

**Hopi Transportation Summit
BIA Route 60 Task Team Report
September 24, 2008**

Background

Problems associated with BIA Route 60, more commonly referred to as the Low Mountain Road, was first mentioned on February 14, 2005 during an emergency meeting of the Hopi Transportation Task Team (HTTT). Unfortunately, there was not a quorum to conduct official business, but the meeting continued nonetheless. Mr. Lyle Laban, a bus driver for the Hopi Junior Senior High School, raised a concern that school buses were getting stuck during inclement weather. His concern was for the safety of the Navajo students who were bussed from the Low Mountain area.

Ivan Sidney, who was Chairman at the time, informed the HTTT on January 09, 2006 that Mr. Sampson Begay, Chairman of the Navajo Nation Transportation and Community Development Committee (TCDC) informed the HTTT of the availability of one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) for BIA Route 60.

HTTT Chairman Kingston Honahni and Vice Chairman Todd Honyaoma, Sr. welcomed the Navajo Nation TCDC members to its regular meeting on February 22, 2006. Ms. Eleanor Shirley, Staff Assistant of the TCDC broke out that the \$1,000,000.00 was to cover, i.e.: field review, engineering study, cultural survey and biological survey.

The HTTT and NNTCDC again met on March 15, 2006 to get a progress report regarding the \$1,000,000.00 appropriation. Chairman Sidney and NNTCDC Chair Mark Maryboy, urged the Task Team and the Committee to expedite the process in order not to lose the funding.

The HTTT and NNTCDC again met on April 10, 2006 to hear from the Western Regional Office (WRO) and Navajo Regional Office (NRO) on the progress at their level. Mr. Vernon Palmer, Regional Engineer for WRO, stated bureaucracy could slow the process. The HTTT and NNTCDC in consensus directed their Chairman and President respectively to send letters to the Federal Highway Administration and BIA Central Office to have funds come directly to the Hopi Tribe.

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HTTT met with First Mesa Consolidated Villages on May 09, 2006 to clear up issues, such as (1) Land Assignments from clans, villages, (2) Easements for ROW, road width at 100 feet or 200 feet, (3) Involve ranchers for cattle crossings and (4) Historic houses. Vice Chairman Honyaoma stated that the letter to Leroy Gishi at BIA Central Office requesting for the appropriations be sent directly to the Hopi Tribe.

On July 10, 2007, Mr. David Smith reported at the BIA/Hopi Tribe Transportation meeting that eight hundred fifty-two thousand six hundred sixteen dollars (852,616.00) is available for the BIA Route 60 planning and design work from the initial one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00).

Vice Chairman Honyaoma was instructed to prepare a letter of intent to contract the BIA Route 60 Project by the HTTT at their meeting on January 29, 2008.

A special committee for HTTT composed of Ivan Sidney, Herb Begay, Phillip Quochytewa, Milton Poola and Arnold Taylor was formed to work on unresolved issues relative to the BIA Route 60.

On June 04, 2008, Herb Begay reported to the work group that he was revising the scope of work to add a bridge on BIA Route 60.

Administrative Functions

The Hopi Tribal Council approved HTC Resolution H-020-08 on January 09, 2008 to contract from the Bureau of Indian Affairs the HIR 60(1) – H65475, Low Mountain Road Project under the authority of Public Law 93-638, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act.

A June 16, 2008 letter from the Regional Road Engineer, Mr. David R. Smith, acknowledges the Hopi Tribe's letter of intent to contract via HTC Resolution H-020-08.

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The Regional Awarding Official, Ms. Rebecca Smith, subsequently acknowledges by letter dated July 08, 2008, the contract number CTH65T60889, project HIR 60(1) to perform the following: Architectural and Engineering Services for project planning and pre-construction services to develop plans, special contract requirements and engineer's estimate (P, S & E) for construction of approximately 13.93 miles of Low Mountain Road.

A position description for the Transportation Director was completed and needs only to be advertised. An operating budget is being developed for the transportation program, including a line item for publishing/advertisement so the position can be announced by the Office of Personnel Management. A program is required to pay for the announcement/advertisement of a position if a wider circulation is requested.

Submitted by: Arnold Taylor, Sr.
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The Hopi Tribe