

# FTA/FHWA Advancing Transportation Together in Arizona

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Arizona's 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Statewide  
Transit Conference  
October 20, 2020



- Continuing Resolution keeps government open through December 11<sup>th</sup> (passed October 1<sup>st</sup>)
- House passed \$1.3 trillion ‘minibus’ bill on July 31<sup>st</sup>
- Also includes \$26 billion to enhance infrastructure resiliency and economic recovery

- President signed FAST Act one-year extension w/CR bill (October 1<sup>st</sup>)
- Includes a transfer from General Fund to Highway Trust Fund - \$13.6 billion (\$10.4B Highway & \$3.2B Transit)
- House passed Moving America Forward Act
- Includes INVEST Act; 5-year reauthorization for surface transportation programs

- INVEST Act (HR 2) proposes \$494 billion to replace FAST Act and addresses 5 priorities:
  - Ensure the Safety of Public Transportation
  - Build Infrastructure More Efficiently
  - Invest in both Rural and Urban America
  - Take Care of What You Own & Improve Accessibility
  - Prepare for the Future

- Passed by House in mid-May at 3.0 trillion w/significant funding for infrastructure programs; \$15.75 billion for transit
- Senate Republicans unveiled \$1 trillion bill (HEALS Act) – July 27<sup>th</sup>
- Currently House negotiations underway with WH on a \$2.2 trillion bill vs. \$1.8 trillion; Senate working on a \$500 million bill
- House version contains \$32 billion in stimulus funds for transit

- 23 USC 134 – Metropolitan Transportation Planning (Highways)
- 23 USC 135 – Statewide and Nonmetropolitan Transportation Planning (Highways)
- 49 USC 5303 – Metropolitan Transportation Planning (Transit)
- 49 USC 5304 – Statewide and Nonmetropolitan Transportation Planning (Transit)

- Administer federal planning funds
- Provide technical assistance to planning partners, including public transit providers
- Review and approval of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)
- Review and approval of the Unified Planning Work Programs for Metropolitan Planning Organizations
- Certify of the transportation planning processes for large MPOs

- The HTF has two accounts: the Highway Account and the Mass Transit Account

## Highway Account

- Includes programs from FHWA, FMCSA, NHTSA, and OST
- Receives cash from all the HTF taxes
- FY 2019 revenue was **\$39.4 billion**

