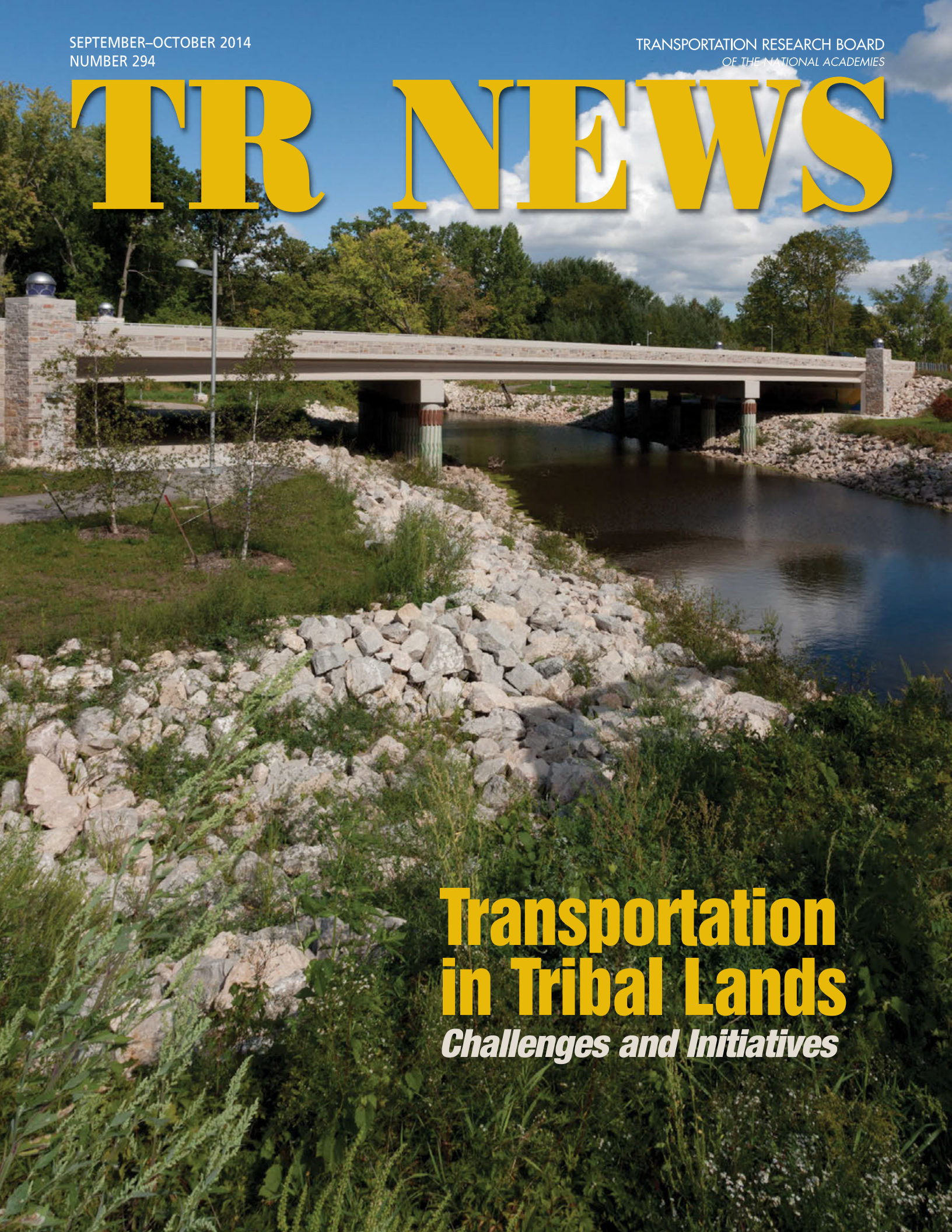


SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER 2014  
NUMBER 294

TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD  
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

# TR NEWS



**Transportation  
in Tribal Lands**  
*Challenges and Initiatives*



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*Advisers to the Nation on Science, Engineering, and Medicine*

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The **Transportation Research Board** is one of six major divisions of the National Research Council, which serves as an independent adviser to the federal government and others on scientific and technical questions of national importance, and which is jointly administered by the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine. The mission of the Transportation Research Board is to provide leadership in transportation innovation and progress through research and information exchange, conducted within a setting that is objective, interdisciplinary, and multimodal. The Board's varied activities annually engage about 7,000 engineers, scientists, and other transportation researchers and practitioners from the public and private sectors and academia, all of whom contribute their expertise in the public interest. The program is supported by state transportation departments, federal agencies including the component administrations of the U.S. Department of Transportation, and other organizations and individuals interested in the development of transportation.

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\* Membership as of October 2014.

# TR NEWS

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## TRANSPORTATION IN TRIBAL LANDS: CHALLENGES AND INITIATIVES

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#### **Safe Journeys: Improving the Role of Tribal Communities in the Development of Transportation Facilities in Indian Country**

*Raquelle Myers and Cindi Ptak*

Solving the transportation issues that confront tribal communities requires interjurisdictional collaboration between tribes and state and federal agencies; articles in this issue address the steep learning curve for understanding tribal sovereignty and the legal and political relationships affecting transportation in tribal lands.

