Tribes, Transit and Transportation in the 21st Century
A Joint Meeting of Tribal, State and Federal Officials

By Alice Karsama

In late September, the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa held a Tribal Transportation Planning meeting on their reservation in Odanah, Wisconsin. The Bad River Tribal Community is located on the south shore of Lake Superior, encompasses two counties, and has 17 miles of beautiful lakeshore frontage. Bear Trap, in Old Odanah, was the location for the first 1854 roads meeting.

Meeting Attendees

The meeting of Tribal, State and Federal Officials, entitled “Tribes, Transit and Transportation in the 21st Century,” was called for the purpose of “sharing information, assets and resources that will provide community members with appropriate access to public transit, while improving and enhancing their overall quality of life.”

It was a beautiful sunny day, and turnout for the meeting was excellent with close to twenty attendees. Tribal Transportation Planning Committee members were joined by representatives from the Bad River Tribal Council, the Minneapolis Area BIA Branch of Roads, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, the Federal Transportation Administration, and TTAP.

Planning Committee Update

A committee update was given by Robert Blanchard, Matt Nitrium, and Ron Nye. Bad River has named transportation related issues as priorities, along with welfare reform issues, job access/reverse commute, transportation development, and funding. The committee found a great need for transportation access and employment issues for the future. They face increasing costs and commitments, are building new partnerships, and are making a long term investment in tribal transportation.

According to Cheryl Bigboy, BIA Branch of Roads, the Bad River Transportation Planning Committee has undertaken a major effort that will positively impact the tribe’s funding, which is based on population, road miles, and costs to construct. “They are very professional,” she said. “There will be a dramatic increase in road construction money. It will be a feather in this tribe’s cap.” The increase is due to the large volume of work accomplished under Robert Blanchard’s coordination. “We’ve pushed inventory updates for a number of years,” said Bigboy, “and Bad River will come out looking very nice. This year, there were 11 tribes that did inventory updates, and Bad River’s was one of the best.”

Bad River has been maintaining their own roads under 638 contract, according to Blanchard, and “has negotiated

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Season's Greetings... from the TTAP

This issue of Pathways highlights the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. A wonderful tour of the community was given to several of us who attended the Transportation Planning Meeting. Our guides said protecting resources and the environment are critical to their tribe. Wild Rice harvesting, fishing, and hunting are important activities. Bad River has a new "sequence batch reactor" water treatment facility which exceeds federal and NEPA standards (see: www.cwpaa.org/index.htm). To learn more about the Bad River Band by Internet, see: www.glitc.org/badriv1.htm. This links from the Great Lakes Intertribal Council site: www.glitc.org/glitc.htm

This issue of Pathways also contains information on upcoming training and new library resources. TTAP Director, Bernie Alkire, has been working diligently to create a new interactive CD-ROM on roadway design. It is featured on Page 7.

And... we no sooner said goodbye to our Manager, Robert Gagnon, when he decided he wanted to come back! (So, welcome back, Robert!) This time, he will be managing TTAP full-time, as he has finished his degree at MTU. He'll be back, starting in late January.

We hope you benefit from the information offered here, and enjoy the newsletter. Have a Merry Christmas, and a prosperous and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Alice Karsama, Editor

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

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Bad River Transportation Planning, continued from page 1:

with the township to get 39 more miles of road into the tribal system. We recently passed our inventory update to add the miles. Hopefully we'll get some more dollars.”

The committee is now working on the rest of the plan, and the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) will soon be available. Tribal TIPS are supposed to be added into State TIPS, as is, for implementation and funding. You can request a copy of the Bad River Tribal TIP from Robert Blanchard at 715-682-7111.

MPO and RPO Committees

One problem the Transportation Planning Committee has encountered is some resistance to tribes being involved with Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Rural Planning Organizations. MPO and RPO committees have not acknowledged tribes as legitimate players, although the legislation says they should be involved. This could be due to confusion or ignorance of the legislation, or to old attitudes that need to be changed in order to comply with the law.

Programs and Funding

Mary Williams and Bill Fung, of the Federal Transportation Administration, addressed the assembly about funding, and the importance of congressional delegations seeking congressional appropriations of Highway Aid money, for example. "There is always horse trading going on between states for the use of those funds." according to Williams.

The Public Lands Highway Program, also called Forest Highway Programs, are funds solicited annually for any federal old, or protected, lands. "You can apply for a project through that process," said Williams. "Funding comes from our Federal Lands Division to our office, and then goes out to the Districts for solicitation, so you need to work with your district." For more information, contact Mary Williams at (608) 829-7516.

