WHEREAS, United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) 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 Member Tribes find that transportation infrastructure is vital to the future health, safety and economic prosperity of Tribal members living on or near the Eastern Region Tribal Communities; and

WHEREAS, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), which authorizes highway, transit and other transportation-related funding for federal, Tribal, state and local transportation departments and agencies expired in 2009; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has developed proposed highway reauthorization legislation that will authorize funding and establish federal transportation policy; and

WHEREAS, the Senate has proposed a two year Highway Reauthorization known as Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21); and

WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives has proposed a 5-year Highway Reauthorization known as H.R. 7 – American Energy and Infrastructure Act of 2012; and

WHEREAS, the funding formulas vary tremendously within each of the proposed bills; and

WHEREAS, the funding formula for Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century shows a tremendous gain of funds for USET member Tribes of the Eastern Region; and

WHEREAS, MAP-21 continues vital programs for Tribal Transportation, including the Tribal Bridge Program and Tribal Transit Program; therefore, be it

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors does hereby endorse the proposed Senate Highway Reauthorization Bill known as MAP-21; and, be it further

RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors strongly urges the U.S. Congress to support the priorities and proposals set out in the Senate Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Bill and to include them in the proposed highway reauthorization legislation.
CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 16, 2012.

Brian Patterson, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Brenda Lintinger, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

“Because there is strength in Unity”