TTAP Welcomes New Manager

By Alice Karsama, Staff Assistant/Editor

Please help us welcome Robert Gagnon to his new position here as TTAP Manager. Robert is currently enrolled at Michigan Technological University as a graduate student in Civil Engineering. He recently served as Project Engineer/Office Manager for the Indian Health Service in the Sault Ste. Marie Field Office, where he did design and construction of water and sewer systems for the Indian Tribes in Michigan.


Gagnon received his degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Michigan in 1991. He is married to Doctor Hilary Gagnon, a family practitioner, and is the proud father of a new baby girl, Kate, now 8 months old.

Robert’s primary focus at TTAP will be to identify sources of grant monies for tribal transportation projects, promote higher education opportunities for Tribal members (particularly in engineering), and provide current, quality technical information to the various Tribes in our MTU-based TTAP service area.

Robert Gagnon, New TTAP Manager

FHWA-Funded Discretionary Programs Website

The Federal Highway Administration has a new FHWA Discretionary Programs website that can be accessed through the FHWA Internet home page, under FHWA Programs at:

http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/discretionary

Discretionary Programs represent special funding categories where FHWA solicits candidates, and selects projects for funding based on applications received.

In this issue:

TTAP Welcomes New Manager ...... 1
Discretionary Program ............... 1, 5
Rural Development Funding .......... 3
October Planning Workshops ....... 3, 8
Business Development ................ 4
USDA Loans and Grants ............. 4
Internet Resource Sites .............. 5
Traffic Safety Partnerships .......... 6
Sharing Traditional Ways ............ 6
Upcoming Events Calendar ........... 7
Videos & Publications ............... 7
TTAP Workshop Change Notice ...... 8
This issue of Pathways contains news of recent changes - like the arrivals of our new Manager (see cover story) and our new student assistant, Dave Jolicoeur - and of future events and developments.

Please note the location change for the TPPG Workshop, October 19-20, 1999 (pages 3, 8). That event will now take place in Green Bay, Wisconsin at the Airport Radisson. If you need directions or further information, please contact our office (1-888-230-0688).

Watch for an upcoming survey questionnaire from the TTAP office. We would like your help in gathering information to guide our efforts, so we can better address the needs of those we serve. Please share your insights, preferences, and transportation and training needs in your community. We need and would appreciate your assistance.

Sincerely,

Alice Karsama, Editor

Visit our New Internet Home Page:
http://www.ttap.mtu.edu

Vol. 7, No. 3 Pathways July-September, 1999

Pathways is published quarterly by the Tribal Technical Assistance Program in Michigan’s Transportation Technology Transfer Center at Michigan Technological University. The Tribal Technical Assistance Program is part of a nationwide effort financed by the Federal Highway Administration and supported by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. It intends to relate the latest technology and information on tribal roads and bridges, tourism and recreation, and related economic development to tribal transportation and planning personnel. TTAP’s regional tribes are in the BIA agency’s Minneapolis and Eastern Areas. Contact the TTAP office for a free Pathways subscription or to obtain permission to reprint any articles. Articles and suggestions may be submitted to the following address:

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USDA Rural Development Programs Provide Business and Community Funding

The USDA has the unique responsibility of coordinating Federal assistance to rural areas of the nation. To do this, USDA works closely with the private and nonprofit sectors and with state, tribal, and local governments to fundamentally change the way government works. With a new philosophy of public partnership, many positive outcomes for rural Americans are realized daily.

The USDA's Rural Development Programs can be a source of funding for business development and sustainability. Prosperity in rural America depends on ensuring that residents have a wide range of economic opportunities. USDA offers technical assistance and programs that help rural Americans build strong economies to improve their quality of life. Rural Development Programs are administered by field staff, and delivered through the National Office Divisions.

The Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS) includes cooperative development and technical assistance, plus other business development programs, and the Alternative Agriculture Research and Commercialization Center.

The Office of Community Development (OCD) provides support for the community development programs of the Rural Development mission area.

