

**SAN JUAN COUNTY UTAH  
RESOLUTION NO 2021- \_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SAN JUAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SUPPORTING THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION OF DINE' ATIIN BAHANE: NAVAJO ROAD EMERGENCE - THE NAVAJO NATION WHITE PAPER 2021**

**WHEREAS:** The Board of San Juan County Commissioners has the statutory responsibility for the executive and legislative powers, duties and functions of the County (UCA 17-52-501); and

**WHEREAS:** The Board of San Juan County Commissioners are charged with making policy for the residents in San Juan County as it relates to County business; and

**WHEREAS:** According to the 2010 Census of the United States, 50.4% of County residents are Native American; and

**WHEREAS:** The majority of those Native American are members of the Navajo Nation who live on the Navajo Nation in the County; and

**WHEREAS:** The Dine' Atiin Bahane was written by the Navajo Nation Washington Office with the Navajo Nation Office of President & Vice President, the Navajo Nation Division of Transportation, the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency, the Navajo Nation Division of Economic Development, the Navajo Nation Division of Community Development, the Navajo Nation Division of Natural Resources, and the Navajo-Hopi Land Commission; and

**WHEREAS:** The Navajo Nation is the largest American Indian tribe in the United States, with 173,000 members whose ability to get to school, jobs, health care or any place else is compromised daily; and

**WHEREAS:** About 80% of our 14,167 road miles are unimproved and mostly unmaintained due to paternalistic federal policies; and

**WHEREAS:** These unimproved and unmaintained roads become washboards and sand traps in the dry season and impassable mud bogs in rain or snow; and

**WHEREAS:** The Navajo Regional Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs implements policy that results in road conditions that are no different in 2021 than they were in 1921; and

**WHEREAS:** The Navajo Regional Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs uses, with no legal basis, Tribal Priority Allocations on BIA roads and not Navajo tribal roads; and

**WHEREAS:** The Navajo Regional Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs continues to deny Navajo school children equal access to education when it fails to reasonably maintain or improve Navajo Nation roads in violation of the United States Constitution; and

**WHEREAS:** In 2021, the Navajo Nation receives the same amount of Tribal Transportation Program funding it received in 1995; and

**WHEREAS:** The current Tribal Transportation Program funding formula subsidizes State and County roads not on tribal trust land.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

- 1. The Board of San Juan County Commissioners expresses the need for the federal government to move beyond colonial policies to make nation building on the Navajo Nation a reality.**
- 2. The Board of San Juan County Commissioners expresses the need for federal partnerships between the Navajo Nation and the federal government whose terms are commensurate with a government to government relationship.**
- 3. The Board of San Juan County Commissioners expresses the need for a safe, efficient transportation system that supports economic opportunity and livable communities throughout the Navajo Nation.**
- 4. The Board of San Juan County Commissioners expresses the need for the Navajo Nation's federal partners to support, not supplant, Navajo decision-making authority for Navajo people on Navajo land.**

**PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED** by the Board of San Juan County Commissioners this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021, by the following vote:

Those voting aye:

Those voting nay:

Those absent or abstaining:

**BOARD OF SAN JUAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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Willie Grayeyes, Chair

**ATTEST:**

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John David Nielson, Clerk/Auditor

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