



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 25, 2013

**MEDIA CONTACTS**

Jared Touchin | 928.221.9253  
Krista Thompson | 928.637.5603  
Jolene Holgate | 928.871.7160  
nrlb.communications@gmail.com

**Council Delegate Elmer Begay welcomes officials and heavy equipment operators to Heavy Equipment Certification training**

**DILKON, Ariz.** – On Monday, Council Delegate Elmer Begay (Dilkon, Greasewood Springs, Indian Wells, Teesto, Whitecone) welcomed officials from Navajo County, Navajo Nation Division of Transportation, and Bureau of Indian Affairs to a 40-hour heavy equipment certification training.

Navajo County, NNDOT, and BIA partnered together in an effort to provide training to heavy equipment operators from various communities throughout the Navajo Nation.

“I know this is a longtime coming,” said Delegate Begay. “You should be proud to be here.”

“There’s no other chapter, community, or county that has reached this point,” said Delegate Begay to approximately 25 heavy equipment operators in attendance.

BIA Road Maintenance Supervisor and training facilitator Franklin Sandoval said the partnership between Navajo County, NNDOT, and the BIA is an effort to allow chapters to localize road construction and maintenance in their areas.

Delegate Begay said he believes the initiative sets an example for other chapters to localize road construction and maintenance through training in their communities.

“If you go to other local governments, they haven’t gone this far with certification [training],” said Delegate Begay.

Navajo County Public Works Transportation project manager Alberto Peshlakai said the training was developed by the Southwestern Navajo Region Transportation Planning Council, comprised of chapter officials from Birdsprings, Tolani Lake, Teesto, Dilkon, Indian Wells, White Cone, Greasewood, and Jeddito.

Peshlakai added that NNDOT, BIA, and Navajo County collaborated in the past to maintain roads throughout Navajo land and broke down jurisdictional barriers to increase cost-effective initiatives for road construction and maintenance.

Navajo County supervisor Jesse Thompson reasserted Delegate Begay’s support for the partnership.

“Teaming up is important for NNDOT [and other agencies] to work as a functional unit for the community,” said Thompson.

Thompson, Peshlakai, and Sandoval worked to plan and implement the training with support from Delegate Begay and chapter officials.

Delegate Begay said the training will improve over time, and expand to other areas aside from road construction and maintenance.

At the conclusion of his welcome address, Delegate Begay expressed appreciation to the trainees and officials for working together for the benefit of their communities.

“I really am thankful for your participation because this is for the people in our communities,” said Delegate Begay.

The one-week training concludes on June 28.

# # #

For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit [www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org)