

PENNSYLVANIA TRANSPORTATION and TRIBAL CONSULTATION NEWSLETTER

SPONSORED BY THE FHWA, PENNSYLVANIA DIVISION AND PENNDOT

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First Issue of the PA Transportation and Tribal Consultation Newsletter!

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Pennsylvania Division and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) would like to announce the first Pennsylvania Transportation and Tribal Consultation Newsletter. The goal is to release a quarterly newsletter highlighting current issues in tribal transportation planning and projects of concern to agency staff and tribal contacts involved with consultation. We encourage both tribal members

and transportation staff to submit articles and ideas for discussion. Upcoming issues will highlight transportation projects that are under consideration, ongoing ideas designed to improve consultation, and updates on important cultural resource legislation. We hope everyone will share opinions, comments, and ideas for future volumes.

Spotlight on Tribal Consultation Participants

In each issue of the Pennsylvania Transportation and Tribal Consultation Newsletter we would like to highlight one of the many groups that participate in tribal consultation activities. Such groups include each of the 15 federally recognized tribes involved with Pennsylvania, the Advisory Council's tribal consultation program, the cultural resources and tribal consultation programs for PennDOT and FHWA, and others.

Each *Spotlight* will provide some background for each group and highlight some of their programs and accomplishments as regards tribal consultation in Pennsylvania. We hope to highlight each participant and are looking for groups and authors for our next newsletters. If you would like to submit an article for the *Spotlight*, please contact Joe Baker at (717) 705-1482 or through email at josebaker@state.pa.us.

Pennsylvania Intertribal Summit Held!

The Pennsylvania Division of the Federal Highway Administration, in cooperation with PennDOT, hosted its first Intertribal Summit meeting on Section 106 issues September 10th, 11th and 12th, 2003, in Harrisburg. The Summit was the result of a complex, challenging, and ultimately successful planning effort that took about six months and a great many staff hours to pull together. The Summit was attended by 83 people including FHWA, PennDOT, PHMC, and ACHP staff, and representatives of 10 different federally recognized tribal nations.

Among the many areas of consensus between tribal and transportation representatives was the need for continued, mutual education. Several projects directed at education, including this newsletter, have already begun.

A final report on the Intertribal Summit has been completed and will be mailed out to each of the tribes soon. A copy of the report will also be posted on the web at: www.penndotcrm.org.



Participants in the Pennsylvania Intertribal Summit held in Harrisburg last September.



PennDOT/FHWA Tribal Consultation Activities

The caucus discussions at the Intertribal Summit helped to define several priorities for the future ranging from defining historic territories and areas of interest by the federally recognized tribes, to opportunities for streamlining the consultative process with the Cultural Resources Geographic Information System (CRGIS), to the education of the transportation community in the history, traditions and organizations of the tribes. Clearly all of these goals will take some time, resources, and effort to achieve, but they're all critical to the improvement of tribal consultation and wise stewardship of archaeological and cultural resources. PennDOT and FHWA have assigned staff and consultants to begin planning several of these tasks. Below is a list of work in progress.

- ◆ A **telephone survey** was conducted in order to reconfirm tribal contact information and to add to the understanding of the infrastructure of each tribe's cultural resource offices. We would like to thank everyone for their patience and cooperation with the survey. PennDOT's internal list of tribal contacts has been updated and this list is also available online at www.penndotcrm on the [Publications](#) page.

- ◆ A **list serve** was created at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pa_tandt_consult/ to increase informal consultation and discussion between Pennsylvania FHWA and PennDOT staff involved with tribal consultation and the tribal contacts themselves. Please contact Joe Baker at josebaker@state.pa.us if you have not received an email invitation to join the group.

- ◆ Two **publications** have been proposed to address the issue of mutual education. An outline for a *Pennsylvania Tribal Consultation Handbook* has been drafted and emailed for review and comment. The draft outline can also be found at the PA Tribes and Transportation list serve. A second book targeted at public education on tribal consultation and the early history of Pennsylvania is in development.

- ◆ A report on the Intertribal Summit entitled *Lessons Learned in Pennsylvania* has been prepared and will be distributed to the tribes and transportation agencies both through regular mail and online at www.penndotcrm.org.

