

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration

Fiscal Year 2018 Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program Project Selections

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration (FTA), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program (Tribal Transit Program) Announcement of Project Selections and Implementation Guidance

SUMMARY: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announces the selection of projects with Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 appropriations for the Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program, Tribal Transit Program (TTP) and provides administrative guidance on project implementation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Successful applicants should contact the appropriate FTA Regional office for information regarding applying for the funds or program-specific information. A list of Regional offices, along with a list of tribal liaisons can be found at <https://www.transit.dot.gov/>. Unsuccessful applicants may contact Elan Flippin, Office of Program Management at (202) 366-3800, email: elan.flippin@dot.gov to arrange a proposal debriefing within **30 days** of this announcement. In the event the contact information provided by your tribe in the application has changed, please contact your regional tribal liaison with the current information in order to expedite the grant award process. A TDD is available at 1-800-877-8339 (TDD/FIRS).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This program is authorized by Federal Transit law 49 U.S.C. 5311(c)(1)(A), amended by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act,

Public Law 114-94 (December 4, 2015). The FAST Act increased the Tribal Transit formula program from \$25 million to \$30 million and continued the \$5 million competitive program. On July 11, 2018, FTA published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) through a *Federal Register* notice announcing the availability of Federal funding for the program. The FAST Act authorizes approximately \$5 million annually for federally recognized Indian Tribes or Alaska Native villages, groups, or communities as identified by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in the U.S. Department of the Interior for public transportation. The TTP supports many types of projects including: operating costs to enable tribes to start or continue transit services; capital expenses to enable tribal investment in new or replacement equipment; and funding for tribal transit planning activities for public transportation services in Indian Country. TTP services link tribal citizens to employment, food, healthcare, school, social services, recreation/leisure, and other key community connections. FTA funds may only be used for eligible purposes defined under 49 U.S.C 5311, described in FTA Circular 9040.1G, and consistent with the specific eligibility and priorities established in the July 2018 NOFO.

Five million dollars is available for FY 2018 under the TTP. A total of 50 proposals were received from 47 tribes in 16 states requesting \$8.3 million. Project proposals were evaluated based on each applicant's responsiveness to the program evaluation criteria outlined in FTA's July 2018 NOFO. On February 13, 2019, FTA announced on its website the selection of 36 projects for 35 tribes in 14 states, totaling \$4,998,028. The projects selected in Table 1 provide funding for transit planning studies, capital and operating requests for existing, start-up, expansion and replacement services. Funds must be used only for the specific purposes identified in Table 1. Allocations may be less than what the applicant requested and were capped at \$300,000 to provide funding to highly recommended and recommended projects in as

many states as possible, and all pass planning proposals; planning projects were capped at \$25,000. Tribes selected for competitive funding should work with their FTA regional office to finalize the grant application in FTA's Transit Award Management System (TrAMs) for the projects identified in the attached table to expeditiously obligate funds. In cases where the allocation amount is less than the proposer's requested amount, tribes should work with the regional office to ensure the funds are obligated for eligible aspects of the projects, and for specific purpose intended as reflected in Table 1. A competitive project identification number has been assigned to each project for tracking purposes, and must be used in the TrAMs application. For more information about TrAMs, please visit <https://www.transit.dot.gov/>. The post award reporting requirements include submission of the Federal Financial Report (FFR), Milestone Progress Report in TrAMs, and FTA's National Transit Database (NTD) reporting as appropriate (see the current version of FTA Circular 9040 1G).

Tribes must continue to report to the NTD to be eligible for formula apportionment funds. To be considered in the FY 2019 formula apportionments, tribes should have submitted their reports to the NTD no later than April 30, 2018; voluntary reporting to the NTD is also encouraged. For tribes who have not reported before, please contact the NTD Operations Center in advance to get a reporting account for the NTD on-line data collection system. The Operation Center can be reached Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. (ET), by email NTDHelp@dot.gov or by phone 1-888-252-0936.

TTP grantees must comply with all applicable Federal statutes, regulations, executive orders, FTA circulars, and other Federal requirements in carrying out the project supported by the FTA grant. To assist tribes with understanding these requirements, FTA conducts Tribal Transit Technical Assistance Workshops and expects to offer workshops in FY19. FTA has also expanded its technical assistance to tribes

receiving funds under this program. In FY 2015, FTA implemented the Tribal Transit Technical Assistance Assessments initiative. Through these assessments, FTA collaborates with tribal transit leaders to review processes and identify areas in need of improvement and then assist with solutions to address these needs – all in a supportive and mutually beneficial and technical assistance manner. These assessments include discussions of compliance areas pursuant to the Master Agreement, a site visit, promising practices reviews, and technical assistance from FTA and its contractors. These workshops and assessments receive exemplary feedback from Tribal Transit Leaders, and provide FTA with invaluable opportunities to learn more about tribal transit leaders’ perspectives, and honor the sovereignty of tribal nations. FTA will post information about upcoming workshops to its website and disseminate information about the reviews through its Regional offices. A list of Tribal Liaisons can be found on FTA’s website at <https://www.transit.dot.gov/>.

