35th ANNUAL

Arizona's Statewide Transit Conference

El Conquistador Tucson









Presented by

AZTA ADOT





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First Transit welcomes you to Arizona's 35th Annual Statewide Transit Conference!

First Transit, your future mobility partner

For more than 65 years, First Transit has been the North American leader in mobility and maintenance solutions. We're committed to providing safe, reliable, high-quality mobility solutions to **improve quality of life** by connecting people and communities.

We tailor our solutions to your system's needs - connect with us: www.firsttransit.com!

- Fixed Route
- Paratransit
- Campus Transit
- Non-Emergency Medical Transportation
- Airport Shuttle

- Mobility-as-a-Service
- Microtransit
- Transit Management
- Maintenance Solutions
- Automated Vehicles



Conference Highlights

WEDNESDAY • APRIL 13



(1) 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Welcome & Opening Session (Turquoise Ballroom)

Keynote Presenter: Karen Hedlund, Member, President Biden's Surface Transportation Board

Ms. Hedlund served in the Obama Administration as Chief Counsel of the U.S. Federal Highway Administration (2009–2010), and as Chief Counsel and Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Federal Railroad Administration (2010–2014). Since stepping down from that position, she has advised governmental authorities and private investors on the development of passenger rail and transportation-oriented development projects.

4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Vendor Expo & Vehicle Showcase Reception (Turquoise Ballroom)









⊕ 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Transit Takeover Party (Last Territory at El Conquistador)

Thank you to our **TRANSIT TAKEOVER PARTY DIAMOND SPONSOR - SCHETKY BUS & VAN SALES!!** Don't miss our Transit Takeover Party on Wednesday evening (April 13th) at Last Territory, a Western-style mini-town! BBQ, drinks and entertainment included (wear your cowboy boots or flip flops)! Join the fun and catch up with your friends in the transit community!



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SURE-LOK

TUESDAY • APRIL 12

9 am - Noon Vendor & Vehicle Set-up (Turquoise Ballroom)

9 am - 10:30 am Mobility Managers Meeting (White Dove)

10:45 am - Noon Tribal Transit Meet & Greet (White Dove)

Facilitator: Donovan Gomez, Transit Administrator, Hopi Senom Transit

Whether you are under the U.S. Federal Transit
Administration (FTA) or a subgrantee under ADOT, come join
us for an informal Tribal Transit Meet & Greet! This will be a
time before the conference to reconnect with old friends and
meet new ones and to check in with each other on how we are
serving our communities during the pandemic, closures and
reduction in services, successes and problems, discussion
on CARES/CRRSAA/ARP funds and FTA formula funding,
opportunities with the new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
funds, interactions with FTA and ADOT, and your thoughts
and discussion on the FTA Civil Rights/Americans with
Disabilities Act Programs and Requirements for Indian
Tribes Fact Sheet. With times still uncertain for the country,
let alone Indian Country, let's take some time before the
conference to reconnect and to help each other by working
together.

Noon - 6 pm Conference Registration (Turquoise Ballroom)

Vendor Expo & Vehicle Showcase (Turquoise Ballroom)

2 pm - 4 pm ADOT Meet & Greet (White Dove)

Join ADOT Transit Staff, Mobility Managers, and 5310 and 5311 subrecipients from around the state for a meet-and-greet session. You will get to meet other agencies in your region and from across the state.

4 pm - 6 pm Welcome Reception featuring Vendor Expo & Vehicle Showcase (Turquoise Ballroom)

Enjoy light hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and catching up with your favorite friends in the transit world!

