



NAVAJO DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION

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WESTERN NAVAJO AGENCY THIRD QUARTER REPORT APRIL – JUNE 2015

I) NDOT EXECUTIVE UPDATE

- 1) Safety Data Integration Project – The Navajo Division of Transportation (NDOT) was selected by the FHWA to do a pilot project for safety data analysis. This analysis was important to the Nation as MAP-21 has a big emphasis on safety analysis and projects. NDOT worked with FHWA and their consultant to complete the scope of work by April 2015. The analysis tool can be used to perform safety analysis for safety projects.
- 2) NDOT attended the Tribal Transportation Program Coordinating Committee (TTPCC) on May 5-7, 2015 to discuss: TTP program review and briefing reports; highway bill reauthorization proposal; 25 CFR presentation; election of new officers; presentation by BIA DOT regarding the GIS-based roadway inventory field data system (RIFDS); and dual language signs on tribal lands (i.e., traffic signs with both English and Navajo language).
- 3) NDOT is working with the Navajo Nation (NN) Washington DC office to develop tribal shares funding data analysis to determine how the NN will be impacted for various scenarios to the funding formula under the current MAP-21 highway bill. In addition, the NN will request letter of support from regional legislators for support on changing the funding formula on how funding is distributed amongst the Tribes.
- 4) NDOT met with San Juan County, UT Commissioners and Oljato Chapter on March 26, 2015 to discuss project updates on Oljato to Navajo Mountain Corridor Study, road maintenance activities, construction of Gypsum Wash drainage structure, and partnership to cost-share on future graveling and chip sealing road improvement projects.
- 5) US 89 Landslide Emergency Repair Project near Bitter Springs, AZ. This \$25 million construction project started in July 2014 and was completed on March 27, 2015 by ADOT with collaboration with NDOT and Navajo Nation regulatory agencies. With the opening of US 89, ADOT relinquished 89T/N20 back to BIA for operation and maintenance on April 17, 2015. FHWA Emergency Funds of \$28 million was used to pave 28 miles of N20 which was utilized as an emergency detour for two years while US 89 was being repaired.
- 6) NDOT conducted a Resources and Development Committee (RDC) Work Session on April 2-3, 2015 to orientate the new committee on: MAP-21 and Reauthorization of the Highway Bill; Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) overview and funding; Navajo Nation Tribal Transportation Improvement Program (NNTTIP) 5-Year Plan; NEPA requirements; Long Range Transportation Plan Update; Gravel Pit Development; NDOT Department presentations; and collaboration with BIA on road maintenance, preliminary engineering and construction activities.
- 7) NDOT provided technical assistance to Speaker Lorenzo Bates and Delegate Dwight Witherspoon to prepare a Transportation Stimulus Plan to address a directive by the Navajo Nation Council. The Plan will include accelerating construction of NNTTIP projects, maintenance/safety road activities, airport improvements, construction of road yards, and purchase of equipment. The Plan was presented to Naabikiyati' Committee on May 14, 2015 and Navajo Nation Council on May 19, 2015. Council tabled legislation and will re-visit legislation at the Summer 2015 Council Session.

