



## The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

CONTACTS:

Jared Touchin, Communications Director  
(928) 274-4275

Crystalyne Curley, Sr. Public Information Officer  
(928) 274-2758

[nnopvp.communications@gmail.com](mailto:nnopvp.communications@gmail.com)

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### **Construction of N11 road improvements in the community of Mariano Lake scheduled to begin in spring**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – On Jan. 22, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez signed off on a construction contract with Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority, for the first phase of the N11 Road Improvement Project in Mariano Lake, N.M. under the Navajo Nation Division of Transportation. The initial phase of construction will pave approximately 3.7 miles of the 12-mile road to help address safety concerns and improve access for school, work, commerce, health, and emergency response.



**PHOTO:** Current condition of N11 in Mariano Lake, N.M.

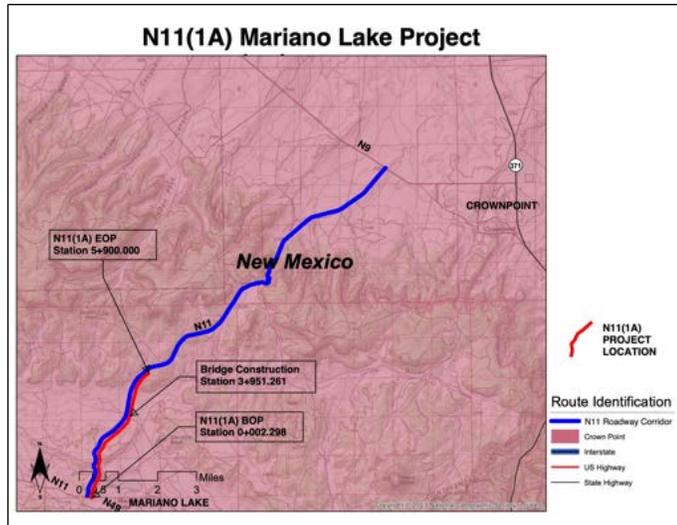
“The residents of Mariano Lake and their local officials have long advocated for improvements to N11, which accommodates an average of 250 vehicles per day. Transportation infrastructure is a top priority for our administration and under the leadership of Navajo Nation Division of Transportation Executive Director Garret Silversmith, we are seeing progress on many projects in our communities. We appreciate the support of the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council including Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie, who represents the community of Mariano Lake,” said President Nez.

In recent months, the Navajo Nation Division of Transportation has completed the replacement of asphalt to damaged pavement on Navajo Route 57 in Gad’iiahi/To’Koi, N.M and the reinforcement of the low water crossing on N6730 near Black Falls in Tolani Lake, Ariz. Ongoing projects include the bridge construction and widening/paving of a 10-mile stretch of Navajo Route 12 in Tsaile/Wheatfields, Ariz. and the replacement of the bridge along N9402 in Lupton, Ariz, and the pavement of Navajo Route 27 between Nazlini and Chinle, Ariz.

“Roads are vital for community and economic development, for our students to receive their education, and for local residents to have more access to essential items. The partnership between the Division of Transportation and Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority is inspiring and leading to many great improvements on the Navajo Nation. We also thank the Bureau of Indian Affairs for helping to design the project. When we all work together, we can accomplish anything and this project exemplifies that,” Vice President Myron Lizer stated.

Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie thanked the Mariano Lake Chapter officials and many local residents who have advocated for the road project for many years.

“This is a big win for the elders, youth, and everyone in the Mariano Lake community. For years, I’ve heard the concerns for the safety of our people brought forth by residents. I am excited that we will soon take the first step to improve N11 thanks to the collaboration and hard work of many.



I thank the Mariano Lake resident, chapter officials and staff, the Nez-Lizer Administration, Division of Transportation, and NECA for their partnership and support,” said Delegate Yazzie.

The scope of the project also includes grade, drain, pavement, bridge construction, cattleguards, fencing, signage, and striping. The \$12 million project is funded by the Federal Highway Administration Tribal Transportation Program.

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