

§ 170.102

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and the repair of eligible damaged IRR transportation facilities;

(8) Assisting in the development of State and tribal agreements related to the IRR Program;

(9) Developing and improving transit systems serving Indian lands and communities; and

(10) Assisting in the submission of discretionary grant applications for State and Federal funding for IRR transportation facilities.

(b) Tribes and State and Federal Government agencies may enter into intergovernmental Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) to streamline and facilitate consultation, collaboration, and coordination.

§ 170.102 How do the Departments consult, collaborate, and coordinate with tribal governments?

The Department of the Interior and the Department of Transportation operate within a government-to-government relationship with federally recognized tribes. As a critical element of this relationship, these agencies should assess the impact of Federal transportation policies, plans, projects, and programs on tribal rights and interests to ensure that these rights and concerns are appropriately considered.

§ 170.103 What goals and principles guide the Secretaries?

When undertaking transportation activities affecting tribes, the Secretaries should, to the maximum extent permitted by law:

(a) Establish regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with affected tribal governments, including facilitating the direct involvement of tribal governments in short- and long-range Federal transportation planning efforts;

(b) Promote the rights of tribal governments to govern their own internal affairs;

(c) Promote the rights of tribal governments to receive direct transportation services from the Federal Government or to enter into agreements to directly operate any tribally related transportation programs serving tribal members;

(d) Ensure the continuation of the trust responsibility of the United States to tribes and Indian individuals;

(e) Reduce the imposition of unfunded mandates upon tribal governments;

(f) Encourage flexibility and innovation in the implementation of the IRR Program;

(g) Reduce, streamline, and eliminate unnecessarily restrictive transportation policies, guidelines, or procedures;

(h) Ensure that tribal rights and interests are appropriately considered during program development;

(i) Ensure that the IRR Program is implemented consistent with tribal sovereignty and the government-to-government relationship; and

(j) Consult with, and solicit the participation of, tribes in the development of the annual BIA budget proposals.

§ 170.104 Must the Secretary consult with tribal governments before obligating IRR Program funds?

Yes. Before obligating IRR program funds on any project that is for direct service activities, the Secretary must consult with the affected tribe to determine the tribal preferences concerning the project. The Secretary must provide information in accordance with § 170.600 within 30 days of the Notice of Availability of Funds publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

§ 170.105 Are funds available for consultation, collaboration, and coordination activities?

To fund consultation, collaboration, and coordination of IRR Program activities, tribes may use:

(a) The tribes' IRR Program allocations;

(b) Tribal Priority Allocation (TPA) funds;

(c) Administration for Native Americans (ANA) funds;

(d) Economic Development Administration (EDA) funds;

(e) United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development funds;

(f) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds; Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) funds;

(g) Indian Health Service Tribal Management Grant (IHSTMG) funds;