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## **Mr. Arlando S. Teller Appointed to Arizona Transportation Board**

**Window Rock, AZ** – State Senator Carlyle W. Begay (Legislative District 7) announced the selection of Mr. Arlando S. Teller to the Arizona State Transportation Board. Board members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate with Arizona's transportation districts each represented by a board member. Mr. Teller, the Program Manager for the Navajo Division of Transportation (Navajo DOT) Department of Airports Management, will represent District 5, which covers Apache, Coconino, and Navajo Counties. The Arizona State Transportation Board is responsible for establishing a complete system of state highway routes in Arizona; awards construction contracts; determines priority program planning with respect to transportation facilities; annually adopts the five-year construction program; and distributes monies appropriated from the State Aviation Fund for planning, design, development, land acquisition, construction, and improvement of publicly owned airport facilities.

A six-year veteran of Navajo DOT, Mr. Teller worked as a senior transportation planner prior to assuming the management of the Nation's airports. Among his proudest accomplishments is his role in strengthening the ADOT/Navajo DOT partnership with counties, neighboring tribes, and regional planning organizations. He also worked with legislators to amend an Arizona statute allowing tribes to participate in the state's Aviation Improvement Program. Prior to assuming his responsibilities for Navajo DOT, Mr. Teller was a Native American liaison and transportation planner for the California Department of Transportation. Mr. Teller has a diverse and varied transportation background. His experience includes working for Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport and Mesa Falcon Field Airport, in addition to inter-city transit planning in the San Francisco Bay Area. Mr. Teller possesses a comprehensive grasp of multi-modal transportation planning systems, which he uses to significantly enhance the planning, management, and development of northern Arizona's rural transportation infrastructure.

Through the encouragement of his family, Arlando left the reservation to pursue his Bachelor of Science degree in Aviation Business Administration from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He is the first Navajo graduate of the university and among the first American Indian graduates. He is a descendant of a Navajo Code Talker, and he is educated in traditional Navajo culture and language.

When Senator Begay announced his appointment at the Navajo Nation Western Agency Council Meeting, Mr. Teller shared, "I am humbled for this opportunity and sincerely appreciate the support from the Arizona Capitol to my mother's fireplace."