



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**James A. Crawford**  
Assistant  
Secretary, Tribal  
Government  
Affairs

United States  
Department of  
Transportation

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# Maritime Administration (MARAD)

## Xochitl Castaneda, Gateway Director, Pacific Northwest & Alaska

September 2025

- Through the PIDP, MARAD provides grants on a **competitive basis** to assist in funding eligible projects for the purpose of improving the safety, efficiency, or reliability of the **movement of goods through ports and intermodal connections to ports.**
  - ✓ *In FY25, over **\$500M** in PIDP funding is available.*
- MARAD posted the FY25 PIDP NOFO on Grants.Gov on May 2, 2025. In conjunction with the posting of the NOFO, MARAD has extended the application deadline to September 10, 2025.

***The DOT/Maritime website is a resource to identify federal funding sources:***  
<https://www.maritime.dot.gov/PIDPgrants>

- ✓ US Marine Highway Program The U.S. Marine Highway Program invests in our nation's inland and coastal waterway infrastructure. It is a terrific funding program for ports and supportive industries along designated Marine Highways and connectors.
- ✓ MARAD is committed to this program as a dedicated resource that benefits domestic shipping.
- ✓ Earlier this year, MARAD released the FY 2025 Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Marine Highway Program.
- ✓ Just over \$14 million was available, \$5 million from new appropriations and approximately \$9 million in carryover.
- ✓ Applications closed on July 15, 2025.
- ✓ Although the FY 2025 application window is now closed, I strongly encourage tribes with maritime interests to begin developing project concepts for FY 2026.
- ✓ MARAD staff stand ready to assist with early planning, so your proposals are competitive when the next Notice of Funding Opportunity is released.



RURAL OPPORTUNITIES TO  
USE TRANSPORTATION FOR  
ECONOMIC SUCCESS

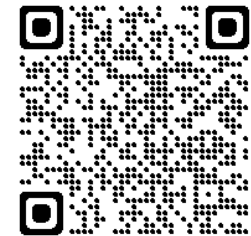
# ROUTES

*Contact Us!*

[Rural@dot.gov](mailto:Rural@dot.gov)

[www.transportation.gov/rural](http://www.transportation.gov/rural)

*Subscribe to ROUTES newsletter →*





## About the ROUTES Initiative

*The Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) Initiative aims to address disparities in rural transportation infrastructure and improve safety, mobility, and economic competitiveness nationwide.*



The ROUTES Office seeks to:

- Engage Rural Communities** through a series of events to better understand the needs and priorities of rural communities and collect essential data from stakeholders representing different communities, groups, workers, and industries to identify solutions.
- Harmonize DOT Programs** to implement rural policy by establishing the ROUTES Council to lead and coordinate Departmental activities and better align new and existing funding, financing, and technical assistance programs with the needs of rural and Tribal communities.
- Utilize a Whole-of-Government Approach** by partnering with other rural-focused federal agencies to expand DOT's presence in rural America, better promote Departmental resources to their customers, and capitalize on synergies between federal funding programs.

## Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program (RTA)

Five-year pilot program that funds financial, technical, and legal assistance to states and rural and tribal communities.

Now Available: \$54.2 million

- \$20 million for Tribal applicants
- No local match required



Grants are first-come, first-served, with a simplified application beginning September 8 at 2:00p.m. ET until October 8 at 11:59p.m. ET.

Tribal webinar was hosted on August 26<sup>th</sup> at 2pm ET



# Highway Reauthorization



- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is set to expire September 30<sup>th</sup> , 2026
- Opportunity for Tribes and Tribal Organizations to provide recommendations and ideas for the next highway reauthorizations.
- Webinar was hosted to August 26<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.



## Tribal Transportation Self Governance Program

- The purpose of the TTSGP is to provide Tribes and Tribal organizations with greater autonomy, control, flexibility, and decision-making authority over federal transportation funds used to carry out tribal transportation programs and activities in tribal communities.
- Section 1121 of the FAST Act (23 U.S.C. § 207)
- Negotiated rulemaking with Tribes
- Final Rule published on June 1, 2020 (49 C.F.R. part 29)
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- Final Rule effective date - October 1, 2020

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# Contact information

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  - ❑ 202.893.6719





# FACILITATING THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR'S COLLECTIVE IMPACT IN COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

**USDOT's Office of Tribal Government Affairs**

**Assistant Secretary James A. Crawford**



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# OST'S ROLE: COUNTER-TRAFFICKING INITIATIVE

## Strategic Leadership

- One DOT Coordination
- President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Senior Policy Operating Group
- National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking

## Partnerships, Public Awareness & Education

- Transportation Leaders Against Human Trafficking (TLAHT)
- Blue Lightning Initiative
- TLAHT Awareness Campaign
- Training & Events

## Global Engagement

- Multilateral engagement
- Ministerial Statements
- Resolutions
- Standards
- Guidance Documents
- Pilot Projects

