



WMAT DOT NEWS

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE
WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION



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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year 2021! I would like to wish everyone a safe, healthy and happy New Year. I would like to start off by acknowledging the historic moment of Congresswoman Deb Haaland being selected to serve as the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior. We, WMAT DOT, had the opportunity to hear her speak at the 2020 National Transportation in Indian Country Conference that was held virtually. I am thrilled to be part of such a historic time and look forward to Congresswoman Haaland's direction towards equality and justice for Tribal Nations. I would also like to congratulate Pete Buttigieg for his nomination for the U.S. Secretary of Transportation position. Both Congresswoman Haaland and Mr. Buttigieg's positions directly impact WMAT DOT and I am excited to see what types of changes and opportunities occur under their direction. WMATDOT continues to push forward despite unexpected hurdles that occur. I would like to personally thank everyone for their support and in Congressman Haaland's words will continue to "be fierce for all of us".

-- Tara Chief, WMAT DOT Director



“I’LL BE FIERCE FOR ALL OF US”

In an historic move, President Elect Joe Biden picked New Mexico State Representative Deb Haaland as Interior Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior. Haaland will be the country's first Native American Cabinet secretary.

The Biden-Harris transition team called Haaland a "barrier-breaking public servant who has spent her career fighting for families, including in Tribal Nations, rural communities, and communities of color," who will be "ready on day one to protect our environment and fight for a clean energy future."

Haaland is a 35th generation New Mexican who is an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Laguna, and also has Jemez Pueblo heritage. After running for New Mexico Lieutenant Governor in 2014, Haaland became the first Native American woman to be elected to lead a State Party. In 2019, Haaland was elected as a U.S. Representative from New Mexico's 1st congressional district.

On December 17, 2020, Haaland tweeted, "A voice like mine has never been a Cabinet secretary or at the head of the Department of Interior. Growing up in my mother's Pueblo household made me fierce. I'll be fierce for all of us, our planet, and all of our protected land. I am honored and ready to serve."

On behalf of the WMAT DOT, we congratulate Secretary Haaland and are inspired to see her impact on all Tribal Nations.



UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

PETE BUTTIGIEG



President Elect Joe Biden picked South Bend, Indiana mayor Pete Buttigieg as the United States Secretary of Transportation. The Office of the Secretary oversees the Federal Highway Administration, under which the White Mountain Apache Tribe Division of Transportation operates. The FHWA Office of Tribal Transportation (OTT) administers the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP). The OTT also provides support for all FHWA activities affecting tribal transportation.

Pete Buttigieg served two terms as mayor of South Bend, Indiana, and was a Democratic candidate for president of the United States in 2020. A graduate of Harvard University and a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, Buttigieg served for seven years as an officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve, taking a leave of absence from the mayor's office for a deployment to Afghanistan in 2014. Buttigieg also ran for president in 2020.

"WE SHOULD BE LEADING THE WORLD WHEN IT COMES TO TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE, NOT CATCHING UP. SAFETY IS THE FUNDAMENTAL REASON WHY WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR BRIDGES, AND OUR ROADS, FOR EXAMPLE, ARE IN BETTER SHAPE THAN THEY ARE TODAY. AND I DO THINK THERE'S A BIPARTISAN AWARENESS OF HOW IMPORTANT THAT IS." - PETE BUTTIGIEG

WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE DOT TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX

SITE DEMOLITION
CONTINUED IN
DECEMBER, AS CREWS
REMOVED THE
REMAINING
BUILDINGS ON SITE



SITE DEMOLITION
CONTINUED IN
DECEMBER, AS CREWS
REMOVED THE
REMAINING BIA
BUILDINGS ON SITE

WATER LINE PRESSURE
TESTING WAS
COMPLETED TO ENSURE
THE INTEGRITY OF
NEWLY INSTALLED
WATER LINES, VALVES
AND HYDRANTS



WMAT DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION

COME WORK WITH US



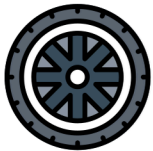
WMAT DOT IS HIRING! THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS
ARE AVAILABLE:

TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR
TRANSIT DRIVER
TRANSIT DRIVER

INTERESTED? THESE POSITIONS ARE POSTED BY WMAT
HUMAN RESOURCES AND ON WMATDOT.COM/NOW-HIRING.
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK @WMATDOT FOR UPDATES.

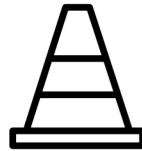
COMMUNITY TIPS FOR A SAFE WINTER SEASON:

WINTER WEATHER IS UPON US. AS THE THERMOMETER DROPS, ROAD CONDITIONS MAY BECOME COMPROMISED. PLEASE BE ALERT, BE SAFE, AND FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES BELOW:



CHAINS

Use chains or studded tires when necessary



SLOW DOWN

When road conditions are unsafe, please slow down and drive with care



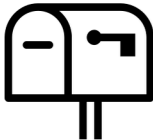
BE PATIENT

When road conditions are unsafe, please be patient and drive with care



THINK TWICE

Is your trip necessary? Refrain from driving unless it is necessary



KEEP IT CLEAR

Keep areas in front of driveways and mailboxes clear



BE CONSIDERATE

Be considerate of other drivers, emergency vehicles and snow operation crews



LEAVE EARLY

Allow more travel time during or following a snowstorm



KEEP IT CLEAR

Clear sidewalks of snow and ice within 24 hours of a snowstorm



PARKING

Do not park on city streets between the hours of midnight to 7:00 a.m.



KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Drive at least 50 feet behind snowplows and cinder trucks

WMAT DOT FUNDING Q&A

HOW IS WMAT DOT FUNDED?

WMAT DOT receives its funding from the Highway Trust Fund. This funding is allocated to tribes, and then dispersed through the United States Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, Office of Tribal Transportation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Funds are allocated among Tribes using a formula based on tribal population, road mileage and average tribal shares of the former Tribal Transportation Allocation Methodology (TTAM) formula.

HOW CAN WMAT DOT USE THESE FUNDS?

All Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) funds provided to Tribes can be expended only on eligible projects and activities identified in the federal regulations and included in an FHWA-approved Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Funds can be used for the following:

- Transportation planning, research, maintenance, engineering, rehabilitation, restoration, construction, and reconstruction of tribal transportation facilities
- Operation and maintenance of transit programs and facilities that are located on, or provide access to, tribal land, or are administered by a tribal government
- Any transportation project eligible for assistance under this title that is located within, or that provides access to, tribal land, or is associated with a tribal government

WMAT DOT prepares the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), a 5-year plan for improvements on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. Each project on the TIP is supported by tribal resolution. WMAT DOT submits the TIP to the BIA Division of Transportation (BIADOT) for review and approval. BIADOT reviews, approves, and forwards the TIP to FHWA Federal Lands Highway Office (FLHO) for approval. WMAT DOT can allocate TTP funds for its projects once the TIP is approved by FHWA.

WHAT IS THE TTP?

The Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) is the largest program in the Office of Federal Lands Highway. Established in 23 U.S.C. 202 to address the transportation needs of Tribal governments throughout the United States, the program will receive \$505 million in FY 2020, as established in Public Law 114-94, Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (the FAST Act). The purpose of the TTP is to provide safe and adequate transportation and public road access to and within Indian reservations, Indian lands, and Alaska Native Village communities. A prime objective of the TTP is to contribute to the economic development, self-determination, and employment of Indians and Native Americans. The Tribal Transportation Program is funded by contract authority from the Highway Trust Fund and is subject to the overall Federal-aid obligation limitation.



THIS IS A PUBLICATION OF:

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