



THE NAVAJO NATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 9, 2009

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Navajo Vice President Ben Shelly thanks Utah Transportation Department for ARRA Partnerships

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH – Navajo Vice President Ben Shelly emphasized stronger collaboration on road and bridge projects with the Utah Department of Transportation on Tuesday.

“Through continued cooperation and partnerships, we can develop a safer transportation system for our Navajo people living in the Utah area of the Navajo Nation,” said Vice President Shelly. “Improving the overall safety for the traveling public is important. School buses need safer bus routes and elders need better roads to travel to health care facilities.”

Through a 2007 Memorandum of Understanding between UDOT and the Navajo Department of Transportation, both departments have collaborated on road and bridge improvement and construction projects in the Montezuma Creek, Aneth, Mexican Hat, and Monument Valley areas.

“Through our working relationship, NDOT teamed up with UDOT and the Federal Highway Administration-Utah Division to identify ‘construction ready’ projects needing American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding,” said Vice President Shelly. “Together, we moved forward and agreed to a priority list for Utah road projects needing ARRA funding.”

Pavement crack repair to a portion of Highway 191, replacement of the Gothic Creek Bridge near Halchita, replacement of the McElmo Creek bridge in Aneth, reconstruction of State Route 162, and safety improvements to State Route 163 were among the Navajo projects proposed for ARRA funding through the State of Utah.

Recently, UDOT, NDOT, and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), completed an Environmental Impact Statement for SR 162. Working with FHWA, NDOT expects to get this road project “construction ready” for ARRA funding.

“ARRA funds for transportation and infrastructure development projects are needed and when awarded, ARRA funds will be used to create a safer Navajo transportation system,” said Navajo Department of Transportation Manager Tom Platero. “The State of Utah and the Federal Highway Administration continue to be partners with the Navajo Nation. The proposed ARRA road and bridge projects priority list for the Utah area of the Navajo Nation is a result of our collaboration.”

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