

Blue Ridge Unified School District #32

Greg Schalow - Superintendent

Brenda Thomas - Business Manager

September 2, 2009



James G. Jayne, County Manager
Navajo County
P.O. Box 668
Holbrook, AZ 86025

Re: Southern Navajo County Regional Corridor Project

Dear Mr. Jayne

Blue Ridge Unified School District student population is 2,600. Blue Ridge Schools and the associated mega-campuses are located on two busy commuter arterials, State Route Highway 260 and Porter Mountain Road. The Town of Pinetop-Lakeside is a popular seasonal and visitor destination and the two roadways are clogged with local, visitor, regional and semi-truck traffic. The Town and immediate surrounding is a popular second home retreat – between the months of May through October the population increases by 40,000 exacerbating pedestrian and motorist conflicts.

With the opening of the new Blue Ridge Mid/Junior High School Campus on Porter Mountain Road, safety conditions dramatically worsened for students and drivers. Students walking and biking to or from school simply have no off roadway safety options. Students and other pedestrians continually compete for space and dodge traffic along Porter Mountain Road. The bridge over Billy Creek creates an even worse nightmare. The bridge is barely wide enough to allow normal traffic conditions and is not designed to accommodate walking and biking students or other pedestrians safely. Porter Mountain Road's conditions are now extremely dangerous.

The Southern Navajo County Regional Corridor Project will facilitate an expansion project that is desperately needed to blend commerce, traffic and children in a suitable, safe manner. Constructing wider roads and bridges with offset pathways provides multi-modal options for everyone.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Greg Schalow'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'G'.

Greg Schalow
Blue Ridge School Superintendent