



January 2026

Western TTAP Newsletter



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Safe. Reliable. Moving—All Season Long

Dear Tribal Communities,

As winter settles in, our transportation systems often face some of the most challenging conditions of the year. Snow, ice, and low temperatures test every part of our operations—from roadway maintenance and fleet readiness to transit service and worker safety.

Despite these challenges, Indian country continues to show remarkable dedication to their communities. Operators, mechanics, dispatchers, plow drivers, and field crews are ready to keep our communities moving, no matter what the winter season brings. Their commitment to safety and service ensures that our roads, routes, and facilities remain reliable during the harshest months.

This issue features insights from transit workshops, progress on mobility improvements, a flagger spotlight, training requests, construction contract updates, and available grant opportunities. Thank you for your continued support and for allowing us to serve you and your community. We look forward to more engagement and initiatives into 2026.

Respectfully,
Carrie Brown, MSML
WTTAP Director



Route Forward: Tribal Transit Workshop Input Survey



Scan Me

To help us plan the logistics of an upcoming Tribal Transit Workshop, we invite you to complete a brief survey. Your input will help us design a Tribal Transit Workshop that truly reflects the needs and priorities of our Tribal communities. This short survey will guide us in shaping the workshop's location, venue, delivery dates, and activities so the training is practical, relevant, and accessible to you. Thank you for taking a moment to share your insights and helping us create a workshop that influences strong, safe, and more effective transit programs. To access the survey and provide impactful insights, click [here](#) or scan the QR Code!

Training Highlight: ATSSA Flagger Certification



In November, WTTAP was pleased to deliver Flagger Certification Courses to the Hoopa Valley Tribe through the American Traffic Safety Services Association. The ATSSA Flagger Certification Course prepares workers to safely control traffic in work zones by covering hazards, proper equipment, and the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Through instruction and hands-on practice, participants earn a 3 or 4 year (depending on the state) certification card. Due to the high-risk and fast-paced environment a flagger works in, this training is essential and impactful for individuals directing traffic near active sites.

As a result of this training, the Hoopa area now has 28 certified, tribally affiliated flaggers ready to work on local, state and tribal roadways.

If you are interested in bringing the ATSSA Flagger Certification course to your area, reach out to WTTAP through our online [Training Request Form](#).

Improving Transit and Mobility for Tribal Communities

Transportation access is a critical challenge for many tribal communities. Limited transit options, long travel distances, and underfunded infrastructure can make it difficult for residents—especially elders, youth, and people with disabilities—to reach their jobs, schools, healthcare facilities, and other essential services.

To combat the many challenges, there are opportunities for improvement such as the following:

- **Tribal Transit Programs:** Funding from programs like the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) and Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund (TTPSF) can support planning, vehicles, and safety improvements.
- **Demand-Response Services:** Flexible shuttle or ride-on-demand systems can serve sparsely populated areas efficiently.
- **Partnerships:** Collaborating with neighboring transit agencies, schools, or health providers can expand service coverage.
- **Technology:** Mobile apps and scheduling platforms improve reliability and rider access.
- **Community Engagement:** Involving residents in planning ensures services meet actual needs, including accessibility and scheduling.

Strengthening community mobility is a key in fostering equity, opportunity, education and quality of independence in tribal communities.

For more information on transit in tribal communities, contact [Neil Rodriguez](#), Tribal Program Manager at the National Transit Assistance Program.



