

INTERTRIBAL TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR
TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION UNITY CAUCUS (TTUC)
DISCUSSION DRAFT BILL
"JOHN P. SMITH TRIBAL ROAD SAFETY AND
TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2017"

WHEREAS, the Intertribal Transportation Association (ITA) recognizes that transportation infrastructure, including building and maintaining roads and bridges, is vital to the health, safety and welfare of all Indian reservations and Alaska Native Villages, and

WHEREAS, ITA recognizes that a majority of the transportation infrastructure are inadequate and unsafe for its members and residents, and

WHEREAS, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death of Indian children, Native American infants are eight times more likely to die in a vehicle-related crash than non-Native infants, and motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of unintentional injury for Native American adults; and

WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has reported that 3 out of 4 deaths in motor vehicle crashes on reservations, the individuals were not wearing seat belts; and

WHEREAS, federal appropriations for the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP), Tribal Transit Program, BIA Indian Highway Safety Program, TTP Safety Grant program, and BIA Road Maintenance Program are wholly inadequate to address documented unmet tribal transportation infrastructure and highway safety needs; and

WHEREAS, these unmet needs perpetuate transportation barriers for American Indians and Alaska Natives, undermine the efforts by Tribal governments to address continuing disparities between the general population and Native communities as concerns access to higher education, public safety, health services and economic opportunity, and limit the ability of Tribal governments, as "*public authorities*," to meaningfully collaborate with federal, State and other local governments regarding Tribal transportation infrastructure and safety needs; and

WHEREAS, many of the FAST Act's discretionary and competitive grant programs, such as the TIGER grant program and Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects program (INFRA), do not have Tribal set-asides to ensure that Indian tribes can favorably compete, and contain burdensome local match and other application requirements, such as cost-

benefit analysis studies, that severely limit the benefits of such federal programs to Indian Country; and

WHEREAS, the Congress has long recognized that roads promote economic development and help Indian tribes provide vital governmental services, which are essential for healthy, vibrant and stable tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Transportation Unity Caucus (TTUC), a coalition of Indian tribes and tribal advocates, in anticipation of the Administration and Congress introducing a multi-year infrastructure plan for the Nation during the 115th Congress, have prepared a discussion draft bill – the “John P. Smith Tribal Road Safety and Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act of 2017” – that expands federal transportation programs serving Tribes, reduced burdensome regulations, improves BIA recordkeeping relating to rights-of-way, provides innovative financing tools for Tribes, and requests increased federal appropriations for tribal infrastructure, transit and safety needs;

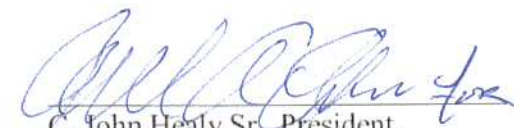
WHEREAS, to address the disparities in infrastructure, equipment, and resources that exist between Indian tribes and States and local governments, Indian tribes, as *public authorities*, must advocate before Congress and the Administration for direct federal investments in the transportation programs and funds required to meet the needs of their Tribal citizens consistent with the federal government’s trust responsibilities to all the Indian Nations and peoples; and

WHEREAS, _The Intertribal Transportation Association, having reviewed the TTUC draft and finding its provisions begin to address the great unmet transportation infrastructure, transit and highway safety needs of Tribes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Intertribal Transportation Association does hereby declare its support for the Tribal Transportation Unity Caucus’s (TTUC) discussion draft bill and urges Indian tribes to advocate to Congress and the Administration for its inclusion in a national infrastructure measure to remedy the ongoing unmet transportation, transit and highway safety needs of Indian Country; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Intertribal Transportation Association encourages its member Tribes to attend the TTUC Tribal Leaders Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona on January 17-18, 2018, to review and endorse the Tribal transportation infrastructure and highway safety goals the TTUC draft measure seeks to include in Federal legislation.

ATTEST:



C. John Healy Sr., President,
Intertribal Transportation Association


Bonnie Newman, Secretary,
Intertribal Transportation Association

CERTIFICATION:

I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the Intertribal Transportation Association, do hereby certify that the Intertribal Transportation Association is composed of member Tribes, of whom a quorum were present at a meeting thereof, duly and regularly called, noticed, convened and held this day 7th of December 2017; and that the foregoing Resolution of the Intertribal Transportation Association was duly adopted and approved by the affirmative vote of _____ for; _____ opposed; _____ not voting; _____ temporary absent; _____ absent; or X Unanimous Consent and that the said Resolution has not been rescinded in any way.

DATE: December 7, 2017


Bonnie Newman, Secretary,
Intertribal Transportation Association