Press Release: Rowena Yeahquo is our New Northwest TTAP Director

Press Release:
New NW TTAP Director – Ms. Rowena Yeahquo

Eastern Washington University’s NW TTAP is pleased to announce our new TTAP Director is Ms. Rowena Yeahquo (Kiowa/Comanche). Ms. Yeahquo comes to us from Oklahoma, where she has an extensive background in working in tribal transportation and as a tribal community planner. Ms. Yeahquo has over fifteen years of experience and extensive knowledge and work with tribal government and tribal programs.

She most recently worked as the master planner with the Oklahoma National Guard completing project justification, economic analysis, and submitting projects to the National Guard Bureau.

She previously worked as a Tribal Planner coordinating a Department of Justice Grant for the Cheyenne/Arapaho Tribes, Concho, OK. The grant was for the development of a Tribal Justice Center Master Plan. The project included the coordination of tribal leadership including traditional chiefs and administration in the planning process. She also worked on development of their Tribal Comprehensive Plan, Economic Development Strategy, and Hazard Mitigation Plan.

As a consultant, she completed 22 long range transportation plans for Tribes in Oklahoma, Texas, Nebraska, and Kansas contracted through Southern Plains BIA office. Prior to being a consultant, Ms. Yeahquo has worked for the Oklahoma Eastern Regional BIA office, Transportation Branch, as the Community Planner. She met with tribal and agency representatives to identify short and long-term transportation needs and projects.

Ms. Yeahquo is also an experienced grant-writer and has served as a grant reviewer for several years with ANA, Department of Justice, Department of Agriculture and other federal granting agencies. She has also been active in development and offering courses on Tribal Planning and Grant Writing with the Native Learning Center.

(Continued on page 2)
We are very excited to bring all of this experience and knowledge to the Pacific Northwest and our NW TTAP Program. She has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Design and a Masters in Regional and City Planning from the University of Oklahoma.

Please welcome Rowena to the NW Region, and feel free to contact her or Michele regarding any and all NW TTAP activities. Michele has done a great job maintaining all our grant responsibilities working with me since last Spring. We again want to thank Mr. Richard Rolland for his years of outstanding service to the NW TTAP as we move into a new era.

Sincerely,
Dick Winchell, Former Acting NW TTAP Director

Northwest TTAP Moving its office to the Spokane Campus

The Northwest TTAP offices is moving from the EWU Cheney Campus to the EWU Riverpoint Spokane Campus, by January 2015. There will be an Open House in January. Be sure to watch for our announcement. The directors’ office is at the new location and you can reach Rowena Yeahquo, Director at ryeahquo@ewu.edu or call 509-828-1410. Our new address will be 668 North Riverpoint Blvd. Rm 382, Spokane, WA 99202.
TR News September-October 2014: Transportation in Tribal Lands: Challenges and initiatives

This issue of the TR News features articles that explore the challenges facing tribal transportation and the accomplishments of programs serving the unique transportation needs of the 566 Indian tribes throughout the United States. Articles highlight the federal trust relationship and tribal sovereignty; a bridge replacement project in the Oneida Nation using context-sensitive solutions to connect the community and strengthen tribal identity; tribal self-governance in the transportation arena; right-of-way jurisdiction through Indian Country; environmental justice as it relates to tribal transportation; transportation research successes—and more.

The September-October 2014 issue of TR News includes the following articles:
Safe Journeys: Improving the Role of Tribal Communities in the Development of Transportation Facilities in Indian Country
Indian Country 101: History, Geography, Policies, and Initiatives Affecting Tribal Transportation Infrastructure
Context-Sensitive Solutions for an Oneida Nation Transportation Project: Teamwork and Community Involvement for Safety, Connectivity, Mobility, and Cultural Identity
The Transformation to Tribal Self-Governance in the Transportation Arena: A Progress Through Legislative Milestones
Transportation Fellowship Helps Young Researcher Examine Maintenance Policies for Tribal Roads
Fixing the Potholes: Tribes Exercise Practical Sovereignty to Assume Control of Tribal Transportation Systems
Tribal Transportation Planning and Geographic Information Systems: Applying High-Tech Tools and Expertise to Advance Initiatives
Right-of-Way Through Indian Country: The Complexities of a Commonplace Arrangement
Transportation Research in Indian Country: Lessons Learned from Recent Projects
Guide for Effective Tribal Crash Reporting