- 8) NDOT is working with the BIA, Counties and Chapters to construct road improvements within the five agencies utilizing \$13 million of Fuel Excise Tax Road Funds, which was approved by the RDC on September 30, 2014. NDOT is finalizing the project assessments, scope of work, roles and responsibilities, procurement and purchasing requirements, and scheduling the construction work to begin in Summer 2015.
- 9) Navajo Transit proposed Legislation 0043-15 to request ten percent (10%) of the net revenue from the Navajo Nation Road Fund to be dedicated to the Navajo Transit System. NDOT did not support this legislation because this would have decreased funds for road maintenance activities to each chapter. After much discussion at an RDC Meeting on April 13, 2015, the sponsor withdrew this legislation.
- 10) NDOT submitted three (3) TIGER grant applications on June 3, 2015 to the U.S. Department of Transportation for: N12 from Wheatfields Lake to N64 Junction in Tsaille, AZ; N71 from N15 to Little Singer School Access in Birdsprings, AZ; and N15 Right-of-Way Fencing from Burnside Junction to Greasewood Springs, AZ. The RDC and Naabikiyati' Committee endorsed the three grant applications on May 26 & 28, 2015.
- 11) N6461(1-1)1,2&3 Bridge Replacement Dennehotso, AZ: The project plans and environmental documents are complete. NDOT received the grant of right-of-way from BIA on February 19, 2015. FHWA advertised the project for construction on February 26, 2015 and Capital Engineering Group was selected to construct the bridge. A Pre-Construction Meeting and Groundbreaking Ceremony was held on May 13, 2015. Construction began on May 18, 2015.
- 12) N16(6)/N162(1)/N164(1)2&4 Navajo Mountain, UT – NECA is working on roadway excavation at various locations throughout the project site and placing wire-enclosed riprap at the pipe outlets. NECA is 70% complete with an estimated completion date of November 4, 2015. The project cost is \$21.4 million using the Nation's Federal Funds and provides 5.7 miles of grade, drain and paving construction.
- 13) N6331(2)2&4/N6330(1)/N21(1A) Kaibeto, AZ: BIA is coordinating with NTUA to relocate their utilities. NDOT has completed archaeological surveys for spur road and roundabout and report is at HPD pending review and approval. Once archaeology report is approved, BIA will incorporate into EA and request a FONSI before submitting an application for right-of-way in Summer 2015. Design plans are 95% completed. Project will receive \$8.0 million for construction in FY2015 using the Nation's Federal Funds.
- 14) N71(2)2&4/N15/Little Singer School Access Birdsprings, AZ: BIA has completed survey work and set roadway alignment. NDOT completed archaeology work with no impact to sites. BIA completed plan-in-hand review in December 2015 and is 30% complete. Project is programmed to receive \$10.1 million for construction by FY2017
- 15) N31(4)1,2&4 Navajo, NM – NECA resumed earthwork activities on April 2015 and bridge work is ongoing. Utility relocations are ongoing and NECA is 35% complete with an estimated completion date of April 2016. The project cost is \$17.2 million using the Nation's Federal Funds and provides 5.3 miles of grade, drain, bridge and paving construction.
- 16) N9345(2)2&4 Wide Ruins, AZ – NECA was awarded contract for cost of \$6.3 million to construct 1.9 miles of grade, drain and paving near Wide Ruins, AZ. Construction began in May 2015.
- 17) N251(5-2)2,3 Tselani/Cottonwood, AZ – Preliminary engineering is completed for 14.5 miles to provide grade, drain, concrete box culverts and gravel construction. BIA has awarded contract to construct box culverts for \$1.2 million and BIA Force Account Section will construct road improvements starting in June 2015 using prior year construction funds of \$6.8 million.
- 18) N2007(1-1)1,2,4 New Lands, Navajo, AZ – BIA has completed design, environmental assessment, and obtained right-of-way to construct bridge that will span the Rio Puerco Wash and BNSF Railroad. NECA was awarded contract to construct 1.1 miles of grade, drain, bridge and paving construction

near Navajo, AZ. Project has secured \$12.2 million of construction funds using the Nation's Federal Funds. Construction is anticipated to start in June 2015.

