



April 2026

Western TTAP Newsletter



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New Season, New Skills!

Dear Tribal Communities,

Happy spring! As we move into warmer months, we need to be mindful of who we share the roads with. Warmer temperatures bring along fun in the sun. This includes an increase in pedestrians, bicyclists, micro-mobility users, livestock, and even wildlife on the roads. As we all know, spring also means the start of construction projects and changes in pavement conditions.

WTTAP invites you to elevate your transportation skills through our engaging and industry leading training sessions. We are honored to help plant the seeds of professional growth through a wide range of training topics. Training methods vary from in-person to online and self-paced; catering to what works best for you! In addition to our current training offerings, we are proud to announce a new certified program, the Road Scholar Program. By completing specific courses, you can achieve a WTTAP certificate of completion. More information can be found on our Road Scholar Program page and under the Training Highlight section in this newsletter.

We wish you a wonderful spring season with an abundance of joy. As always, feel free to reach out to us with any questions.

Respectfully,
Carrie Brown, MSML
WTTAP Director



Route Forward: Highway Maintenance Management Degree



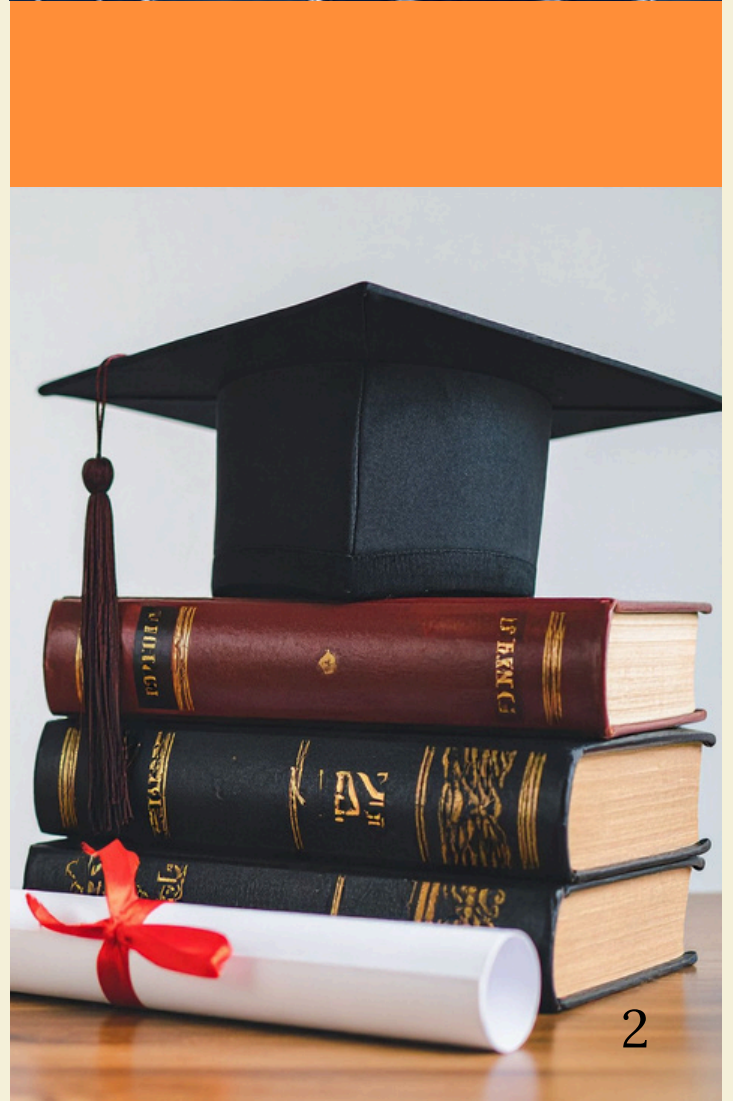
If you're looking to develop your management skills and to advance your career in highway maintenance, [Front Range Community College \(FRCC\)](#) has the opportunity you're looking for. FRCC offers a 2-year Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in [Highway Maintenance Management](#) designed exclusively for working professionals.

Program topics include:

- Highway Maintenance Safety
- Highway Asset Management
- Project Management Strategies
- Supervision & Leadership Principles
- Communication Skills

The Maintenance Management degree is offered online, making it easy to implement into your work and home life. In partnership with FRCC, participants of the program can use [WTTAP](#) and [Nevada Local Technical Assistance \(NVLTA\)](#) [training](#).

To learn more about this educational opportunity, visit FRCC's [Highway Maintenance Management homepage](#) or give us a call at 775-432-4438.



