



THE NAVAJO NATION

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VICE PRESIDENT NEZ MEETS WITH NM LEGISLATORS TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO TIF, CAPITAL OUTLAY FUNDING FOR NAVAJO NATION PROJECTS



Vice President Jonathan Nez, alongside New Mexico Senator for District 3, John Pinto and other legislators, discussed solutions for reforming the process for TIF and capital outlay funding from the state of New Mexico.

SANTA FE—On Jan. 22, Navajo Nation Vice President Jonathan Nez met with state legislators to discuss reforming the process for tribal infrastructure funding and capital outlay funding from the state of New Mexico.

The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President have been working closely with various divisions, departments, and programs in the tribal government to reduce funding reversions back to the state.

“On behalf of President Russell Begaye and I, we want to thank our New Mexico legislators, including our partners at the Indian Affairs Department for cooperating with the Navajo Nation in making quality of life improvements for the Navajo Nation,” said Vice President Nez.

He said Navajo chapters often leverage the appropriations with other funding sources to complete infrastructure projects in their communities.

“We applaud the state of New Mexico for reaching out to Indian communities and working with us develop infrastructure needs for needs for our people,” Vice President Nez said.

New Mexico Indian Affairs Department Cabinet Secretary Kelly Zunie commended President Begaye for keeping his promise to the department for finding solutions to bottlenecks in the tribal processes.

“He kept his promise. Not many tribal leaders do that,” she said.

The roundtable discussion included Sen. John Pinto (D-Dist. 3), Speaker Don Tripp, (R-Dist. 49), Rep. Wonda Johnson (D-Dist. 5), Rep. Sharon Clahchischillie (R. Dist. 4), Sen. Benny Shendo Jr. (D-Dist 22), Sen. George Munoz (D-Dist. 4), Rep. Patricia Lundstrom (D-Dist. 9), Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon (D-Dist. 6), Rep. Rodney Montoya (R-Dist. 1), and Sen. William Sharer (R-Dist. 1).

Speaker LoRenzo Bates and tribal council delegates Amber Crotty, Mel R. Begay, and Kee Allen Begay joined Vice President Nez for government-to-government dialogue. Additionally, tribal representatives from the Office of the Controller, Division of Community Development, Navajo Division of Transportation, Department of Engineering Services, and the Ramah Chapter were in attendance.

OPVP will be working on improving communications with Navajo chapters to ensure they are aware of progress on chapter projects funded by TIF and capital outlay dollars. Weekly coordination meetings will be scheduled and chapters are invited to attend.

Executive staff assistant Mark Freeland from OPVP will serve as liaison to New Mexico legislators and was introduced by Vice President Nez. The ongoing dialogue will continue to streamline internal and external funding issues related to TIF and capital outlay projects on the Navajo Nation.

OPVP will continue facilitating weekly coordination meetings to strengthen relations with the state.

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