



The Navajo Nation Council - Office of the Speaker

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thoreau Chapter receives Tribal Infrastructure Fund for road improvements

Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie played instrumental role to secure funds

THOREAU, N.M. — Navajo Nation Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie is pleased to announce a \$400,612 grant received from the Tribal Infrastructure Fund with the state of New Mexico for an improvement project of County Road 27 near Thoreau Chapter.

"Our chapter was thrilled when we were informed that we had been approved for our funding request," said Edmund E. Yazzie (Thoreau). "The safety of our roads is a concern often raised by our community members and this funding will help to address some of their concerns."

The state of New Mexico's Tribal Infrastructure Fund (TIF) Board reviewed 26 infrastructure project proposals totaling more than \$9.7 million in requests this year. Proposals included requests for water and wastewater systems, electrical power lines, community buildings, bathroom additions, health and emergency response facilities, and community planning and development assistance.

Their funding requests this year totaled more than \$9.7 million, and unfortunately, only \$5 million was allocated in the 2008 legislative session for these infrastructure projects. The funding for the TIF is highly competitive and only 10 of the 26 applications submitted were awarded funds.

Yazzie played an instrumental role in ensuring the application submitted was well put together and met the necessary criteria to be considered for funding. In accordance with the grant agreement, a scope of work was drafted to clearly define the performance measures and outline the time period for the project to be completed, which is expected to be 18 months or less.

Yazzie commended his chapter staff for their assistance in putting the application together.

"This was a team effort and our chapter leaders played an important role," Yazzie said. "We will continue to work hard for our community and listen to their needs."

Navajo Council Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan said Yazzie and his chapter house staff put together a strong application.

"Council Delegate Yazzie recognized how competitive it is to receive funds and he worked diligently to ensure their application would meet the criteria," Morgan said. "These applications can be tedious and time consuming and I commend them for putting together a strong application."

On April 5, 2005, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson signed into law, HB 868, the Tribal Infrastructure Act. The purpose of the Act is to build basic infrastructure in order to improve the poor social, health and economic conditions in tribal communities. This Act also created the Tribal Infrastructure Trust Fund, the Tribal Infrastructure Project Fund, and a 13-person Tribal Infrastructure Board, consisting of nine voting members and four non-voting members.

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