Construction Season, Work Zones, & Flagger Training



Spring is the kick-off to construction season throughout the Western region. Considering the roles we play as highway maintenance workers and roadway users, it is important for us to remain alert and aware of our surroundings, while also monitoring changes in traffic patterns.

Key actions for roadway users when approaching a work zone include slowing down, merging early, increasing following distance, obeying flaggers, abiding by traffic signs and signals, and of course being patient.

For workers in the construction zone, key actions to take to promote safety include wearing high-visibility protective equipment, maintaining awareness of heavy machinery, and establishing safe and clear communication with operators, flaggers and roadway users.

Another way we can promote safety is to remain active and up to date on training certifications. WTTAP provides Flagger certification which is great way to get your foot in the door to roadway construction.

Since November, WTTAP has certified 39 tribal members and employees! Flagger certifications through WTTAP are valid for four years and offer participants several job opportunities.

Hear what multiple participants have said about WTTAP's Flagger Training:

"I have [a] much [better] understanding about the qualifications for being a flagger."

"[The] instructor was entertaining, kind, and knowledgeable."

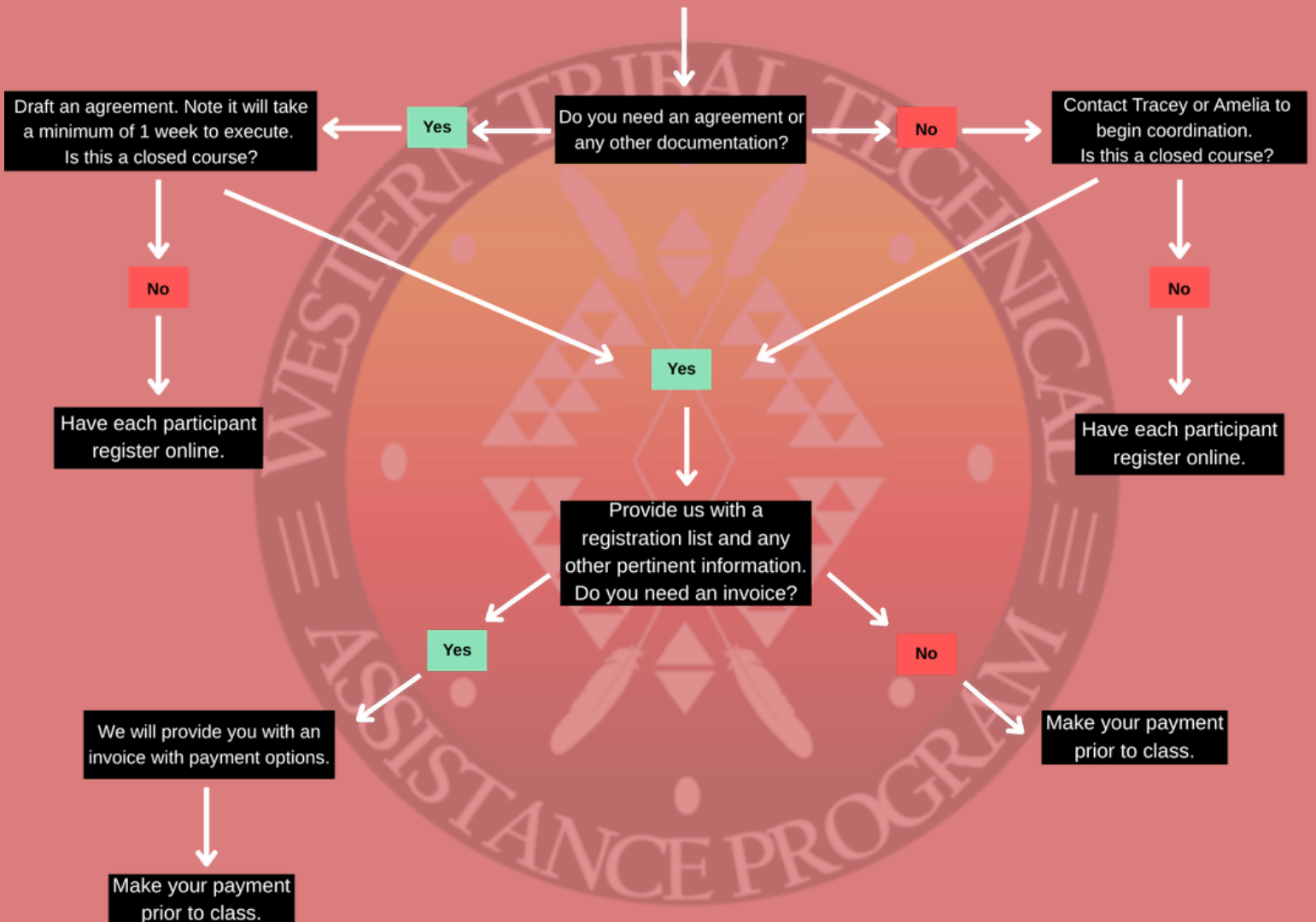
"I felt [the] course materials covered will keep myself and others safe [once I] become a flagger."

