

# TRB Triennial Strategic Plan 2022-2025

## Standing Committee on Native American Transportation Issues (AME30)

### COMMITTEE SCOPE

*The Transportation Research Board Standing Committee on Native American Transportation Issues (TRB AME30) is concerned with research and practice pertaining to transportation issues on or near Tribal lands and communities or affecting Tribal historical or cultural properties wherever located. Tribal transportation issues include all modes of moving people and goods from one place to another, all relevant agencies, including Tribal, State, Federal, regional, and local providers, and all relationships and interactive processes of various governmental units -Tribal, Federal, State, and local - regarding the development, planning, administration, coordination, and implementation of transportation laws, policies, plans, programs, and projects.*

*The Committee understands and appreciates that Tribal transportation challenges and successes are often linked to an effort that balances progress such as project delivery and strengthening workforce capacities with cultural, environmental, and historical preservation. To expand discovery and sharing of innovative practices under limited resources and the ongoing struggle to include and address Native American/Alaska Native concerns, AME30 research activities welcomes National and International indigenous issues in developing countries.*

*The Committee's transportation priorities include:*

- (1) Resources – sharing details about training and opportunities accessible in rural settings and Tribal leadership included in local, regional, and national communications*
- (2) Planning – studying Tribal transportation infrastructure that considers the health of people, respect, and recognition of Tribal lands, and one that offers connected modes of travel*
- (3) Policy – learning about safe and sustainable transportation systems through a leading workforce*
- (4) Engineering – Exploring safe strategies for all users based on reliable data and supported by the latest information management practices and technology systems*

### Committee Leadership (as of October 2022)

<b>Chair: Misty Klann, FHWA Office of Tribal Transportation</b>	<b>Vice Chair: Heidi Nelkie, Atkins North America</b>
<u>Tribal Historical and Archeological Preservation Joint Subcommittee (AME30(1)):</u> Misty Klann, FHWA Stephanie Stoermer, FHWA <u>Committee Research Coordinator:</u> Ron Hall, Bubar & Hall Consulting, LLC <u>Committee Communications Coordinator (CCC):</u> Valerie Barbie, North Dakota Department of Transportation <u>Paper Review Coordinator:</u> Nicholas (Cole) Grisham, FHWA Western Federal Lands <u>Supported by:</u> TRB Senior Program Officer: Bill Anderson TRB Senior Program Assistant: Gary Jenkins	Members: Joy Annette, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute Nathan Belz, University of Alaska - Fairbanks Terrence Bills, Environmental Systems Research Institute Kevin Chesnik, Chesnik Transportation Group, LLC Rhonda Fair, Oklahoma Department of Transportation Cameron Ishaq, Fasterhorse, LLC Emmanuel James, Washington State Department of Transportation Adam Larsen, FHWA Office of Tribal Transportation Zhixia Li, University of Cincinnati Avi Mersky, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy Tyler Reeb, California State University – Long Beach Neil Rodriguez, National Rural Transit Assistance Program
<u>Standing Committee on Native American Issues</u> <a href="https://sites.google.com/view/trbame30/home">https://sites.google.com/view/trbame30/home</a> <u>AME30 LinkDEIn Group Profile</u>	

## Strategic Plan

As a part of the overall Transportation Research Board (TRB) strategic planning process, each TRB committee is expected to conduct a triennial strategic planning cycle. To achieve its mission, AME30 has developed three priorities for which to strategically plan. Priorities are to increase publication of Tribal transportation research in order to get more academics and industry interested in Tribal issues; increase stakeholder communication engagement to increase awareness of AME30 and the common issues; and increase Tribal diversity, equity, and inclusion using many of the tools developed by AME30 over the years in the current climate. AME30 has identified committee goals for each of these priorities. Goals are aligned with strategy and key actions identified to lead the effort for the next three years. The goals are targets to reach the priority; the strategies explain how the committee wants to achieve each goal; and the actions are specific tasks to be completed by an individual.

