

TRIBAL CLEAN TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



Welcome to ITEP's New Tribal Clean Transportation Program's Monthly Newsletter with information about Tribal clean transportation projects, funding sources, news stories/analysis, policy updates, and upcoming event/conferences. If this landed in your email inbox, you have been added to ITEP's TCTP listserv! If you wish to discontinue this, feel free to send an unsubscribe request to ryan.tsingine@nau.edu.

Featured News

Introducing ITEP's Tribal Clean Transportation Program's New Sr. Program Coordinator, Heather Bartlett!

Heather Bartlett was born and raised in Roseburg, OR and currently resides in south central Arkansas. She is a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in South Dakota and previously worked for the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians as an Environmental Specialist for 12 years. She holds a Bachelors of Science in Fisheries and Wildlife Management from Oregon State University and is certified as a Professional Wetland Scientist through the Society of Wetland Science. In her spare time, you can find her playing tennis, mountain biking, photographing wildflowers/landscapes and reading. She will be joining ITEP in the Clean Transportation Program as a Senior Program Coordinator.



Featured News

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) is thrilled to announce the continuation of the National Tribal Air Association's (NTAA) Mobile Sources Work Group under the stewardship of our Tribal Clean Transportation Program. This ongoing initiative is a testament to our commitment to addressing environmental and transportation challenges in Indian Country.

The newly envisioned working group will evolve into a dynamic roundtable discussion, serving as an inclusive and open forum where tribal nations, federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations can collaboratively engage in meaningful dialogues about cleaner forms of transportation within Indian Country. This innovative platform will facilitate the exchange of ideas, best practices, and the development of sustainable solutions to improve air quality, reduce carbon emissions, and enhance the overall quality of life for tribal communities.

Our mission is to foster partnerships that promote environmentally responsible transportation alternatives while respecting and honoring tribal sovereignty. By fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders, we aim to leverage collective expertise to identify practical strategies, funding opportunities, and policy recommendations that empower tribes to embrace cleaner transportation technologies and practices.

The ITEP Tribal Clean Transportation Program is excited to lead this vital initiative, fostering a spirit of cooperation and shared responsibility to drive positive change in tribal transportation systems. Together, we can create a greener, healthier future for Indian Country, one that respects the traditions of our ancestors and ensures a sustainable legacy for future generations.

The first roundtable was held on August 2, 2023, 11 AM PT/2 PM ET and will be held bi-monthly on the first Wednesday of the month. The next anticipated roundtable will be on October 4, 2023 11 AM PT/ 2 PM ET. A standing calendar invite will be sent to the TCTP listserv and the NTAA Mobile Sources Listserv. If you wish to be added please reach out to Research Associate, Ryan Tsingine at ryan.tsingine@nau.edu OR Sr. Program Coordinator, Heather Bartlett at heather.bartlett@nau.edu. Thank you!



Clean Transportation News



TCTP Team Presents at the 2023 TLEF!

Tribal Clean Transportation Program (TCTP) contractor, Victoria Flowers, from the **Oneida ESC Group** hosts a training on Electric Vehicle Basics at the Tribal Lands and Environment Forum in Syracuse, New York, on August 14, 2023. The slides and recording will be made available under Resources for Tribes tab on the **TCTP webpage**.

*Tribal UST and Environmental
Compliance Coordinator - Oneida Nation*

Transportation Secretary announces help for Indian Country

ANCHORAGE, AK - U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg says he will long remember his first trip to Alaska, which began with a meeting on Aug. 14 with tribal leaders in Kotzebue, just north of the Arctic Circle. Buttigieg said the trip there and the following tour of the coastal town demonstrated some of the things that make Alaska unique, “the physical proportions of Alaska, the fact that it took two hours of flying just to get there from Anchorage. The unique conditions and elements that affect everyday life, the ways of life that people have been practicing here for centuries or for millennia. And the fact that a one-size-fits-all federal policy doesn't compute in a place like Alaska, especially for Native communities.”



