



Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

2008 Winter Conference Yakima, Washington

RESOLUTION #08 - 35

"SUPPORT FOR THE TRIBAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN HIGHWAY PROGRAM RE-AUTHORIZATION FOR 2010 TO 2015"

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians is a regional organization comprised of American Indians in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians; and

WHEREAS, the ATNI played a key role in the authorization of the Tribal Technical Assistance Program (TTAP) under ISTEA (Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991) that was modeled after state programs initiated in 1982; and

WHEREAS, TTAP has grown from four Centers in 1993 to seven today; and

WHEREAS, TTAP Centers provide technical assistance and training through a curriculum uniquely matched to tribal government needs that greatly compliments the more technically oriented training programs provided by state LTAP Centers; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians and the Inter-tribal Transportation Association Joint Task Force on the Re-authorization of SAFETEA-LU is developing a "National Tribal Leadership Paper on Tribal Transportation Policy;" and

WHEREAS, the draft policy for TTAP includes: 1) increasing total program funding to \$2.5 million from \$1.96 million as under SAFETEA-LU, 2) changing the funding allocation from a 50% FHWA Office of Professional and Corporate Development (OPCD) with a 50% match from the Indian Reservation Roads Program to a 100% share from the FHWA-OPCD, 3) increasing the number of TTAP Centers from seven to twelve (one for each BIA Region), and 4) assuring consultation with tribal officials in the selection of awards for five-year TTAP Cooperative Agreements; and

WHEREAS, funding for each TTAP Center has effectively remained unchanged at \$280,000 per Center, per year for the past seven years since FFY 2002; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Task Force draft policy for TTAP would actually reduce funding for each TTAP Center to \$208,333, a cut of \$71,667 or more than 25%, by funding the Program at \$2.5 million while expanding to twelve TTAP Centers; now

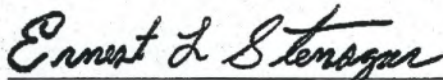
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that while the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians strongly supports the broad objectives under development for the TTAP Policy Statement and commends the Joint Task Force for their efforts, some minor adjustments to the draft Policy are necessary; and

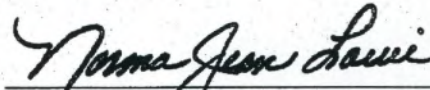
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians recommend that the FHWA Office of Professional and Corporate Development consult with regional tribal transportation organizations as determined by the tribes in each region, such as ATNI in the Northwest Region, in developing TTAP oversight policies; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians recommend the final Policy Statement for TTAP include: 1) increased funding for TTAP to \$2.5 million in 2010 and an additional \$500,000 each year thereafter until it is \$5 million in 2015, and 2) the addition of one new TTAP Center in each year from 2011 to 2015, and 3) inclusion of all other items in the draft Policy Statement.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2008 Winter Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Yakima Convention Center, Yakima, Washington on January 25, 2008, with a quorum present.



Ernest L. Stensgar, President

Norma Jean Louie, Secretary