



Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Inter-Tribal Task Force



2016



ANNUAL

REPORT



November 2015 to October 2016



Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Inter-Tribal Task Force



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Introduction

In May of 2005, WisDOT entered into a Partnership Agreement with 11 federally recognized Tribal Governments in Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to promote communication and cooperation between the agencies and Tribes on transportation issues.

The agreement was updated and re-signed in October of 2010 to reaffirm the partnership and include core emphasis areas of partnership, transportation safety, economic development, building capacity of Tribally run businesses, Native American labor development, training and cultural resources. The agreement also established the WisDOT Inter-Tribal Task Force (ITTF).

The ITTF was established after the original 2005 Partnership Agreement was signed. The group consists of representatives designated by Tribal leaders and WisDOT. The ITTF is a forum for partners to address long-standing transportation issues faced by Tribal communities.

The mission of the ITTF is to articulate and facilitate a clear direction in joint transportation systems between the individual Tribal governments, the FHWA, the BIA and the WisDOT.

Inter-Tribal Task Force Goals:

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation Inter-Tribal Task Force has established the following goals:

- Conduct bi-monthly meetings at various Tribal sites around the State of Wisconsin,
- Encourage Tribal participation in transportation related data collection efforts,
- Identify and support “best practices” when working with Tribal entities, and
- Facilitate communication between the Tribes and the WisDOT.

The ITTF established standing subcommittees to aid in the development of specific goals and objectives which will be carried out under each emphasis area. The subcommittees and WisDOT ITTF Coordinator also assist with the implementation of the annual work plan.

The annual work plan is divided into work team categories and budget. The plan also includes outstanding issues which will need to be considered throughout the annual implementation and during future planning activities.



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Meetings:

Logistics, agendas and minutes were completed for the following four meetings and five teleconference calls:

- December 2, 2015 – Meeting with Paul Hammer, WisDOT Deputy Secretary, in Ashland
- February 9, 2016 – Teleconference Call
- March 8, 2016 – Meeting in Baraboo
- May 10, 2016 – Teleconference Call
- June 14, 2016 – Meeting in Bad River
- August 9, 2016 – Teleconference Call
- September 13, 2016 – Meeting in Red Cliff
- October 19, 2016 – Teleconference Call
- November 1, 2016 – Meeting in Oneida

ITTF Administration:

- **Work Plan:** The Work Plan is approved annually by the ITTF at its first meeting of the year. The current work plan was approved on March 8, 2016. Individual Work Teams meet and provide guidance in developing the work plan for the upcoming year.
- **Staffing:** An ITTF Coordinator is employed to facilitate the activities and events for the Inter-Tribal Task Force. This is a full time position that is supported by a sub-contracted ITTF Assistant. The ITTF Coordinator works closely with Rusty Barber, ITTF Chairman, and Stacey Schreiber, ITTF Vice-Chair, when developing meeting agendas and events.
- **Budget:**

Inter-Tribal Task Force
 Facilitation
 (State Dept. of Transportation)
 05/01/2016 – 04/30/2017
BUDGET

Salary & Fringe	\$ 87,500
Travel	45,625
Operational Supplies	5,200
Consultants / Contracted Services	75,280
Other Expenses	<u>13,500</u>
Subtotal	\$227,105
Indirect Costs (15.08%)	<u>22,895</u>
Total Grant Award	<u>\$250,000</u>



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Work Teams

The ITTF established five subcommittees charged with addressing specific transportation issues identified in the 2015 Work Plan. The subcommittees were restructured as Work Teams, and the 2016 Work Plan continues to utilize the same work team structures as applied previously. The following outlines each work team and their primary functions.

The Safety and Signage Work Team is a standing committee of the ITTF, with a primary focus on safety, enforcement, communication, program sharing, and project development. The work team was charged with addressing all issues relating to the Tribes and the infrastructure of intermodal transportation and highway project development in Tribal communities.

The Real Estate and Jurisdiction Work Team has a primary focus in real estate, right-of-way and jurisdictional challenges. The work team was charged with enhancing relationships between BIA, FHWA, WisDOT and the Tribes through networking, training and policy changes.

The Transit Work Team is charged with assessing statewide Tribal needs in Transit, explore funding opportunities, enhance partnerships and create peer to peer opportunities. Cultural Resource goals and objectives are established through the THPO program.

The Labor and Business Work Team is a standing committee of the ITTF, with a primary focus on providing Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE's) with appropriate support and information, assisting in the development and evaluation of the Native Hiring preference, and supporting capacity building for Tribes, Tribal enterprises and businesses owned by Tribal Members.

This work team has an established goal of increasing the support, awareness, utilization and capacity of emerging, newly certified and existing Native American Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (NADBE's) for participation in the construction industry. Specifically, this group works to identify, support and monitor NADBE's through the certification process and the number of contracts earned.

The Shared Resources Work Team is a standing committee of the ITTF with a primary focus of identifying and facilitating special events, training opportunities, annual conference planning and information sharing.

