23rd Navajo Nation Council
Office of the Speaker

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Council celebrates the road improvements of Arizona Highway 264

PHOTO: (left to right) Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd, FNF Construction, ADOT representatives, Speaker LoRenzo Bates, and Miss Navajo Nation Crystal Littleben at the Arizona Highway 264 ribbon cutting ceremony on Sept. 27, 2017 at Ganado Chapter.

GANADO, Ariz. – On Wednesday, Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland) and Resources and Development Committee chair Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichíí, Steamboat) attended the Arizona Highway 264 road improvement ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by Ganado Chapter.

In 2016, the Arizona Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration allocated approximately $24 million for 9.7-miles of state highway road improvements in Ganado, which is located 34-miles west of Window Rock, Ariz. The road improvement included widening and paving of the roadway, replacement of a bridge, installation of guardrails and signage, and erosion control.

Delegate Shepherd, who provided the welcoming remarks at the celebration, stated that the road improvements could not have been accomplished without the collaboration and partnerships of surrounding communities, schools, and Navajo Nation leadership.

"The project was completed with the advocacy and dedication of chapter officials, school boards, and community members. They worked hard to address safer road conditions for families, schools, and travelers. For many years, past leadership has been working hard on this initiative and it is finally done today. I appreciate everyone's dedication," said Delegate Shepherd.

ADOT district engineer Lynn Johnson said that the partnership with chapters, school, and Navajo leadership led to the completion of a road project that is now a safe and sustainable. He added that the department is looking forward to future projects with the Nation.

Speaker Bates, who was a guest speaker at the event highlighted that the road improvement signifies the Nation's continued progression towards growth and development.

"This is my third project celebration within a week. First, I attended the groundbreaking ceremony hosted by the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority to commence the start of construction of the Ganado, Lower Greasewood, and Dilkon Water Improvement Project. On Monday, I attended the opening of the Twin Arrows Public Safety Building. All these projects, including the road improvement, are signs of progression throughout the Navajo Nation. The Nation is moving in the positive direction to address infrastructure and economic development," said Speaker Bates.

Delegate Shepherd also recognized and thanked the various entities who contributed to the road improvement project including Apache County District II, Ganado Unified School District, Kin Dah Lichi Olta, Greasewood Springs Community School, Nazlini Community School, surrounding chapters, and FNF Construction.

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