



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

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Resources and Development Committee approves legislation allocating \$84 million in Síhasin Funds for Navajo Transportation Improvement Project



Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Casey Allen Johnson (left) and Navajo Nation Division of Transportation Deputy Director Shelby Dayzie presented Legislation 0012-26 allocating \$84 million for transportation improvement.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Monday, the Resources and Development Committee (RDC) approved Legislation 0012-26, allocating \$84 million in Síhasin Funds for the Navajo Nation Transportation Improvement Project and adopting the Navajo Nation Transportation Improvement Project Expenditure Plan.

“The RDC supports the legislation’s intent to prioritize the improvement, repair, and rehabilitation of roads, bridges, and related transportation facilities to strengthen safety across the Nation,” said RDC Chair Brenda Jesus.

Legislation 0012-26 was presented by co-sponsor Council Delegate Casey Allen Johnson and Navajo Nation Division of Transportation Deputy Director Shelby Dayzie. The legislation approves the Navajo Division of Transportation’s Transportation Improvement Expenditure Plan, which includes 64 projects distributing \$3.5 million to each delegate region, for a total of \$84 million. Projects include funding for planning and design, road construction shortfalls, and equipment acquisition.

According to Deputy Director Dayzie, project selection was guided by a data-driven process that considered traffic volume, housing density, and proximity to essential services. Priority was given to school bus routes, areas near health care facilities serving high-risk patients, and roadways with safety concerns or high accident rates. Dayzie added that compliance

requirements for non-federal routes were also evaluated, with efforts underway to streamline clearances where possible. NNDOT is developing detailed scopes of work and cost estimates for each project to support delegate and chapter decision-making.

Council Delegate Shawna Ann Claw noted that the legislation was missing a memorandum from the Office of Budget and Management confirming available Síhasin funding, as well as a document from the Office of the Controller. Council Delegate Claw motioned for a directive that the required memorandums be added to the legislation before it advances to the next subcommittee.

Claw asked whether projects were selected in coordination with delegates, chapter officials, or through chapter resolutions.

Dayzie responded that NNDOT conducted one-on-one consultations with delegates, chapter officials, and school officials as part of the planning process.

Council Delegate Danny Simpson also introduced an amendment to reallocate funding from a regional road improvement project to support the planning, design, and construction of County Road 7900 in Nageezi, N.M. He noted that the current route runs along a gas line, creating safety concerns. Simpson said he worked with Council Delegate George H. Tolth, whose delegate region borders the route, to support a proposed rerouting and chip-sealing of the road.

The amendment also redirected funds from Delegate Tolth's regional road repair projects to County Road 7900.

Council Delegates Claw, Johnson, and Otto Tso further modified the amendment to redistribute funding for priority road projects in their respective delegate regions.

Delegate Claw said her constituents prioritized extending pavement on Navajo Route 7 to the Navajo Route 8015 junction and reallocated funds to support that project.

Delegate Johnson redirected funding from two projects to support the planning, design, and paving of the final segment of Navajo Route 71 in Birdsprings Chapter, citing its use as a school route. Delegate Tso amended the proposal to shift funding from three airport projects to support a pothole repair project on Navajo Route 608 and a sidewalk improvement project along Navajo Route 1017 in Tuba City, Ariz.

The Resources and Development Committee approved Legislation 0012-26 with a vote of five in favor and none opposed. The legislation moves forward to the Budget and Finance Committee.

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