TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM AGREEMENTS (TTPA)

WORKING WITH YOUR TRIBAL COORDINATOR

March 13, 2024



Our Mission

"Through mutual respect and understanding, enhance the quality of life in Tribal communities by supporting the Tribes' delivery of transportation programs."

Implementation "in accordance with the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act"

Goals and Guiding Principles:

Encourage Flexibility and Innovation;

Government interprets regulations to the benefit of the Tribe;

Recognize Tribal sovereignty, and the "Government-to-Government" relationship.

Tribes Overview

574* <u>Federally</u> recognized Tribes

Located in 35 States 12 Bureau of

Indian Affairs (BIA) Regions

*as of January 2020

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Indian Lands of Federally Recognized Tribes of the United States

Midwest Region

PROJECT-O' INFORMATION
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Rocky Mountain Region

Southwest Region

Great Plains Region

Northwest Region

Region

Native Entities in Alaska

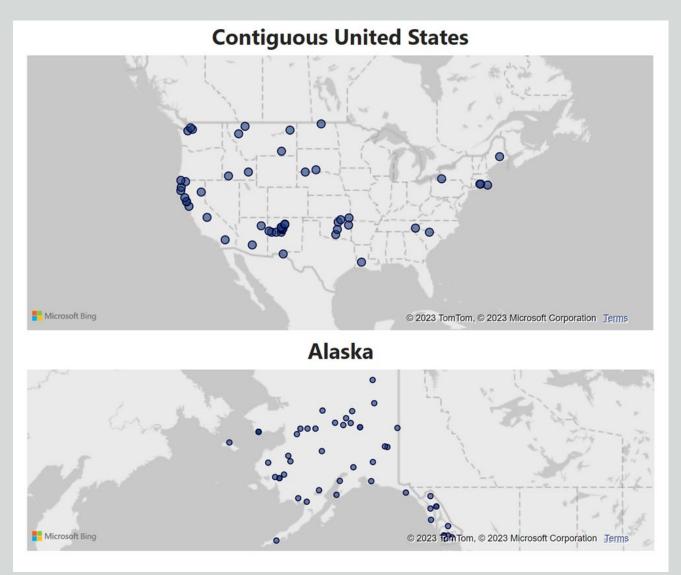
FHWA-Tribal TTP Agreements

132 Tribes in Contiguous United States81 Tribes in Alaska





Program Agreement Tribes



Tribal Transportation Program (TTP)

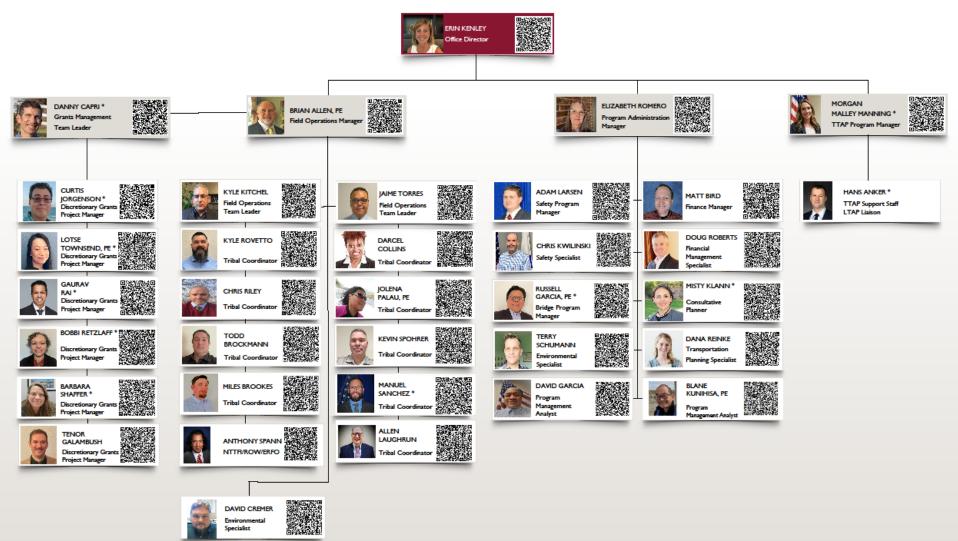
- Largest Federal Lands Highway (FLH) Program
- In 1982 (STAA): Indian Reservation Roads Program category of the FLH Program; and later renamed to TTP (MAP-21)
- Jointly managed and administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and FHWA
- Serves all 574 Federally recognized Tribes
- Regulations: 25 CFR Part 170



