



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

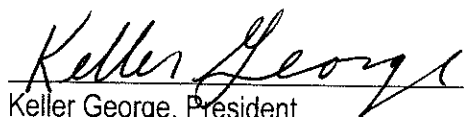
USET Resolution No. 2002:084

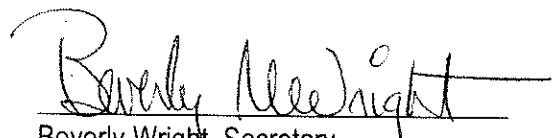
ENDORISING AND SUPPORTING FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION REVIEW OF CURRENT STATE/METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS/STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS PRACTICES ON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES WITH INDIAN TRIBES

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-four (24) federally recognized tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** Tribal Governments have an inherent right to oversee the economic, health and safety needs of their tribes as well as coordination of transportation planning activities that fall within these rights; and
- WHEREAS,** USET contends that Tribal Governments have the right to serve as equal partners with the State Planning Organizations (SPO) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) and to have direct involvement in the development of the State's Transportation Improvement Programs (STIP) as well as all other activities associated with these organizations; and
- WHEREAS,** SPOs, MPOs and STIPs receive federal funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the exclusion of Tribes as equal partners not only excludes a service community but also is in direct conflict of the government-to-government relationship; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors requests that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) review the current Tribal membership rules and regulations as well as policies of SPOs, MPOs and STIPs as they relate to specific actions taken by these organizations to restrict Indian Tribes' participation as full and equal partners, and, be it further
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors urges that Mary Peters, Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), proactively assist Tribal Government's and their Tribal Transportation programs in their inherent rights to enhance and protect the economic, health, safety and transportation planning needs of our people; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors request the Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to provide a written report to USET by its Annual meeting in October 2002, regarding the current policies and procedures affecting Indian Tribal Government for inclusion as an equal partner in SPOs, MPOs and STIPs.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Nashville, TN, Thursday, June 13, 2002.


Keller George, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.


Beverly Wright, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"