



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 21, 2018

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Council celebrates the groundbreaking of the Twin Arrows Travel Center



PHOTO: Navajo Nation Council members Delegate Otto Tso, Delegate Nathaniel Brown, Delegate Norman M. Begay, Delegate Walter Phelps, Delegate Herman Daniels, Jr., and Delegate Benjamin L. Bennett, Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise board of directors, and Leupp Chapter leadership during the groundbreaking ceremony for the Twin Arrows Travel Center at Exit 219 on Interstate-40 on Sept. 20, 2018.

LEUPP, Ariz. – On Thursday, Navajo Nation Council members attended a groundbreaking ceremony for the Twin Arrows Travel Center, which will be constructed northeast of the roundabout at Exit 219 on Interstate 40, located approximately 24-miles east of Flagstaff.

In July 2016, the Navajo Nation Council passed legislation to adopt the Síhasin Fund Twin Arrows Travel Center Development Expenditure Plan, which included direct funding to the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise in the amount of \$6 million and a loan of \$4 million. In December 2017, the Budget and Finance Committee passed legislation to approve the loan between the Nation and NNGE to partially fund the development project.

The Twin Arrows Travel Center would include a convenience store, gas station, truck services, gifts and souvenir shops, and parking.

During the event, Council Delegate Walter Phelps (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi To ii) commended all entities and partners involved with the travel center project including the Naabik'íyáti' Committee's Síhasin Fund Subcommittee, Leupp Chapter officials, NNGE and its board of directors, Navajo Gaming Regulatory Office, Navajo Nation Oil and Gas Company, Navajo Nation Shopping Centers, Inc., and others.

"This is a momentous occasion for the Navajo Nation because the return on investment would be significant. Not only will the travel center provide employment for tribal members, it will also generate revenue from sales taxes and fuel excise taxes, which in return would provide opportunities for future development and direct services for the people," said Delegate Phelps.

Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise CEO Brian Parrish expressed his appreciation to the Council members, local leadership, and everyone involved with the project.

"Navajo leadership has taken a risk to invest in such a wonderful opportunity. We guarantee that the travel center will be 100-percent authentic Navajo," said Parrish.

Council Delegate Benjamin L. Bennett (Crystal, Fort Defiance, Red Lake, Sawmill), who serves as the vice chair of the Resources and Development Committee, stated that the new development would successfully contribute to the vision of the Twin Arrows Casino Resort's master plan.

"This projects adds on to the casino and the public safety substation. Working together, we can make big dreams a reality on the Navajo Nation," said Delegate Bennett.

The Twin Arrows Travel Center is expected to be constructed within one year.

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