Federal Highway Administration

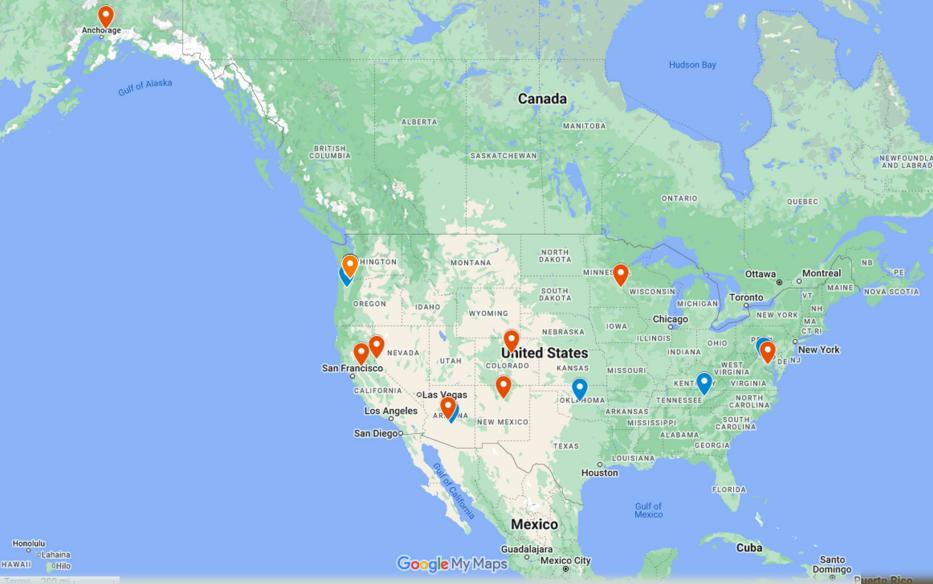


OFFICE OF TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION



*Position funded as an FHWA General Operating Expense (GOE)

Where are we?



Northwestern Passages

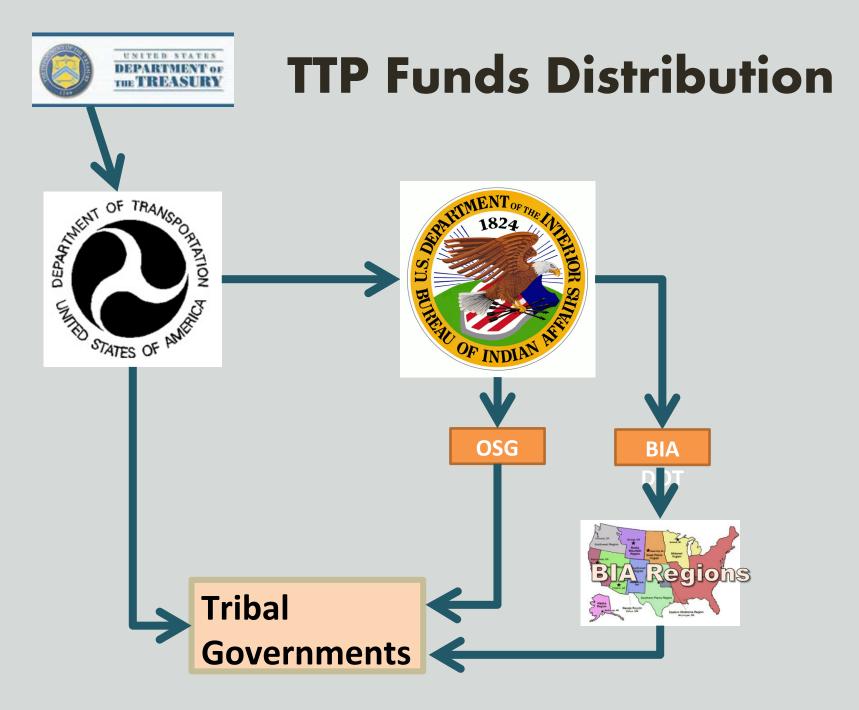
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PA Effective Date and Term

In effect until amended by both parties or terminated by either party.