- 19) N15 Fencing Project from Burnside to Greasewood Springs, AZ – BIA has completed surveys, adjusted roadway alignment and establish new right-of-way limits. NDOT consultant will utilize BIA survey and new right-of-way limits to develop plans for fencing, cattleguards and gates. NDOT has completed archaeology survey and will submit for review. Project plans are at the 30% stage. Construction funds of \$5 million will be secured by the end of FY2015 with construction in early FY2016.
- 20) N15(2-2)(3-1)(4-1)2&4 Burnside to Cornfield-Sunrise, AZ - BIA has completed surveys, adjusted roadway alignment and establish new right-of-way limits from Burnside to Greasewood Springs. NDOT has completed archaeology survey and will submit for review. Due to total construction cost of \$38 million, BIA will separate into three phases. BIA is developing final plans for N15(2-2) only. Construction funds of \$11.9 million for N15(2-2) will be secured by the end of FY2017. BIA held a Plan-in-Hand field review for N15(2-2) on January 22-23 and N15(4-1) on March 4-5, 2015. Construction funding for N15(3-1) and N15(4-1) has not been programmed on the 5-Year Plan.
- 21) N7150 Huerfano Bridge Replacement in Huerfano, NM – Interstate Highway Construction, Inc. was issued Notice to Proceed on June 9, 2014 and completed construction on April 28, 2015. This \$2.3 million project was administered by San Juan County, NM. Navajo DOT was notified by FHWA that this project was selected to receive \$1 million in TTP Bridge Funds. The Huerfano Chapter hosted a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on May 21, 2015 to open the new bridge.
- 22) N55(2)1,2&4 Alamo, NM – Meridian Construction has completed construction for this \$14.6 million project using the Nation's Federal Funds. This project provided 8.12 miles of grade, drain and paving construction near Alamo, NM.
- 23) N5001(1)(2)1,2&4 Toadlena, NM – Project will construct 6.1 miles of grade, drain, paving and bridge construction improvements. All survey data, alignment, geotechnical, archaeology and environmental assessment are completed. Design plans are 75% completed. A Plan-in-Hand field review is scheduled for July 13-15, 2015. Total construction funds of \$10.0 million are programmed on the 5-Year NNTTIP for FY2017 (\$5.0 million) and FY2018 (\$5.0 million).
- 24) N5012(1)1,2&3 Sanostee, NM – Project will construct 1.2 miles of grade, drain, gravel and bridge construction improvements. Preliminary alignment and scoping meeting is completed. Third alignment alternative needs survey, archaeological survey and EA. A public hearing will be scheduled in Summer 2015 to review alignment.
- 25) N8008(1)1,2,3 Round Rock, AZ - Weeminuche Construction Authority was selected to construct 1.18 miles of grade, drain and gravel and bridge over the Lukachukai Wash near Round Rock, AZ. The project will cost \$5.5 million and began construction in May 2015.
- 26) N55(3)1,2&4 Alamo, NM – Meridian Construction was selected in September 2014 to construct 8.68 miles of grade, drain and paving for \$20.8 million using the Nation's Federal Funds near Alamo, NM. The contractor began construction in May 2015.
- 27) N7119(1)/N481(1)2,3 Little Water, NM – Project will construct grade, drain and gravel road improvements for the Little Water Chapter Access Road. NDOT will work with the Chapter to obtain Permission to Survey and Right-of-Way for Construction from six (6) Indian Allotment Lands. Once permission to survey is secured, NDOT's consultant will be preliminary engineering activities. Project is slated for construction in FY2016.
- 28) N11(1a)1,2&4 Mariano Lake, NM – Preliminary engineering is 95% completed by BIA for 6.2 miles to provide grade, drain, paving and bridge construction. The land to be acquired for the roadway is a mixture of Indian trust, Indian allotment, Fee, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands. BIA is preparing the ROW package and is gathering consents for private and BLM lands to proceed to request for ROW. Project is currently programmed for construction in FY2018 at a cost of \$10.8 million.

- 29) N7054(1)1,2&3 Pinedale, NM – Preliminary engineering activities are on-going to construct 3.5 miles of grade, drain and gravel on the east end of the loop road. NDOT anticipates challenges in working with the Transwestern Transmission Gas Pipeline along the road alignment since the existing road parallels and is in close proximity to the gas pipeline. Archaeology sites have been identified that will need to be addressed during design.

