



THE BRANCH 324 BUZZ



July 2022

Have you heard of TIAREAP?

NALC and the Postal Service have agreed to an alternate route evaluation and adjustment process

NALC and the Postal Service have agreed to several memorandums of understanding (MOUs) to establish an alternate route evaluation and adjustment process for the remainder of 2022 and all of 2023.

MOU Re: *Technology Integrated Alternate Route Evaluation and Adjustment Process 2022 – 2023* (TIAREAP) establishes a process that utilizes information made available using Digital Street Review (DSR) technology as the primary means to evaluate and adjust city delivery routes. As in previous alternate route evaluation and adjustment processes, TIAREAP will involve multiple teams established throughout the country, comprised of one NALC representative and one USPS representative, who will jointly evaluate and adjust routes in select zones. Once the joint teams have been selected, training and zone selection will take place shortly afterward, with evaluations beginning in September. This MOU ([M-01982](#)) can be found in NALC's Materials Reference System.

A jointly developed supplemental document ([M-01983](#)) provides the mutual understanding of the national parties on issues related to the MOU Re: *Technology Integrated Alternate Route Evaluation and Adjustment Process 2022-2023*. It is intended for use by the parties at all levels in properly applying the terms of TIAREAP.

Also, as in the previous alternate route adjustment process, an MOU was agreed upon that allows local parties to jointly submit for consideration a locally developed alternate route evaluation and adjustment process to the NALC National President and the Postal Service Vice President, Labor Relations. This MOU, Re: *Alternate Evaluation and Adjustment Processes* ([M-01984](#)) requires a proposal for such alternate process to be submitted by the NALC Branch President and the Postal Service Installation Head and must provide a detailed explanation of the process. If the proposal is jointly agreed to by the national parties, the local parties will be notified regarding implementation.

The City Delivery and Workplace Improvement Task Force in the 2019-2023 National Agreement tasked the national

The City Delivery and Workplace Improvement Task Force in the 2019-2023 National Agreement tasked the national parties with jointly exploring the use of technology, data, advanced analytics and machine learning to improve operations, route evaluation, adjustment and optimization. Agreement to implement the Technology Integrated Alternate Route Evaluation and Adjustment process comes after more than 14 months of joint exploration and testing of the utilization of DSR technology to evaluate and adjust routes.

Zone selection periods

TIAREAP goes through the end of 2023. Zones may be opted in during three opt-in periods: July 2022, October 2022 and May 2023. While the first zone selections begin in July, all evaluations and adjustments will not necessarily begin at the same time. The District Lead Team will schedule evaluations to begin based on several factors, such as resources available (number of route evaluation and adjustment teams), availability of DSR data and/or current representative PS Form 3999s, status of data preparation of zones using Carrier Optimal Routing for adjustment purposes, and the requirement to have the adjustments for each zone implemented within 75 days of the start date of the analysis.

Adjustments

In past adjustments, managers would accompany carriers on the route to create a PS Form 3999 that was used to determine the value of territory transferred from one route to the other. In TIAREAP, the team will choose a representative day from the Live Week and generate a PS Form 3999-DSR to be used for territory adjustment. Using a PS Form 3999-DSR from the Live Week ensures that the carrier has had the opportunity to provide input to the team regarding any specific issues related to their route. If the team proposes adjusting a route by moving territory to or from that route, the third consultation—an adjustment consultation—will be conducted with the regular (or mutually agreed-upon replacement) carrier prior to any adjustments being implemented. This is the carrier's opportunity to provide information about the proposed territory adjustments and for the team to answer any questions the carrier may have. The MOU requires that any agreed-upon adjustments should be made within 75 days of the end of the Live Week of data collection.

The full details of TIAREAP can be found in the July issue of the NALC Postal Record.