The Rural Housing Service (RHS) includes rural housing programs, and rural community loan programs.

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) offers telecommunications and electric programs along with water and sewer programs.

In Fiscal Year 1998, a total of $1,313,680,000 in the form of 983 loans and 435 grants were disbursed. This resulted in 70,091 jobs either being created or saved in rural America.

Fiscal Year 1999 Program Levels are:

- Business & Industry Direct Loans (B&I Direct) - $1 billion
- Business & Industry Guaranteed Loans (B&I Guar) - $50 million
- Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) - $33 million
- Rural Business Enterprise Grants (RBEG) - $37.2 million
- Rural Economic Development Loans (RDEL) - $15 million
- Rural Economic Development Grants (REDG) - $11 million
- Rural Business Opportunity Grants (RBOG) - $500,000

Source: http://www.usda.gov/farmbill/rcap.htm
http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/buspprogs.htm

October Planning & Implementation Workshops

By Alice Karsama, Editor

Tribal Community Planning

Course Description:
The purpose of this course is to introduce the fundamentals of land use planning for Tribal economic development and sustainability of the Tribal Community. The focus will be on establishment of sustainable economic development and transportation infrastructure.

Who should attend: Tribal planners, economic development managers, environmental resource managers, and cultural resource managers should benefit from this course.

Instructor: The training instructor will be Thomas J. Davis, a certified planner and Tribal Planning Director for the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Palm Springs, California.

Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) Program

Transportation Planning Procedures & Guidelines and IRR Bridge Program

OCT. 19-20, 99
* Green Bay, WI

OCT. 28-29, 99
Oneida, N.Y.

Trbial Community Planning
OCT. 14-15, 99
Minneapolis Area BIA Office

Transportation Planning Procedures & Guidelines & IRR Bridge Program

Workshop Registration
There is no charge for workshop attendance. To register, or for further information, contact:
TTAP 1-888-230-0688

* NOTE: Location Change to Green Bay, WI

Course Description:
This course will explain the new implementation requirements of Two Percent (2%) Transportation Planning and the IRR Bridge Program. It will include why transportation planning is needed, and who is involved, and will give suggestions for funding transportation planning activities and projects.

The workshop will cover purposes and goals of Long-Range Transportation Planning, and elements that must be included in a Long-Range Transportation Plan. It will also cover Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) and their role in the Long-Range Transportation Plan. The workshop will also describe what is required within the IRR Bridge Program.
Maximizing Your Business Plan

A business planning resource kit, entitled The Business MaxiPlanner, is available through the internet to assist individual business owners and community enterprise managers to achieve business success. It also promotes timely decision making through the use of computers, software support, and other resources.

The MaxiPlanner is the result of 18 months of research supported by the Administration for Native Americans (ANA), under a Small Business Innovation Research project funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Tools in the Kit: Some of the resources incorporated in the kit, and available to users and purchasers, include:

1. The primary text: Maximizing Your Business Plan provides numerous strategies for conceptualizing, writing, and presenting your business plan.
2. A sample fictionalized business plan, including financial projections, for the Acorn Tribe’s Wigwam Travel Service Center.
3. Sample financial projections, for Native ROM, including an Assumption Statement for replication as a learning tool.
5. Another supplementary text: Ronstadt’s Financials, plus integrated financial projection software including Users Guide.
6. Access to software technical support from Lord Publishing.
7. Technical assistance from the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED).

For more information on the Business MaxiPlanner, please phone: (800) 4-NCAIED or email: patrickcurry@msn.com

source: http://www.ncaied.org/maxiplanner.htm

Proposal Writing Shortcourse

The Foundation Center offers a short course on proposal writing on its internet web site. A multi-part tutorial, the course describes the process to follow in building a network of nonprofit sponsors and other financial resources. It includes sections on gathering background information, the executive summary, statement of need, and ....... whatever, look it up again and finish article...

