



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

# 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **25th Navajo Nation Council attends Groundbreaking Ceremony for Route N12 improvement project**



**Council Delegate Carl R. Slater and Speaker Crystalayne Curley joined community leaders, agency partners, and residents to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Route N12 improvement project.**

**WHEATFIELDS, Ariz.** — Members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council joined community leaders, agency partners, and residents to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Route N12 improvement project that will enhance roadway safety, access, and long-term development in the Wheatfields area.

Council Delegate Carl R. Slater recognized the generations of leadership and community advocacy that brought the project to fruition.

“This project represents decades of persistence and vision from our communities,” said Delegate Slater. “Each generation carried this forward, and today we see that commitment take shape. This road is more than transportation; it connects our families, supports future economic growth, and reflects our responsibility to build something better for those who come after us.”

The Route N12 improvement project includes 7.2 miles of roadway improvements funded through a \$30 million investment by the Navajo Division of Transportation (NDOT). The work will include grading and subgrade construction, shoulder widening for improved safety, installation of drainage structures, fencing and cattleguards, bridge replacement at Whiskey Creek, and the development of a parking area at Wheatfields Lake.

The improvements are designed to increase roadway safety, improve accessibility for residents, and support economic and recreational opportunities in the region.

Construction is expected to begin during Spring 2026, following preconstruction activities and seasonal suspension due to winter conditions. Project partners include the NDOT, Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority, and Wilson and Company, Inc., working together to deliver critical infrastructure improvements for the community.

Speaker Crystalyne Curley also addressed attendees, emphasizing the role of community voices and collaboration in advancing infrastructure projects on the Navajo Nation.

“This project started with the people,” said Speaker Curley. “Through chapter resolutions and years of advocacy, the community made it clear that safer roads and better access were a priority. This is about making sure our students travel safely, our elders can reach essential services, and our communities continue to grow. It shows what we can accomplish when we work together.”

The improvement of Route N12 is expected to strengthen transportation access across the Tsaile, Wheatfields, and surrounding communities, while also supporting future development opportunities tied to tourism, recreation, and local commerce. Leaders encouraged community members to remain engaged throughout the construction process and to prioritize safety as work begins.

The ceremony brought together Navajo Nation leadership, including Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren, NDOT officials, chapter leadership, and community members, marking a significant step forward in addressing long-standing infrastructure needs in Wheatfields and surrounding communities.

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