## DOT Advisory Committee on Human Trafficking

- Triennial Recommendations
- Dissemination: Congress + States
- Recommendations Implementation



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# DOT COUNTER-TRAFFICKING FUNDING

## **\$50k Annual Award (OST)**

- Combating Human Trafficking in Transportation Impact Award
- \$50,000 for innovative and shareable solutions to combat trafficking in transportation

## **\$12M+ Commercial Driver's Motor Vehicle-Related Grants (FMCSA)**

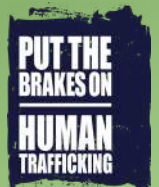
- Commercial Driver's License Program Implementation + High Priority CMV grants
- Driver's license standards and programs

## **\$5.4M Transit Public Safety (FTA) *previous***

- Human Trafficking Awareness & Public Safety Initiative Grant + Cooperative Agreements
- Counter-trafficking on buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation



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# PARTNER: DOT TRANSPORTATION LEADERS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Sign the Pledge



Issue Leadership Statement



Train Employees

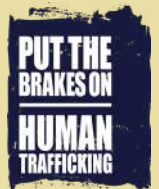


Raise Public Awareness

- 600+ Signatories
- Every Mode & State
- Industry + Labor
- Training 1.3M+



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# TRAIN EMPLOYEES & RAISE AWARENESS

**Support Native communities in combating human trafficking.**  
Learn the signs. Make a difference.

## REPORT SUSPECTED HUMAN TRAFFICKING

National Human Trafficking Hotline  
1-888-373-7888 | Text 233733 or BEFREE  
24/7 • Toll-Free • Confidential • 204+ Languages



For Supportive Services:  
**StrongHearts Native Helpline (24/7)**  
Call Text: 1-844-774-7711 | 1-844-782-9491  
Chat Online: [strongheartshelpline.org](http://strongheartshelpline.org)

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In an emergency call 911 or contact local authorities.



LEARN MORE

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LEARN MORE

## YOU CAN STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

National Human Trafficking Hotline:  
1-888-373-7888 | text 233733 or BEFREE



### Indicators of Human Trafficking

- Controlled movement, identification, money, documents, luggage, and speech
- Signs of physical/emotional distress, abuse, or branding
- Improper clothing for weather or travel route
- May travel with few/no belongings
- Logistically unaware of where they are, where they are going, where they have been, or who is picking them up
- Answers may sound scripted/inconsistent
- May purchase in-person, one-way, last-minute, or same-day tickets
- References frequent travel to other cities or towns
- Signs of struggle, discarded clothing, and/or personal items in construction areas, rail yards, along highways, and transportation hubs

[www.transportation.gov/TLAHT/Campaign](http://www.transportation.gov/TLAHT/Campaign)

## School bus drivers safeguard America's children.

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National Human Trafficking Hotline  
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Scan this code to learn the signs and indicators

## Do you feel safe?

For help and support:  
Text 233733 or Call 888-373-7888  
24/7 • Toll-Free • Confidential • 204+ Languages

The National Human Trafficking Hotline provides confidential helpline services in multiple languages.

**No one** has the right to force you to work or have sex for money, food, housing, transportation, or anything else.

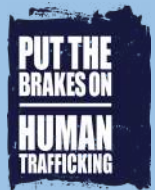
### Ask for help if someone:

- Controls your movement, identification, documents, money, or speech
- Does not honor work, housing, or financial arrangements
- Hurts, or threatens to hurt, you or your loved ones
- Threatens to report you to immigration officials or law enforcement

LEARN MORE



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- Training
- Posters
- Pocket Cards
- Visor Cards
- Infographic
- Social Media Graphics
- Logos
- PSAs

# DOT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- **Legislation**
  - 2018 Combating Human Trafficking in Commercial Vehicles Act
  - 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
- **Membership**
  - 15, Industry/Labor
  - Aviation, Bus, Maritime, Port, Rail, Trucking, NGOs, State DOTs, Law Enforcement, Lived Experience Experts
- **Charters**
  - 2018, 2022, 2024

- **Reports**
  - 2024 Report
  - 2019 Report
- **Public & Private Sector Recommendations**
- **Best Practices, Model Tools & Sample Materials**
- **Dissemination**
  - Congress
  - State Governors
  - State DOTs



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# ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

## Submissions

- Letter(s) of support
- Counter-trafficking expertise
- Reasons for consideration

## Deadline

- October 14, 2025

## Federal Register Notice

- <http://bit.ly/48d58KL>

## DUTIES

- Review Complex Materials
- Public Meeting Preparation  
*(~quarterly)*
- Subcommittee Meetings & Work  
*(~every 3-4 weeks)*
- Stakeholder Consultations
- Online Research
- Drafting Report Content
- Actionable Recommendations



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VISIT

[transportation.gov/stop-human-trafficking](https://transportation.gov/stop-human-trafficking)

CONTACT

[trafficking@dot.gov](mailto:trafficking@dot.gov)



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