- ◆ Pennsylvania FHWA and PennDOT employees presented a **poster** on the Pennsylvania Intertribal Summit as part of the "Status of Transportation Serving Tribal Lands and Communities" poster session at the Transportation Research Board (TRB) annual meetings in Washington, D.C. in January. TRB is an annual meeting that provides an opportunity to showcase transportation projects and programs. It also presented Pennsylvania representatives the chance to discuss consultation issues with other states and tribes.

Future Tribal Consultation Projects

Several projects are currently in development for further work this summer and fall. Participation and comment by tribal representatives and transportation staff is welcome. Please contact Joe Baker for information, or visit the list serve for regular updates.

- ◆ A **webpage** on the PennDOT CRM website (www.penndotcrm.org) devoted to tribal consultation issues. This additional page within the larger PennDOT CRM website will offer contact information, reports, announcements and other news pertaining specifically to tribal consultation.
- ◆ An **educational book** and lessons for Pennsylvania schools explaining the importance of tribal consultation and regulations such as NEPA and Section 106 which ensures consultation and consideration of impacts on Native American artifacts and cultural resources in Pennsylvania.
- ◆ A **second Intertribal Summit** focusing on the PennDOT tribal consultation guidance as outlined in the Interim Guidance Strike-Off Letter and workshops explaining Section 106 and the transportation process in Pennsylvania.

News from the PennDOT Districts

District 11-0: East Ohio Street Improvement Project, Allegheny County, State Route 28, Sections A09 & A10. Preliminary engineering and environmental studies are being undertaken on a 2.1 mile section of S.R. 0028 in Allegheny County. The project entails the improvement of S.R. 0028 along the North Shore of the Allegheny River through the North Side of the City of Pittsburgh and a portion of the Borough of Millvale. (Ongoing Tribal Consultation). Contact Joe Verbka for more information at (814) 678-7098 or jverbka@state.pa.us.

District 1-0: Hickory Street Bridge Replacement Project, Warren County, State Route 3005, Section B00. Project involves the replacement of the Hickory Street Bridge, a 4-span concrete arch bridge, built in 1917, and eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. (Ongoing Tribal Consultation). Contact Joe Verbka for more information at (814) 678-7098 or jverbka@state.pa.us.

Announcements

Second Intertribal Summit

As discussed at the first summit, PennDOT and FHWA plan to continue its success with a second, follow-up Intertribal Summit sometime in 2004. Budgetary concerns are presenting an unexpected challenge to the planners of the second summit. At this time, we are hoping to schedule the summit for late summer or as an annual event in September. The tribes are being consulted about possible locations for the next summit. Locations could include a single meeting in Pennsylvania, a single meeting in New York (possibly at Onondaga), or multiple meetings in several locations convenient to the tribes.

Byways to the Past Conference will be held May 19th and 20th, 2004 on the campus of Indiana University of Pennsylvania in Indiana, Pa. This annual conference covers topics concerning historic preservation and transportation within the state. Featured speakers include Barbara Franco, Executive Director of PHMC; Laura Henley Dean, Office of SHPO services for the ACHP; and both the PHMC/ BHP staff and PennDOT Cultural Resources staff are holding question and answer sessions on department policy and the state archaeological guidelines which are currently under revision for the first time since 1991. For more information and registration please visit www.pennbyways.org or contact Joe Baker at 717-705-1482.

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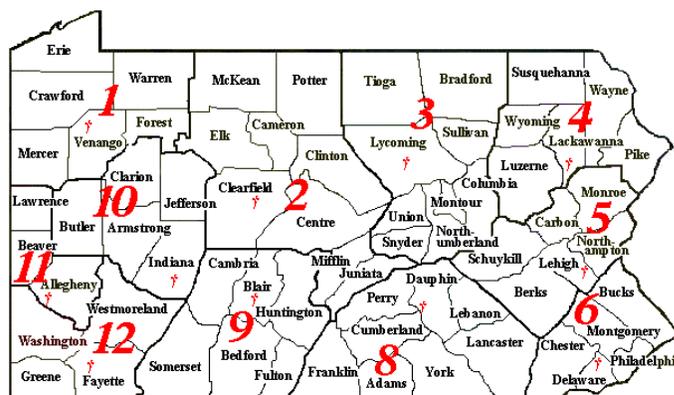
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