



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-7000

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT

July 13, 2023

SUBJECT: Tribal Directory Assessment Tool (TDAT) Enhancement Project

Dear Tribal Leader:

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has updated the TDAT through the TDAT enhancement project and addressed comments received during the Tribal consultation meeting conducted in November of 2022. HUD is now offering information sessions to share TDAT updates, including how Tribal input has been incorporated and how Tribes may choose to provide continued updates to TDAT. HUD seeks any additional suggestions for improvement.

Background

TDAT was developed by HUD's Office of Environment and Energy (OEE) to help HUD staff, grantees, and Responsible Entities (users) identify Tribes that may have an interest in the location of a federally supported project and to provide Tribal contact information to assist users with initiating Section 106 reviews under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA, 54 U.S.C. § 300101 et seq.). REs are units of government who, as statutorily authorized, assume the responsibility for environmental review, decision-making, and action that would otherwise apply to HUD and can include Section 106 reviews with Tribes. Two key aspects of TDAT are its ability to link Tribes' geographic areas of current and ancestral interest down to the county level, and to perform a variety of queries related to Section 106 reviews.

HUD developed TDAT to assist users in identifying the federally recognized Indian Tribes to involve in the Section 106 process. TDAT is the only publicly available federal database that provides information on counties where Tribes have current and ancestral interest. The system also provides Tribal contact information for initiating NHPA Section 106 reviews. For over 10 years, HUD has struggled to maintain TDAT's information up to date because the system didn't have a developed internal means by which new information could be input/shared with ease and predictability. The resulting inaccuracies, and the inability to make regular changes have led to complaints by users, including Tribes and Responsible Entities. These challenges served as the impetus for the TDAT enhancement project, which ensures regular updates to the Tribal contact information in TDAT.

As a publicly available tool, TDAT may be used by parties consulting on projects supported through other federal agencies. The Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council (FPISC) has coordinated with HUD to fund the enhancement project to ensure sustained accuracy of

county and contact data and ongoing management of TDAT. Established in 2015 by Title 41 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST-41), the Permitting Council is a unique Federal agency charged with improving the transparency, predictability, and outcomes of the Federal environmental review and authorization process for certain large-scale critical infrastructure projects. FPISC's support of the TDAT enhancement project aligns with its goal of providing and maintaining a central Federal database of Tribal areas of interest with Tribal points of contact to facilitate timely government-to-government coordination and consultation.

Tribal Consultation

In accordance with HUD's Tribal Consultation Policy, HUD reached out to Tribal leaders in November 2022 to solicit feedback. Specifically, HUD sought comments regarding what information might be added to TDAT to facilitate Tribal consultation required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR 800 – Protection of Historic Properties) and cited in HUD regulations 24 CFR 50.4(a) and 24 CFR 58.5(a).

The intent of TDAT and the enhancement project improvements is for HUD to engage meaningfully with Tribes to develop a mutually beneficial and up to date communication process and to better identify and prioritize reviews of projects within areas of current and ancestral interest. These changes enable TDAT users to identify appropriate Tribal points of contact, consultation preferences, and areas of current and ancestral interest for initiating consultation for projects that may involve historic properties significant to Tribes, both on and off Tribal Lands.

This information request is voluntary, and HUD will now solicit it through a form in TDAT. This form is available currently on the [TDAT website](#) and all corrections to existing information should be emailed to the TDAT Administrator at TDAT_info@HUD.gov.

The intent of the [form](#) is to streamline communication with Tribal consulting parties by utilizing communication preferences provided by Tribes. The form includes requests for:

- 1) information on preferred methods for submitting projects for comment to Tribes (email, phone, mail, etc.), and
- 2) preferences on types of federalized projects for which a Tribe wishes to receive consultation notices,

TDAT Updates and Maintenance

To ensure the accuracy of Tribal contact information the TDAT Administrator will import, on a quarterly basis, the Tribal contact information from databases administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, for Tribal Leaders, and the National Park Service, for Tribal Historic Preservation Officers. HUD encourages Tribes to report to HUD changes in their data at any time and it will be inputted directly by HUD's TDAT Administrator. Data generated by TDAT will be time stamped so it is clear when the information was obtained.

Going forward, HUD will send an email quarterly to Tribes to indicate that the contact information from BIA and NPS has been updated and to remind Tribes of the opportunity to update contact information and areas of current and ancestral interest, by submitting a new form with updated information to TDAT_info@HUD.gov

TDAT Virtual Information Sessions

HUD will host virtual presentations via webinar on **August 16th, September 13th, and October 11th, 2023**, to provide information on how TDAT has been updated, including how comments were addressed, and how Tribes may provide information. HUD welcomes comments and suggestions for improvement during these sessions.

The webinars begin at **3:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time** on each date (you may join the conference 10 minutes prior). **Webex Support: 888-793-6118**

To join the virtual presentation please follow the steps below:

August 16, 2023

To join the conference, click: <https://ems8.intellor.com/login/848036>
Join the Webex event and follow the prompts to connect audio by computer or telephone.

September 13, 2023

To join the conference, click: <https://ems8.intellor.com/login/848037>
Join the Webex event and follow the prompts to connect audio by computer or telephone.

October 11th, 2023

To join the conference, click: <https://ems8.intellor.com/login/848035>
Join the Webex event and follow the prompts to connect audio by computer or telephone.

(We understand that some people may have difficulty logging into Webex. We recommend that you use the Google Chrome web browser to log in to the meeting.)

Thank you for your continued partnership and collaboration in the effective delivery of HUD's programs in Indian Country.

Sincerely,

Kristin Leahy Fontenot
Director, Office of Environment and Energy