



Introducing the Tribal Sections of the Transit Manager's Toolkit

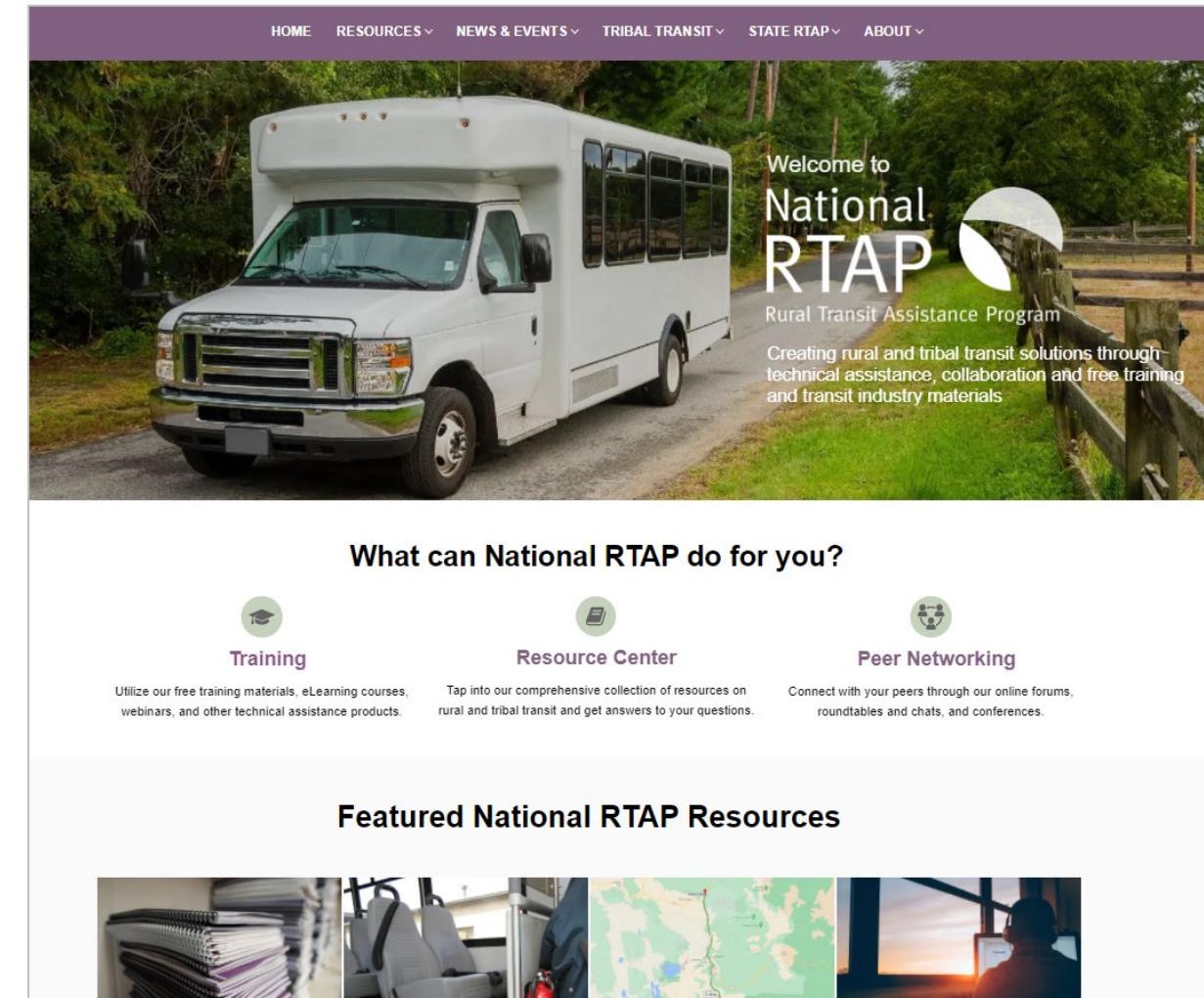
May 7, 2024



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

National Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP)

