

PARTNERING SUCCESS/OPPORTUNITY STORY

Situation *(provide a brief description/background of the situation):*

On January 4th, 2010 a large rock slide occurred at milepost 323.7 on State route 264. Soon after the ADOT Keams Canyon maintenance crew arrived to clean it up, it became apparent that additional rock fall was imminent. The crews were pulled back and within minutes another very large portion of rock fell onto the roadway. Upon closer observation it was found that yet another very large slab of rock was very unstable and could fall at any moment. Consequently ADOT forces closed SR 264. Preparations were made to obtain proper equipment to remove the rock and debris safely. The Hopi Tribe, specifically the Hopi Rangers (Law enforcement), and leadership from the Upper and Lower villages of Moenkpoi put a detour plan into action. A small dirt road was the only possible detour route around the rock fall. The road meanders through Hopi subdivisions and Hopi owned land. ADOT maintenance forces from Flagstaff District and Holbrook districts put in place and manned roadblocks on each side of the closed section of road. The Hopi Rangers used their own vehicles to pilot traffic through the detour route. This continued night and day for approximately 4 days until ADOT had the roadway cleared, temporarily repaired and in a safe condition so that traffic could be placed back on SR 264. During the entire ordeal ADOT Holbrook District, CCP and the leadership from the Hopi tribe kept the public and each other informed. The leaders from the Villages kept the members of their communities informed and they worked hard to alleviate public anger and fears. Previous projects or accidents had caused some of the local landowners to be very skeptical and not very happy about all the traffic on their roads, near their homes and near sacred sites.

Challenges *(describe the difficulties/issues/obstacles):*

ADOT has no reasonable detour route.

- The Hopi people in the Moenkpoi Villages remember unruly traffic using their road from past projects and were very concerned about allowing traffic on their roads again.
- Many local people use State Route 264 to commute to and from work; school buses also use the route on a daily basis.

Partnering Practices *(what were the behaviors, attitudes & steps taken to promote collaborative teamwork?):*

- ADOT Holbrook district management had no intention of forcing a detour on roads governed by the Hopi tribe.
- Mutual respect between ADOT and the Hopi tribe
- Elliot Koinva, Maintenance Supervisor from Keams Canyon is a member of the Hopi tribe and is well respected by the people.
- Everyone was kept informed as to the progress of the work and anticipated time frames for opening up the road.
- ADOT CCP (Rod Wigman) did a great job of getting out press releases to keep the public informed.
- ADOT Holbrook district management took swift action and procured the proper resources to quickly and safely deal with the rock fall issue and opened the road up in a timely manner.

Outcomes *(results: what happened as a result of the partnering efforts, which may or may not have been successful?):*

- A greater respect between partners was reached because everyone could see efforts made by the others
- The biggest and most important benefit was to the traveling public who utilize the road everyday. Although there was some inconvenience and time delays it could have been much, much worse had the detour not been utilized.
- Politically ADOT benefitted immensely from what the Hopi people did. ADOT has no reasonable detour route, if not for the help from the Hopi leadership ADOT would have been under major pressure and criticism even though ADOT did not have many options.
- Holbrook District management is deeply appreciative to the Hopi Leadership for their participation. Consequently nice "Appreciation" award plaques were produced by the Holbrook District and presented to the Hopi Rangers, The Village of Upper Moenkopi and the Village of Lower Moenkopi in a meeting on Feb 23rd 2010 at the Hopi Tribal council chambers in Kykotsmovi.

Lessons Learned *(what insights or new information are you taking away from this situation, whether the outcome was the desired one or not?)*

- ***When we all work together and share the risks, outcome will much more likely to be positive and beneficial than when we do it alone.***