If you are interested in taking Flagger training or want to learn more about basic work zone safety, check out our [Training Calendar](#). You can also find more information on upcoming trainings on [page 9](#) of the newsletter. If your agency is interested in hosting a training, please allow a minimum of 6-weeks of planning and proper coordination.

Training Requests with WTTAP:

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.

Training Highlight: Road Scholar Program

WTTAP is proud to introduce a new training initiative. The [Road Scholar Program](#) was developed to benefit roadway transportation workers by expanding their technical skills and strengthening their leadership in transportation operations.

Participants of the program have three years to complete the required training:

- **2 self-paced trainings** on foundational knowledge
- **8 required trainings** on roadway safety and operations skills
- **4 elective trainings** to tailor to career interests

Completion of the program allows participants to showcase their expertise and increase their value to their tribe and community.

Graduates will receive an official WTTAP Certificate of completion, recognizing their commitment to professional development. Many agencies see the [Road Scholar Program](#) as credentials to support career advancement, pay increases, and expand responsibilities. Participants are encouraged to discuss this opportunity with their supervisors.

For more information on the required courses, download the [Tribal Road Scholar Checklist](#). To sign up for the program, visit our [enrollment page](#).



“Many agencies see the [Road Scholar Program](#) as credentials to support career advancement, pay increases, and expand responsibilities.”



