

RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL  
25<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - FIRST YEAR, 2023

AN ACTION

RELATING TO THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT AND THE NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES, AND TO THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; CONFIRMING THE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENT OF GARRET SILVERSMITH AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NAVAJO DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Resources and Development Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council with oversight authority over the Navajo Division of Transportation. 2 N.N.C. § 500, 2 N.N.C. § 501(C)(1).
- B. Proposed resolutions requiring final action by the Navajo Nation Council shall be assigned for review by the Naabik'íyátí Committee. 2 N.N.C. § 501(C)(1).
- C. The Navajo Nation Council has the authority to confirm division director appointments upon recommendation from the appropriate oversight committee. 2 N.N.C. § 102(F).
- D. According to the revised Plan of Operation for the Navajo Division of Transportation, approved in Resolution No. CAP-13-13, the Executive Director of the Navajo Division of Transportation is appointed by the Navajo Nation President and the Navajo Nation Council confirms such appointment. See NDOT Plan of Operation (revised), Section III(A)(2).

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. The Navajo Nation President has appointed Garret Silversmith as the Executive Director of the Navajo Division of Transportation. EXHIBIT A.
- B. As provided in the NDOT Plan of Operation, the appointed Division Director of NDOT is confirmed by the Navajo Nation Council, and serves at the pleasure of the Navajo Nation President. NDOT Plan of Operation (revised), Section III(A)(2) approved in CAP-13-13.
- C. Garret Silversmith is well-qualified to serve as the Executive Director of NDOT. His letter of interest and résumé are attached hereto as EXHIBIT B.

- D. The Navajo Nation Council has reviewed the professional credentials of Garret Silversmith, and finds that confirming the President's appointment of Garret Silversmith as the Executive Director of the Navajo Division of Transportation is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation

**SECTION THREE. CONFIRMING THE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENT OF GARRET SILVERSMITH AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NAVAJO DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION**

- A. The Navajo Nation Council hereby confirms the appointment of Garret Silversmith as the Executive Director of the Division of Transportation. This confirmation shall remain effective for as long as Garret Silversmith occupies the position of Executive Director.
- B. The Navajo Nation Council acknowledges that Garret Silversmith serves at the pleasure of the Navajo Nation President. NDOT Plan of Operation (revised), Section III(A)(2) approved in CAP-13-13.

**SECTION FOUR. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Action shall become effective pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 102(F) and 2 N.N.C. § 221(C).

**CERTIFICATION**

I, hereby, certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 17 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April 2023.



Honorable Crystalyne Curley, Speaker  
25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

4/27/23  
DATE

Motion: Honorable George H. Tolth  
Second: Honorable Andy Nez

Speaker Crystalyne Curley not voting



# DR. BUU NYGREN **EXHIBIT A**

## RICHELLE MONTOYA *VICE PRESIDENT*

**The Navajo Nation | Yideeskáądi Nitsáhákees**

January 10, 2023

Garret Silversmith  
P.O. Box  
Keams Canyon, AZ 86034

**RE: Appointment as Division Director of Navajo Department of Transportation**

Dear Mr. Silversmith,

We are pleased to offer you an appointment to serve as the Division Director for the Navajo Department of Transportation. This appointment takes affect at 12:00 p.m. on January 10, 2023. We are so pleased you verbally accepted this position and have started your new role. Your salary is \$99,973.00.

Thank you for agreeing to serve the Nygren-Montoya Administration, the youngest Navajo Nation President elected, and the first woman to be Vice President. Together we will work hard for the Navajo people at the hogan level.

Ahéhee'

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. V. Nygren", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Buu Nygren, *President*  
**THE NAVAJO NATION**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richelle Montoya", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richelle Montoya, *Vice President*  
**THE NAVAJO NATION**



## **NAVAJO DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION**

**POST OFFICE BOX 4620, WINDOW ROCK, AZ 86515**

**TEL: 505.371.8300/8301 FAX: 505.371.8399**

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**Dr. Buu Van Nygren  
PRESIDENT**

**Richelle Montoya  
VICE PRESIDENT**

25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council  
Window Rock, AZ

February 10, 2023

Dear Honorable Navajo Nation Council Members,

It is with a distinct honor and appreciativeness, for I to seek the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council's favorable confirmation as the continuing Executive Division Director for the Navajo Division of Transportation (Navajo DOT). I look forward to leading and guiding a collection of exceptional, experienced, and knowledgeable Navajo DOT staff. Considerable progress was made during the previous Administration, and it is our intent to continue with this momentum into the Nygren-Montoya Administration.

