



U.S. GAO and Tribal-Related Issues

**National Transportation in Indian Country
Conference**

September 17, 2019

Overview

- About GAO
- GAO Key Issues
- GAO Reports
 - Tribal Consultation (GAO-19-22)
 - Tribal Transportation (GAO-17-423)
- Workshop Session

About GAO

- An independent, nonpartisan agency serving the Congress
- Helps to improve the performance and ensure the accountability of the federal government
- Advises Congress and heads of executive agencies about ways to make government more efficient, effective, ethical, equitable, and responsive



High Risk List

Identifies federal programs and operations that are 'high risk' due to their vulnerabilities to fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement, or that need transformation.



- Our 2019 high risk list identified over 30 areas across the federal government.
- <https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-19-157SP>

GAO High Risk Area – Improving Federal Management of Programs that Serve Tribes and Their Members

High Risk Issue Since 2017

- Our work has shown federal agencies have ineffectively administered Indian education and health care programs, and inefficiently met their responsibility for managing the development of Indian energy resources.



Source: GAO analysis. | GAO-19-157SP

GAO reviews have covered a range of Native American topics

- Human trafficking of Native Americans
 - Tribal justice programs
 - Indian education
 - Indian health care
 - Telecommunications on tribal lands
 - Roads on tribal lands
 - Indian housing programs
 - Federal disaster assistance for tribes
 - Indian energy development
 - Native American cultural resources
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Tribal Consultation

GAO found ([GAO-19-22](#)):

- A number of factors hinder effective consultation including practices for initiating consultation and engaging tribes
- Federal agencies' have consultation policies but those vary widely
- A centralized system to help identify and notify tribes and better communication on how tribal input was used would facilitate consultation

March 2019

TRIBAL CONSULTATION

Additional Federal
Actions Needed for
Infrastructure Projects

Tribal Transportation

GAO found ([GAO-17-423](#)):

- Inaccuracies limit usefulness of some BIA data on road conditions
- Challenges to maintaining roads include funding constraints, overlapping jurisdictions, and weather
- Road conditions can be a barrier to school attendance

May 2017

TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION

Better Data Could
Improve Road
Management and
Inform Indian Student
Attendance Strategies

Discussion of GAO Reviews of Tribal Transportation and Tribal Consultation

Tuesday, September 17

1pm – 2:30pm

Workshop 1 – Cheyenne