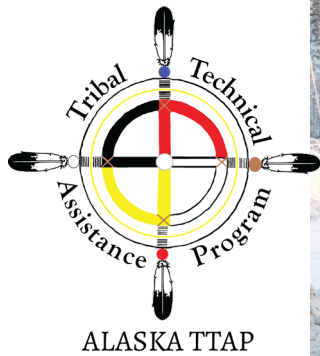




AKTTAP Newsletter | June 2026

Considerations for Pavement Use in Rural Alaska

Should my village pave its roads or use dust palliatives? Are paved village streets worth the cost? How can rural Alaska reduce paving costs? These questions often come up during our dust management and gravel road maintenance trainings. Unfortunately, the answer is not simple. Villages with populations over 2,000 often have streets with average annual daily traffic (AADT) above 1,500 vehicles per day, which exceeds the commonly recommended threshold for paving.

Although 1,500 AADT is often cited as the paving threshold, it is not a firm rule. On the East Coast, agencies often use 800 AADT instead. The difference reflects a greater willingness to invest in paved roads as a quality-of-life improvement. Several years ago, Kawerak studied these benefits by paving roads in Unalakleet. Although the project was costly, its effect on the village was immediate and significant. The day after paving was completed, bicycles, skateboards, and wheelchairs appeared on the streets, and pedestrian activity increased. The quality-of-life improvement was clear.

The Alaska Tribal and Technical Assistance Program (TTAP) will host a paving workshop on October 27 and 28 at the Anchorage Hilton Downtown to address these common questions. Instead of focusing on how to pave, the workshop will explore why a community might consider paving, what factors shape that decision, how costs can be reduced, and other questions participants may have. Registration will open in August 2026.



Photos of paving in Unalakleet in September 2010, provided by Kawerak.

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We acknowledge the Alaska Native nations upon whose ancestral lands our campuses reside. In Fairbanks, our Troth Yedha' Campus is located on the ancestral lands of the Dena people of the lower Tanana River.



Upcoming Events

TTP 201 Class *October 14-15, 2026*

The Alaska TTAP plans to provide a 2-day class on the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) in Fairbanks, Alaska on October 14-15 2026. The class will be held in the BP Design Theater on the UAF campus. Registration for the course will open in early August. This intensive 2-day, in-person course builds upon FHWA's "Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) 101" online course. This course will take an in-depth look at the administration of the TTP and associated projects and activities. This course is designed for Tribal Transportation employees, State and local government transportation professions that interact with Tribal Transportation Departments, who would like detailed information about the TTP. This includes Tribal Council members, Tribal transportation practitioners, and state and local agency practitioners. It is encouraged that attendees complete Federal Highway Administration Local Aid Support's Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) 101 on-line at no cost (registration required) prior to attending this course. This is the same course that was offered in February 2026 in Anchorage.



Small Scale Paving Workshop

October 27-28, 2026

The AKTTAP will be presenting a 2-day workshop on small scale paving in Alaska Villages in Anchorage on October 27-28, 2026. The workshop is intended for tribal transportation programs considering the use of pavement as a dust mitigation measure in their community. The focus will be on small-scale paving projects, pros and cons of paving, and best practices for successful pavement in rural Alaska. Registration will open in August 2026.



Past Webinars Available on YouTube

Ongoing

Every webinar sponsored by the AKTTAP is recorded and posted to the AIDC channel on YouTube. Topics currently available are Dust management, Updating Your LRTP, Ice Roads Funding, and DOT Grants Dashboard Demonstration. The dedicated AKTTAP playlist can be found at [AKTTAP Playlist](#). New videos are added within 1-2 days of the original webinar presentation as part of the AKTTAP webinar series. Ideas for topics are welcome.



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