

Northern Plains Tribal Roads

Summer 2016 Volume 62



UNITED TRIBES
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Tribes in TTAP service area within the states of: Montana, Wyoming, North and South Dakota, and northern Nebraska

- **Three Affiliated Tribes**
- **Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate**
 - **Spirit Lake Nation**
 - **Standing Rock Sioux**
- **Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa**
 - **Wind River Tribes**
 - **Blackfeet**
 - **Crow**
 - **Fort Belknap Tribes**
 - **Fort Peck Tribes**
 - **Northern Cheyenne**
 - **Rocky Boys Tribes**
 - **Cheyenne River Sioux**
 - **Crow Creek Sioux**
 - **Flandreau-Santee Sioux**
 - **Lower Brule Sioux**
 - **Oglala Sioux**
 - **Rosebud Sioux**
 - **Yankton Sioux**
 - **Omaha Tribe of Nebraska**
 - **Ponca Tribe of Nebraska**
 - **Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska**
 - **Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska**

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ARDEN BOXER
Tribal Safety Circuit Rider
Northern Plains TTAP
UPDATE

Greetings from the Northern Plains!

As part of my update for the newsletter, I have included pictures of some of the conferences I have attended during the last three months.

In March, I was in the office for the most part. On March 31st, I traveled to Anaheim, CA to attend a Pre-Planning NTTC meeting with the committee who are responsible for planning this year's National Tribal Transportation Conference!

We toured the Anaheim Marriott Hotel & Conference Center and in everyone's opinion, it is a great location to host this year's conference. It is minutes away from Disneyland! I walked to several locations and most are about 10-20 minutes away. The restaurants and shopping areas are in close proximity to the hotel. Depending on what you like, it can be found somewhere close. While we were there, three food trucks parked outside of the hotel and we were able to buy lunch and enjoy it outdoors! The menus offered many tasty selections!

On April 2-5, I attended the 2016 LifeSavers Conference in Long Beach. This was the second time that I attended this conference. Last year's location was in Chicago. There were many Tribal Nations represented at this conference. The tracks offered were informative and the vendor booths were very educational.

On April 11-14, I attended the Great Plains Tribal Transportation Workshop in Sioux Falls, SD. I presented on the first day to those in attendance about what the Tribal Safety Circuit Rider program is about and how I can be of assistance. BIA and FHWA staff were in attendance and many questions were asked. I learned a lot about issues the South Dakota, North Dakota, and the Nebraska Tribal Nations face and what assistance and answers the federal officials were able to provide. On April 18-21st, I attended the Tribal/BIA Transportation Symposium in Browning MT. It was an exciting conference that was well planned and the moderators followed the agenda very closely. The vendors were available for questions and provided information to the attendees about their products.

On the first day, the opening session was awesome! The Blackfeet Nation Veterans provided the color guard and brought in the flags. We were blessed to have the opening prayer offered by Blackfeet Nation Elder, Earl Old Person. Iron Creek drum sang flag and honor songs and these were impressive.

The equipment rodeo was held and according to the judges, 1st and 2nd places were very, very close! It was awesome to my home Tribal Nation represented! Congratulations to those winners in each of the categories.

The awards banquet was held on Wednesday evening and we were served a feast! The staff of the Glacier Peaks Casino & Hotel should be commended on a job well done! Everyone enjoyed the awards and the entertainment after the meal. Ike Hall, Cowboy Poet and singer entertained us with his poetry and music! He is quite the character! I enjoyed listening to him as he played and recited from his many selections.

I'm off to Wyoming the first part of May to participate in the Wind River Highway Safety Summit being hosted by the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Transportation Department. This summit will be focusing on Highway Safety topics related to the Wind River Reservation. Topics such as: law enforcement jurisdiction, pedestrian safety, school bus and school traffic safety, judicial, occupant protection, distracted driving, fatigued driving, elderly driving and impaired driving.

The summit will then break out into several smaller groups where they will gather input from the participants about the topics, and then at the end of the conference, report out on a call to action on how each of the participants can influence a change in highway safety on Wind River.

Well, this is a short version on what I have been doing in the last few months.

