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Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton today announced awarding of a $70,395 contract for base course road surfacing on the Zuni Reservation, New Mexico, to Allison &Haney, Inc., of Albuquerque.

The project begins at the junction of New Mexico Highways 32 and 53 south of Gallup and runs 9.833 miles westward along Route 53 to the Zuni Pueblo. Allison & Haney, Inc. was the low bidder. Higher bids ranged from $74,520.94 to $95,153.

The job is part of the Indian Bureau's broad program of bringing reservation roads up to acceptable standards so they can be transferred to county highway systems. When completed, the road will be transferred to the New Mexico State Highway Department for further improvement and maintenance.

The principal work under this contract will involve 23,857 tons of select borrow base and 28,536 tons of crushed gravel. The highway department has agreed to place a bituminous surface.

The completion of this section will provide a bituminous surfaced highway all the way from the Zuni Pueblo to Gallup. Improvement was made necessary by the increased volume of traffic which rendered the old gravel surface almost nonexistent.