The BIA is funded by FHWA, being used to try to help rural or smaller transit programs. The Federal program, the section 5311 funds, will pay 50% of the project deficit.” The remainder is made up of state and local funds. County Aid funds are available for the elderly and disabled; to provide services for all people. RTAP also offers training, and will have scholarships to cover 80% of the training cost starting in January. Mr. Kieck is from the Public Transit Section, WiDOT, in Madison. He can be reached at (608) 266-3973. See the Transit Resource Center website at:

http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/CTED/

WiDOT District 8 officials, Glenn Landis and Martin Forbes, said their office has been helping with applications for 5310 or 5311 funds. They also have a van loan program, for interest free loans through the public transit program. There are also federal funds administered by DOT unique to rural and bridge programs. They are man-
Bad River Transportation Planning, continued from page 1:

aged through the counties, however, so tribes must work with them.

"This issue is new to us, as far as tribal eligibility," said Landis. "We always thought the BIA made all funds available to tribes. I've been doing some research, however, and found funds are available to spend some money on local roads. The problem is that tribal roads are not part of the inventory system. So we're trying to work on how to tie you in.

"The feds are saying tribes are eligible, but the state programs are saying, 'Where's the cash?' I'm still trying to get them to tie together. The big thing is to get your roads on the state inventory."

In pursuit of that goal, Bad River is undertaking some training on PaserWare, which is the software used to allocate funding dollars and track road inventory data for the State of Wisconsin. PaserWare Training is conducted through the Wisconsin LTAP (800-442-4615.) Find out more at: http://tie.engr.esci.edu/

To get on the notification list in Wisconsin for future project solicitation letters, contact Mr. Landis, District 8, at (715) 392-7994.

To inquire about state-administered funds, contact your state DOT's district offices. You can find a list of State DOT's by consulting the FHWA website at: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/web-state.htm

Here are some sources of information on transportation, funding, educational resources, and personnel development and retention.

Federal Transit Administration (Click Education button for training) http://www.fta.dot.gov

National Transit Institute (Training and education for the transit industry) http://www.ntionline.com

American Public Transit Association (888-321-7227) http://www.apta.com

Rural Community Assistance Program (888-321-7227) http://www.rcap.org

Transit Grants: www.idimagic.com/htmls/grants/subj0084.htm


Career Development

The Michigan Department of Career Development's web site, Talent Freeway, is a new internet resource. There is a great deal of information on how to plan a career, obtain education and training, and many other services and programs.

The site can be found at: http://www.talentfreeway.com

If you do not have access to a home computer, there are online computers available at your local library free of cost. You can also contact TTAP, and we will access the information for you, and send it to you by mail or fax.

FHWA Office of Professional Development Workforce Web Site

The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Office of Professional Development (OPD) launched a Web site focusing on transportation workforce development on September 12, 2001.

"The Web site serves as a focal point for our partners in the transportation community to to post and scan workforce information," said Joe Toole, Director of Professional Development. "This way, all of us in transportation can efficiently exchange ideas and practices to advance our workforce efforts."

The Web site, located at http://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/transworkforce, is an essential communication and coordination tool, in light of seismic shifts anticipated in the nation's workforce. Forty percent of the national workforce is projected to retire in the next 5 to 15 years. In addition, a recent study shows that 42 percent of the 15.7 million State and local government employees are between ages 45 and 64. Forty percent of these employees will be eligible for retirement in the next 15 years.

Inevitably, the transportation sector will compete with other industry sectors for qualified workers. Thus, workforce cooperation in the transportation community across the private and public sector - will be crucial to the industry's success.

In that vein, the Web site is intended to serve as a forum for dialogue and help coordinate solutions. The Web site will include information on transportation workforce issues, and will also suggest measures to improve workforce planning, recruiting, retention, and professional development programs among private and public sector organizations. To read more, visit the web site: http://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/transworkforce.

For more information, contact Clark Martin by telephone at (703) 235-0547 or by email: Clark.Martin@fhwa.dot.gov

Source: Research & Technology Transporter, Oct. 2001
Early November brought Buffy Sainte Marie, renowned musician and teacher, to Upper Michigan as an honored guest at the MTU Native American Student Association's 6th Annual Speakers’ Forum and Powwow. Sainte-Marie delivered a teaching presentation in the afternoon forum, and performed in concert to a full house the following evening.

**Buffy Sainte-Marie in Concert**

Buffy Sainte-Marie's concert featured many of her famous songs such as "Universal Soldier," "Until It's Time for You to Go," "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee," and her academy award winning song, "Up Where We Belong" from the movie *An Officer and a Gentleman*.

Listening to her perform was a powerfully moving experience. Her range and voice control were magnificent, and she expertly played an impressive range of instruments during the performance.

It was a truly memorable event.

**Cradleboard Teaching Project**

For the Speakers’ Forum, Buffy Sainte-Marie introduced "Science: Through Native American Eyes," an interactive multimedia teaching tool on CD-Rom, created by Buffy’s Cradleboard Teaching Project team. The CD was produced and narrated by Buffy Sainte-Marie, and addresses scientific concepts from a Native American cultural perspective. The intended audience for the science teaching CD is grade 5 through adult, and can be used in customized Teacher, Student, or Visitor modes. Features include:

- Entry and Exit baseline tests,
- Interactive gradebook to automatically record and compare student grades,
- Quizzes throughout, with correct answers visible to the teacher,
- Teacher Tips on additional lessons and resources,
- Image Library of seldom-seen photos (included as a stand alone feature),
- Vocabulary with spoken pronunciations,
- Teacher Manual, and more.