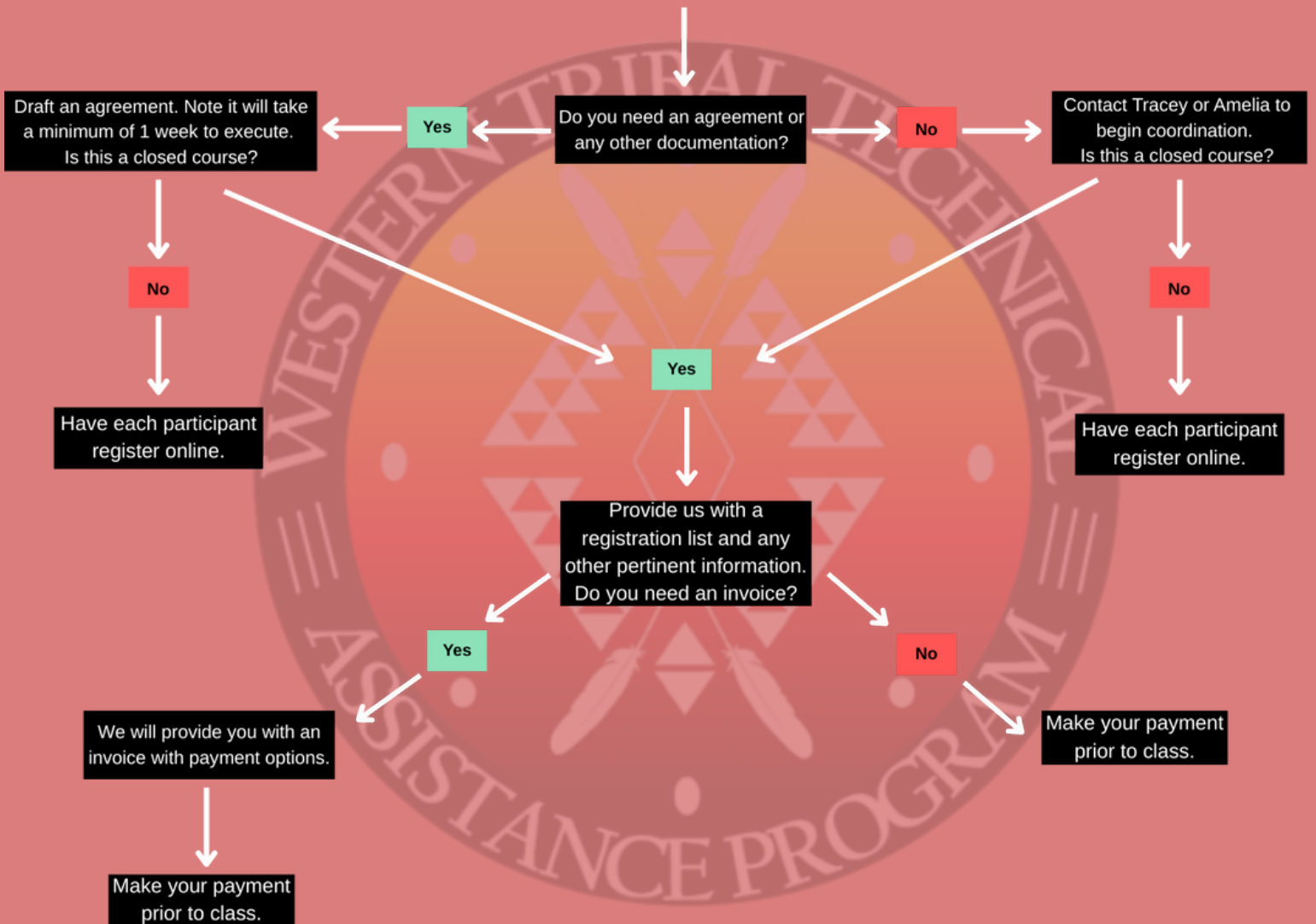
“Strengthening community mobility is a key in fostering equity, opportunity, education and quality of independence in tribal communities.”



Training Request Steps with Western TTAP:

Western TTAP enjoys partnering with Tribes to provide impactful and purposeful training to their community. To ensure the training request process runs smoothly, please refer to the above which outlines the steps and information we need to plan successfully. If you are interested in having the Western TTAP provide a training at your facility, please complete the [Training Request Form](#) or contact [Tracey Smith](#) (in-person sessions) or [Amelia Shannon](#) (virtual sessions) to get the process started.

Training Request Submitted



*Please note we require at least 6 weeks lead time for ALL trainings.

Technical Assistance Highlight: Construction Contracts

One of the most essential elements of a capital improvement project, infrastructure maintenance, or any construction project is a contract.

Clear, detailed construction contracts prevent misunderstandings, control costs, and keep projects on track. Key elements include a precise scope of work (SOW), payment terms, timeline and milestones, change-order procedures, insurance and indemnification requirements, warranties, and a defined dispute-resolution process. Additionally, it's important to always include contractor licensing and insurance information as well.

Contract Best Practices:

- Have a formal legal review for complex agreements.
- Document everything—communications, decisions, and changes.
- Keep communication open among all parties.
- Use contract-management technology to track routing and approvals.
- Check references for quality, timeliness, and cost accuracy.
- Run fair, competitive bids, especially for public projects.

Contract Tips:

- Tribes may use experts to develop detailed scopes and clarify exclusions.
- Contractors should closely review clauses such as “termination for convenience” and “time is of the essence.”