I hope you enjoy the upcoming spring and summer months! We are entering a time where traffic on our roadways will be intensified and remember to always wear your seatbelts!

“BUCKLE UP, EVERY TRIP, EVERY TIME!”



Western Tribal Transportation Training and Technical Assistance Program



National Tribal Transportation Conference

Save the date!

October 3 – 6, 2016
Anaheim, California



19th Annual National Tribal Transportation Conference (NTTC)

For more information: <http://nttc.nijc.org/>

The Tribal Technical Assistance Programs involved in planning are:

Western, Alaska, Northwest, Mountain West, Northern Plains, Southern Plains, Eastern and Federal Highway Administration.

Safety Projects at Spirit Lake

Clarence Greene and the Spirit Lake Tribal Roads Department maintain over 100 miles of BIA and Tribal roads. Spirit Lake Tribe has been working hard on improving the safety of our transportation network. In recent years, four safety projects have been designed and constructed, and more are planned for the future.



In 2013, chevrons were installed at 24 locations on various BIA routes. This \$41,000 project was funded through a competitive Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grant through the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT). (see above photo)

In 2014, centerline and edgeline rumble strips were installed on all rural paved roads, totaling 31 miles. Also, transverse rumble strips were installed at the T-intersections that did not already have them. Total construction cost was \$165,000 which was obtained through a NDDOT HSIP competitive grant. (also in above photo)



In 2015, all signs that hadn't been replaced on recent projects were upgraded with NDDOT Type IV and Type XI sheeting. Spacing was adjusted as needed. Over 500 signs and supports were replaced for a total cost of \$213,000. This project was completed with Spirit Lake HSIP funds. (see photo above)

Also in 2015, a culvert was extended and inslopes were flattened on BIA Route 25 northwest of Fort Totten. NDDOT provided \$46,000 in HSIP funds, which was a majority of the construction cost. This was also obtained through a NDDOT HSIP competitive grant. (see next page)



Upcoming projects include a recovery approach at the T-intersection of BIA Routes 1 and 6 south of St. Michael and a shoulder widening project through a slough west of Tokio, ND. They are planned as a tied project, also funded through an NDDOT HSIP grant. Construction is currently planned for the summer of 2017.

For additional information, please contact Clarence Greene, Spirit Lake Tribal Roads Director at (701)351-2307 or roadsbia@stellarnet.com.

2016 Great Plains Tribal Transportation Workshop

By Dennis Trusty

The 2016 Great Plains Tribal Transportation Workshop was held April 12-14, 2016 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Tom Croymans from the Aberdeen Office of the BIA gave the Welcome and Introductions. The Northern Plains TTAP Tribal Safety Circuit Rider Arden Boxer gave a presentation on how to conduct Seat Belt Use Surveys. Arden also spoke about how to establish a Traffic Safety Committee and who to invite on your committee. Robert Frazier from the BIA Central Office in Albuquerque, New Mexico spoke about Deferred Maintenance. Each of the tribes in the Great Plains Region gave an update on each of their Tribal Transportation Programs. John Smith from the Inter-Tribal Transportation Association gave an update of the "Current Issues of Road Maintenance". LeRoy Gishi who is the Chief from the BIA Division of Transportation gave a "BIA DOT Update".

A breakout workshop on Transportation Maintenance was conducted that included a workshop on Sign Retro reflectivity and a workshop on Bridge Maintenance Inspection given by Dennis Trusty from the Northern Plains TTAP. A Field Trip was also held to conduct a Bridge Maintenance Inspection. Jeff Davis conducted a workshop on the Maintenance Program and Robert Frazier spoke on Deferred Maintenance.

In the General Session Manuel Sanchez with the Federal Highway Administration spoke about the FAST ACT and the changes it is bringing. Lieutenant Colonel Todd Bartunek and Captain Amber Symonds with the South Dakota Army National Guard spoke about the "Innovative Readiness Training" program. This program can provide help to Tribes and other communities while giving the soldiers real-world work experiences.

2016 Rocky Mountain Region Tribal-BIA Transportation Symposium

By Dennis Trusty

The Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Tribes of Montana, Wyoming and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Idaho held the 2016 Tribal-BIA Transportation Symposium in Browning, Montana. The Symposium was held April 19-21, 2016 at the Browning Holiday Inn Express. The theme for this year's symposium was "Moving Forward with the FAST-ACT and Highway Safety" This year's Symposium was hosted by the Blackfeet Nation.

