



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

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## **RDC approves technical amendment to FET fund reallocation legislation**



**Council Delegate Danny Simpson sponsored Legislation 0046-25.**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** - On Monday, the Resources and Development Committee (RDC) unanimously approved Legislation 0046-25, an action to amend and correct RDCJN-23-24 by inserting updated Exhibit A and Exhibit B documents that accurately reflect the \$1,068,991.15 budget reallocation previously authorized.

The legislation replaces outdated exhibits from RDCJN-23-24 to align with the approved reallocation of excess funds from 34 completed Navajo Nation Road Fund projects. The funds are being directed to address shortfalls in three infrastructure efforts: the N36/NM371 Intersection Improvement Project, the Whitehorse Yard Maintenance Building, and NDOT Road Projects under Business Unit C01561.

“This is about reassessing budgeted funds and delivering on priorities our communities have waited years to see completed,” said Delegate Danny Simpson, who sponsored the legislation. “We’re not changing direction. We’re making sure the documents match what has already been approved.”

During the session, NDOT Senior Planner Marco Sells explained that these projects were originally prioritized in 2013 and 2016 and are not new proposals. He noted that the funds serve as supplemental support, particularly where anticipated state matching funds were not reauthorized.

Several delegates raised concerns about the transparency and equity of the Fuel Excise Tax (FET) reallocation process. Council Delegate Otto Tso and Delegate Shawna Claw emphasized the need for a clear policy outlining how excess FET funds are prioritized and distributed. Claw pointed out that 82 percent of FET revenue is collected in Arizona, compared to 16 percent in New Mexico and 2 percent in Utah, yet none of the projects listed in the amendment are in Arizona.

“We want to understand how projects are being selected and ensure that communities contributing the most are receiving fair investment,” said Claw.

Sells responded that a formal breakdown of FET revenue by region and a more transparent allocation process would be valuable. Committee members requested that NDOT provide such documentation in upcoming budget discussions to guide future appropriations.

The RDC approved Legislation 0046-25 with a vote of four in favor and none opposed, with the Committee serving as final authority.

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