### 5 Indian Country 101: History, Geography, Policies, and Initiatives Affecting Tribal Transportation Infrastructure

*Joseph Myers*

An overview of the federal recognition of tribes, the changes and evolution of government policies, the history of settlements, the geophysical diversity of Indian Country—and more—provides a context for key tribal initiatives such as the education of communities, the enforcement of traffic laws, the engineering of new facilities, and transportation safety.

### 12 Context-Sensitive Solutions for an Oneida Nation Transportation Project: Teamwork and Community Involvement for Safety, Connectivity, Mobility, and Cultural Identity

*John A. Rathke*

Through innovative partnerships and collaborative efforts, an Oneida Nation bridge replacement project in Wisconsin became the catalyst for the redevelopment of the community's core—with roundabouts, sidewalks and trails, crosswalks, and improved public spaces, water management, landscaping, lighting, and safety features—and strengthened tribal identity by incorporating artwork by Oneida artists.

### 19 The Transformation to Tribal Self-Governance in the Transportation Arena: A Progress Through Legislative Milestones

*James Glaze and Nathaniel Amdur-Clark*

In 1975, the Indian Self-Determination and Educational Assistance Act transferred to tribal governments the funding and authority to manage federal Indian programs. The authors trace the effects on Indian Country of successive authorizing legislation and other policies for transportation programs and the urgent need to meet the transportation, maintenance, transit, and traffic safety needs of tribal communities.

### 26 Transportation Fellowship Helps Young Researcher Examine Maintenance Policies for Tribal Roads

*Raquelle Myers*

### 27 Fixing the Potholes: Tribes Exercise Practical Sovereignty to Assume Control of Tribal Transportation Systems

*James Glaze and Nathaniel Amdur-Clark*

As tribal governments gain experience planning, designing, building, and operating transportation projects, tribal leaders can exercise practical sovereignty and assume primary responsibility for delivering transportation services in their communities, the authors maintain. A comprehensive road reconstruction project by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in North and South Dakota offers an exemplary success.

### 31 Tribal Transportation Planning and Geographic Information Systems: Applying High-Tech Tools and Expertise to Advance Initiatives

*Garet Couch and Letisha Couch*

### 32 Right-of-Way Through Indian Country: The Complexities of a Commonplace Arrangement

*Raquelle Myers and Ron Hall*

Obtaining right-of-way through Indian Country for a transportation project is a complex process, subject to rules and regulations related to the timing, purpose, and scope of the request, and involving unique jurisdictional conflicts between tribal, state, and federal governments. The authors describe the steps for determining the authority for a right-of-way, obtaining a right-of-way, and the primary issues to address.



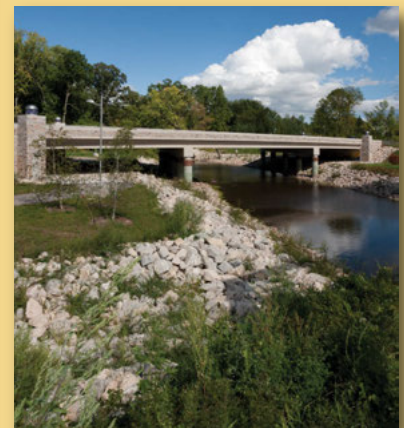
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COVER: Oneida Duck Creek Bridge in Wisconsin is an example of close collaboration between a sovereign tribe and state and federal agencies to produce a transformative, improved transportation facility with community and environmental benefits and cultural significance. (Photo: Mead & Hunt)

# TR NEWS

features articles on innovative and timely research and development activities in all modes of transportation. Brief news items of interest to the transportation community are also included, along with profiles of transportation professionals, meeting announcements, summaries of new publications, and news of Transportation Research Board activities.

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*Giovanni Migliaccio and Albert T. Stoddard III*

Two Cooperative Research Programs projects, one on communication, coordination, and cooperation strategies for transportation agencies and tribal communities and the other on tribal transit programs, yielded not only practical findings on the topics but valuable insights for effective research methods and approaches.

## **41 NEW NCHRP REPORT Guide for Effective Tribal Crash Reporting**

*David Noyce, Zhixia Li, Kevin Chesnik, Alyssa Macy, and Xiao Qin*

A new guide presents a process for tribal crash reporting, starting with a self-assessment for state agencies and tribes and then establishing, building, and maintaining communication, establishing an effective crash data collection system, creating a state-tribe crash data sharing system, and improving tribal traffic safety.

## **43 TRB Titles on Tribal Transportation Topics**

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## **COMING NEXT ISSUE**

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India's Highway Capacity Manual, and several recent research reports on such topics as smart growth and urban goods movement; new developments in the implementation of roundabouts; the use of geospatial data and mobile lidar in state department of transportation projects; active traffic management; and more.

(Left:) Traffic conditions in an urban center in India; researchers are developing a Highway Capacity Manual to address the heterogeneous mix of vehicles and the unique traveler characteristics and behaviors.