- Technical assistance center funded by FTA through Section 5311
- No-cost training and technical assistance resources and services
- For rural and Tribal transit providers and state programs
- Guided by a 14-member Review Board from State DOTs and transit providers
- Learn more at nationalrtap.org



The screenshot shows the homepage of the National RTAP website. At the top, a navigation bar includes links for HOME, RESOURCES, NEWS & EVENTS, TRIBAL TRANSIT, STATE RTAP, and ABOUT. The main header features a white transit bus parked on a road with trees in the background. To the right, the text "Welcome to National RTAP" is displayed, along with the "Rural Transit Assistance Program" logo, which consists of a stylized white 'R' and 'T' inside a green circle. Below this, a sub-headline reads "Creating rural and tribal transit solutions through technical assistance, collaboration and free training and transit industry materials". A section titled "What can National RTAP do for you?" is divided into three categories: "Training" (represented by a graduation cap icon), "Resource Center" (represented by a document icon), and "Peer Networking" (represented by a people icon). Each category has a brief description and a link. At the bottom, a section titled "Featured National RTAP Resources" shows four small images: a stack of notebooks, the interior of a bus, a map of a route, and a person looking out a window at a sunset.

National RTAP Resources and Services

Training

manuals, videos, slides, and eLearning for front-line staff and management

Information

and best practices via tech briefs, toolkits, topic guides, articles, and news

Technology Tools

for procurement, cost allocation, website building, and GTFS

Peer Networking

and training via webinars, conferences, roundtables, and online forums

Assistance

through reference services and tech support – bring us your questions!

What is TACL?



<http://transportation-tacl.org>

The Transportation Technical Assistance Coordination Library (TACL) provides a sustainable methodology and platform for access and findability of rural and tribal transit coordination resources across a diverse range of transportation technical assistance centers and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

The FTA-funded technical assistance centers participating in this ongoing work are:

- National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC)
- National Center for Applied Transit Technology (N-CATT)
- National Center for Mobility Management (NCMM)
- National Rural Transit Assistance Program (National RTAP)
- Shared-Use Mobility Center (SUMC)
- Transit Workforce Center (TWC)

Presenters



Amy Hill

Director of Transit Services
Muscogee Nation
AHill@muscogeenation.com



Cara Marcus

Knowledge and Resource Manager
National RTAP
cmarcus@nationalrtap.org

2024 Toolkit Update Acknowledgments

Preparation Team

- KFH Group
 - Paula Clark
 - Daniel Dalton
 - Buffy Ellis
 - Ken Hosen
 - Luke Huddon
 - Sue Knapp
 - Ridi Mehrotra
 - Elisabeth Rood
- Socius Amica
 - Meredith Green

Reviewers

- Jeremy Bell, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Choctaw, MS
- Tillie Broncho, White Eagle Transit, Ponca City, OK
- Stephanie Bushong, Ketchikan Gateway Borough, AK
- Laura Corff, United Community Action Program, Ponca City, OK
- Robert Endicott, Cherokee Nation, Tulsa, OK
- Amy Hill, Muscogee Nation Transit Authority, Okmulgee, OK
- Jonnie Kusek, Open Plains Transit Services, Alliance, NE
- Kendra McGeady, Pelivan Transit, Big Cabin, OK
- Kevin Tafoya, Cherokee Transit, Cherokee, NC

And thank you to many others who were interviewed and participated in our surveys

Transit Manager's Toolkit Overview

- Developed for new rural transit managers.
- Provides information they will need on day one to ensure their organizations are operating smoothly.
- Assures compliance with the federal regulations associated with receiving FTA Section 5311 funding.
- Launched in 2014. Updated in 2019, 2020, and 2022.
- Began working on developing Tribal pages in 2022 and completed them in March 2024

