TIBC Transportation Subcommittee
Legislative Update

Monday, November 2, 2020

Tyler Scribner, Policy Analyst, National Congress of American Indians
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• S. 1211 – Addressing Underdeveloped and Tribally Operated Streets Act
• S. 2302 – America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act (ATIA)
• S. 3359 – Tribal Transportation Equity and Transparency Improvement Act
• H.R. 2 – Moving Forward Act (INVEST in America Act)
Hearings

• Senate Committee on Indian Affairs – April 3, 2019, Enhancing Tribal Self-Governance and Safety of Indian Roads

• House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee for the Indigenous Peoples of the United States – July 11, 2019, Tribal Infrastructure: Roads, Bridges, and Buildings

• House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit – February 6, 2020, Assessing the Transportation Needs of Tribes, Federal Land Management Agencies and U.S. Territories
TTP Funding Comparison

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TTP Funding by Grand Total

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$3,872,481,814
$2,975,000,000
$2,425,000,000
Key Provisions

- Office of Tribal Government Affairs
- Tribal High Priority Projects Program
- Bridges Funding
- BIA Road Maintenance Funding
- Public Transportation on Indian Reservations (Tribal Transit Program)
- Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (or Federal Lands and Tribal Major Projects, under H.R. 2)
- Alternative Contracting Methods
- Federal Obligation Limitation
FY 2021 Appropriations

• House FY 2021 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, H. Report 116-448: The Committee directs BIA to report, within 90 days of enactment of this Act, on how formula funding levels have changed over the course of the past 16 years, Tribe by Tribe, State by State, and region by region so the Committee can compare how the statutory formula has changed Tribal distributions from the relative needs distribution formula (as published in Vol. 69, No. 137 of the July 19, 2004 Federal Register at page 43090).
• **House FY 2021 Transportation-HUD, H. Report 116-452:**
  
  - *Tribal Transportation Program (TTP).* — The Committee has included $30,000,000 of additional funding for the Tribal Transportation Program, to encourage the Department to ensure potentially overlooked high priority projects, particularly needed by smaller tribes, be addressed by this program.
  
  - *Study on tribal transportation.* — The Committee provides $2,000,000 for research that leads to decreases in highway and pedestrian fatalities among tribal populations. This research should build on reports mandated in the FAST Act and should be competitively awarded to state governments, academic institutions, or nonprofits which have existing partnerships among tribal governments as well as traffic safety and transportation research expertise. Research should focus on priority areas identified in FHWA’s 2018 report “Options for Improving Transportation Safety in Tribal Areas”.
• The House and Senate have two different bill structures
• November election and political posturing
• Uncertainty in Congressional control after the election
• Missing parts (Senate’s Tribal Transit piece)
• Coronavirus Relief Negotiations are tense
• Still no “pay for”
• However, uncertainty presents further opportunity
• Your voice still makes a difference
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