Increase Publication of Tribal Transportation Research		
Goal	Strategy	Actions
Conduct research needs survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify greatest research needs</li> <li>Identify transportation challenges</li> <li>Incorporate what has been done (see Appendix B)</li> <li>Integrate survey results with committee priorities</li> <li>Conduct partner outreach to align research with projects/researchers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assign lead</li> <li>Determine survey tool, then develop, test, and send</li> <li>Organize peer exchange to develop research needs statements</li> <li>Prioritize research</li> </ul>
Increase Tribal research topics at TRB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create database of university and other research organization contacts for Tribal related research</li> <li>Share information about TRB and AME30 purpose and benefits</li> <li>Inform Tribal leaders, students, and young professionals of research opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assign lead</li> <li>Develop a method to keep updated contacts listing</li> <li>Develop standard PPT to give overview of TRB and AME30</li> </ul>
Release 2-4 annual publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop reports assessing practices in a variety of areas in Tribal transportation, addressing policy issues and identifying research needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assign lead</li> <li>Develop an action plan for working with TRB affiliated publications</li> <li>Determine appropriate publications outlets</li> </ul>

Increase Stakeholder Communication Engagement		
Goal	Strategy	Actions
Peer committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Request AME30 as a standing agenda item on peer committees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Committee liaisons to connect with peer committee contacts</li> <li>Committee liaisons to share opportunities</li> </ul>
External stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share information about TRB and AME30 purpose and benefits</li> <li>Seek opportunities to be part of stakeholder events such as career fairs, and in-person or online conferences (such as the National Transportation in Indian Country Conference)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assign lead</li> <li>Establish list of stakeholders and associated events</li> <li>Develop simple AME30 flyer/ brochure</li> <li>Develop standard PowerPoint template for Members/Friends</li> </ul>
News articles/podcasts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Write and share short articles about Tribal research as information sharing (may include TR News and other sources)</li> <li>Send suggestions to feature research work to various outlets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assign lead</li> <li>Develop contact list of newsletters and podcasts</li> </ul>
Social media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post upcoming events, feature Tribal research</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CCC to maintain</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post student, young professional accomplishments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee to suggest content</li> </ul>
Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep information updated and relevant</li> <li>• Maintain ease of use and welcoming interface</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCC to maintain</li> <li>• Committee to suggest content</li> </ul>

Increase Tribal Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)		
Goal	Strategy	Action
Partner to increase Tribal transportation research within TRB committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Target Tribal KPIs for Committee and TRB</li> <li>• Engage/outreach with Tribes, Tribal practitioners, and Native American researchers</li> <li>• Develop Native American transportation issues (accessibility, safety, funding, capacity building, etc.) statistical reports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assign lead</li> <li>• Develop action plan</li> <li>• Dedicated Tribal transportation issues research program</li> </ul>
Explore creating a Tribal/Indigenous Transportation Issues Research Coordinator Position with TRB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connect TRB mission and goals with TRB priorities</li> <li>• Develop a case for need</li> <li>• Identify a champion and work with TRB staffers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assign lead</li> <li>• Research TRB organization</li> <li>• Develop a position description</li> </ul>
Increase Tribal communities' perspectives within TRB committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase liaison relationships between AME30 and other committees</li> <li>• Recruit Tribal members, Tribal practitioners, and Native American researchers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assign lead</li> </ul>
Partner to increase Tribal accessibility within TRB committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TRB to support National Tribal Transportation events and conferences</li> <li>• Engage Tribal youth and students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assign lead</li> <li>• Reach out to Native American education and professional organizations</li> </ul>

## Research Topics

Research Topic Areas	Included in this topic:
<b>Resources</b> – the demands and competition for workforce capacity; efficiency and effectiveness; diversity, equity, and inclusion	Economic impacts
<b>Planning</b> – practices impact to the efficiency and effectiveness of project implementation; impact of project implementation to communities	Climate change impacts
<b>Policy</b> – what policies and research can support Tribal priorities and bring innovation to rural and underserved communities; generate awareness	Diversity, equity, and inclusion Environmental and cultural preservation Workforce development
<b>Engineering</b> – innovation, technology, and research to make smarter, safer, and cheaper transportation solutions.	Information management and technology

AME30 has identified and prioritized Tribal research topic areas. High-level prioritized areas include resources, planning, policy, and engineering. **Appendix A. AME30 Research Proposal Criteria** shows the criteria to be utilized for developing or choosing research proposals. A full list of research areas and associated issues, concerns, and needs is in **Appendix B. Issues, Concerns, Needs Identified for Possible Research**.

