THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
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LEGISLATION NO: 0256-26 **SPONSOR: Brenda Jesus**

TITLE: **An Action Relating to Resources and Development Committee; Approving the Updated Plans of Operation for the Navajo Division of Transportation and its Departments**

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET
Tracking No. 0256-26

DATE: October 29, 2026

TITLE OF RESOLUTION: AN ACTION RELATING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE; APPROVING THE UPDATED PLANS OF OPERATION FOR THE NAVAJO DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION AND ITS DEPARTMENTS

PURPOSE: This legislation, if approved, would approve the updated Plans of Operation for the Navajo Division of Transportation and its departments.

FINAL AUTHORITY: Resources and Development Committee

VOTE REQUIRED: Simple Majority

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.

PROPOSED STANDING COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

25th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL—Fourth Year, 2026

Introduced by:

Primary Sponsor

Tracking No. 0256-26

AN ACTION

RELATING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE; APPROVING THE UPDATED PLANS OF OPERATION FOR THE NAVAJO DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION AND ITS DEPARTMENTS

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

A. The Resources and Development Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council with oversight authority over roads and transportation and air transportation, including the purpose of overseeing the planning and coordinating of all roads and transportation activities of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §§ 500(A) and (C)(6).

B. The Resources and Development Committee serves as the oversight committee for the Navajo Division of Transportation and has the enumerated power to grant final approval of the Plan of Operation for the Division of Transportation, including any amendments. 2 N.N.C. §§ 501(B)(2)(g) and (C)(1).

C. The Navajo Division of Transportation shall operate pursuant to a Plan of Operation as recommended by the Resources and Development Committee. 2 N.N.C. § 1371.

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

A. The Navajo Division of Transportation is established within the Executive Branch of the Navajo Nation government to exclusively administer the Navajo Nation transportation programs within the Navajo Nation, to ensure an effective and efficient transportation operation, to promote the improvement of the transportation system, and to provide the necessary resources to accomplish those objectives. 2 N.N.C. §§ 1370 and 1371.

B. Following the establishment of the Navajo Division of Transportation, the Government Services Committee of the Navajo Nation Council approved a Plan of Operation for the Division through Resolution No. GSCAU-26-09.

C. On April 16, 2013, the Navajo Nation Council adopted Resolution No. CAP-13-13, which the President of the Navajo Nation signed into law on April 26, 2013. Resolution No. CAP-13-13 reassigned and transferred the Navajo Department of Highway Safety from the Division of Public Safety to the Navajo Division of Transportation, transferred legislative oversight of the Department of Highway Safety from the Law and Order Committee to the Resources and Development Committee, amended 2 N.N.C. § 1371, and amended the Plan of Operation for the Navajo Division of Transportation so that it superseded the plan approved in Resolution No. GSCAU-26-09.

D. Resolution No. CAP-13-13 also approved amended Plans of Operation for each of the five departments that then made up the Navajo Division of Transportation: the Department of Airport Management, the Department of Highway Safety, the Department of Project Management, the Department of Transportation Planning, and the Department of Roads. The Division Plan of Operation and these five department Plans of Operation have remained in place since 2013.

E. The Navajo Air Transportation Department was established within the Division of General Services under the legislative oversight of the Health, Education and Human Services Committee. On May 25, 2017, the Health, Education and Human Services Committee adopted Resolution No. HEHSCMY-07-17, which approved an amended Plan of Operation for the Navajo Air Transportation Department to replace a plan last revised in 1998.

F. On October 20, 2021, the Navajo Nation Council adopted Resolution No. CO-59-21, which the President of the Navajo Nation signed into law on November 4, 2021. Resolution No. CO-59-21 transferred the Navajo Transit System from the Navajo Division of General Services to the Navajo Division of Transportation, placed the Navajo Transit System under the legislative oversight of the Resources and Development Committee, amended the Navajo Transit System Plan of Operation and organizational chart, and amended 2 N.N.C. § 1252(B)(8)-(9) to remove the ground transportation objective from the Division of General Services.

G. In signing Resolution No. CO-59-21, the President of the Navajo Nation recognized that the final step in the transfer would be for the Resources and Development Committee to work with the Navajo Division of Transportation to amend the Division Plan of Operation to include the Navajo Transit System.

H. As a result of these actions, the plans that govern the Navajo Division of Transportation and its departments are spread across three resolutions adopted between 2013 and 2021 by the Navajo Nation Council and the Health, Education and Human Services Committee, and those plans no longer reflect the current organization, functions, and responsibilities of the Division. Resolution Nos. CAP-13-13, CO-59-21, and HEHSCMY-07-17, including the Plans of Operation approved in each, are attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

I. The Navajo Division of Transportation has prepared updated Plans of Operation, attached hereto as **Exhibit B**, which consist of an updated Plan of Operation for the Navajo Division of Transportation and Plans of Operation for the Department of Aviation, the Department of Highway Safety, the Department of Compliance, the Department of Transportation Planning, the Department of Roads, Navajo Transit, and the Department of Engineering, together with the organizational charts for the Division and each of its departments.

J. The updated Plans of Operation align the Division with its current structure. The Department of Airport Management is replaced by a Department of Aviation that serves as the primary entity responsible for Navajo Nation-owned aviation facilities, aviation assets, aircraft systems, and Airport Fund activities, and as the Navajo

Nation's central aviation authority for the coordination of aviation activities. The Department of Project Management is no longer provided for, and the updated plans instead establish a Department of Engineering, responsible for engineering, design, right-of-way coordination, project management, and construction management, and a Department of Compliance, responsible for environmental, biological, cultural, archaeological, land surveying, and project compliance services. Navajo Transit is incorporated into the Division Plan of Operation as one of the Division's departments.

K. The updated Division Plan of Operation also restates the purpose and objectives of the Division, the responsibilities and authorities of the Executive Director, and the personnel and organization of the Division, and it adopts the road classifications and definitions of the Federal Highway Administration, including definitions of public and private roads, for transportation planning, inventory management, funding eligibility, and reporting. The Division Plan of Operation continues to place the Division under the legislative oversight of the Resources and Development Committee and provides that the Committee may amend it as deemed necessary.

L. On August 20, 2026, the Navajo Division of Transportation submitted the updated Plans of Operation to the Navajo Nation Department of Justice for legal review. On August 31, 2026, the Department of Justice deemed the updated Plans of Operation sufficient and directed that the organizational charts be included with the submittal, as they are in **Exhibit B.** The Department of Justice review is attached hereto as **Exhibit C.**

M. It would be of great benefit to the Navajo Nation to approve the updated Plans of Operation so that the Navajo Division of Transportation operates under a single, current set of plans that accurately reflects its organization, functions, and responsibilities.

SECTION THREE. APPROVAL

The Resources and Development Committee hereby approves the updated Plans of Operation for the Navajo Division of Transportation and its departments, including their organizational charts, attached hereto as **Exhibit B.**