

## Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior

## § 170.105

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;

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(h) General funds of the tribal government; and

(i) Any other funds available for the purpose of consultation, collaboration, and coordination activities.

**§ 170.106 When must State governments consult with tribes?**

Each State must develop the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) in consultation with tribes and BIA in those areas under Indian tribal jurisdiction. This includes providing for a fully coordinated transportation planning process that coordinates transportation planning efforts carried out by the State with transportation planning efforts carried out by tribes. The statewide and metropolitan planning organization requirements are in 23 U.S.C. 134 and 135. Regulations can be found at 23 CFR part 450.

**§ 170.107 Should planning organizations and local governments consult with tribes when planning for transportation projects?**

Yes. The Department's policy is to foster and improve communication, cooperation, and coordination among metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), regional planning organizations (RPOs), local governments, municipal governments, and tribes on transportation matters of common concern. Accordingly, planning organizations and local governments should consult with tribal governments when planning for transportation projects.

**§ 170.108 Should Indian tribes and BIA consult with States' planning organizations and local governments in the development of their IRR TIP?**

Yes.

(a) All regionally significant IRR Program projects must be:

(1) Developed in cooperation with State and metropolitan planning organizations; and

(2) Included in appropriate Federal Lands Highway Program transportation improvement programs for inclusion in state and metropolitan plans.

(b) BIA and tribes are encouraged to consult with States, metropolitan and regional planning organizations, and local and municipal governments, on

transportation matters of common concern.

**§ 170.109 How do the Secretaries prevent discrimination or adverse impacts?**

In administering the IRR Program, the Secretaries ensure that non-discrimination and environmental justice principles are integral program elements. The Secretaries consult with tribes early in the program development process to identify potential discrimination and to recommend corrective actions to avoid disproportionately high and adverse effects on tribes and Native American populations.

**§ 170.110 How can State and local governments prevent discrimination or adverse impacts?**

(a) Under 23 U.S.C. 134 and 135, and 23 CFR part 450, State and local government officials should consult and work with tribes early in the development of programs to:

(1) Identify potential discrimination; and

(2) Recommend corrective actions to avoid disproportionately high and adverse effects on tribes and Native American populations.

(b) Examples of adverse effects include, but are not limited to:

(1) Impeding access to tribal communities or activities;

(2) Creating excessive access to culturally or religiously sensitive areas;

(3) Negatively affecting natural resources, trust resources, tribal businesses, religious, and cultural sites;

(4) Harming indigenous plants and animals; and

(5) Impairing the ability of tribal members to engage in commercial, cultural, and religious activities.

**§ 170.111 What can a tribe do if discrimination or adverse impacts occur?**

If discrimination or adverse impacts occur, a tribe should take the following steps in the order listed:

(a) Take reasonable steps to resolve the problem directly with the State or local government involved;

(b) Contact BIA, FHWA, or the Federal Transit Authority (FTA), as appropriate, to report the problem and