This sub-committee has an established goal of providing comprehensive training programs specific to Tribal communities and their individual concerns and to promote ITTF involvement in programming and promote achievements within reservation communities from previous years.

Specifically, this group works to identify and coordinate opportunities for Tribal Members to receive training within reservation communities. Targeted training opportunities must be accessible to a wide range of participants and broad enough to impact services in and around reservations.



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Work Team Reports:

Safety and Signage Work Team Report

The following are the work team's initiatives:

- "It Takes a Nation" Tribal transportation safety campaign posters have been distributed to all 11 Tribes in Wisconsin. ITTF is exploring the utilization of several billboards in Tribal communities to showcase the posters in addition to installing posters on Tribal transit buses and vehicles.
- OTIE is currently working with Wisconsin Tribes to create a Statewide Tribal Transportation Safety Plan. Five Tribes will be included this year, with the six remaining Tribes to be included in 2017. We expect to have a complete report in the next year.
- The 2017 Tribal Transportation Safety Summit is scheduled for February 23, 2017 at the Menominee Casino and Resort.
- The Safety/Signage Work Team partnered with key WisDOT staff to create a safety signage brochure. The brochure offers information on the placement and size of signs along our roadways. It includes website and other contacts for detailed information. The final version will be available at the 2017 Safety Summit, and will be on our website at wisdottribaltaskforce.org
- The Survey of Tribal Communities is partially completed, with five remaining Tribes yet to be visited. Coordinating the schedules of vital staff members is proving to be more of a challenge than originally anticipated. The report will be completed by December 2016
- Increase Tribal Law Enforcement use of Tracs10. WisDOT offered Tracs10 training at the Governor's Conference on Highway Safety, on August 23, 2016.
- Law Enforcement Training was held on March 17, 2016. Officer Jermaine Galloway, The Tall Cop, presented drug and alcohol trends to assist law enforcement personnel and others in identifying articles and behavior of drug use. More than 60 participants attended the training, which was well received by Tribal Law Enforcement, County Law Enforcement, Social Services staff, WisDOT staff and other interested participants.
- Work will begin on the Organized Youth PSA project in November 2016.

Real Estate/Jurisdiction Work Team Report

- A Tribal Real Estate training was held on April 5, 2016, at Stockbridge-Munsee in Bowler. Attendees included 14 Tribal Representatives, 14 WisDOT staff, four BIA staff and four others. "Finding Common Ground" brought Tribal, State and Federal representatives together to exchange information and discuss strategies that cooperative meet multiple real estate processes and requirements within each agency to facilitate efficient project delivery. The overall evaluations reflected a positive training experience.



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- Recommendations included the continuation of dialogue with the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the federal implementation of the new right-of-way regulations and include in future trainings. Issues involving BIA oversight and involvement are complex, and the questions and comments reflected a need for more trainings and opportunities in this area. A more detailed step-by-step walk-through of a project from the BIA's perspective would be beneficial and enhance understanding of the federal process.

Transit Work Team Report



- The Transit Peer Exchange was held on February 18, 2016, at the Lake of the Torches Resort Casino in Lac du Flambeau. Attendees included 19 Tribal staff, five WisDOT staff, and a FTA representative from the Region 5 office in Chicago. WisDOT staff presented information on Elderly and Disabled Transit & RTAP – State/Federal Programming, Challenges, and Benefits. Angelica Salgado, FTA Region V Transportation Specialist joined the exchange and discussed the overview of the new highway transportation bill (FAST Act), an FTA update on the new reporting system (TrAMS), Tribal Transit Formula Grants 5311(c)(2)(B), and NTD Reporting.
- Suggestions for the 2017 Transit Peer Exchange agenda include:
 - Funding Resources
 - Mini Training for Tribes in Planning Stages
 - Menominee's Database – Ask them to present on their software
 - Dedicate time to allow Brandon Cooper (Oneida) to talk and share his valuable experience

Business and Labor Work Team Report

- DBE Outreach and Awareness: The Native American Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (NADBE) Early Intervention Plan (EIP) project was launched to reach out to all currently certified NADBEs in Wisconsin with an offer to perform a comprehensive business assessment, create a findings/opportunities report and proposed corrective action plans. The NADBE Action Plans include a variety of services ranging from assistance with financial management issues, contracting issues, and marketing/outreach assistance.



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Through the end of this reporting period six NADBEs requested and received on-site EIP assessments and work is currently underway to complete their respective actions plans. Findings so far include that some NADBE firms in Wisconsin are not aware of, nor accessing available business support services, when business management issues or capacity development opportunities arise.

NADBE Directory: The Native American Disadvantage Business Enterprise (NADBE) interactive directory was created and placed on the wisdottribaltaskforce.org website to feature Native-owned businesses' capability statements, links to their respective websites and geo-location icons on an interactive Wisconsin map. The NADBE Directory is designed to increase visibility and business development opportunities for participating businesses, and will be periodically updated to maintain current and accurate Native American DBE capacity information. Work is also continuing on a Native business development resources posting to the ITTF website.



