BIA Transportation/Road Maintenance Update

TIBC RM Subcommittee
Virtual Meeting (informational)
Aug. 10, 2020
March 16, 2020: All telework eligible personnel at Central Office began stay at home, field offices began “work from home” or other options shortly thereafter. Nearly 5 months.

Challenges: remote work, program functions, priorities of limited staff, etc.

BIA Recovery (like most agencies) will depend on local conditions
BIA Road Maintenance: FY2020

- FY2020 TPA Available:
  - RM: Total received $36,063,000 ($33,063,000 for routine RM)
  - NATIVE Act: $1M in FY20
  - School Bus: $2M

- Senate Report 116-123:
  - “The Committee provides $36,063,000 for road maintenance. The Committee is concerned about the obligation of road maintenance funding given the balances and backlog for deferred maintenance of roads in Indian Country;.”
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (25 CFR 170.443)

• NPRM published on July 26, 2019 (Proposed Roads)
• Comments closed September 24, 2019
• Reviewed all comments for final rule (January 2020)
FY2020 Topics

• Last year of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, expires 9/30/2020.

• FAST Act overview:
  • Program Admin: 5%
  • Bridge: 3%
  • Tribal Planning: 2%
  • Safety: 2%
  • Federal Share: 100%
  • Tribal Project/Activity Data Collection: Name, Description and Current Status, as well as an estimate of the jobs created and retained
  • No other changes to MAP-21 (2013-2015)
FY2020 Topics (cont.)

• Possibly new transportation authorization to replace FAST Act of 2016 or extensions of FAST.

• Final Rule to be Published for Self–Governance Program at US Department of Transportation, June 1, 2020; Effective date: Oct 1, 2020
TIBC Road Maintenance Subcommittee

• Last meeting in Nov 2019:
• Jan. 2020: TIBC Subcommittee on RM working with Great Plains Regions on a Pilot for data collection on RM needs and expenditures
  • Pilot approved by full TIBC
  • Purpose: To explore voluntary options for reporting RM data at a tribal level to identify a improved estimate for budget planning and needs (cost of maintaining facilities, cost of administration, and performance).

• Met with GPRO Tribes (and BIA staff) on Jan. 22, 2020.
  • Reviewed available methods of tracking data for RM
  • Limitations of current systems (or lack thereof)
  • Basic information to track costs needed
  • Web based would be preferable
  • Samples of data collection methods provided during after meeting
Questions

• FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
  • LeRoy Gishi, Division of Transportation, Office of Indian Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs,
    (202) 513-7711, leroy.gishi@bia.gov