Funding

- Tribe receives formula share of TTP
- Once the control panel is complete the Referenced Funding Agreement (RFA) is generated by OTT Financial Manager and sent to Tribal Coordinator (TC)
- TC sends to Transportation point of contact
- Provided by electronic transfer to Tribe within 30 days of receiving the signed RFA.
- May accumulate multiple annual allocations of TTP funds and reallocate funds among eligible projects on an FHWA-approved TTP Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

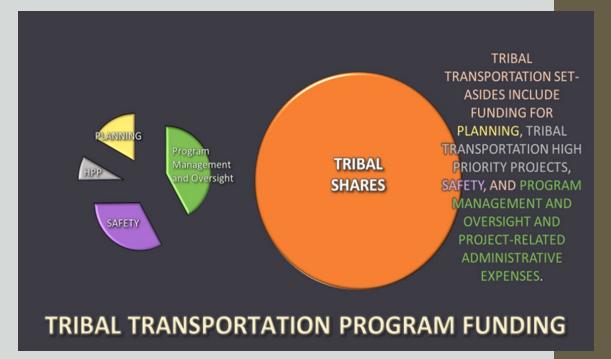


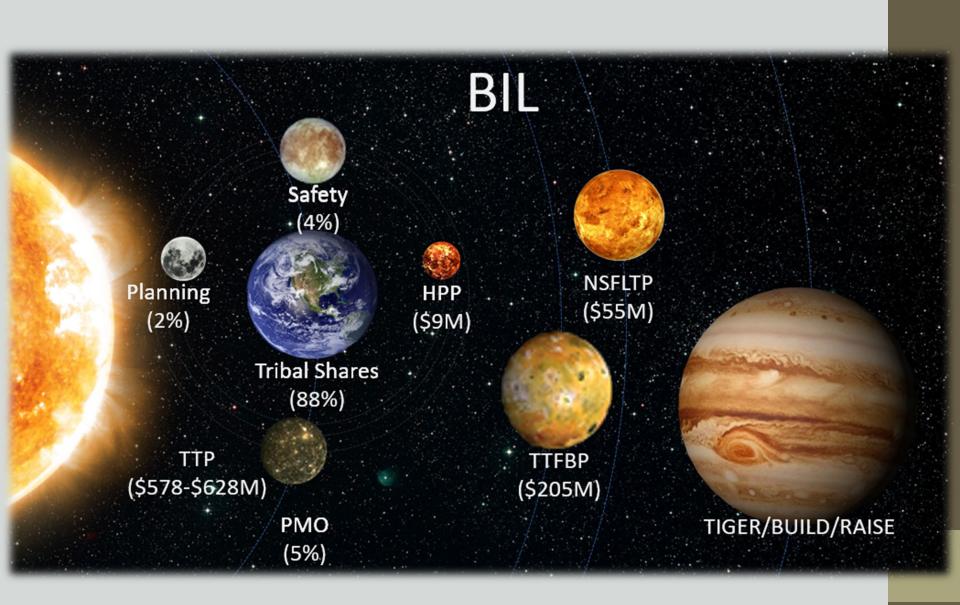
TTP Funds Allocation

<u>**Most</u>** funding goes directly to Tribal Governments through a statutory formula.</u>

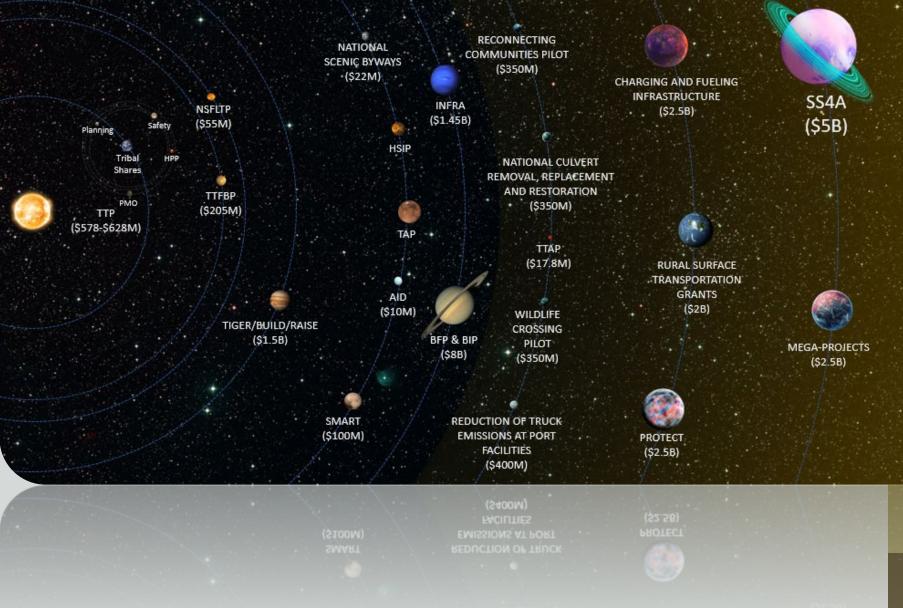
The other parts are:

- 2% for Planning
- 4% for Safety Program
- 5% for Program
 Management and
 Oversight (PM&O) –
 FHWA & BIA inherent
 Federal functions
- Obligation Limitation, not available for use, changes each year
 - 12.2% in FY23





Universe of Funds available to Tribes



8B) (S350M

OTT Financial Manager

Mathew Bird



Activities to be Performed

- Transportation Planning
- NEPA
- Design
- Construction
- Program Administration
- Road Maintenance



- Develop Tribal-State Maintenance Agreements
- TTP Safety
- TTP Bridge
- Other TTP eligible activities as identified in 25 CFR 170 Appendix A to Subpart B

Transportation Planning

- Long Range Transportation Plan
 - 20-year Plan
 - Updated every 5 years
 - FHWA mid-year review
- 4-Year transportation improvement program (TIP)
 - Required every 4 years
 - Highly recommend update every year
 - Submittal review and approval process
- <u>Recommended OTT Webinars</u>:
 - TTP 101 Tribal Transportation Planning
 - Just in Time (JIT) Training Virtual Public Involvement
 - Best Practices for Gaining Community/Stakeholder Buy-in

OTT Program Planning Specialist

Dana Reinke

Planning Specialist



Easements, Maintenance & Utility Agreements, and Environmental Assessments



Develop appropriate construction easements, and utility & maintenance agreements, in coordination with local jurisdictions.

 Assess environmental impacts through appropriate studies and permit coordination.

OTT NEPA

Environmental Coordinator

35 Tribes

- Regions (7): Great Plains, Western, Southwest, Southern Plains, Navajo and E. Oklahoma and Eastern
- States (12): North and South Carolina, North and South Dakota, New Mexico, Arizona, Oklahoma, Texas, Wyoming, Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York

NEPA

NEPA and Other Environmental Requirements

- NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act (1969)
- It is the "National Charter" for protection of the environment, and it applies to all federal actions (including funding).
- NEPA provides a comparative process that allows the decision maker (FHWA) to make an informed decision.
- FHWA and TTP Implementing Regulations: 23 CFR 771 and 25 CFR 170.450-453

National Historic Preservation Act Endangered Species Act Coastal Zone Management Act Clean Air Act Clean Water Act Section 4(f) - Parks, Recreation Areas, Wildlife and Waterfowl Refuges, and Historic Sites Section 6(f) - Land and Water Conservation Fund Act Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

Farmland Protection Policy Act Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Protection of Wetlands Executive Order Floodplain Management Executive Order Procedures for Abatement of Highway Traffic Noises and Construction Noises Applicable Tribal/State laws Other applicable Federal laws and regulations

NEPA cont.



Compliance with other Environmental Requirements (examples, but not all-inclusive)

- Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act
- Section 7 of Endangered Species Act
- Protection of Wetlands Executive Order 11990
- Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act
- Clean Water Act
- Clean Air Act
- Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988



Environmental Commitments

- Tribe must follow through on its commitments to avoid, minimize, mitigate environmental impacts.
- Commitments result from coordination with agencies and the public. Also, from conditions listed in permits issued by regulatory agencies.
- Commitments should be listed in the NEPA document.
- Incorporate them into final design as appropriate.

Environmental Permits

- Under PAs and G2Gs, Tribes are responsible for obtaining and complying with all necessary permits associated with a project.
- Environmental Permits (examples, but not all-inclusive)
 - Corps of Engineers 404 permit
 - Environmental Protection Agency 402 permit (NPDES) and 401 certification
 - Floodplain permit
 - Fish habitat permit

- It's All about the Impacts
- NEPA documentation and Mitigations are about <u>IMPACTS</u>, not project type.
 - Even lists of Categorical Exclusions were created based on potential impacts
- An impact can be defined as a change (that the project will produce) on the natural, cultural, historic, and human environment.
- Need to be able to evaluate and explain these changes to interested parties (and get their input)

- Requires that a Federal agency consider the impacts of its activities on the **natural and human environment**.
 - Categorical Exclusion (CE)
 - No <u>significant</u> impacts
 - Environmental Assessment (EA)
 - Unknown if <u>significant</u> impacts exist
 - Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
 - Environmental Impact Statement
 - Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
 - Known <u>significant</u> impacts

- If a Tribe has a Program Agreement with FHWA, then FHWA is the approving agency for NEPA, otherwise BIA has NEPA approval.
- Regardless of whether BIA or FHWA is the lead agency for NEPA, if applicable, TTP-funded projects can use FHWA's categorical exclusions (25 CFR 170.453)
- Majority of TTP projects are CE's
- Even if your project is cleared as a CE, it does not mean other environmental laws do not apply.
- Under a Program Agreement with FHWA or G2G with BIA, the Tribe is responsible for studies/analyses to support NEPA and other environmental decisions.



