Tribal Transportation Planning Resources - Tribal Planning Modules

Transportation Decision-making: Information Tools for Tribal Governments

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Tribal Planning Modules

This session will provide an overview of transportation planning while highlighting the latest additions to the *Transportation Decision-making: Information Tools for Tribal Governments* series.
Tribal Planning Modules

http://www.tribalplanning.fhwa.dot.gov/
ROLE OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
What is Transportation Planning?

- Process of developing strategies for operating, managing, maintaining, and financing the area's transportation system
- Achieve the community’s long-term transportation goals and vision
- Looks for ways to solve current transportation problems while anticipating and addressing issues likely to occur in the future
Basic Steps in Transportation Planning and Decision-making

1. Regional Vision and Goals
2. Alternate Improvement Strategies (Operations, Capital)
3. Evaluation & Prioritization of Strategies
4. Development of Transportation Plan (LRP)
5. Development of Transportation Improvement Programs (STIP)
6. Project Development
7. Systems Operations (Implementation)
8. Monitor System Performance (Data)
What Are the Benefits of Transportation Planning?

- Develop a community vision
- Identify transportation needs
- Anticipate and manage growth and development
- Preserve natural or cultural resources
- Enhance collaboration among agencies
- Identify funding for transportation projects and programs
Funding Resources

This module can be used as a reference when considering how to fund a transportation project

http://www.tribalplanning.fhwa.dot.gov/
Funding Resources

- Helpful Hints for finding appropriate funding resources
- Identifies Federal funding programs Tribes are most likely to access
- Where to find detailed information about potential funding sources
Funding Resources – Helpful Hints

Funding Program Eligibility Criteria

- Every funding program is unique
- Often restrictive based on type of project
- Very specific rules
Funding Resources – Helpful Hints

States often have authority to select projects or distribute funds

- Requires communication with the State to understand how they select projects or distribute funds
Funding Resources – Helpful Hints

Project Justification is accomplished through the TIP

- Tribal Transportation Improvement Program (TTIP)
- Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)
What Federal funding programs are Tribes most likely to access?
Federal Funding Programs

36 different Federal funding programs available to tribes

- Federal Lands Highway Program (FLH)
- Federal-Aid Highway Program (FAHP)
- Public Transportation Programs
First, Federal Lands Highway is administered by the Federal Highway Administration. It funds projects on Indian Lands and Federal Lands. It funds roadway construction, improvement, and maintenance. Federal Funding is 100%. 
Federal-Aid Highway Program

- Administered by the FHWA
- Funds are apportioned to States by formula
- Requires local matching funds up to 20%
- Requires coordination, communication and cooperation with State and/or local project selection processes
Public Transportation

- Administered by the Federal Transit Administration
- Funds are apportioned to States by formula
- Requires local matching funds - up to 50% for some programs
- Requires coordination, communication and cooperation with State and/or local project selection processes
Innovative Finance Methods

Public Private Partnerships

- Contractual agreement
- Greater access to private sector resources including:
  - Technical
  - Management
  - Financial
Funding Resources

- Wide variety of Funding Sources available to Tribes
- Each source has specific eligibility criteria
- The module “Funding Resources” is a reference to help identify potential funding sources
- Communication and coordination is the key to accessing non-IRR funding
Public Involvement

This module can be used as a reference on what public involvement, why it is important, and the keys to effective public involvement.
Public Involvement

- What is public involvement?
- Why is it important?
- What are the goals of public involvement?
- What are some of the most important considerations for public involvement?
- What is effective public involvement?
- What are some public involvement techniques?
What Is Public Involvement?
Public Involvement

Gives Tribal members the opportunity to participate in the Tribe’s planning processes. This helps to:

- Capture the Tribal community’s values and needs
- Share information among Tribal Government, Tribal members, and other stakeholders
- Establish consensus when necessary
Public Involvement in the Planning Process

Diagram:
- Regional Vision and Goals
- Alternate Improvement Strategies
- Evaluation & Prioritization of Strategies
- Development of Transportation Plan (LRP)
- Development of Transportation Improvement Programs (S/TIP)
- Project Development
- Systems Operations (Implementation)
- Monitor System Performance (Data)
Why Is Public Involvement Important?
Importance of Public Involvement

Involving the public is important because it:

- Provides the public with the opportunity to express their values and vision regarding their transportation network
- Helps Tribal leaders understand the community’s transportation needs and priorities
- Assures that Tribal transportation projects are consistent with the community’s highest priority needs
Importance of Public Involvement

- Aids in building support for transportation projects
- Helps build consensus among the Tribal members and the Tribal leadership
- Is required by Federal regulations in developing planning documents
What Are Some Important Considerations for Public Involvement?
The “public” is comprised of the entire community with all its diverse interests and opinions. For example:

