

BLACKFEET NATION

SAFETY MANAGEMENT PLAN

June 2008

The Blackfeet Nation is committed to reducing the number of deaths and serious injuries and improving the overall safety of the transportation system. As part of an ongoing effort to make safety improvements, this Safety Management Plan has been developed with input from a variety of agencies and individuals within the Tribe in cooperation with the Federal and Montana State Governments. The plan is intended to outline existing programs and policies, as well as identify issues and procedures or projects that can be implemented to further improve transportation safety for the Blackfeet Nation, its people and visitors to the Reservation.

The Blackfeet Tribe has implemented or is currently working on a number of programs and has developed relationships with other government entities to help assist in safety improvements. A complete list of these, as well as, other safety issues that have been identified, is included in Attachment A, but below are some of the highlights:

- The Tribe, in association with MDT has developed a Safe on all Roads (SOAR) program on the Blackfeet Reservation with a local coordinator.
- The Tribe has passed an ordinance banning domestic livestock from highway rights of way, or they will be removed by the tribe.
- A Medicine Wheel for family members that have lost family due to alcohol use is being dedicated this summer.
- All school bus drivers have been sent to Lewistown for the defensive driving class.
- The Tribe has implemented a Secondary Seatbelt Ordinance.
- MDT is completing maintenance reviews of all the state highways on the reservation.
- A grass roots group – “Concerned Citizens for Traffic Safety” has been formed on the reservation.

In an effort to further enhance safety efforts and save lives, the following items have been identified as a priority for expansion or initiation within the Blackfeet Nation over the next 3 to 5 years:

- Establish a Safety Committee
 - Building on the efforts of the Concerned Citizens for Traffic Safety group, the Tribe would like to establish a committee that includes all transportation safety stakeholders to work together to address Tribal transportation safety issues that would meet on a quarterly basis.
 - Once a local safety committee is established, the Tribe would like to promote and participate in a statewide Native American Transportation Safety Committee.

- Safety Committee
 - Draft and promote a Primary Seat Belt Ordinance.
 - Identify/obtain training opportunities for managerial training of law enforcement.
 - Review/research traffic calming measures that could be used or implemented in Browning.
 - Develop a safety checkpoint program for law enforcement.
 - Collect baseline data in seatbelt use, impaired drivers, crash statistics and lack of insurance.
 - Apply for a grant to develop a highway safety program within law enforcement.

Issue Champion: Tribal Transportation Planning Office and Transportation Safety Committee

Implementation: Planning to develop a resolution for the Tribal Council in support of establishing a committee to gain better participation among various agencies. Once this is completed meetings will begin to be scheduled and identified issues will begin to be addressed.

- Education and Training Programs
 - Provide education and training materials for pedestrians.
 - Continue and expand DUI and seatbelt campaigns on the reservation

Issue Champion: Soar Program Coordinator, in conjunction with MDT

Implementation: MDT Planning will provide the pedestrian materials for the tribes use. Additionally, SOAR will utilize the “Room to Live” video and draft a Primary Seat Belt Ordinance.

- Engineering Studies
 - Review the advance warning signs for school bus stops on the reservation to identify any further restricted sight distance stops.
 - Review the locations of the crosswalks through Browning to determine if any adjustments in signing, marking or locations need to be made.
 - Review the access and pedestrian crossing accommodations at the new access to the Tribal College

Issue Champion: Tribal Transportation Planning Office and MDT District Traffic.

Implementation: The Tribe will initiate these studies by submitting a request to MDT and the City of Browning to initiate engineering studies of the locations. A field review will be set up to identify potential problems and solutions that can be worked on jointly for implementation.

- Driver Behavior issues
 - Create a public service announcement contest for local high school students to create a transportation related PSA for local use.
 - Work with the State of Montana to have a “Sober Behind the Wheel” specialty license plate created.

Issue Champion: SOAR Program Coordinator

Implementation: SOAR to contact the school superintendent to initiate the PSA Contest and state to determine the process for creation of a new license plate.

- Development of an ATV Ordinance to require helmets and more responsible riding.

