

Planning, Policy,  
and  
Programming

JUNE 2022

Project Title:  
Tribal Planning Needs Assessment –  
Phase 2

Task Number: 3518

Start Date: May 5, 2021

Completion Date: November 30,  
2022

Task Manager:  
Angela Fredericks  
Associate Transportation Planner  
angela.fredericks@dot.ca.gov

## Tribal Planning Needs Assessment – Phase 2

This study will assess current California tribal transportation plans and efforts, identifying opportunities and gaps in tribal transportation planning.

### WHAT IS THE NEED?

The goal of this project is to identify transportation planning competencies, networks, and resources present in the 109 federally recognized Native American Tribes in California that the research study group comprises of, and in doing so identify their transportation planning capacity, document any gaps in knowledge, and provide recommendations for additional aid as relevant. Transportation is more than just roads, and this study identifies how transportation planning has been perceived by the Study Group. Building upon the Phase 1 Pilot Study, an important aspect of the study has been to understand and define what transportation planning means to the Study Group, tribal understanding of Caltrans' mission and vision, capacity for participation in state, regional and local transportation planning and especially their understanding of and interest in transportation as a multi-modal system. The tribal transportation-related planning process for each tribe was an important variable to track and consider.

### WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Identification and definition of transportation planning capabilities, strengths, and challenges within tribes will require tailored research and documentation. As such, the ultimate objective of this project is to provide Caltrans with:

1. A summary of contact information and current transportation planning staff/capacity for each of the 109 federally-recognized tribes in California
2. Guidelines and suggestions for incorporating tribal governments in the early stages of the planning process in a way that recognizes the unique governmental structure of sovereign tribal governments and differences in tribal government organizational capabilities
3. Information about the presence of a Tribal Transportation Plan (including when it was done and updated; and persons responsible for it).



DRISI provides solutions and  
knowledge that improves  
California's transportation system

## WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

The goal of this project was to identify statewide transportation planning needs and capacities of California tribes, and in doing so identify their planning capacity, document any gaps in knowledge, and provide recommendations for additional aid as relevant. Ultimately, these recommendations may lead to improvement of tribal participation and identification of transportation needs included within local, regional, and state planning processes.

## WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

This study includes outreach and requests to all 109 federally recognized Tribes to help researchers provide specific recommendations for supporting and guiding tribal transportation planning needs, therefore benefiting these tribal communities in leveling their information gaps.

## WHAT IS THE PROGRESS TO DATE?

A project panel meeting was held October 2021 and the final transportation planning questionnaire has been sent to the 109 Federally recognized Tribes throughout the State of California. Currently, researchers are following-up with Tribes for assisting with completion of the questionnaire, completing the Tribal transportation planning database, and conducting qualitative and quantitative analyses based upon questionnaire responses and outreach practices. As of May 2022, 49 Tribes completed the questionnaire. The next steps will include completing follow-up with Tribes to receive the greatest number on of the questionnaires and final report.