

# TR NEWS

## From Vision to Practice *Productive Models*

**NCHRP's  
Prolific  
Legacy**



**IDEA  
Programs  
Spark  
Innovations**



**Metropolitan  
Transportation  
Planning's  
First 50 Years**





## Ronald C. Hall

*Colorado State University and Bubar & Hall Consulting, LLC*

Ronald C. Hall observes that, in tribal policy, transportation is not always a high-profile or glamorous subject—but its significance to the health, safety, and vitality of tribal communities is paramount. “Effective transportation infrastructure is critical for any economy to exist and to remain vital,” Hall asserts. “One cannot effectively support tribal communities without engaging and collaborating with local, state, and federal partners.”

Research scientist and director of the Tribal Technical Assistance Program (TTAP) at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Hall has dedicated his career to supporting tribal communities. After graduating from Augustana College with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice studies and sociology, he received a J.D. degree from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota. Hall's early work as a law clerk addressed such issues as tribal gov-

ernmental powers, natural resources, child welfare, education, and federal and state highway programs.

tions on cultural resource management. “Adding tribal government perspectives to the state, regional, and national dialogue will improve the opportunities for tribes to participate fully in the complex issues being decided and to improve the cultural competence of everyone involved,” Hall comments.

Since 1994, Hall has served as director and principal investigator of TTAP, leading a program that meets the training, technical assistance, and technology transfer needs of tribal transportation programs in Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah. He develops and conducts transportation-related training for tribes and for federal, state, and local partners and has coordinated the National Tribal Transportation Conference since 1998.

Most tribal governments began managing and operating transportation activities after the passage of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991. “Since that time, tribes quickly have come to appreciate the value of this infrastructure to their people, economies, environment, and overall quality of life,” Hall comments. Opportunities created by transportation management include job creation and economic development; the exercise of tribal jurisdiction over public safety, environmental, and other matters; community involvement in long-range planning; and public works projects that can incorporate tribal culture. He notes

that, because most tribes have not yet developed the legal and regulatory infrastructure to administer tribal programs effectively, the strings that come with federal dollars sometimes require negotiation between tribes and federal, state, and local agencies.

Hall joined TRB's Historic and Archeological Preservation in Transportation Committee in 1999. In 2001, he founded the Native American Transportation Issues Committee, which he chaired until 2007 and still serves. He also chairs a National Cooperative Highway Research Program panel on public involvement strategies between transportation agencies and tribal communities.

The author of the forthcoming *Tribal Transportation: Native American Profiles*, Hall has addressed such topics in his research as transportation issues on tribal land, communication between transportation agencies and tribal communities, and environmental research needs in transportation. He received the Multiethnic Distinguished Service Award from Colorado State University in 2012 and the Federal Highway Administrator's Service Award in 2008. His work has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Transportation, the U.S. Air Force, the Navajo Nation, and the American Indian Council of Architects and Engineers.



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In 1986, Hall joined Fredericks & Pelcyger, a firm specializing in Native American legal issues, as an associate. He also served as executive director for the National Indian Contractors' Association from 1985 to 1988, working with Native American business owners to monitor and comment on federal legislative and regulatory actions. Hall then established and managed the legal department for a surety bond management corporation, ran a solo law practice, and joined the federal Indian law practice of Gover, Stetson, and Williams, P.C., as associate attorney in 1991. From 1989 to 1994, he served as general counsel for Transportation Associates, Inc., a Native American-owned consulting corporation. Today, Hall is an expert in Native American transportation law and policy.

Hall earned certification in mediation from the University of New Mexico Law School in 1989. As president of Bubar & Hall Consulting, LLC, a Native American-owned firm founded in 1993, he mediates disputes across jurisdictions and facilitates agreements to enhance communication, problem solving, and alternative dispute resolution. Hall brings together tribes and leaders from Department of Defense facilities for tribal consulta-