

Transportation Safety Update

Federal Highway Administration
Office of Tribal Transportation



U.S. Department of Transportation

Federal Highway

Administration

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Topics

- Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund Update
- Crash Data Tools
- Risk-Based Safety Planning
- Road Safety Audits



Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund (TTPSF)



Safety Plans Category





Data Assessment, Improvement, & Analysis Category





Systemic Roadway Departure Countermeasures







Infrastructure Improvement Category



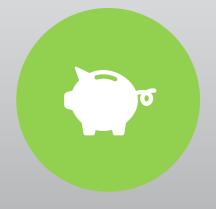
Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund (TTPSF)



PROJECTS TO REDUCE FATAL AND SERIOUS INJURY CRASH RISK



~\$21 MILLION AVAILABLE
PER YEAR



LARGEST AWARDS HAVE BEEN \$1.6-MILLION; AVERAGE AWARDS ARE \$450,000



Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund (TTPSF)

- Competitive grant program, Tribes apply for funds
- Administered under the TTP; not a separate grant agreement
- Can match Safe Streets for All (SS4A) and most other Title 23
 Federal Highway funds per 23 U.S.C. 120(k)
- Authorized through 2026
- Prior year awards listed at https://highways.dot.gov/federal-lands/programs-tribal/safety/funds



Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund (TTPSF)

- 2025
 - Applications are being processed.

- 2026
 - Apply: October 1, 2025 January 15, 2026





Safety Plans Category



 Development of new transportation safety plans (up to \$15,000)

 Update transportation safety plans that are more than 3 years old (up to \$10,000)

Safety Planning Resources at

https://www.tribalsafety.org/safety-planning-resources

Photos: Oglala Sioux Tribe, Nunakauyarmiut Tribe





- Crash data collection
- Traffic safety data
- Law enforcement computers
- Speed feedback trailers/signs
- Road Safety Audits
- Risk-based safety studies









Systemic Roadway Departure Countermeasures

Eligible Improvements

- Curve Warning Signs
- Delineators
- New Center/Edge Striping
- Edge Rumbles
- Center Rumbles
- Mitigation of Roadside Hazards





Native Village of Minto Photo: Larry Bredeman









Infrastructure Improvement Category







Infrastructure Improvement Category



TTPSF NOFO Evaluation Criteria

- Included in a safety plan, RSA, or other safety study
- Supporting Safety Data Describe the type, severity, and quantity of incidents that directly demonstrate the need for the project.
- Expected Crash Reduction Research, publications, or other evidence that project will reduce crash severity and/or frequency.
- Time elapsed since last TTPSF infrastructure award.
- Road Ownership (BIA and Tribal roads get some priority; Other ownership requires letter of acknowledgement from road owner.)

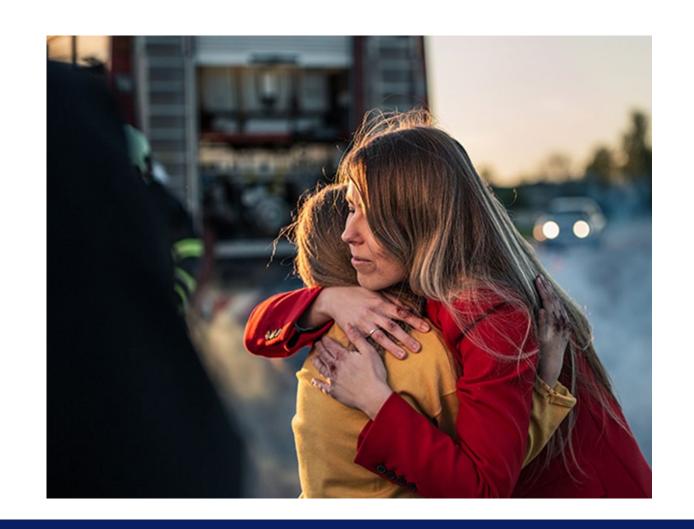


Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)



Safe Streets and Roads for All

- \$5 billion discretionary grant program, with ~\$1 billion/year over 5 years
- Purpose: prevent deaths and serious injuries on our roadways
- Focus on comprehensive safety action planning and implementing those plans
- Inclusive of all types of roadway safety interventions across the Safe System Approach
- http://www.transportation.gov/S
 S4A