The TR News is TRB's bimonthly magazine featuring timely articles on innovative and state-of-the-art research and practice in all modes of transportation. It also includes brief news items of interest to the transportation community, research pays off articles profiles of transportation professionals, workshop and conference announcements, new book notices, and news of TRB activities. Submissions of manuscripts for possible publication are accepted at any time.
Third Quarter, July-September 2014, Activities Highlight’s Summary

By Michele Siedenburg, Tribal Transportation Program Specialist, NW TTAP

The following are a few highlights for the third quarter for the Northwest TTAP.

- **Introduction to Tribal Transportation Planning.** July stated off with the Introduction to Tribal Transportation Planning training class with instructor Richard Rolland. This class is part of the EWU Tribal Summer Institute and provided an introduction to tribal transportation planning and the importance of transportation for overall tribal development.

- **National LTAP/TTAP Conference.** In July Michele Siedenburg, Tribal Transportation Program Specialist, participated in the conference development and training activities in addition to meeting the other representatives from the TTAP and LTAP centers. Michele participated in the preconference trainings which included “Tools, Training & Technical Assistance for Local Rural and Tribal Road Practitioners Safety Toolkit” and “Developing a Center Needs Assessment”.

- **Tribal Planning Basics: a 4 part Series.** In August Margo Hill, Associate Professor with EWU and the Northwest TTAP sponsored a series of four webinars titled “Tribal Planning Basics”. The practice of American Indian tribal planning is based on three foundations: 1) the principle of tribal sovereignty including inherent sovereignty, understood through a combination of the evolution of tribal legislation and tribal court cases that create the power to plan; 2) the application of comprehensive planning processes to the unique setting of individual tribal specific governments; and 3) the evolution and implementation of tribal planning by tribal governments in recent times—the practice of tribal planning. These three components of tribal planning, including tribal transportation planning, were the focus of our Tribal Planning Basics class. The four webinars were: 1) The Nine Sources of Federal Indian Law and Policy, 2) Key Court Cases, Legal Issues, and Powers to Plan on Reservation Lands, 3) Why do Tribes need their own Comprehensive Plan, and 4) Tribal Planning Implementation and Practices.

- **Tribal Grant Writing Training.** This training session was hosted by the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe in August and provided extensive instruction on grant writing and the administration of grants. The class explored various grant programs for tribal communities and the rules for writing them. Also examined were federal, state, and private grant resources and the strategies needed to develop proposals. Participants received instruction on the principles of grant management, modifications, monitoring, reporting/audits and evaluation. Participants learned how to develop major sections of the grant process and gain an understanding how each of them will be reviewed. Instructor: Carol Oliva, Development Specialist, National Indian Justice Center (NIJC) and Western TTAP.

- **Northwest TTAP Advisory Board.** During August the Northwest TTAP held a conference call with the NW TTAP Advisory Board.

- **National Tribal Transportation Conference.** Dr. Dick Winchell and Michele Siedenburg participated and presented at both the pre-conference activities as well as the conference. Dr. Dick Winchell conducted a 4-hour class on strategic planning. This class was well received and was standing room only. Ms. Siedenburg assisted in conference operations and oversaw portions of the tribal planning track.

- **Client Needs Assessment Survey.** The Northwest TTAP developed a clients needs assessment survey and using Survey Monkey sent out request in September to tribes to complete the 10 to 15 minute survey on their transportation needs.
17th Annual National Tribal Transportation Symposium

The 17th Annual National Tribal Transportation Conference was held in Anchorage, Alaska September 22 - 25, 2014 and had record participation of over 480 attendees. The Conference began on Monday with three pre-conference trainings, a group tour to Bethel, a remote Alaska village, early registration and the vendor showcase/reception in the evening. Tuesday morning started with a general session with breakout sessions in the afternoon and all day Wednesday and Thursday morning.

