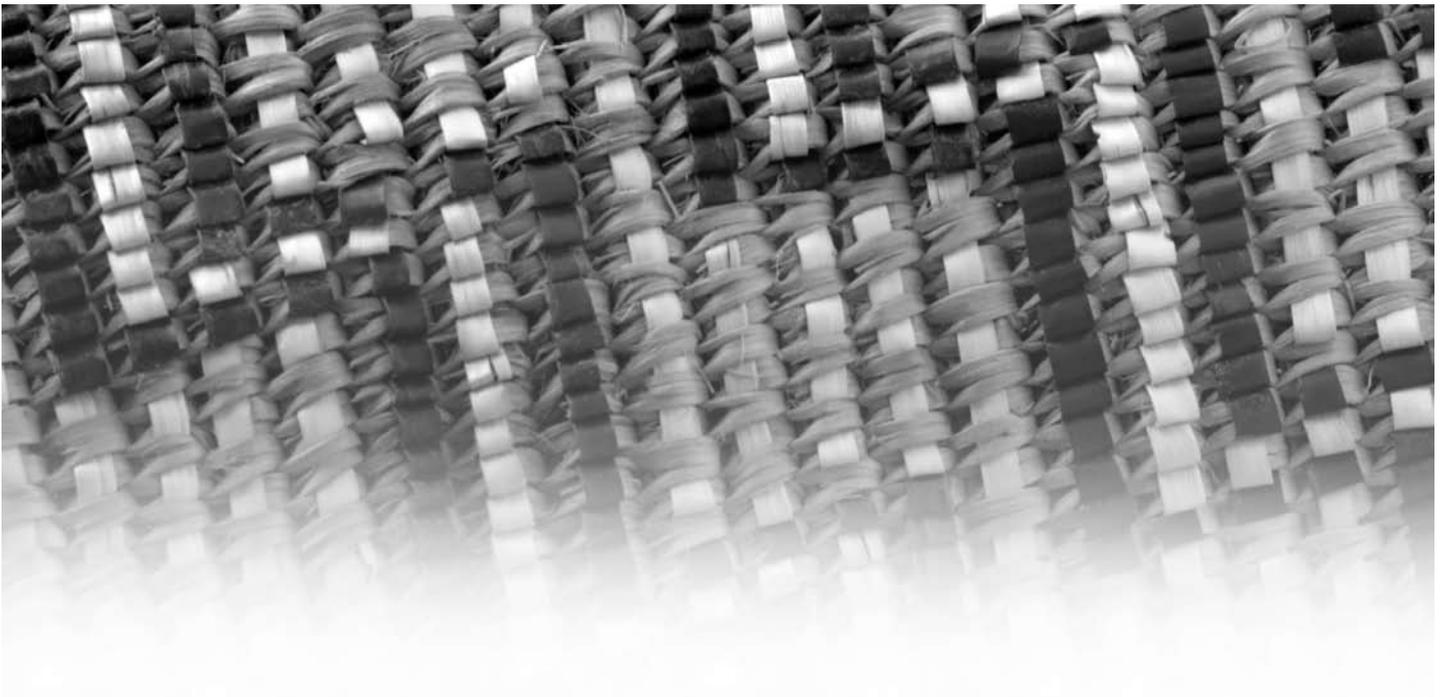




**Washington State
Department of Transportation**

Washington State Tribal Transportation Planning Organization

May 2006



Background

There are 29 federally recognized Tribal governments in the state of Washington. Tribal lands comprise approximately 8% of Washington's land area (see map A-1). Indian and Native Alaskan population within Washington State comprise approximately 2% of the state population.

In 1989, as a commemoration of 100 years of statehood, the state and the tribes signed the Centennial Accord to strengthen government-to-government relationships (www.goia.wa.gov/Government-to-Government/Government-to-Government.htm). The relationship was further strengthened on February 19, 2003, when the Department of Transportation adopted Executive order E 1025 00 which established the departments Tribal Consultation policies and procedures (www.wsdot.wa.gov/tribal/Centennial_Accord.htm). Additionally, federal law requires consultation with tribes in the statewide and metropolitan planning processes, further strengthening the coordination between the State, Tribes, and Federal Government.



