



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

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Navajo Route 12 and other road rehabilitation projects nears completion



**TSAILE/WHEATFIELDS, Ariz.** – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer met with the Navajo Division of Transportation (NDOT) Executive Director Garrett Silversmith and Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority (NECA) officials to receive updates on several road improvement projects including Navajo Route 12 in Tsaile/Wheatfields, rehabilitation project in St. Michaels, Ariz., and a community road in Red Lake, N.M.

N12 in Tsaile/Wheatfields includes 10 miles of asphalt placement, roadway excavation and embankment, subgrade treatment where needed, placement of aggregate base course, culvert installations, concrete wing walls, concrete slope blanket and riprap installations, turnouts, and cattleguard and fencing installations. NECA, the contractor, is 70-percent complete with the project. Full completion of the project is expected in Spring 2022. President Nez and Vice President Lizer approved funding for the project in 2019 with the support of the late Council Delegate Nelson S. BeGaye.

“Our very own Navajo construction professionals are making great progress under the leadership of NDOT Director Garret Silversmith. The improvements help address safety concerns and improve access to school, work, health, and emergency responses. Many Diné College students

and employees rely on this route on a daily basis. Throughout all weather conditions, NDOT continues with construction and maintenance projects and is adamant about remaining on schedule to complete as many projects throughout the Navajo Nation,” said President Nez.

The Nez-Lizer Administration appreciates the support of past and present chapter leadership, community members, and the late Council Delegate Nelson S. BeGaye, for advocating for a safer route.

“Transportation infrastructure improvements to highways, bridges, dams, and dirt roads are the most obvious need in rural communities. The improvements to N12 and other roads will bring significant benefits to elders, students, families, and first responders. We appreciate the community members’ patience while NDOT and NECA finishes the pavement,” said Vice President Myron Lizer.



On Monday, President Nez and Vice President Lizer also visited the ongoing road improvements at N112 in Red Lake, N.M., where work crews have graded roads and are in the process of applying chip seal to the roadway that serves local residents.

For decades, community members residing in the neighborhood commonly known as St. Michaels housing have called for improvements to the residential streets. Unfortunately, the roadways do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Navajo Nation. However, the Navajo Division of Transportation went door to door collecting signatures from local residents supporting NDOT’s efforts to rehabilitate the neighborhood roads. In some areas, there were pot holes one to two feet deep that often led to flooding during heavy rain or snowfall.

NDOT collected signatures and was able to begin rehabilitating the intersection of Shonto and Jeddito Drive in the St. Michaels housing area, which includes 755 feet of asphalt milling of the existing surface, stabilizer placement, pothole repairs, subgrade preparation, and drainage repair. More repairs are needed and NDOT continues to work with oversight agencies to gain approval to conduct more rehabilitation work and to secure more resources.

The Nez-Lizer Administration commends the Navajo Nation Division of Transportation for working closely with local, state, and federal partners, and for managing over 100 road projects across the Navajo Nation.

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