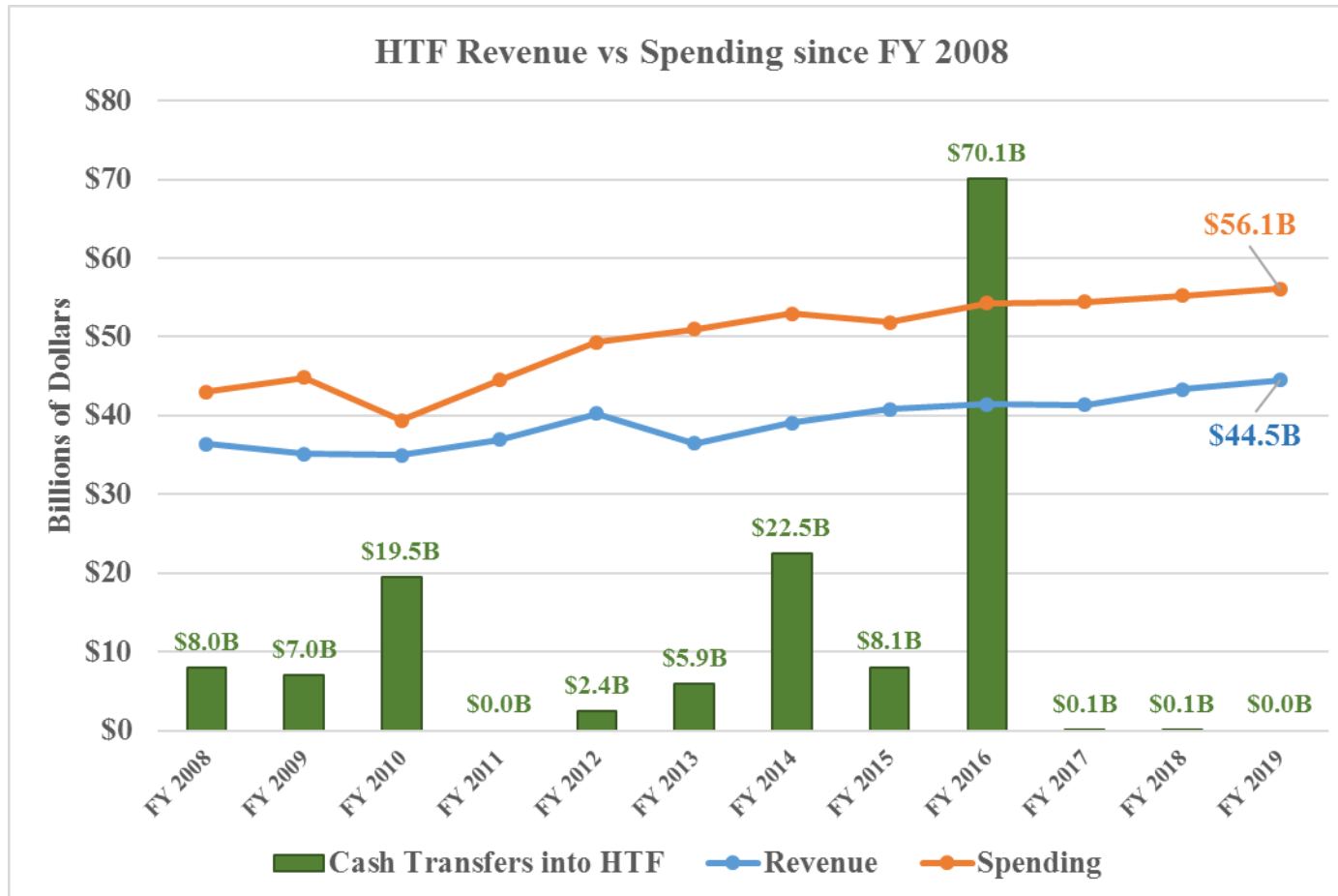
## Mass Transit Account

- Includes programs from FTA
- Receives cash only from gas and diesel taxes
- FY 2019 revenue was **\$5.5 billion**



# Highway Trust Fund

- The HTF is annually spending nearly \$12 billion more than its receipts.



# Pedestrian Safety

- Safety is the top priority for U.S. DOT
  - Includes safety of all users
- [Pedestrian Safety Summit](#)
  - July 2020
  - Three virtual sessions
  - Informing Federal Action
- October is National Pedestrian Safety Month



# Every Day Counts – 4 & 5

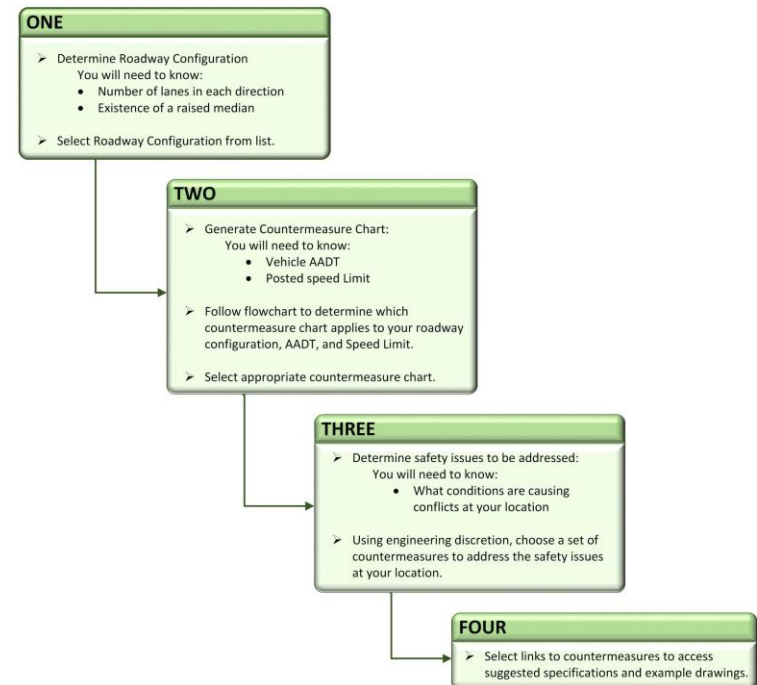
## Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian

### Safe Transportation for Every Pedestrian (STEP)

- Countermeasures

- Crosswalk visibility enhancements
- Leading Pedestrian Interval (LPI)
- Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB)
- Pedestrian Refuge Island
- Raised Crosswalk
- Road Diet
- Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacon

- Arizona STEP tool



<https://azdot.gov/azstep>

# Every Day Counts – Round 6



Shorten Project Delivery



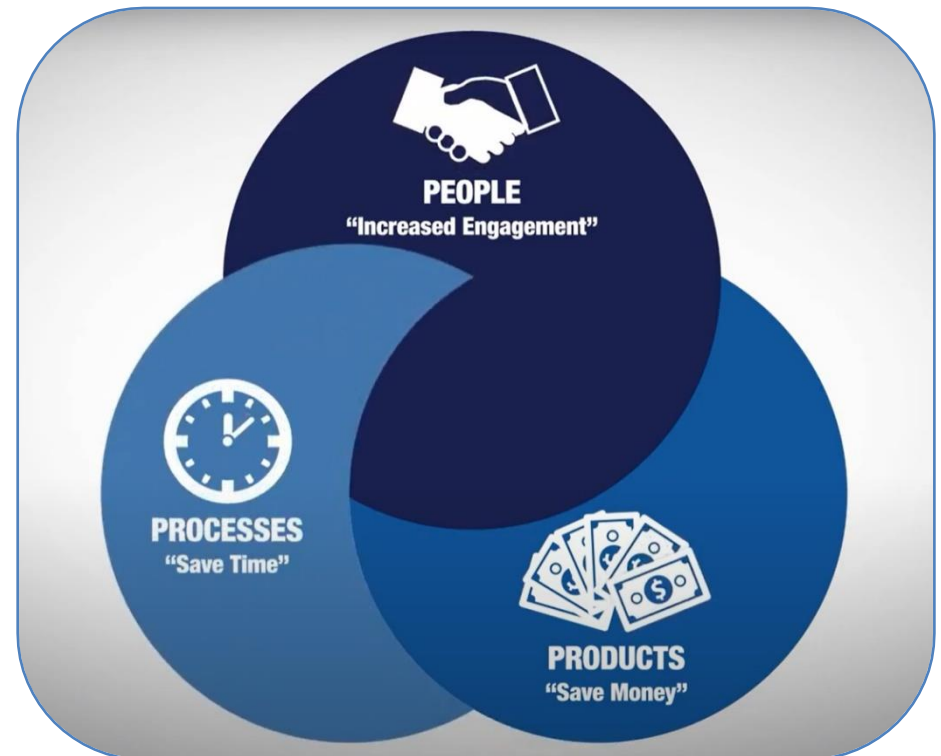
Enhance Roadway Safety



Reduce Traffic Congestion



Integrate Automation



# Every Day Counts – Round 6



- Crowdsourcing for Operations
- E-Ticketing and Digital As-Builts
- Next-Generation TIM: Strategic Workforce Development
- Targeted Overlay Pavement Solutions
- UHPC for Bridge Preservation and Repair
- Virtual Public Involvement

[https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/everydaycounts/edc\\_6/](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/everydaycounts/edc_6/)

# AZ



# COGs & MPOs

COGs and MPOs have been established in the state of Arizona to deal with issues and needs that cross city, town, county, and state boundaries.