Gordon Thomas, Transportation Planner for the Yakama Nation and Secretary of Transportation, Doug MacDonald

Since 1993, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has met annually with tribes to address mutually identified transportation issues. Each year the creation of a Tribal Transportation Planning Organization (TTPO) was identified as critical for tribes and WSDOT to continue collaboration and consultation. At the 2003 Tribal/State Transportation meeting (hosted by the Yakama Nation) a TTPO was formally established.

As envisioned, the TTPO improves Tribal government's planning and programming activity through enhanced coordination with tribal, federal, state, and local governments. The purpose of the organization is to support the development of tribal transportation planning capacity, and is not intended to promote competition among individual tribes for project funding or other resources that could be utilized by the tribes. Research and data collection are also primary functions of the TTPO.

Startup funding for the TTPO, was provided by the Washington State D.O.T. Transportation Planning Office. After the TTPO was formed, a detailed work program was developed outlining the minimum work items and funding needs for the TTPO (see attached). To accomplish the work program, a combination of state, Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO), and Federal funds were provided. It is also important to note that additional in-kind contributions were provided from tribal, state, and federal sources to support the formation of the TTPO.

TTPO organization and structure

The TTPO is scheduled to meet four times a year. During the first year, the TTPO accomplished two important tasks:

1. Developed a set of Bylaws:
 - The Bylaws established that the TTPO would be all-inclusive, including representatives from tribal, local, state and federal agencies. These groups are needed at the table to foster better understanding, education and implementation of adequate transportation programs and facilities needed by Tribal Governments (see A-3).

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2. Completed a transportation needs survey. The major findings of the survey are:
- Tribal Planning Departments are understaffed and in need of the technical expertise in the area of transportation planning. A lack of administrative capacity critically hinders many tribes from participating in the planning and programming activities necessary to obtain funding for projects.
 - Safety in transportation planning demands extensive inventory and availability of skilled staff and time. Lacking adequate staff widens the gap in collecting necessary data that leads to the best solutions.
 - Most tribes indicated that transportation services and facilities were necessary to sustain economic vitality.
 - Many Tribes lack the basic public transportation systems necessary to meet the needs of the elderly and youth populations in the community.
 - Existing funds are insufficient to preserve the existing transportation systems.
 - Lacking adequate staff hinders the Tribes ability to coordinate and cooperate with adjacent communities.
 - Environmental and cultural resource policy issue consultation is an area that needs continuous improvement.
 - The Tribes and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) need to continue to promote employment opportunities, particularly for tribal members when transportation projects are proposed on tribal lands.

TTPO participation in the Washington Transportation Plan (WTP)

An update of the Washington Transportation Plan had just started when the TTPO was formed in 2003. From the beginning, members on the TTPO believed that the organization could provide critical information about tribal transportation needs and include them into the WTP update process. As the survey pointed out, there is

a critical need to develop accurate and a comprehensive tribal roads data. By agreement, WSDOT and the TTPO developed a work program that included hiring a consultant to develop a Tribal Transportation Database. The project began in February, 2005, with the selection of a consultant to develop the database. The consultant met with every federally recognized tribe, the BIA and WSDOT to assemble the data included in the report. The consultant completed the work on July 31, 2005, and submitted the final report.

The major findings of the report are:

Finding #1–Road Mileage

In Washington State, there are 5,021.13 miles of roads that serve Indian reservations. Most are County roads, representing 37 percent of the total.

Table 1: Tribal Mileage by Jurisdiction

| Jurisdiction | Percent | Miles |
|--------------|-------------|-----------------|
| County | 37 | 1,832.34 |
| BIA | 34 | 1,687.93 |
| State | 27 | 1,371.07 |
| Tribal | 1 | 54.79 |
| Other | 1 | 50.60 |
| Local | 0 | 24.5 |
| Total | 100% | 5,021.23 |

Finding #2–Transportation Needs

The transportation needs of the 29 Tribes are significant. The known cost for meeting capital project needs, with only 12 Tribes reporting estimated costs, is \$201.2 million.

The most frequently cited transportation need on reservations is for road and bridge improvements, widening, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation and preservation. These needs are significant. Many of the tribal transportation facilities have either failed, or are failing. There is not enough funding (Federal or Tribal), nor is their adequate planning and engineering expertise to perform this work. Moreover, it is difficult for rural tribal projects to compete for State funding against urban projects.

Another frequently cited need is for transportation enhancements such as sidewalks, bus service and transit supportive facilities, lighting, roadway striping, markers and reflectors, and information and safety signage. Tribal Planners expressed concern for the safety of their residents, particularly the youth, walking and bicycling on reservation roads.

