that of the 111,526 individuals within the SCMPO region, 78,700 speak only English, and 32,826 speak a language other than English at home. Of those speaking another language at home, 11,051 are reported to have limited English proficiency. Individuals of limited English proficiency indicated on the census that they speak English “not well” or “not at all”.

The RTP study area was compared to these standards, and it was determined that public engagement materials should be provided in Spanish in addition to English.



Public Outreach Round #1: Identifying transportation challenges and needs for the community

Event participants were invited to provide feedback through engagement online, including mapping exercises and a survey. Engagement activities were designed to foster communication and collaboration with the public to identify transportation priorities, needs and enhancements.

A project website was created with keystone engagement resource for the SCMPO RTP 2050 update. The project site is an online resource for Public Outreach Round #1. The site utilized ArcGIS StoryMaps to collect public comments and feedback. Site visitors had the ability to review project materials and information at their own pace. Website features also included the ability to collect public comments through an interactive map. Site visitors had the ability to drop a pin on a map to comment. Data collected from the interactive map will provide precise, location-based input to use in the development of the SCMPO RTP 2050 update. In addition to the project ArcGIS StoryMap site, both phases will utilize a survey to collect feedback and comments from the public in both English and Spanish.

Online Survey

- English-language survey: 88 responses
- Spanish-language survey: 1 response

Comment Map

- English map: 15 pins
- Spanish map: 0 pins

Demographics

- English demographic survey: 24 responses
- Spanish demographic survey: 0 responses

Interviews were conducted with a stakeholders during the Round 1 Public Involvement:

- Elected Officials and Boards and Commissions
- Transportation Advisory Councils
- Applicable community-based organizations identified by the SCMPO Team and TAC
- City leaders and staff
- Accessibility and equity advocates and civic organizations
- Current and future users of transit services, bikeways, sidewalks, and roadways
- Pinal County Housing Authority
- Department of Defense
- Chamber of Commerce

On Saturday, April 1, 2023, SCMPO Staff and the Consultant Team sat a table up at the City of Casa Grande Safety Day at the Paul Mason Park. Staff handed out hard copies of the RTP survey or participants could scan a QR code and do the survey on their phones. The survey was available in both English and Spanish. By completing the survey, participants were entered to win one of two \$50 gift cards.

In-Person Survey

- English-language survey: 41 responses
- Spanish-language survey: 1 response



SCMPO Crash Data Analysis/HSIP Application Project

The Sun Corridor MPO selected Greenlight Traffic Engineering from the CYMPO On-consultant list to do the crash data analysis and HSIP Applications for the Sun Corridor MPO Region. There was no public involvement planned for this project.

Project was completed on November 29, 2022.

Pinal County Safety Plan/SCMPO Network Screening Crash and Analysis Tools Update

The Sun Corridor MPO hired Greenlight Traffic Engineering to complete this project. Notice to Proceed was issued on June 22, 2023. A LEP Four-Factor analysis will be conducted for this project. Public involvement is planned for this project; however, the Public Involvement Plan has not been finalized.

REVIEW OF SUBRECIPIENTS

At the current time, the Sun Corridor MPO does not have any subrecipients.

REVIEW OF CONSULTANT CONTRACT

The Title VI Coordinator is responsible for overseeing the preparation and execution of all planning study contracts for consultants to ensure Title VI compliance. During the reporting period, the Sun Corridor MPO executed the following planning-related services/activities. The projects used a combination of federal and/or in-kind matching funds.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) for all MPO planning projects included the Title VI Assurances, nondiscrimination statements, and language pertaining to the incorporation of all Title VI provisions in every subcontract. Additionally, as part of the general RFP requirements for contracted planning studies, all federally funded projects are assessed for a DBE goal. The Sun Corridor MPO encourages and supports firms that are verified Disadvantaged Businesses Enterprises (DBE) and/or Minority Business Enterprises (MBE). All RFP's are distributed to an extensive list of contractors, including DBE/MBE firms. All firms must be registered in AZ UTRACS to be eligible to apply.

Central Yavapai MPO and the Sierra Vista MPO established Consultant On-calls for Planning and Engineering studies. These On-call list can be utilized by all COG/MPOs in Arizona.

