

## § 170.121

limits, maximum vehicular size, and weight limits, and identify needed traffic control devices; and

(c) Erect, maintain, and enforce compliance with signs and pavement markings.

### § 170.121 What is a cultural access road?

(a) A cultural access road is a public road that provides access to sites for cultural purposes as defined by individual tribal traditions, which may include, for example:

- (1) Sacred and medicinal sites;
- (2) Gathering medicines or materials such as grasses for basket weaving; or
- (3) Other traditional activities, including, but not limited to, subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering.

(b) A tribal government may unilaterally designate a tribal road as a cultural access road. A cultural access road designation is an entirely voluntary and internal decision made by the tribe to help it and other public authorities manage, protect, and preserve access to locations that have cultural significance.

(c) In order for a tribal government to designate a non-tribal road as a cultural access road, it must enter into an agreement with the public authority having jurisdiction over the road.

(d) Cultural access roads may be included in the IRR Inventory if they meet the definition of an IRR.

### § 170.122 Can a tribe close a cultural access road?

(a) A tribe with jurisdiction over a cultural access road can close it. The tribe can do this:

- (1) During periods when the tribe or tribal members are involved in cultural activities; and
- (2) In order to protect the health and safety of the tribal members or the general public.

(b) Cultural access roads designated through an agreement with a public authority may only be closed according to the provisions of the agreement. See § 170.121(c).

## 25 CFR Ch. I (4–1–11 Edition)

### SEASONAL TRANSPORTATION ROUTES

#### § 170.123 What are seasonal transportation routes?

Seasonal transportation routes are non-recreational transportation routes in the IRR Inventory that provide access to Indian communities or villages and may not be open for year-round use. They include snowmobile trails, ice roads, and overland winter roads.

#### § 170.124 Does the IRR Program cover seasonal transportation routes?

Yes. IRR Program funds can be used to build seasonal transportation routes and a tribe may request that BIA include seasonal transportation routes in the IRR Inventory.

(a) Standards for seasonal transportation routes are found in the design standards identified in appendix B to subpart D. A tribe can also develop or adopt standards that are equal to or exceed these standards.

(b) Construction of a seasonal transportation route requires a right-of-way or use permit.

### IRR HOUSING ACCESS ROADS

#### § 170.127 What terms apply to access roads?

(a) *IRR housing access road* means a public road on the IRR System that provides access to a housing cluster.

(b) *IRR housing street* means a public road on the IRR System that provides access to adjacent homes within a housing cluster.

(c) *Housing cluster* means three or more existing or proposed housing units.

#### § 170.128 Are housing access roads and housing streets eligible for IRR Program funding?

Yes. IRR housing access roads and housing streets on public rights-of-way are eligible for construction, reconstruction, and rehabilitation funding under the IRR Program. Tribes, following the transportation planning process as required in subpart D, may include housing access roads and housing street projects on the Tribal Transportation Improvement Program (TTIP). IRR Program funds are available after the projects are listed on the FHWA-approved IRR/TIP.

**Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior**

**§ 170.136**

**TOLL, FERRY AND AIRPORT FACILITIES**

**§ 170.130 How can tribes use Federal highway funds for toll and ferry facilities?**

(a) A tribe can use Federal-aid highway funds, including IRR Program funds, to study, design, construct, and operate toll highways, bridges, and tunnels, as well as ferry boats and ferry terminal facilities. The following table shows how a tribe can initiate construction of these facilities.

To initiate construction of a . . .	A tribe must . . .
(1) Toll highway, bridge, or tunnel.	(i) Meet and follow the requirements set forth in 23 U.S.C. 129; and (ii) If IRR Program funds are used, enter into a self-tunnel governance agreement or self-determination contract with the Secretary of the Interior.
(2) Ferry boat or ferry terminal.	Meet and follow the requirements set forth in 23 U.S.C. 129(c).

(b) A tribe can use IRR Program funds to fund 100 percent of the conversion or construction of a toll facility.

(c) If a tribe obtains non-IRR Program Federal funding for the conversion or construction of a toll facility, these funds will cover a maximum of 80 percent of the project cost. In this case, the tribe may use IRR Program funds for the required 20 percent local match.

**§ 170.131 How can a tribe find out more about designing and operating a toll facility?**

Information on designing and operating a toll highway, bridge or tunnel is available from the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association. The Association publishes a variety of reports, statistics, and analyses. The Web site is located at <http://www.ibtta.org>. Information is also available from FHWA.

**§ 170.132 When can a tribe use IRR Program funds for airport facilities?**

(a) A tribe can use IRR Program funds for construction of airport and heliport access roads, if the access roads are open to the public.

(b) A tribe cannot use IRR Program funds to construct or improve runways, airports or heliports. Funds for these uses are available under the Airport

Improvement Program (AIP) from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). (See FAA Advisory Circular No. 150/5370-10A.)

**RECREATION, TOURISM AND TRAILS**

**§ 170.135 Can a tribe use Federal funds for its recreation, tourism, and trails program?**

Yes. A tribe, tribal organization, tribal consortium, or BIA may use IRR Program funds for recreation, tourism, and trails programs if the programs are included in the IRR/TIP. Additionally, the following Federal programs for recreation, tourism, and trails are possible sources of Federal funding:

- (a) IRR Program (23 U.S.C. 204);
- (b) Surface Transportation Program—Transportation Enhancement (23 U.S.C. 133);
- (c) National Scenic Byway Program (23 U.S.C. 162);
- (d) Recreational Trails Program (23 U.S.C. 206);
- (e) National Highway System (23 U.S.C. 104);
- (f) Public Lands Discretionary Program (23 U.S.C. 204);
- (g) Other funding from other Federal departments; and
- (h) Other funding that Congress may authorize and appropriate.

**§ 170.136 How can a tribe obtain funds?**

(a) To receive funding for programs that serve recreation, tourism, and trails' goals, a tribe should:

- (1) Identify a program meeting the eligibility guidelines for the funds and have it ready for development; and
- (2) Have a viable project ready for improvement or construction, including necessary permits.

(b) FHWA provides Federal funds to the States for recreation, tourism, and trails under 23 U.S.C. 104, 133, 162, 204, and 206. States solicit proposals from tribes and local governments in their transportation planning process. A tribe may ask:

- (1) To administer these programs under the State's locally administered project program; or
- (2) That for projects that are otherwise contractible under Public Law 93-638 (25 U.S.C. 450 *et seq.*), that the State return the funds to FHWA and have