



25th Navajo Nation Council

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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25th Navajo Nation Council celebrates groundbreaking of long-awaited loop road improvement project



Left to Right: Chapter Vice President Tully Begay, Chapter Manager Maricelyn Smith, Chapter President Larry Tuni, Chair Shaandiin Parrish, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren, Delegate Shawna Ann Claw, and former Delegate Katherine Benally participate in groundbreaking ceremony in Dennehotso Chapter.

DENNEHOTSO, Ariz.- On Friday, Sept. 13, Council Delegates Shaandiin Parrish and Shawna Ann Claw joined Dennehotso chapter officials and community members for the groundbreaking ceremony of the Dennehotso Loop Road Improvements.

The FHWA Tribal Transportation Program and Tribal Transportation Facility Bridge Program funded the \$18.8 million road project, demonstrating a successful collaboration between federal and tribal agencies. The 5.7 mile N6461/N6460 Road Improvement Project will address long-standing transportation challenges, ensuring better access to emergency services, schools, and other vital community resources.

Budget and Finance Chair Council Delegate Parrish expressed her gratitude to the community members who have tirelessly advocated for this project over the years.

“I am humbled to be surrounded by members of the community that have pushed this road into existence,” Chair Parrish stated. “Today, we get to see pavement, and our people will be able to reach emergency services more quickly, and our students will get to school more efficiently. This project makes a real difference in the quality of life here in Dennehotso.”

Chair Parrish emphasized the importance of transparency and fiscal responsibility in the continued development of community projects. She highlighted the collaborative efforts between local leadership, the Navajo Department of Transportation, and the community. "It takes a team of people, and I cannot express my appreciation enough," she said. "Your voices matter, and today we can finally break ground on this project."

Delegate Claw, who serves on the Resource and Development Committee, remarked on the impact that the road improvements will have on the community. "This is a beautiful achievement," Claw said. "As I was driving in, I saw the big buses driving by, and I thought, 'Wow, I can't wait till those children get to experience riding on that paved road.'"

Delegate Claw acknowledged the efforts of the Navajo Nation Department of Transportation and their dedication to completing this and other infrastructure projects across the nation. "The Navajo Department of Transportation is doing great things," she said. "They are looking at obtaining more equipment, helping more people, and responding to emergency situations when the communities need them. They are there."

This groundbreaking marks a pivotal moment for Dennehotso, symbolizing the culmination of years of advocacy, planning, and collaboration. It also serves as a testament to the power of community-led initiatives and the impact they can have on improving infrastructure and quality of life.

The ceremony was a celebration of the collective efforts of the community, past and present leadership, and the Navajo Department of Transportation.

As the project moves forward, the 25th Navajo Nation council looks forward to the positive changes and opportunities it will bring, reinforcing the importance of perseverance, unity, and collaboration in achieving shared goals.

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