Executed Contracts

- CART Route Optimization Study – Kimley-Horn and Associates #MPD21-8164.6.2 2022-02
 - DBE Goal Assessment – 0%.
 - Submitted a Bidders/Proposers list in the AZ UTRACS
 - Contract included Appendix A and E of the Assurances, DBE Provisions, Prompt Pay and Reporting Provisions
 - Consultant reported monthly in the ADOT LPA DBE System to ensure compliance
 - No findings
 - Project was completed on February 6, 2023.
- SCMPO Crash Analysis/HSIP Application Project – Greenlight Traffic Engineering #MPD218164.23-1
 - Central Yavapai MPO On-Call
 - DBE Goal Assessment – 0%.
 - Submitted a Bidders/Proposers list in the AZ UTRACS for CYMPO On-Call
 - Contract included Appendix A and E of the Assurances, DBE Provisions, Prompt Pay and Reporting Provisions
 - Consultant reported monthly in the ADOT LPA DBE System to ensure compliance
 - No findings
 - Project was completed on November 29, 2022.
- SCMPO Regional Transportation Plan 2050 – Wilson & Co, Inc., Engineers and Architects #MPD218164-4.1-1
 - DBE Goal Assessment – 0%.
 - Submitted a Bidders/Proposers list in the AZ UTRACS
 - Contract included Appendix A and E of the Assurances, DBE Provisions, Prompt Pay and Reporting Provisions

- Consultant reported monthly in the ADOT LPA DBE System to ensure compliance
- Title VI Training PowerPoint Provided
- No findings
- Pinal County Safety Plan/SCMPO Network Screening Crash and Analysis Tools Update – Greenlight Traffic Engineering, LLC # MPD218164-7.1
 - DBE Goal Assessment – 0%.
 - Submitted a Bidders/Proposers list in the AZ UTRACS
 - Contract included Appendix A and E of the Assurances, DBE Provisions, Prompt Pay and Reporting Provisions
 - Consultant reported monthly in the ADOT LPA DBE System to ensure compliance
 - Title VI Training PowerPoint Provided
 - No findings

TITLE VI NONDISCRIMINATION ON-SITE COMPLIANCE REVIEW

On February 22, 2023 ADOT's Civil Rights Office (CRO) completed an on-site review of Sun Corridor MPO Title VI Program. During the Title VI Nondiscrimination Compliance Review, there was one deficiency and three recommendations made in order to achieve full compliance with Title VI. ADOT's CRO received all the necessary information from the Title VI Coordinator to ensure non-discrimination in the programs. The Sun Corridor MPO review was closed on April 12, 2023.

SUN CORRIDOR MPO WEBSITE

In FY2023 the Sun Corridor MPO hired a web-designer to assist MPO staff on making sure that website is in compliance. Google Translate was added to the website. We also ran an accessibility test on the SCMPO website, and it scored a 48 out of 75. We are looking at plugins/software that will bring it up to a score of 75 or higher. This will be a goal for this next year.

TITLE VI TRAINING

The following accomplishments were completed for SCMPO Training in 2023.

- Created an on-line training for SCMPO Staff in Google Forms
- Updated the SCMPO Training PowerPoint for TAC/Executive Board Training

The following trainings took place during the reporting period:

Sun Corridor MPO

- August 22, 2022, New Hire Training, Jason Bottjen.
 - Title VI
 - Public Participation

- Limited English Proficiency
 - Disadvantage Business Enterprise
 - Standard Operating Procedures
 - Unified Work Program
 - SCMPO/ADOT Grant Agreement
-
- October 27, 2022, Meaningful Public Involvement, Irene Higgs
 - December 6, 2022, FHWA VPI Accessibility – State/MPO Tools, Irene Higgs
 - February 8, 2023, Title VI Annual Training On-Line, Jason Bottjen
 - February 16, 2023, New Equity EO Briefing, Irene Higgs
 - February 24, 2023, Justice 40 – Update and Tools, Irene Higgs
 - March 14, 2023, SCMPO Executive Board Title VI Training by ADOT
 - April 27, 2023, SCMPO TAC Title VI Training, Jason Bottjen
 - June 20, 2023, ADOT Title VI Training, Irene Higgs

INVESTIGATIONS, LAWSUITS AND COMPLAINTS

No investigations, lawsuits or complaints have been filed against the Sun Corridor MPO or its member agencies from July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023. A copy of the Complaint Log is included as an attachment (Exhibit “A”) of this document.

GOALS

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

INTRODUCTION

In FY 2024, the Sun Corridor MPO has identified the following goals to ensure full compliance with Title VI, Environmental Justice and state and federal statutes.