Speed limit enforcement and lack of adequate traffic count data at reservation borders were also noted frequently.

The findings of the Tribal Transportation Database were presented to the Washington State Transportation Commission at the 2005 Tribal/State Meeting on October 17, 2005. The WSDOT is now assessing the information and determining how best to incorporate the information into the update of the Washington Transportation Plan.

Successes

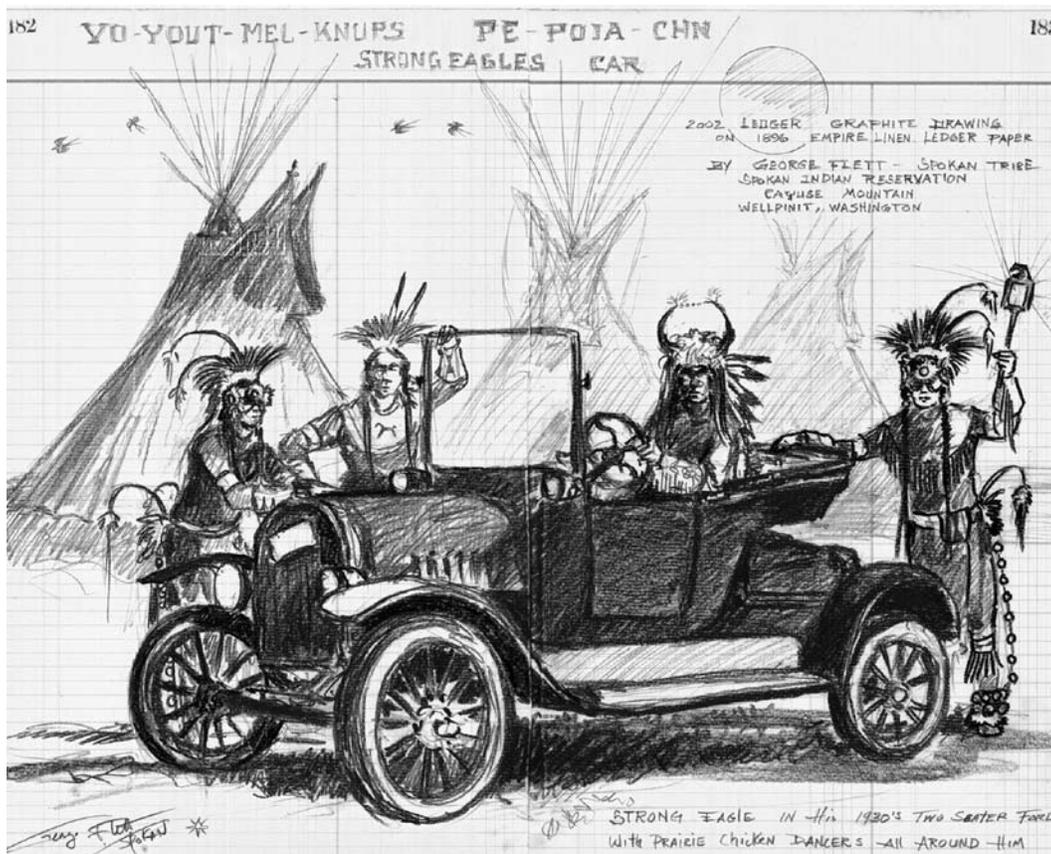
As mentioned previously in this report, the major successes as a result of forming the TTPO are:

1. Improved and ongoing Coordination and Cooperation
2. Complete Indian Roads Inventory
3. Tribal participation in the update of Washington's Statewide Transportation Plan (WTP)
4. Tribal Transportation Needs identified and tracked through a database

Attachments

- A-1 Tribal Reservation Map within Washington State
- A-2 TTPO Work Program
- A-3 TTPO Bylaws

