



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

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Na'ha'ta Dziil community celebrates the completion of new bridge



PHOTO: Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer, 24th Navajo Nation Council Delegate Raymond Smith Jr., Na'ha'ta Dziil officials, and others cut the ribbon during Monday's ribbon cutting ceremony for the completion of the new N2007 bridge, located in Na'ha'ta Dziil, AZ.

NA'HA'TA DZIIL, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer joined Navajo Division of Transportation Director Garret Silversmith, 24th Navajo Nation Council Delegate Raymond Smith Jr., Navajo Area Bureau of Indian Affairs Regional Director Gregory Mehojah, and Na'ha'ta Dziil officials on Monday, to celebrate the completion of a new two-lane bridge along N2007 in the community of Na'ha'ta Dziil, Ariz. located along Interstate 40. The new bridge replaces the previous one constructed in 1942, which had many safety concerns due to its age and usage.

“The completion of this project is another example of what can be accomplished when leaders and communities work together for the greater good of our people. There is a new bridge that will make transportation safer for school buses, first responders, and all residents who use it on a daily basis. We continue to make greater progress through collaborations between the Navajo Division of Transportation and Navajo Engineering Construction Authority. Together, they are doing great work both in numerous

communities to improve roads, bridges and other transportation infrastructure. We congratulate the Na’ha’ta Dziil community and all of the past and current leaders who made this a success,” said President Nez.



The construction work included a new 4-span concrete bridge, asphalt pavement, lane striping, grading, installation of guardrails and 9 piers, right-of-way fencing, and other miscellaneous construction activities. In 2014, \$18 million was secured through the Federal Highway Administration for Tribal Transportation Program for the project. However, construction was delayed due to increases in pricing and the need for additional funding. Navajo Nation leaders worked with the Navajo Area BIA, Apache County, and the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation to advocate for the additional funding.

“Together we are building a stronger and more sustainable Navajo Nation. This is a giant step forward for families and everyone who uses this roadway. In the years to come we will see the economic and public benefits of the newly built bridge. By working together across intergovernmental partnerships, our past and present Navajo leadership have demonstrated that we can deliver real results for the Navajo people,” stated Vice President Lizer.

Na’ha’ta Dziil Commission Governance President Darryl Ahasteen spoke about the bridge history, challenges, and delays that community members have dealt with for many years. Council Delegate Raymond Smith, Jr. also thanked President Nez and Vice President Lizer, chapter and visiting officials, the Resources and Development Committee, and others for the completion of the project.

President Nez also met and spoke with U.S. President Joe Biden in April to discuss the new appointment of a commissioner for the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation (ONHIR) — a position that has been vacant for the past 30 years. Filling the position would provide consistent representation for Navajo relocatees located in the southwest portion of the Navajo Nation.

“We thank all past and current leaders who made this project a priority for the community. We extend our appreciation to the Navajo Engineering Construction Authority, Apache County Officials, Nahata Dziil Commissioners, and Navajo Area BIA Regional Director Gregory Mehojah for being in attendance. The combined efforts and working together made this possible for the community,” said Navajo Division of Transportation Director Garret Silversmith.

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