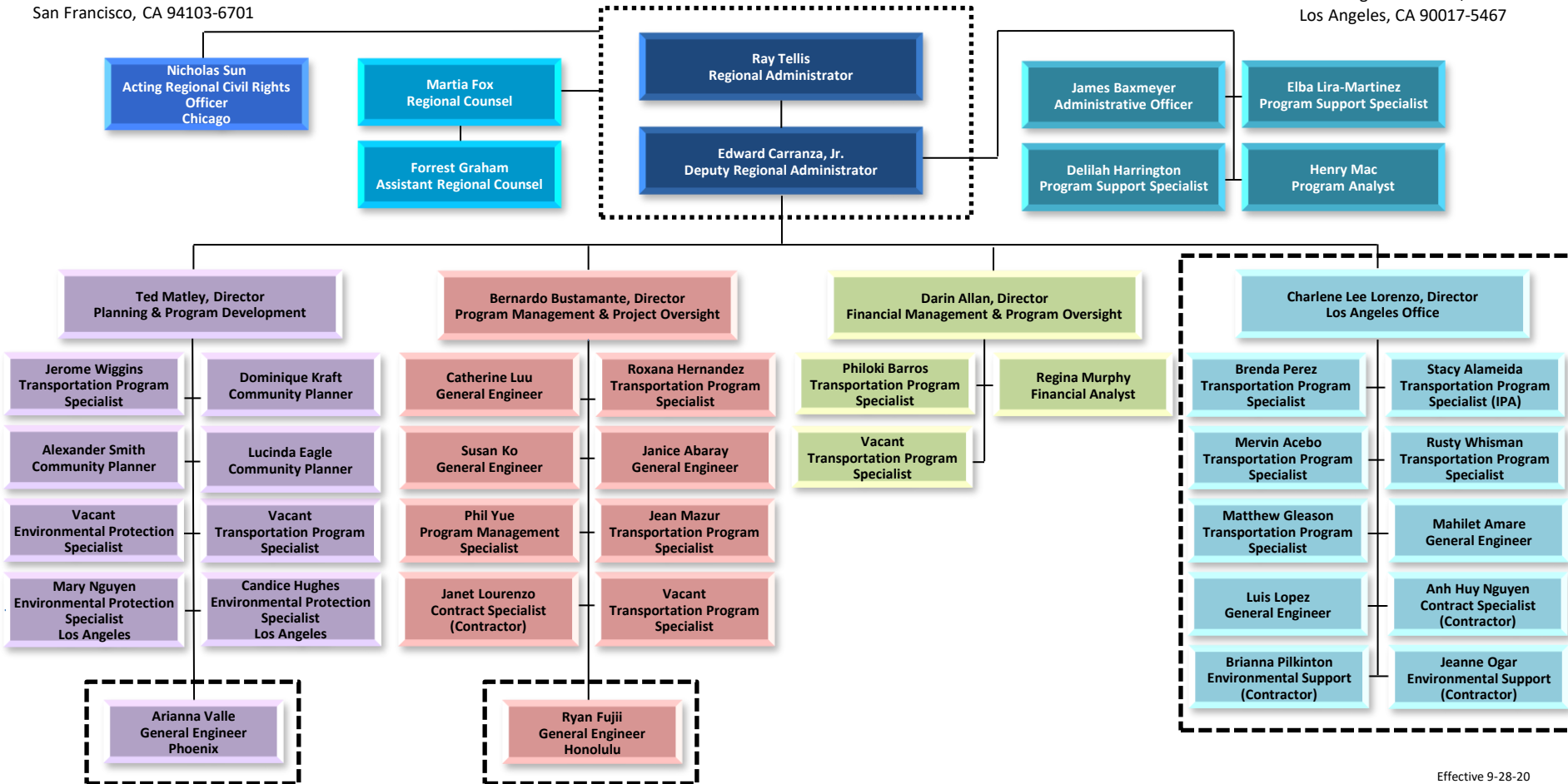


# Federal Transit Administration, Region 9



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Los Angeles Office  
888 South Figueroa Street, Suite 440  
Los Angeles, CA 90017-5467



Effective 9-28-20

- President Trump signed the [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#) into law on March 27, 2020
- FTA allocated \$25 billion to recipients of urbanized area and rural area formula funds
  - \$22.7 billion to large and small urban areas
  - \$2.2 billion to rural areas
- Funding provided at a 100% federal share to support capital, operating, and other expenses to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19



- Operating expenses (no limit) after January 20, 2020 were eligible, as well as, paying for administrative leave for transit personnel due to reduced operations during an emergency
- Expanded eligibility using existing federal assistance under FTA's Emergency Relief Program to help transit agencies respond to COVID-19
- Exclusion from TIP/STIP for operating projects and recovery and rebuild capital projects

- Provided administrative relief from reporting requirements, oversight reviews, and some regulatory deadlines and developed FAQs, Email site & Docket
- As of September 25<sup>th</sup>, FTA awarded 758 CARES Act grants totaling \$23.3 billion or 94% of the \$25 billion allocated to transit; \$374M for SFMTA
- Face coverings distributions for transit employees and passengers – 2,200 transit agencies
  - 1st shipment - 4.6 million for transit workers
  - 2nd shipment - 9.6 million for transit patrons

# COVID-19 Current Status – Transit Operations

- Pre-COVID-19 ridership at 32M trips
- Ridership from +7% to -81% all time low (April 2020), and now at -63%
- Down to 6.1M trips and now up to 12M trips
- 64 transit services suspended and 340 agencies with reduced services
  - Reduced Services Frequencies – 56%
  - Driver Barriers – 57%
  - Rear Door Boarding – 36%
  - Reduced Seating Capacity – 44%

## Apportionments:

- FY2021 based on 2019 NTD data (pre COVID-19);  
FY2022 on higher of 2019 or 2020 data;  
FY2023 on higher of 2019 or 2021 data
- Deferred oversight reviews
- Use of non-Federalized contracts for Operations
- Revised PMO Rule raises the total project cost threshold for projects to be considered “major capital projects,” thus permitting FTA to eliminate project management requirements for certain projects