Vendor Booths were set up and a CAT Motor grader Simulator was open each day.

To open the Symposium a Flag / Honor Song was performed by the Iron Creek drum group and the Color Guard was the Blackfeet Nation Veterans. The Opening Prayer was given by Blackfeet Nation Elder, Earl Old Person. Opening comments were made by Don White who is the Tribal Transportation Director of the Blackfeet Nation and Harry Barnes who is the Chairman of the Blackfeet Nation. Featured speaker was Mike Tooley who is the Director of the Montana Department of Transportation.

Kyle Kitchel from the Planning office of the FHWA located in Vancouver, Washington gave a presentation on Tribal Transportation Planning requirements including Long Range Transportation Planning. Sheldon Kipp from the BIA Division of Transportation Central Office in Albuquerque, New Mexico spoke about the new regulations coming out to the FAST ACT legislation. Richard Taptto, who is the Supervisory Civil Engineer out of the BIA Rocky Mountain Regional Office of Transportation, spoke about some of the unique issues that face this BIA Region. Richard also spoke about Government to Government Agreements.

Jim Glaze from the Sonosky, Chambers, Satche, Endreson & Perry, LLP Law Office was available on Skype to address the specific changes to Tribal Transportation the FAST ACT legislation produced.

The first days Luncheon was sponsored by [Northern Engineering and Consulting Inc.](#)

A presentation on the Montana Comprehensive-Highway Safety Plan was given by Pam Lange-Davis with the Montana Department of Transportation.

Sheila Cozzie from the Cultural Liaison Office of the Montana Department of Transportation gave a presentation on their Roadway Safety Audits (RSA) Program.

A presentation on Safety Projects in Indian County was given by Craig Genzlinger, P.E. with KLJ Engineering out of Helena, Montana.

Roadway Safety & Livability on Tribal Lands was discussed by Debbie S. Shinstine P.E., Ph.D. Adjunct Professor/Research Engineer with the University of Wyoming. Debbie has worked in the Northern Plains TTAP Region performing reservation-wide transportation safety evaluations of both infrastructure and behavioral issues.

A Road Maintenance Research project proposal was discussed by Ron Hall from Bubar Associates out of Fort Collins, Colorado. Ron is the Chairman of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Native American Sub-committee. Future tribal transportation research ideas and proposals should be shared with Ron.

Mapping and CORS projects update was given by Wallace Gladstone P.E. Vice President of Northern Engineering, Inc.

Continued on next page

A tour of local Reservation Roads and a trip into Glacier National Park was provided by: SUN Tours. Everyone on the tour enjoyed seeing the unique sights of this beautiful area.

An Equipment Rodeo was held with just three seconds separating the Motor Grader first and second place. Justin Small from Northern Cheyenne took first and William Driftwood from Crow took second. The winner for the Front End Loader was Pete Bishop from Fort Belknap and Dana Comeslast from Fort Peck in second place.

The 2017 Tribal-BIA Transportation Symposium will be hosted by the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes in Fort Hall, Idaho.



Blackfeet Nation Color Guard: l-r, Earl Heavy Runner, Jenna Rock and Keith Heavy Runner



Iron Creek Singers l-r: Everett Armstrong, Patrick Armstrong and Arlen Edwards



Former Chairman elder Earl Old Person

Thank you to C John Healy Sr for the photos



Blackfeet Nation Chairman Harry Barnes visiting with the folks that are handling registration and Don White looking on

Montana Director Transportation, Director Mike Tooley SHAKING Don White's hand





American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association Celebrates 18th Annual Conference in Tulalip with Hosts, Tulalip Tribes of Washington

18th Annual American Indian Tourism Conference September 12-14 at Tulalip Resort Casino

Tulalip, Washington - The American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) proudly presents the 18th Annual American Indian Tourism Conference (AITC), hosted by the Tulalip Tribes of Washington at the Tulalip Resort Casino, September 12 – 14, 2016.

