

60 Day Public Engagement Schedule for proposed New Seaport Building, Airport Renovations project and Inter-Island transportation project

The negative impact to the territory's economy and businesses were felt in all sectors as the prevention and mitigation protocols enacted as a result of the public health emergency declaration directly affected the lone commercial seaport, the only international airport and Inter-Island transportation vessel serving American Samoa. The Public health emergency declaration protocols that have kept American Samoa as the only remaining U.S. Soil with zero local transmission of the deadly COVID-19 virus has also exacerbated shipping delays, global impact of supply chain interruptions, kept the single international airport closed to commercial travel for over 18 months and the transportation of goods between islands unreliable and dangerous with our current inter-island vessel.

100% of all commercial goods including medicines, medical supplies, building materials, grocery goods, vehicles and equipment enter the territory through the seaport and airport. The public health emergency declaration caused delays that impacted every business. The increased time for clearing fishing vessels and container ships had a profound negative effect for all commercial activity in American Samoa.

The safety protocols remain in effect over 18 months later and with the global supply chain issues continuing to grow, it only makes the situation more critical. Developing a new seaport facility, renovating our international airport, and improving inter-island transportation will allow American Samoa to effectively respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its negative economic impacts.

The Port Authority is the designated sub-recipient for the ARPA funds. Included in the conditions for the use of ARPA funds, The Port Authority will adhere to all ARPA guidelines to ensure transparency and accountability.

OVERVIEW

- Given the crossover for the various governmental Departments and key stakeholders at the Seaport, Airport and Inter-Island transportation, it has been determined that the most effective use of time is to combine the key stakeholders and public engagement process.
- Developing and designing the Scope of Work for the proposed new seaport facility, Airport renovations project and improved inter-Island transportation requires input from a wide range of territorial stakeholders.
- Each proposed project benefits must be evaluated as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the public health emergency

(a) KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- Port Authority
- Department of Health
- Marine & Wildlife
- Department of Legal Affairs
- Department of Agriculture
- Treasury
- Port users (importers/exporters, stevedoring, shipping and Port tenants)
- Private sector representation
- Other branches of Government (legislative representation)
- ARPA Oversight Office

(b) SCOPE of Project (New Seaport Facility, Airport Renovations Project & Inter-Island Transportation project)

Project Leads (Department) must provide the following:

1. Project Description and/or Business Plan
2. Completed Eligibility Analysis
3. Scope of Work
4. Implementation Plan & Timeline
5. Proposed itemized budget
6. Project Lead

Each proposed project must be submitted to the ARPA Office with a cover letter addressed to the Executive Director. Submittals must include the proposed plan as detailed above. ARPA will review of eligibility and compliance to the American Samoa ARPA Spending Plan.

Once approved, an award certified letter will be provided verifying the project description and project lead.

Define scope of project based on response to Covid-19 pandemic and the public health emergency declaration, the new proposed seaport facility must include:

- Ability for normal inspections of all incoming goods
- Ability to safely clear all incoming vessels
- Ability to maintain full Port operations during pandemic scenarios
- Ability to respond to the activation of any COVID-19 medical protocols within the facility

- Ability for importers to provide statutory Declaration of Entry documentation to Customs to clear
- Ability for shipping agents to provide entry and departure vessel information
- Ability to provide more efficient use of the limited Port yard to process containers entering and departing the territory
- Ability to maintain export procedures for our single export of canned and processed tuna products
- Ability to safely screen and process all incoming passengers and luggage
- Ability to conduct normal inspections of all incoming goods during the pandemic
- Ability to safely clear all incoming airplanes
- Ability to respond to the activation of any COVID-19 medical protocols within the facility
- Ability for importers to provide statutory Declaration of Entry documentation to Customs to clear
- Ability for shipping agents to provide entry and departure vessel information
- Ability to provide more efficient use of the Airport facility to process passengers, goods entering and departing the territory
- Ability to process outbound passengers and goods in a safe and secure manner
- Meet all U.S. Coast Guard requirements to operate with American Samoa waters
- Ability to meet transportation requirements as set forth by Port Authority
- Minimum 10 years of Service
- Minimum hauling capacity of passengers and goods
- Ability to transport goods and passengers 12 months a year between American Samoa islands (Tutuila, Aunuu, Manu'a, Rose Atoll & Swains Islands)
- Ability to enter all Ports within American Samoa

(c) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement is an essential aspect of ARPA funded projects. The intent of the US Treasury in fostering public participation is to maintain transparency and provide opportunities for feedback to ensure that funds are used in the most beneficial manner.

In keeping with the intent of the US Treasury, the American Samoa ARPA Oversight Office has adopted the following notice and comment timeline for proposed projects:

- A Notice of Proposed Project will be published online, in local newspapers, and via television or radio broadcasts. The Notice will specify that there will be thirty (30) days for the public to provide comment either in writing or by attendance at scheduled public hearings.
- Concurrent to the publication of the Notice, a draft proposal and scope of work will be published on the ARPA website for the public to review.

- General meetings with the public will be scheduled and publicized within the thirty (30) day Notice period. Email comments will also be accepted.
- Presentations to the Legislature will be conducted during the Notice period, as needed.
- At the close of the public comment period, the agency will have 20 days to revise the project as appropriate and submit the Final Draft to the ARPA Oversight Office.
- The Final Draft of the Project will be posted for public review once completed and certified by the ARPA Oversight Office.

It is the responsibility of the agencies in charge to publicize notices and adhere to the stated timelines. For the New Medical Facility Project, the anticipated date for the Notice of Proposed Project will be October 27, 2021.

Committee and General Public engagement schedule

- October 7, 2021—Release the Committee and General Public engagement schedule
 - a) Overview of agenda and timeline
 - b) List of Stakeholders
 - c) Schedule Port Users meetings as needed for each port of entry
- October 12, 2021—Initial Committee meeting
 - a) Identify key objectives
 - b) Identify sub-committees (design, construction, layout etc.)
 - c) Timeline for draft scope of work
- October 21, 2021--Initial Committee recommendations for scope of work
- October 27, 2021—Final Committee scope of work
- October 27-November 26, Notice of Proposed Project published, committee scope of work opens for general public comments and input
- December 11, 2021—Final scope of work for each project released and Procurement phase begins.