Drawing Courtesy of George Flett, Spokane Tribal Artist

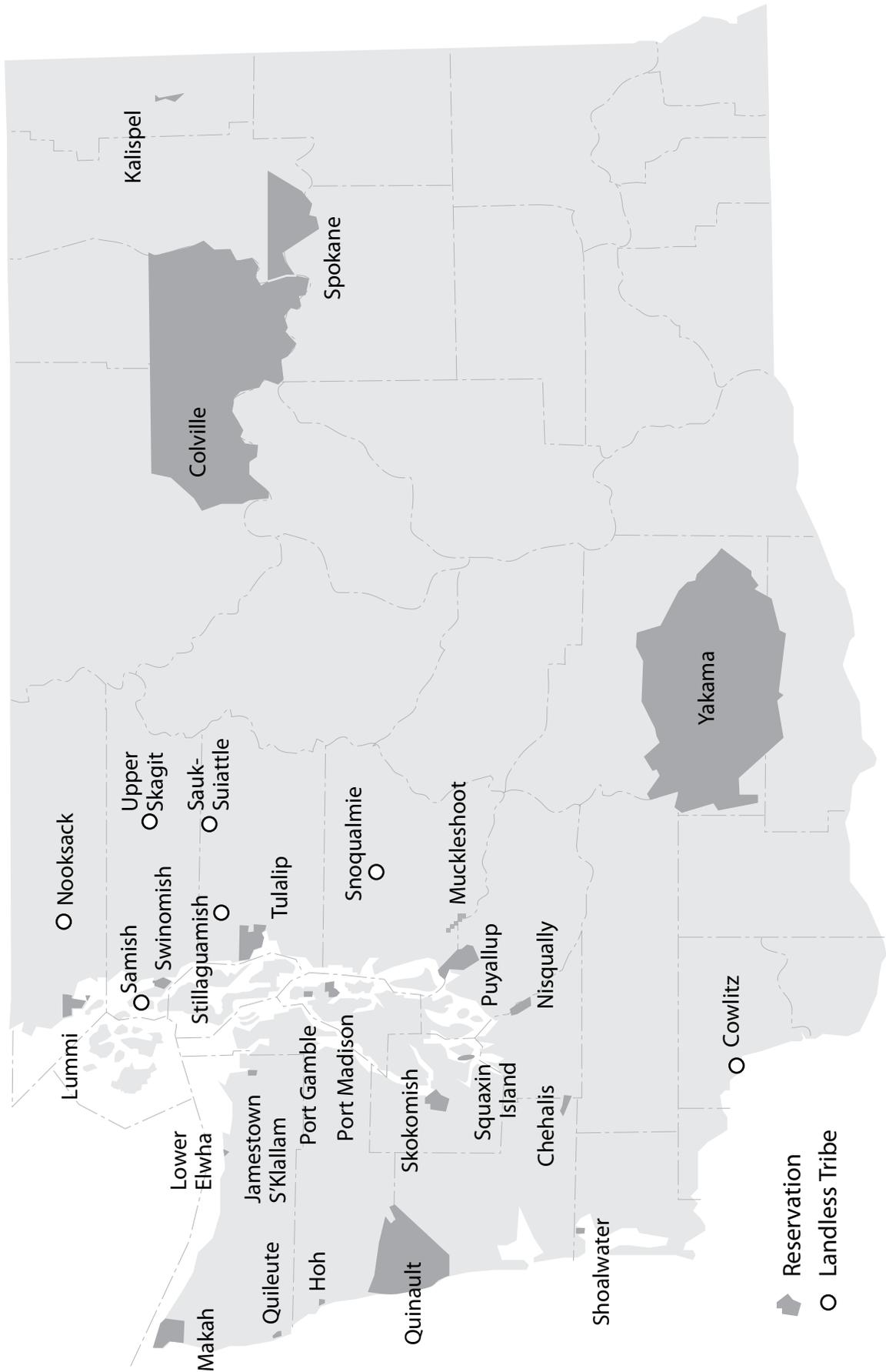


For More Information

For more information on the TTPO process please contact Mike Partridge at 360-705-7964, partrim@wsdot.wa.gov.

For more information on The Washington Transportation Plan please visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/planning/wtp/

Washington State Tribal Transportation Planning Organization Attachment 1 – Tribal Reservation Map within Washington State



