



24th Navajo Nation Council

Office of the Speaker

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Public Encouraged to Submit Comments on ADOT 5-Year Plan

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Navajo Nation Council encourages the public to submit comments on the Arizona Department of Transportation Five-Year Transportation Facilities Construction Program before June 4. The program identifies how ADOT will invest in transportation projects across the state, including state assets on the Navajo Nation.

In January, the Naabik'íyáti' Committee passed resolution NABIJA-03-19, which identifies improvements to US Hwy 191 between Chinle and Many Farms as one of the Nation's Arizona state priorities.

Over the past several years, both communities, their schools, and their elected leadership have sought solutions for safety and traffic concerns along the highway.

“The communities along US 191 recognize how vital this highway is for commerce, intercommunity travel, and most importantly, education,” stated Delegate Kee Allen Begay Jr. (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Blue Gap/Tachee, Tselani/Cottonwood). “I ask that citizens submit their comments and supporting documentation to help realize the much-needed improvements to US 191.”

In June 2018, ADOT released a Safety Improvement Study that identified options for improving the safety of the highway.

The report identified several improvements that should be considered with growth in the region. It mentions “additional travel lanes, turn lanes, and signalization of intersections” as potential improvements. And adds that “[a]dditional signage, crosswalks, and crossing signals in school zones and other pedestrian areas, as well as shade structures at bus and transit stops also have been proposed. These improvements would provide protection not only from traffic, but, also, from the heat and potentially aid to increase transit use.”

Presently, the proposed improvement project has garnered widespread support from all levels of government. Council Speaker Seth Damon (Bááháálí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Lichíí', Rock Springs, Tsayatoh) and President Jonathan Nez have both issued support letters, as well as Navajo County Supervisor Jesse Thompson.

Navajo Division of Transportation Director Garret Silversmith and his staff have also made supporting comments at Arizona State Transportation Board meetings.

Students and local schools have been particularly active in this effort. Many Farm High School students issued a petition and the Chinle Unified School District is supporting the effort. Additionally, Many Farm Chapter has submitted a resolution of support.

According to ADOT, the state transportation board is expected to adopt the final 2020-2024 Five-Year Transportation Facilities Construction Program at its June 21, 2019 meeting in Pinetop-Lakeside.

Comments submitted by June 4 will be considered by the board.

To submit comments, please visit this [link](#), email fiveyearconstructionprogram@azdot.gov, or call 855.712.8530.

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