



INTERTRIBAL TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION (ITA)

Attention: NPT Transportation Program
Mary Beth Frank Clark
P.O. Box 365, Lapwai, ID 83540

ITA Executive Team President

Mary Beth Frank Clark
marybethf@nezperce.org
C: 208-621-3682

Vice President

Gerry Hope
gerry.hope@sitk.aknbe.nsn.gov
C: 907-747-5910

Treasure

Sara Yockey
sara@kassan.org
C: 907-617-9970

Secretary

Jonah Begay
jbegay@navajodot.org

Regional Representatives

Region I: Great Plains

Vacant
Alt: Vacant

Region II: Southwest

Vacant
Alt: Vacant

Region III: Southern Plains

Loraine McCurtain
loraine.mccurtain@wichitatribe.com
Alt: Vacant

Region IV: Rocky Mountain

Vacant
Alt: Vacant

Region V: Eastern

Barak Myers
barakmyers@gmail.com
Alt: Vacant

Region VI: Alaska

William (Bill) Willard
wwillard@ucfa-t.com
Alt: Brian Winnestaffer
bwinnestaffer@chickaloon.nsn.gov

Region VII: Midwest

Ben Connors, Sr
roadsmgr@badriver.nsn.gov
Alt: Vacant

Region VIII: Eastern Oklahoma

Stephaney Lambert
slambert@tlowm.org
Alt: Richard Dunn
Dunn2138@gmail.com

Region IX: Navajo

Garret Silversmith
gsilversmith@navajodot.org
Alt: Jonah Begay
jbegay@navajodot.org

Region X: Western

Vacant
Alt: Vacant

Region XI: Northwest

Kim Stube
kstube@cowlitz.org
Alt: Chris Grewell
Chris.Grewell@elwha.org

Region XII: Pacific

Vacant
Alt: Vacant

July 6, 2021

Honorable Arlando S. Teller
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Tribal Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of Transportation
Washington DC, 20590

Dear Deputy Secretary Teller (Arlando),

As you are aware, the Intertribal Transportation Association (ITA) is a national Tribal organization whose focus is on improving both Tribal Transportation/Infrastructure and Tribal Transit in our membership's respective communities. To that purpose, ITA recently submitted letters to both the Transportation Reauthorization that included 16 specific needs for Tribes, and American Jobs Plan (AJP) that included 15 specific needs for Tribes.

Since 1993's formal establishment of ITA, there have been improvements and a few setbacks for Tribes in Transportation/Infrastructure and Tribal Transit – we believe both letters on Transportation Reauthorization and the AJP reflect both improvements and setbacks.

However, ITA has noticed a strong positive opportunity to improve Tribal Transportation/Infrastructure and Tribal Transit in both the Transportation Reauthorization and the AJP. The AJP shows promise of improvements to Tribes in Transportation/Infrastructure and Tribal Transit that ITA has not witnessed since our inception.

Items recognized in the AJP regarding Tribal Transportation/Infrastructure includes.

- Double the Tribal Transportation Programs Budget to provide safe and adequate transportation and public road access to and within tribal areas.
- Rebuilding **crumbling infrastructure** like roads and water systems,
- Proposes **\$5 billion for a new Rural Partnership Program** to help rural regions, including Tribal Nations, build on their unique assets and realize their vision for inclusive community and economic development.
- **Provide dedicated funding for Tribal lands.** Includes dedicated funding for largely rural tribal areas across many programs. The President's plan funds critical water infrastructure needs in Indian Country, as well as tribal water settlements. This plan will ensure

- significant funds are set aside for broadband infrastructure on tribal lands and that tribal nations are consulted in program administration.
- Proposes **\$5 billion for a new Rural Partnership Program** to help rural regions, including Tribal Nations, build on their unique assets and realize their vision for inclusive community and economic development.

In addition, ITA has responded to a courtesy notice from the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) that the House in Congress would like to hear from Tribes what they would like to request for the AJP. On April 9, 2021, ITA submitted a written response, letter attached, regarding 15 items for Tribal Transportation/Infrastructure and Tribal Transit for the AJP. Please make sure to make every effort to include ITA's "ask" from our April 9, 2021, letter. One additional item, for establishing the Office of Self-Governance and establishing a US DOT Self-Governance Advisory Committee, we request elevating the US DOT Deputy Secretary of Tribal Affairs to US DOT Assistant Secretary.

ITA is pleased to see the Administration and Congress have reached out to Tribes, including the areas ITA is focused on, Tribal Transportation/Infrastructure and Tribal Transit and supports both President Biden's and Congress' effort to address critical needs for Tribes in the American Jobs Plan.

Respectfully,



MaryBeth Frank-Clark, ITA President