

Expediting Planning and Environmental Review of Key Global Transportation Projects in the Intermountain West Region

Request for Your Involvement

In order to accelerate delivery of key global transportation projects within the Intermountain West Region (IWR), it is necessary to work across political boundaries and develop networks to collaborate and leverage efforts across the Intermountain West. We seek your early and continued input in this two-year effort. Our goal is to better expedite planning and environmental review so that a transportation vision, risk register and common GIS platform are developed for the region.



The Intermountain West Region

The IWR is critical to the long-term economic vitality of this nation. Once fully developed, nationally significant corridors within the region would strategically link east-west and north-south movement of people and freight. Now is the critical time to address the transportation network and other infrastructure in the region, thereby improving the economies of both the region and the nation and enhancing global competitiveness. Robust cooperation among the various affected entities will be needed to make this a reality.

FHWA SHRP 2 Grant

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) awarded a grant to the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) to work with other key agencies in this region to jumpstart a multiphase effort to:

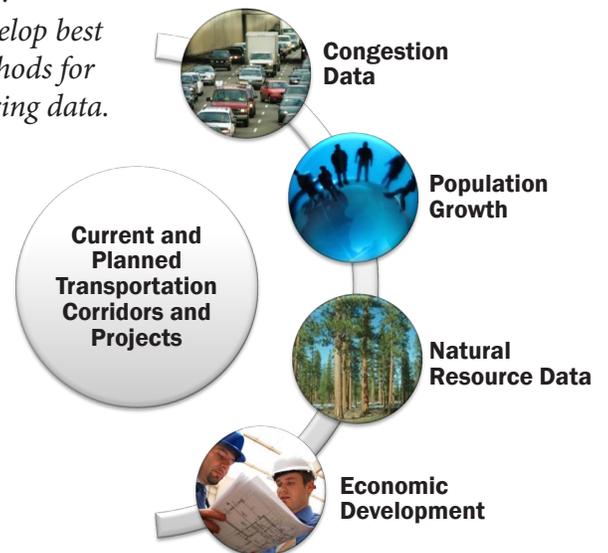


- Conduct outreach to the Transportation Management Areas (TMAs) and state DOTs to identify needs and potential gaps as related to transportation and data resources.
- Develop a GIS common operating vision/platform for easier data information sharing.
- Align expectations for a long-range vision to move people and goods in the IWR.
- Develop report with risk register.

GIS Common Operating Vision/Platform for IWR

A common operating vision/platform for the IWR would provide decision makers with better situational awareness of the region and be able to make more fully informed decisions. This project aims to build upon existing collaborative efforts to best leverage resources and eliminate redundancies. Working collaboratively, the Technical/GIS IWR Project Team will:

- Assess available GIS data resources through a survey.
- Develop a common GIS vision/platform.
- Collaborate on data confictions, data standards and gaps.
- Develop best methods for sharing data.



Align Expectations

The IWR is a network of widely dispersed metropolitan regions with diverse land management (private, state trust, Indian Trust and a significant amount of federal land). Key stakeholders in this region include: TMAs, the Western Regional Alliance, Intermountain MPOs, state Departments of Transportation, Regional Intertribal Organizations, the Bureau of Land Management, the Federal Highway Administration, the U.S. National Park Service, the Department of Defense, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the U.S. Fish and Wild Service and other relevant federal, tribal, state and local agencies. Outreach will be conducted to foster interagency relationships and collaboration. A communications network of policy makers will be established to identify:

- *Stakeholder expectations.*
- *Issue priorities.*
- *Areas of commonality.*
- *Potential areas of conflict.*
- *Methods of reducing or resolving areas of conflict.*

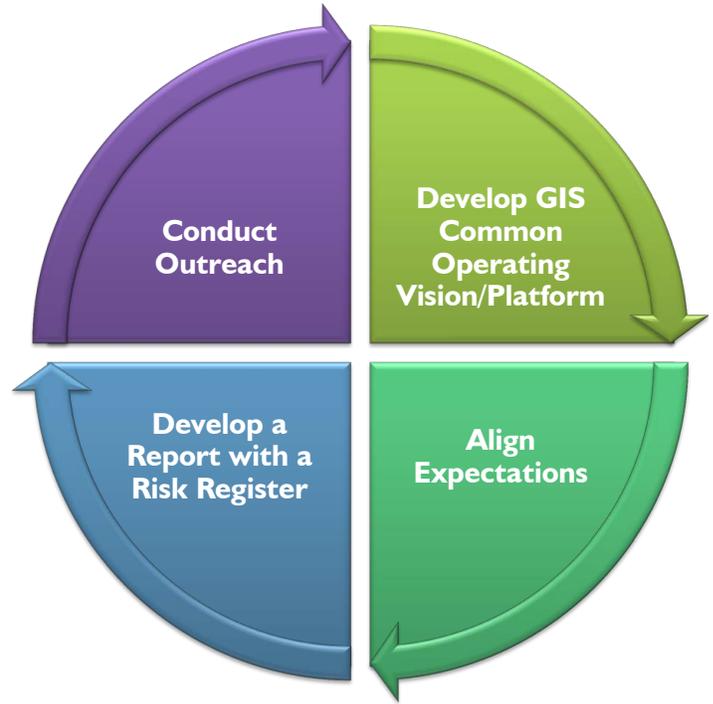
Develop Report with Risk Register

A risk register will be developed to identify potential risks (may include unplanned events such as cost increases, unexpected archeological findings, and insufficient funding) and their potential impact with the goal of minimizing the impact of risks. The register should help expedite planning and environmental review of key transportation projects in the IWR. The report will include:

- *The IWR transportation vision that will focus on moving people and freight efficiently.*

- *Identification of constraints and opportunities.*
- *Stakeholder expectations.*
- *GIS recommendations and available GIS data resources/data layers.*
- *Public engagement and communication best practices and lessons learned from this effort.*

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For more information, please contact Amy Duffy at amyduffy@duffyconsulting.net or Denise McClafferty at dmcclafferty@azmag.gov.

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When policy makers in the Intermountain West unite, they succeed in accomplishing great tasks. Collaborating now on long-term strategies for multimodal transportation will ensure the region will be able to:

- *Move goods and people.*
- *Compete for international trade.*
- *Connect communities, major trade hubs, existing and future domestic and international deep water ports, and intersecting transcontinental roadways and railroad corridors.*
- *Enhance the economic vitality of communities connected and served by the corridors.*
- *Improve safety, travel time and reliability for the movement of people and goods throughout the IWR.*