REVIEW OF PROGRAM AREAS

The Title VI Coordinator provides oversight to the program areas. Annually, the Title VI Coordinator will report data collected throughout the year and explain the steps for each program area to comply with Title VI Program requirements.

- Executive Board Meetings
- Technical Advisory Meetings
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Air Quality Conformity
- CAG/SCMPO Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan
- Coolidge Route Optimization Study
- Regional Traffic Count, Data Collection and Mapping Project

Listed below are the goals for each program area.

Sun Corridor MPO Executive Board Meetings

It is the function of the Executive Board to act as a policy body, coordinating transportation planning and related implementation activities within the Sun Corridor MPO transportation region. The Board must approve all agreements and contracts, and the Chairman must sign all appropriate documents related to contracts and agreements.

The activities will include, but are not limited to approving previous meeting minutes, approving various federal required documents and discussing and planning various transportation related activities. Additionally, there will be open discussion and updates regarding the Air Quality Conformity, Transportation Improvement Program, CAG/SCMPO Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan, Regional Transportation Plan, and Pinal County Safety Study.

The July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 Executive Board meetings are scheduled for the second Tuesday of every other month at 10:00 A.M. and are rotated between the cities of Casa Grande, Eloy and Coolidge. A call-in option is available at all meetings. The public meetings will be held at locations that are easily accessible and ADA compliant. Accommodations based on language and disability are available with at least 48 hours prior to the meetings. At all Executive Board meetings, the Sun Corridor MPO will read and posts the “Title VI

Notice to the Public” and makes available as handouts “Your Rights Under Title VI” and “Self-Identification Survey” in English and Spanish. The Self-Identification Survey (English/Spanish) is also included on all agendas, website, and included in the MPO email meeting blast.

Sun Corridor MPO Executive Board Meetings

Date	Location
July 11, 2023	Casa Grande Council
September 12, 2023	Coolidge Council Chambers
November 14, 2023	Eloy City Hall Chambers
January 19, 2024 (Tentative)	Pinal County Complex, Casa Grande
March 12, 2024 (Tentative)	Casa Grande Council Chambers
May 14, 2023 (Tentative)	Coolidge Council Chambers
June 11, 2023 (Tentative)	Telephonic Meeting

Agendas will be posted a minimum of 5 – days prior to the meeting at the following locations:

- Sun Corridor MPO website: scmpo.org
- City of Casa Grande City Hall
- City of Casa Grande Public Library

The 2024 calendar of meetings will be published November/December 2023 in the Casa Grande Tri-Valley Dispatch and posted on the Sun Corridor MPO website at www.scmpo.org in both English and Spanish. The notice states the date of the meetings, time of the meetings and location of the meetings. It also states where the agendas for the meetings are posted. Upon request, citizens may receive, at no cost, an e-mailed meeting agenda or mailed hard copy.

Sun Corridor MPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The TAC has the authority and primary responsibility to conduct technical reviews regarding all work activities of the Unified Planning Work Program; to recommend project awards; and to advise the Executive Board on appropriate actions to be taken for the overall planning direction of the region.

The activities will include, but are not limited to approving previous meeting minutes, approving various federal required documents and discussing and planning various transportation related activities. Additionally, there is open discussion and updates regarding the Air Quality Conformity, Transportation Improvement Program, CAG/SCMPO Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan, Regional Transportation Plan, and Pinal County Safety Study.

The July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 TAC meetings are scheduled for the fourth Thursday of every other month at 1:00 P.M. and are rotated between the cities of Casa Grande, Eloy and Coolidge. A call-in option is available at all meetings. The public meetings are held at a location that is easily accessible and ADA compliant. Accommodations based on language

and disability are available with at least 48 hours prior to the meetings. At all TAC meetings the Sun Corridor MPO will read and post the “Title VI Notice to the Public” and makes available as handouts “Your Rights Under Title VI” and “Self-Identification Survey” in English and Spanish. The Self-Identification Survey (English/Spanish) is also included on all agendas, website, and included in the MPO email meeting blast.