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WEDNESDAY • APRIL 13

7:30 am - 8:30 am Breakfast (Turquoise Ballroom)

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7:30 am - 4:30 pm Conference Registration (Turquoise Ballroom)

7:30 am - 6 pm Vendor Expo & Vehicle Showcase (Turquoise Ballroom)

8:30 am - 10 am Welcome & Opening Session (Turquoise Ballroom)

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10 am - Noon COG/MPO Meeting (White Dove)

Attendance by invitation only

10 am - 10:45 am AM Break (Turquoise Ballroom)

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10:45 am - 11:45 am BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Land Use, Transit, and the Economic Impact - The Link Between Transit Station Proximity and Real Estate Rents, Jobs, and People with Implications for Transit and Land Use Planning (Agave Ballroom)

Presenters: Arthur C. Nelson, PhD, ASCE, FACSS, FAICP, Professor of Urban Planning & Real Estate Development, University of Arizona; Ryan Levesque, Deputy Director-Planning, Tempe Community Development Department; Shellie Ginn, Deputy Director of Department of Transportation & Mobility, City of Tucson

This session includes an overview of the economic impacts that land uses and transit-oriented developments have after implementation. Findings will be presented from the University of Arizona research with special reference to streetcars and light rail in Arizona, as well as views from economic development and planning perspectives.

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National RTAP Update and eLearning Overview (Coronado I)

Presenter: Scott Zadakis, National RTAP, eLearning Project Manager

This session will discuss new developments, projects, and efforts at the National Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) before delving into National RTAP's eLearning system. In the eLearning portion of the session, any attendees with laptops are encouraged to follow along during an overview of how to sign up and use the platform, courses currently offered or in development, and how eLearning can enhance training and compliance programs at agencies and organizations. As a program of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), National RTAP technical assistance services and resources (including eLearning) are free of charge.

SPONSOR: National RTAP

FTA Grants Overview (Coronado II)

Presenters: Ted Matley, FTA Region 9 Director of Planning and Program Development; Arianna Valle, FTA Region 9 General Engineer

Attend this session to find out more about the FTA grant cycle, including prerequisites, preparing grant applications, requirements once grants are active, and the process to close out grants. Learn the foundational steps to ensure FTA grant applications are successful and processed efficiently.

Working Together for the Successful Energy Transition of Agency Fleets (Joshua Tree)

Presenters: Steve Spade, RATP Dev USA, GM, Tucson Sun Tran, Sun Link, and Sun Van; Rhett Crowninshield, City of Tucson, Transit Administrator; Robert Smith, RATP Dev USA, VP of Client Relations

This presentation will overview the drivers, challenges, and desired outcomes with transitioning agency fleets to new energy while describing the important partnerships between contractors and agencies before, during, and after a transition to new energy. From a community's expectations to choosing the right energy technology, this presentation will explore several factors that need consideration, and the ways private contractors can support agencies in making these important fleet decisions

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Noon - 1:30 pm

Networking Lunch (Turquoise Ballroom)

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1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

A Myriad of Obstacles: Reworking the Downtown Phoenix Bus Network (Agave Ballroom)

Presenters: Becky Santiago, HDR, Transportation Planner II; Kevin Teng, City of Phoenix Public Transit Department, Principal Planner

Downtown Phoenix is transforming, but the transformation period can be messy. The closing of Central Avenue at CityScape for the South Central Light Rail Extension/ Downtown Hub project and closure of Central Station for the Central Station Redevelopment Project had a domino effect on the operations of more than 25 bus routes. This session will cover the approach, challenges, and solutions achieved during the development and implementation of the Downtown Construction Reroute Plan.

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National RTAP: Effective Tribal Transit Leadership and Maintaining Strong Tribal Council Relationships (Coronado I)

Presenter: Michia Casebier, M.G. Tech-Writing, LLC, President

As a tribal transit or transportation manager, relationships with employees, Tribal Council members, riders, and the public matter. Tribal transit program management and operation require strong leadership at all service levels as a means of doing the right thing while also doing things right. This session will offer strategies for building sound working relationships with transit stakeholders, including but not limited to Tribal Council leadership, with whom open communication will create both a context and community value for tribal transit; frankness about mistakes and challenges; responsiveness to rider complaints; and sincere invitations for feedback.

SPONSOR: National RTAP

FTA Environmental 101: Environmental Compliance and Categorical Exclusions (Coronado II)

Presenter: Mary Nguyen, FTA Region 9, Environmental Protection Specialist

Under the National Environmental Policy Act, a categorical exclusion (CE) is a class of actions that a federal agency has determined, after review by the Council of Environmental Quality, do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and for which neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is normally required. This presentation provides an introduction to FTA Region 9 and transit agency roles and responsibilities for documenting and determining if a project qualifies for a CE. It also touches on compliance of other laws, such as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, for projects with a CE.