Funds allocated in this announcement must be obligated in a grant by September 30, 2021 or the funds are no longer available to the tribe. As previously mentioned, Tribes selected for competitive funding should work with their FTA regional tribal liaison to finalize the grant application in FTA’s TrAMs. FTA plans to publish a Notice of Funding Opportunity soliciting proposals for FY 2019 competitive funds in the coming months. The NOFO will establish and outline specific eligibility for funding.

Table 1

FY 2018 Tribal Transit Project Selections

State	Recipient	Project Description	Project ID	Allocation
AK	Native Village of Buckland	The Native Village of Buckland will receive funding to initiate transit service to provide greater access to jobs, school, healthcare and other services.	D2018-TRTR-001	\$262,884
AK	Chickaloon Native Village	Chickaloon Native Village will receive funding to purchase a transit vehicle to replace a bus that has exceeded its useful life, helping the agency provide access to jobs and services in nearby Anchorage.	D2018-TRTR-002	\$59,400
AK	Healy Lake Village Council (d.b.a. Mendas Cha-Ag Tribe)	The Healy Lake Village Council Tribe will receive funding for a planning study to initiate transit service in the Healy Lake area.	D2018-TRTR-003	\$25,000
AK	Ninilchik Village Tribe	The Ninilchik Village Tribe will receive funding to supplement its locally funded transit service, which connects people to jobs, school, healthcare and shopping in the central Kenai Peninsula.	D2018-TRTR-004	\$255,000

AK	Hydaburg Cooperative Association	The Hydaburg Cooperative Association will receive funding to purchase a multi-use ferry boat that will provide both emergency transportation and transit services between the island and community of Ketchikan to access jobs, healthcare and other services.	D2018-TRTR-005	\$188,100
AK	Kenaitze Indian Tribe	The Kenaitze Indian Tribe will receive funding to hire transit staff to expand its public transit program throughout the central Kenai Peninsula.	D2018-TRTR-006	\$238,054
AK	Ketchikan Indian Community	The Ketchikan Indian Community will receive funding to purchase a bus to supplement a vehicle that is approaching the end of its useful life, allowing the agency to increase its ridership and provide an essential service throughout Ketchikan Gateway Borough.	D2018-TRTR-007	\$90,750
AK	Ketchikan Indian Community	The Ketchikan Indian Community will receive funding for transit planning that will help meet increasing demand from elderly and tribal members with disabilities to access healthcare, shopping and other services.	D2018-TRTR-008	\$25,000
AK	Ruby Tribal Council	The Ruby Tribal Council will receive funding for a planning study to initiate transit service in and around Ruby.	D2018-TRTR-009	\$25,000

AK	Seldovia Village Tribe	The Seldovia Village Tribe will receive funding to replace the Seldovia Bay ferry dock, helping maintain its only public transportation system as well as freight services between Seldovia and Homer.	D2018-TRTR-010	\$299,937
AK	Sitka Tribe of Alaska	The Sitka Tribe of Alaska will receive funding to purchase a bus to replace a vehicle that has exceeded its useful life, improving access for The RIDE bus passengers to access jobs, school, healthcare and ferry service in and around Sitka, about 95 miles from Juneau.	D2018-TRTR-011	\$300,000
AK	Village of Venetie	The Village of Venetie will receive funding for a planning study to initiate transit service approximately 150 miles from Fairbanks.	D2018-TRTR-012	\$25,000
AZ	San Carlos Apache Tribal Council	The San Carlos Apache Tribal Council will receive funding to purchase vehicles that will replace older vans that have exceeded their useful life, helping residents in Graham, Gila and Pinal counties access jobs and services.	D2018-TRTR-013	\$297,000
AZ	Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians	The Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians will receive funding to replace a transit vehicle that has exceeded its useful life, helping residents access healthcare and other services in nearby southern Utah.	D2018-TRTR-014	\$36,250

