

**The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL  
of the FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES**

NUMBER 97-01

**Resolution Asking Congress to Fully Fund Transportation and Safety Programs**

**WHEREAS,**

the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes is an organization which unites the tribal governments of the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee (Creek), and Seminole Nations, representing over 300,000 Indian people throughout the United States, and

**WHEREAS,**

Motor vehicle-related injuries among Native American are four times as high as the same type of injuries among other Americans, and

**WHEREAS,**

75% of all fatal traffic accidents of Native Americans are alcohol-related, safety belt use is lower than average and many roadways in Indian Country are in need of safety improvements, and

**WHEREAS,**

More than \$150 million is spent annually by the Indian Health Service for transportation and medical care for acutely injured Indian people, and the annual societal cost of traumatic injury among Native Americans is greater than \$900 million, and

**WHEREAS,**

The member tribes of the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes seek to preserve the lives of their respective citizens by decreasing motor vehicle-related injury, deaths and permanent disabilities, and

**WHEREAS,**

The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes believes that serious injury and death can be reduced through greater emphasis on highway and traffic safety issues on Indian lands and by building the infrastructure organization to effectively address the traffic safety problems in Indian Country, and

**WHEREAS,**

Existing programs in Indian Country clearly demonstrate that the incidence of injury can be greatly reduced through improved traffic safety programs, and

**WHEREAS,**

The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes acknowledges that an insignificant amount of funds has been dedicated to highway and traffic safety issues in Indian Country when measure against the immensity of this problem,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,**

that the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes hereby respectfully requests the Congress of the United States of America to become more engaged in this important public safety issue and to help tribes by providing desperately needed resources during the reauthorization of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, and appropriations to other federal agency programs, and thereby preserve life and prevent injuries among the Native American population.