## Communication and Collaboration

To support the AME30 scope and mission, communications engagement with other committee liaisons, external organizational stakeholders, and recruitment and engagement of new and existing members is essential. The strategy for committee communications and stakeholder engagement is to coordinate with identified contacts to exchange and help with dissemination of information as well as specific action appropriate for the project or research. External stakeholders are also essential to exploring opportunities to provide workforce internships or apprenticeships through local and other agencies. The success of the Committee is not possible without the members and friends championing the scope, mission, goals, and objectives of AME30, so the committee is always open and welcoming to potential members and friends [MemberGuide.indd \(trb.org\)](#).

External Organization		Liaison	Objective
State DOT Tribal Liaisons	Many		Consultation and coordination
University Transportation Centers (UTC)	<a href="https://cset.uaf.edu/">https://cset.uaf.edu/</a> <a href="http://surtcom.org/">http://surtcom.org/</a> <a href="https://www.transportation.gov/utc/list-centers">https://www.transportation.gov/utc/list-centers</a> <a href="https://www.transportation.gov/utc/fast-act-centers-and-grantees">https://www.transportation.gov/utc/fast-act-centers-and-grantees</a>		Research
Tribal Technical Assistance Program (TTAP)	<a href="https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/clas/ttap/">https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/clas/ttap/</a>		Training, workforce development, meetings, outreach
National Transportation in Indian Country Conference (NTICC)	<a href="https://www.nticc.org/">https://www.nticc.org/</a>		Mid-Year Meetings, outreach
State Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs)	National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO): <a href="https://ncshpo.org/">https://ncshpo.org/</a>  National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO): <a href="https://www.nathpo.org/">https://www.nathpo.org/</a>  State Historic Preservation Office (State DOTs): <a href="https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/state-historic-preservation-offices.htm">https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/state-historic-preservation-offices.htm</a>		Consultation and coordination
AASHTO Committee on Environment and Sustainability	<a href="https://scoe.transportation.org/">https://scoe.transportation.org/</a>		Information sharing
FHWA Division Environmental Contacts	<a href="https://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/about/contacts_divisionOfcs.aspx">https://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/about/contacts_divisionOfcs.aspx</a>		Information sharing, Tribal connections
FHWA Office of Project Development and Environment Review	<a href="https://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/about/contacts_hepe.aspx">https://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/about/contacts_hepe.aspx</a>		Information sharing, subject matter experts
Federal Environmental Resource Agency Liaisons	<a href="https://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/about/contacts_agencyLiaisons.aspx">https://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/about/contacts_agencyLiaisons.aspx</a>		Information sharing, subject matter experts

Internal stakeholders are also essential to integrating AME30 research priorities with other peer committee research topics as well as partner to host training, workshops, and speakers exploring opportunities to cross pollinate research topics and innovate. AME30 has several vacancies to collaborate and reach out to other committees. AME30 also welcomes outreach from other committees to form new partnerships. [MemberGuide.indd \(trb.org\)](#)

TRB Code	Peer Standing Committee or Section	Relationship	Liaison
AME60	Historic and Archaeological Preservation in Transportation	Joint Subcommittee	Stephanie Stoermer
AED30	Information Systems and Technology	Outreach	Misty Klann

AEP20	Transportation Needs of National Parks and Public Lands	Outreach	Lewis Grimm
APO55	Rural and Intercity Bus Transportation Committee	Outreach	Lewis Grimm
ACS50	Impairment in Transportation	Collaboration	Margo Hill
AJE40	Public Engagement and Communication Committee	Outreach	Dianne Kresich
AME20	Women and Gender in Transportation	Collaboration	Heidi Nelkie

TRB Code	Peer Standing Committee or Section	Relationship	Vacancy
AME00	Transportation and Society	Section	
AME10	Equity in Transportation	Collaboration	
AME40	Transportation in the Developing Countries	Collaboration	
AME50	Accessible Transportation and Mobility	Outreach	
AME70	Transportation and Public Health	Collaboration	
AME80	Community Resources and Impacts	Outreach	

The FHWA Tribal Technical Assistance Program (TTAP) is not only a critical partner in regional outreach to the Tribes concerning research in transportation and having connections to the university researchers, but it is also a vital partner to AME30 for training. AME30 often receives issues that are not always resolved with research, but rather represent an immediate need for a training opportunity on current program requirements or emerging innovation. Further, the TTAP centers are integral in facilitating Tribe-Tribe networking by region areas. The following topics are identified training needs, which are not inclusive, and coordination of specific topics is an ongoing activity:

TTAP Example Topics
Use of geographic information systems for roadway management
Types of pavement applications
Grant writing – how to develop a competitive application
Financial management
Tribal Employment Right Office (TERO) requirements in contracts
Contract and procurement management

## Calendar of Events

AME30 follows the TRB’s annual calendar of events for all Standing Committees except where there are specific Tribal transportation related events or deadlines supportive of the Committee Mission. In addition, AME30 has identified key partner conferences to participate. The calendar is a tool committee members use to gauge volunteer needs throughout the year.