Recently, President Dr. Buu Nygren, Vice President Richelle Montoya, and staff of the Office of President and Vice President and I have strategically discussed innovative ways and improvement options to the Navajo Nation's transportation system infrastructure. Additionally, Navajo DOT will continue to share these methods with the local communities and with the assistance of our Federal, State, and County partners; we will steadily improve our Navajo Nation's transportation assets.

I look forward towards establishing and creating a close working relationship with the 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council and our connecting rapport and bond.

Respectfully,

Garret Silversmith, Executive Division Director

# Garret Silversmith

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**Objective**      To actively continue my thorough involvement within the transportation field.

**Professional Experience**      2019 to 2023      Navajo Division of Transportation  
Executive Director      Window Rock, Arizona  
Supervisors: President Jonathan Nez  
Vice President Myron Lizer

- Implement a yearly budget of more than \$70 million to address the Navajo Nation's transportation system maintenance and new construction needs.
- Efficiently collaborated and worked with Navajo Nation Executive Branch leadership, 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council, Chapter House Officials, and community members in pursuit of addressing highways, bridges, and dirt road deficiencies.
- Fully participated in the planning and development of engineering designs, cost estimates, bidding, and procurement for all funded projects.
- With a staff size of over 100 employees, coordinated the weekly progression of Division goals, tasks, and responsibilities.
- On a yearly basis, coordinated and participated with the submittal of federal/tribal budgets, transportation system inventory updates, reports, and Tribal Transportation Improvement Program.

2016 to 2019      Navajo Division of Transportation  
Executive Director      Window Rock, Arizona  
Supervisors: President Russell Begaye  
Vice President Jonathan Nez

- Oversee staff of approximately 130 and a yearly budget of more than \$60 million.
- Developed Navajo Nation's transportation priorities, goals, and plans with assistance from elected leaders and community members.
- Oversee the reorganization, expansion, and decentralization of the division.
- Interface and represent the Nation's transportation interest before the federal government, as well as county and state governments.
- Effectively managed the planning, development, operation and sustainment of a variety of transportation services and programs that address the needs of the Navajo Nation chapters/communities.

**2012 – 2016**  
**Supervisory Highway Engineer**

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Chinle, Arizona  
Division of Transportation  
Supervisor: Mr. Herby Larsen

- Effectively supervised a staff size numbering in excess of 18 employees.
- Supervised and planned work for subordinates, established priorities and prepared weekly staff schedules for its completion.
- Worked collectively with an emphasis on public involvement for upcoming new construction and/or maintenance of highways, gravel roads, and bridge projects.
- Represented the Chinle Agency Division of Transportation at Chapter House, County, State, and Federal meetings.
- Oversaw the implementation of a Fiscal Yearly Maintenance budget in excess of 1.1 million dollars.
- Fully participated in the creation and submittal of all Agency minor road and drainage structure designs.
- Provided technical assistance in all aspects of transportation infrastructure to State, County, and/or Tribal entities.

**2003 – 2012**  
**Civil Engineer**

Bighorse Engineers, St. Michaels, Arizona  
Supervisor: Mr. Max Bighorse

- Completed all aspects of civil engineering low volume highway design, rural, and urban subdivision street/road designs, and street/highway drainage & site development drainage designs.
- Successfully accomplished all phases of design for airport runway & site designs, housing subdivisions, and residential/commercial water & sewer utility systems.
- Supervised topography land surveys, boundary retracements, street and highway construction staking & layout projects.
- Participated in contractor and subcontractor pre-bid sessions, construction progress meetings, and final project construction inspections.
- Coordinated with Federal, State of New Mexico, State of Arizona, and Navajo tribal entities on all aspects of contracted design projects.
- Knowledgeable and actively used the AutoCAD 2009 Land Desktop design software, Topcon GPT-3007W Total Station, and Topcon FC-200 Data Collector

**2004**  
**Substitute Teacher**

Cedar Unified School District, Jeddito, Arizona  
Supervisor: Ms. Patricia Dowd (Principal)

- Served as a Substitute Teacher for all grade levels from Kindergarten – 8<sup>th</sup> grades.
- Instructed classroom subjects ranging from Math, Reading, English, History and Science.