- Due to extraordinary COVID-19 operational challenges, FTA issued a [Notice of Enforcement Discretion](#) **effectively extending the PTASP compliance deadline from July 20, 2020 to December 31, 2020**
- Technical Assistance Center now active and will conduct survey on where assistance is needed to those agencies that have not Certified as yet

- FTA COVID-19 Resource Tool
- FTA COVID-19 Recovery Listening Sessions (6)
- Safety Advisory 20-01; Recommended actions to reduce COVID-19 risk for transit
- FTA COVID-19 Recovery Vendor List
- CARES Act & COVID-19 FAQs
- Other guidance and links to CDC transit-specific guidelines

- The Oversight Reviews (TRs & SMRs) have been deferred due to COVID-19 in consideration of impacts to transit agencies
- FY2020 reviews will take place in FY2021, FY2021 reviews in FY2022, and FY2022 reviews in FY2023
- All FY2020 catch-up reviews will be conducted virtually starting in January-March 2021

- All staff on maximum telework status – Week 32
- High priority for CARES Act grant applications
- Developed tools to streamline grant processing
- Awarded 125 grants for **\$4.3B** in just six months
- Facilitated delivery of face coverings to Region 9 grantees – 2 million
- Top-10 Economic Impacts Reports
- Daily Situation Reports/Spot Reports
- Adding 3 new CARES Act positions



- FTA presence in Phoenix to now serve programs in Arizona
- Expanded footprint for the Los Angeles office to now serve Southern California
- FTA presence in Honolulu to now serve programs in Hawaii and US Pacific Territories
- Two environmental contractors for Los Angeles program

## Priority for Rural and Tribal programs

- Training modules on webpage
- Webinars
- Checklists, templates and sample documents
- One-on-one training
- Training sessions at FHWA Division offices in jurisdictional states

- **INFRASTRUCTURE**
  - For Asset Management establish an integrated process of addressing TAM in FTA programs; consistent structured, multilayered oversight of TAM compliance. Managed in the grant development process
  - Improved consistency in the application of environmental policies
  - Develop value capture resources and technical assistance for grantees

- **INNOVATION**
  - Develop a set of at least 3 proven safety technology solutions
  - Issue over \$12M in grants to test approaches to further mobility in transit; leverage technologies including automation and integrated fare payment
- **ACCOUNTABILITY**
  - Reduce unliquidated obligations
  - Reduce unobligated balances

- Value capture provides innovative and effective financial tools to stimulate investment
- FTA moved from value capture to “value creation.”
- Transit projects tend to increase property values by 30 to 40 percent on average, and up to 150 percent where conditions are ideal
- Businesses, governments and taxpayers step up to the table to contribute to transit projects across the country – putting skin in the game – recognizing that they can reap the rewards of the value created through better mobility options

- First substantive update to the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA since 1986
- Proposes changes to implement best practices, past CEQ guidance and reports, and Presidential directives (e.g., One Federal Decision)
- Proposes Federal agencies update their NEPA regulations to reflect the updated CEQ NEPA regulations within 12 months of CEQ's final rule (June 2021)

- Modernize, Simplify and Accelerate the NEPA Process
  - Time limits; 2 years for EISs & 1 year for EAs
  - Page limits for EISs - 150 pages (300 for proposals of unusual scope or complexity) & 75 pages for EAs
  - Require a single EIS and ROD for EISs involving multiple agencies, where appropriate
  - Enhance Coordination with States, Tribes, and Localities (eliminate provisions that limit Tribal interest to only reservations)

- Clarify Terms, Application & Scope of NEPA Review
- Reduce Unnecessary Burdens, Delays
  - Allow agencies to establish procedures for adopting other agencies' CEs (i.e., the categories of actions)
  - Allow agencies to adopt another agency's approved CE for a specific project



- TrAMS – November 5<sup>th</sup>
- ECHO – October 5<sup>th</sup>
- FTA Region 9 processed 425 grant activities in FY2020 amounting to \$7.7 billion
- Region 9 will conduct 35 Triennial/State Management Reviews in FY2021
- Overall, Region 9 oversees a total portfolio of over \$9.5 billion with over 1,000 active grants

- Transit Innovation & Safety (Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>) - \$9.1M
- Transit Innovations for COVID-19 Recovery (Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>) - \$10M
- Transit Planning for Communities Nationwide (Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>) - \$6.2M
- DOT BUILD Program (Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>) - \$1B
- NOFO Expedited Project Delivery Pilot Program (July 29<sup>th</sup>) - \$225M; Region 9 VTA Silicon Valley Phase II project allocated \$125M

Thank you!

As things change, one constant is FHWA's and FTA's  
commitment to our stakeholders

