



## 23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Resources and Development Committee approves the FY2018 Navajo Nation Tribal Transportation Improvement Program**

**WINDOW ROCK** – On Wednesday, the Resources and Development Committee considered Legislation No. 0084-18, approving the FY2018 Navajo Nation Tribal Transportation Improvement Program that will be submitted to the Federal Highway Administration.

The Navajo Nation Division of Transportation, in collaboration with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, local, state, and federal agencies completed the FY2018 NNTTIP priority listing that outlines a five-year funding plan to manage the transportation system.

The Navajo Nation receives approximately \$54 million annually from the Federal Highway Administration under the Tribal Transportation Program to plan, design, build, maintain and operate tribal and BIA owned roads and bridges within the Navajo Nation.

RDC vice chair Council Delegate Benjamin L. Bennett (Crystal, Fort Defiance, Red Lake, Sawmill), who sponsored the legislation, stated that the NNTTIP priority listing reflects transportation projects that are critically needed within Navajo communities.

“In March, the committee held a work session regarding the proposed priority listing. The priority listing considered transportation projects based on preservation and safety. Each project has completed the necessary process to be on the priority listing,” said Delegate Bennett.

During the discussion, RDC member Council Delegate Davis Filfred (Mexican Water, Aneth, Teecnospos, Tólikan, Red Mesa) asked if the funding was equally distributed among the five Navajo agencies.

“The funding should be invested equally among the five agencies. Each agency should have the equal opportunity to present their critical road improvement projects. How much funding will each agency receive within the NNTTIP?” asked Delegate Filfred.

According to NDOT director Garret Silversmith, the FY2018 NNTTIP five-year funding plan would allocate approximately 35-percent to Chinle Agency, 21-percent to Fort Defiance Agency, 19-percent to Eastern Agency, 18-percent to Northern Agency, and six-percent to Western Agency.

RDC chair Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichíí, Steamboat) emphasized that the projects reflect the goals and objectives of the Long Range Transportation Plan and the Navajo Nation road inventory.

"There were two work sessions regarding the FY2018 NNTTIP and agency public presentations were conducted. The FY2018 NNTTIP is ready to be forwarded to the Federal Highway Administration," said Delegate Shepherd.

The Resources and Development Committee approved Legislation No. 0084-18 with a 4-1 vote and serves as the final authority for the bill.

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