# RESOLUTION OF THE RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE of the 24<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Fourth Year, 2022

#### AN ACTION

RELATING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE; APPROVING THE PLAN OF OPERATION FOR THE NAVAJO NATION BROADBAND OFFICE WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT

#### BE IT ENACTED:

#### SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

A. The Resources and Development Committee is established as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee with oversight for the land, communications, and utilities to establish Navajo Nation policy with respect to the optimum utilization of all Navajo Nation resources and to protect the rights, interest, sacred sites and freedoms of the Navajo Nation and People to such resources, now and for future generations. 2 N.N.C. § 500(A); 2 N.N.C. § 500(C)(2).

#### SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. The purpose of this legislation is to approve a Plan of Operation for the Navajo Nation Broadband Office attached as Exhibit A.
- B. Pursuant to the Navajo Nation Broadband Office Plan of Operation attached as **Exhibit A**, the Navajo Nation Broadband Office purposes are:
  - 1. Assist in efforts to provide Navajo Nation residents with access to affordable high-speed broadband connectivity.
  - 2. Centralize and streamline the planning of broadband infrastructure projects and deployment on the Navajo Nation.
  - 3. Represent the Navajo Nation government's best interests in negotiating with developers seeking to provide broadband services on the Navajo Nation.
  - 4. Coordinate all broadband infrastructure projects on the Navajo Nation.

- 5. Facilitate the Navajo Nation's control over its broadband goals and objectives by coordinating with the Navajo Nation Telecommunication Regulatory Commission on regulating the broadband resources and assets of the Navajo Nation.
- 6. Develop and maintain a central repository of information, including but not limited to maps, access point, connection speeds, rights-of-way, and lease and connection rates for all existing and future broadband infrastructure projects on the Navajo Nation.
- 7. Develop a comprehensive strategic broadband plan for the Navajo Nation, and work with the Navajo Nation and outside vendors to achieve broadband initiatives.
- 8. Develop proposed laws, regulations, policies, and procedures for approval by the appropriate Navajo Nation Standing Committees, Navajo Nation Council and/or other Navajo Nation regulatory authority, that will govern how the Office will manage and oversee current and future broadband infrastructure projects, and solicit, review, evaluate and recommend approval of future broadband infrastructure projects.
- 9. Provide information and advisement to the Navajo Nation Standing Committee, Navajo Nation Council and/or other Navajo Nation regulatory authority on how best to connect Navajo communities with the fastest possible broadband connectivity at affordable costs.
- 10. Actively seek funding for broadband infrastructure projects on the Navajo Nation and serve as the sole conduit of information regarding funds for broadband infrastructure projects on the Navajo Nation.
- 11. Actively seek E-Rate funding and administer E. Rate projects on behalf of the Navajo Nation.
- 12. May serve as a co-designee on grants for the development of broadband infrastructure projects on the Navajo Nation by entities within, owned, and/or controlled by the Navajo Nation government.
- C. The Executive Official Review Form is attached as Exhibit B.

SECTION THREE. APPROVING THE PLAN OF OPERATION FOR THE NAVAJO NATION BROADBAND OFFICE WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT

The Resources and Development Committee hereby approves the Plan of Operation for the Navajo Nation Broadband Office within the Office of the President and Vice-President attached as Exhibit A.

#### CERTIFICATION

I, hereby, certify that the following resolution was duly considered by the Resources and Development Committee of the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting at Window Rock, (Navajo Nation) Arizona, at which quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December 2022.

Rickie Nez, Chairperson

Resources and Development Committee Of the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

Motion: Honorable Thomas Walker, Jr. Second: Honorable Kee Allen Begay, Jr.



#### NAVAJO NATION BROADBAND OFFICE

## PLAN OF OPERATION

# I. <u>ESTABLISHMENT</u>

There is hereby established the Navajo Nation Broadband

Office within the Office of the President/Vice President,

Executive Branch, Navajo Nation Government, hereinafter

called the "Office"

# II. <u>PURPOSE</u>

The Office shall have the power to perform any and all acts necessary and convenient to fulfilling the following purposes:

Ensure that all residents of the Navajo Nation have access to affordable highspeed broadband connectivity.

- Centralize and streamline the planning of broadband infrastructure projects and deployment on the Navajo Nation.
- 3. Represent the Navajo Nation government's best interests in negotiating with developers seeking to provide broadband services on the Navajo Nation.
- 4. <u>Coordinate all broadband development and infrastructure</u> <u>projects on the Navajo Nation.</u>
- 5. Facilitate the Navajo Nation's control over its broadband
  goals and objectives by coordinating with the Navajo Nation
  Telecommunication Regulatory Commission on regulating
  the broadband resources and assets of the Navajo Nation.
- 6. Develop and maintain a central repository of information, including but not limited to maps, access points, connection speeds, rights of way, and lease and connection rates for all existing and future broadband projects on the Navajo Nation.

