

Contact: Karen Francis, Public Information Officer
Navajo Nation Council Office of the Speaker
(928) 871-7160
karenfrancis@navajo.org
www.navajonationcouncil.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: February 20th, 2006

**DELEGATE TRACEY MAKING PROGRESS ON STATE BILL TO ESTABLISH
NEW POSITION ON STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

On Tuesday, February 14, 2006, Navajo Nation Council Delegate Willie Tracey, Jr.(Ganado/Kinlichee), along with Honorable Senator Albert Hale, presented Senate Bill 1521 to the Arizona State Senate. The bill would establish a tribal government representative position on the Arizona State Transportation Board to advocate for tribal transportation system needs and improvement.

Tracey told the Arizona State Committee on Transportation, "Arizona state land base is 113,635 square miles. 27,427 square miles is Navajoland. That's 24 percent of the area. Now that is one tribe alone. There are 20 other tribes that have state roads crisscrossing their lands and the primary arterial to obtain goods and services. Navajo Nation alone has 1,658.4 miles of state own roads. Tribal representation is necessary to address the monumental transportation system needs for modern, state of the art facilities".

Committee on Transportation voted 5 in favor and 0 opposed without any questions in favor of the bill. The bill has now advanced to be considered by the 47th Legislature.

Tracey is a member of the Navajo Nation Council's Transportation and Community Development Committee and is currently Vice President of the Intertribal Transportation Association.

###