Integrated Mobility: The Future of Demand-Responsive Transit (Joshua Tree)

Presenters: Robert Williams, Supervisor of Golden Empire Transit; Krista Glotzbach, Western U.S. Partnerships for Via

Imagine a world in which cities and transit agencies can simultaneously integrate and operate multiple modes (on demand, NEMT, paratransit, and fixed-route) leveraging the unique capabilities of each mode, while improving overall network efficiency, access, and rider experience. That world is already here, and several transit providers can prove it. From California to Utah to Delaware — in rural, suburban, and urban environments — communities are proving it is possible for a single technology platform to dynamically plan, coordinate, and optimize all services under one transit network. In this session, Krista Glotzbach from Via will interview Robert Williams, Supervisor of Golden Empire Transit in Bakersfield, CA, about their vision, successes, and learnings from deploying an integrated mobility service in Bakersfield.

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Managing Change: Three Ways to Win Hearts & Change Minds (White Dove)

Presenter: Susan Clutter, Ecolane, Business Development Director

We've all heard it before: managing organizational change is not easy. That's because behind the many systems and processes that exist within an organization, you find people. It's hard to believe that when organizations are going through change, they can overlook the key component that underlies everything in business — humans. Taking a people-centered approach to managing change is your best bet, because winning hearts and minds moves people to change.

2:30 pm - 3 pm

PM Break (Turquoise Ballroom)

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3 pm - 4/4:30 pm

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

AzTA Legislative Update: Local, State, and Federal (Agave Ballroom)

Presenters: Heather Dalmolin, Chief Executive Officer at Mountain Line (NAIPTA); Rich Sampson, Executive Director at South West Transit Association; John MacDonald, Partner at Policy AZ; Vincent "Vinny" Gallegos, Executive Director at Central Yavapai Metropolitan Planning Organization (CYMPO)

Hear the latest transit news related to legislation funding and policy from a local, state, and federal perspectives. Understand more about the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and its impact in Arizona.

3 pm - 4:30 pm

National RTAP: Tribal Transit Planning (Coronado I)

Presenter: Michia Casebier, M.G. Tech-Writing, LLC, President

This interactive session provides an overview of the comprehensive transit planning process and how to translate transit plans and/or feasibility studies into proactive implementation of service on the ground. Discussion will cover community engagement for program development, transit committee member recruitment and retention, transit service planning, transit plan updates, and tribal transit program resources. Examples will be shared of how tribes have overcome common program challenges (e.g., transit staff recruitment/retention, low-density population, large service areas, long travel distances, dispersed destination, service coordination and technical capacity, territoriality, and unwillingness to coordinate services).

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3 pm - 4 pm

Title VI and ADA Federal Compliance Requirements Review (Coronado II)

Presenters: Joanna Lucero, ADOT Civil Rights Specialist, ADA; Ruth Garcia, ADOT Civil Rights Specialist, Title VI

Q&A Support: Danielle Valentine, ADOT ADA/504 Program Manager; Jesse Zaragoza, ADOT Title VI Program Manager

Please join ADOT Civil Rights as we review Title VI and ADA Compliance Requirements. During this session, we will also briefly discuss the 5310 self-certification process and 5311 Implementation Plan overview. We will finish our

session with a Q&A regarding compliance with Civil Rights requirements and processes.

Work Force Hiring Trends: Finding the Elusive Driver (Joshua Tree)

Presenter: James Wagner, Mountain Line, Operations Director

In this session, we will discuss Mountain Line's past and current hiring trends, recruitment and retention challenges, and encourage audience participation on what they've tried to balance the driver work force.

