



25th Navajo Nation Council

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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25th Navajo Nation Council continues advocacy for Environmental Impact Study funding for Navajo Mountain road project



PHOTO: Left to right, Utah State Senator Nate Blouin, Council Delegate Shaandiin Parrish, Navajo Nation Speaker Crystalyne Curley, Representative Joel Briscoe, and Representative Gay Lynn Bennion.

SALT LAKE CITY, UT – The 25th Navajo Nation Council continues to spearhead efforts to secure match funding through the state of Utah for an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for the development of the Navajo Mountain road project.

On Thursday, 25th Navajo Nation Council Speaker and Council Delegate Shaandiin Parrish met with Utah Senate Executive Appropriations Committee Chair Jerry W. Stevenson and Vice Chair Donovan L. Ipson at the Utah State Capitol, to discuss the road project, which holds great importance for the Navajo Nation to enhance accessibility, connectivity, and economic opportunities for Navajo and non-Navajo people in the region.

Throughout the Utah State Legislative Session, Speaker Curley and her Council colleagues informed state legislators that the Navajo Nation has commitments to cover nearly half of the total estimated cost of \$4 million for the EIS, including \$1 million from the Navajo Division of Transportation.

“The Navajo Nation has been fighting for this road development for over 15 years. We’ve discussed this issue in good faith with many state legislators. Although we are told that there

is no state funding available time and time again, we're not giving up. We're going to continue to prioritize the EIS funding and move this project forward. The 25th Navajo Nation Council remains committed to sustainable infrastructure development and making basic services more accessible for Navajo people in rural areas," said Speaker Crystalyne Curley.

By advocating for EIS funding, Speaker Curley stated that the Navajo Nation Council aims to ensure that the road is constructed to reduce emergency response times, improve bus routes for students, and create more economic and tourism opportunities.

"I was born and raised in the area where this project is being proposed and we recognize the significance of the project in fostering economic growth and improving the quality of life for our people," stated Delegate Parrish. "Securing funding for the EIS is a critical step in ensuring that this project proceeds to the next step."

Delegate Parrish noted that the Navajo Nation contributes millions of dollars in tax revenue to the state of Utah on an annual basis and noted that the project was previously on the Utah Governor's priority list.

On Wednesday, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren and Speaker Curley issued a joint letter to the Executive Appropriations Committee urging support for the EIS funding.

The Navajo Nation Council continues urging state leaders to support the allocation of funding for the EIS, underscoring the importance of partnership in advancing infrastructure projects that benefit both the Navajo Nation and the broader communities in the state of Utah.

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