



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Natural Resources

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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June 12, 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 Natural Resources (DNR) 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 DNR is the land owner, DNR supports Alaska's Federally-recognized Tribes including *existing* DNR 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.

DNR requires that a maintenance agreement, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or another DNR authorization as necessary, must be established or coordinated between the two parties prior to a Tribe's construction, maintenance or upgrades to any State-owned facilities included in the NTTFI. Appropriate agreements or authorizations may vary depending upon the specific nature and status of individual routes and facilities. Until addressed by a maintenance agreement, and an MOU or other DNR authorization as necessary and in compliance with applicable law, DNR does not relinquish any ownership interest in or jurisdiction over any DNR-managed and state-owned land, interests in land, or facilities, nor grant jurisdiction to any Tribe or BIA for any DNR-managed and state-owned land, interests in land, or facilities.

This letter authorizes Alaska's Federally-recognized Tribes to incorporate the DNR facilities into the BIA NTTFI database, contingent upon individual project coordination as noted above, and 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 blue ink that reads "Andrew T. Mack".

Andrew T. Mack
Commissioner