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Beyond Performative Allyship: 10 Takeaways for Leveraging your Diversity & Inclusion Council (White Dove)

Presenters: Alicia Lingane, Transdev, Operational Performance Manager/Co-Chair of Diversity & Inclusion Council; Katrina Heineking, Transdev, COO, Executive Sponsor of Diversity & Inclusion Council

As the transportation industry faced uncertainties and changing priorities during the pandemic, it was a constant challenge to prioritize diversity and inclusion initiatives. Learn how Transdev's Diversity & Inclusion Council led the organization's road map and kept the momentum moving forward. You'll learn how:

- The launch of the Mentor@Transdev program helped minimize disruption from the Great Resignation
- "Ask Me Anything" sessions started important conversations about inclusion and showing up as your authentic self
- Executive Sponsors leveraged their role to accomplish initiatives
- The diversity of the D&I Council members helped empower them to serve as active change agents at different levels and locations in the company

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4 pm - 6 pm

Vendor Expo & Vehicle Showcase Reception (Turquoise Ballroom)

Our 2022 vendors are excited to talk to each of you about their products and services. This is a great happy hour with drinks and light refreshments!

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SCOTT SMITH

We wish you ALL THE BEST!



As the CEO of Valley Metro, Scott has been responsible for the operation, design, and construction of an expanding regional transit network in the Greater Phoenix area. He joined Valley Metro in February 2016 as the interim CEO and was asked to remain as CEO in November. During his

tenure, he helped stabilize the organization, restore Valley Metro's reputation, and lead the agency to new heights. Under his leadership, Valley Metro has achieved a strong financial and audit track record and operates its bus, rail, and paratransit services more efficiently and at a lower cost than its peer agencies. After 5 ½ years of service,

Scott announced his recent retirement. The region is grateful for his steadfast leadership and advocacy for transit, infrastructure investments, and sustainable development that has greatly benefited thousands of daily riders and the entire community. Scott served as an active member of the AzTA Board of Directors during those years. We sincerely appreciate his commitment to AzTA and transit in Arizona.

6 pm - 8 pm

Transit Takeover Party (Last Territory - a Western-style mini-town at El Conquistador)

BBQ, drinks, and entertainment included (wear your cowboy boots or flip flops)! Join the fun and catch up with your friends in the transit community!



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THURSDAY • APRIL 14

8 am - 9 am Breakfast (Turquoise Ballroom)

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BREAKOUT SESSIONS 9 am - 10 am

Next Steps in Securing Local Match (Agave Ballroom)

Presenter: Rich Sampson, Executive Director, South West Transit Association

With federal transit funding programs increasing 40% and above under the new BIL/IIJA compared to previous authorization eras, the need to obtain additional non-federal share to match that investment also grows. This session will outline additional opportunities for state, local and other sources of matching funds, but also detail strategies to deliver them and examples of innovative approaches from across the country



Overview of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Provisions for FTA Tribal Transit Programs (Coronado I)

Presenter: Ray Tellis, FTA Region 9 Regional Administrator

An FTA representative will provide a briefing on the enhanced funding opportunities available for the transit tribal program under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Please note that this session will not cover the FTA grant application process. FTA Region 9 will conduct a separate training webinar to cover this area, including instructions related to TrAMS (FTA's electronic grant making system).

TSA/DHS Suspicious Activity/IED Recognition (Coronado II)

Presenter: Sharon Mathews, Transportation Security Administration, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Transportation Security Inspector Surface (TSI-S)

This session will cover the definition of terrorism, identifying suspicious activities, and explosive effects and motivation for using improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Learn about increasing security and the free programs TSA/DHS offers to increase security for transit and rail.



Heather celebrated 20 years of public transit service with Mountain Line on January 16, 2022. She started working in the Accounting Department when Mountain Line had four routes, six buses, and

about 200,000 riders a year. Today, she is the CEO and General Manager of an organization that operates nine routes with 28 hybrid-electric buses and ridership that topped 2.5 million pre-COVID. Heather rose through the ranks at Mountain Line,

becoming one of the most respected public transit officials in the state. She took the helm at Mountain Line right before the COVID-19 pandemic struck and guided the agency through unprecedented times with a steady hand and unwavering professionalism. Much has changed in 20 years, but Mountain Line and the entire Arizona transit industry are better off for Heather's leadership, dedication, and compassion.

Congratulations on 20 years and thank you for your service!