Each year the seven Tribal Transportation Assistance Programs (TTAP) meet to plan and organize this conference with outstanding results. I would like to take a moment and thank the seven (7) centers, Alaska TTAP, 4 Corners TTAP, Eastern TTAP, Northern Plains TTAP, Northwest TTAP, Southern Plains TTAP, and the Western TTAP for all the work and effort that each center commits to this event to make it a success. The committee also receives help and assistance from our partners within the tribal, federal, state, and local communities. A special thank you to Byron Bluehorse with the Alaska TTAP who lead the organization of the event in his region.

Pre-conference Sessions

This year the Northwest TTAP with the assistance of Dr. Dick Winchell, FAICP, (seen lower left), provided a four (4) hour session on “Strategic Planning for Tribal Transportation”. More than anticipated attended training session. The original estimate of participants was around 24, when the training started it was standing room only with well over sixty (60) participants. Strategic Planning is recognized as an essential process for good decision-making within all organizations, especially tribal governments. It seeks to create and utilize data to understand complex problems, it seeks to identify and predict the outcomes of alternatives available to the community, and it provides a context for public discussion around the question: “What is the best action we can take with the information available?” This training session not only talked about the issues but also had the participants participated in hands problem solving activities.

The other two pre-conference training sessions where Robin Brooks presenting a Myers-Briggs Personality Type Indicator Workshop and Van Howell providing a 10-hour OSHA course training (Both pictured below).
General Session

During the Tuesday morning general session there were presentations and updates from several individuals including: Weldon Loudermilk, Regional Director - BIA, Alaska Regional Office, Joyce Curtis, Associate Administrator - Office of Federal Lands Highway, Maria Juarez, Associate Director of Government Affairs - U.S. DOT, Office of the Secretary, Kenneth Feldman, Deputy Regional Administrator - Federal Highway Administration, Amy Lucero, P.E. Transportation Director - Federal Highway Administration, LeRoy Gishi, Chief - Division of Transportation, BIA, Stuart Hartford, P.E. Transportation Director - Alaska Regional Office, BIA, Jeff Jones, Office of the Governor State of Alaska, Amanda Shearer, Tribal Liaison - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gwen Salt, Legislative Associate - National Congress of American Indians and Raymond Concho, Jr. Chair - Tribal Transportation Program Coordinating Committee.

Break-out Sessions

The conference had over 80 training sessions with several of the sessions being offered multiple times. These sessions covered a multitude of topics including: Performance Based Planning, Gravel Road Management (3 part series), Creating a Culture of Safety for Excellent Tribal Transit, GIS Resources Applications for Tribal Transportation, NEPA Training, Breakthrough Soil Technology, Beyond MAP-21, Challenges and Opportunities for a Reauthorization that Expands Tribal Authority and Capacity to Deliver Safe, Reliable and Accessible Transportation Systems, Force Accounting, Cost Effective Pothole Solutions, Bringing in Tribal Run Projects Under Budget, State Tribal Liaisons and Snow machine and ATV Safety.

This year Michele Siedenburg, Northwest TTAP, working with Dennis Trusty, Northern Plans TTAP, help organized the planning track for the conference. The planning track training sessions included one 4-hour workshop and six 2-hour planning sessions. The following are short descriptions for some of the training sessions in the planning track.

Performance-based Planning and Programming (PBPP) refers to the application of performance management within the planning and programming processes of transportation agencies to achieve desired performance outcomes for your transportation system. This includes a range of activities and products undertaken by a transportation agency together with other agencies, stakeholders, and the public as part of a 3C (cooperative, continuing, and comprehensive) process. It includes development of: long range transportation plans (LRTPs), other plans and processes, Strategic Highway Safety Plans, Asset Management Plans, and programming documents, including the Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP). PBPP attempts to ensure that transportation investment decisions are made – both in long-term planning and short-term programming of projects – based on their ability to meet established goals. Thank you to Kyle Kitchel, FHWA (seen right) and Brian Betlyon, FHWA, for providing this training session.

