

**RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY
OF THE THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES OF
THE FORT BERTHOLD RESERVATION**

WHEREAS, This Nation having accepted the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934, and the authority under said Act; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the Three Affiliated Tribes generally authorizes and empowers the Tribal Business Council to engage in activities on behalf of and in the interest of the welfare and benefit of the Tribes and the enrolled members thereof; and

WHEREAS, The Four Bears Bridge crossing the Missouri River on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation is narrow and in need of substantial and costly repairs to keep the bridge usable, and the U. S. Congress has appropriated \$35 million and the State of North Dakota will supplement that appropriation with \$8.2 million for a total of \$43.2 million for the planning, design, and construction of a new bridge and removal of the current bridge; and

WHEREAS, The Three Affiliated Tribes and the North Dakota Department of Transportation are operating under a Memorandum of Agreement to cooperatively plan, design and construct a new bridge across the Missouri River; the planning and design consultants have been selected, work is progressing on schedule, and the completion of the bridge is scheduled for the fall of 2004; and

WHEREAS, The Lewis and Clark Trail follows the Missouri River where the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Tribes' friendly hospitality and friendship helped them to survive the winter of 1804; a Tribal member, Sakakawea, further assisted them in their journey to the West Coast and their return, which all contributed to the success of their journey; and

WHEREAS, The National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Committee is planning a series of signature events to take place along the Trail during the years 2003 -2006 and the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Tribes will be hosting one of these signature events in 2006; this event will provide an opportunity to demonstrate the lasting legacy of our three Tribes to the several million visitors, both domestic and foreign, that are predicted to travel through this area during this event; and

WHEREAS, The location of the new bridge is one of the most environmentally, culturally, and scenically sensitive areas of this region and will be of national significance for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial which is estimated to draw millions of visitors to this area; and

WHEREAS, "The vision of the Federal Highway Administration is to create the best transportation system in the world for the American people through proactive leadership, innovation, and excellence in service" by using the Principles of Context Sensitive Design. "In working towards that vision, one of the key strategies of FHWA's National Strategic Plan is to work with their partners to ensure that highway facilities balance local, regional, and national concerns with the natural environment and add value to the community. To that end, FHWA provides technical assistance to state DOT's in applying context-sensitive design concepts within their agencies"; and

WHEREAS, While applying the vision of the FHWA, the design consultants have developed a concept for a 3-pylon cable stay bridge that incorporates context-sensitive design features to reflect the culture and history of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Tribes as well as the environment; and

WHEREAS, The cost of the 3-pylon cable stay bridge is estimated to be \$54.2 million which exceeds the available funding by \$11.0 million; and

WHEREAS, The Three Affiliated Tribes believe that the added cost of a cable stay bridge would be a wise investment that will be returned to the Tribes and the State of North Dakota many times over through tourism and economic development; and

WHEREAS, The new bridge is located on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation and qualifies for funding from the Indian Reservation Road Program; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Tribal Business Council of The Three Affiliated Tribes desires to construct a 3-pylon cable stay bridge to stimulate and help sustain the economy of the Reservation and the state of North Dakota.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Tribal Business Council hereby requests the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Federal Lands Highway Program to add the replacement for the Four Bears Bridge to the Fiscal Year 2002 Indian Reservation Road Bridge Program as our number one priority and authorize funding from the Indian Reservation Road Bridge Program for the maximum amount allowable.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the Tribal Business Council of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, hereby certify that the Tribal Business Council is composed of 7 members of whom 5 constitute a quorum, 7 were present at a Regular meeting thereof duly called, noticed, convened, and held on the 8th day of November, 2001; that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of 7 members, 0 members opposed, 0 members abstained, 0 members not voting, and that said Resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

Dated this 8th Day of November, 2000

Marcus Wells

Secretary, Tribal Business Council

ATTEST:

Myra R. Hall
Chairman, Tribal Business Council