AZ	Quechan Indian Tribe	The Quechan Indian Tribe will receive funding to purchase and install bus shelters at some bus stops along its transit routes, improving passenger safety and route visibility and encouraging ridership.	D2018-TRTR-015	\$70,000
IA	Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi	The Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi will receive funding to develop a transit plan to serve the Meskwaki community in rural Central Iowa focused on tribal elders, children and residents with disabilities.	D2018-TRTR-016	\$25,000
ID	Nez Perce Tribe	The Nez Perce Tribe will receive funding to purchase buses to replace transit vehicles that have exceeded their useful life, improving service to areas on and near the Nez Perce Reservation for jobs, schools, healthcare and other services.	D2018-TRTR-017	\$300,000
ID	Shoshone-Bannock Tribes	The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes will receive funding to purchase buses to replace vehicles that have exceeded their useful life, helping maintain and expand service to jobs, services and schools, including Idaho State University.	D2018-TRTR-018	\$189,000

MA	Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe	The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe will receive funding to purchase buses to replace vehicles that have exceeded their useful life, helping expand transit service throughout Cape Cod.	D2018-TRTR-019	\$135,000
MT	Chippewa Cree Tribe	The Chippewa Cree Tribe will receive funding to purchase and install bus shelters throughout the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation to shield passengers from severe weather and improve efficiency by centralizing transit stops.	D2018-TRTR-020	\$88,465
ND	Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians	The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians will receive funding to purchase buses to replace vehicles that have exceeded their useful life, helping continue transit service to jobs, school and community services.	D2018-TRTR-021	\$144,000
NV	Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe	The Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe will receive funding to initiative transit service, a daily service providing access to work, healthcare and other services in northern rural Nevada.	D2018-TRTR-022	\$115,534

NY	Seneca Nation of Indians	The Seneca Nation of Indians will receive funding to build a storage facility to house its bus fleet, which links isolated communities to jobs and services as part of a growing regional public transportation network.	D2018-TRTR-023	\$270,000
OK	Cherokee Nation	The Cherokee Nation will receive funding to purchase buses to replace vehicles that have exceeded their useful life, continuing transportation services on 10 commuter routes that link to jobs, healthcare and other community services.	D2018-TRTR-024	\$281,250
OK	Otoe-Missouria Tribe	The Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Indians will receive funding to initiate transit service and provide rides for tribal and community members to work, healthcare and other community services in Noble and Kay counties.	D2018-TRTR-025	\$137,250
OK	United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians	The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians will receive funding to purchase transit vans to expand its service throughout 14 counties in north central Oklahoma focused on access to jobs, school, healthcare and other community services.	D2018-TRTR-026	\$150,000

OR	Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde	The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde will receive funding to initiate a new transit route that will expand service to new communities.	D2018-TRTR-027	\$250,000
SD	Oglala Sioux Tribe	The Oglala Sioux Tribe will receive funding to update its short-term transit plan to evaluate its current level of service, which spans seven routes and 1,800 miles a day.	D2018-TRTR-028	\$25,000
WA	Kalispel Indian Community of the Kalispel Reservation	The Kalispel Indian Community of the Kalispel Reservation will receive funding to purchase buses to replace vehicles that have exceeded their useful life, responding to increased demand on its four bus routes.	D2018-TRTR-029	\$41,000
WA	Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe	The Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe will receive funding to purchase vehicles to expand its bus shuttle program to full time, providing additional transit service and connections to regional transit systems in Snohomish and Skagit counties.	D2018-TRTR-030	\$126,087
WA	Spokane Tribe of Indians	The Spokane Tribe of Indians will receive funding to purchase buses to replace transit vehicles that have exceeded their useful life, providing access to essential services and connecting the reservation with eastern Washington communities.	D2018-TRTR-031	\$129,472

WA	Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians	The Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians of Washington will receive funding to purchase buses to replace vehicles that have exceeded their useful life, continuing a program to support access to jobs, healthcare and community services.	D2018-TRTR-032	\$117,000
WA	Swinomish Indian Tribal Community	The Swinomish Indian Tribal Council will receive funding for a feasibility study to assess expanding transit services to rural areas of Skagit County, which would add connections to jobs, schools and services.	D2018-TRTR-033	\$25,000
WA	Tulalip Tribes of Washington	The Tulalip Tribes of Washington will receive funding to purchase buses to replace vehicles that have exceeded their useful life, supporting access to essential services including jobs and healthcare.	D2018-TRTR-034	\$120,152
WI	Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians	The Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians will receive funding to replace and renovate aging bus shelters, improving safety for passengers.	D2018-TRTR-035	\$41,443

WI	Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin	The Menominee Indian Tribe will receive funding to purchase buses to replace vehicles that have exceeded their useful life, expanding access to jobs, school, healthcare and other government services throughout 30 counties.	D2018-TRTR-036	\$90,000
Total:				\$4,998,028