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Award of a $393,202 contract for the construction of about nine miles of highway on Navajo Route 1 in northern Arizona was announced today by the Department of the Interior.

The section of road begins at Tuba City, Arizona 1 and extends northeast past the Rare Metals Uranium Mill, towards Kayenta, in the northern part of the Navajo Reservation.

This nine-mile section is the first project on Navajo Route 1 to be constructed or immediate takeover by the State of Arizona after the Bureau of Indian Affairs contract is complete.

Funds for the improvement of Navajo Routes 1 and 3 were authorized under legislation passed by Congress late in the 1958 session.

Extensive interest has been generated throughout the Southwest for the improvement of this important road which crosses the Navajo Reservation and northern Arizona. The rapidly growing Four Corners oil development now borders the route to the north. Indications are that the development area will eventually spread to the south of the highway.

The low bid was submitted by C. R. Davis Contracting Company of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Four other bids were submitted, ranging from $395,670 to $545,850.