Issue Champion: Tribal Transportation Planning

Implementation: A tribal ordinance will need to be drafted for presentation to the Tribal Council. Ideally, this would be coordinated through the Safety Committee, once it is established, to gather additional support prior to presentation to the council.

ATTACHMENT A

Existing Programs Identified:

- The Tribe, in association with MDT has developed a Safe on all Roads (SOAR) program on the Blackfeet Reservation with a local coordinator.
- The Tribe has passed an ordinance banning domestic livestock from highway rights of way, or they will be removed by the tribe.
- A Medicine Wheel for family members that have lost family due to alcohol use is being dedicated this summer.
- All school bus drivers have been sent to Lewistown for the defensive driving class.
- MDT is completing maintenance reviews of all the state highways on the reservation.
- A grass routes group – “Concerned Citizens for Traffic Safety has formed on the reservation.
- The Tribe has done seat belt checkpoints
- SOAR has had a booth at Indian Days and other local events
- The Tribe has a Secondary Seatbelt Ordinance
- SOAR has participated in ride alongs with law enforcement.
- A petition has been developed for adoption of the State Traffic Code by the Tribe.
- MDT is initiating a fencing project in response to the tribal resolution banning domestic livestock on highway rights of way.
- The tribe recently hosted a road safety audit (RSA) on BIA route 1.
- In response to the RSA, the tribe has initiated a project in their TIP to program funds to fix the issues identified.
- The tribe has completed a long range transportation plan.

Issues Identified:

- Communication/Coordination among law enforcement agencies
- Domestic Vehicle Collisions
- Entrance to the Tribal College
- Two Medicine Bridge Replacement
- Binge Drinking
- Drivers not stopping for Buses
- BIA route 1 crash rate
- Lack of signing for some restricted visibility bus stops
- Pedestrian crossings in Browning and at the college
- Poor condition of guardrails on BIA route 1
- Lack of uniformity in signing
- Poor condition of pavement markings
- Lack of adequate maintenance money to provide a safe surface
- Low seat belt usage

- Younger drivers
- Lack of bike and pedestrian facilities, particularly for youth
- Need for traffic calming on some community streets
- Lack of maintenance of community streets, including plowing
- No safety checkpoints
- Lack of good and Baseline data
- Overweight and high speed trucks on the reservation. Particularly crossing over from Canada
- Drinking and Driving

Attachment B

Blackfeet Nation Tribal Safety Plan

Agenda

June 10, 2008

- 9:00 a.m. Introductions
- 9:15 a.m. Defining a Safety Management System
SMS Background and Overview
FHWA SMS Implementation Plan
Discussion of Tribal Safety Plans
Q&A
- 10:00 a.m. Blackfeet Tribe existing safety approaches (this is any practice the Tribe is
utilizing to address transportation safety i.e. education to public, crash
reporting/processes, EMS or engineering projects)
Documentation of existing programs and approaches
- 10:30 a.m. Break
- 10:45 a.m. Development of a Tribal Safety Plan
Identification/Discussion of Safety issues and concerns
Safety approaches to include
Safety approaches to develop
Integration with other safety plans
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Identification of implementation steps
Identification of responsible parties/champions for specific elements
- 2:15 p.m. Questions/Discussion of process and continued efforts
- 2:30 p.m. Site visit to traffic safety concern or transportation safety issues
- 4:00 Wrap Up

Attachment C

Blackfeet Nation Tribal Safety Plan

Attendees
June 10, 2008

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization/Agency/Title</u>
Don White	Blackfeet Nation – Transportation Planner
Jack Edmo	Blackfeet Nation – Transportation Planner
Craig Genzlinger	FHWA – Tribal Liaison
Lloyd Rue	FHWA – Traffic & Safety Engineer
Cordell Ringel	Transportation Consultant
Wayne Hall	School District #9 - Transportation Director
Richard Hall	NPTTAP
Lester R. Johnson, III	Concerned Citizens for Traffic Safety
Cheryl LittleDog	Safe On All Roads (S.O.A.R.) - Coordinator
Dan Hunthausen	MDT - Transportation Planner
Carol Strizich	MDT - Transportation Planner
James Combs	MDT - Great Falls District Traffic Engineer