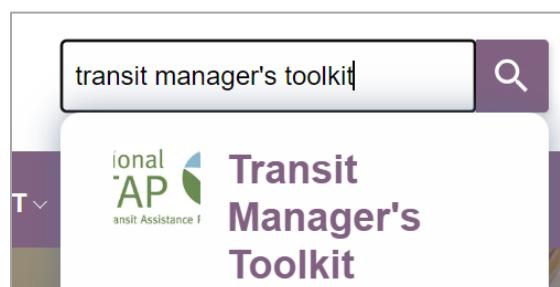
<https://www.nationalrtap.org/Toolkits/Transit-Managers-Toolkit/Welcome>

Transit Manager's Toolkit Tribal Section Development Process

- National RTAP team developed an outline in 2021
- Contracted with KFH Group and began working on the Tribal Section in 2022
- Selected a Review Committee and held the Kick-Off meeting in 2023
- Research process included focus group meetings, survey, 1:1 interviews, and additional research
- Each page was peer-reviewed by a Tribal Transit manager
- Completed and posted on our website in March 2024

Accessing the Transit Manager's Toolkit

HOME	RESOURCES	NEWS & EVENTS	TRIBAL TRANSIT	STATE RTAP	ABOUT
INFORMATION	TRAINING		TOOLKITS		TECHNOLOGY TOOLS
Resource Library	National RTAP Training Overview		ADA Toolkit		Overview
Resource Catalog	National RTAP eLearning		Bus Roadeo Toolkit		Cost Allocation Calculator
Topic Guides	2 The Point Training		Find Anything Toolkit		GTFS Builder
Technical Briefs	Directory of Trainers		Marketing Toolkit		ProcurementPRO
Best Practices Spotlight	Webinars		State RTAP Manager's Toolkit		Website Builder
COVID-19 Information	Peer Roundtables & Chats		Transit Manager's Toolkit		Rural iNTD
TACL					



1. Click on the link in our Resources Megamenu
2. Search our Website
3. Search our Resource Library
4. Search Google

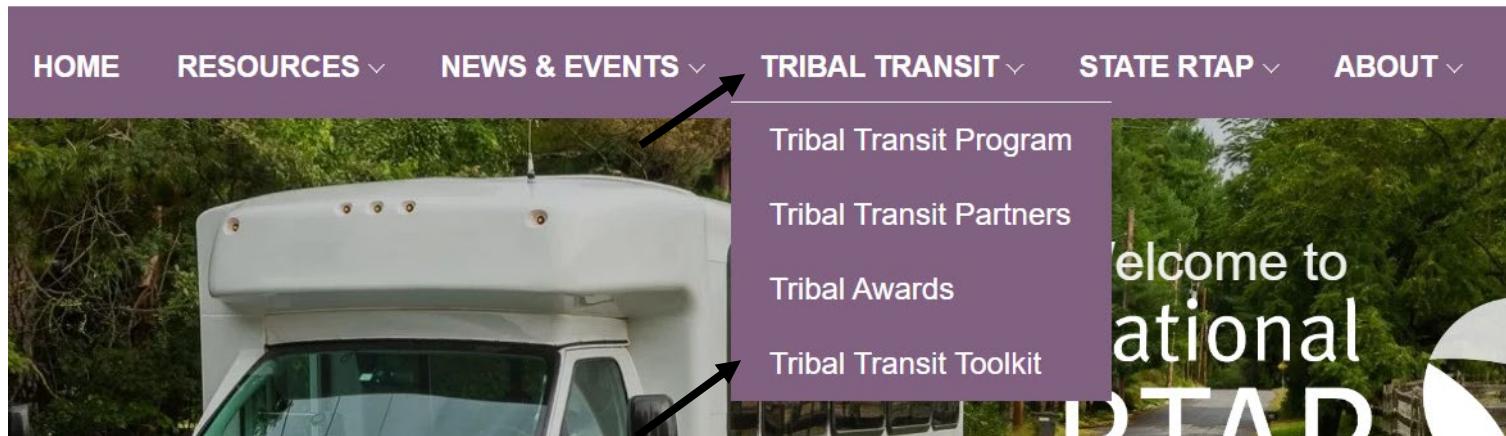
Title (MTI)

Browse Begins Contains Ends

transit manager's toolkit

Search Start Over

Accessing the Tribal Transit Sections



1. Click on the Tribal Transit Toolkit Link
2. Click on the links on any page or the Transit Manager's Toolkit (including the Table of Contents on the Welcome page)