I. CHALLENGES

1. N6461 Dennehotso Bridge & Roadway Project: Kick Off meeting for the construction phase was held at Dennehotso Chapter on May 19,'15, the pre con and ground breaking was on May 13,'15. The contractor is Capital Engineering of Phoenix and FHWA is overseeing the construction. To date, removed bedrock at south and north abutments, GRS-IBS leveling pads are finished, transporting material to site. Block laying and wall building will begin this week. Temporary erosion and sediment control measures were maintained across the site due to rainstorms through Laguna Creek drainage area.
2. US 89 Landslide Emergency Repair Project, Bitter Springs, AZ. The \$25 million construction project started in July 2014 and ADOT opened the road on March 27, 2015. With the opening of US 89, ADOT submitted a 30-day written notice to the Navajo Nation and BIA that a resolution of relinquishment of the Temporary Construction Easement for BIA Route N20 was scheduled for April 17, 2015 Arizona State Transportation Board agenda.
3. Coconino County Road Improvement Projects: The multi-agency meeting on March 19 and May 15,'15 discussed road improvement on IGA Road Maintenance routes including N70 Leupp Grand Falls, N21 Kaibeto-Gap, N6720 Coalmine Canyon, N6732 Leupp Black Falls and N16 Tonalea-Red lake. County is preparing a Five Year Road Improvement Plan for Board of Supervisor consent and approval, scope of work will include preliminary engineering, drainage report, archaeological/EA clearance, obtaining Clean Water Permit 401 & 404.
4. N2105 Coppermine Re-Alignment Project: Relocating the current route toward N20 Right of Way fence line for Coppermine community and design to install a cattle guard since this is a public route. This action will require Chapter resolution approval to begin the process.
5. N6440 Halchita Gypsum Creek Bridge Project: Completed a ninety foot bridge project in Kane Valley east of Monument Valley Tribal Park was developed by San Juan County Utah. Designed by Jones & Demille Engineering of St. George, UT and Jackson Excavation was the Contractor. Project cost was \$1.2 million with funds from San Juan County, BIA & NDOT.
6. Navajo Five Agency Regional Meetings: NDOT Planning Dept. will be hosting five agency regional meetings scheduled during the week of June 22, 2015 at NDOT Complex, Tse Bonito, NM. Each department will provide brief project updates and will focus on NN Long Range Transportation Plan by Wilson & Company and FY 2015 Navajo Airports Master Plan by McDermott Consulting, Department will prepare report on NDOT transportation activities, on-going projects.
7. Coconino County Public Works Department: Finalized identifying additional FY 2015 Road Maintenance Bus Routes by Coconino County on BIA roads utilizing County revenue from New Transportation Tax Initiative Prop 403. Increased road maintenance mileage from 222 to 286. Received supporting resolutions from Coppermine, Kaibeto, Leupp, Tonalea, and Tuba City as supporting documents for amending cooperative agreement between County and BIA.
8. N71 Birdsprings: Completed the Plans on Hand field review with Birdsprings Chapter, BIA & NDOT. Final alignment for the proposed roadway are being designed by BIA. BIDS is scheduled for Fall 2015.
9. Navajo County Partnership: BIA Road Department had implemented the plan of action of transporting and applying red dog gravel material to N221 Shonto. This graveling project was accomplished with partnership with Navajo County and BIA.
10. N2 Birdsprings: Road improvement plans for N2 will require preliminary engineering clearance from BIA on archaeology clearance, environment assessment and drainage report to do deliver a major upgrade including road preparation, road build up, graveling and drainage, culverts installations at several location. Birdsprings Chapter and NDOT to coordinate these required areas as partners to get this route project ready for the next FY2016 FET Betterment Program funds.

11. Navajo Tribal Transportation Improvement Program: Disseminated FHWA projects information sheet to WNA Chapters during the regional meeting at LeChee Chapter. These projects are scheduled for construction phase in FY 2015.
12. N6720 Tolani Lake: NDOT and WNA BIA Transportation Roads prepared at TIGER Grant Application in March FY 2014 for the cost proposal to realign N6720 and move the roadway to Navajo boundary. The focus on this project to be eligible of FHWA funds for any future road improvement and to be listed on the Navajo Tribal Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP). Current NDOT cannot program any FHWA funds for roads on Hopi Partition Land.
13. Wilson & Company Engineers Work Session: Feb 4 work session on updating the NN Long Range Transportation Plan, reviewing TTIP annual process. New bus routes by Coconino County should be added to the LRTP.
14. New Office Space for NDOT: Mr. Joe Salt, RBDO Program Manager, Division of Economic Development is proposing to develop and construct an office complex behind Tuba City Shopping Plaza utilizing Navajo resources. He is requesting NDOT a Letter of Commitment as a tenant for approximately 650 S.F. Office Rental Fees will be waived if CIO Legislation is approved by the NN Council.
15. WNA NNTTIP Next Five Year Plan FY 2019 - 2023: Updated WNA Chapter with the five regions of the current FY NN TTIP Plan and working with regions to develop the next Five Year FY 2019 - 2023 WNA TTIP Priority List.
16. WNA Betterment Road Improvement Program: Received updated scope of Work from Mr. Reyburn Joe, waiting on Road Dept. approval on scope of work. Updated the project management gantt chart on N16. All of Tuba City routes are project ready including N6221 Chee Willie Road, N6222 Old Airport Road, and N609 Kerley Valley Road.
17. Western Navajo Agency Road Maintenance Schedule for FY 2015: Sr. Planner continued to disseminate road maintenance to all WNA Chapters. Some routes are inaccurate labelled on routes ownership. Will make these corrections with principal engineering technicians.
18. LeChee Chapter N20 LeChee to Page Rehab Project: Planner met with Mr. Wilford Lane, chapter manager reassuring the Chapter that this project is on the FY 2014 Navajo Nation TTIP program for FY 2023. With the increase traffic up current ADT reading over 4,737.
19. Chapter Meetings: Planner will approached chapters for support resolutions on the recent additional mileage to Coconino County Road Maintenance for FY 2015 and WNA Road Maintenance Improvement FET Projects for FY 2015. Added 64 miles of school bus routes in Tonalea and Kaibeto communities. Also attend planning meeting LeChee, Leupp, and Birdsprings,
20. At the request of Chinle Agency Sr. Planner, automatic traffic recorder (ATR) were set on several BIA road system in January and Ganado, Burnside, Pinon N42, additional ATR were set on Western Navajo/Chinle BIA road system to update the annual In Process for new WNA reservation roads process being prepared with BIA Transportation.

II. PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

1. N6461 Dennehotso Bridge & Loop Road Project: Project superintendent has scheduled weekly meeting with public and provide weekly updates with NDOT & BIA. Construction completion is scheduled for August 19, 2015.
2. US 89 Landslide Emergency Repair Project: BIA has not received relinquishment of Right of Way documents from ADOT for any future road maintenance work.
3. Coconino County Road Improvement Project: NDOT will assist in planning with County and BIA for community support to final major bus routes scheduled for improvement.
4. N2105 Coppermine Re-Alignment: Planning Department has prepared resolutions for support & approval to proceed with realignment plan for proper documentation to submit to Regional for any route changes.
5. N6440 Halchita Bridge Project: Final plans and as built design will be forthcoming from San Juan County Utah.
6. Navajo Five Agency Regional Meetings: Planning Department and other programs will provide updates and disseminate reports to all chapter officials..

7. Coconino County Public Works Department: . The event will officially re-open the US 89 since the landslide which occurred on February 20, 2013.
8. N71 Birdsprings Alignment: Final review was conducted in May 2015 for any additional recommendation. TIGER Grant has submitted to FHWA to fund complete the project to the Little Colorado River Bridge.
9. Navajo County Partnership: BIA Road Department has implemented a work plan to provide red dog gravel to several bus routes problem areas. N2 will receive over 60 tons to address flood problems.
10. N2 Birdsprings: NDOT reviewing plans to initiate realigning the troublesome areas to higher grounds for road improvements.
11. Navajo Tribal Transportation Improvement Plan: Planner has been updating chapters on the FY Navajo Road Improvement Plan. These are on-going construction projects and new projects scheduled for FY 2015 including N6331 Kaibeto and N71 Birdsprings.
12. N6720 Tolani Lake Chapter: Focus to re-submit the proposed TIGER Grant to realign N6720 and move the roadway on Navajo jurisdiction to be eligible for FHWA funds for any future improvement plan.
13. Wilson & Company: Wilson has retained the Mr. Ron Maldonado to assist in providing preliminary engineering & clearance for upcoming Navajo Nation TTIP Priority Projects. Wilson Company attended regional meetings to provide TTIP project updates and assist in developing the next Five Year NNTTIP Priority Program while working with chapters to complete the preliminary studies and engineering, updating the current 2009 Navajo Nation Long Range Plan to a 2014 LRTP to reflect current conditions and needs.
14. New Office space for WNA NDOT: The front is preparing a letter of commitment to be a tenant of the new planned office complex. Funds is being secured by Division of Economic Development. Floor plan was forwarded to NDOT during the week of March 2, '15.
15. WNA NNTTIP Next Five Year Plan FY 2019-20223: Planner working with WNA chapters on the educating the public with process of prioritizing new road projects and working with Planning Department on the development of the Next Five Year Plan.
16. WNA Betterment Road Improvement Plan: FY 2015 road project that are scheduled for improvement is N16 Tsah bii Kin, scope of work is completed but not approve by NDOT. It is scheduled for improvement in Spring 2015. Water permit is being requested for 2 million gallons.
17. WNA Road Maintenance Schedule FY 2015: Kaibeto Chapter will be changing some priority routes since Coconino County PW will maintain N6330 in FY 2015. Tonalea Chapter will also be resubmitting changes to their revised school bus routes due to the County additions.
18. N20 LeChee Rehab Project: Updated the chapter on proposed LeChee Rehab Project, it is listed on the Western Navajo Agency TTIP construction project priority list.
19. Chapter Meetings: Received approved support resolutions from Kaibeto and Tonalea Chapter in regards to the new additional Coconino County Road Maintenance routes for FY 2015.
20. ADT Counts: WNA Principle Engineering Technician is providing assistance to Chinle and Fort Defiance Agency with traffic study and updating ADT for several routes as requested by BIA Agency Engineers.