9 am - 10 am

Accident Reduction and Prevention: Sharing Best Practices (Joshua Tree)

Presenters: Michael Alexander, Senior Transit Crew Leader; Jon Hawbaker, Transit Crew Leader (both from Town of Oro Valley, Sun Shuttle Dial-a-Ride)

Oro Valley staff will show how they drove its accident rate from 1 per 25k miles to 1 per 94k miles while increasing what is considered an accident. Through consistent sharing of information, technology, and a little outside help, its drivers are more aware of vehicle size, vehicle maneuverability, and better passenger awareness. Acting on driver concerns over passenger needs and keeping in mind agency requirements, the town obtains buy-in from passengers to better assist them. Tools used include the ADOT grant process, scheduling software, vehicle cameras, the local police department, and good ole' Excel spreadsheets.

10 am - 10:30 am

AM Break (Turquoise Ballroom)

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10:30 am - 11:30 am

GENERAL SESSION | One DOT: FTA/FHWA's
Partnership Enhances Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
Implementation (Turquoise Ballroom)

Presenters: Ray Tellis, FTA Region 9 Regional Administrator; Karla Petty, FHWA Arizona Division Administrator

Don't miss the opportunity to hear about the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which created the largest federal investment in public transit's history. Topics include DOT Priorities of Safety, Modernization, Climate and Equity; the One DOT philosophy between FTA Region 9 and FHWA Arizona Division, and how we are working with all partners to enhance transportation in Arizona.

11:45 am - 1 pm

AzTA's 35th Anniversary Luncheon (Turquoise Ballroom)

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1 pm - 4:30 pm

Offer A Mobile Trip Planner Using Free General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) Builder, A Hands-On Workshop (Coronado I)

Presenter: Marcy Jaffe, MBA, MPA (Transnnovation Inc., support for National RTAP GTFS Builder)

As we explore how to welcome back riders in 2022, can your riders find you with a no-cost billboard that answers "here we are and here's where we go?" National RTAP's free toolkit will put your bus stops and next departures on Google Maps, Apple Maps, Transit App, CityMapper, and more. This will be hands-on, confidence-building training (or you are welcome to observe). Bring your laptop with Excel and Google Earth Desktop version. Let's save many hours for your dispatchers who answer "when's the next bus to..?" and soon riders will carry your current schedule on their phones – with no downloads needed! Looking forward to having you join us.

Separate pre-registration required for this free workshop

SPONSOR: National RTAP

(1) 11:45 am - 1 pm

AzTA's 35th Anniversary Luncheon (Turquoise Ballroom)

Happy Anniversary!!



- CELEBRATING 35 YEARS -

Arizona Transit Association (AzTA)

is a non-profit statewide organization dedicated to improving public transportation in all Arizona communities. AzTA's mission is to provide leadership in the funding, advocacy, and

education for public transportation services throughout Arizona.

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Thank you to the many **conference volunteers** – you make a difference!

