



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Lok'aah Ni Teel Shopping Center receives support from Navajo Nation Council



PHOTO: Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd, Navajo Nation Vice President Jonathan Nez, Ethel Myers and family, Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development director Crystal Deschinny, and Ganado Chapter officials take part in the groundbreaking for the Lok'aah Ni Teel Shopping Center on October 27,

GANADO, Ariz. – On Thursday, Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichíí, Steamboat) participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Lok'aah Ni Teel Shopping Center located at Burnside Junction, which is approximately 40-miles west of Window Rock, Arizona. The ceremony celebrated the many years of planning, development, and dedication of community members of Ganado and surrounding communities.

The 35,000 square-foot shopping center will house a Lowes Grocery market, Subway, Pizza Edge, hardware store, laundromat, and a retail store.

“Today we celebrate the community’s efforts and dedication to make this shopping center a reality. October is the month of new beginnings for our Navajo people and this project is a great example of new opportunities. The Council has worked hard to make this possible for the community of Ganado,” stated Delegate Shepherd, who represents the community of Ganado.

On April 19, the Navajo Nation Council approved Council Resolution CAP-19-16, which developed the Permanent Fund Income Five-Year Expenditure Plan. The plan provides \$150 million for water infrastructure development, economic development projects, and agricultural projects. Within the expenditure plan, the first year provides \$9.2 million for the cost of constructing the Lok’aah Ni Teel Shopping Center.

Former Ganado Chapter manager Harry J. Yazzie, stated that the chapter and the community have worked vigouriously to complete the planning, design, and development of the Lok’aah Ni Teel Shopping Center.

“This project could not have been possible without the help from the Resources and Development Committee, the Budget and Finance Committee, Navajo Nation Council, the Office of the President and Vice President, and Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development. Most of all, we want to thank the family of Ethel Myers for providing the land for the project,” stated Yazzie.

The family of Ethel Myers, who holds the grazing permit within the vicinity of the shopping center, consented to land withdrawals within their designated grazing areas to allow the chapter to construct the shopping center.

“My family and I will continue to embrace and honor our community. The community leadership helps our families and in return we must return the assistance. We need to help one another to succeed. I am very happy with our community’s accomplishments. I look forward to shopping here in our hometown, instead of going to Gallup,” stated Ethel Myers.

The Lok’aah Ni Teel Shopping Center is scheduled to open in fall of 2017.

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