



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Congress of American Indians
Resolution #ABQ-19-076

**TITLE: Supporting “America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act of 2019”
(ATIA), Its Tribal Title (Title IV), and Increased Federal Funding**

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NCAI HEADQUARTERS

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WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, tribal nations have historically worked very hard to fulfill transportation infrastructure needs for tribal citizens and the general public’s transportation and transportation infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS, the proposed increases to important transportation programs, such as the Tribal Transportation Program, Tribal Transit Program and Tribal High Priority Projects (HPP) Program builds and improves upon Congress’ previous Transportation Bills, such as ISTEPA, TEA-21, SAFETEA-LU, and the current FAST Act; and

WHEREAS, the 2017 report of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Report Card, concluded that investment needs for the United States between FY 2016 and FY 2025 is \$2 trillion, with an estimated \$40 billion in unmet needs for transportation and public transit in Indian country; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Native/American Indian tribal nations and regional and national tribal transportation organizations have advocated for increases to the Tribal Transportation Program, Tribal Transit Program and federal discretionary and competitive grant programs to \$900 million, with annual increases ending at over \$1.3 billion, to address unmet tribal needs and to reduce highway and pedestrian fatalities among Alaska Natives and American Indians that exceed the national average; and

WHEREAS, in July 2019, the Intertribal Transportation Association (ITA), a national tribal organization advocating for consensus positions to improve tribal transportation infrastructure, tribal transit, and highway safety needs in Indian country, released a proposed draft bill, the “Tribal Transportation Infrastructure and Tribal Transit Investment Act of 2020,” to reauthorize existing federal transportation programs for tribal nations and establish new programs, and urged tribal nations to endorse it and advocate for its inclusion as a “Tribal Title” in any reauthorization of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act; and

WHEREAS, the Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee (EPW), the primary Senate committee with jurisdiction over transportation infrastructure approved out of its Committee on July 30, 2019, the “America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act of 2019” (ATIA), S. 2302, including its Tribal title (Title (IV)); and

WHEREAS, the ATIA Act of 2019, S. 2302, incorporates many of ITA’s proposed tribal transportation, infrastructure and transit requests and includes additional provisions to improve transportation infrastructure, public transit and highway safety in Indian country which are worthy of support by every Alaska Native village.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) supports the ATIA, including Title IV (the Indian Affairs title), and urges Congress to support it, and a viable means to pay for its many provisions, including the federal programs important to tribal nations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI urges tribal elected officials to advocate for prompt passage of the ATIA Act of 2019, including Title IV, prior to the expiration of the FAST Act; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be the policy of NCAI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

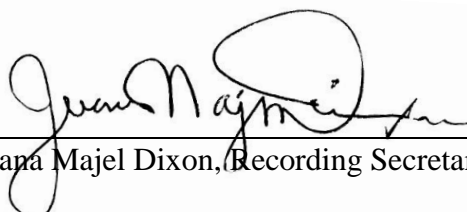
CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the General Assembly at the 2019 Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Albuquerque Convention Center, October 20-25, 2019, with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President

ATTEST:



Juana Majel Dixon, Recording Secretary