The annual AITC strives to provide attendees with a quality educational forum to help tribes and tribal businesses with their travel and tourism initiatives. As the only national conference on tourism in Indian Country, AITC is designed to share knowledge, experience and best practices from tourism programs around the U.S., featuring an impressive line-up of expert speakers who provide resources and training fit for all, including tribes just entering into the tourism industry to tribes with an experienced tourism program.

“Cultural tourism can contribute to economic development of tribal communities while allowing tribes to keep their culture alive and tell their story in their own way,” said Rowena Yeahquo, AIANTA Pacific Region Board Member and Director of the Northwest Technical Assistance Program. “We are excited to bring the 18th Annual American Indian Tourism Conference (AITC) back to showcase the Pacific Region this year. Attending the AITC is a valuable opportunity in expanding the network of resources available to Tribal communities here and all over the country through cultural tourism.”

Each year, AITC kicks off with exciting and unique mobile workshops that highlight the culture of the region and host tribes and networking opportunities to share, teach and learn from each other.

In this year’s sessions, attendees will learn more about tour packaging, attracting tour operators, creating itineraries, positioning your tribe for the international tourism market, tourism assessment and inventory development, new technologies and strategies for marketing and media, protecting intellectual and cultural property, working with state and federal agencies, and more.

This year, AIANTA will be assisting tribes and tribal businesses with free on-site registration on NativeAmerica.travel.

AIANTA’s annual Enough Good People Silent Auction and Awards Ceremony will be held on Tuesday, September 13 at 7:00 p.m. PST. The event gives AIANTA an opportunity to recognize the “best of” the tribal hospitality and tourism industry, accompanied by dinner, entertainment and a silent auction featuring extraordinary items, which include native artwork from all over the country and overnight stays at tribal destinations throughout Indian Country. All proceeds from the silent auction benefit the AIANTA scholarship fund.

To learn more about the 18th Annual AITC visit www.AITC2016.com (mobile workshops; hotel information; sponsorship, artisan and exhibitor information; speaker biographies; conference agenda; silent auction and award ceremony and more)

28th Annual Summer Tribal Planning Institute

Northwest Tribal Technical Assistance Program & EWU Tribal Planning Program

The Northwest TTAP and the EWU Tribal Planning Program invite you to join our 28th annual summer Tribal Planning Institute at the Riverpoint Campus near downtown Spokane, WA. These workshops will help provide basic knowledge in areas such as transportation, comprehensive planning, Geographical Information Systems, and traffic safety. Join us for an exceptional three weeks of learning opportunities presented by our accomplished speakers.

Road Life Cycle

June 13-17, 2016

Informative workshop includes the process from beginning to end of setting a tribal road.

Tribal Planning

July 11-15, 2016

Dynamic workshop will overview the tribal planning history and legal foundations for comprehensive planning and land use.

GIS for Tribal Planning, Transportation and Traffic Safety

August 8-12, 2016

Learn basic knowledge of GIS concepts, applications, data driven planning, road maps, and analysis.

Cost: \$200 for each workshop or \$500 for all three

Questions? Contact Michele Siedenburger at msiedenburger@ewu.edu or 509-828-1411

For more information and registration visit: <https://www.ewu.edu/nwtap/training/summer-institute>

SUMMER DRIVING

The summer month see and increase in traffic activity with vacation road trips and weekend trips to the lake. In addition to the basics of safe driving (always wearing seat belts, driving alert and sober, and driving at safe and legal speeds) summer auto safety has its own unique concerns:

- South Dakotans are used to “winterizing” their cars, but with warmer weather it’s just as important to “summerize” your vehicle. There are a number of things you can do to keep your car comfortable in hot weather. Change your oil at recommended intervals. Examine hoses and belts and replace any that may have cracked during the colder weather. Have air conditioning serviced by a certified specialist. Replace wiper blades if necessary; blades in poor condition can make it harder to see when it rains. Keep tires properly inflated. This not only helps fuel efficiency, but also helps to avoid damage to tires. Make sure your spare tire is in good shape.
- Always carry a roadside emergency and first aid kit. Carry a cell phone. If you need to make a call, find a safe place and pull over.
- Wear safety belts. Safety belts reduce the risk of death to front seat passengers by 45 percent according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The risk of injury is reduced 50 percent.