Sun Corridor MPO TAC Meetings

Date	Location
August 24, 2023	City of Eloy City Hall
October 27, 2022	City of Coolidge Council Chambers
December 14, 2023	City of Casa Grande
February 22, 2024 (Tentative)	City of Eloy City Hall
April 25, 2024 (Tentative)	City of Coolidge Council Chambers
June 6, 2024 (Tentative)	City of Casa Grande

Agendas will be posted a minimum of 5 – days prior to the meeting at the following locations:

- Sun Corridor MPO website: scmpo.org
- City of Casa Grande City Hall
- City of Casa Grande Public Library

The 2024 calendar of meetings will be published November/December 2023 in the Casa Grande Tri-Valley Dispatch and posted on the Sun Corridor MPO website at scmpo.org in both English and Spanish. The notice states the date of the meetings, time of the meetings and location of the meetings. It also states where the agendas for the meetings are posted. Upon request, citizens may request and receive, at no cost, an e-mailed meeting agenda or mailed hard copy.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)/Air Quality Conformity for the pinal county pm-10 and pm-2.5 non-attainment areas

Administrative changes as well as TIP Amendments are posted on scmpo.org. The Sun Corridor Technical Advisory Committee meetings as well as the Sun Corridor MPO Executive Board meetings are open to the public, thereby providing opportunity for the public to comment on any TIP changes done by the Sun Corridor MPO.

A legal advertisement is planned for November 2023, for the 30-day Public Notice for the Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the Winter 2023 Air Quality Conformity Analysis of the 2023-2027 Sun Corridor MPO Transportation Improvement Program and Regional Transportation Plan update will be published in the Casa Grande Tri-Valley Dispatch and posted on the Sun Corridor MPO website at scmpo.org. All public notices will be made available in English and Spanish. The public will be given 30 days to comment.

A legal advertisement is planned for April 2024 for the 30-day Public Notice for the Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the Spring 2024 Air Quality Conformity Analysis of the Sun Corridor MPO Transportation Improvement Program will be published in the Casa Grande

Tri-Valley Dispatch paper and posted on the Sun Corridor MPO website at scmpo.org. All public notices will be made available in English and Spanish.

SCMPO Regional Transportation Plan 2050

This project will seek to engage the community and stakeholders through in-person events and an interactive project website. These outreach activities will ensure the community's input and needs are integrated into the process and inform planning efforts.

Public Outreach Round #2: Sharing a draft of the RTP 2050 plan along with a recommended investment strategy for future improvements.

Public Outreach Round #2 will include individual pop-up/ "piggyback" public engagement events for Casa Grande, Coolidge, and Eloy. These events will be held in-person and will present the SCMPO RTP 2050 draft for public comment and review. Event participants will be invited to review the draft and provide feedback through engagement exercises (comment posters, discussion, survey, etc.) designed to foster communication and collaboration to identify transportation needs and enhancements that the project team may have missed.

The project website content will be updated for Public Outreach Round #2 and will be available during the public comment period as an online resource for those who cannot attend the outreach meetings. The site will continue to utilize ArcGIS StoryMaps to collect public comments and feedback for the draft plan. Site visitors will have the ability to review project materials and information at their own pace.

In addition to public outreach, The Consultant Team will provide presentations to the SCMPO Executive Board (2), city councils of Casa Grande, Eloy, and Coolidge (3), and the Pinal County Board of Supervisors (1).

CAG/SCMPO Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan 2024

The Sun Corridor MPO will continue to partner with CAG to provide Mobility Management (MM) for both Pinal and Gila Counties. CAG and Sun Corridor MPO are committed to providing outreach to nonprofit agencies providing services to persons with disabilities to discuss regional coordination and collaborative planning opportunities in human services transportation. This includes outreach to stakeholders in Pinal County to ensure agencies in Pinal County from the small urban and rural areas have an opportunity to participate in regional coordination efforts. The Gila-Pinal Coordination meetings will be held every other month in Pinal and Gila Counties with the local and regional transit providers. Updates to the Human Services Transportation Coordination plan will begin in August 2022. CAG and the Sun Corridor MPO will obtain public/stakeholder input on the update to the Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan to ensure equal benefit to protected populations and to protect those populations from shouldering a disproportionate burden during the planning process. Public participation is welcomed and encouraged by CAG and the Sun Corridor MPO. Methods will include but not be limited to, public hearings, newspaper advertisements, small and large group presentations, committee meetings, website posts and e-mail correspondences. All public notices will be made available in English and Spanish.