- Tribal Transit ▾
 - Welcome
 - Tribal and Non-Tribal Systems Engaging
 - Governance
 - Administration and Funding
 - Operations and Planning
 - Compliance

- **Tribal Transit**
 - **Welcome**
 - **Tribal and Non-Tribal Systems Engaging**
 - **Governance**
 - **Administration and Funding**
 - **Operations and Planning**
 - **Compliance**

Purpose of the Tribal Transit Pages

- Developed to give new Tribal transit managers the information they will need on day one to ensure their transit organizations are operating efficiently, effectively
- Discusses the issues and complexities that come with managing or engaging with a Tribal transit agency
- Examines the unique transit needs of Tribal communities
- Provides information on complying with federal regulations associated with receiving funding through FTA

Tribal and Non-Tribal Systems Engaging

Benefits of Engaging with Tribes and Tribal Transit Programs

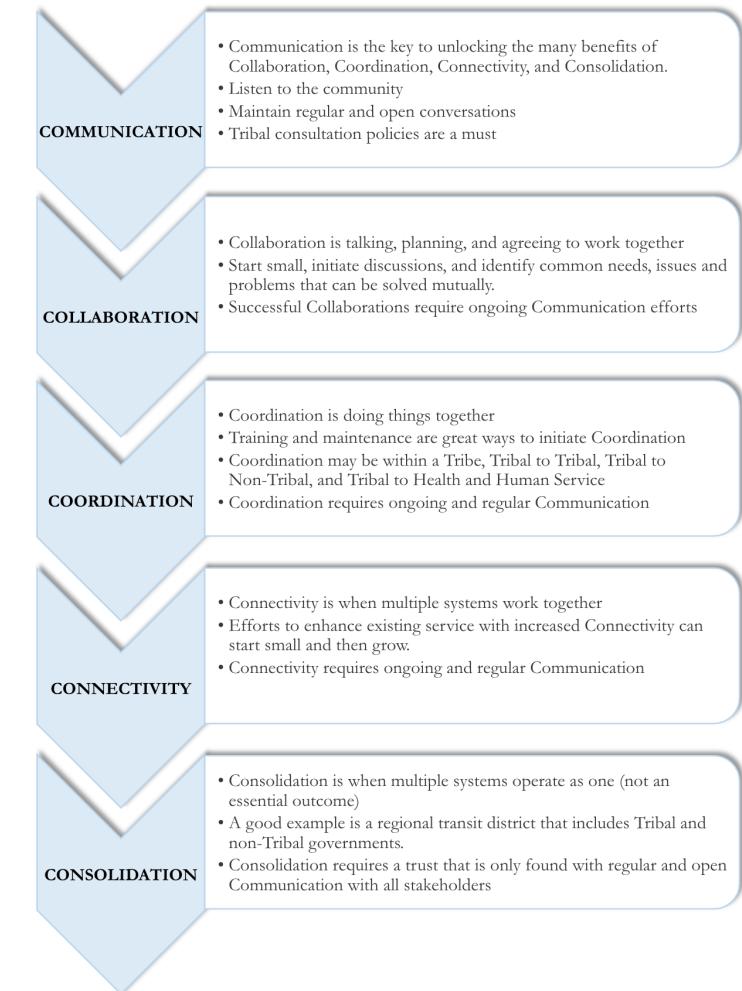
- Writing grants in a collaborative manner is a major selling point and two Tribes and/or Tribes and non-Tribal systems working together makes a strong statement.
- Improving transportation equity and social justice within the existing transit system.
- Eliminating duplicative services reduces costs and allows for other improvements.
- And many other additional benefits.

