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TRANSPORTATION
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VISION

To preserve and enhance
transportation throughout
Dine'bi Keyah.

MISSION

To serve the Navajo Nation
by providing a safe transpor-
tation infrastructure through
innovation and partnerships.



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U.S. 89 ROAD CLOSURE AND N20 INTERIM DETOUR ROUTE FACT SHEET

- On Feb. 20, 2013, the Arizona Department of Transportation closed U.S. 89 due to road damage between milepost 544.50 to milepost 524. ADOT instructed motorists to use the detour east to U.S. 160 to State Road 98 north into Page.
- On Feb. 22, 2013, the Navajo Nation Commission on Emergency Management convened at the Navajo Transportation Complex in Tse Bonito, N.M. and declared an emergency due to the damaged roadway and its affect on Navajo residents in the area. The commission cited concerns with school bus transportation, emergency medical services, and general transportation into Page for Navajo residents working there.
- On Feb. 24, 2013, Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly and Vice President Rex Lee Jim met with community members at Bodaway-Gap Chapter and toured the damaged roadway 25 miles south of Page. President Shelly signed the Navajo Nation emergency declaration.
- On Feb. 27, 2013, ADOT hosted a meeting at their Flagstaff district office to discuss the road closure and potential alternate detour route through Navajo Route 20. Officials from NDOT, BIA, Coconino County, and Federal Highway Administration were in attendance. ADOT reported two waves of pavement settlement and soil shifting down the mountain into the valley about 1,200 feet. They also said there were some cracks as deep as 30-feet and fenced off the site of the damaged roadway for safety purposes.
- On March 4, 2013, officials from NDOT, ADOT, BIA, Coconino County, and FHWA convened at the Navajo Transportation Complex to discuss paving N20 as an interim detour route. ADOT reported the slip was 500-feet on top of the roadway and ¼ mile deep at the base of the hill. The FHWA employed the quick release of funding in the amount of \$2 million for ADOT to begin work on repairing U.S. 89. ADOT also began work on a Joint Powers Agreement with NDOT and the BIA for paving N20 as a detour route, sticking to the existing alignment. Resolutions of support were submitted from Bodaway-Gap, Coppermine, and LeChee Chapters.
- On March 25, 2013, ADOT hosted a meeting at their Holbrook office to discuss required permitting for paving activities to begin on N20. NDOT and BIA officials shared requirements for the temporary easement application process, as well as the right-of-way process. NDOT shared concerns with the detour route improvements in the areas of detour design standards, speed, traffic volume, commercial truck traffic, drainage, livestock provisions, updating the 2006 environmental assessment (including biological evaluation), cultural resource survey, and responsibility and liability of the N20 detour route until U.S. 89 is reopened. A timeline was agreed upon for construction to potentially begin in May 2013.
- On April 1, 2013, ADOT met with officials at the Bodaway-Gap Chapter as part of their public outreach efforts to keep affected communities informed. Officials from NDOT, BIA, FHWA, and local chapters discussed the issues surrounding the construction of a temporary detour route on N20. Community members voiced concerns about the need for maintenance on N20 at present time, due to washboard conditions and potholes in the roadway. Local school transportation concerns were also shared because of damaged buses and the lengthy timeframe required to get kids to school. NDOT shared information about the two-weeks on, two-weeks off rotating schedule for road maintenance on N20 between BIA and NDOT road department crews.