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President Shelly Cuts Ribbon to Open Navajo Route 20



COPPERMINE, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly delivered statements of teamwork and gratitude during a speech near Navajo Route 20 during a dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony Thursday morning.

“You have your new N20. It is complete,” President Shelly announced before a crowd of about 300 people.

President Shelly was a guest speaker at a dedication ceremony for the opening of N20 Thursday morning with other speakers from the local chapters, Navajo Division of Transportation, Arizona Department of Transportation, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Federal Highway Administration.

“This is all it takes,” President Shelly said about teamwork, “let’s work together and look at the future.”

Navajo Route 20 was designated the alternate route after U.S. Hwy. 89 was closed in February because a dry land slide caused portions of the road to collapse. U.S Hwy 89 is the main road between Flagstaff and Page, Ariz.

N20 was a 28-mile dirt road that for decades community members have been asked to be paved. The closure of U.S. Hwy. 89 sparked efforts to fast track the paving of N20 that took more than 750 workers and 79 days to complete.

“This project was completed as an emergency detour route and you did things properly, ensuring the safety of all who will travel this road,” President Shelly said.

President Shelly expressed gratitude for leaders and communities members who have been advocating for the paving of N20.

“Thank you from the bottom of my heart,” President Shelly said.

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