Public Notices will be placed in the following newspapers:

- AJ News
- Casa Grande Dispatch - (Through Tri-Valley Dispatch)
- Florence Reminder
- San Manuel Miner
- Copper Basin News - (Kearny, Dudleyville, etc.)
- Superior Sun
- Silverbelt - (also Apache Moccasin, Copper Country News)
- Maricopa Monitor
- Payson Roundup

Pinal County Safety Plan/SCMPO Network Screening Crash and Analysis Tools Update

A LEP Four-Factor analysis will be conducted for this project. Public involvement is planned for this project; however, the Public Involvement Plan has not been finalized.

Greenlight Traffic Engineering will conduct at least three public outreach meetings or public open houses in Pinal County for the purpose of gathering public input regarding potential safety concerns. A second round of public meetings shall be conducted to inform the public on the findings of the Plan and to educate attendees on the safety concerns of the area.

Greenlight Traffic Engineering will also provide a minimum of five informational and educational presentations. Two of the presentations will be to the Pinal County Board of Supervisors. The remaining three will be to the Sun Corridor MPO Executive Board, Central Arizona Governments Regional Council, and Maricopa Association of Governments Management Committee.

Greenlight Traffic Engineering's experience in STSP development highlights the key ingredient for successful implementation of STSP recommendations: participation and buy-in from local agencies. The Greenlight Traffic Engineering team will meet with SCMPO's member agencies throughout the development of the plan to obtain information, feedback, and guidance, especially for identification of safety strategies and projects.

SUN CORRIDOR MPO WEBSITE

Update website to include approved Title VI documents. An accessibility test on the SCMPO website was completed in 2023 and it scored a 48 out of 75. We are looking at plugins/software that will bring it up to a score of 75 or higher. This will be a goal for this year.

REVIEW OF SUBRECIPIENTS

Continue to review all program areas and subrecipients for compliance with Title VI requirements.

REVIEW OF CONSULTANT CONTRACTS

The Title VI Coordinator is responsible for overseeing the preparation and execution of all planning study contracts for consultants to ensure Title VI compliance. Continue to review

all contracts for compliance through contract review, training, onsite visits and personal interviews of staff.

Consultant Contracts

- Regional Transportation Plan
- Pinal County Safety Plan/SCMPO Network Screening Crash and Analysis Tools Update

Contract Compliance

- Ensure contract includes most recently signed Assurances, Appendix A and E of the Assurances, DBE Provisions, and Prompt Pay and Reporting Provisions.
- Consultant reports monthly in the ADOT LPA DBE System to ensure compliance.
- Provide Technical assistance.
- Correct deficiencies if necessary.

TITLE VI TRAINING

The Title VI Coordinator will seek and offer Title VI training opportunities to MPO staff, committee members, and consultants in FY 2024.

- **Sun Corridor MPO Staff** - Annually, provide staff with Title VI Training, to include new hires. Staff will partake in FTA/FHWA Title VI and Environmental Justice Training that is made available throughout the year.
- **Executive Board** - This training will occur annually and functions as part training and debriefing regarding highlights from the previous reporting year. The training portion is high-level and is tailored to identify and address major challenges and special emphasis areas findings from the Title VI Implementation Plan and Annual Goals and Accomplishment Report.
- **Technical Advisory Committee** - This training will occur annually and functions as part training and debriefing regarding highlights from the previous reporting year. The training portion is high-level and is tailored to identify and address major challenges and special emphasis areas. Findings from the Title VI Implementation Plan and Annual Goals and Accomplishment Report.
- **Subrecipients/Consultants** – Subrecipients and Consultant contracts will be reviewed to ensure that the assurances are being followed, which will be followed by training. The content of the training is developed specifically to address the issues/challenges facing each subrecipient as communicated through the subrecipient review. At the current time, the Sun Corridor MPO does not have any subrecipients.

INVESTIGATIONS, LAWSUITS AND COMPLAINTS

The Sun Corridor MPO will strive to have zero complaints for FY2024.

APPENDIX A - COMPLAINT LOG



Annual Report Date: July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Title VI Complaints, Investigations and Lawsuits						
Description/Name	Date Month, Day & Year	Funding Source (FHWA or FTA)	Summary (Basis of Complaint)*	Status	Actions / Final Findings	
Complaints						
1) None						
2)						
3)						
Investigations						
1) None						
2)						
3)						
Lawsuits						
1) None						
2)						
3)						

*Specific category, i.e., Race, Color or National Origin

Report to be Submitted Annually to ADOIT Title VI Department; a NIL Report is Required