

Window Rock Boulevard NDOT-BIA resurfacing project



NDOT and the BIA Force Account partnered to repair Window Rock Boulevard's 375-feet of potholed roadway in front of the Department of Justice building. The roadway was over 20 years old. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

To the delight of many tribal employees and officials alike, the resurfacing of Window Rock Boulevard is finally completed.

The project to improve the roadway was a partnership between Navajo Division of Transportation and Bureau of Indian Affairs. The BIA Force Account provided \$15,568 in manpower and NDOT paid for asphalt and rental equipment at a cost of \$3,171.

NDOT Director Paulson Chaco said the requests to improve the potholed roadway have been numerous.

"People have been calling for repairs on this road and we are happy to finally get it completed," Chaco said. "It was another opportunity to partner with the BIA to improve Navajo Nation roads."

Joe Peterman, construction manager for BIA Force Account, said the roadway was over 20 years old and present-

ed numerous challenges.

"We came, we saw, and we kicked butt," Peterman said.

The Force Account crew of nine milled two-inches of the existing asphalt and replaced it with two-inches of fresh asphalt.

The mill-and-inlay project repaired a total of 375-feet of roadway in front of the Navajo Nation Department of Justice building.

Peterman said the project took four days to complete and it was a great partnership between NDOT and the BIA. Construction occurred from May 13 to 16.

"NDOT provided the asphalt and rented equipment for me," he said. "We enjoyed the work and it was great to be out there and serve the public in that manner."

Window Rock Boulevard is listed in the BIA roads inventory as Navajo Route 100.

The BIA Force Account plays the role of a govern-

ment contractor and steps in to complete projects when hiring a private contractor is not feasible.

NDOT grant writer David Silversmith lauded the work completed by Navajo crew from the BIA Force Account.

"It is a good example of NDOT-BIA cooperation. Force Account supervisor Joe Peterman and his foreman Danny deserve a lot of credit," Silversmith said.

For years, the potholed area forced tribal leaders and employees to strategize a route to navigate the roadway as they traveled to their respective offices.

Today's smooth surface is an obvious contrast to the old roadway.

"There were real issues of public safety and vehicle damage," Silversmith said.

Tertiary considerations included aesthetic concerns, since the road was located in the heart of the Navajo Nation

Capitol area.

Requests to repair the road came into NDOT for over a year, especially as many cars got stuck in the winter season.

Because of the unique need for repairs on Window Rock Boulevard, NDOT and BIA partnered to address the issue in an expedited effort.

Road maintenance must be planned, he said.

"People should depend more on comprehensive planning and project construction readiness to justify projects and achieve results," Silversmith said of the high demand for road repairs across the Nation.

He encouraged chapters to be proactive with their road construction projects.

Information:
www.navajodot.org