



INTERTRIBAL TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION (ITA)

Attention: NPT Transportation Program
Mary Beth Frank Clark
P.O. Box 365, Lapwai, ID 83540

ITA Executive Team

President

Mary Beth Frank Clark
marybethf@npt.org
O: 208-621-3682

Vice President

Gerry Hope
gerry.hope@chickalaine-nsn.gov
O: 907-747-5910

Treasure

Sara Yockey
sara@kassan.org
C: 907-617-9970

Secretary

Jonah Begay
jbegay@navajodot.org

Regional Representatives

Region I: Great Plains

Vacant
Alt: Vacant

Region II: Southwest

Vacant
Alt: Vacant

Region III: Southern Plains

Lorraine McCurtain
lorraine.mccurtain@wchitatribe.com
Alt: Vacant

Region IV: Rocky Mountain

Vacant
Alt: Vacant

Region V: Eastern

Barak Myers
barakmyers@gmail.com
Alt: Vacant

Region VI: Alaska

William (Bill) Willard
wwillard@wca-t.com
Alt: Brian Winnestaffer
bwinnestaffer@chickaloon-nsn.gov

Region VII: Midwest

Ben Conners, Sr
roadsmgr@badriver-nsn.gov
Alt: Vacant

Region VIII: Eastern Oklahoma

Stephaney Lambert
slambert@ttown.org
Alt: Richard Dunn
Dunn2138@gmail.com

Region IX: Navajo

Garret Silversmith
gsilversmith@navajodot.org
Alt: Jonah Begay
jbegay@navajodot.org

Region X: Western

Vacant
Alt: Vacant

Region XI: Northwest

Kim Stube
kstube@cowitz.org
Alt: Chris Grewell
Chris.Grewell@elwha.org

Region XII: Pacific

Vacant
Alt: Vacant

March 29, 2021

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio, Chair
U.S. House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
ATTN: Brittany Lundberg, Subcommittee on Highways & Transit
2134 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman DeFazio,

On behalf of the Intertribal Transportation Association (ITA), please receive the important requests for both the Tribal Transportation Program and Tribal Transit Program. The following is based on two main areas, one is on last (117th) Congress Bill from the House, H.R.2, and the other one is based on previous requests from the ITA.

Congressional Transportation Reauthorization 3-29-21

- Tribal Transportation Program (TTP)
\$800M FY22, \$820M FY23, \$840M FY24, \$860M FY25, \$880M FY26
- Restore the *exemption* to the "Obligation Limitation Deduction". Without the exemption, millions of dollars are swept from TTP and the set increases become nominal to overall TTP program. (Note, H.R.2 restored the exemption)
- Tribal Transit Program, FTA's 5311(c)(1)(B) [Funding formula]
\$55M FY22, \$60M FY23, \$65M FY24, \$70M FY25, \$75M FY26
- Tribal Transit Program, FTA's 5311(c)(1)(A) [Discretionary]
\$30M FY22, \$35M FY23, \$40M FY24, \$45M FY25, \$50M FY26
- Road Maintenance Tribal Priority Allocation, \$50M FY22, \$52M FY23, \$54M FY24, \$56M FY25, \$58M FY26
- Elevate the USDOT Deputy Assistant Secretary for Tribal Affairs to USDOT Assistant Secretary for Tribal Affairs
- Establish and fund an Office of Self-Governance to the USDOT; adequate funding will allow Office of Self-Governance to implement program and work with respective Tribes.
- Establish a USDOT Self-Governance Advisory Committee
- Restore a Tribal High Priority Projects (HPP) Discretionary Grant Program at \$50M annually; the HPP will be separate and distinct from Emergency Relief fund.

- Establish a Facility Bridge Program that has its own funding, separate from the TTP. Authorizing planning and construction of new bridges as well as rehabilitation and repairs of existing bridges. (\$35M annually)
- Rename “Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Federal Lands and Tribal Projects Program” to “Federal Lands and Tribal Major Projects Program”. Increase discretionary grants for Tribes and lower dollar thresholds to qualify with HTF of \$400M, increase Federal share of Tribal projects to 100%, lower threshold for Tribes at \$5M and divide funds 50/50 between federal lands the Tribes, direct the USDOT to consult adequately with Tribes to address data requirements and reassess program criteria.
- Amend the TTP Safety Fund Grant Program to 3% along with reinstating the ability to use the funds for Education and Enforcement as well as planning, data collection and construction. Amend 23 USC 148’s Highway Safety Improvement Program to expand authorized uses of grant funds.
- Increase the number of USDOT discretionary grants available to Tribes as direct grant recipients.
- Establish a Negotiated Rulemaking Committee for the purposes of addressing and coming to agreement on the funding formula for the Tribal Transportation Program and Tribal Transit Program.
- Support the Tribal Technical Assistance Program (TTAP) through Tribal Consultation and with increased funding that will provide Tribes with needed training.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at marybethf@nezperce.org or phone 208-621-3682 (work).

Respectfully:


MaryBeth Frank Clark, President – ITA


Date