23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Naabik'íyáti' Committee recommends approval of $218,000 to fund the Transportation Stimulus Plan referendum

WINDOW ROCK – On Thursday, the Naabik'íyáti' Committee voted in support of Legislation No. 0431-16, approving approximately $218,000 in supplemental funding from the Navajo Nation's Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance for the Navajo Election Administration to hold the Transportation Stimulus Plan referendum.

Legislation sponsor Council Delegate Walter Phelps (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi To ii), has advocated for the referendum since last year to allow registered Navajo voters to decide whether or not to use approximately $216 million from the Permanent Trust Fund principle for road improvements throughout the Navajo Nation. The funding would be distributed over a six-year period at $36 million annually.

"All of our chapter communities face enormous challenges in terms of road maintenance needs, lack of funding for bridges and the Nation constantly importing gravel from off reservation. With $36 million extra each year for the next six-years this will definitely help make up some of that deficit," stated Delegate Phelps.

The Council approved the referendum measure on Oct. 27, 2016, which became law after President Russell Begaye did not take action on the resolution within the 10-calendar day timeframe, in accordance with Navajo Nation law.

In January, the Council approved language stating that the referendum would be held no sooner than 60 days and no later than 90 days of the approval of funds by the Council and President Russell Begaye.

The Naabik'íyáti' Committee voted 14-2 in support of Legislation No. 0431-16. The Navajo Nation Council will consider the legislation next. If approved, the resolution would be subject to consideration by President Begaye.

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