



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Resources and Development Committee approves \$2.1 million Navajo Nation Road Funding Plan

WINDOW ROCK – On Tuesday, the Resources and Development Committee approved the FY 2016 Navajo Nation Road Funding Plan in the amount of \$2,175,000.

The Navajo Nation Road Funding Plan includes road maintenance and road improvement activities, preliminary engineering, drainage analysis, centerline surveys, gravel application projects, purchase of aggregate materials and culverts, street and roadway lighting, maintenance yard activities, matching funds to counties that support the Navajo transportation systems.

The plan outlines the following eight projects: Fort Defiance solar street lighting, N8030 Pinon gravel application, N16 Inscription House culvert installation, Chinle cemetery access road, Navajo County gravel crushing, Coconino County match, N9660 Johnson Ranch road contribution, and Tse Bonito Navajo Oil and Gas access road.

RDC member Council Delegate Leonard H. Pete (Chinle), who sponsored the legislation, asked for the support of his colleagues and added that the plan has completed the 164 review process.

The purpose of the fund is to establish a special fund account to defray the cost of government services for the development, construction, and maintenance of transportation projects that have not been included in the current short-term construction plans by federal government agencies and programs, state, or county highway maintenance programs in accordance with 12 N.N.C. section 1004 (c), which states that the Navajo Division of Transportation shall submit the funding plan to the RDC for annual approval in accordance with the annual established budget policies and procedures.

RDC member Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake) asked if the eight projects were included in the Tribal Transportation Improvement Program and what types of funds are being used for the projects.

NDOT Manager Ray Russell stated that the eight projects are not part of the TTIP process and the projects were selected based on safety measures and the road management fund policies. Future road funding plan projects will follow the TTIP process.

“The funding source of the road funding plan will come from the Navajo Nation Fuel Excise Tax, which is used for administration cost, preliminary studies, road maintenance, and road improvements,” stated Russell.

Delegate Tsosie also addressed another concern regarding a budget transfer when the plan was going through the 164 review process.

“I noticed that there was a budget transfer during the 164 review process of over \$11,000 to cover the overall cost of the projects. NDOT should adjust all their budget accounts before they present a plan so it can avoid delays or questionable concerns,” stated Delegate Tsosie.

RDC voted 4-0 to approve the FY 2016 road funding plan with one failed amendment to include N2 Birdsprings gravel material.

The Resources and Development Committee serves as the final authority for Legislation No. 0084-16.

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