



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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25th Navajo Nation Council approves \$20.7 million for chapter projects, extends deadline to 2028



Council Delegate Arbin Mitchell sponsor of Legislation No. 0252-25, reauthorizing and reappropriating approximately \$20.7 million in expired Síhasin Fund.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On Oct. 21, the 25th Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0252-25, reauthorizing and reappropriating approximately \$20.7 million in expired Síhasin Fund allocations for previously approved chapter projects and establishing a uniform expenditure and encumbrance deadline of Dec. 31, 2028.

The legislation provides additional time for chapters to advance infrastructure and community development projects originally funded under Resolution CAP-35-18.

“This legislation is about making sure our chapters have the opportunity to complete projects that were approved years ago but have faced delays in funding, planning and implementation,” said Council Delegate Arbin Mitchell, sponsor of the legislation. “Our communities have been waiting for these improvements, and we need to make sure the funding is available and that projects can move forward.”

Approved in April 2018, Resolution CAP-35-18 established the Síhasin Fund Powerline and Chapter Projects Expenditure Plan to support electrical infrastructure, waterline improvements and other capital projects across the Navajo Nation. Funds were originally required to be spent or encumbered within 24 months of distribution. Subsequent Council actions extended the deadline to 48 months and later to 72 months.

However, varying distribution dates created different expiration deadlines, complicating efforts to complete projects. The new legislation reauthorizes approximately \$20,699,026 for expired projects and establishes a consistent deadline regardless of the original funding year.

During his presentation, Mitchell reported that more than 90% of first- and second-year projects, primarily administered through the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority, had been completed. Many remaining third-year projects involve chapter-level improvements and projects administered by other entities.

The Navajo Nation Division of Community Development presented a project-status report identifying remaining balances, active projects and implementation needs across Council delegate regions. The division also outlined a 24-month implementation plan covering project assessments, budget setup, procurement, engineering and design, contracting, construction and closeout.

Mitchell emphasized the need to coordinate with the Office of Management and Budget and other responsible departments to verify available balances, establish project accounts and prepare projects for construction. Some projects may require additional funding or changes because their original plans are no longer feasible.

Council delegates stressed the importance of accurate project lists, updated expenditure records and clear implementation schedules. Members also discussed allowing appropriate project modifications while maintaining legislative oversight and ensuring community priorities guide funding decisions.

A revised amendment focused on restoring expired funding, establishing the new deadline and providing notice and reporting requirements. Mitchell explained that additional legislation could address expired projects not included in the current measure.

The legislation provides a pathway for chapters and responsible Navajo Nation departments to resume work on previously approved projects while resolving outstanding administrative and funding requirements.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0252-25 by a vote of 21 in favor and one opposed. Once certified and delivered to the Office of the President and Vice President, Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren will have 10 days to consider the legislation.

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