



Northern TTAP 2026 Issue 1



CO-DIRECTOR UPDATE

Greetings from the Northern Tribal Technical Assistance Program (NTTAP)!

As we begin Year 3 of our 5-year agreement with the Federal Highway Administration, we are excited to continue working alongside our Tribal, state, and federal partners to provide training, technical assistance, and helpful transportation resources. It is a privilege to support Tribal transportation programs and to serve as a source for the latest updates, guidance, and information that can help strengthen your work.

We also want to invite you to join us for the 2nd National Tribal Road Maintenance Symposium, coming up May 5-7, 2026, at The Box Events Center. This event will bring together transportation professionals, program staff, and leaders to share ideas, learn from one another, and focus on practical strategies for improving and preserving roads and bridges. The agenda also includes topics aimed at strengthening the administrative side of transportation programs, helping support strong management systems along with day-to-day operations. We hope you will make plans to attend. Details and the draft agenda are available online.

At NTTAP, we are always glad to hear from you. Whether you want to share a success story, talk through a challenge, or ask for information or technical assistance, we encourage you to reach out. Those conversations help us better understand your needs and ensure that our services remain useful and responsive.

2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Montana

- Mar 30 - Apr 1: Montana Association of County Road Supervisors (MACRS) Annual Conference

North Dakota

- Apr 8 - 9: ADA for Pedestrian Access Routes (PAR) Along Your Street
- Apr 22 - 23: Chainsaw Operation & Safety
- Apr 29 - 30: Shoulder Pulling (Live Demo)
- May 12 - 14: Maintenance Welding

Wyoming

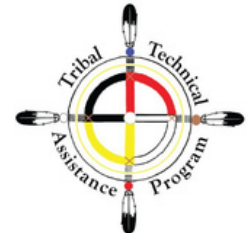
- Apr / May: ACI Certification Workshops
- Apr 15: Transportation and Safety Congress
- Apr 16 - 17: OSHA 10-HR + Hazards Workshops

Conferences

- May 5 - 7: National Tribal Road Maintenance Symposium (NTRMS), South Dakota
- Nov 15 - 19: National Transportation in Indian Country Conference (NTICC), Arizona

Please feel free to contact either NTTAP Co-Director, Ron Hall (ronald.hall@ndsu.edu) or Bryon Fuchs (bryon.fuchs@ndsu.edu). Our team of transportation training experts brings a wide range of experience and expertise, and we are here to help however we can. We appreciate the opportunity to work with you and look forward to staying connected in the months ahead.

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South Dakota

Tribal transportation training plays an important role in helping Tribal communities build, manage, and maintain safe and reliable transportation systems. Roads and bridges connect community members to schools, healthcare, jobs, and essential services, making transportation critical.

Training helps Tribal transportation staff learn best practices in road design, maintenance, drainage, safety, and project management. With this knowledge, transportation departments can identify problems early, make better decisions, and extend the life of roads and infrastructure.

Because many Tribal transportation programs operate with limited budgets and staff, training also helps ensure that available funding is used effectively. Skilled personnel can prioritize projects, apply proper maintenance techniques, and reduce costly repairs in the future. Now is a great time to reach out if you have any training needs.

Our most requested trainings focus on gravel roads, pavement maintenance, signing, bridges, and culverts. We also offer a hands-on motor grader course that has been very popular with participants. In addition, don't forget about the technology transfer and technical assistance services we provide. Throughout the year, we receive many calls and emails requesting technical assistance.

These requests can range from questions that can be addressed with a quick phone call to more in-depth, on-site visits.

Common topics include questions about roadway signing, improving gravel roads, developing pavement maintenance plans, and identifying ways to improve specific sections of roadway. These are just a few examples of how we can assist you.

Most importantly, transportation training strengthens local expertise. By developing knowledge within the community, Tribal transportation departments are better equipped to plan and manage infrastructure that meets the needs of your people.

If you have a training or a technical assistance request you can reach out to Andrew Peterson (Field Services Manager) at 605-661-7882 or andrew.peterson@sdstate.edu.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

If you have a training or a technical assistance request please reach out.

[Training link form](#) or contact directly:

- Montana: Matt Ulberg, matthew.ulberg@montana.edu
- Nebraska: Megan Patent Nygren, mpatentnygren2@unl.edu
- North Dakota: Ron Hall, ronald.hall@ndsu.edu
- South Dakota: Greg Vavra, gregory.vavra@sdstate.edu
- Wyoming: Khaled Ksaibati, khaled@uwyo.edu

Northern TTAP is currently seeking Steering Committee members. Individuals interested in serving on the committee are encouraged to contact Ron Hall at ronald.hall@ndsu.edu for additional information.

UPDATES

National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) is an annual spring campaign held at the start of construction season to encourage safe driving through highway work zones. The key message is for drivers to use extra caution in work zones. The 2026 NWZAW is April 20-24. This year, the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CDOT) is hosting the NWZAW kickoff event on April 21 with the theme “Safe Actions Save Lives.”

2026 NWZAW Posters

Posters are available at no cost through the [National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse](#).

Activities during NWZAW:

- Work Zone Safety Training Day - April 20
- National kickoff event - April 21
- Go Orange Day - April 22
- Social media storm - April 23
- Moment of Silence - April 24



Northern Cheyenne Tribe Equipment Operator Rodeo Champions

Winners: Justin Small, Bobby Bixby, Marvin Woodenlegs, and David (DJ) Bixby.

Justin Small took individual honors with a 1st place in Excavator Supervisor Division, 1st place in Motor Grader Supervisor Division, and 2nd place in Wheel Loader Supervisor Division. DJ Bixby took 2nd place in Wheel Loader Operator Division. There were over 100 contestants representing tribes from across the nation.

OPPORTUNITIES

NTTAP Tribes Receive Almost \$12M in Safety Grant Funds

On March 19, 2026, the [U.S. Department of Transportation](#) announced more than \$21 million in grant awards to reduce roadway fatalities and serious injuries on Native American and Alaska Native Lands. The grants were provided under the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund (TTPSF). Congratulations to the thirteen (13) tribes located across Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota who collectively received more than 50% of the available funds for a total of approximately \$11.72 million. The grants will be used for improving signs, pedestrian related facilities/paths/crossings, Road Safety Audits, guardrail installation, intersection improvements, and transportation safety plans. These funds will improve roadway safety, support health outcomes by encouraging walking and bicycling, and generate the data and planning required to apply for additional funding for future projects.