

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tulalip Tribes Transportation Department Honored with National BIA Award for Excellence in Infrastructure

TULALIP, WA — The Tulalip Tribes are proud to announce that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has recognized the Tulalip Tribes Transportation Department with the award for “**The Best Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Project for Hermosa Roads.**” This prestigious national recognition honors the successful completion of the 2024 Hermosa Roads Project and marks the Tulalip team’s second time receiving this distinction.

The Hermosa Roads Project was a comprehensive infrastructure initiative designed to enhance safety, accessibility, and utility reliability across the Tulalip Reservation. The scope of work included:

- Roadway Modernization, including transforming outdated gravel roads into durable asphalt pavement.
- Major upgrades to drainage systems and the addition of new sidewalks.
- Extensive improvements to the water network, including new PVC mains, fire hydrants, and service connections to ensure a reliable community water supply.

In a significant win for the Tribe’s fiscal management, the project was completed under budget while maintaining the highest safety and craftsmanship standards.

The project's success was a collaborative effort involving tribal leadership, staff, and expert partners. Key contributors recognized for their commitment include:

- Project Leadership: Christina Parker (Transportation Manager), Ross Bichel (SR Project Manager/Inspector Observer), Nicole Smith (SR Project Manager), Doug Bender (Observer), and Judi Colina (Project Management Coordinator).
- Legal & Right of Way: Rhylee Marchand (Tulalip Legal).
- External Partners: Engineering firm Parametrix and Tribal Contractor Reece Construction.

This award highlights the Tulalip Tribes' ongoing commitment to excellence in tribal sovereignty through the independent management of complex, large-scale infrastructure projects. The Transportation Department remains dedicated to building a safer, more connected future for all who live on and visit Tulalip lands.

About the Tulalip Tribes:

The Tulalip Tribes are the successors in interest to the Snohomish, Snoqualmie, Skykomish, and other allied tribes and bands signatory to the 1855 Treaty of Point Elliott. The Tribe’s reservation is located north of Marysville, Washington.

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