Scientific principles underlying sound, friction, and lodge construction are presented in 29 video, audio, text, and animated formats. A music library includes 11 of Native America's favorite recording artists; and an image library of rare photos adds breadth to the curriculum. Find out more about *Science: Through Native American Eyes* by visiting the Cradleboard Project’s internet site: [www.cradleboard.org](http://www.cradleboard.org)

**Nihewan Foundation for Native American Education**

The Nihewan Foundation is a non-profit corporation founded by Buffy Sainte-Marie in 1969. Programs include Scholarships, Teacher Training, the Cradleboard Teaching Project, and the Youth Council on Race.

Its purpose is to improve education for and about Native American people and cultures through a three-fold approach: (1) support college bound students, (2) prepare lower grade students for future college enrollment, and (3) promote a better, more accurate understanding of the roles of Native peoples – past, present and future – in the global community, including their own.

For more information call the Nihewan Foundation at (808) 822-3111, or visit the foundation’s Web site at: [http://www.nihewan.org/](http://www.nihewan.org/)
1st Place - Best Float in the Parade of Nations

By Alice Karsama

MTU's Native American Student Association and AISES Chapter won first place for best float in the Parade of Nations, hosted annually by Michigan Technological University. The parade was held on September 22, followed by an International Food Festival fundraising event.

At right, students put some finishing touches on their float, which featured a rocket named the Eagle. The theme for the float was "Natives Walking in Two Worlds."

Below, the winning float proceeds down the main street of Hancock, followed by representatives of the Americans in Science and Engineering Society (AISES). Riding behind them on horseback is Lori Sherman, the new coordinator for Native American Outreach at Michigan Tech.
New from the TTAP Library

TTAP Director, Bernard D. Alkire, has developed a new CD, entitled "Interactive Highway Design," to be used in computing road problems. It is available through the TTAP library, or on the internet at: http://www.ttap.mtu.edu/roaddesign/

Order by calling TTAP at 888-230-0688 or by sending e-mail to Patt Hendrickson at pahendrik@mtu.edu

A new videotape, "Stay Clear of Deer All Year," provides facts on car-deer crashes, what can be done to reduce the chance of being involved in one, and what to do if a crash is unavoidable.

Michigan Deer Crash Facts

- According to a recent survey, one out of three drivers would not know what to do, or would take the wrong action, when confronted with an unavoidable car-deer crash.
- 80% of all car-deer crashes occur on two-lane roads shortly before or after both dusk and dawn. Car-deer crashes occur all year, but they are especially prevalent during fall mating season and during spring, when deer seek out the first green grass near roads.
- Most serious accidents occur when motorists swerve to avoid a deer and hit another vehicle or fixed object, or when their vehicles roll over.
- Due to rapid development of previously rural areas and a statewide Michigan deer herd that is four times larger than in 1970, the problem is not going away.

Call TTAP to borrow the video, or for information on how to order your own.

Events Calendar

January 13-17, 2002
WASHINGTON, DC
TRB Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting
Contact TRB at 202-334-2934 or see Internet site: http://www.trb.org/

January 27 - February 1, 2002
WASHINGTON, DC
United Southern and Eastern Tribes Annual 2002 Impact Week Meeting
Loews L'Enfant Plaza Hotel (202-484-1000)
For Hotel Reservations call (800) 503-3330
For information call USET at 615-872-7900 or see Internet site: http://www.usetinc.org

February, 2002 (date to be announced)
ATLANTA, GA
Storm Water Workshops
Contact APWA: 816-472-6100
For more information see Internet site: http://www.apwa.net/Education/Workshops

February 28 - March 1, 2002
INDIANAPOLIS, IN
Indiana GIS 2002 Conference: Moving to the Mainstream
Sheraton Indianapolis Hotel & Suites
at Keystone at the Crossing
Internet site: http://www.in.gov.us/ingisi/

March, 2002 (date to be announced)
MINNEAPOLIS, MN
Public Works Fleet Management
Contact APWA: 816-472-6100
For more information see Internet site: http://www.apwa.net/Education/Workshops

April 14-16, 2002
COLUMBUS, OH
APWA N. American Snow Conference
Contact APWA: 816-472-6100
Email: snow@apwa.net
Internet: http://www.apwa.net/

April 29 - May 2, 2002
NEW ORLEANS, LA
(Jazz Festival April 26 - May 5)
Reservation Economic Summit & American Indian Business Trade Fair
Hyatt Regency (504-561-1234)
Internet site: http://www.ncaied.org
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Have a Merry Christmas
& a Happy and Prosperous New Year!