



**U.S. Department
of Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

Assistant Secretary
for Governmental Affairs

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Tribal Leader:

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT or Department), please accept this invitation to participate in the Tribal consultation meetings regarding the proposed regulations to establish and carry out the Tribal Transportation Self-Governance Program (TTSGP).

The Department issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that would establish the TTSGP pursuant to Section 1121 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act (23 U.S.C. 207) and announced formal Tribal consultation. The Federal Register published the NPRM on October 2, 2019 (84 Fed. Reg. 52706, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/10/02/2019-21464/tribal-transportation-self-governance-program>). The comment period is open through December 2, 2019. The Department jointly developed the NPRM with Tribal representatives through the TTSGP Negotiated Rulemaking Committee consistent with the Negotiated Rulemaking Act and in a manner that reflects the unique government-to-government relationship between Indian Tribes and the United States.

The purpose of the TTSGP is to transfer Federal funding for transportation-related programs to eligible Tribes to facilitate Tribal control over the delivery of transportation programs, services, functions and activities (PSFAs). DOT's statute incorporates by reference select provisions of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975, Public L. No. 93-638, as amended (ISDEAA). The Program would provide to participating Tribes greater control and decision-making authority over their use of certain DOT funding for which they are eligible recipients while reducing associated administrative burdens.

These proposed regulations include eligibility criteria, describe the contents of and process for negotiating self-governance compacts and funding agreements with the Department, and set forth the roles, responsibilities, and limitations on the Department and Tribes that participate in the TTSGP. The Department is seeking feedback from Tribal leaders on this proposed rule.

The face-to-face consultation details are as follows:

- Monday, October 21, 2019, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (MDT), Albuquerque, New Mexico. National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) 76th Annual Convention & Marketplace, Albuquerque Convention Center (Santo Domingo Room), 401 2nd St NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102
- Tuesday, November 5, 2019, 8:30 a.m.–12 p.m. (CST), Choctaw, Mississippi. United Southern and Eastern Tribes (USET)/USET Sovereignty Protection Fund (SPF) Annual Meeting, Pearl River Resort, 13541 Hwy 16W, Choctaw, MS 39350

- Tuesday, November 19, 2019, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. (PST), Seattle, Washington.
Federal Aviation Administration, Northwest Mountain Region, 2200 South 216th Street,
Des Moines, Washington 98198

In addition to the face-to-face consultations, the Department will hold a virtual listening session via webinar and conference call:

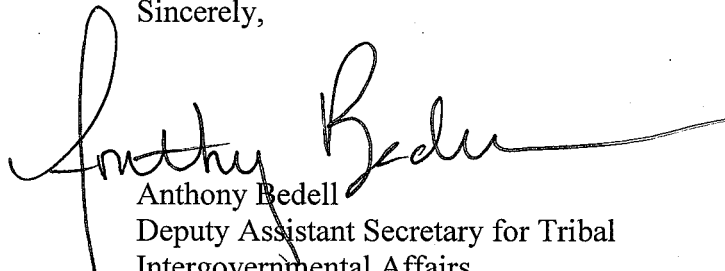
- Thursday, November 21, 2019, 1 p.m.–5 p.m. EST, Webinar or Conference Call.
<https://connectdot.connectsolutions.com/sr500ausdot/>.
Telephone: 800–683–4564; Access Code: 027757

Additional information may be found on the TTSGP website, www.transportation.gov/self-governance. An agenda for the meeting and the Federal Register notice are attached for your reference. Written comments will be accepted throughout the duration of the Tribal Consultation. The deadline to provide your comments is December 2, 2019. All comments must be identified by agency and docket number and sent by one of the following methods:

- *Electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal:* www.regulations.gov, docket no. DOT-OST-2018-0104. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- *Mail:* U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M– 30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.
- *Hand Delivery:* U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.
- *Fax:* 1–202–493–2251.

We hope that you will join us. If you have questions or concerns about the consultation, please contact the Designated Federal Official, Ronald Jackson, at ronald.jackson@dot.gov, or (202) 366-9151.

Sincerely,



Anthony Bedell
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Tribal
Intergovernmental Affairs

Attachment

**Tribal Government-to-Government Consultation Agenda
for the Tribal Transportation Self-Governance Program**

Monday, October 21, 2019, 8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. (MDT), Albuquerque, New Mexico

Tuesday, November 5, 2019, 8:30 a.m.–12 p.m. (CST), Choctaw, Mississippi

Tuesday, November 19, 2019, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. (PST), Seattle, Washington

Thursday, November 21, 2019, 1 p.m.–5 p.m. EST, Virtual Listening Session by Webinar

A. Welcome

- Opening Remarks
- Introductions

B. Overview of Process

C. Overview of Preamble and Areas of Disagreement

D. Overview of Proposed Regulations

E. Questions and Comments

F. Closing Comments and Adjournment