The Foundation Center Web Page
http://www.fdncenter.org/onlib/ufg/ufg.html

Short Course
http://www.fdncenter.org/onlib/shortcourse/prop1.html

source: http://www.fdncenter.org/onlib/shortcourse/prop1.html

Pathways

USDA Provides Funding

For Distance Learning and Telemedicine

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) solicits applications for the Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Loan and Grant Program. USDA will be awarding more than $160 million in DLT loans and grants this year to help rural areas acquire telecommunications technology for improving education and medical services.

“New telecommunications technology is helping to save lives and improve life in rural America,” Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said. “With distance learning technology, a student in a small rural school can now be an active participant in college-prep classes taught hundreds of miles away. Likewise, with telecommunications technology, a patient in a small rural health clinic can now be examined by a medical specialist at a distant hospital.”

Financing Information

USDA has made the DLT program more flexible than ever, giving rural communities three different ways to apply for financing. First, $100 million is available for loans. Second, $50 million for loans and $5 million for grants is available for a new loan and grant combination program. Third, $7.5 million is available for a competitive grant program.

Applications for loans and loan/grant combinations are accepted through USDA Rural Development state offices, or through the USDA Rural Utilities Service national office in Washington, D.C at (202) 720-1255.

Those seeking a 100 percent grant should call the national office. Applications, guides for applying for funds and other detailed information are available on the Rural Utilities Service website at

www.usda.gov/rus/dlt/dlml.htm

Anyone unable to obtain information through the website can call the chief of the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Branch at (202) 720-0413, or write to:

USDA/RUS
DLT Branch, Mail Stop 1536
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

More complete information on Business and Industry, Rural Business Enterprise, Business Opportunity, and Rural Economic Development loans and grants can be obtained through USDA’s Rural Development Business Programs page:

http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/bprog.htm

Discretionary Programs Website, continued from pg. 1:

Discretionary Programs represent special funding categories where FHWA solicits candidates, selects projects for funding based on applications received.

Each of the discretionary programs has its own eligibility and selection criteria. Information provided on the new web page, for each program, includes the following:

- funding
- eligibility
- selection criteria
- solicitation process
- submission requirements

Information on current solicitation for projects, along with recent awards, can also be found here, or through links from this site to other Internet websites.

Discretionary programs administered by FHWA through its various offices are listed in the box at right.

Source: FHWA Office of Technology Applications

TTAP's (MICH) new website address:  
http://www.ttap.mtu.edu

TTAP (COLO) new website address:  
http://www.colostate.edu/Orgs/TTAP/

Local Technical Assistance Programs & Tribal Technical Assistance Programs  
http://www.LTAPt2.org/99

LTAP Events Calendar  
http://www ltapt2.org/99cal.htm

National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)  
http://www.ncai.org

Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA)  
http://www.umn.edu/CURA/

Midwest Assistance Program (MAP)  
http://www.map-inc.org

National Indian Telecommunications Institute (NITI)  
http://www.niti.org

American Public Works Association (APWA)  
http://www.apwa.net

National Seminars Group  
http://www.natsem.com

FHWA Discretionary Programs

Bridge
- Ferry Boats
- Transportation and Community and
  System Preservation Program
- Transportation Infrastructure
- Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA)
- Corridor Planning and Development
  and Border Infrastructure
  (Corridors & Borders)
- Public Lands Highways
- Scenic Byways
- Interstate Maintenance
- Value Pricing Pilot Program
- Innovative Bridge Research and
  Construction
- Intelligent Transportation Systems
  (ITS) Integration Program
- Commercial Vehicle ITS
  Infrastructure Deployment

Explore These Other Interesting Internet Resources

Department of Transportation
Public Affairs Briefings
(See Rural Transportation Initiative)  
http://www.dot.gov/briefing.htm

TCSP Transportation & Community
and System Preservation Program  
http://www.dot.gov/TCSP
http://tcsp-fhwa.volpe.dot.gov

How to Buy Used Gov't Property  
http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov/cic_text/  
fed_prop/usedprop/usedprop.htm

U.S. General Services Administration  
http://www.gsa.gov/pubs/buyled.htm

Other Federal Sales Programs
(ACE Consumer Information Catalog)  
http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov

National Transit Resource Center
Community Transportation
Association of America (CTAA)  
http://www.ctaa.org/

National Transit Institute (NTI)  
http://policy.rutgers.edu/nti

Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP)  
Rural Development Public Affairs Office  
(202) 720-6903
http://www.usda.gov/farmbill/rcap.htm

Rural Transit Assistance Programs (RTAP):  
(RTAP-FL) http://uftrc.ce.ufl.edu/rtap.htm
(RTAP-WA) http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/PUBTRAN/industry/rural.htm
(RTAP-IN) http://www.indiana.edu/~iutrans/tapin.html
(RTAP-NY) http://www.dot.state.ny.us/pubtrans/rtap.html

Construction Tutorial Online

The Building Science Department, at Auburn University in Alabama offers an online Internet Tutorial through its College of Architecture, Design and Construction. The multipage learning tool, entitled “A Tutorial for Constructors” deals with the terminology and concepts of Trench Safety. The tutorial can be accessed by typing in the following website address:

http://www.bsc.auburn.edu/research/trench/

For more information, contact:  The Building Science Department  
College of Architecture, Design & Construction  
Auburn University  
Auburn, AL 36849-5315
Native American Groups Solve Traffic Safety Problems Through Community Cooperation

The Community/Corridor Traffic Safety Program (C/CTSP) being used by Native American communities represents a great stride toward improved highway safety. This innovative program, which brings together financial and community resources to solve safety problems in the nation's high-crash corridors, is being implemented by an alliance of public highway agencies and Native American health organizations.

The program is being implemented by four Indian reservations in North Dakota through the dedication of broad interests including the FHWA, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT), the Indian Health Service, and the Native American Injury Prevention Coalition.

The program is coordinated by Dennis Renville, executive director of the Coalition, which represents tribal leaders and committee participants of four tribal communities: the Spirit Lake Dakota, the Standing Rock Sioux, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, and the Three Affiliated Tribes. Members of the Coalition have identified priorities to be evaluated and implemented in cooperation with the program's other partners. Mr. Renville explains that through C/CTSP, "State and Federal authorities offer help and suggestions that empower the tribes to identify their problems and use tools already in place to solve them."

The partners have undertaken two small projects to demonstrate the effectiveness of the program: the installation of road signs near casinos reminding motorists not to drink and drive, and work with the school system to adopt a "Book Bag Project" (a pedestrian safety initiative through which school children retroreflectorize their book bags to be more easily seen by motorists). Opportunities exist for many more such efforts to be achieved as the program and its partnerships grow.

C/CTSP has been implemented by many states, substantially reducing highway accidents on dangerous corridors. For each high-crash corridor identified, program participants consider as many countermeasures as possible. Rather than reinventing the system, C/CTSP encourages the solution of problems through programs already in place. To achieve such improvements requires the cooperation of federal, state and local agencies, particularly those involved in emergency services, public awareness, and highway design, construction and maintenance.

Upon the creation of C/CTSP in 1994, NHTSA and FHWA provided limited start-up funds to seventeen states, with each receiving a $10,000 grant. However, the majority of the program's resources and expertise is provided by the state and its public and private organizations dedicated to reducing highway fatalities.

"For community traffic safety programs to succeed, the community needs to take the initiative," says Timothy Garey of NDDOT. "It's encouraging for NDDOT to see the tribal community taking ownership of the program because it's credible, well researched, and (the tribes) have a vested interest in its success."

From Smart Partnerships: A Shared Commitment to Improve Technology

American Indian Research Report

American Indians have a distinct way of life. In the past, traditions and beliefs were handed down from the elders to younger generations through the spoken word. Young American Indians were responsible for seeking out this knowledge from the elders. Changes in contemporary life pose the risk that traditional knowledge will be lost.

The American Indian Research and Policy Institute has recently released a report, Reflections on Traditional American Indian Ways, that brings together the voices of fifteen American Indian elders speaking on the American Indian way of life as it used to be, the changes they see happening in the American Indian communities today, and the future of American Indian communities.

