



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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Navajo Nation marks the completion of two more road projects



MARIANO LAKE N.M. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Vice President Myron Lizer, and Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie met with Mariano Lake Chapter officials on Tuesday, as the Navajo Division of Transportation (NDOT) and Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority (NECA) provided updates regarding the recent completion of road improvement projects for N-11 and N-7113 in Mariano Lake, N.M. to provide safer and more efficient routes for many local Navajo families.

On Jan. 22, President Nez signed off on a construction contract with Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority for the first phase of the N11 road project, which included new pavement for 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. The project, funded by the Federal Highway Administration Tribal Transportation Program, also included grading, subgrade treatment, drainage structures, one bridge, fencing, cattle guards, gates, and new signage. The roadway accommodates an average of 250 vehicles per day.

On Aug. 12, NDOT and CB Emulsion also completed construction of road improvements for N-7113, located nearly three miles south of Mariano Lake Chapter, which included subgrade

preparation, road reconditioning, a three-inch gravel base, double course seal, two culvert installations and signage along the route.

“Roads are being improved in many regions of the Navajo Nation. NDOT, working in partnership with other businesses, have crews working every day in our communities to build new roads and to improve existing roadways. With the American Rescue Plan Act, we are looking to allocate more funding for road projects. We thank NDOT, NECA, CB Emulsion, Delegate Yazzie, and Mariano Lake Chapter for their support and for working together to make these road projects a success,” said President Nez.



Council Delegate Yazzie recalled the years of work that the Mariano Lake Chapter officials undertook to advocate and secure funding for the projects and requested continued support for the overall completion for the routes.

“We encountered a lot of obstacles over the years to get these road improvements funded and completed. Thanks to the persistence of our chapter officials working with NDOT and others, we’re finally at this point of having our roads improved. I am happy very happy for the students, parents, grandparents, and all of our community members who have better roads. We appreciate the support of President Nez, Vice President Lizer, Mr. Silversmith, and many others,” said Delegate Yazzie who represents the Mariano Lake community as a member of the 24th Navajo Nation Council.

Vice President Lizer commended the partnerships and collaborations that led to the road improvements and stated that the road improvements will also help to provide more economic opportunities in the future for community members.

“To build an economy, you have to have good quality roads to increase commerce and improve transportation. Not only will it provide safer routes for students, parents, and first responders, but it will help to grow the local economy and lead to other developments such as housing, public safety resources, and other factors that help to build a nation,” said Vice President Lizer.

Following the meeting, NDOT and NECA officials coordinated a site visit to the road projects. The Office of the President and Vice President thank Mariano Chapter President Jay R. DeGroat, Vice President Henry T. Begay, Secretary/ Treasurer Henry P. Begay, Jr., and Community Services Coordinator Leandra K. James for hosting the visit and for supporting the local residents.

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