



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
Marc Luiken, Commissioner

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March 6, 2018

Stuart D. Hartford, P.E.
Chief, Tribal Transportation Program
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Alaska Division
3601 C Street, Suite 1100
Anchorage, AK 99503-5947

Dear Mr. Hartford:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) recognizes the need to improve existing public infrastructure as an important part of the Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) Tribal Transportation Program (TTP). Funding from the TTP program, through the BIA and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), assists in the improvement and maintenance of public transportation facilities that lead to lands on which Tribal members reside or use for subsistence, to Native owned lands, and to surrounding communities. Where the DOT&PF is the lead authority and in control of public transportation infrastructure, the DOT&PF supports Alaska's Federally-recognized Tribes including **EXISTING** DOT&PF transportation infrastructure in their respective National Tribal Transportation Facility Inventory (NTTFI) in a Tribe's efforts to obtain funding for transportation improvement and maintenance activities.

The DOT&PF requires that a maintenance agreement and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) must be established between the two parties prior to a Tribe's construction, maintenance or upgrades to any State-owned facilities included in the NTTFI. Until modified by a maintenance agreement and MOU, the DOT&PF will continue its existing ownership and maintenance responsibilities and does not relinquish jurisdiction nor grant jurisdiction to a Tribe or BIA for any DOT&PF facilities or associated right-of-ways.

This letter authorizes Alaska's Federally-recognized Tribes to incorporate the DOT&PF facilities into the BIA NTTFI database, according to the process outlined in 25 CFR 170. In conclusion, this will benefit all Alaskans traveling on existing public infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc Luiken".

Marc Luiken
Commissioner