



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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Rock Point community to receive funding for Route 8070 improvements

ROCK POINT, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Council Delegate Carl Slater, and Miss Navajo Nation Shaandiin Parrish joined Rock Point Chapter officials and community members in Rock Point, Ariz. on Thursday, to mark the approval of Resolution CAP-21-21 to allocate approximately \$833,000 from the Navajo Nation's Síhasin Fund for road improvements for a portion of Route 8070. The road project will be overseen by the Navajo Nation Division of Transportation.

Rock Point Chapter President Patterson Yazzie and Community

Services Coordinator Charlene Kirk spoke about transportation challenges for school buses, emergency responders, elderly people, and many others who rely on Route 8070 on a daily basis. Former Chapter President Jennie Harvey also provided an overview of the years of planning, coordinating, and working together to complete pre-construction requirements.

Before signing the resolution, President Nez thanked the Rock Point Chapter officials, Delegate Slater, and many others for their commitment and hard work to complete all of the clearances and requirements to allow for the project to be funded and proceed. He also acknowledged and remembered the late Nelson S. BeGaye, who represented the Rock Point community for many years as a member of the Navajo Nation Council and played an instrumental role in the development of the project. Former Delegate BeGaye passed away in April.

"Our Nation lost a great leader recently. Honorable Nelson BeGaye advocated for the Route 8070 road improvements when he was a member of the Council. Now, we have Delegate Slater who



PHOTO: Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez signs Resolution CAP-21-21 into law during an outdoor signing ceremony held at Rock Point Community School in Rock Point, Ariz. on May 6, 2021.

has carried on those efforts. We are proud of the work of the community of Rock Point and we look forward to seeing the road improvements being completed under the leadership of Navajo Division of Transportation Executive Director Garret Silversmith. Congratulations to the Rock Point community,” said President Nez.

He also spoke about the Nez-Lizer Administration’s ongoing efforts to work with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Biden-Harris Administration to change federal policies to advance transportation projects and to secure funds under the proposed American Jobs Plan.

Council Delegate Carl Slater, who represents the Rock Point community as a member of the 24th Navajo Nation Council, also thanked past and current leaders and spoke about the need to improve infrastructure in all communities to increase the Nation’s capacity to create jobs and more opportunities for Navajo people, including those residing off of the Navajo Nation.

“This is my commitment to this community to honor the legacy of Honorable Nelson BeGaye and what he stood for, which was empowering our local communities. When I ran for Council, a primary purpose of my campaign and my work thus far on the Council, is making sure there is that there is a homeland that our children can return to. We need the modern amenities and rights of 21st century living – a roof over our heads, water to our homes, electricity to our homes, broadband to our homes, and a safe route to get to school or to receive dialysis or to a hospital. That’s what this project represents,” said Delegate Slater.

Navajo Nation Division of Transportation Executive Director Garret Silversmith also recognized the local leaders and President Nez for supporting the Route 8070 project and thanked his staff members for their dedication.

“This project is going to be a change for the better for this community. We’ve already made some significant progress for Route 8070. One of the major challenges is always the environmental clearance and that’s already been taken care of. I’d like to acknowledge and thank my staff as well for their involvement and hard work at Navajo DOT. Many have been involved since the inception of this project. We have five departments within Navajo DOT and they all played a role. We’re going to do our best to complete this project as soon as possible,” said Navajo Nation Division of Transportation Executive Director Garret Silversmith.

Former Navajo Nation Vice President Rex Lee Jim, Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency Executive Director Valinda Shirley, and Division of Natural Resources Executive Director Dr. Rudy Shebala were also in attendance to support the Rock Point community. The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President thanks the Rock Point Chapter and Rock Point Community School for hosting the event, which was live-streamed on the Nez-Lizer Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NezLizer2018>.

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