Belts prevent passengers from being ejected from the car (most passengers who are ejected from cars die). Safety belts also protect passengers from being thrown around inside the car.

- Keep children safe. The back seat is the safest place for children to ride, and all children must be restrained with the correct safety equipment.

Children under 20 pounds and under 12 months old must be in an infant safety seat, facing the rear. Keep children rear-facing as long as possible—the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends doing so up to age two, checking that weight limits of the child car seat. When children outgrow the rear-facing seat, they should sit in a forward-facing seat. Make sure child safety seats are properly installed following the safety seat instruction and the vehicle owner’s manual. If the seat moves when it’s been fastened, it isn’t attached correctly. Children 40 to 80 pounds and between 4 and 8 years old should sit in a belt-positioning booster seat.

- In bad weather, turn your headlights on.
- Follow the three-second rule. Don’t tailgate, you won’t have enough time to stop in an emergency. In good weather, allow three seconds of following time behind the car in front of you. In bad weather, add one second for each condition (fog, rain, snow, etc.). If someone is tailgating you, get out of the way and let them pass.
- Summer can mean road construction. Be alert to road conditions and the added activity of workers and machines. Fines for speed violations double in work zones.

- Never leave a pet unattended in a vehicle, even with the windows rolled down slightly. In warm weather your car's interior heats up rapidly. Your pet could die of heatstroke in a very short period of time.
- Increased activity in the summer, combined with later daylight hours, often means that we are cheating ourselves on sleep. Driving while drowsy can be as deadly as drinking and driving. Caffeine and other stimulants are no substitutes for sleep: their effects wear off rapidly. If driving long distances, plan frequent breaks. Walk, stretch or even take a nap. If you have passengers, share the driving. Let someone else take the wheel for awhile.
- Relax and enjoy the ride. Don't let anger at other drivers interfere with your good judgement. There are a lot of behind-the-wheel-bullies on the road. Keep away from vehicles that are driving in an unsafe manner.

Bring snacks and games to keep children busy so they don't break your concentration.

Acknowledgements:
National Safety Council
Minnesota Department of Public Safety

BIKE SAFETY

Bicycling is one of the most popular recreational activities in the U.S. and an important means of transportation. To prevent bicycle injuries and deaths.

- Use a properly fitted helmet every time you ride—it can reduce the chance of head injury by 85% and brain injury as much as 88%. A properly fitted helmet should ride level on the head and not move. If a helmet moves when worn, adjust side and chin straps and add sizing pads to prevent the helmet from sliding. Double check the helmet before every ride.
- Bicycles are vehicles, and riders must follow the rules of the road:
 - * Stay to the right and ride with traffic
 - * Stop at all stop signs, lights and yield signs
 - * Use appropriate hand signals when turning and stopping. Look behind before turning across traffic lanes
 - * Pedestrians always have the right of way
- Don't assume motorists can see you. Avoid riding at night if possible. If you must ride after dark, make sure you are visible. In addition to light or brightly colored clothing, wear retroreflective material such as a vest and reflective straps on arms and legs. Retroreflective patches can be purchased inexpensively at fabric stores. Use a front and rear light—reflectors alone are not adequate for a motorist to see a cyclist.
- Keep your bike properly maintained. Have it checked over by a competent bike mechanic at least once a year.
- Don't wear headphones while bicycling—they will limit your ability to hear traffic noise.

Acknowledgements:
National SAFE KIDS Campaign
National Safety Council

Up-Coming Conferences / Workshops / Training



June 26-29, 2016—2016 NCAI Mid Year Conference & Marketplace—Spokane Washington—Spokane Convention Center—More information: <http://www.ncai.org/events/2016-mid-year-conference-marketplace>

July 18—21, 2016—2016 National LTAP/TTAP Conference—Madison, Wisconsin—More information: <http://www.nltapa.org/events/2016-national-ltap-ttap-conference>

September 9 - 15, 2016—2016 American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association Conference—Tulalip Washington—More information on page 8

October 3 – 6, 2016 - 19th Annual National Tribal Transportation Conference (NTTC) - Anaheim, CA—Save the Date and for more information on page 3



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