

## **SUMMARY OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

Tracking No. 0021-23

Date: February 14, 2023

Subject: **AN ACTION RELATING TO THE RESOURCES & 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**

### **Purpose of this Legislation:**

to confirm the President's appointment of Garret Silversmith as the Executive Director of the Navajo Division of Transportation.

OLC No. 23-057-1

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: A Johnson  
Website Posting Time/Date: 3:48pm; 02-16-23  
Posting End Date: 02-21-23  
Eligible for Action: 02-22-23

Resources & Development Committee

Thence

Naabik'iyáti' Committee

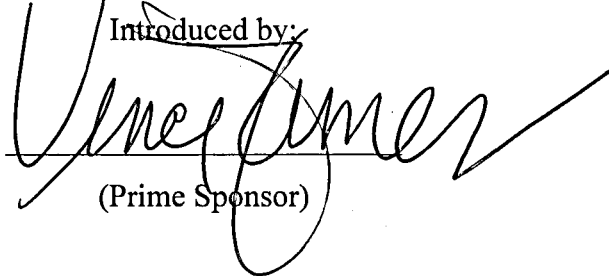
Thence

Navajo Nation Council

PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION

25<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - First Year, 2023

Introduced by:



(Prime Sponsor)

Tracking No. 0021-23

AN ACTION

RELATING TO THE RESOURCES & 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 & 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'iyáti' 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).

1 **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

2 A. The Navajo Nation President has appointed Garret Silversmith as the Executive Director of  
3 the Navajo Division of Transportation. **EXHIBIT A.**

4 B. As provided in the NDOT Plan of Operation, the appointed Division Director of NDOT is  
5 confirmed by the Navajo Nation Council, and serves at the pleasure of the Navajo Nation  
6 President. NDOT Plan of Operation (revised), Section III(A)(2) approved in CAP-13-13.

7 C. Garret Silversmith is well-qualified to serve as the Executive Director of NDOT. His letter  
8 of interest and résumé are attached hereto as **EXHIBIT B.**

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

12  
13 **SECTION THREE. CONFIRMING THE PRESIDENT'S APPOINTMENT OF**  
14 **GARRET SILVERSMITH AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE**  
15 **NAVAJO DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION**

16 A. The Navajo Nation Council hereby confirms the appointment of Garret Silversmith as the  
17 Executive Director of the Division of Transportation. This confirmation shall remain  
18 effective for as long as Garret Silversmith occupies the position of Executive Director.

19 B. The Navajo Nation Council acknowledges that Garret Silversmith serves at the pleasure of  
20 the Navajo Nation President. NDOT Plan of Operation (revised), Section III(A)(2) approved  
21 in CAP-13-13.

22  
23 **SECTION FOUR. EFFECTIVE DATE**

24 This Action shall become effective pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §102(F) and 2 N.N.C. §221(C).  
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**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 stylized, handwritten signature of Dr. Buu Nygren in black ink.

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

A handwritten signature of Richelle Montoya in black ink.

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  
                         **Executive Director**

Navajo Division of Transportation  
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  
**Executive Director**

Navajo Division of Transportation  
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  
Staff Engineer

Nations Gas Technologies, Inc., Navajo New Mexico  
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  
Project Engineer

Navajo Housing Authority, Fort Defiance, Arizona  
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

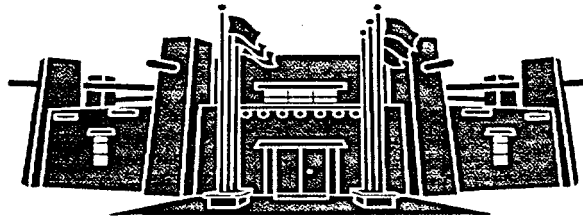
University of New Mexico, Gallup, New Mexico  
AutoCAD I, AutoCAD II, and AutoCAD III computer aided drafting classes