*Pete Buttigieg, Secretary, U.S. Department of
Transportation meets with Alaska Representatives on Aug.
14, 2023 at a roundtable meeting in AFN offices,
Anchorage, Alaska. (Photo courtesy of the Alaska
Federation of Natives)*

- **[Read More Here](#)**



Clean Transportation News

USDOT issues update to Tribal Consultation Policy

As a follow-up action to the President's January 26, 2021 Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening the Nation-to-Nation Relationships, the U.S. Department of Transportation, after consultations with Indian Tribes, has issued an update to its Tribal Consultation Policy and Tribal Consultation Plan to improve and implement the policies and directives of Executive Order 13175.

- Here is a link to the updated [Tribal Consultation Policy and Tribal Consultation Plan](#).

Biden-Harris Administration Announces First-Ever Grants to Fix More Than 160 Fish Culverts Across the Country, Supporting Jobs, the Environment, Tribal communities, and Commercial Fishing

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) today announced a total of \$196 million going to 59 Tribal, state, and local governments that will fix or remove 169 culvert barriers to improve fish passage. Outdated culverts and other infrastructure can cause roads to flood and severely restrict or altogether block fish passage, which is key to the health of fish runs and important to commercial and recreational fishing, and the health of Tribal communities. The projects also advance a key pillar of the America the Beautiful Initiative by increasing the ecological connectivity of rivers and streams and creating more climate resiliency in our landscapes and communities.

- [Read More Here](#)

The Updated Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Projection Lite Tool by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

The National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) has recently updated Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Projection Lite (EVI Pro Lite), a tool that projects consumer demand for charging infrastructure in a chosen geographic area. The interactive tool can help states, municipalities, and local governments:

- Estimate how much and what types of charging infrastructure will be needed to support increasing numbers of EVs on the road; and
- Provide information about where the charging infrastructure should be placed.

EVI Pro Lite can be very useful for agencies who are actively determining how and where to appropriate charging infrastructure funding so that they can most efficiently build out networks to support increasing transportation electrification.



Clean Transportation News

AVoided Emissions and geneRation Tool (AVERT)

AVERT is a free tool with a simple user interface designed to meet the needs of state air quality planners and other interested stakeholders. Anyone can use AVERT to evaluate county, state, and regional changes in emissions from electric power plants and displaced fuel-burning vehicles resulting from energy policies and programs such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, and electric vehicles. AVERT is designed to use public data that are accessible and auditable.

- ***AVoided Emissions and geneRation Tool (AVERT)***: AVERT can be used to evaluate changes in emissions resulting from energy policies and programs such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, and electric vehicles.
- EPA's ***Solar for All Request for Applications*** directs applicants to AVERT as the tool for conducting impact assessments in their proposals.

Past & Upcoming Events/Conferences

THE JOINT OFFICE OF ENERGY AND TRANSPORTATION

The Joint Office of Energy and Transportation offers webinars to help states and key stakeholders build capacity for electric vehicles and plan for charging infrastructure.

- [**Click Here to See Past & Future Webinars**](#)

EPA TOOLS AND RESOURCES WEBINAR SERIES

EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) hosts this monthly public webinar series to translate EPA research and share research resources and information that are useful, practical/applied and available to meet research needs of states/territories and other entities, such as tribes, local governments, and communities. In addition, the EPA Tools and Resources Training Webinar Series provides in-depth overviews and step-by-step tutorials on popular EPA science-based models and tools.

NOTE: Attendees have the option of receiving a certificate of attendance. Acceptance of certificates is contingent on organization requirements—EPA cannot guarantee acceptance. Closed-captioned recordings of the webinars are provided below for later viewing and as a training resource; certificates cannot be provided for viewing webinar recordings. Webinar dates and topics are subject to change.

- [**Click Here to See Past & Future Webinars**](#)



Funding Opportunities

GRID RESILIENCE STATE AND TRIBAL FORMAL GRANTS AMENDED TO BETTER SUPPORT TRIBAL ENTITIES!

