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Nazlini community celebrates the contract signing to start construction of N27

PHOTO: (left to right) Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr., Nazlini Chapter president Lee Bigwater, Council Delegate Leonard H. Pete, President Russell BeGaye, Nazlini Chapter secretary/treasurer JoAnn Dedman, Vice President Jonathan Nez, and Nazlini Chapter vice president Joseph Dedman, Jr. during the contract signing celebration on April 15, 2018 in Nazlini, Ariz.

NAZLINI, Ariz. – Council Delegate Leonard H. Pete (Chinle), Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood), President Russell Begaye, Vice President Jonathan Nez, Nazlini and Chinle Chapter officials and administration, and community members gathered at the Nazlini Chapter house on Sunday, to celebrate the signing of a contract between the Navajo Nation and Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority to begin construction of Navajo Route 27, a 10-mile stretch of unpaved road located between the communities of Chinle and Nazlini.

The N27 road improvement project would cost approximately $33 million and will be funded by the Navajo Nation's Tribal Transportation Program funds received from the Federal Highway Administration.

During his keynote address, Delegate Pete commended Chinle and Nazlini Chapter officials and administration, community members, Navajo Nation Division of Transportation, NECA, nearby school districts, and others who worked on the road improvement project.

"This road improvement is long over due. The road project has been on the planning tables for over 20 years. It is a historical day for the community of Nazlini to celebrate the road construction," said Delegate Pete.

Delegate Begay, who has sponsored several legislations supporting the improvements to N27, also extended his appreciation to the Resources and Development Committee and dedicated community members who supported the road improvement project.

"Today, community members of Nazlini join us to celebrate the significant contract signing. During RDC meetings in Window Rock, concerned community members would travel far and address their concerns regarding N27. They are passionate about the road improvement because N27 affects their daily lives," said Delegate Begay. "I commend the RDC for always supporting and pushing the N27 road improvement project."

Nazlini Chapter president Lee Bigwater said the road improvements would allow for more access to benefit economic development, health care, social services, and educational resources for community members.

The N27 road improvement project is scheduled to be completed within two years.

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