AME30 Annual Calendar		
<b>January</b> TRB Annual Meeting Review Research Needs Statements	<b>February</b>	<b>March</b> Draft Research Needs Statements TRB Webinar Submission 3/16-7/15 for 9/1-12/31 Spring Meeting Agenda – include TRB Annual Meeting Workshop topics brainstorming
<b>April</b> Committee Spring Meeting (Virtual)	<b>May</b> Call For Papers for Annual Meeting Start planning for Annual Meeting	<b>June</b> Review draft Research Needs Statements

		Mid-year meeting agenda Identify 2-Lectern and 1-Poster Sessions
<b>July</b> Formal Papers Submitted to TRB Mid-Year Committee/Joint Meeting TRB Webinar Submission 7/16- 11/15 for 1/1-4/30 Annual Meeting Workshop Descriptions submitted	<b>August</b> Paper Reviews	<b>September</b> Fall Meeting Agenda
<b>October</b> Committee Fall Meeting (Virtual) Annual Meeting Agenda	<b>November</b> TRB Webinar Submission 11/16- 03/15 for 5/1-8/30	<b>December</b>

The following are roles and responsibilities for the major TRB activities identified in the calendar. Each major task outlined in the calendar is defined and includes all of the detailed activities and the lead.

Partner Conferences	AME30 Objective	Timeframe	Resources Needed
National Transportation in Indian Country Conference	Mid-Year Meeting	Summer; Fall	Planning committee; presenters
TRB Low Volume Roads Conference	Indigenous perspectives	Summer	Planning committee
Tribal Historical and Archaeological Preservation Joint Meeting	Joint meetings, workshops	Summer	Planning committee
TRB Annual Meeting	Feature Tribal-related research	January	Planning committee
TRB Transportation Equity	Indigenous perspectives	Fall	Presenters
Women In Transportation Issues	Indigenous and Women perspectives	September 2024	Presenters

Task	Activities	Lead (s)
<b>TRB Annual Meeting</b>	Create agenda for committee meeting, identify speakers for sessions and the committee meeting, post a call for papers and a call for posters	Misty Klann, Chair
➤ <b>Standing Committee Meeting items</b>	Strategic and Action Plan review Committee membership: rotation review, update listing Critical Issues: identify and prioritize critical issues and plan to address them Research Needs Statements: review and discuss, provide feedback to authors	
➤ <b>Conference</b>	1-2 Lectern Sessions and descriptions for the TRB Annual Meeting Select Poster Sessions and descriptions Propose workshops with well-defined descriptions	
<b>Call for Papers</b>	Call for Papers (based on above issues) Publish a Call for Posters (based on above issues)	Cole Grisham, Paper Review Lead Ron Hall, CRC
<b>Paper Reviews</b>	3 or 4 reviewers per paper, since AME30 receives so few	Cole Grisham, Paper Review Lead
<b>Committee Mid-Year Meeting</b>	Create agenda, identify speakers, secure venue	Heidi Nelkie, Vice-Chair



## Appendix A. AME30 Research Proposal Criteria

Criteria	Examples:	Weight
Partner Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alignment with other TRB committees</li> <li>• Partner with AISES</li> </ul>	15
Quality Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality of new sources of data generated</li> <li>• Tech transfer modified to specific tribal needs</li> </ul>	15
Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equity issues, for access and safety</li> </ul>	15
Tribal Focused	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individualize transportation proposals to serve the specific needs because each community demographics are so vast</li> <li>• Alignment with AME30 Strategic Plan</li> </ul>	15
Cultural and Historical Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural awareness and the impacts of historical trauma on indigenous populations</li> </ul>	10
Quality of Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tribal priorities to enhance quality of life</li> </ul>	10
Improves Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce crashes; improve safety</li> </ul>	10
Tribal Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporation of Tribal Partner in studies</li> </ul>	10
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>