**Washington State Tribal Transportation Planning Organization
Attachment 2 – 2005-2007 Work Program**

| Work Task | Total |
|--|------------------|
| Organize and Manage TTPO | |
| Hold 7 meetings* | \$17,500 |
| Support the TTPO at meetings | 13,200 |
| Document TTPO and report on TTPO to FHWA | 5,376 |
| Represent TTPO @ RTPO/MPO CC meeting* | 1,000 |
| Manage and provide technical assistance to the TTPO | 23,350 |
| Totals | \$60,426 |
| Resource Tools for Tribes & WSDOT | |
| A. Provide training opportunities for tribe | |
| 1. State Transportation Improvement Program | \$8,960 |
| 2. Work with BIA and tribal planners to streamline inventory process | 8,960 |
| B. Update WSDOT websites to tribes | 8,960 |
| C. Update <i>Tribal Transportation Guidebook</i> printing | 15,000 |
| D. Draft and produce <i>Tribal Transportation Planning Guidebook</i> | 5,388 |
| E. Update SP&P chapter of the <i>Centennial Accord Plan</i> | 4,000 |
| Totals | \$51,268 |
| Conducting research and analyzing tribal needs data | |
| A. WTP | |
| 1. Conduct initial WTP survey to identify tribal needs | \$1,000 |
| 2. Identify data gaps and propose solutions | 1,000 |
| 3. Report on initial findings for WTP | 1,000 |
| 4. Incorporate tribal needs data in the WTP data library | 4,000 |
| Totals | \$7,000 |
| Tribal Transportation Database | |
| B. IRR and County Inventory Data Project | |
| 1. Develop and secure county endorsements and agreements | \$10,000 |
| 2. Identify the county roads within CRIS suitable for IRR inclusion | 30,000 |
| 3. Develop a technique to update CRIS and execute that data update* | 15,000 |
| 4. Design, perform and remedy quality assurance standards for data* | 5,000 |
| 5. Document the update model/process | 10,000 |
| 6. Manage and provide technical assistance to consultant | 29,318 |
| Totals | \$99,318 |
| *Unassigned funds to address emerging issues | \$21,500 |
| Totals | \$21,500 |
| Grand Totals | \$239,512 |

*These are identified work tasks that will be funded from the additional \$40k, SPR (Fed) + \$10k state match.

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Attachment 3 – Bylaws

Establishment

The purpose of the Tribal Transportation Planning Organization, hereinafter abbreviated and referred to as the TTPO, was established on December 11, 2003 by transportation officials from tribes, the Washington State Department of Transportation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

Purpose

The TTPO shall have the following functions and purposes:

- A. The purpose of the TTPO is to promote tribal transportation planning in Washington State and to foster intergovernmental cooperation and coordination.
- B. Provide a forum for the advancement of professional skills; and knowledge among transportation professionals employed with Indian governments;
- C. To encourage effective use of planning principles, cooperation and education among transportation agencies at the local, regional, state and federal level.

Participation

The TTPO shall be an association of any Tribal, state, federal transportation policy, planning and administration professionals.

Organization

Section 1. Governance

- A. The governing body of the TTPO is the general body consisting of all TTPO participants.

Section 2. Officers

The Officers of the TTPO shall be elected by the membership. The Officers and their duties shall be as follows:

- A. Chairperson: The chairperson shall preside at all the meetings of the TTPO; Coordinate agenda; Call emergency meetings; Represent TTPO at Regional Transportation Planning Organization Coordinating Committee meetings; and other duties as may be assigned by the TTPO general membership.

- B. Vice-Chairperson: In the event of the absence of the Chairperson or the Chairperson's inability to act, the Vice-Chairperson shall act in the Chairperson's stead.
- C. Eligibility: Officers shall be representatives of tribal governments.
- D. Election of Officers: Officers shall be elected every two years during the annual meeting. The Vice-Chairperson will succeed to the Chairmanship. Candidates will be nominated from the floor at the meeting.
- E. Vacancies: Vacancies in an office, which occurs from any reason, shall be filled at the next meeting of the TTPO.

Meetings

Meetings of the TTPO will occur on a quarterly basis.

- A. Location: The location of the meetings shall be at tribal facilities, **except as noted in B below**, and shall rotate around the state to facilitate maximum participation. The date, location, and time of next meeting shall be set at the end of the each TTPO meeting. Special meetings may be called at anytime at the discretion of the Chairperson.
- B. Tribal/State Transportation Conference: one of the quarterly meetings of the TTPO shall take place at the Tribal/State Transportation Conference.
- C. Voting: Each participant of the TTPO shall have one (1) vote. Decisions shall be made through consensus.
- D. Records: Meeting reports shall be created by WSDOT, distributed and archived by WSDOT.

Finances

Funds shall be administered by WSDOT under the discretion of the TTPO general body, provide it complies with applicable laws and restrictions. A financial report shall be distributed at each TTPO meeting.

Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended by consensus of the TTPO participants during the Annual Tribal/State Meeting, Spokane, WA, October 13, 2004.