Community Highlight: Construction Mentor Protégé Program

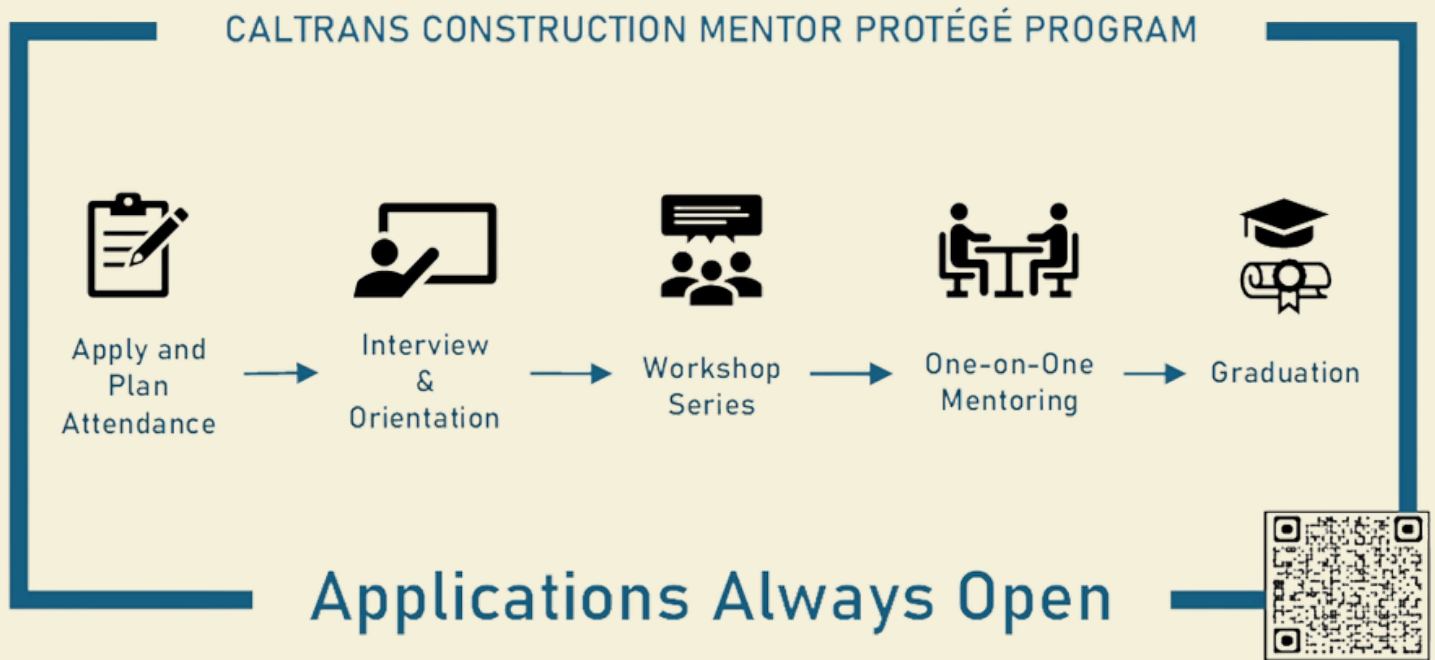


Image from: Caltrans. (n.d.). Caltrans Construction Mentor Protégé Program. Construction Mentor Protégé Program. photograph. Retrieved March 18, 2026, from <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/construction/construction-mentor-protege-program>.

In 2006, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) developed the Construction Mentor Protégé Program (CMPP). This statewide program provides opportunities for smaller construction firms to compete and thrive against larger companies and agencies. Along with small businesses, CMPP supports Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBE). This free program is offered in all twelve Caltrans districts.

Aligned with Caltrans' mission to "improve lives and communities through transportation", CMPP further supports Caltrans' 2024–2028 Strategic Plan by "promoting safety, equity, economic opportunity, and workforce development". Access to the program allows agencies, large or small, to address impactful community needs and foster a strong and well connect industry.

The vision of CMPP is to provide "a construction industry where opportunity is accessible to all, regardless of business size or background".

CMPP is "committed to removing barriers that hinder small, disadvantaged, veteran-owned construction firms and capable small and emerging firms from competing for and executing Caltrans transportation contracts" (Construction Mentor Protégé Program 2026). Qualifications for this program are minimal, making it accessible to the many. Businesses should have a minimum of one year experience and hold an active and valid Contractor's License from California's State License Board. Additionally, eligibility requires a certification for one or more of the following: Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE), Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBE), or a Small Business (SB).

For more information visit Caltrans' [Construction Mentor Protégé Program](#) or email ConstructionMentorProtege@dot.ca.gov.

References:

California, State of. "Construction Mentor Protégé Program." Construction Mentor Protégé Program | Caltrans, 2026. <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/construction/construction-mentor-protege-program>.

Grant Opportunity: Indian Highway Safety Occupant Protection Grant



The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Office of Justice Services (OJS), and Indian Highway Safety Program (IHSP) is soliciting proposals for traffic safety programs. Projects are aimed at reducing traffic crashes, fatalities, and injuries within tribal communities. Indian Highway Safety Grants are reimbursable and available exclusively to federally recognized tribes. This is a great opportunity to increase safety initiatives in your tribal community!

Here is a brief overview of TTPSF funding information:

- **Opportunity Category:** Discretionary
- **Funding Instrument Type:** Grant
- **Category Explanation:** 20.600 State and Community Highway Safety
- **Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement:** No
- **Posted Date:** January 6, 2026
- **Last Updated Date:** January 31, 2026
- **Original/Current Closing Date:** May 1, 2026
- **Archive Date:** May 2, 2026
- **Award Ceiling:** \$90,000
- **Award Floor:** \$500

If you need assistance with the application process or have any other questions, please reach out to us!

To view this grant opportunity, visit the [Grant Application](#).

Grant Opportunities

| Grant Title | Due Date |
|--|--------------------|
| Region 9 Fiscal Year 2025 Wetland Program Development Grants | April 13, 2026 |
| Small Surface Water and Groundwater Storage Projects (Small Storage Program) | April 17, 2026 |
| 2026 Wood Products Infrastructure Assistance Program | April 22, 2026 |
| Indian Highway Safety Occupant Protection Grant | May 1, 2026 |
| Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) Imminent Threat Program | September 30, 2026 |

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 |
|--|-----------|--------------------|
| ATSSA Flagger Training | In-Person | April 3, 2026 |
| OSHA 30 - Construction | In-Person | April 27-30, 2026 |
| Tribal Grant Writing Workshop | In-Person | May 5-7, 2026 |
| FHWA: Innovative Funding Processes for Rural Road Safety | Virtual | May 7, 2026 |
| Plans Reading | In-Person | May 12, 2026 |
| Plans Reading | In-Person | May 13, 2026 |
| Managing Roadway Drainage Systems | Virtual | May 13, 2026 |
| Barrier Basics | Virtual | June 16, 2026 |
| Heavy Equipment Operations and Safety Training | In-Person | August 24-27, 2026 |
| WTTAP Self-Paced Training | Online | Anytime |