

Pine Ridge Projects

SDDOT provides a variety of opportunities for input from our Tribal partners throughout the life of the project. There is interaction at various points from concept to construction. This ensures that Tribal interests are considered and promote Tribal involvement in the construction phase through employment opportunities, subcontracting and Tribal monitoring (if needed).

SDDOT involves Tribal Transportation staff in the planning process and project development process. The department will consult with the Tribal Transportation Director through the annual meetings held with each Tribe and the annual Tribal STIP meeting. Also, throughout the project, SDDOT staff will involve the Transportation Director in preliminary inspections and get input on access or other issues. The Tribal Transportation Director will be involved throughout the life of the project both as a resource and to provide information on the project.

The Tribal Historic Preservation Officer will be involved in the NEPA and Section 106 process. There may be a need for Tribal monitors on the project which the Tribal THPO will provide to ensure that any artifacts or Traditional Cultural Properties are preserved for the Tribe.

The department has an agreement on Indian Employment and contracting related requirements for highway construction and maintenance projects on the Pine Ridge Reservation which is commonly referred to as a TERO (Tribal Employment Rights Office) agreement. This agreement main purpose is to promote training and employment opportunities for any Native American who a registered with the Oglala Sioux Tribe (OST) TERO Office. There is a special provision inserted in any project let within the reservation boundaries either wholly or partially that includes several requirements for the contractor and any subcontractor. OST TERO has over 2000 people in their job bank. The contractor and all subcontractors are required to solicit for 80% of the non-core crew work force from the OST TERO.

Projects of this scope and location would also have On-the-Job Training requirements. Contractors are strongly encouraged to solicit the trainees from the OST TERO Office as part of the TERO Agreement. This gives Tribal members training opportunities to increase their ability for long-term employment in the highway construction industry.

When the project is in construction, department staff will regularly give updates on the project to tribally owned radio station. This is the best resource we've found to make sure Tribal members are aware of the status of the construction project and any potential delays or detours.