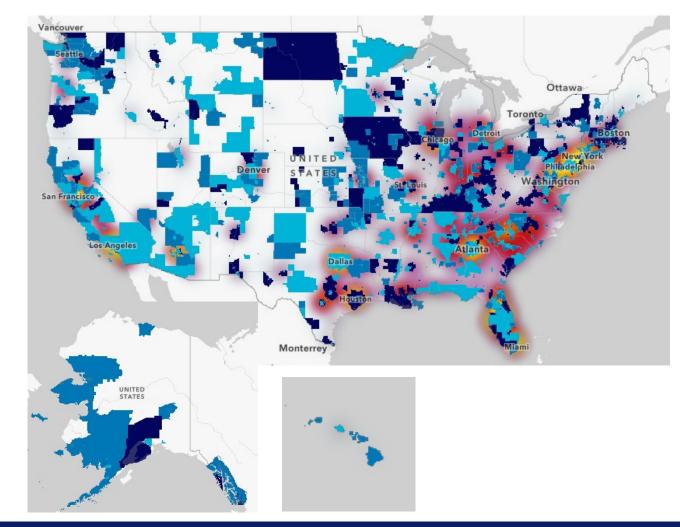
Safe Streets and Roads for All Funding to Date

FY24 Awards

- Over \$1.2 billion funding awarded for the FY24 cycle.
- 710 regional, local, and Tribal communities received awards.

FY22-24

- Over 1,800 awards made totaling \$3 billion.
- Awards made to date will improve roadway safety planning for over 75% of the nation's population.



Safe Streets and Roads for All Support in Action



Technical Assistance

Clearinghouse Website

Grant Recipient Roadmap

Community of Practice

- Custom educational programs
- One-on-one technical assistance available for Grant Recipients
- One-stop-shop for resources, trainings, community of practice, technical assistance, and events registration
- Publicly available: www.SS4AClearinghouse.org
- Structured guide designed to help successfully navigate SS4A projects
- Includes specific activities, timing, and outcomes for each step in the SS4A journey
- Peer to peer learning and exchanges
- Community-based information and resource sharing



About SS4A Grants

SS4A Overview: Eligibility

Eligible Recipients

- Metropolitan planning organization (MPOs)
- Political subdivision of a State
- Federally recognized Tribal government
- Multijurisdictional groups comprised of the above

Eligible Activities

- Develop a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan
 - Develop or complete an Action Plan
 - Conduct supplemental planning
 - Carry out demonstration activities
- Planning, design, and development activities for projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan
- Implement projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan

Planning and Demonstration Activities

Action Plan

- Develop, update, or complete a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan
- 8 components to an Action Plan

Supplemental Planning

- Topical safety plans
- Road safety audits
- Additional safety analysis and data collection
- Follow-up stakeholder engagement
- Safe Routes to School plans

Demonstration Activities

- Feasibility studies using quick-build strategies
- Pilot programs for behavioral or operational activities
- Pilot programs for new technology
- Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Device (MUTCD) engineering studies

Opportunities with Planning and Demonstration

- 40% of SS4A funding is required to be for Planning and Demonstration
- Developing Action Plans can help with getting non-SS4A funding at the local, state, regional, and federal level
 - Also helps guide local decision making
- Applications can include combinations of developing action plans, with assorted supplemental planning and/or demonstration activities

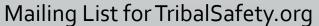
Implementation Grants

- Implementation Grants applications must fund projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan that address a roadway safety problem.
- Infrastructure, behavioral, and operational safety activities are all eligible.
- Applicants must have a qualifying Action Plan in place to apply for Implementation Grants.
- Implementation applications may also include supplemental planning and demonstration activities.



Mailing List and Resources at www.TribalSafety.org







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Indian Highway Safety Program Vision

Mission Statement:

 "To reduce the number and severity of traffic crashes in Indian Country by supporting education, enforcement, and engineering, as well as safe tribal community programs."

