



The 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
Office of the Speaker

MEDIA CONTACTS

Kyron Hardy, Interim Communications Director
Kolton Nephew, Legislative Staff Writer
E-mail: nnlb.communications@gmail.com

Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. continues request for Hopi BIA Route 60 improvements

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PHOTO: Hon. Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. discussing with Ivan Sidney, Village Administrator for the First Mesaa Consolidated Villages of the Hopi Tribe, potential avenues to have H60 improved while standing at a washed-out part.

LOW MOUNTAIN, Ariz. — Yesterday, Hon. Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Tachee/Blue Gap, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tselani/Cottonwood, Low Mountain) of the 24th Navajo Nation Council met with representatives from both the Hopi Tribe and the U.S. Department of Transportation to record first-hand accounts of the unimproved conditions of Hopi BIA Route (H60). Tribal leaders urge the U.S. Secretary of Transportation to visit H60 and to request immediate action to take place for improved road construction.

“I am pleading to Secretary Buttigieg on behalf of the community, children, and elders who rely on H60 for both daily and emergency services to have this road paved,” said Delegate Begay. “This issue is shared between the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe, so I am asking for your consideration to act on behalf of your constituents to have this road paved.”

Among those who attended the field tour was Ivan Sidney, Village Administrator for the First Mesa Consolidated Villages of the Hopi Tribe, and Arlando Teller, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Tribal Affairs at the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Both tribal leaders expressed how impassable H60 has become due to the heavy rainfall that the region has been experiencing. School buses and emergency vehicles are unable to serve residents from Low Mountain and Polacca due to flooding and washed-out roads.

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Overlooking washed-out parts of the road, both Delegate Begay and Mr. Sidney recorded a video for U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Pete Buttigieg, discussing how both tribes have been stuck in the bureaucracy of state and federal policies. Thus, no new progress has been made on paving or addressing the issue.

“Although there have been attempts of paving H60 on a tribal level, both the Hopi Tribe and Navajo Nation need support on a congressional level due to the many jurisdictions that are within this single road,” said Delegate Begay.

Mr. Sidney spoke on how many Hopi and Navajo residents living in the area are disproportionately impacted due to H60 being the only road to emergency services. Additionally, he included that throughout his years in public service, H60 has yet to be paved.

“In the past, both tribal governments were able to effectively work together on different road projects, however, with the change in politics over time, we are finding ourselves needing help from the federal government,” said Mr. Sidney. “However, I am willing to put as much effort and resources needed to see this road be paved before I retire from politics.”

Delegate Begay and Mr. Sidney, along with the help from Mr. Teller will continue their efforts in effectively lobbying for the pavement of H60 this coming fall.

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