The Grid Deployment Office (GDO) today released an amendment to the **Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grants**, a \$2.3 billion program supported by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law designed to strengthen and modernize America's power grid against wildfires, extreme weather, and other natural disasters that are exacerbated by the climate crisis. This amendment increases formula grant allocations for fiscal years 2022 and 2023 to better account for the probability of disruptive events on Tribal lands.

- If you have additional questions, please reach out to **GDOTribalAssistance@hq.doe.gov**
- To encourage participation, GDO also extended the Tribal application deadline to **August 31, 2023 by 11:59 ET (with a mail-in option post-marked by this date)**

2023 NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT FEDERAL LANDS AND TRIBAL PROJECTS PROGRAM DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GRANT OPPORTUNITY.

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act established the NSFLTP Program to provide Federal financial assistance to projects of national significance for construction, reconstruction, or rehabilitation of transportation facilities within, adjacent to, or providing access to Federal or Tribal lands. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Pub. L. 117-58, November 15, 2021, "Bipartisan Infrastructure Law," or "BIL") modified the program in several ways, including providing \$55 million per year from the Highway Trust Fund, as well as authorizing up to an additional \$300 million per year from the General Fund, for each of FYs 2022 through 2026. The BIL also reduced minimum project sizes from \$25 million to \$12.5 million, directed 50 percent of the funds towards Tribal transportation facilities, increased the Federal share of projects on Tribal transportation facilities to 100 percent and required funding of at least one eligible project submitted by the National Park Service for a unit of the National Park System with 3,000,000 annual visitors or more.

- **[Click Here to View Grant Opportunity](#)**
- If you have difficulty accessing the full announcement electronically, please contact: Frances Ramirez, If you have difficulty accessing the full announcement electronically, please contact: **FHWA Point of Contact**
- **Application Deadline September 6, 2023**



Funding Opportunities

USDOT SMART GRANTS NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology (OST-R), U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT or the Department)

ACTION: Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), Assistance Listing (formerly CFDA) #20.941

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to solicit applications for Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Stage 1 Planning and Prototyping grants. Funds for the fiscal year (FY) 2023 SMART Grants Program are to be awarded on a competitive basis to conduct demonstration projects focused on advanced smart city or community technologies and systems to improve transportation efficiency and safety.

DATES: Applications must be submitted by **5:00 PM ET on Tuesday, October 10, 2023**. Late applications will not be accepted.

ADDRESSES: Applications must be submitted via Valid Eval, an online submission proposal system used by USDOT, at https://usg.valideval.com/teams/USDOT_SMART_2023/signup. USDOT will not accept or review application materials submitted via Grants.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Please contact SMART Grants Program staff via email at smart@dot.gov or call Roxanne Ledesma at 202-774-8003. The deadline to submit technical questions is **5:00PM ET on Friday, September 29, 2023**.

- **[Click Here for Full NOFO](#)**



Funding Opportunities

USEPA DIESEL EMISSIONS REDUCTION ACT (DERA) NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NOW OPEN

AGENCY: USEPA

TITLE: 2022-2023 Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) National Grants

ANNOUNCEMENT TYPE: Notice of Funding Opportunity

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: EPA-OAR-OTAQ-23-03

ASSISTANCE LISTING NUMBER: 66.039

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Wednesday, August 2nd, 2023; Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Opens
- Friday, November 10th, 2023; Final Date to Submit Questions
- Friday, December 1st, 2023; NOFO Closes – Application Deadline
- March 2024 Anticipated Notification of Selection
- June 2024 – August 2024 Anticipated Awards Application packages must be submitted electronically to EPA through Grants.gov no later than **Friday, December 1, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET)** to be considered for funding.

The total estimated funding expected to be available for awards under this competitive opportunity is approximately \$115 million; \$58 million funded with FY 2022 funding and \$57 million funded with FY 2023 funding

- **[Click Here for Full NOFO](#)**