2006

University of New Mexico, Gallup, New Mexico  
AutoDesk Land Desktop design software class

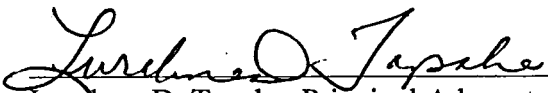


<b>Organizations</b>	2022 – Present	Tribal Transportation Program Coordinating Committee Vice President
	2019 – Present	Tribal Interior Budget Council Roads Maintenance Subcommittee member
	2017 – Present	Intertribal Transportation Association member
	2016 – 2022	Tribal Transportation Program Coordinating 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



## MEMORANDUM

To: Hon. Vince James, Chairperson  
Health, Education, and Human Services Committee  
25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

From:   
Luralene D. Tapahe, Principal Advocate  
Office of Legislative Counsel

Date: February 14, 2023

Subject: **AN ACTION RELATING TO THE RESOURCES & DEVELOPMENT AND THE  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES, AND TO THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL;  
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OF TRANSPORTATION**

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Per your request, the Office of Legislative Counsel has prepared the above-referenced proposed Legislation and related summary sheet. Based on existing Navajo Nation law and other applicable laws, and upon OLC's review of all supporting documents submitted, this legislation as drafted is legally sufficient. However, as with any action of government, this legislation may be subject to judicial review in the event of a legal challenge.

**Please review this legislation to make sure it is drafted to your satisfaction, and that all necessary and appropriate supporting documents have been provided and all attached Exhibits are correct.**

OLC has reviewed the appropriate standing committees' authorities to consider this legislation, based on the standing committees' powers and responsibilities set forth in Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code. Based on its review, OLC has listed those committees in the title of this legislation. However, the Speaker may assign this legislation to any committee(s) other than those shown in the title, pursuant to his authority under 2 N.N.C. §164(A)(5).

If you find anything unacceptable, please let me know immediately and advise me of your desired changes. I can be reached at phone no. (928)871-7166 or by email at: [LuraleneTapahe@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:LuraleneTapahe@navajo-nsn.gov)

Thank you for your cooperation.

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: \_0021-23\_

SPONSOR: Vince R. James

**TITLE: An Action Relating to the Resources and Development and the Naabik'íyáti' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the President's Appointment of Garrett Silversmith as the Executive Director of the Navajo Division of Transportation**

**Date posted: February 16, 2023 at 3:48PM**

**Digital comments may be e-mailed to [comments@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:comments@navajo-nsn.gov)**

**Written comments may be mailed to:**

**Executive Director  
Office of Legislative Services  
P.O. Box 3390  
Window Rock, AZ 86515  
(928) 871-7586**

**Comments may be made in the form of chapter resolutions, letters, position papers, etc. Please include your name, position title, address for written comments; a valid e-mail address is required. Anonymous comments will not be included in the Legislation packet.**

**Please note:** This digital copy is being provided for the benefit of the Navajo Nation chapters and public use. Any political use is prohibited. All written comments received become the property of the Navajo Nation and will be forwarded to the assigned Navajo Nation Council standing committee(s) and/or the Navajo Nation Council for review. Any tampering with public records are punishable by Navajo Nation law pursuant to 17 N.N.C. §374 *et. seq.*

**THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY**

**LEGISLATION NO.: 0021-23**

**SPONSOR: Honorable Vince R. James**

**TITLE: An Action Relating to the Resources and Development and the Naabik'iyáti' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Confirming the President's Appointment of Garrett Silversmith as the Executive Director of the Navajo Division of Transportation**

**Posted: February 16, 2023 at 3:48 PM**

**5 DAY Comment Period Ended: February 21, 2023**

**Digital Comments received:**

<b>Comments Supporting</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>Comments Opposing</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>Comments/Recommendations</b>	<i>None</i>

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Policy Analyst  
Office of Legislative Services**

**February 22, 2023; 8:00 AM**  
**Date/Time**