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PRESIDENT BEGAYE SIGNS FAA GRANT APPLICATION FOR SHIPROCK AIRPORT RENOVATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS

Window Rock-Sept. 15, President Russell Begaye signed Grant Application documents to start renovation and improvements on the Shiprock Airstrip.

The Shiprock Airstrip is recognized within the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) National Plan of Integrated Airport System (NPIAS), which is a program used to identify airports that serve a significant purpose to the national air transportation system.

In addition, the Shiprock Airstrip acts as a gateway for emergency operations, recreational flying and firefighting operations as well as providing a necessary area for air medivac operations that occur within the Shiprock area.

“It is always exciting to see the improvements on our Navajo Nation airports. This improvement to the Shiprock airport will support commercial developments being planned for the Shiprock area. This airstrip is in need of reconstruction,” President Begaye said as he signed the documents.

“This reconstruction project along with other Navajo Nation airport improvements such as Tuba City and Chinle provide much needed airport services to our Navajo people.”

FAA funds have been secured in the amount of \$580,000 for runway rehabilitation design and an aeronautical survey.

Current runway, taxiways, and ramp pavement have reached the end of their useful lives creating unsafe conditions for aircraft. The grading in the safety areas is also out of tolerance and is in need of reshaping and grading.

With this project, Runway 2/20 and Taxiway A3 pavement will be reconstructed to include a new base course and hot bituminous pavement.

Runway lights will also be included in the scope of the project, as there is currently no airfield lighting.

This project will occur in two phases; the first phase for design will



On Wednesday, Sep. 15, President Begaye signed off on grant application documents that will provide for renovation and improvements on the Shiprock Airstrip. “This improvement to the Shiprock airport will support commercial developments being planned for the Shiprock area,” he said during the signing.

occur in fiscal year 2016 and the project will be constructed in fiscal year 2017.

Objective of the Airport Action Plan at the Shiprock Airstrip is to provide the framework to meet existing and future aviation demand. Allowing the airport to operate in a safe and cost-effective manner, while considering potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts.

This Action Plan will evaluate existing airfield geometry and make recommendations to correct any existing nonstandard conditions as well as ensure future airport development are completed in a manner consistent with current FAA design standards.

President Begaye commended Arlando Teller, Acting Deputy Director with the Navajo Division of Transportation (NDOT) for his lobbying and due diligence on obtaining funding to make this a reality.

“The staff at NDOT have completed a tremendous amount of work and for this we are grateful,” President Begaye said.

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