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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 the 573 federally recognized 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 regulations for carrying out the TTP can be found at 25 CFR Part 170.

Under the FAST Act, the TTP is funded at \$465 million in FY16 with annual increases of \$10 million/FY through 2020. Other than a 5% set aside for BIA and FHWA to carry out stewardship and oversight of the program, all other funding is made available to tribes either as tribal shares or as special set-aside funding to address transportation planning, and safety and bridge projects and activities. The tribal shares are determined via a statutory funding formula that can be found at 23 USC § 202(b). The TTP is an important resource of a Tribe's overall infrastructure investment strategy.

Any facility that provides access to or is located within tribal lands is eligible to be included in the National Tribal Transportation Facility Inventory (NTTFI). These roads, trails and other facilities 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. There are currently more than 161,000 miles of roads on the NTTFI. Approximately 31,500 miles are deemed as BIA routes and another 27,000 as tribal routes. All of the remaining mileage is owned by others including states, counties, townships, boroughs, or other federal agencies.

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 has continued through subsequent Highway Authorizations.

The *IRR Program Delivery Guide* was first developed in 2008 to assist Tribes in the management of their IRR program. It was intended to explain the IRR Program Agreements while providing relevant technical assistance. This new version of the *FLH Office of Tribal Transportation Program Delivery Guide - 2019* is an update to the 2013 version, and is intended for use by Tribes having FHWA Program Agreements. The *FLH Office of Tribal Transportation Delivery Guide- 2019* is an important reference and assistance in delivering the overall Tribal Transportation Program.

Roads, bridges, trails and other facilities are vital transportation links, and are of particular importance in Indian Country. FHWA looks forward to working with Tribes in the successful delivery of this important program.

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