

# Tribal Transportation Planning

## Aligning Planning Tools with Tribal Community Needs



### Introduction

Existing studies surveying transportation planners in Tribal communities have recognized two key planning challenges:

1. that existing planning analysis tools do not always align with Tribal community context and needs and;
2. that it is not always clear what benefits planning provides to transportation project selection and delivery in Tribal communities

These challenges are outlined in a 2020 Research Needs Statement titled *Making Transportation Planning Applicable in Tribal Communities*. This Study, therefore, seeks to align available planning analysis tools to Tribal community needs based on a range of contextual factors and quantify the benefits of planning analysis in the project selection and delivery processes. Additionally, this Study seeks to ensure any findings optimize Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) funding decision-making in Tribal communities. The audience for the Study is primarily Tribal planning staff and, secondarily, FHWA's Office of Tribal Transportation staff and other federal agencies and partners.

### Goals

Recognizing the diversity of population size, geography, and needs across Tribal communities, this study will analyze the transportation project development lifecycle (planning through design, construction, and maintenance) to understand which planning analysis tools best serve Tribal communities needs and to what effect. The specific Study goals are to:

1. Align planning tools to the specific Tribal planning need
2. Ensure long-range transportation plans are implementable by Tribal staff
3. Link planning phase to project design, construction, and maintenance

### Scope

The major tasks for this Study are organized around progressive research memoranda culminating in a final report. The research is guided by a cross-USDOT project management team and a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) composed of Tribal planning staff, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and other



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stakeholders. The key tasks are shown in the graphic to the right.

### How to Engage

The Study's anticipated timeline is three years (June 2020 through June 2023), with TAC, site visit, and professional conference engagement throughout. For more information on the Study, Office of Tribal Transportation, or Office of Federal Lands, visit the following websites:

- [Project Website](#)
- [Office of Tribal Transportation](#)
- [Office of Federal Lands](#)



### Contacts

To stay up to date on the project, visit this project page regularly and contact the Project Manager, Cole Grisham, for more information.

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