



Intertribal Transportation Association

Resolution 2020 - 03

Title: Support funding increases to and the expansion of Federal transportation infrastructure, Tribal transit, and highway safety programs important to Tribal Nations

- WHEREAS,** Intertribal Transportation Association (ITA) promotes improvement of Tribal Transportation, Infrastructure and Transit; and
- WHEREAS** the proposed increases in authorized funding levels included in legislation of the 116th Congress to important transportation programs, such as the Tribal Transportation Program, Tribal Transit Program, and Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Major Tribal Projects program, and the establishment of a Tribal High Priority Projects (HPP) Program build and improve upon Congress' previous Transportation Bills, such as ISTEA, TEA-21, SAFETEA-LU, and the current FAST Act;
- WHEREAS** the 2017 report of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) concluded that the investment need for the Nation between FY 2016 and FY 2025 is \$2 trillion, with an estimated \$40 billion in unmet needs for transportation and public transit in Indian country;
- WHEREAS** the Indian nations and regional and national Tribal transportation organizations have advocated for increases to the Tribal Transportation Program, Tribal Transit Program and federal discretionary and competitive grant programs to \$900 million, with annual increases ending at over \$1.3 billion, to address unmet Tribal needs and to reduce highway and pedestrian fatalities among American Indians and Alaska Natives that exceed the national average;
- WHEREAS** in July 2019, the ITA, a national Tribal organization advocating for consensus positions to improve Tribal transportation infrastructure, Tribal transit, and highway safety needs in Indian country, released a proposed draft bill, the "Tribal Transportation Infrastructure and Tribal Transit Investment Act of 2020," to reauthorize existing federal transportation programs for Tribes and establish new programs, and urged Tribal nations to endorse it and advocate for its inclusion as a "Tribal Title" in any reauthorization of the FAST Act;
- WHEREAS** the Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee (EPW), the primary Senate committee with jurisdiction over transportation infrastructure, favorably reported the "America's Transportation Infrastructure Act of 2019" (ATIA), S. 2302, including its Tribal title (Title (IV) out of the Committee on July 30, 2019; and

WHEREAS In June 2020 the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee passed the INVEST in America Act that included many Tribal provisions to address the unmet need of Tribes in transportation and Transit programs; and

WHEREAS in July 2020 the House passed H.R. 2, the Moving America Forward Act, that incorporated the House T & I's INVEST in America Act, including many provisions important to Tribes such as the restoration of the exemption to the obligation limitation deduction to the Indian Reservation Roads and Tribal Transportation Programs.

NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, the Intertribal Transportation Association supports the Tribal provisions in the H.R. 2 and urges the U.S. Senate to support it, together with a viable means to pay for its many provisions, including the federal programs important to Tribal nations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Intertribal Transportation Association urges Tribal elected officials to advocate for prompt passage of the Tribal Transportation and Tribal Transit provisions provided in the H.R. 2 including restoring the exemption from the obligation limitation deduction for the Indian Reservation Roads and Tribal Transportation Programs; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that should the 116th Congress adjourn without passing H.R. 2 into law this session, or including its provisions in a COVID-19 stimulus measure, that the Intertribal Transportation Association further urges Tribal elected officials to advocate to the 117th Congress that convenes in January 2021 and to the next administration to retain and approve H.R. 2's Tribal provisions to further empower transportation infrastructure planning, design, construction and maintenance, public transit, pedestrian and motor vehicle safety and other innovative proposals to improve the economies of the Indian Nations and to make Tribal communities safer for all our citizens.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at a duly called and convened meeting of the Intertribal Transportation Association held on Thursday, October 15, 2020, at which a quorum was present by a vote of 7 In Favor, ~~0~~ Opposed, 3 Abstain, ~~0~~ Absent

Signed:


Mary Beth Frank-Clark, President

Attest:


Jonah Begay, Secretary