

# MOUNTAIN-PLAINS CONSORTIUM

PROJECT BRIEF | MPC 15-293 | December 2015

## Developing a Livability Program for Indian Reservations: A Methodology and Case Study



### the **ISSUE**

Livability is a fairly new concept which is well understood for urban areas but not so much for rural areas and even is less so for Indian reservations.

### the **RESEARCH**

In this report, a methodology was developed to identify the important livability issues for Tribal communities. This methodology consists of data collection, analysis and development of the program. The methodology was implemented on the Wind River Indian Reservation (WRIR). Data was collected from the Needs Determination survey (WINDS III), stakeholder surveys, and resident surveys determining most common livability themes. Researchers formulated a livability definition focusing on a community having well maintained roads with safe pedestrian/bicycle facilities which benefits the people by providing access to jobs, health care, and recreational activities and by preserving the culture and sovereignty.

The final step in the methodology is to develop a livability program that includes programs and projects currently in place and other programs for future considerations that will address identified issues. Coordination and collaboration is important to the success of a practical livability program and includes engaging the community for their feedback and review.



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North Dakota State University  
South Dakota State University

University of Colorado Denver  
University of Denver  
University of Utah

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Developing a Livability  
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## the FINDINGS

This methodology can be implemented on other Indian reservations across the U.S. and will require coordination with other states, tribal governments, and Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) and Tribal Technical Assistance Program (TTAP) centers. The commonalities from a broader implementation will provide comparisons and analysis of important issues of livability on Indian reservations which will help guide tribes in making decisions to better allocate resources for transportation, economic development, and improved quality of life.

## the IMPACT

The developed methodology has been instrumental in helping the Wind River Indian Reservation secure funding for multiple safety/transportation projects. The methodology has been also presented at regional as well as national tribal conferences.

For more information on this project, download the entire report at <http://www.ugpti.org/resources/reports/details.php?id=839>

For more information or additional copies, visit the Web site at [www.mountain-plains.org](http://www.mountain-plains.org), call (701) 231-7938 or write to Mountain-Plains Consortium, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, North Dakota State University, Dept. 2880, PO Box 6050, Fargo, ND 58108-6050.



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