Vision Statement:

 To create a safe tribal community environment where roadways in Indian Country are safe for all



Indian Highway Safety Program

- Located in Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Department of Interior,
 Bureau of Indian Affairs,
 Office of Justice Services

- The Indian Highway Safety Program is:
 - Nation wide program
 - Responsible for providing services to federally recognized Native American/Alaskan Tribes in the United States

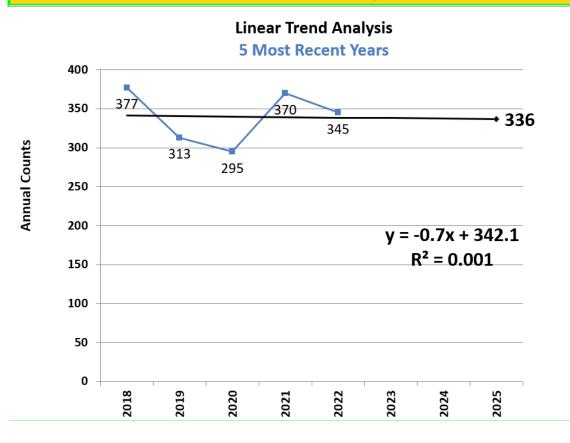
Fatal Analysis Reporting System (FARS)

Native American Fatalities

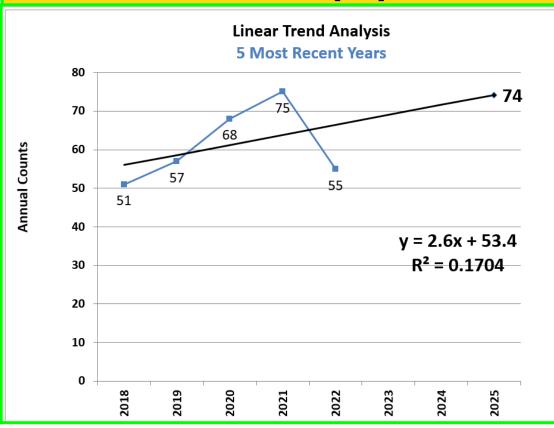
	Year						
Categories		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total 2018- 2022
1. Total Traffic Fatalities	a. All Native American Fatalities	604	541	557	688	737	3,127
	b. Native American Fatalities on Reservations	174	133	122	168	153	750
	c. All fatalities on reservation	<mark>377</mark>	<mark>313</mark>	<mark>295</mark>	<mark>370</mark>	<mark>345</mark>	1,700

Motor Vehicle Crash Fatalities – Native Americans

Fatal Analysis Reporting

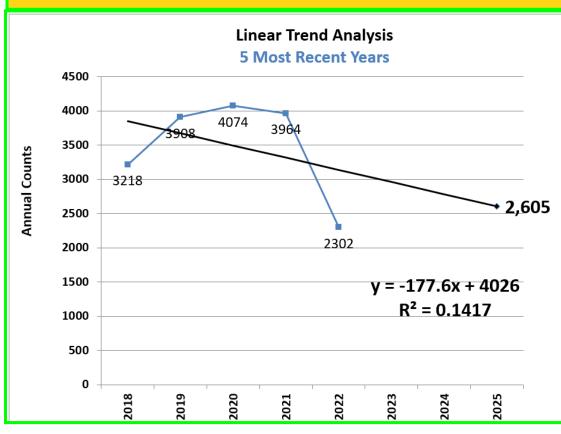


Indian Highway Safety Program Grant Funded Tribes (22)

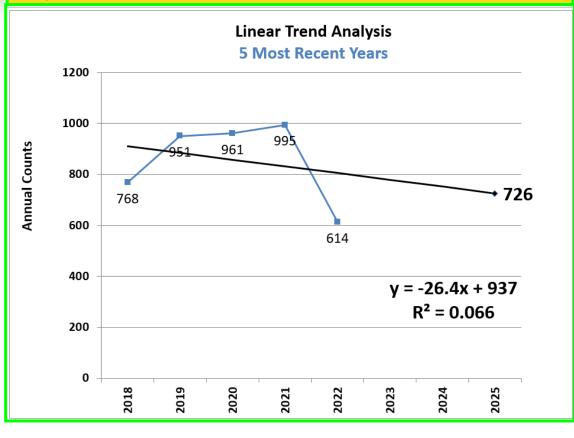


IHSP Grant Funded Tribes Motor Vehicle Crashes

Motor Vehicle Crashes



Injury Crashes





Grant Applications

- Indian Highway Safety:
 - **□Occupant Protection**
 - Car Seat Grant
 - □ Law Enforcement Grant
 - Straight Time
 - Overtime
 - Highway Safety Specialist Grant

Deadline May 1



Indian Highway Safety Grants

- Performance Based
- Data Driven
- Reimbursable Grants
- No Match



What is the Tribes Traffic Problem?

- Tribes need to identify a traffic problems that exist within their boundaries
 - □Traffic Citations and Crash Data
 - BIA OJS Data
 - State Highway Safety Office Data for the county the Tribe resides
 - Tribal traffic data (if available)



Law Enforcement Grants

- Traffic Enforcement/Safety Funding
- Community outreach
 - ☐ Providing presentations to community members and school age children on traffic safety
- Tribal Officers must meet CFR 25 Requirements
- Direct Service Programs Tribe and OJS must have a Memo of Understanding (MOU) in place if a tribal police department is not established





Law Enforcement Grant Types	Straight Time	Over- Time	Highway Safety Specialist
Activity Hours (2080) for Officers	\checkmark		
Program Manager	\checkmark		
Data Clerk	\checkmark		
Highway Safety Specialist	\checkmark		\checkmark
Overtime Salary	\checkmark	$\overline{\mathbf{A}}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$
Fringe Benefits	$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\overline{\mathbf{A}}$	\checkmark
Mileage/ GSA Lease	$\overline{\mathbf{A}}$	$\overline{\mathbf{A}}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$
Travel Training	\checkmark	$\overline{\checkmark}$	\checkmark
Media/Billboard Rental	$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\overline{\mathbf{A}}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$
Indirect Cost	$\overline{\checkmark}$	\checkmark	\checkmark
Traffic Equipment	$\overline{\mathbf{A}}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$	\checkmark
Software	$\overline{\checkmark}$	\checkmark	\checkmark

Tribal Grantees Washington New Hampshire Montana North Dakota Minnesota Oregon Wisconsin South Dakota Idaho New York Wyoming Michigan Pennsylvania Connecticut Nebraska lowa Nevada Illinois Utah Indiana Colorado Maryland Missouri Kansas California Kentucky District North Carolina Columbia Tennessee Oklahoma Arizona Arkansas New Mexico South Carolina Georgia Alabama Texas Mississip Louisiana Alaska Florida **♀** Highway Safety Specialist **♀** Occupant Protection Law Enforcement



Highway Safety Specialist (HSS) Position Description

- Assignment to this position is based on need and requires compliance with the job qualifications
- Full-time entry-level position



HSS Position Description

 Incorporating data into tribal statistic planning, programming, and implementation

 Organizing groups, events, and activities to increase community awareness of traffic safety related issues



HSS Duties:

 Responsible for establishing and conducting Traffic related activities such as identifying, collecting, analyzing, and presenting traffic safety data



HSS Activities

- Create Traffic Safety Messages
- Become CPS Certified
 - ■Set Up Car Seat Clinics
 - Provide Car Seat Training
 - Distribute Car Seats
- Conduct Road Assessments
- Monitor Speed to determine problem Areas



Bureau of Indian Affairs Indian Highway Safety Program

Occupant Protection

Margaret Rocha Program Analyst (Finance) NTICC Conference August 2026



Amount of travel can contribute to traffic fatality rates

American Indian and Alaska Native:

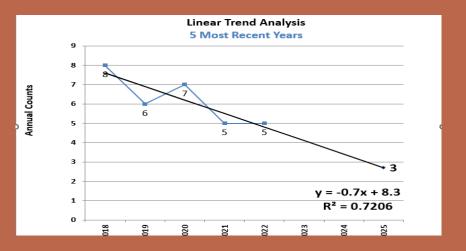
- people travel by passenger vehicle more than any other group, about 30 % more than white people; this increased their risk of exposure
- fatalities also had a lower level of restraint system use, with only about one-third of their passenger vehicle occupant fatalities restrained



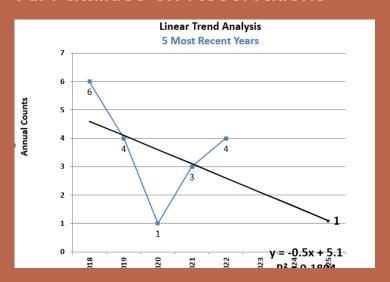
FARS: Passenger Vehicle Occupant Age 4 and Under Total

- Linear Trend Analysis shows All Native American Fatalities are decreasing Nation Wide
- Linear Trend Analysis shows All Fatalities on Reservations are decreasing

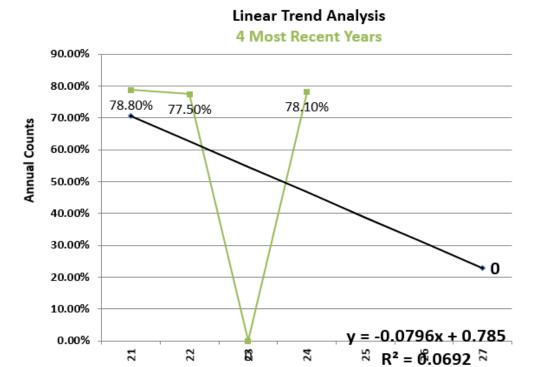
Nation Wide



All Fatalities on Reservations



Indian Highway Safety Program Seatbelt Usage in Indian Country



Safety Belt survey reflects a decline in usage within tribal boundaries



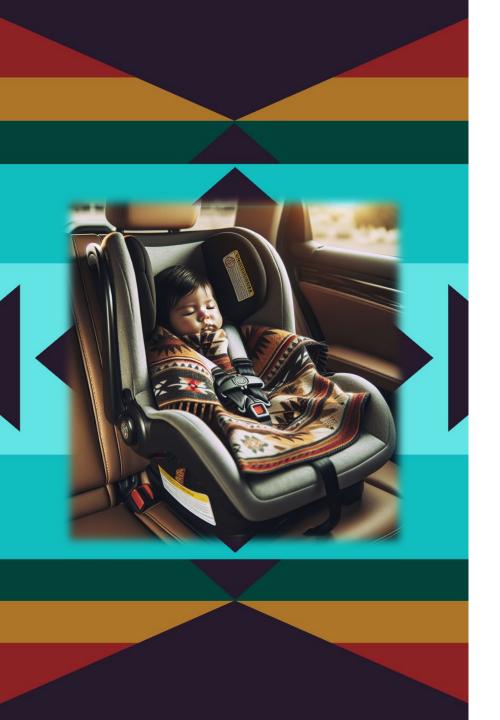
Indian Highway Safety Program Safety Belt Usage Survey – 12 States



Safety Belt Survey - Tribal Participants

- 1. Navajo Nation (Arizona)
- 2. Gila River Pima-Maricopa (Arizona)
- 3. Pueblo of Zuni (New Mexico)
- 4. Taos Pueblo (New Mexico)
- 5. Pueblo of Acoma (New Mexico)
- 6. Ute Indian Tribe (Utah)
- 7. Osage Tribe (Oklahoma)
- 8. Eastern Band Of Cherokee (North Carolina)
- 9. Seneca Nation of Indians (New York)

- 10. Yakama Nation (Washington)
- 11.Tulalip Tribes (Washington)
- 12.Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (Washington)
- 13.Eastern Shoshone & Arapaho Tribes (Wyoming)
- 14.Rosebud Sioux Tribe (South Dakota)
- 15.Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe (South Dakota)
- **16.Crow Tribe (Montana)**
- 17.Three Affiliated Tribes (North Dakota)
- 18.Saginaw Chippewa (Michigan)



The need for occupant protection grant?

Demonstrated financial need by:

- Tribal members
- Tribal program to enhance their current car seat program

Tribal Program can conduct a seatbelt survey at a childcare facility or day care within the tribes' boundaries

Indian Highway Safety Program Occupant Protection Grants

- Child Protection Seat Grants award funds for:
 - Car seats for distribution
 - Educational brochures
 - Equipment/Supplies
 - Travel & Training
 - o CPS Technician Personnel if needed



FY24 Indian Highway Safety Grantees

Occupant Protection Grantees

- 13 Occupant Protection Grants were awarded to 13 Federally Recognized Tribes
 - \$320,765 in awards
 - 491 Car Seats Distributed

Law Enforcement Grantees

- Issued 2,794 Seat Belt Violations
- Issued 674 Child Safety Seat Violation



Tribal Law Enforcement Car Seat Checkpoint

Checkpoint 6:00 PM - 9:30 PM Checkpoint Personnel:

• 5 CPS Technicians (Officers)

Check Point Results:

- 132 total contacts
- 1 warrant arrest
- 11 traffic citations
 (Revoked License, No Drivers License or Insurance)
- 2 Car Seat Violations
- 7 Verbal Warnings (CPS and seatbelt)



- 6 car seats were inspected for proper use
- 2 were re-adjusted
- Car Seat appointments were made

Bay Mills Indian Community Police Department

- Occupant Protection Grantee
- Partners with the Michigan State
 Highway Safety Office for pamphlets
 and brochures
- The grantee also worked with the State Highway Safety Office to obtain their Child Protection Seat Technician Certification



Vehicular Heatstroke Messaging

Minnesota Chippewa – Leech Lake Band

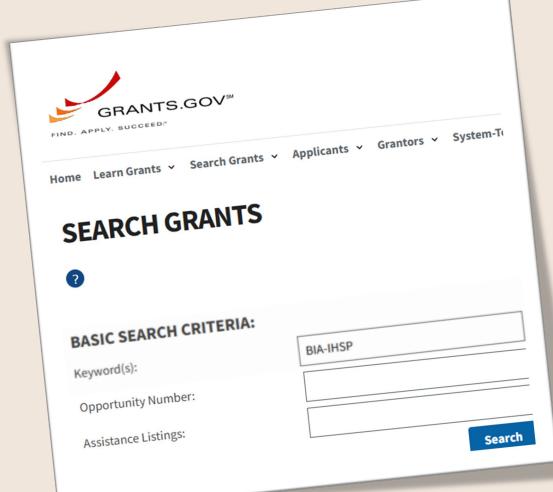




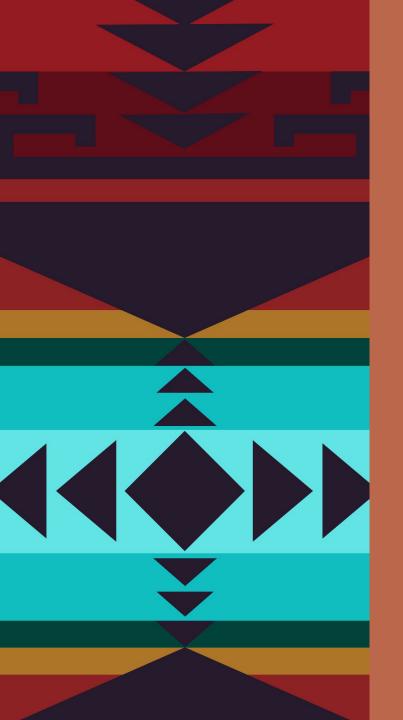
Rosebud Sioux Tribe



How to Apply for FY 2027



- January 2026
 - Grant applications will be available
- Grants.gov
 - Search for "BIA-IHSP"



Contact Information

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Cheyenne River Indian Highway Safety Program

Roberta Tiger

Highway Safety Specialist for Cheyenne River Child Passenger Safety Certified Technician **Contact Information:**

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Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

The population of approximately 7,694

Land Area: approx. 4,419 square miles(about the size of the State of CT)

Covers Ziebach and Dewey County in South Dakota



Law Enforcement Agencies on CRST

Cheyenne River Law Enforcement

1 Police Chief, 1 LT, 4 Detectives, 5 Sgt., 12 Police Officers

Dewey County Sheriff

1 Sheriff-3 Deputy Sheriffs

Ziebach County

1 Sheriff – 1 Deputy

City of Eagle Butte Police Department

1 Police Chief - 1 Vacant City Officer

** Total Law Enforcement Officers: 30 **

**Calls for Service for FY 2024 30,460 **

** Communities Served 27 **

What does a Highway Safety Specialist do?

Mission Statement of the BIA Indian Highway Safety Program

"To reduce the number and severity of traffic crashes in Indian Country by supporting Education, Enforcement, and Engineering, as well as Safe Tribal Community Programs."

Tribal Committees HSS attend & Why

Land Committee:

- Identify suitable locations for billboards to convey different types of messages throughout the year.
- Our Sign Project has been placed on the 2026 Fiscal Year. Still need to find suitable locations for signs that will not be an issue with weather-related roadway issues at the area that is being looked at now

Education:

- Implement driver's education programs in the five schools on Cheyenne River, conduct school presentations, and coordinate efforts with school staff and Tribal Education Director Dr. Farlee
- Received approval to submit the ThinkFirst Chapter Application(Letter of Support that changed to a Legal Review with Council Resolution). The Tribal Health CEO will have the Tribal Health Medical Director sign the application.

Working with ThinkFirst on dates for early 2026 for training, and currently, I have 10 different departments between the five schools and Tribal Health Programs. We are estimating to train about 30 employees in the ThinkFirst program

Tribal Committees HSS attend & Why

Tribal Transportation/ Tribal DOT:

At these meetings, representatives from the Tribal Roads, BIA Roads, City Roads, and State Roads Departments are present.

- Analyze accident data to identify causes such as driver impairment, weather conditions, or engineering issues.
- Request that the committee share all accident and impairment unidentifiable data with the state to secure additional funding.
- The Engineering Company to update the unidentifiable data to assist in the prioritization of the road repairs.

Law & Order Committee:

- Propose to change seat belt violations from secondary to primary violations
- Review and propose changes to laws, ordinances, codes, resolutions, and council motions.

 These are the 5 areas I need to look at that pertain to my position and the changes I am proposing.
- Changes with Tribal Attorney

How does Data collection help the Highway Safety Specialists do their job?

The next couple of slides outline three different ways that data collection is utilized:

- Accident Reports: These reports are used to make recommendations to the Tribal Department of Transportation (DOT) to prevent injuries and fatalities on roadways.
- 2. Seat Belt Use: Data on seat belt usage is collected to recommend changes in laws pertaining to seat belt regulations.
 - Distribution of Car Seats: This data is used to apply for more grants and to determine the number of car seats and booster seats needed for the upcoming fiscal year.

Can you see the vehicle?



Can you see the vehicle?

This is a 2006 single-cab dually pickup truck that was traveling approximately. 70+ mph and drove over the intersection.

This incident started the process on how to make this T-intersection more visible

According to the officers at the scene, this truck is about 150 yards away from the pavement. The driver was found to be impaired, with a preliminary breath test (PBT) showing a blood alcohol concentration of 0.269. Fortunately, there were no major injuries, only some scrapes on his arm from falling out of the truck. He has been medically cleared and was arrested for DUI His bond was a \$300 PR Bond, and his court date is in January 2026





Data from June 15, 2024 – September 15, 2025 June 15, 2024 – January 14,2025

- 48 Reported Drive overs
- 91.66% (44 cars) impairment
- (Drugs, Alcohol and Prescribed Medications or Over the counter Medications)
- 6.25 % (3 cars) Overdriving Road Conditions
- Did not realize the stop sign was that close
- Animal in the roadway
- 2.03% (1 car) unknown or would not give any reason

January 15, 2025 – September 15, 2025

Corrective Action taken

 ZERO Reported Drive overs at this intersection.

Rumble Strips still need to be installed

What did HSS propose to help with make this intersection safer?

2 Flashing Stop Signs

Rumble Strips

Moving the REA Pole



What has been completed at this intersection?

Moving the electric pole 30 feet to the south

2 Flashing Stop Signs

Rumble Strips will be installed before the Winter 2025



September 2024 Car Seat Check and Distribution Event

At our September 2024 car seat check event, we distributed 100 car seats.

- 100 Seats Distributed
- 87 No Car Seats
- 11 installed incorrectly or the seat needed an upgrade
- 2 installed correctly and had the correct Car Seat

Highlighting the importance of this event and our commitment to child safety.

Car Seat and Seat Belt Use on the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

Over the past 13 months Seat Belt and car seats has been very low use

- Location: Main Street at the grocery store parking lot on the 10th of the month is a high-traffic day.
- Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
- How many vehicles: 151
- 130 vehicles had no car seats or seat belt usage.
- - 10 vehicles had only the driver using a seat belt, with no passengers buckled up.
- - 8 vehicles had a single passenger in the front seat wearing a seat belt, with no other use of car seats or seat belts.
- - 3 vehicles had both the driver and all passengers using seat belts and proper car seats.
- Currently, Cheyenne River does not have a Primary Violation for Seat Belts for Adults.
- The lack of proper car seats or seat belt use for children is a primary violation, which carries a \$25 fine. I
- In contrast, adult drivers not wearing seat belts are considered a secondary violation.
- Corrective Action Propsed to Law and Order Committee by HSS Tiger
- The HSS Tiger proposed to the Law and Order Committee that seat belt violations for everyone should be classified as primary violations, and that fines for car seat regulations need to be increased to effectively change behavior, as current fines are too low.

I am dedicated to ensuring that all individuals, including my family, can travel safely on Cheyenne River Roadways.





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