Tribal and Non-Tribal Systems Engaging

The 5 C's:

- Communication
- Collaboration
- Coordination
- Connectivity
- Consolidation

Includes case studies from New Mexico DOT and the North Central Rural Transit District (NCRTD), Navajo Transit System and Hopi Senom Transit in Arizona, and others



Tribal and Non-Tribal Systems Engaging

Fundamental Principles for the Development of Tribal Consultation Policies

- Tribal consultation policies should strive for uniformity, including using common definitions, processes, and time frames, for purposes of consistency, ease of Tribal use, and for promoting a whole-of-government approach.
- Tribes are sovereign nations with self-governance and self-determination rights.
- Tribes have a two-way Nation-to-Nation relationship with the United States.

Governance

- **Tribal Sovereignty:** the right for Tribes to govern themselves
- **Self-Governance:** Tribal authority to self-administer certain federal programs and services for Tribal citizens
- **Tribal Band Autonomy:** no expectation that any two Tribal governments will function in the same manner
- **Government-to-Government Relationship:** the relationship between federally recognized Tribes and the United States is recognized as one between sovereigns
- **Tribal Treaties:** substantive federal law of equal importance to other federal laws and obligations
- **Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO):** sovereignty-based legislation enacted by a Tribal Government

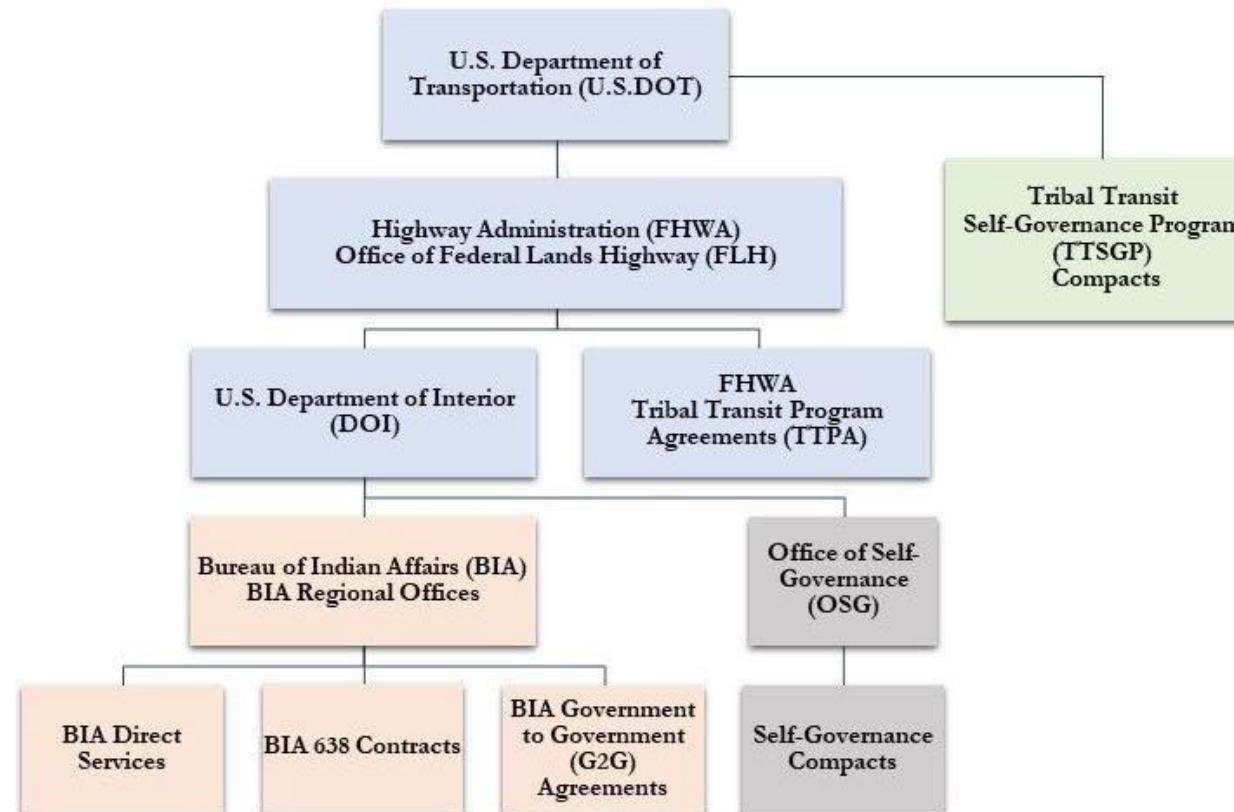
Governance

Self-Governance and Self-Determination Major Legislation

- Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 (ISDEAA)
- Tribal Self-Governance Act of 1994
- Practical Reforms and Other Goals To Reinforce the Effectiveness of Self-Governance and Self-Determination for Indian Tribes Act of 2019 (The PROGRESS Act) (signed into law on October 21, 2020)