Financially Constraining the TIP provided approaches and concepts for programming funds when developing the transportation improvement program (TIP). Making the TIP a communication tool to the public and to other departments within your government and how to use the TIP as a management tool once the project is under way.
**NEPA Training** introduced the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for rural transportation projects through the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP). The program provided an overview of applying the tribes TTP information for planning considerations, preparing an Request For Proposal (RFP) or performing NEPA in house, NEPA requirements, and an overview of preparing documentation to submit to the BIA for a TTP construction project. The course goals include providing an overview of planning, identifying the NEPA categories, completing the NEPA documents for the BIA and/or providing oversight of contracted NEPA development, and providing information about how NEPA works with the TTP so tribes can appropriately plan for the NEPA process. Thank you to Darrel Williams for conducting this training session.

![Megan Nicodemus, WDOT Tribal Liaison](image)

**State Tribal Liaisons** session provided three views from three tribal liaisons from three different states. The role of a WSDOT Tribal Liaison is to advance the practice of effective tribal coordination through mutual respect and consideration. Megan Nicodemus’s, WSDOT, discussion will include a review of strategies for developing effective outcomes. June Hansen, SDDOT, has developed a stronger working relationship with the nine Tribes by the various meetings they hold (Tribal STIP Meeting, individual meetings, etc.) and changes made internally to be better partners; briefly on the TERO/TECRO agreements; annual Tribal Transportation Safety Summit – how they schedule, plan & promote the event with Tribes hosting; the County/Tribal signing projects (how we are promoting Tribes to participate in the county-wide signing projects); inviting Tribal Transportation staff on preliminary inspections and to provide more input on design when it directly impacts Indian Country or a community. Thank you Megan Nicodemus, June Hansen and Edward Fairbanks for sharing what it means to be a tribal liaison in your states.

**Tribal Safety Plans** This panel presentation provided information about Tribal Safety Plan (TSP) development across the country; including best practices, exemplary Tribal Safety Plan examples, and case studies outlining the unique approaches to Tribal Safety Plan completion that tribes across the country have implemented. Adam Larsen started the panel discussion off by describing what a Tribal Safety Plan is and the many positive benefits Plan development can have for tribal governments and communities. He will share information that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has gleaned after two Tribal Transportation Program Safety Funds grant rounds, and will detail a few case studies and exemplary Plan samples from his tribal TSP technical assistance efforts over the past few years. Sasha Pachito will describe the workshop process that the Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) employed to complete it Tribal Safety Plan, as well as some of the challenges encountered and lessons learned. As GRIC first completed a School Route/Travel Plan for Safe Routes to School (SRTS), Ms. Pachito can speak to where the two plans overlap, and how the School Route/Travel Plan development process may have informed that of the Tribal Safety Plan. Michia Casebier will talk about completion of GRIC’s SRTS School Route/Travel Plan, and how tribes can take the framework of the 5Es for Safe Routes to School Program development (Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, Engineering, and Evaluation) and apply it to the drafting of comprehensive Tribal Safety Plans that include six Es (Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, Engineering, Evaluation, and Emergency Management Services).

The conference ended Thursday afternoon. During the closing ceremony the winner for the drawing for the ATV was selected, it was Anita Williams from Kalskag, AK. Also during the closing ceremony the participants were asked to vote on next years location. The top pick for the 2015 National Tribal Transportation Conference was Myrtle Beach, NC. So mark your calendars and I hope to see many of you at next years National Tribal Transportation Conference.
Snapshot's from the National Tribal Transportation Conference
Recently Released Publications

**A Debris Management Handbook for State and Local DOTs and Departments of Public Works**

TRB’s National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Report 781: A Debris Management Handbook for State and Local DOTs and Departments of Public Works provides debris management practices for local, tribal, and state departments of transportation and for public works agencies. A PowerPoint presentation and a final report describing the methodology of the project are available online.


**Effect of MUTCD on Tort Liability of Government Transportation Agencies**

TRB’s National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Legal Research Digest 63: Effect of MUTCD on Tort Liability of Government Transportation Agencies examines the effect that the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) has had on the manner in which government tort liability has developed; the extent to which federal, state, and other governments have adopted tort claims acts and laws that have waived or greatly curtailed sovereign immunity; and the impact of peculiar state laws.

http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp_lrd_63.pdf

**Highway Safety Performance 2014**

TRB’s Transportation Research Record (TRR): Journal of the Transportation Research Board, No. 2435 consists of nine papers that examine the use of the Monte Carlo simulation for a sensitivity analysis of highway safety manual calibration factors; a variable speed limit control strategy; safety effects of signal improvements; guidance on customizing the Highway Safety Manual for Virginia; and injury severity in crashes on ramps and at crossroad ramp terminals. This issue also evaluates pavement safety on rural, two-lane highways; safety of hybrid main-line toll plazas; the transferability of the Highway Safety Manual freeway model to the Italian motorway network; and safety performance functions for freeways by considering interactions between speed limit and geometric variables.

