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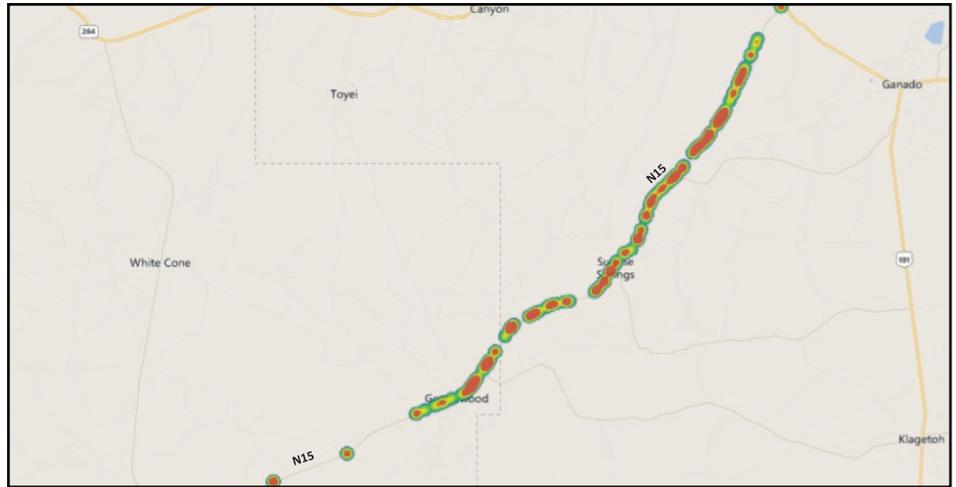


Navajo Nation Receives Safety Grants to Improve Reservation Roads' Safety

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) awarded two grants to improve the safety of the Navajo Nation's roadways. The awarded funds were part of FHWA's Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund (TTPSF). Grants from the TTPSF are meant to improve transportation safety on tribal lands.

"Transportation is a key to accessing opportunity and we are committed to helping make travel safer on tribal roads," said US Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao. "These funds will assist tribal communities in building a system that improves safety for the traveling public and provides residents increased access to greater long-term economic opportunity."

The Navajo Division of Transportation (Navajo DOT) applied for the funds in order to improve the safety of routes N15 and N36. Each route has its unique safety issues, though together



Above: BIA route N15. The red shows areas with the highest concentrations of collisions.

they are representative of safety issues across the Navajo Nation.

For N15, the division will use the \$500k grant to install right-of-way fencing along 21 miles of the Bureau of Indian Affairs' (BIA) route. The project's north and south termini are mile posts 104 and 83, respectively.

Improving the safety of N15 was identified as a priority in the nation's

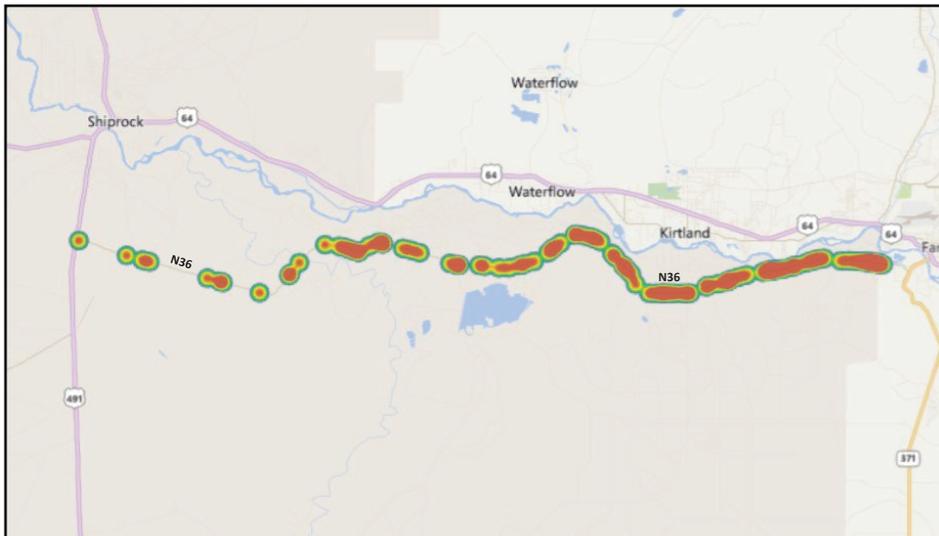
Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Moreover, a Road Safety Audit noted that N15 has high incidences of animal-related motor vehicle collisions. Navajo DOT intends to initiate construction at the end of June.

Even though the N36 project did not receive the entire requested amount, Navajo DOT will combine the grant with other funds to improve one of the most traveled routes on the nation. N36 is a critical corridor that provides access between US 491, NM 371, and the Navajo communities near Farmington, NM.

The \$72k grant will fund preliminary engineering for cut-out sections, placing additional signage, and pothole repairs.

Collisions involving automobiles are the number one cause of unintentional injuries and deaths on the Navajo Nation.

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