## Appendix B. Issues, Concerns, Needs Identified for Possible Research

Research Topic Areas		Included in This Topic:
Resource	Economic impacts	
Community focused maintenance, example: equipment used for burials. There are no other resources or operators		
Is electricity accessible and affordable for electric cars to be feasible?		
More funding sources and easier availability		
Grant writing training when first beginning job		
Best practices for financial and contract management including TERO requirements in transportation program		
Tribal research priorities		
Economic development opportunities to help indigenous communities become more sustainable in regard to transportation		
How transportation infrastructure supports tribal economic development and economies		
Planning	Climate change impacts	
Long freight trains that block grade crossings		
Issues with freight and goods delivery		
Transit solutions		
Coordination of planning with COGs, MPOs, States, other tribes, and businesses		
How to make a project more competitive		
Future modes of transportation to ease issues		
Rural public input/involvement		
Severe river erosion, unhealthy dust issues, climate change impacts		
Tribal transportation sustainability efforts		
Policy	Diversity, equity, and inclusion Environmental and cultural preservation Workforce development	
Real tribal consultation graduating to collaboration and self-governance		
Implications of revisions to DOT's Tribal Consultation Plan		
Tribal Consultation Protocols		
Antiquated laws that prevent crucial partnerships and meaningful relationships which are critical to building necessary infrastructure in Indian Country (eg., SHC 94 in California)		
Driver Impairment		
Cooperation with State and Federal representatives to add/update road inventory (right-of-way, etc)		
Cumulative effects from transportation projects to tribal resources		
The impacts of federal Indian policies on Indigenous transportation		
A good tribal consultation template with a final report. Not just meeting after meeting		
Fuel tax agreements and local match		
How does transportation divide communities to affect daily activities such as emergency vehicles?		
Female leaders in tribal transportation on reservations		
Equity for tribal transportation in the funding of infrastructure programs		
Safety equity - why are accident rates so high (higher than other demographics)? What resources are available to address this, to find root cause and mitigate risks?		
Historical trauma on customer service and ability to be more innovative in transportation		
Impacts of historical trauma on transportation in indigenous communities		
Recognition of Indigenous Landscapes		
Burials encountered during projects		
Workforce: Young professional DOT/Public Service retention and career development		
A competitive wage scale: Historically the TTP wage scale has been below the "Outside World". Have there been any studies done on the wage scales?		
Capacity (skills, knowledge & ability) metrics for staffing		

Research Topic Areas	Included in This Topic:
Ensuring the most appropriate resources are available (workforce development, project development and delivery, process control, etc.).	
Workforce development research to address baby boomer retirements	
Talent pipeline and apprenticeship development	
Educating the younger generation on the importance of transportation safety	
Tribal cultural resource and environmental perspectives	
SPECIFIC PROPOSAL: Utilize Tribal colleges in education and training	
<b>Engineering</b>	<b>Information management and technology</b>
School bus route studies, road, and student performance	
Pedestrian safety - unique challenges and countermeasures in rural tribal areas	
Improving safer roads for tribal communities	
Dust generated by vehicles on gravel roads and the impact on indigenous people who have Covid 19	
Formalize desire lines/develop safe pedestrian routes	
Researching innovative pavement applications in tribal communities both on roadways and road edges	
Intelligent transportation systems	
Using TAMP data to compare state/federal infrastructure quality on reservations vs. off-reservation	
Technological innovations to better document crash data	
Update the BIA RIFDS update to a newest browser	
More use of LiDar technology and autonomous vehicles	
More GIS training for roads on data collection	
A centralized data management system that can capture transportation data at a local, regional, and national level	
Traffic counts on BIA and Tribal roads	
Information technology and data management systems that support Tribal transportation	
Utilizing ArcGIS in transportation strategic planning and impact reporting	
Crash reports from tribal law enforcement	
Understanding how to make a data sharing agreement for crash data and IT	
Centralized data management system with uniform reporting	
Accident data	
Accurate tribal and community demographics	
Community demographics	
Status, progress, and goals. It would be good assemble the current information into a format that is readily comparable to the Appalachian Regional Commission Information	
Accident data reports, with demographics, for trend analysis	
Methods for technology integration into tribal transportation best practices	
Research that addresses rural transportation needs	
SPECIFIC PROPOSAL: Impacts of broadband on education, delivery service	
SPECIFIC PROPOSAL: Engineering study for river erosion in rural Alaska	
SPECIFIC PROPOSAL: GSA reports follow-up – school bus routes	
SPECIFIC PROPOSAL: Impacts of qualitative vs. quantitative data for project selection	