For assistance on contracts, project management, or any other technical assistance topic, contact us by filling out our online [Technical Assistance Request Form](#) or email [Carrie Brown](#).



“Clear, detailed construction contracts prevent misunderstandings, control costs, and keep projects on track.”



Grant Opportunity: Tribal Transportation Program Safety Funds



Under the Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund (TTPSF), tribes can apply for no-match funding (grants that do not require the recipient to provide matching funds) to support a wide range of safety initiatives, including developing or updating transportation safety plans, conducting safety audits, and improving data collection.

Eligible projects also include systemic roadway-departure countermeasures like rumble strips, enhanced signage, and guardrails, as well as infrastructure upgrades such as safer intersections, pedestrian and bicycle improvements, better sight-distance, skid-resistant surfaces, and other hazard-reduction measures. Additionally, TTPSF funds can be used for up to 20% match for Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grants.

Here is a brief synopsis of TTPSF funding information:

- **Opportunity Category:** Discretionary
- **Funding Instrument Type:** Grant
- **Category Explanation:** Transportation Safety Planning; Data Assessment, Improvement, and Analysis; and Infrastructure Improvement under 23 U.S.C. 148(a)(4)
- **Expected Number of Awards:** 110
- **Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement:** No
- **Posted Date:** Nov 07, 2025
- **Last Updated Date:** Nov 07, 2025
- **Original/Current Closing Date:** Jan 15, 2026
- **Archive Date:** Feb 14, 2026
- **Estimated Total Program Funding:** \$25,118,400
- **Award Ceiling:** \$25,118,400
- **Award Floor:** \$1

To view this grant opportunity, visit the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#).

Grant Opportunities

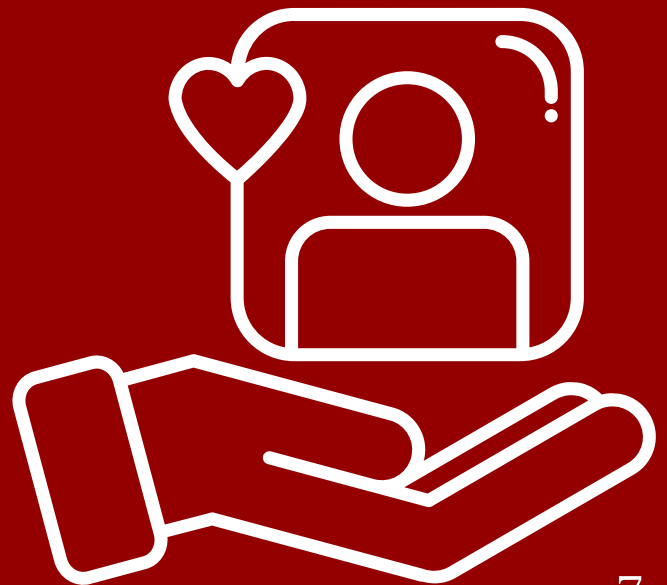
Grant Title	Due Date
2026 Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund	January 15, 2026
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) – Mines & Metals Capacity Expansion	January 15, 2026
Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA): Mine of the Future - Proving Ground Initiative	January 30, 2026
Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Grant Program	February 6, 2026
Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) Imminent Threat Program	September 30, 2026

On-Demand Technical Assistance

If you have any technical assistance questions on pavements, program development, asset management, plans, asphalt, grant writing, safety, and more, reach out to us.

Luis Sibaja P.E / Technical Assistance Advisor lsibaja@appliedpavement.com

Carrie Brown MSML/ WTTAP Director cbrown@appliedpavement.com



Training Trail



Join us for a training! If you have a specific training need, feel free to reach out us!

Training Title	Platform	Date
TTP RIFDS Training – Albuquerque, NM	In-person	January 13-15; January 27-29; February 10-12
Intertribal Transportation Association Annual Meeting – Oklahoma City, OK	In-person	January 13-15
Low-Cost safety Improvements	Virtual	January 21-22
Arkansas LTAP: Pavement Management Budgets & Strategies	Virtual	February 3
Sign Maintenance Management	Virtual	February 9
Arkansas LTAP: Stormwater Management – Regulations & Documentation	Virtual	February 12
Arkansas LTAP: Stormwater Management – Regulations & Documentation	Virtual	February 17
WTTAP Self-Paced Training	Online	Anytime