



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Apache-Sitgreaves
National Forests
Lakeside Ranger District

2022 W. White Mountain Blvd.
Lakeside, AZ 85929
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File Code: 1560/1580

Date: September 10, 2009

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

To Whom It May Concern,

Navajo County, City of Show Low, and Town of Pinetop-Lakeside are submitting an application in response to a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery "TIGER" Grant RFP from the Federal Highway Administration. The proposal is called **Southern Navajo County Regional Corridor Project** and proposes to reconstruct and construct several roads. This letter strongly supports the proposal and discusses benefits to National Forest lands.

The **Southern Navajo County Regional Corridor Project** is vital to the area. The project is located within the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests, a portion of the White Mountains of Arizona. These public lands provide important recreational opportunities and temperature relief for the major metropolitan areas of the state. The local economy relies heavily on this tourism. Portions of the project cross popular recreation waters, Show Low Creek, Porter Creek, and Billy Creek. The improvements associated with this project will reduce environmental impacts on these waters while improving the vital transportation links. In addition to being the largest communities, Show Low and Pinetop-Lakeside are the shopping and medical hubs of the White Mountains. This project will improve traffic flows for residents and visitors to the area.

I look forward to working with the County and two communities and assist in the advancement of the **Southern Navajo County Regional Corridor Project**. I strongly support this project due to the many benefits (alleviate traffic congestion, accommodate the areas rapid growth and popularity, and expand regional commerce) on and near National Forest lands. Please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

EDWARD W. COLLINS
District Ranger





NAVOPACHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

August 31, 2009

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

Re: Southern Navajo County Regional Corridor Project
Transportation Investment Generating Economy Recovery (TIGER) Grant

Dear Mr. Jayne

Navopache Electric Cooperative, Inc. is pleased to support the Southern Navajo County Regional Corridor Project and project stakeholders – Navajo County, City of Show Low and Town of Pinetop-Lakeside.

Navopache Electric Cooperative, Inc. is a major employer and community partner that provides electrical service to communities in a five-county region and rural areas of New Mexico. Navopache's decision to remain and expand our central corporate and operational headquarters to the new location within the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside represents a significant investment for the community, region and state.

Navopache's new headquarters signifies a \$10,000,000 capital investment. The two-year construction project will increase short-term sales tax revenues for Southern Navajo County. Long-term benefits include: retaining over 115 high-wage skilled and professional positions, long-term sales tax generation and a venue for future, additional job creation upon construction completion. The transition will vacate a prominent retail/commercial corner for redevelopment along SR Highway 260 that intersects at Porter Mountain Road.

The Southern Navajo County Regional Corridor Project will expand the region's roadway infrastructure to accommodate traffic congestion, create a setting for increased retail commercial commerce activities, provides a safety corridor for pedestrians and students, and enhances additional access to the regional medical center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dennis W. Hughes".

Dennis W. Hughes, Chief Operating Officer

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