



INTERTRIBAL TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION (ITA)

Attention: NPT Transportation Program
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Region XII: Pacific

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March 29, 2021

The Honorable Tom Carper, Chair
U.S. Senate Environment & Public Works Committee
ATTN: Kenneth Martin, Senior Policy Advisor
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Carper,

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