



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

CONTACTS:

Jared Touchin, Communications Director
(928) 274-4275

Crystalyne Curley, Sr. Public Information Officer
(928) 274-2758

Timothy Benally, Public Information Officer
(928) 871-7000

nnopvp.communications@gmail.com

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Tsé Alnáozti'í community celebrates the start of construction of new bridge



PHOTO: Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty, and Tsé Alnáozti'í Chapter officials break ground on the new bridge in Tsé Alnáozti'í, N.M. on March 7, 2022.

TSÉ AĽNÁOZTI'I, N.M. — On Monday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty, Division of Transportation Director Garret Silversmith, and Miss Navajo Nation Niagara Rockbridge joined Tsé Alnáozti'í Chapter officials to mark the official start of construction of a long-awaited bridge that will serve community members, students, and first responders.

The new 104-foot long single-span bridge, located along N5012 along the Sanostee Wash, will allow commuters to cross the dirt wash safely without having to cross flooded areas during times of heavy rain or snowfall. During construction of the new bridge, the contractors will also install new drainage structures, cattleguards, signs, striping, and double chip seal pavement.

“We are here today to celebrate this milestone for the community of Tsé Alnáozti'í, thanks to the collaboration of local leaders and residents at the grassroots level who voiced the need for this

improvement to help residents, elders, students, first responders, and many others who rely on this particular roadway each day. Their voices were heard and they worked together with leadership at the central level to ensure that this new bridge was a priority. We are very thankful to Tsé Alnáozi'í Chapter leaders, their road committee, Delegate Crotty, NDOT, and others who worked hard to reach this point," said President Nez.

The project is funded by the Federal Highway Administration Tribal Infrastructure Program in the amount of over \$4 million, which was awarded to the FNF Construction company to build the bridge. Wilson & Company, Inc. designed the project and completed many of the preliminary requirements. President Nez signed off on the contract to allow the project to proceed.

Tsé Alnáozi'í Chapter President Jeanne Haskie, Vice President Gerald Henderson, Road Committee member Kori Tso also offered their continued support for the project and spoke about the many years of challenges for local residents that often dealt with the washed-out road. They also thanked Navajo Nation leaders and NDOT for moving the project forward.

Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty, who represents Tsé Alnáozi'í Chapter as a member of the 24th Navajo Nation Council, thanked the chapter officials, the Tsé Alnáozi'í Chapter Road Committee, President Nez, and NDOT for their support to make the local transportation safer for residents. She also spoke about the need to devote more support and resources to the local level to allow chapters to address local priorities including roads.

Navajo Division of Transportation Director Garret Silversmith stated, "Today's groundbreaking marks the official start date for construction activities of a new single span bridge within the community of Sanostee, N.M. Construction should be completed in either July or August 2022. I appreciate President Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer for their continuous support of this project, as well as Honorable Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty, the Honorable Delegates of the Resources and Development Committee, and the Sanostee Chapter officials. We're excited and looking forward to seeing this long-awaited bridge being completed for the community."

The Office of the President and Vice President extends its appreciation to Tsé Alnáozi'í Chapter officials and Road Committee, Delegate Crotty, Navajo Division of Transportation, FNF Construction, Wilson & Company, Inc. and others who continue to support the bridge project.

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