

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: 0012-26

SPONSOR: Arbin Mitchell

TITLE: An Action Relating to Resources and Development, Budget and Finance, and the Naabik'íyáti' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Allocating 84,000,000 from the Navajo Nation Síhasin Fund for the Navajo Nation Transportation Improvement Project; Approving and Adopting the Navajo Nation Transportation Improvement Project Expenditure Plan Pursuant to 12 N.N.C §§ 2501 - 2508

Date posted: January 16, 2026 at 4:32PM

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET
Tracking No. 0012-26

DATE: January 15, 2026

AN ACTION RELATING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, BUDGET AND FINANCE, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; ALLOCATING \$84,000,000 FROM THE NAVAJO NATION SÍHASIN FUND FOR THE NAVAJO NATION TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT; APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE NAVAJO NATION TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT EXPENDITURE PLAN PURSUANT TO 12 N.N.C §§ 2501 – 2508

PURPOSE: This resolution, if approved, would allocate \$84,000,000 from the Síhasin Fund to execute the Transportation Improvement Expenditure Plan for the Navajo Nation.

FINAL AUTHORITY: Navajo Nation Council

VOTE REQUIRED: 2/3 Vote

This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committees. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each Council Delegate to review each proposed resolution in detail.

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: 01-21-26
Website Posting Time/Date: _____
Posting End Date: 01-21-26
Eligible for Action: 01-22-26

Resources & Development Committee
Thence
Budget & Finance Committee
Thence
Naabik'iyáti' Committee
Thence
Navajo Nation Council

1 PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION **Naabik'iyáti' Committee**
2 **25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Fourth Year, 2026** **Thence**
3
4 Introduced By
5 
6
7 (Prime Sponsor)

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9 Tracking No. 0012-26
10
11

AN ACTION

12 **RELATING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT, BUDGET AND**
13 **FINANCE, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES, AND THE NAVAJO NATION**
14 **COUNCIL; ALLOCATING \$84,000,000 FROM THE NAVAJO NATION**
15 **SÍHASIN FUND FOR THE NAVAJO NATION TRANSPORTATION**
16 **IMPROVEMENT PROJECT; APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE NAVAJO**
17 **NATION TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT EXPENDITURE**
18 **PLAN PURSUANT TO 12 N.N.C §§ 2501 – 2508**

19
20 BE IT ENACTED:

21
22 **SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY**

23 A. The Resources and Development Committee is empowered to exercise oversight of
24 matters involving roads and transportation to oversee planning and coordination of
25 roads and transportation activities. 2 N.N.C. §500(C)(6).

26 B. The Budget and Finance Committee is empowered to “appropriate, allocate, cancel, re-
27 appropriate and review the use of Navajo Nation funds received including but not
28 limited to all grants, contracts, gifts and other funds from all sources.” 2 N.N.C. §
29 301(B)(3).

1 C. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council
2 empowered to hear proposed resolutions that require final action by the Navajo Nation
3 Council. 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(9).

4 D. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §
5 102(A).

6 E. The Navajo Nation Code (at 12 N.N.C. § 2502, as amended by CJA-03-18) provides
7 that the purpose of the Navajo Nation Síhasin Fund (the "Síhasin Fund") is as follows:

8 **§ 2502 Purpose**

9 A The purposes of this Fund are to provide financial support and/or financing
10 for:

11 1. The planning and development of economic development and regional
12 infrastructure supporting economic development and community
13 development, including such infrastructure as, but not limited to,
14 housing, commercial and government buildings, waterline, solid waste
15 management development, powerline projects, transportation and
16 communication systems, within the Navajo Nation; and

17 2. Education opportunities for members of the Navajo Nation.

18 B. For the Purpose in § 2502(A)(1), Fund expenditures for infrastructure shall
19 not be limited by 12 NNC § 1310(F) or TCDCJY-77-99.

20 C. Leveraging the Fund by way of guaranteeing loans, match funding, direct
21 funding in part, and other weighted uses of the Fund, including loan
22 financing from the Fund, for the purposes in § 2502(A)(1), shall be favored
23 over direct funding in whole.

24 F. The Síhasin Fund provides that "Fund Principal" shall consist of all deposits made to
25 the Síhasin Fund and that "Fund Income" shall consist of all earnings (interest,
26 dividends, etc.) generated and realized by the Fund Principal, and that Fund Income
27 shall be deposited in and added to Fund Principal until such time as a Fund Expenditure
28 Plan is duly adopted. 12 N.N.C. §§ 2504 and 2505 (C).

