



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Resources and Development Committee receives  
update regarding the upcoming opening of Navajo Route 20**

**WINDOW ROCK** - On Tuesday, the Resources and Development Committee received a report from the Arizona Department of Transportation and the Navajo Division of Transportation regarding the Aug. 29 opening of Navajo Route 20, a 28-mile stretch of road from Bodaway/Gap to Coppermine.

On Feb. 20, a landslide ripped through a section of U.S. Highway 89 approximately 25-miles south of Page. Due to significant damage, ADOT was forced to close a 23-mile stretch of U.S. 89, between mileposts 523 and 546.

RDC chair Council Delegate Katherine Benally (Chilchinbeto, Dennehotso, Kayenta) said RDC members were pleased to receive an update from the two entities, as many Navajo families were affected by the landslide.

"It is good to see divisions provide the RDC with useful information that directly affects the Navajo Western Agency," said Delegate Benally.

Since the closure, U.S. 89A, U.S. 160, and State Route 98 are being used as alternative travel routes.

ADOT representative Dallas Hammit, said ADOT took a three-pronged approach: completing a geotechnical investigation of the landslide, providing an interim detour paving of N-20, and repairing U.S. 89.

"The repair of U.S. 89 cost \$35 million and we expect to open [N-20] on Aug. 29, with a ribbon cutting ceremony," said Hammit. "ADOT will continue to maintain the roadway until the repair of U.S. 89 is complete."

Hammit further explained that due to federal funding requirements, ADOT explored a wide variety of repair alternatives.

NDOT principal civil engineer Darryl Bradley, said the Nation was able to exercise its ability to respond to an emergency situation and did an exemplary job in working with ADOT to accommodate the transportation needs of local residents along U.S. 89.

"NDOT has worked intensively to secure the cultural integrity of the area throughout the repair of U.S. 89 and the paving of N-20," said Bradley.

Delegate Benally closed the discussion by thanking the presenters for taking the initiative to report to the RDC.

"Good job and good work, we appreciate individuals and agencies updating the RDC with news of progress," said Delegate Benally.

The RDC accepted the report with a vote of 3-0.

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