



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

INDIAN COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS

APPOINTMENT:

- Appoint a Deputy Assistant Secretary for Tribal Government Affairs in the Department of Transportation in accordance with SAFETEA-LU.

BUDGET:

- Increase Funding for the Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) Program: IRR system has a construction need of nearly \$40 billion. Although these roads represent 9% of the combined total of Federal-Aid Highways and federally-owned roads, the IRR Program receives only 1.4% of funds authorized to be appropriated under section 101(a) of Title I of SAFETEA-LU;
- Increase funding to the Tribal Technical Assistance Programs (TTAPs) to \$2.5 million annually and fully fund each TTAP Center at 100% federal share. Create additional TTAPs for each BIA region and require the Department of Transportation, FHWA Office of Professional and Corporate Development to consult with Tribal transportation officials with respect to the selection of TTAP award recipients.

GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT:

- Treat Indian tribal governments equitably and give them the same authority as state and local governments;
 - Support tribal authority to raise revenue to fund the costs associated with building and maintaining transportation infrastructure;
 - Increase the number of Department of Transportation programs which Tribes may participate in as direct funding recipients from the Federal government rather than as sub-recipients through the States.
- Authorize the Secretary of Transportation to award State-administered transportation programs funds (such as Federal-Aid project funds) directly to Tribes through ISDEAA contracts and compacts;
- Authorize the Secretary of Transportation to enter into funding agreements under the ISDEAA for all Federal transportation programs serving Tribal program beneficiaries;



- Clarify that State Departments of Transportation may recognize and abide by Tribal Employment Rights Ordinances on Federal-Aid projects located on or near Indian reservations and Tribal lands.

ESTABLISHMENT:

- Create a new Tribal Traffic Safety Program within the FHWA-Federal Lands Highways office (FLH) and within the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), each funded at \$50 million annually to dramatically reduce the incidence of death and injury on America's Indian reservation roads.

OTHER TRANSPORTATION CONCERNS FOR TRIBES:

- Address the backlog of BIA Indian Reservation Roads and Bridge Maintenance:
 - Encourage Tribal Leaders, Interior Department and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) officials to support an annual budget request to Congress of at least \$150 million for the BIA Road Maintenance Program;
 - If this Interior Department funding level is not reached prior to the reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU, request that Congress authorize an additional \$100 million annual for the IRR Program to augment the shortfalls in the BIA Road Maintenance Program.
- Authorize the Department of the Interior to include provisions in IRR Program Self-Determination Contracts and Self-Governance Compacts that facilitate Tribal governments' use of debt financing instruments;
- Amend the IRR Bridge Program to authorize the use of funds for the construction of new bridges and other similar structures;
- Require the BIA to update and computerize right-of-way documentation for IRR Program routes and support Tribal corridor management practices.



National Congress of American Indians
 Tribal Transportation Federal Appropriation Levels
 12/8/2008

Federal Agency	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009#	FY 2010
Federal Programs						
Fundings Tribes Receive in each Fiscal Year (Millions)						
Department of Transportation						
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)						
Indian Reservation Roads Program (IRR)	300	330	370	410	450	
Indian Reservation Roads Bridge Program	14	14	14	14	14	
Office of Cortopate Professional Development						
Local Technical Assistance Program / Tribal Technical Assistance Program (LTAP/TTAP)***	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	
Public Lands Highways Discretionary Funds*	260	280	280	290	290	
Transportation, Community and System Preservation*	25.0	61.25	61.25	61.25	61.25	
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration						
Project Implementing Traffic Safety on Indian Reservations	3.27	4.294	4.397	4.50	1.934	
Federal Transit Administration						
Tribal Transit Grant Program**	**	8.0	10.0	12.0	15.0	
National Scenic Byways						
Tribal Scenic Byways Grant Program	26.5	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	
Department of Interior						
Bureau of Indian Affairs						
Bureau Road Maintenance Program	26.967	27.386	27.5650	25.576	25.576	
TOTAL	\$658	\$757	\$799	\$849	\$890	\$0

* Tribes are not direct recipients and have to apply from States.

** Under SAFETEA-LU, PL 109-59 authorized for the first Tribes to receive direct funding from FTA

***There are seven TTAPs in the US and each TTAP receives only \$280,000 annually.

Some of these numbers do not reflect current levels under FY 2009 Continuing Resolution PL 110-329 but authorized under SAFETEA-LU