- Tribal leaders, government officials, elders, and members
- School and health officials
- Neighboring jurisdictions such as the county and State Department of Transportation
- Major employers
- Economic development and tourism bureaus
- Individuals or groups who do not drive (pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders)
- Transportation service providers
- Disabled community
Consider the Needs of Different Audiences

Public involvement activities should consider the different audiences’ subject-related knowledge and needs. To meet the needs of the various audiences, consider:

- Content
- Ways to present material
- Methods of involving the public
What Is “Successful” Public Involvement?
Effective Public Involvement

- There is no single “best” approach
- Outreach activities should allow public involvement throughout planning and decision-making process
- Planners should consider public’s comments when conducting transportation planning process
Measuring Success of Public Involvement

Determine effectiveness of public involvement techniques by:

- Setting goals
- Determining ways to measure goals
- Measuring progress towards meeting goals
Measuring Success of Public Involvement

Decide how “success” will be measured:

- Number of meeting attendees
- Number and quality of comments received
- Overall tone of involvement
- Number of controversies identified and conflicts resolved
Goals of Public Involvement

“What do we want to achieve by involving the public?”

Goals might include:

- Inform and educate Tribal members and the general public
- Formulate and document the collective community vision
- Document community values
- Exchange ideas and share information
- Build consensus
What Are Some Public Involvement Techniques?
How Does Public Involvement Occur?

Ways to facilitate public involvement include:

- Public meetings
- Public notices
- Mailings and emailing
- Public information materials
- Focus groups
Other Public Involvement Techniques

- Presentations
- Commercial media
- Internet forums
- Cable access channel
Public Involvement

- Public involvement is not a one-time event!
- Opportunities for public involvement should be offered throughout the planning process
- There are a wide variety of public involvement techniques to meet the public needs
Data Collection and Use

This module can be used as a reference on the role of data in the transportation planning process.

http://www.tribalplanning.fhwa.dot.gov/
Data Collection and Use

- To understand what data is and why it is important
- To understand how data collection and use can support the transportation decision-making
- To understand the types of data necessary for transportation planning
What Is Data and Data Collection and Analysis?
Data

Organized bits of information collected for a specific purpose

Data can be:
- Numbers such as traffic counts and roadway width measurements
- Words such as opinions and statements
Data Collection and Analysis

Data Collection
Assembling or gathering different bits of information

Data Analysis
Organizing data in specific ways to detect patterns, describe facts, and test assumptions
How Is Data Used in Transportation Planning?
Data’s Importance in Transportation Planning

- Identify transportation system components – roads, trails, sidewalks, transit
- Describe physical conditions of the transportation system
- Describe operations conditions of the system
### Examples of Data Used in Transportation Planning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographics</th>
<th>Basic System Inventory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current and projected:</td>
<td>• Miles of roadway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Population</td>
<td>• Miles of paved roadway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Age ranges</td>
<td>• Miles of sidewalk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Gender breakdown</td>
<td>• Number of transit vehicles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Average household size</td>
<td>• Number of bridges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System Use</td>
<td>Physical Conditions and Operations Performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Traffic volume</td>
<td>• Type of land use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Transit ridership</td>
<td>• Congestion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of pedestrians</td>
<td>• Physical condition of bridges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Number of bicyclists</td>
<td>• Age of transit vehicles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Data’s Use in Transportation Plans

- Long-Range Transportation Plan
- Transportation Improvement Program
Steps in the Planning Process

Data is necessary in all steps of the planning process:

1. Identify system needs
2. Select projects and strategies
3. Prioritize and rank projects
4. Fund projects
5. Monitor and revise plans
Where Can Tribes Find Data?
Many Sources of Data

Data is available:

- Within the Tribe
- Through local sources
- On the Internet
- Through partnerships
What Is Data Management and Why Is It Important?
Data Management

Check that data is:

- Timely
- Consistent with current or “normal” conditions
- Relevant and applicable to the specific decisions it is intended to inform
Quality Assurance and Control

**Quality Assurance (QA)**
The data collection method is consistent and repeatable

**Quality Control (QC)**
Data is reasonable and consistent

**Bad Data**
Data that does not reflect actual conditions because it is out of date, irrelevant, or collected using flawed methods
Some data changes slowly and does not need to be updated often

Some data changes quickly and should be updated often

It may be helpful to develop criteria to determine how often the different data should be updated
How Can Data Be Used to Tell a Story?
Visualization

- Visual displays to help stakeholders understand projects
- Communicates lots of information intuitively and quickly
- Maps, animations, models, drawings, and other media
Examples of Visualization

- 3D Drawing
- Aerial Photograph
- GIS Map
Data Collection and Use

- Good data is essential for good transportation planning
- Data collection does not need to be expensive or complicated.
- “Bad” data can lead to bad decisions based upon it. Data maintenance is important
Additional Tribal Resources

FHWA Tribal Transportation

FHWA Tribal Transportation Planning
http://www.tribalplanning.fhwa.dot.gov

Transportation Planning Capacity Building Website
http://www.planning.dot.gov
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