

## **PARTNERING SUCCESS/OPPORTUNITY STORY**

### **Situation** *(provide a brief description/background of the situation):*

- The Navajo Nation and the BIA Division of Transportation (DOT) Navajo Region was requesting a Revocable Permit from the Hopi Tribe to conduct all necessary preliminary studies, surveys, environmental clearances and permitting to carry out full design of 3.2 miles of N8031 approach roadway and a bridge over the Oraibi Wash.

### **Challenges** *(describe the difficulties/issues/obstacles):*

- The N8031 request to the Hopi Tribe to conduct preliminary studies and surveys dates back to September 27, 1993. Several Hopi Tribal Council Resolutions approved this work but the Navajo Nation did not pursue the work.
- Previous request to conduct the preliminary studies were not properly defined by location in the resolutions and therefore, the work was not carried out.
- Changes in personnel, administration and Councils for both the Hopi Tribe and the Navajo Nation also prevented the work from being completed.

### **Partnering Practices** *(what were the behaviors, attitudes & steps taken to promote collaborative teamwork?):*

- The Navajo DOT and the Hopi Transportation Task Team (HTTT) began partnership meetings and discussions to address road inventory issues, road maintenance activities and responsibilities, and permits to conduct preliminary studies across Hopi Lands in December 2012.
- Several meetings were conducted to discuss road inventory issues and concerns which promoted an atmosphere of collaborative teamwork to address these issues.
- The road inventory issues were addressed and both Nation's agreed to continue partnership meetings to discuss and address issues and concerns for road maintenance and road improvement activities.
- A collaborative working relationship between the Navajo DOT and HTTT was instrumental in coordination meetings to prepare the necessary

N8031 Permit request documents for Hopi Tribal Council review and approval.

**Outcomes** *(results: what happened as a result of the partnering efforts, which may or may not have been successful?):*

- The support of the Hopi Transportation Task Team was instrumental during the presentation of the N8031 Permit request to the Hopi Tribal Council.
- The approval of the N8031 Revocable Permit from the Hopi Tribe was instrumental in the Navajo DOT and Hardrock Chapter receiving approval from the Navajo Nation's Resources and Development Committee to fund the preliminary engineering and construction of the N8031 project.

**Lessons Learned** *(what insights or new information are you taking away from this situation, whether the outcome was the desired one or not?)*

- Both the Navajo DOT and the HTTT agreed to focus on the transportation issues to address quality of life for citizens of the area and not allow the politics of other Navajo/Hopi issues to enter into our collaborative teamwork.

**Best Practices** *(what Partnering tool was used – communication, commitment, cooperation, champion, issue resolution, problem solving to benefit the team?)*

- Communication from the Navajo DOT and HTTT was important to educate, inform and develop support to address road inventory issues and receive approval of the N8031 Revocable Permit.
- Commitment from both the Navajo DOT and HTTT was crucial to address road inventory issues and the approval of the N8031 Revocable Permit.
- The HTTT was instrumental in sponsoring and advocating for the N8031 permit on behalf of the Navajo Nation to the Hopi Tribal Council.

**List the Partners that were part of the solution:**

- The Hopi Tribal Council, Hopi Transportation Task Team, Hopi Department of Transportation, Navajo County, BIA DOT Navajo Region, Navajo Nation Council, Resources and Development Committee, Hardrock Chapter, Pinon Chapter, and the Navajo Division of Transportation.