



USET Resolution No. 2009:024

**SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL TRIBAL LEADERSHIP PAPER ON TRIBAL
TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES**

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes, Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-five (25) 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 is set to expire in 2009; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States Congress and Administration have already begun to develop highway reauthorization legislation that will authorize funding and establish federal transportation policy for the next six years; and
- WHEREAS,** the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and the Intertribal Transportation Association (ITA) formed a Joint Task Force on Tribal Transportation to identify Tribal transportation priorities and needs, to propose funding levels, policies and programs that address those needs, and to advocate for the inclusion of those funding levels and proposals in the next highway reauthorization legislation; and
- WHEREAS,** the NCAI-ITA Joint Task Force developed a National Tribal Leadership Paper on Tribal Transportation Priorities (White Paper) which sets out transportation funding, policy and program development priorities proposed for inclusion in the next highway reauthorization legislation; and
- WHEREAS,** the White Paper has broad support across Indian Country and has been endorsed by the General Assembly of NCAI and by ITA; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors does hereby endorse the priorities and proposals set out in the White Paper; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors strongly urges all Members of the United States Congress to support the priorities and proposals set out in the White Paper and to include them in the next highway reauthorization legislation.

"Because there is strength in Unity"

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Impact Week Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Arlington, VA, on Thursday, February 12, 2009.



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



Robert McGhee, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

"Because there is strength in Unity"