

Alaska Tribal-State-Federal Transportation Task Force Interim Joint Ch-Chairs

September 25, 2009

Dear Tribal Leaders and Transportation Officials,

Representatives of Alaska's Tribal Governments, the State of Alaska, and Federal Agencies have been working closely together to create a forum for Tribal, Federal and State leaders, policy makers and transportation professionals to engage in constructive dialogue and to build and maintain a productive working relationship. To facilitate this relationship an Alaska Tribal-State-Federal Transportation Task force is being formed and an interim task force has been working on getting the process up and operational.

The Alaska Tribal-State-Federal Transportation Task Force is being established to improve the delivery of transportation projects that serve Alaska communities by facilitating communication and coordination between the State of Alaska, Alaska Tribal Governments and the Federal Government. The Task Force will:

1. Provide an ongoing forum for inter-governmental dialogue;
2. Facilitate implementation of transportation programs and projects;
3. Facilitate communications and dissemination of information regarding transportation policy and program issues.

Alaska faces unprecedented transportation challenges. These transportation challenges are best met through the coordinated efforts of federal, state and tribal governments. Tribes may be able to play an important part in helping meet these challenges because of their Indian Reservation Roads funding, currently estimated to be roughly \$50 million to \$70 million annually. The Task Force envisions new and productive state-tribal-federal working relations, and ultimately all Alaskans—Tribal and non-Tribal alike—stand to benefit.

Task Force meetings will occur at least twice yearly to coincide with future Alaska Transportation Summits, generally in Spring, and future Transportation Symposiums, generally in the Fall. Additional meetings will be conducted using video and telephone conferences. The next meeting of the Task Force is scheduled for October 26th at the Hotel Captain Cook. Attached is a tentative agenda for that meeting.

Also Attached is a "Participation Agreement Establishing a Alaska Tribal-State-Federal Transportation Task Force" (the Agreement). The Agreement was developed by a working group of Tribal, State and Federal representatives, and has been adopted by the Interim Joint Chairs as the mechanism for officially establishing membership in the Task Force. The Agreement establishes organizational protocols of the Task Force. To date, membership in the Task Force has been informally recognized as organizational documents such as the Agreement were in the process of being developed.

Please carefully review the Agreement before signing and ensure you are in agreement with the commitments being made. Of special note to Tribes and Tribal Consortia, this Agreement requires that Tribes elect the level of participation they would like on the Task Force. If they choose to

participate at all, they may do so as a full voting member, or as a non-voting member by delegating their voting authority to a Tribal Consortium in which they are a member. These options are provided in the Agreement to Participate at the end of the Agreement. Tribal Consortia will need to coordinate responses with Tribes within their Consortium, tally the number of Tribes they will be representing on the Task Force, and ensure that the Agreement to Participate submitted by the Tribal Consortium correlates with the number of Tribes that have elected to be represented on the Task Force by the Consortium (and the Agreement to Participate signature pages submitted by Tribes within the Consortium).

All Tribal, State and Federal entities wishing to remain officially recognized as being a Task Force member need to fill out and sign the “Agreement to Participate” form, and mail, fax or email the signed, completed form to:

ATTWG
P.O. Box 792
Dillingham, AK 99576 Fax# 907 842-1421, or email to: jbaltar@anttc.com

In addition, there will be a registration fee of \$75.00 per person for the October 26 Task Force meeting. The fee covers costs of the meeting. Please include a check or money order in that amount made payable to “ATTWG” (this is the Alaska Tribal Transportation Work Group which is facilitating the meeting) along with the signed, completed Agreement form.

The Agreement form and the registration fee need to be mailed, emailed, or faxed to and received by the ATTWG at the address above by October 20, 2009. Julianne Baltar can be reached at 907 842-1421 if you have any questions regarding registration payment.

The Tribal, State and Federal representatives will be naming their Joint Chairs at this meeting. For Tribes, there will be a Tribal caucus that will occur from 12:40 – 1:30 pm following the serving of lunch, in order to choose the Tribal Joint Chair. Please be prepared to submit any nominations you may have at that time.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this great opportunity and we hope you can join us in this effort to improve transportation for all of the citizens of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Gerry Hope, Interim Tribal Joint Chair
Transportation Manager Sitka Tribe of Alaska
907 -747-5910, or Hope@sitkatribes.org

Mark O’Brian, Interim State Joint Chair
Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
907-465-6990, or Mark.Obrien@alaska.gov

David Jeff Harman, Interim Federal Joint Chair
Bureau of Indian Affairs
907- 271-2136, or David.Harman@bia.gov