



Havasupai Tribal Council

Havasupai Tribe Celebrates Historic Broadband Groundbreaking Ceremony Marks the Beginning of Construction on Transformational TBCP Grant



The Havasupai Tribal Council and AIM Concepts break ground on Phase One of the Havasupai Broadband Connectivity Project.

(Havasupai/Arizona — Aug. 13, 2026) — The Havasupai Tribe celebrated a historic milestone with the official groundbreaking ceremony for its Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) project, marking the beginning of construction on a transformative broadband initiative that will strengthen communications, enhance public safety, expand digital opportunity, and improve connectivity throughout the Havasupai Reservation. Supported through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, the project reflects years of planning, collaboration, environmental review, engineering, and community engagement led by the Havasupai Tribe and made possible through the collective efforts of Tribal leadership, federal partners, technical consultants, and supporting organizations.

The groundbreaking launches the first of three major construction phases and begins work on an emergency in-canyon broadband deployment. Future phases of the project will expand broadband infrastructure to Tribal homes, community anchor institutions, and supporting network infrastructure following completion of the remaining environmental review process and final authorization from NTIA. When completed in 2027, the project intends to provide modern broadband infrastructure supporting

education, healthcare, Tribal government operations, public safety communications, workforce development, digital inclusion, and expanded opportunities for Tribal members and the community connectivity at households and businesses.

Chairwoman's Statement

"This marks an important step forward for the Havasupai Tribe and for the future generations of Havasupai. Broadband is more than technology; it is a pathway to education, healthcare, public safety, economic opportunity, and cultural revitalization. This groundbreaking reflects years of planning, partnership, perseverance, and I want to thank all the previous administrations who kick-started the project to help make this vision a reality. We look forward to continuing this journey together as we build a stronger and more connected future for Havasupai."— Chairwoman Melinda Yaiva, The Havasupai Tribe

Statement from Ophelia Watahomigie-Corliss

"The groundbreaking represents the culmination of nearly eight years of planning, coordination, and collaboration. While there is still important work, ahead, breaking ground on the first phase of construction is an exciting milestone for sovereignty and our community. We appreciate the dedication of everyone who has contributed to this effort and continued partnerships with NTIA, our project team, consultants, and community members."— Ophelia Watahomigie-Corliss, Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Director, The Havasupai Tribe

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

"The Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program was created to help Tribal communities expand access to reliable broadband infrastructure that supports broadband connectivity to Tribal households and community anchor institutions and creates new opportunities for future generations. This groundbreaking represents an important milestone in the Havasupai Tribe's broadband journey, and we congratulate Tribal leadership and all project partners on reaching this significant achievement. NTIA remains committed to working collaboratively with Tribal Nations as they advance projects that strengthen connectivity and digital opportunity."— Margaret Gutierrez, Tribal Broadband Connectivity and Nation-to-Nation Coordination Division Chief, NTIA, US Department of Commerce

Statement from AIM Concepts

"This is a celebration of the Havasupai Tribe's leadership, vision, and determination. Congratulations to the Havasupai Tribe and group of partners. It has been a privilege for AIM Concepts to collaborate with the Tribe throughout this journey. Reaching this milestone has required years of collaboration among Tribal leadership, NTIA, consultants, contractors, and countless individuals committed to the success of this project. We are honored to be part of this historic effort and look forward to continuing our partnership as the Tribe brings its vision for the "Last Link" broadband project to fruition. Adam Geisler, President, American Indian Media Concepts, Inc. (AIM Concepts)

A Collaborative Achievement

The Havasupai Tribe extends its sincere appreciation to the many individuals and organizations whose dedication and collaboration have made this milestone possible, including: • Havasupai Tribal Council • Havasupai Tribal Administration • Havasupai Tribal Broadband Office • National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) • Bureau of Indian Affairs • American Indian Media Concepts (AIM Concepts) • Project engineering, environmental, cultural resource, and construction consultants • Tribal staff, community members, and project partners whose commitment has helped move this vision from concept to construction. The Tribe recognizes that this groundbreaking reflects the collective efforts of many organizations and individuals working together in support of Havasupai's vision for the future.

Recognizing Federal Leadership

The Havasupai Tribe also recognizes the many federal leaders whose vision and commitment to Tribal connectivity helped make this project possible. The Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program represents

years of bipartisan leadership in Congress, sustained federal investment, and continued advocacy on behalf of Tribal Nations to ensure communities across Indian Country have access to modern broadband infrastructure.

The Tribe extends its sincere appreciation to Arizona's congressional delegation—including Senators Mark Kelly and Ruben Gallego, Congressman Eli Crane, and current and former Members of Congress who have championed Tribal priorities and supported continued investment in Tribal broadband and digital opportunity. The Tribe also acknowledges the important leadership of members serving on the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and other congressional committees whose work has strengthened the federal government's commitment to Tribal infrastructure and economic development.

The Tribe further thanks the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and its dedicated staff for their partnership, guidance, and stewardship of the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program throughout the implementation of this project

About the Project

The Havasupai Tribal Broadband Connectivity Project is a federally funded initiative that will expand broadband access across the Havasupai Reservation through a three-phase implementation. Upon completion, the project will provide broadband infrastructure supporting Tribal government, education, healthcare, public safety communications, economic development, and digital inclusion while creating new opportunities for Tribal members, residents, visitors, and future generations.

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