

Foreword

The Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) Program was established by the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, and addresses transportation needs of over 560 Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages by providing funds for planning, designing, construction, and maintenance activities. The program is jointly administered by the Federal Highway Administration's Office of Federal Lands Highway (FLH) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in accordance with a memorandum of understanding.

The IRR system provides safe and adequate transportation and public access to, within, and through Indian reservations for Native Americans, visitors, recreational users, resource users, and others, while contributing to the health and safety and economic development of Native American communities. The IRR Program is an important resource of a Tribe's overall infrastructure investment strategy. It is a nationally based Federal program, with a number of requirements and responsibilities that each Tribe needs to fully understand as a partner in the process.

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) Public Law 109-59 (2005), allows Tribes the option of working directly with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in the administration of their IRR program. This is accomplished through a Program Funding Agreement between a Tribal government and FHWA. The BIA has also starting using a Program Funding Agreement approach as an additional option for a Tribe in administering the IRR program.

In administering its IRR Program, a Tribal government is required to comply with the provisions of Title 23 of the United States Code, 25 CFR Part 170, SAFETEA-LU and subsequent authorizations, and the terms of the executed IRR Program Funding Agreement between the Tribe and the FHWA or the BIA.

This *IRR Program Delivery Guide* was first developed in 2008 to assist Tribes in the management of their IRR program. Its intent was to explain the IRR Program Funding Agreements while providing relevant technical assistance on the various aspects needed to successfully carry out the program. The *Tribal Transportation Program Delivery Guide – 2011* is an update to the 2008 version. The new version includes references to other aspects of transportation besides roads as well as to the BIA Program Agreement Tribes.

A key message reinforced in this Program Delivery Guide is that coordination and communication with respective Federal, State, and local agencies are critical to the successful delivery of the IRR program.

Roads and bridges are vital transportation links, and are of particular importance in Indian Country. The FHWA and BIA look forward to working with Tribes in the successful delivery of this important program.

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