Meet Our 2022 Vendors



















































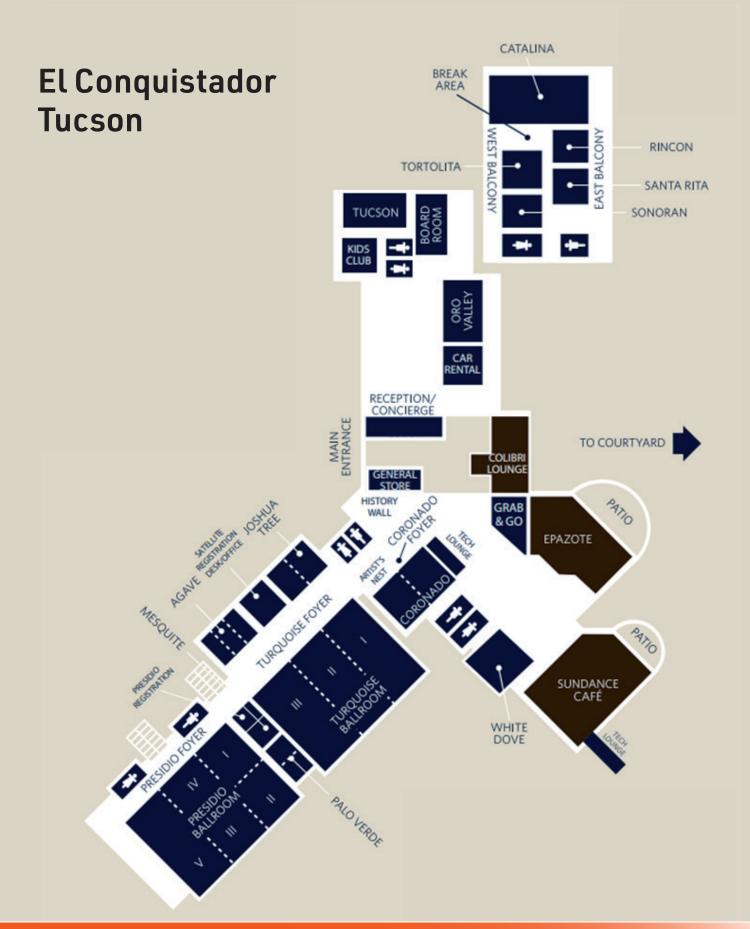








Conference Center Map



Conference Schedule

	Agave Ballroom	Coronado I	Coronado II	Joshua Tree	White Dove	
TUESDAY, APRIL 12						
9A - Noon	Vendor & Vehicle Set-up (Turquoise Ballroom)				(9A-10:30A) Mobility Managers Meeting	
					(10:45A-Noon) Tribal Transit Meet & Greet	
Noon – 6P	Conference Registration (Turquoise Ballroom)				(2P-4P) ADOT Meet & Greet	
	Vendor Expo & Vehicle Showcase (Turquoise Ballroom)					
4P - 6P	Welcome Reception featuring Vendor Expo & Vehicle Showcase (Turquoise Ballroom)					
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13						
7:30A - 8:30A	Breakfast (Turquoise Ballroom)					
7:30A-6P	Conference Registration (Turquoise Ballroom/4:30P) Vendor Expo & Vehicle Showcase (Turquoise Ballroom/6P)					
8:30A - 10A	Welcome & Opening Session (Turquoise Ballroom)					
10A - 10:45A	AM Break (Turquoise Ballroom)					
10:45A - 11:45A	Land Use, Transit, and the Economic Impact	National RTAP Update and eLearning Overview	FTA Grants Overview	Working Together for the Successful Energy Transition of Agency Fleets	(10A-Noon) COG/MPO Meeting Attendance by Invitation Only	
Noon - 1:30P	Networking Lunch (Turquoise Ballroom)					
1:30P - 2:30P	A Myriad of Obstacles: Reworking the Downtown Phoenix Bus Network	National RTAP: Effective Tribal Transit Leadership and Maintaining Strong Tribal Council Relationships	FTA Environmental 101: Environmental Compliance and Categorical Exclusions	Integrated Mobility: The Future of Demand-Responsive Transit	Managing Change: Three Ways to Win Hearts & Change Minds	
2:30P - 3P	PM Break (Turquoise Ballroom)					
3P - 4P/4:30P	AzTA Legislative Update: Local, State, and Federal	(3P-4:30P) National RTAP: Tribal Transit Planning	Title VI and ADA Federal Compliance Requirements Review	Work Force Hiring Trends: Finding the Elusive Driver	Beyond Performative Allyship: 10 Takeaways for Leveraging Your Diversity & Inclusion Council	
4P - 6P	Vendor Expo & Vehicle Showcase Reception (Turquoise Ballroom)					
6P - 8P	Transit Takeover Party (Last Territory at El Conquistador)					
THURSDA	HURSDAY, APRIL 14					
8A - 9A	Breakfast (Turquoise Ballroom)					
9A -10A	Next Steps in Securing Local Match	Overview of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Provisions for FTA Tribal Transit Programs	TSA/DHS Suspicious Activity/ IED Recognition	Accident Reduction and Prevention: Sharing Best Practices	-	
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1P -4:30P	-	Offer A Mobile Trip Planner Using Free GTFS Builder, a Hands-on Workshop Separate Pre-registration Required	-	-	-	