Administration and Funding

Primary Programs and Grants Available to Tribal Transit Providers



Administration and Funding

Programs and Grants Available to Tribal Transit Providers

- Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- Tribal Transportation Self-Governance Program (TTSGP)
- Tribal Transit Program (TTP)
- Indian Health Service (IHS)
- Medicaid - Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT)
- Veterans Administration (VA)
- State and Additional Programs and Funding
- This section includes funding case studies

Administration and Funding

PROGRAMS SPECIFIC TO TRIBAL TRANSIT PROVIDERS			
	Federal Program	Eligibility	Allocation/Application
1)	<p>Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program (Tribal Transit Program or TTP)</p> <p>Federal public transportation law (49 USC 5311(c)(1)(B)) authorizes the formula amount of the TTP.</p> <p>See additional information about this program in the Tribal Transit Program Section of this page.</p>	<p>Only federally recognized American Indian or Alaska Native Tribes as identified by the U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) are eligible recipients under the TTP.</p> <p>However, Tribes which are not federally recognized remain eligible to apply to the state as a subrecipient for funding under the State's apportionment.</p> <p>Funds may be used to provide public transportation services on and around Indian reservations or Tribal land in rural areas. Capital, operating, planning, and administrative expenses for public transit projects that meet the growing needs of rural Tribal communities are eligible activities.</p>	<p>In order to received formula funds a Tribe must report to the National Transit Database (NTD) on an annual basis. FTA apportions Tribal transit funds to Indian Tribes by a statutory formula using the NTD and the latest available American Community Survey (U.S. Census Bureau) data.</p>

Scrolling table with information about and links to Tribal Transit funding programs

Operations and Planning

- **Operations Management Models:** turnkey, executive employment, full-time/part-time employment, or service contracts
- **Human Resources:** case studies from various Tribes
- **Driver Recruitment, Training, and Retention:** strategies
- **Training:** National RTAP, Native Learning Center, National Transportation in Indian Country Conference (NTICC), and others
- **Safety, Security and Emergency Management:** FTA and Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) resources for Tribes
- **Coordination and Mobility Management:** case studies from various Tribes
- **Planning and Evaluation:** strategic and service planning, required planning
- **Overcoming Operational Challenges in Tribal Areas:** low-density populations, long travel distances, and dispersed destinations

Compliance

- Legal Compliance and Award and Project Management
- Financial Management and National Transit Database (NTD)
- Transit Asset Management (TAM)
- Satisfactory Continuing Control
- Maintenance
- Charter Service
- Procurement
- Drug-Free Workplace Act and Drug and Alcohol Program Management
- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI)
- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)
- Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Program
- ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)

Tribal Transit compliance is often similar to general compliance. Guidance is provided when Tribal Transit-specific compliance is required. For example, see the [NTD section](#) of the Tribal Compliance page.

Q&A



Thank You

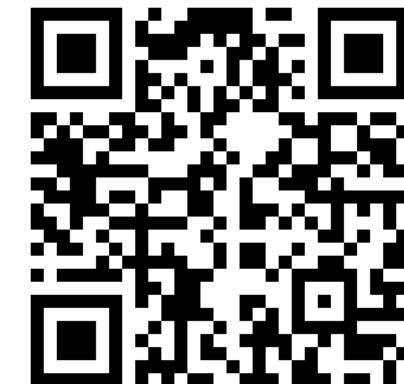
National Rural Transit Assistance Program

nationalrtap.org

info@nationalrtap.org

888-589-6821

Webinar
Survey Link



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration