



EQUITY CHALLENGES

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CHALLENGES

- Government Officials lacking knowledge and/or capacity, having assumptions of Indian Country
- Tribes being able to tell their stories specifically in this case how transportation impacts their daily lives
- Where has mainstream society have us starting (Being given special treatment)



What Equity means to Office of Tribal Affairs OTA

- Understanding we do not all start from same place (Hollywood/Fear)
- Increase visibility for the work/responsibility across Indian Country (Self-Governance)
- Awareness around the Constitutional relationship with treaties and tribes (Respect Tribal Nations sovereign inherit rights to govern)



Equity in Government to Government

- Provide space for acknowledgement of different view of history
 - Bias
 - What treaties mean “Given”
 - Being Given Special Treatment
- Find understanding around Sovereignty
 - 11% of MnDOT Transportation is located within Indian Country
 - A view point that sovereign entities must develop cooperative relationships



How to find Equity in Government to Government

- Acknowledge that tribes are at the same level as federal government
 - Sovereign decision making
 - Sovereignty is acknowledged in U.S. Constitution
- Tribal citizenship is not a racial classification
 - Supreme court has stated that being an Indian is a political classification
- Innovation must be at the forefront of institutional intent
 - Access matters
 - Provide opportunities
 - Capacity matters
 - **TRAIN STAFF AND LEADERSHIP**



Thank you again!

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