- **Business Loans:** A presentation was given to the ITTF by the Chair of the Wisconsin Indian Business Alliance (WIBA) and American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin (AICCW). Statewide Native loan opportunities and development services were presented to build awareness and referrals among ITTF representatives. WIBA organizations will be included in future ITTF programming to assist in overcoming barriers associated with access to capital, loans and services in Wisconsin Indian Country.



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WIBA Resources include:

- First American Capital Corporation - Milwaukee
 - First Nations Community Financial – Ho-Chunk-Black River Falls
 - Nijjii Capital Partners, Inc. – Menominee/Mole Lake/LDF-Keshena
 - Wisconsin Native Loan Fund – LDF/Oneida Locations
 - GLITC Small Business Technical Assistance Program (LDF)
- **Economic Development:** At the 2015 WTTC, a networking lunch and vendor expo was held. 21 NADBE's, 21 prime contractors and engineers, two DBE's and 15 business resource organizations attended. Eight business and economic development sessions were presented throughout the conference that included a wealth of information and allowed opportunities for networking with agencies and contractors. Evaluations and participant feedback from 2015 WTTC were used to plan and support subsequent action items in the annual work plan, including increased participation of Native TrANS participants and graduates at future conferences. A Northwoods Economic Development Session was coordinated by Business/Labor work team members with newly NADBE certified and experienced NADBEs at the December 2, 2015, ITTF meeting with Paul Hammer, WisDOT Deputy Secretary, in Ashland. The purpose of this presentation was to illustrate Native business capacity in Northern Wisconsin, and to stress the need for improved access to Native business support services and business development opportunities throughout Wisconsin.
 - **Contracting and Employment Opportunities web page:** The Tribal Projects Contracting Opportunities and RFPs page located on the ITTF website was created and continuously needs to be kept current. This is designed to be a "one-stop shop" for all available Tribal project solicitations to facilitate awareness and opportunities for Native-owned and other qualifying businesses. This service also includes links to all Tribal employment pages. This project was in direct response from evaluations and requests from the 2015 WTTC.

Contracting and Employment Opportunities

The Inter-Tribal Task Force (ITTF) and the [Tribal Labor Advisory Committee \(TLAC\)](#) are working together to provide a listing of Contracting and Employment Opportunities for our Native American workforce and Native American owned businesses.

Our goal is to have an easily accessible and comprehensive listing of Tribal contracting and employment opportunities throughout Wisconsin Indian Country, and to reach every Tribal employee who seeks services.

Request For Proposals (RFPs):

Updated: 10/29/2016

Tribal RFP's –

- [Lac du Flambeau – Peter Christensen Dental Center RFP For Housekeeping Services](#)
- [Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin](#)
- [Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians](#)
- [Stockbridge-Munsee Community](#)



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Shared Resources Work Team Report

- **Cultural Awareness Training:** Four sessions of the “Building Bridges on the Road to Cultural Interchange” was held for WisDOT staff in January and February 2016. The two-day training was held in Oneida, Madison, Superior and Rhinelander. Between 30 and 50 participants attended each training, the majority of whom were WisDOT staff, but attendees also included other state and federal agency representatives and Tribal representatives. The purpose of the training was to provide a greater knowledge and understanding of the 11 federally recognized Tribes in the state of Wisconsin, as well as a better understanding of the issues as they relate to the relationship between WISDOT and Tribes. Specific information was presented regarding the cultural and historical background of the Wisconsin Tribes. The training also included a review of legal issues including federal, state and Tribal legislation as it pertains to sovereignty of Tribes. It also included a deep look into historical eras that have shaped Tribal communities. A summary of WisDOT Tribal Affairs programs and initiatives were provided, reinforcing the importance of strong partnerships between WISDOT and the Tribes. The session combined lecture style information sharing with interactive exercises, and tied together an appreciation of cultural differences with daily practical applications for WisDOT staff work with Indigenous Tribes.
- **Partnership and Policy Work Team Report:** On September 13, 2016, ITTF Members requested to revise and update the 2010 FHWA Tribal Partnership Agreement. Work will begin in December 2016.
- **Wisconsin Tribal Transportation Conference:** The 2015 WTTC welcomed more than 230 attendees. All of the 11 Wisconsin federally recognized Tribes were in attendance, as well as contractors, Native American Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, Native business owners and contractors. In addition, there were more than 70 WisDOT staff in attendance.





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- A Gap Analysis is being conducted in November and December 2016 with a final report presented to the ITTF at their meeting in March 2017. Results of the GAP analysis will be utilized in developing the goals and objectives of the 2017 Annual Work Plan.

Closing

We've had a busy and very successful year, and look forward to continuing our efforts to bring information and events to our member Tribes.

Partnering with WisDOT, the Wisconsin Division of the Federal Highway Administration and the Bureau of Indian Affairs has proven to be an effective process in meeting the needs of Tribal Communities, and we look forward to continued collaboration in 2017.