

**RESOLUTION OF THE  
WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE OF THE  
FORT APACHE INDIAN RESERVATION**

- WHEREAS,** the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) expires and must be reauthorized in 1997; and
- WHEREAS,** Senate Bill 437, known as the "American Indian Transportation Act of 1997" was introduced to specifically address tribal transportation needs; and
- WHEREAS,** transportation and other related issues under ISTEA are critical to American Indian Tribe's economic development and their quest for self-determination; and
- WHEREAS,** ISTEA provided for empowerment to state and local governments with the flexibility to address their transportation needs, but did not similarly empower tribes as sovereign governments; and
- WHEREAS,** federally recognized tribes are sovereign governments under Federal Trust Responsibility and the Federal Government's acknowledged policy of Indian self-determination clearly provides for direct tribal participation in national transportation initiatives such as ISTEA reauthorization legislation; and
- WHEREAS,** the tribes find ISTEA reauthorization legislation must be amended to empower tribes who have the inherent power to prioritize their own transportation needs with the same authority as other governments qualifying under the proposed act; and
- WHEREAS,** members of the Intertribal Transportation Association have experience implementing programs and projects under ISTEA and all tribes have the inherent right to determine and implement their own transportation priorities; and
- WHEREAS,** the President of the United States has reaffirmed the Administration's policy of a government to government relationship between tribes and the United States.
- BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby urges that the United States Congress:
1. Reaffirm a strong federal interest and commitment to the national transportation system and to American Indian people;

**Resolution No. 04-97-091**

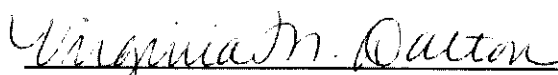
2. Establish an Office of Indian Transportation reporting directly to the Secretary of Transportation to be responsible for the federal administration of highway and transit funds for Tribal Transportation;
3. Guarantee that a minimum of two percent of all federal transit spending be allocated to tribal transportation needs;
4. Establish the same locally determined transit funding flexibility for the Indian Reservation Roads Program that state and local governments currently enjoy in the Surface Transportation Program;
5. Amend the proposed ISTEA legislation by adding and/or revising language to recognize and mandate tribal sovereign rights and to provide for direct tribal participation for all programs under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act.

The foregoing resolution was on April 09, 1997, duly adopted by a vote of eight for and zero against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it by the White Mountain Apache Tribal Constitution, including Article IV, Sections 1 (a), (b), (i), (t) and (u) of the Constitution of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe on September 30, 1993, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on November 12, 1993, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).

**RECEIVED**

WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE  
WHITE RIVER, ARIZONA

  
Chairman of the Tribal Council

  
Secretary of the Tribal Council