



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Budget and Finance Committee receives a report on the ongoing challenges with Capital Improvement Plan



Budget and Finance Committee met with the Division of Community Development to review a comprehensive report outlining ongoing challenges with the Navajo Nation's Capital Improvement Plan.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The Budget and Finance Committee (BFC) met Tuesday to review a comprehensive report from the Division of Community Development (DCD) outlining ongoing challenges with the Navajo Nation's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and its connection to the Fiscal Year 2027 Comprehensive Budget.

The report was requested by the BFC to better understand the Nation's current infrastructure planning process and to determine how it should be addressed in upcoming budget decisions.

BFC Chair Shaandiin Parrish emphasized the need for stronger financial oversight as the Nation continues to invest in infrastructure projects. She expressed the need to assess whether the Navajo Nation is truly seeing a return on its investments.

The report provided a detailed look at the current state of the CIP, which serves as the Nation's primary system for planning and managing infrastructure projects such as roads, utilities, and public facilities. According to the report, the existing CIP framework is outdated and no longer reflects current project management needs or the scale of development across the Navajo Nation.

Council Delegate Norman M. Begay noted that the current system has created significant delays in project delivery. Many projects have remained on the books for years without completion, largely due to limited staffing, outdated policies, and complex administrative processes.

The report also highlighted ongoing challenges with communication and coordination between DCD, chapters, and elected officials, which have made it difficult to track progress and set clear priorities.

The Budget and Finance Committee stressed the need to align the CIP with the Fiscal Year 2027 Comprehensive Budget. Members emphasized that without a clear plan and adequate support for project management, the Nation will continue to face delays and inefficiencies in delivering critical infrastructure.

Delegate Cheryl Yazzie said the report confirms long-standing concerns about the Nation's planning system, and it acknowledges that the current approach is not working and needs reform.

"Projects must be prioritized based on realistic capacity," said Delegate Yazzie. "Without better planning, the backlog will continue to grow and delay essential services for our communities." Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty focused on the need to follow Navajo Nation law in both planning and budgeting. She noted that legislative efforts are underway to update Title 12 and modernize the Capital Improvement Plan to reflect current needs and timelines.

Crotty added that the Nation must take a more coordinated approach to infrastructure development by identifying clear priorities, including water, electricity, broadband, roads, and public facilities. Without a unified strategy, she said, the Nation risks continued inefficiencies and missed opportunities.

Throughout the discussion, BFC members raised concerns about whether current investments are producing meaningful outcomes and called for better planning, improved transparency, and a stronger focus on results.

The Budget and Finance Committee accepted the DCD report with four in favor and none opposed. The BFC will continue working with DCD and the executive branch to develop legislative and budget solutions aimed at improving project delivery, strengthening accountability, and ensuring that public funds are used effectively to benefit the Navajo people.

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