



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
Washington, DC 20240



APR 12 2013

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is announcing tribal consultations to discuss draft revisions of the regulations governing the Tribal Transportation Program. The consultations will also cover requirements for proposed roads and access roads to be included in the National Tribal Transportation Facility Inventory and will include an update regarding the ongoing quality assurance review of the facility inventory.

On July 6, 2012, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), Public Law 112-141, a two-year reauthorization of the transportation act, was signed into law by President Obama and became effective on October 1, 2012. Section 1119 of MAP-21 struck the existing laws governing the Indian Reservation Roads Program from 23 U.S.C. 201-204, and renumbered many of those sections under 23 U.S.C. 201 and 202 and changed the name from "Indian Reservation Roads Program" to "Tribal Transportation Program (TTP)." MAP-21 also changed the name of the "Indian Reservation Roads Inventory" to the "National Tribal Transportation Program Facility Inventory (NTTFI)." Section 1103 of MAP-21 amended the name of an "Indian Reservation Road" to a "Tribal Transportation Facility."

Section 1119 of MAP-21 created a new formula for distribution of TTP funds among tribes, which had the effect of overriding the existing Relative Need Distribution Formula (RNDF) that was published in 2004 at 25 CFR part 170, Subpart C. Although the RNDF is no longer applicable under the new TTP formula, certain historical aspects of the former RNDF continue to be relevant in the new TTP formula. Section 1119 of MAP-21 also made other miscellaneous changes to the remainder of the laws governing the TTP that require BIA to make changes to 25 CFR part 170.

In addition, Tribes, BIA, and the Federal Highway Administration have identified the lack of requirements for proposed and access roads to be added to or remain in the NTTFI as an area of concern in the current regulation for many years. Although MAP-21 replaces the RNDF as discussed above, BIA needs to codify the requirements that Proposed Roads or Access Roads must meet in order to be added to or remain in the NTTFI.

We respectfully ask you to find time to provide your tribe's input on these draft regulations by submitting written comments or by attending one of the consultation sessions noted below. Please send any written comments you have to [draft.25cfr170consult@bia.gov](mailto:draft.25cfr170consult@bia.gov) or by U.S. mail to: Tribal Consultations and Informational Meeting Comments, U.S. Department of the Interior, BIA, Office of Indian Services, Mail Stop 4513 MIB, Washington, DC 20240. Please provide your comments on the draft rule by close of business on June 14, 2013.

Thank you for your prompt and invaluable attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Black  
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Attachement

**Consultation Meeting Locations and Dates**

Meeting date	Location	Time
May 14, 2013 .....	Anchorage, AK .....	9 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
May 16, 2013 .....	Phoenix, AZ .....	9 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
May 21, 2013 .....	Minneapolis, MN .....	9 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.

**Meeting Agenda for May 14, 16, and 21 , 2013 (All Times Local)**

Time	Topic
9 a.m.–9:15 a.m. ....	Welcome and Introductions.
9:15 a.m.–9:30 a.m. ....	Brief history of 25 CFR part 170 and process for updating the regulation.
9:30 a.m.–10 a.m. ....	MAP–21 and its impacts on 25 CFR part 170.
10 a.m.–10:15 a.m. ....	Break.
10:15 a.m.–11:45 a.m. ....	Discussion of updates to 25 CFR part 170.
11:45 a.m.–1 p.m. ....	Break.
1 p.m.–3 p.m. ....	Continue discussion of updates to 25 CFR part 170.
3:15 p.m.–4 p.m. ....	Update regarding National Tribal Transportation Facilities Inventory (NTTFI) quality assurance review.
4 p.m.–4:30 p.m. ....	Closing Comments.
4:30 p.m. ....	Adjourn.