



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 3, 2021

Completion of Navajo Route 27 provides safer route for residents, emergency responders, and students

NAZLINI, Ariz. – On Wednesday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Vice President Myron Lizer, and Miss Navajo Nation Niagara Rockbridge joined community members, Council Delegate Eugene Tso, Navajo Division of Transportation (NDOT), and others to mark the completion of the Navajo Route 27 road project between the communities of Nazlini and Chinle, Ariz. NDOT and Navajo Engineering Construction Authority completed the reconstruction and pavement of 10-miles of roadway, making it much safer for residents, school buses, emergency responders, and many others.



PHOTO: Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez speaks about the completion of Navajo Route 27 in Nazlini, Ariz. on Nov. 3, 2021.

In partnership with the Navajo Division of Transportation, NECA completed grading and drainage, installed signage, created crosswalks for pedestrians, and constructed a new roundabout at the intersection of N27 and Navajo Route 7 in Chinle, in addition to the new pavement that replaces the former dirt road.

“The completion of Navajo Route 27 is a major accomplishment for the communities of Nazlini, Chinle, and surrounding areas. This was a long process that began at the grassroots level years ago and thanks to the determination of many, we are here today. We accomplish great things when we work together and I commend the communities of Nazlini and Chinle for the strong partnership and collaboration. This is about building our Nation and a stronger foundation for our children and for our people who are wanting to return home. We have many of our people living off the Navajo Nation who want to return home someday and we need to do more to prepare our communities to welcome them home,” said President Nez.

He also thanked the communities for supporting health care experts and frontline workers through the COVID-19 pandemic by practicing safe measures to reduce the spread of the virus. He

thanked all of past and present leaders, community members, Council Delegates Eugene Tso and Kee Allen Begay, Jr., NDOT, NECA, and many others who remained committed to the completion of the project.

Vice President Lizer stated that the improved route would not only benefit first responders, families, and students, but it also represents another step toward creating more economic opportunities for Navajo business owners and entrepreneurs and building the “Buy Navajo, Buy Local” initiative.

“Our community members rely on these roadways for commerce, to receive goods and services. We have many entrepreneurs who also need safe and reliable routes to develop and strengthen their businesses. We are here today to celebrate the completion of this project thanks to the hard work of many past and current leaders and residents who voiced their support for many years,” added Vice President Lizer.

Leonard Pete, who represented the community of Chinle as a former member of the Navajo Nation Council, provided the opening prayer and recalled the pleas of elderly Navajo people for the road improvements dating back to the 1970’s. He also called for a moment of silence during the event to honor the elders who have since passed away, and to recognize them for planting the seed that led to the completion of the project.



PHOTO: Former Council Delegate Leonard Pete during the event to mark the completion of Navajo Route 27 in Nazlini, Ariz. on Nov. 3, 2021.

Chinle and Nazlini Chapter officials presented former Delegate Pete, and his former Legislative District Assistant Sharon Yazzie, with honorary blankets to thank them for their service and support for the road project.

Navajo Division of Transportation Executive Director Garret Silversmith expressed his appreciation to everyone involved in the road improvement project, including the Bureau of Indian Affairs for helping to design the project and supporting right-of-way clearances. He also spoke about the Nez-Lizer Administration’s ongoing work to advocate for policy changes at the federal level to help expedite road improvements on the Navajo Nation.

Apache County Supervisor and former Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., Apache County Sheriff Joseph Dedman, Jr., and Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources Executive Director Dr. Rudy Shebala were also in attendance.

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