

Forward

The Tribal Transportation Program (TTP), originally known as 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 roads, trails and other facilities on the National Tribal Transportation Facility Inventory (NTTFI) provide safe and adequate transportation and public access to, within, and through Indian reservations and native communities for Native Americans, visitors, recreational users, resource users, and others, while contributing to the health and safety and economic development of Native American communities. Since the establishment of the IRR Program, the federal construction has exceeded \$4.5 billion.

The Tribal Transportation 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), for the first time allowed Tribes the option of working directly with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in the administration of their IRR program. This option was continued in the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) in the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) Public Law 112-141. This is accomplished through a Program Agreement between a Tribal government and FHWA. The BIA has also begun using a Program Agreement approach as an additional option for a Tribe in administering the TTP program.

In administering its TTP Program, a Tribal government is required to comply with the provisions of Title 23 of the United States Code, 25 CFR Part 170, MAP-21 and subsequent authorizations, and the terms of the executed TTP Program Agreement between the Tribe and the FHWA or the BIA.

This *TTP Program Delivery Guide* was first developed in 2008 to assist Tribes in the management of their IRR program. It is intended to explain the TTP Program Agreements while providing relevant technical assistance. The *Tribal Transportation Program Delivery Guide – 2013* is an update to the 2011 version and is intended for use beyond just the FHWA TTP Program, but also the BIA Program Agreement Tribes and as a general reference and assistance in delivering the overall Tribal Transportation Program.

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 TTP 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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