



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Nashville, TN Office:

711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37214
Phone: (615) 872-7900
Fax: (615) 872-7417

Washington, DC Office:

400 North Capitol Street, Suite 585
Washington, D.C., 20001
Phone: (202) 624-3550
Fax: (202) 393-5218

USET Resolution No. 2014:042

SUPPORT FOR THE TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION UNITY CAUCUS AND THEIR EFFORTS TO REAUTHORIZE THE HIGHWAY BILL

- 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,** USET Board of Directors recognizes that safe, reliable and appropriate transportation infrastructure is imperative for:
- providing access for health, education, and employment opportunities;
 - stimulating industrial, commercial, and residential growth on Tribal territories for the development of strong diverse Tribal economies;
 - improving the quality of life by preserving cultural, natural, and environmental resources for Tribal communities; and,
 - the safety and security of Tribal members, visitors, associates, and the general traveling public; and
- WHEREAS,** on July 6, 2012, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act ("MAP-21") was signed into law and reorganized the Indian Reservation Roads Program to the Tribal Transportation Program and Public Transportation on Indian Reservation (Section 5311 (C)); and provided revisions to the formula distribution and regulations governing and the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP), which are set forth in 25 C.F.R. Part 170, which is set to expire on September 30, 2014; and
- WHEREAS,** MAP-21 also, revised the High Priority Projects (HPP) Program by removing the funding authorization of the program from the High Trust Fund to the General Fund of the U.S. Treasury, this program designated funding to tribes to complete the Tribes' highest priority project, or to assist Tribes for an emergency or disaster that has occurred on a tribal transportation facility that renders the facility impassible or unusable; since the enactment of MAP-21 Congress has not appropriated the \$30 million to fund this program; and
- WHEREAS,** Congress is preparing to hold hearings on reauthorization and USET Tribes recognize the importance of unified tribal interests in promoting an increase in funding and developing legislative recommendations to Congress for Tribal Transportation Programs; and,
- WHEREAS,** the Tribal Transportation Unity Caucus is a grass roots effort of various Tribal governments and Tribal organizations working to promote Principals which:
- Build consensus with all Tribal Nations;
 - Involve all Tribes in developing legislative proposals;
 - Promote fair and equitable funding formula for all Tribal Nations;

- Minimize negative impacts in funding distributions moving forward;
- Strive for increase in funding opportunity for all Tribal transportation areas;
- Strive to extend Tribal Self Determination and Self-Governance to all USDOT Administrations;
- Direct access to all DOT funding sources;
- Strive to eliminate bureaucratic roadblocks and improve the efficiency of the Tribal transportation program;
- Promote Tribal success stories and avoid disparaging other Tribes; and,
- Stress how improved Tribal transportation networks are fundamental to Tribal Nation success in all areas

THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the USET Board of Directors hereby amends the USET Work Plan for 2014 to include and prioritize transportation and road maintenance needs for USET member Tribes and allocating staff resources toward these efforts; and, be it further

RESOLVED, it is recommended that the USET Executive Director, officers and Tribal leaders be present at national meetings involving the Highway Bill Reauthorization; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, the USET Board of Directors supports the efforts of the Tribal Transportation Unity Caucus.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 6, 2014.



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



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

“Because there is strength in Unity”