2001-2002 Nations Gas Technologies, Inc., Navajo New Mexico  
Staff Engineer Supervisor: Mr. Lupe Rosetta, (505) 777-2291

- Supervised and managed entire office/field staff numbering from 6-15 employees with the daily administrative and field operations.
- Sought potential jobs ranging from water, sewer, propane, and natural gas.
- Participated extensively in all construction phases of residential and commercial projects from start to finish.
- Lead office progress and project coordination meetings.

1996-2001 Navajo Housing Authority, Fort Defiance, Arizona  
Project Engineer Supervisor: Mr. Max Bighorse, (928) 729-6371

- Developed estimates, budgets, and project scheduling of new/existing street & drainage construction within housing subdivisions.
- Involved extensively in the completion of 25 major street construction housing subdivision designs within the Navajo Reservation.
- Participated extensively in site land surveying and civil engineering design of new streets construction and street rehabilitation projects.
- As an Acting Technical Design Manager, occasionally supervised the daily operations of office staff numbering from 20-30 employees.
- Participated in contractor pre-bid sessions, construction progress meetings, staff coordination meetings, and final inspections.
- Coordinated with Federal, State of New Mexico, State of Arizona, and Navajo tribal offices on all aspects of current and past design projects.
- Actively participated in public housing subdivision meetings and Navajo Chapter House meetings on the Scope of Work portion of upcoming street design projects.
- Collectively and with other staff, created a NHA street maintenance program and design standards specifications manual.
- Knowledgeable and actively used the Sokkia Leitz Set3B Total Station and Sokkia SDR33 Data Collector.

Education	1993	New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico Bachelor of Science, Civil Engineering
	1994-1995	University of New Mexico, Gallup, New Mexico AutoCAD I, AutoCAD II, and AutoCAD III computer aided drafting classes
	2006	University of New Mexico, Gallup, New Mexico AutoDesk Land Desktop design software class

<b>Organizations</b>	2022 – Present	Tribal Transportation Program Coordinating Committee Vice President
	2019 – Present	Tribal Interior Budget Council Roads Maintenance Subcommittee member
	2017 – Present	Intertribal Transportation Association member
	2016 – 2022	Tribal Transportation Program Coordinating Committee member
<b>Volunteer</b>	2012 Rodeo Arena Helper	Navajo Nation Treaty Days Rodeo, Window Rock, Arizona
	2004 - 2020 Lecturer (Readings)	St. Joseph Catholic Church, Keams Canyon, Arizona
	2005 – 2010 President	St. Joseph Parish Council, Keams Canyon, Arizona
	2001 – 2002	Community Land Use Planning Committee, Navajo, New Mexico Red Lake Chapter
	2001 – 2002 Secretary/Treasurer	Boys and Girls Club, Navajo, New Mexico
	1996 Assistant Football Coach	Tony Dorsett Touch Down Football League, Gallup, New Mexico



# NAVAJO NATION

4/18/2023

Navajo Nation Council Spring Session

04:53:10 PM

Amd# to Amd#	Legislation 0021-23: Confirming	PASSED
MOT Tolth, G	the President's Appointment of	
SEC Nez, A	Garrett Silversmith as the	
	Executive Director of the.....	

Yeas : 17

Nays : 0

Excused : 1

Not Voting : 5

## Yea : 17

Arviso, S	Damon, S	Nez, A	Simpson, D
Begay, H	Daniels, H	Nez, R	Slater, C
Begay, N	James, V	Notah, N	Tolth, G
Charles-Newton, E	Johnson, C	Parrish, S	Tso, O
Claw, S			

## Nay : 0

## Excused : 1

Crotty, A

## Not Voting : 5

Aseret, L	Simonson, G	Yanito, C	Yazzie, C
Jesus, B			

Presiding Speaker: Curley, C