- 7. <u>Develop a comprehensive strategic broadband plan for the Navajo Nation, and work with Navajo Nation and outside vendors to achieve broadband initiatives.</u>
- 8. Develop proposed laws, regulations, policies, and procedures for approval by the appropriate Navajo Nation
  Standing Committees, Navajo Nation Council and/or other Navajo Nation regulatory authority, that will govern how the Office will manage and oversee current and future broadband projects, and solicit, review, evaluate and recommend approval of future broadband projects.
- Provide information and advisement to the Navajo Nation
   Standing Committees, Navajo Nation Council and/or other
   Navajo Nation regulatory authority on how best to connect
   Navajo Communities with the fastest possible broadband
   connectivity at affordable costs.
- 10. Actively seek funding for broadband infrastructure

  development on the Navajo Nation and serve as the sole

  conduit of information regarding funds for the broadband

  development on the Navajo Nation.

11. Serve as a co-designee on grants for the development of broadband infrastructure projects on the Navajo Nation by entities within, owned, and/or controlled by the Navajo Nation government.

#### III. STAFFING

- There is hereby established the position of Department
   Manager of the Navajo Nation Broadband Office and such other positions as may be budgeted.
- The Department Manager and all other Navajo Nation
   Broadband Office staff shall be employed in accordance
   with the Navajo Nation Personnel Policies Manual.

# IV. RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITIES

The responsibilities and authorities of the Navajo Nation

Broadband Office shall include:

- Direct, oversee and recommend all broadband
   development and infrastructure projects on the Navajo
   Nation by all broadband developers and providers.
- Develop a comprehensive strategic broadband plan that
   furthers the long-term broadband infrastructure needs of the
   Navajo Nation, identifies barriers to access, and guarantees
   the inclusion of all Navajo Nation institutions.
- 3. <u>Provide recommendations on the creation and enforcement</u> of broadband laws, regulations, policies and procedures.
- 4. Represent the Navajo Nation government in its dealings, relations, and negotiations, within the areas of responsibilities and authorities of the Office, with persons and organizations within and outside the Navajo Nation government to further to broadband initiatives of the Navajo Nation.
- 5. Develop relationships with Navajo Nation broadband
  stakeholders to coordinate and further the strategic goals of
  the Navajo Nation including ensuring the members of the
  Navajo Nation public are informed on the Office's

Comprehensive strategic broadband plans, projects and Navajo Nation broadband laws, regulations policies and procedures.

- 6. <u>Provide information to, and serve as a resource for, all three branches of the Navajo Nation government.</u>
- 7. Conduct such special projects and programs as may be assigned.

## V. LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT

The Navajo Nation Broadband Office shall operate under the legislative oversight of the Navajo Nation Resources and Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.

# VI. <u>AMENDMENTS</u>

This plan of operation may be amended by the Resources and Development Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.

EXHIBIT B

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Document No.	018989		Date Issued:	07/11/2022

# **EXECUTIVE OFFICIAL REVIEW**

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# NAVAJO NATION DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DOCUMENT
REVIEW
REQUEST
FORM



DATE / TIME  7 Day Deadline
DOC#: 018989#2

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--- FOR NNDOJ USE ONLY - DO NOT CHANGE OR REVISE FORM. VARIATIONS OF THIS FORM WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. \*\*\*

CLIENT TO COMPLETE			
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# RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE 24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

#### **FOURTH YEAR 2022**

#### ROLL CALL VOTE TALLY SHEET

LEGISLATION #0237-22: AN ACTION RELATING TO RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE; APPROVING THE PLAN OF OPERATION FOR THE NAVAJO NATION BROADBAND OFFICE WITHIN THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT. Sponsor: Honorable Carl R. Slater Co-Sponsor: Honorable Otto Tso

Date:

December 14, 2022 – Regular Meeting (Teleconference)

Location:

Resources and Development Committee called in via teleconference from

their location within the boundary of the Navajo Nation.

#### **Main Motion:**

M: Thomas Walker, Jr.

S: Kee Allen Begay, Jr.

V: 5-0-1 (CNV)

In Favor: Thomas Walker, Jr.; Kee Allen Begay, Jr.; Herman M. Daniels; Mark A. Freeland;

Wilson C. Stewart, Jr. Opposition: None Excused: None

Not Voting: Rickie Nez, Chairperson

Honorable Rickie Nez, Chairperson

Resources and Development Committee

Rodney L. Tahe, Legislative Advisor

Office of Legislative Services