Dear Tribal Leader:

The Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) is authorized under Chapter 2 of Title 23 and jointly administered by the Department of the Interior (Department) and the United States Department of Transportation – Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). As directed by Congress, the regulations governing the TTP are published by the Department at 25 C.F.R. Part 170 (regulations). One purpose of the TTP is to provide safe and adequate public roads that are within, or provide access to, Tribal land while contributing to economic development, self-determination, and employment of Indians and Alaska Natives.

In order be eligible for assistance using TTP funds, roads and other transportation facilities must be in the National Tribal Transportation Facility Inventory (NTTFI). The regulations limit the maximum length of access roads that may be included on the NTTFI for eligibility purposes to 15 miles. Some Tribes in remote rural areas have expressed concerns that the 15-mile limitation disproportionately affects their ability to plan and carry out important transportation projects. This raises the question of whether the one-size-fits-all mileage limitation can adequately accommodate the diverse geographic and regional conditions affecting the transportation needs of Tribes and their members, or whether a different approach may better fulfill the TTP’s purpose.

I invite you to participate in consultation sessions on the access road eligibility criteria in 25 C.F.R. § 170.447. The schedule for the consultation sessions is listed below and includes sessions at times intended to accommodate Tribes in Alaska and the lower 48 States:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consultation for:</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time (Eastern Time)</th>
<th>Call-in Number</th>
<th>Passcode</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tribes in the Lower 48</td>
<td>January 15, 2021</td>
<td>2 p.m. – 4 p.m.</td>
<td>888-606-8412</td>
<td>“DOI”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaska Tribes</td>
<td>January 15, 2021</td>
<td>4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>800-857-9676</td>
<td>“DOI”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaska Tribes</td>
<td>January 19, 2021</td>
<td>4 p.m. – 6 p.m.</td>
<td>800-857-9676</td>
<td>“DOI”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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To assist in our discussions, and to ensure that the Department gathers all relevant information and views, I include the following questions as a starting point for our discussions:

- How has the existing 15-mile limit impacted Tribes, particularly in remote and rural regions?
- What criteria other than mileage could be used in determining which access roads may be included in the NTTFI?
- How regional differences that affect access to transportation and construction infrastructure could be factored into determining which access roads may be included in the NTTFI?

I also encourage you to send comments or inquiries to consultation@bia.gov as well. If you would like additional information or have further questions, please contact Mr. Matthew Kelly, Counselor to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, at (202) 208-4319.

Sincerely,

Tara Sweeney
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs