National Rural Transit Assistance Program

December 8, 2020 1:00 – 2:30 PM Pacific Time, Zoom Room 2
Intertribal Transportation Association (ITA)
2020 Virtual Conference

Moderator: Neil Rodriguez, NRTAP Tribal Transit Program Manager
Panelists: Walt Diangson, National RTAP Trainer, & Jennie Rowland, Transportation Manager, Big Woods Transit, Bois Forte Tribal Government
Panel Introductions

Jennie Rowland, Former Chair
Transportation Manager
Bois Forte Public Transportation
Big Woods Transit

Walt Diangson
Transit Consultant &
National RTAP Instructor
Engaging with Tribes

- Benefits of Engaging with Tribes and Tribal Transit Programs
- Tribal Sovereignty
- Initiating Relationships with Tribes
- Types of Coordination
- Tribal Liaison Contacts within State Departments of Transportation
- Opportunities to Address Rural and/or Tribal Transportation Challenges
- Tribal Transit Program Startup
- Section 5311 and the Tribal Transit Program
- Tribal Transit Program
- Section 5310 and Tribal Human Services Transportation
- Funding and Writing Competitive Transit Program and Tribal Transit Program Grants
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Section Sources
• Welcome, Introductions, National RTAP, & Zoom
• Growth of Tribal Transit Systems Among Federally Recognized Tribes
• Examples of Tribal Transit Systems
• The Development Process for a Tribal Transit System
• The Bois Forte Band of Chippewa’s Big Woods Transit
• Tribal Transit Framework and Functional Components
• Tribal Transit in a Tribal Transportation or Public Works Dept.
Planning, Funding, Developing, Starting, and Sustaining a Tribal Transit System

Tribal Transit Becomes an Integral Part of Tribal Transportation
Tribal Transportation Structure

Public Transportation

Public Grants & Funding for Transportation

Tribal Transportation

Roads & Bridges

Tribal Transit

FHWA, FTA, State, Local
Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Role

• **Tribal Transit Formula Grants - 5311 (c) (1) (B)**
  • Provides funding to federally recognized Indian tribes to provide public transportation services on and around Indian reservations or tribal land in rural areas.

• **Funding for:**
  • Capital
  • Operating
  • Planning
  • Administrative expenses

• **Eligible activities:**
  • **Capital projects** ➔ Facilities, wash racks, fuel stations
  • **Operating costs of equipment** ➔ Vehicles, Parts, Labor
  • **Facilities for use in public transportation** ➔ Bus shelters
  • **Acquisition of public transportation services** ➔ Contracting
The Growth of Tribal Transit Systems

Source: NRTAP
Tribal Transit Examples

- Bois Fort Band of Chippewa/Big Woods Transit, Nett Lake, MN
- Ute Tribe Public Transit, Fort Duchesne, UT
- Hualapai Transit, Peach Springs, Arizona
- Squaxin Island Tribe, South Puget Sound, WA
- Redding Ranchera, Redding, CA
- Cherokee Transit, Cherokee, NC
Planning, Funding, Developing, Starting, and Sustaining a Tribal Transit System

Example of How One Tribal Transit System Was Developed
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa/Big Woods Transit
Jennie Rowland, Transportation Mgr.

Bois Forte Band of Chippewa/Big Woods Transit
Service Area: 10,000 Sq. Miles
Annual Ridership: 30,921 Passenger Trips
Annual Vehicle Revenue Miles: 274,803 VRM Annually
Annual Vehicle Revenue Hours: 14,000 VRH Annually
Vehicles at Maximum Service: 9 Transit Vehicles
Modes: Commuter Bus Demand Responsive
Big Woods Evolution Beyond Transit

Expansion into the Tribal Community

Biboon

Food Box Delivery
Planning, Funding, Developing, Starting, and Sustaining a Tribal Transit System

The Development Process
General Phases in Implementing Tribal Transit

1. Mobility Need Recognized
2. FTA Transit Funding Available
3. Funding Application for Planning & Award
4. Application for Capital & Operations
5. Transit Plan Development
6. FTA Award For Capital & Operations
7. Implementation Plan
8. Service Preparations & Start-up
9. Opening Day
10. Ongoing Day-to-Day Management & Operations
Planning, Funding, Developing, Starting, and Sustaining a Tribal Transit System
Tribal Transit Functional Areas

- Tribal Council and Administration
  - Tribal Transportation Department
    - Tribal Transit Div. Manager
      - Transit Facilities
      - Transit Operations
      - Transit Administration
      - Transit Safety
      - Transit Maintenance
    - Tribal Security
    - Outside Services
Tribal Transit Functions & Task Areas

Transit Administration Functions
- Transit Mgmt.
- Grants Admin.
- Budgeting & Payroll
- Personnel Admin.
- Customer Relations
- Safety & Insurance
- Reporting & Data
- NTD Reporting
- Service Planning
- Purchasing
- Svs. Marketing
- Safety Mgmt. Plan

Transit Operational Functions
- Ops. Mgmt.
- Road Supervision
- Svs. Scheduling
- Driver Scheduling
- Vehicle Dispatching
- Screening
- Hiring & Training
- Inspections
- Svs. Monitoring
- Reporting & Data
- Service Planning

Transit Maintenance Functions
- Maint. Mgmt.
- Shop Supervision
- Technical Svs.
- Repairs
- Warranty Admin.
- Parts Inventory
- Tires & Fueling
- Farebox Handling
- Facility Maint.
- Manufacturer Rel.
- Hiring & Training
- HazMat
- Transit Asset Mgt.
Tribal Transportation Synergies
General Path to Implementing Tribal Transit & Ongoing Service

1. Mobility Need Recognized
2. FTA Transit Funding Available
3. Funding Application for Planning & Award
4. Application for Capital & Operations
5. Transit Plan Development
6. FTA Award for Capital & Operations
7. Implementation Plan
8. Service Preparations & Start-up
9. Available Resources
10. Opening Day
11. Ongoing Day-to-Day Management & Operations
Tribal Government Organization

Bois Forte Tribal Government Organization Chart

Executive Director

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Sr. Exec. Coordinator

PUBLIC WORKS
- Roads
  - Maintenance
- Vehicle
  - Maintenance
- Operations

EDUCATION
- Head Start
- Early Head Start
- Child Care
- WIA
- Summer Youth
- Higher Education
- EAP
- Registrar
- B & G Clubs

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
- Health Administration
- PRC
- Diabetes Program
- Community Health
- Dental
- Medical
- Pharmacy
- New Moon
- Behavioral Health
- Emergency Preparedness
- Elderly Nutrition
- Nutrition Education
- Maternal Child
- New Lives
- Ambulance Service
- Wisdom Steps
- Family Support
  - AGE to Age
- Foster Care
- ICWA
- Victim Services
- Fitness Centers
- Food Distribution

PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
- Roads
  - Maintenance
- Grant Manager
- Grant Writer
- Vermilion Operations
- Facilities & Construction Management
- Transportation
- Water & Sanitation
- Honor Guard

URBAN OFFICES

HERITAGE CENTER

HOUSING

FINANCE & ACCOUNTING
- Tribal Court
- Enrollment

HUMAN RESOURCES

JUDICIAL SERVICES

TEK

LAW ENFORCEMENT

DRAFT
**Benefits of Working within the Tribal Transportation Dept. or Public Works**

- Available resources
- Technical support
- Leveraged funding
- Overlapping training
- Safety management
- Collaboration
- Coordination
- Job Sharing
- Other synergies
Thank You for Your Participation

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