



the Catawba Nation

Office of Tribal Government

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CATAWBA NATION SIGNS SELF-GOVERNANCE COMPACT WITH USDOT

Rock Hill, SC - On January 16, 2025, Chief Brian Harris joined by Tribal Administrator Ashley Sexton, and Executive Director of Planning & Development Denise Bryson signed the Catawba Nation's first compact under the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Tribal Transportation Self-Governance Program (TTSGP). The Catawba Nation is the fifth of 574 Federally Recognized Tribes to sign a compact with USDOT.

"We are proud to announce this first of its kind Self-Governance Compact for the Catawba Nation," Chief Brian Harris said. "It gives the Tribe decision-making authority and flexibility over federal funds for transportation projects and transit operations to improve safety and create better connections across Catawba Nation."

The signing is the culmination dialogue between USDOT Assistant Secretary of Tribal Affairs Arlando Teller, Director of Tribal Affairs Office of the Secretary-Tribal Government Affairs Milo Booth, Senior Tribal Affairs Advisor Eldridge Onco, and the Catawba Nation for a period of 17 months.

This program, which DOT established in 2020, follows the model that the Departments of the Interior and Health and Human Services have set forth with their Tribal Self-Governance programs, which have been in place for the last two decades.

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