



NAVAJO DOT PROJECT STATUS REPORT

Wilson Task #21 – Navajo Code Talker Museum and Veterans Center

February 2, 2022

Project Number: NA

Location: Tse Bonito, NM

Project Length: NA

Type of Work/Description: Provide architectural, engineering and surveying services to master plan, program and provide conceptual design for the Navajo Code Talkers' (NCT) Museum and Veteran's Center on the Navajo Nation.

Work Completed/in Progress/Status:

1. Master Planning Effort

- In conjunction with Task #24 - Window Rock Judicial Complex, the design team conducted several coordination meetings with the Navajo Nation Divisions and OPVP staff to prepare a master plan of the Hopi land tract surrounding the existing Navajo DOT building complex. A coordination meeting with the Navajo Code Talkers Association (NCTA) was conducted as well.
- A Master Plan document was completed in December 2019 and presented to the stakeholders containing two different development scenarios for the property.
- A coordination meeting with NCTA, OPVP, Speaker's Office, and NNDCD staff was conducted (in December 2019) to present the Master Plan findings and determine the appropriate locations for the Veterans Center and the NCTA Museum.
- NCTA insisted that the museum development be placed on their land parcel east of the Hopi land tract. The next step in this process will be the NCTA transferring the required amount of land to the Navajo Nation to build the NCTA Museum on.

2. Survey

- It was determined that additional survey was necessary to further evaluate the NCTA land parcel. Wilson completed the topographic survey of the proposed NCTA site in spring 2020.

3. Programming and Conceptual Design

- Veterans Center: Wilson staff coordinated with Jim Zwierlein (NN Veterans Admin. Executive Director) on the programming effort regarding the Veterans Center building. The efforts involved evaluating the number of rooms and space available in the building layouts Jim provided to Wilson. Conceptual layouts and renderings (see Figure 1) were created as well.
- The coordination efforts have culminated in a Final Programming document (see attached file) for the Veterans Center being completed in April 2021.



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- NCTA Museum: Programming efforts on the NCT museum building space have been ongoing with three (3) in-person review meetings being held in June, August and November 2021. Members of the NCTA were in attendance and participated at all meetings. The efforts involved evaluating the available building layout/space on the NCTA parcel, the number of rooms and space available in the conceptual building layouts and the proposed flow of the museum experience. Conceptual layouts and renderings (see Figure 2) were created as well.
 - It should be noted that the covid pandemic delayed these critical in-person review meetings approximately 1½ years (January 2020 – June 2021).
- The coordination efforts have culminated in a DRAFT Final Programming document for the NCT Museum that will be issued for review and comment in early February 2022.
- The submittal of the Final Programming Document for the NCT Museum would complete the current Wilson & Company Task Order. Wilson has already invoiced and has been paid for these services by NDOT.

4. Next Steps

- The next steps in the NCT Museum final design process are:
 - a. Secure an architectural firm to begin the design stage.
 - b. Finalize the ROW lines and parcel map on the NCTA land and complete the transfer over to the NN.
 - c. Complete a geotechnical investigation of the proposed NCT Museum site to determine existing conditions.
 - d. Conduct utility service/loading calculations to determine the necessary improvements.
 - e. Prepare the design plans and contract documents for the NCT Museum.

5. Funding

- The Wilson Task Order #21 was for \$191,127.18. This amount paid for the two Programming Documents and the topographic survey of the NCTA parcel.
- The remaining budget from the NM Capital Outlay funding is approximately \$800k. This amount would cover the cost to finish the ROW map, the geotechnical investigation, the utility calculations and progress to roughly 30% completion on the design of the NCT Museum building and access/parking facilities.
- Members of NCTA have indicated that they want the current funding to be redirected from the Navajo DOT to their organization so they can manage/complete the design.
- Additional funding would need to be identified/secured to progress the final design to 100% completion.



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Figure 1 – NN Veterans Center – Hopi parcel - conceptual building rendering



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Figure 2- NCTA Museum – NCTA parcel - conceptual building rendering