David E. Cremer

Environmental Preservation Specialist/Coordinator



Plans, Specifications & Estimate (PS&E) Approval

- Tribal or BIA-owned facility:
 - Approve PS&E project packages and provide copy to the facility owner and FHWA.
 - Assure construction will meet or exceed applicable health and safety standards.
 - Provide State-licensed civil engineer's certification that PS&E meets or exceeds health and safety standards.

• Additionally, if Facility owned or maintained by others:

- Provide public authority an opportunity to review and comment on the PS&E between 75% to 95% complete.
- Before soliciting bids for the project, certify in writing to FHWA that public authority had no written comments preventing the project to proceed.

Construction

- Prepare and submit to FHWA, a final construction report and as-built plans.
- Allow FHWA Officials the opportunity to visit project sites to carry out its stewardship and oversight responsibilities.
- FHWA, Tribe, and facility owner conduct final inspection
 - If BIA owned report the project was constructed in accordance with PS&E.

Reporting Requirements

- Tribe shall :
 - Input data into FHWA's electronic data reporting system no later than December 31 of each year.
 - Acknowledge that the submittal of its data is mandated by statute, and non-compliance may be a sole basis for termination of this Agreement.

OTT Bridge

- Tribal Transportation Facility Bridge Program (TTFBP)
 - Eliminated 3% Set-aside from TTP
 - Bridge Formula Program (BFP) 3% Set-aside
 - \$165M/year (General Fund)
 - Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Set-aside
 - \$20M/year (General Fund)
 - Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Set-aside
 - FY22 \$16M (Highway Trust Fund)
 - FY23 \$18M (Highway Trust Fund)
 - FY24 \$20M (Highway Trust Fund)
 - FY25 \$22M (Highway Trust Fund)
 - FY26 \$24M (Highway Trust Fund)
 - Please submit your bridge applications!!

OTT Bridge

TTFBP funds made available to carry out the program shall be used--

- (A) to carry out any planning, design, engineering, preconstruction, construction, and inspection of **new** or replacement tribal transportation facility bridges;
- (B) to **replace, rehabilitate**, seismically retrofit, paint, apply calcium magnesium acetate, sodium acetate/formate, or other environmentally acceptable, minimally corrosive anti-icing and deicing composition; or
- (C) to implement any countermeasure for tribal transportation facility bridges classified as in poor condition, having a low load capacity, or needing geometric improvements, including multiple-pipe culverts.

OTT Bridge cont.

Procedures for submitting an application package from FHWA Agreement Tribe:

Any time during the year a Tribe may prepare and submit to their FHWA Tribal Coordinator (TC) an application package to request funding for bridge preliminary engineering (PE) or bridge construction (CN). The TC will assist the Tribe in preparing the application package. Then, the application package is submitted directly to FHWA/OTT Bridge Program Manager (PM) for review of the application.



Russell Garcia

Bridge Program Manager



Safety Planning





FHWA Office of Tribal Transportation

- Tribal Transportation Safety Management System Steering Committee
- www.TribalSafety.org
- National Safety Plan & Reports to Congress, TribalSafety.org/reports
- Tribal Crash Reporting Toolkit, TribalSafety.org/tribal-crash-reportingtoolkit
- State Safety Contacts, TribalSafety.org/state-contacts
- Mailing List, TribalSafety.org/Mailing-List-Form



OTT Safety

Adam Larsen

Safety Program Manager



Designated Officials

- Tribal President (or other appropriate position)
- FHWA Associate Administrator of Federal Lands Highways
 - Correspondence copied to Tribal Transportation Director (or similar position) and FHWA's Director – Office of Tribal Transportation Program



FHWA provides technical assistance upon request by Tribe.

Jolena Palau Tribal Coordinator **Manuel Enrique Sanchez** Tribal Coordinator





Questions?

Jolena Palau, P.E. Office of Tribal Transportation 202.981.3174

Manuel Enrique Sanchez, MPA Office of Tribal Transportation 202.308.6235 FHWA OTT website: https://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/ttp/

FHWA OTT Safety website: <u>https://www.tribalsafety.org/</u>