



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

USET Resolution No. 2003:107

USET TRANSPORTATION SUPPLEMENTAL CHALLENGE LIST ON BIA EASTERN REGIONAL AREA OFFICE ROAD DIVISION ISSUES

- 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,** the USET Board of Directors has established the USET Transportation Committee for the purpose of reviewing issues of concern and policy regarding transportation programs and/or affecting USET member tribes, and to provide the Board with proposed recommendations and resolutions for Board consideration; and
- WHEREAS,** the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Eastern Regional Office (ERO), Division of Engineering is committed to serve and assist USET member tribes in meeting their transportation needs; and
- WHEREAS,** in the past the USET transportation committee has identified areas of concern in which the BIA ERO Division of Engineering could show marked improvements; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Transportation Committee has identified additional areas of concern and has developed a supplement challenge list for the BIA-ERO Roads Division; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors encourages the Regional Director of BIA-ERO to work with the Division of Engineering to implement policies and/or programs, which address the attached USET Transportation Committee's Supplemental Challenge List dated June 4, 2003, and to report back to USET on the progress in meeting the challenges.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Choctaw, MS, Thursday, June 5, 2003.

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

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

USET TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
SUPPLEMENTAL CHALLENGE LIST
FOR THE BIA EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE ROADS DIVISION

1. Improved service is required from the Program Engineer currently carrying out the functions for Road Maintenance and other program activities. The Committee feels that this staff person has not performed at a level of service that is acceptable and the Region should be better served. The Regional Roads Engineer has made promises to provide additional training and close supervision of this staff member. The Committee wishes to receive progress reports on these functions and reserves the right to make a recommendation to the USET Board of Directors for severe action in one year.
2. The Committee wishes to have updated funding breakdowns/status reports for all Roads Program activities at the Regional level (and for the National level when available) at each USET Meeting.
3. To cut down on the chance of misunderstandings or misinformation written notification and written inquiries should be utilized at every opportunity to relay information between the BIA ERO and Tribes/Nations.
4. Whenever possible, supporting documentation should be included in requests to tribes for new or updated data, especially for information that affects funding levels.
5. Advanced schedules of program deadlines and requirements should be established, updated and distributed on a regular basis to eliminate "last minute" reporting.
6. The entire BIA uses *draft* BIAM 57 and 58 as a basis to implement the program functions and has done so for many years. The Committee wishes to review draft status of these documents which are so heavily relied upon by Tribes and the Agency and move towards a *final* product. Justification for use of these documents is also requested.
7. BIA policy changes in roads program activities, services, and functions should be relayed to tribes/Nations at the earliest possible opportunity together with supporting documentation which outlines the need for change.
8. The continued lack of email in today's business world, coupled with the increased demands on Tribes to submit more documentation, continues to limit both Tribes' and the agency's productivity and efficiency. In short, lack of e-mail is shocking in this country and in this age. Reinstatement of e-mail in the BIA offices is encouraged at the earliest possible opportunity.
9. To eliminate the confusion over: what is included into the Deferred Maintenance Report and why this information is need, the Tribes and requesting a comprehensive training of this requirements. Additionally, due to varying issues (i.e. staffing, funding) the Tribes are requesting that the reporting dates be at a Tribal discretion within an annual time frame.