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For Immediate Release: June 12, 1958
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Award of a $443,181.87 contract for the construction of 14.375 miles of highway on the Navajo Indian Reservation in the Apache County, Arizona area was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

The project will provide an all-weather highway on a section of Route 8, which runs north and south and leads into a vast central portion of the reservation in Arizona. The new road will serve an area of more than 2,500 square miles where no improved roads exist at the present time.

Pecos Valley Construction Company and Witt and Ross, Inc., of Carlsbad, New Mexico, were the successful bidders. Eight higher bids were received, ranging in price from $498,780.75 to $618,024.22.