29 G. The Síhasin Fund provides that "Fund Principal and Income shall not be expended
30 except pursuant to a Fund Expenditure Plan consistent with the purposes set forth in §

1 2502 of this Chapter and adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members of the
2 Navajo Nation Council.” 12 N.N.C. § 2505(A).

3

4 SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

5 A. Roads, bridges, and related transportation projects and facilities throughout the Navajo
6 Nation are in need of repair, rehabilitation and improvement to ensure safe passage
7 throughout the Navajo Nation.

8 B. The Navajo Division of Transportation (“Navajo DOT”) prepared the Navajo Nation
9 Transportation Improvement Expenditure Plan (“Transportation Improvement
10 Expenditure Plan”), which is attached as **Exhibit A**.

11 C. The Transportation Improvement Expenditure Plan includes 64 projects that distribute
12 funding in the amount of \$3,500,000 to each delegate region, for a total of \$84,000,000.
13 The projects include funding for project planning and design, road construction
14 shortfalls, and equipment acquisition.

15 D. In creating a plan that equally distributed funds for each delegate region, the Navajo
16 DOT made every effort to account for multiple variables to provide the most equitable
17 distribution possible.

18

19 SECTION THREE. APPROVAL OF SÍHASIN FUNDING AND ADOPTION OF THE 20 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT EXPENDITURE PLAN

21 A. The Navajo Nation hereby approves and adopts funding for the Transportation
22 Improvement Expenditure Plan in the amount of \$84,000,000 from the Navajo Nation
23 Síhasin Fund, in accordance with 12 N.N.C. § 2505(A).

24 B. The Navajo Nation hereby approves and adopts the Transportation Improvement
25 Expenditure Plan, detailed in **Exhibit A**.

26 C. The Síhasin Funds allocated for the Road Improvement Expenditure Plan may be
27 further leveraged by bond or loan financing pursuant to the Navajo Nation Bond
28 Financing Act, 12 N.N.C. § 1300 *et seq.*, as amended, using Síhasin Fund earnings for
29 repayment and financing costs upon the recommendation of the Budget and Finance

Committee and approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members of the Navajo Nation Council.

SECTION FOUR. APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT EXPENDITURE PLAN ADMINISTRATION

The Navajo Nation Council hereby approves the administration of the Transportation Improvement Expenditure Plan Project as follows:

- A. The Navajo Nation Controller shall determine whether the source of the annual allocations from the Project's total allocation of \$84,000,000 will be Síhasin Fund Principal or Income or a combination of both.
- B. The Síhasin funding for the Project will be distributed to the Navajo DOT in accordance with a disbursement schedule as determined by the Controller in consultation with Navajo DOT. The Navajo DOT shall be responsible for carrying out the Project, in accordance with the Project described in **Exhibit A**.
- C. The Síhasin funds allocated shall be used solely to design, study, plan, construct, reconstruct, and acquire machinery as described in **Exhibit A**. Any and all cost-savings shall be returned to the Síhasin Fund once the project is completed.
- D. Funds for the Project that are not spent or encumbered within 36 months of the date funds are made available to Navajo DOT shall revert to the Síhasin Fund principal, unless otherwise recommended by the Resources and Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council and approved by the Naabik'íyáti' Committee.
- E. Síhasin Funds are excluded from the appropriation lapse provisions in the Appropriations Act pursuant to 12 N.N.C. §820(N).
- F. The Project shall be managed by Navajo DOT, and operation, maintenance and repairs for the Project shall be performed by the State of Arizona or NDOT.

SECTION FIVE. DIRECTIVES

The Navajo Nation Division of Transportation shall report the status of the Project to the Resources and Development Committee and to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee on a quarterly basis.

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2 **SECTION SIX. EFFECTIVE DATE**

3 The Road Improvement Expenditure Plan, as set forth above, shall become effective pursuant
4 to 12 N.C. § 2505.

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6 **SECTION SEVEN. SAVING CLAUSE**

7 Should any provision(s) of this Act be determined invalid by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court
8 or the District Courts of the Navajo Nation, without appeal to the Navajo Nation Supreme
9 Court, the remainder of the Act shall remain the law of the Navajo Nation.

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