



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 11, 2022

President Nez meets with the White House’s top infrastructure official

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez was joined by Division Directors on Thursday, during a virtual meeting with the White House’s Senior Advisor and Infrastructure Implementation Coordinator Mitch Landrieu, who was recently appointed by U.S. President Joe Biden to oversee and implement the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which was passed by Congress last November.

“On behalf of the Navajo Nation, we thank the Biden-Harris Administration for recognizing the Navajo peoples’ infrastructural priorities and providing guidance on the implementation of the Infrastructure Law, which invests more than \$11 billion in Indian Country for transportation, broadband, energy, water and sanitation facilities, and climate resiliency. With the partnership of Mitch Landrieu, who has a proven record of being able to oversee massive infrastructure funding and projects, I am confident that we will see many improvements for future generations. Our Administration has been working diligently to identify funding opportunities to leverage funding for our communities,” said President Nez.



PHOTO: Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Division Directors met with White House’s Senior Advisor and Infrastructure Implementation Coordinator Mitch Landrieu on February 10, 2022.

Landrieu is the former mayor of New Orleans, who is credited with leading the city’s recovery from the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. He helped too fast-track over 100 projects and secured billions in funding for roads, schools, hospitals, parks, and infrastructure.

President Nez also commended the Biden-Harris Administration for investing nearly \$725 million annually over the next 15 years, through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, for the U.S. Department of the Interior to create jobs and accelerate economic opportunities by reclaiming

abandoned mine lands (AML) within 22 states, including the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Nation was the only tribal Nation to be included among the states, and is set to receive \$1.6 million over 15 years to address reclamation needs.

During the discussion, Landrieu highlighted the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law guidebook, which contains comprehensive information on more than 375 programs to help state, local, and tribal governments.

Last week, President Nez also spoke about the Infrastructure Law during the White House Council on Native American Affairs' virtual inaugural engagement session, which provided an opportunity for tribal leaders to have meaningful input on the policies and deliveries of the Biden-Harris Administration. He highlighted the Nez-Lizer Administration's transportation white paper titled, "Diné Atiin Bahane: Navajo Road Emergence," which requests the federal government to enact seven specific policy changes to improve the Navajo Nation's transportation system.

"Infrastructure is the primary building block of our tribal communities. This investment will help rebuild roads and bridges that our people need to access basic services and lay the foundation for many communities to receive broadband and water delivery for the first time. While funding is made possible, we also need to address the burdensome red tape that exists. Federal laws and regulations continue to slow the progress of projects. We will continue working with the White House and our congressional delegation to streamline federal processes to lessen the administrative burden placed on tribes," added President Nez.

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