



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

August 8, 2023

Dear Tribal Leaders:

I am writing to inform you that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will be conducting consultation with Tribal Nations this year through a Federal Register Notice requesting comments related to proposed changes to the Tribal Transit Program (TTP).

The notice will seek comments on how the FTA's Tribal Transit competitive program and technical assistance to Tribes is administered. The notice will also introduce FTA's consultation process and schedule for implementation, including a public meeting. Comments from eligible recipients of the Tribal Transit competitive program are highly encouraged. Eligible recipients of the TTP include federally recognized Indian Tribes or Alaska Native Villages, groups, or communities as identified by the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) at this link: <https://www.bia.gov/service/tribal-leaders-directory/federally-recognized-tribes>.

Consultation topics include changing or removing the \$25,000 cap for planning funds under the TTP competitive program; removing match requirements under the TTP competitive program; determining the amount of operating assistance eligibility under the TTP competitive program; and improving FTA's Tribal technical assistance efforts. FTA will also accept comments on the formula program.

The FTA is committed to ensuring that programs, policies, and procedures are responsive to the needs and concerns of Indian Tribes. United States Department of Transportation [Order 5301.1](#) (Order) explains that FTA will engage in formal Government-to-Government consultation with federally recognized Tribes before taking any action that may significantly or uniquely affect them. Potential policy changes under the Tribal Transit competitive program that FTA is considering may significantly affect Tribes. This FTA action also supports Executive Order 13175: [EO on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments](#). The Federal government's commitment to implement EO 13175 is reaffirmed in the Biden Administration's January 26, 2021 [Presidential Memo on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships](#) and the [November 30, 2022 Presidential Memo on Uniform Standards for Tribal Consultation](#).

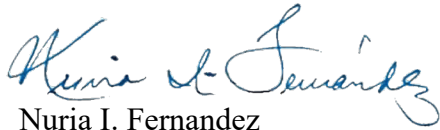
Potential policy changes under the Tribal Transit competitive program that FTA is considering may significantly affect Tribes. The program has been administered under the requirements of the previous consultation for approximately a decade, since November 2012, and funding levels have increased as well as the number of Tribes participating in the program. Additionally,

certain operational considerations may have changed, particularly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, supply chain disruptions, and increases in the cost of goods and services. FTA therefore is consulting with Tribal Leaders and recipients to ensure the program is still being administered in a beneficial way.

Comments to the notice should be submitted by the following method, identifying your submission by docket number FTA– 2023-0015: Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and follow the online instructions for submitting comments. In-person consultation will be held in conjunction with the National Transportation in Indian Country Conference in Anchorage, Alaska on Monday, September 25, 2023, from 1:30-3:00 PM. Additionally, a [virtual consultation](#) will be held on November 2, 2023.

FTA truly looks forward to your feedback and comments regarding the improvement of the Tribal Transit Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nuria I. Fernandez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "N".

Nuria I. Fernandez