



UNITED SOUTH AND EASTERN TRIBES, INC.

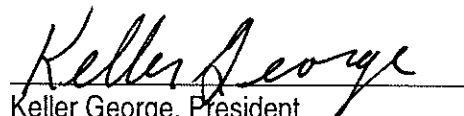
USET Resolution No. 2004:022


USET TRANSPORTATION SUPPLEMENTAL CHALLENGE LIST ON BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS EASTERN REGIONAL AREA OFFICE ROAD DIVISION ISSUES

- WHEREAS,** the United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an inter-tribal 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 is comprised of delegates from the member tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the USET Board has established the USET Transportation Committee for the purpose of reviewing issues of concern and policy regarding transportation programs affecting USET member tribes, and to provide the Board with proposed recommendations and resolutions for the Board's 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 to meet their transportation needs; and
- WHEREAS,** the Transportation Committee has identified additional areas of concern and has developed a supplemental challenge list for the BIA-ERO Roads Division; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors supports and encourages the Regional Director of BIA ERO to implement policies and/or programs, which address the attached USET Transportation Committee's Supplemental Challenge List dated October 23, 2003.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting & EXPO, at which a quorum was present, in Mashantucket, CT, on Thursday, October 23, 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 AS AUTHORIZED BY USET RESOLUTION 2004:022

October 22, 2003

USET Transportation Committee Challenge/Action items for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Eastern Region Office:

1. Continue to hold Semi-Annual Transportation Budget meetings with the Tribes in the region to review project status and funding levels. These meetings would preferably be held at USET or at a Tribal location. Specifically these meetings will provide financial information in the following transportation areas:
 - a. Individual Tribal Allocations
 - b. 6% oversight and administration funds
 - c. 2% planning funds
 - d. Construction funds
 - e. Road Maintenance funds
 - f. All other set-aside budgets
2. Continue to provide information to the tribes about Road Maintenance Funds: How the funds are distributed; past, present and projected allocations for each Tribe and all BIA Regions.
3. Although the turnaround times are better, we would like to see the need for an Engineer Technician/Office Automation Clerk left on the "chalkboard" as a check and balance in case there is a return to the old way of handling the programs.
4. Establish a process for the USET Transportation Committee to sponsor tribal attendee(s) at regional/national transportation meetings, utilizing BIA funding. The tribal attendee will provide a report/presentation to the USET Transportation Committee. (Approximately 12 meetings per year)
5. Establish a schedule of regional and national deadlines for program updates and submittals, keeping in mind that tribes need to have data reviewed and approved before the information is submitted to the BIA-ERO. (Most tribal operations need a minimum of 4 weeks for review and approvals alone.) Deadline schedules should take into consideration the amount of detail required and the size of the base that is being created/revised.
6. Provide **detailed** budget breakdown of BIA-ERO Roads Division
 - o "up to 6%" Administrative Program oversight and Management Expenses/Projections
 - o BIA's Project Administration Expenses/Projections
 - o The USET Transportation Committee believes that no administrative expense should come out of project dollars
7. Provide justification to the USET Transportation committee of the need for an administrative assistant and provide a detailed explanation as to how this position would be funded, because any additional staffing should not come from project dollars.
8. Develop a formal training on the Deferred Maintenance program that the USET Tribes and ERO staff can attend.
9. The USET Transportation Committee has previously voiced the problem of not receiving sufficient services with respect to contracting and need to know if the BIA ERO has a plan to address this continuing problem