# Developing the Tribal Transportation Program Transportation Improvement program

**PACIFIC REGION DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION**

# INTRODUCTION:

No single government or agency has responsibility for the construction operation, or maintenance of the entire transportation system, therefor coordination is crucial to the performance of the system. This coordination begins with long range planning and continues as projects emerge as part of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The purpose of this is to provide Tribal decision makers and planners with an overview of the fundamental process for developing a Tribal Transportation Program Transportation Improvement Program (TTPTIP) in coordination with Federal, State, and Local governments.

# WHAT IS THE TTPTIP?

**The TTPTIP is the list of Tribal transportation projects or activities to be funded in the near future. The TTPTIP is defined as "a multi-year financially constrained list of proposed transportation projects developed by a Tribe from the Tribal priority list or the long range transportation plan.**

# TTP Regulations require the TTPTIP to:

A) Be consistent with the Tribal Long-Range Transportation Plan.

B) Contain all TTPTTP program funded activities or projects scheduled for implementation within the next 3-5 years.

C) Identify the implementation year of each activity or project scheduled to begin within the 3-5 tears.

D) Include other Federal, Sate, County, and Municipal transportation projects initiated by or developed in cooperation with the Tribal government.

E) Undergo reviews and updates as necessary by the Tribal government.

F) Be changed only by the Tribal Government.

# What is the Tribal Priority List?

The Tribal priority list includes all of the transportation projects the Tribe has identified and:

➢ May or may not identify projects in order of priority.

➢ Is not financially constrained; and,

➢ Is provided to BIA by official Tribal action, unless the Tribal government submits a Tribal Transportation Improvement Program.

# How Are Projects Placed On The TTPTIP?

**BIA selects projects from the TTIP or tribal priority list for inclusion on the TTPTIP? as follows:**

1) The tribal government develops a list of detailed tasks and information for each project from the tribal priority list or TTIP;

2) BIA includes this project information in its region-wide control schedule, working with the tribe to assure all priorities are financially constrained;

3) BIA must include projects that are scheduled in the next 3-5 years and;

4) BIA develops the TTPTIP? After consulting with tribes and taking their priorities into account

# How Does BIA Update The TTPTIP?

- **BIA will update the TTPTIP as requested by a tribe to include any new activities or projects the tribe may want to pursue or as any opportunity from coordinating with other public authorities.**

- **Updating TIPs with low funded Tribes is challenging.**

  - **Conventional Projects are impossible to fund due to low funding amounts.**

  - **Turnover at a small tribe is a challenge for both the Tribe and BIA.**

# Managing The TIP Process

- **Each year BIA reviews existing TIPS for work to be performed over the upcoming 5-year time frame.  Any updates are validated and submitted for approval by BIA Central Office and FHWA.**

- **The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act provides published funding amounts for 5 years.**

- **The FAST Act requires Tribes with Program Agreements to initiate new Program Agreements**

- **TIPs are approved for 5 years and since Program Agreements are approved for the life of the funding legislation/FAST Act, there exits a great opportunity to develop meaningful 5-year TIPs which can be used as a significant update to existing Long Range Transportation Plans (LRTP).**

# Managing The TIP Process

**Low funding amounts create a huge challenge to BIA and Tribes to manage the TIP process since conventional construction "projects" are generally impossible to fund. BIAPRO uses four broad projects as the basis for the TIPS to overcome this challenge which are:**

- **Equipment Acquisition (EQ)**
  - **Purchase of equip to support the routine rd maint of all eligible routes on the tribes road inventory.**

- **Road Maintenance (RM)**
  - **For rd maint activities on all eligible routes on the tribes inventory.**

- **Transportation Planning (TP)**
  - **For overall transportation planning, TTP administration.**

- **Transit (TR)**
  - **For Planning and development of a tribal transit system.**

**These basic activities or projects can be supplemented by any tribe at any time based on updated long range transportation planning or as other opportunities arise from coordination with other gov'ts**

# Managing the TIP Process

Cost estimates are necessary to compare the transportation needs with available revenues. Costs should be estimated for the following areas:

- Maintenance of the existing and proposed transportation system.

- Project development, design, and construction of new expanded, or replacement facilities (i.g., roads, terminals, bridges)

- Acquisition of new transit vehicles and related capital costs (i.g., maintenance facilities)

- Operation of transportation services such as transit or ridesharing.

- Project administration and the planning of the transportation system.

BIA can provide information on cost estimation. Tribes can use cost estimates from bid tabs from previous projects or request BIA bid tabs.

# In Conclusion

**"BEGIN BY REVISITING THE LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND IDENTIFY PROJECTS TO MOVE FORWARD INTO THE TTIP"**

**"WORK CLOSELY WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO….COORDINATE….IDENTIFY…. LEVERAGE FUNDING"**