The researchers asked elders from the Ojibwe, Lakota, Dakota, and Ho-Chunk nations to speak from their experience and share their broad perspectives. The elders were both women and men who were raised during the Second World War era, when nearly all Indians lived on Indian reservations.

The written report of these talks is grouped around themes:

- The way it was,
- American Indian communities in change,
- Important knowledge for younger generations,
- Challenges for the younger generations,
- Helping younger generations face challenges, and
- The future.

This report is a product of the Building Communities Across Culture project, a collaboration among the American Indian Research and Policy Institute, the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA), and the University of Minnesota Extension Service. For free copies, contact TTAP or:

The American Indian Research and Policy Institute  website: http://www.airpi.org
(651 / 644-1728)

Also see CURA's internet page: www.umn.edu/CURA/curapubs.htm

Events Calendar 1999
~ Looking Ahead ~

Houghton, MI
October 12-15, 1999
Michigan Technological University
National Association of Minority Engineering Program Administrators (NAMEPA)
"Weaving Technology & Traditions for Tomorrow"
Contact Carole LaPointe, MTU: 906-487-2920

Minneapolis Area - MN
October 14-15, 1999
Minneapolis Area BIA Office
Tribal Community Planning
Registration (TTAP): 1-888-230-0688
Information - Mpls Area BIA Office: 612-713-4400

Green Bay, WI
October 19-20, 1999
Green Bay Radisson - Airport
Transportation Planning Procedures & Guidelines /TPPG and the IRR Bridge Program
Registration (TTAP-Mich): 1-888-230-0688

Oneida, NY
October 28-29, 1999
Turning Stone Casino & Hotel
Transportation Planning Procedures & Guidelines /TPPG and the IRR Bridge Program
Registration (TTAP-Mich): 1-888-230-0688
Lodging: 1-315-361-7867 (Request USET Block of Rooms)

Houghton, MI
November 5-6, 1999
Michigan Technological University
4th Annual Native American Speakers' Forum & Powwow
Contact Carole LaPointe, MTU: 906-487-2920

Albuquerque, NM
November 16-19, 1999
National Tribal Road Conference
Planning, Engineering, and Government Issues (3-Track Conference with Equipment Rodeo)
Contact Ron Hall (TTAP-Colo): 1-800-262-7623

Minneapolis, MN
November 18-20, 1999
Minneapolis Convention Center
21st Annual National AISES Conference
Contact AISES: 1-505-765-1052
website: http://www.aises.org/

New from the TTAP Library

DESIGN
Designing for Pedestrians
(Video) From the Washington State DOT
Pedestrian Facility Design Training Course

MANAGEMENT
Smart Partnerships: A Shared Commitment to Improve Technology
(Publication)

Toll Facilities in the United States
Bridges-Roads-Tunnels-Ferries
(Publication)

Successful Supervision
(3-Part CD Interactive)
Module I - Management
Module II - Leadership & Motivation
Module III - Communications

ROAD MAINTENANCE
Building the Notched Wedge Joint
(Video)
Explains advantages, and gives step-by-step instructions for building this pavement joint

Pavement Recycling Guidelines for State and Local Governments
(CD and Publication)
National Center for Asphalt Technology CD and Participant's Reference Book

SAFETY
Commercial Vehicle Preventable Accident Manual
A Guide to Countermeasures
(Publication)

Nighttime Traffic Control
(Video)

To Order
call TTAP at 1-888-230-0688
Training Available Through the TTAP

OCT. 14-15
Tribal Community Planning
Minneapolis
Area BIA Office

To register for these training sessions
Contact the TTAP

Toll-Free: 1-888-230-0688
Fax: 906 / 487-1834

Transportation Planning Procedures & Guidelines and the IRR Bridge Program

OCT. 19-20 ♦
*Green Bay, WI

OCT. 28-29 ●
Oneida, N.Y.

*Note new location