Contact Northwest TTAP for copy.

**Highways in the Coastal Environment: Assessing Extreme Events**

The U.S. Federal Highway Administration has released a report that provides guidance and methods for assessing the vulnerability of coastal transportation facilities to extreme events and climate change.

Impact of Energy Sector Growth on Perceived Transportation Safety in the Seventeen-County Oil Region of Western North Dakota: A Follow-Up Study.

The Mountain-Plains Consortium, part of the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute at North Dakota State University, has released a report that examines public perceptions of traffic safety issues and priorities that have resulted of increased traffic volume from oil production in western North Dakota.


Law Enforcement Officer Motor Vehicle Safety: Findings from a Statewide Survey

The Center for Disease Control has released a report that summarizes survey results of law enforcement officers' perceptions and experiences of motor vehicle incidents to facilitate the development of evidence-based safety programs.


Research Pays Off: Roadway Safety on Indian Reservations

The latest edition of Research Pays Off included in the September–October 2014 edition of the TR News explores the Wyoming Rural Road Safety Program (WRRSP), which was developed to help local and tribal governments improve highway safety at high-risk locations.


Review of Federal and State Environmental Review Requirements for Highway Projects

The U.S. Government Accountability Office has released a report that examines factors determining whether federal or state environmental reviews are required for highway projects, how these requirements compare, and the extent of any duplication in the reviews.


Want more information on a specific subject? Email or call the Northwest TTAP and let us know.

The above publications are chosen from several newsletters, list, emails and other materials that we receive. We can watch for specific subjects and post the publications as we are notified of them.

If an electronic copy is not available with the publication please contact Michele to obtain a hard copy.
The following is information on a publication “Guide for Effective Tribal Crash Reporting” which was recently published by the National Cooperative Highway Research Program at the Transportation Research Board.

Web Page Link
http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/171540.aspx

Overview of Content
The guidebook development is based on best practices, success stories, lessons learned, published literature, and data from tribes and states that were involved in the data collection and analysis phase of this research.

The guidebook is developed in three parts.

**Part 1** provides self-assessment tools for state agencies and tribes. The self-assessment tools are designed to provide a quick assessment of the effectiveness of existing crash data collection and management and the current level of communication and collaboration between tribes and state agencies. Results of the self assessment lead users to the appropriate chapters in Part 2 of the guidebook.

**Part 2** contains a series of chapters focused on establishing, building and maintaining communicative relationships between tribes and states, establishing an effective crash data collection system, creating a state-tribe crash data sharing system, and improving tribal traffic safety using the crash data. At the end of each chapter in Part 2, case studies are included, which can be useful to provide practical information to tribes and states during the process of implementing an effective tribal crash reporting system. The guidebook is designed to provide an easily followed step-by-step process to improving tribal crash reporting programs.

**Part 3** provides references and source materials used in Parts 1 and 2.

Adam Larsen
Safety Engineer & Tribal Coordinator
Tribal Transportation Program
Federal Highway Administration
Adam.Larsen@dot.gov
office: 360-619-7751
fax: 360-619-7846
http://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/ttp/

Northwest Tribal Technical Assistance Program (TTAP) is administered by the Urban Planning Program at Eastern Washington University. This material is based upon work supported by the U.S. Department of Transportation under Cooperative Agreement No. DTFH61-14-H-00007. Funds are provided by the Federal Highway Administration LTAP, the Bureau of Indian Affairs Indian Reservation Roads Program, locally generated resources and individual contributions. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the Author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Indian Affairs or Eastern Washington University. Any product or company mentioned is for informational purposes only and should not be considered a product endorsement.

This Newsletter has been reviewed and approved for publication by the FHWA LTAP Manager.