NPTAO Kiosk/Taqatski Program

The Kiosk/Taqatski Program was envisioned to bring economic and community development opportunities through enhanced tourism infrastructure to Hopi villages and Navajo chapters along Arizona state and tribal transportation corridors. A multi-collaborative team worked together to create an integrated tourism development plan that would draw new travelers, authentic fine Native arts collectors, and those with a desire to understand history and experience modern Indian culture off the major interstates and onto the many scenic state and tribal highways, including Arizona routes 98, 160, and 264 across the Hopi and western Navajo heartland.

Stakeholder Consultation

Consultations were conducted with stakeholders across northern Arizona through meetings held at Navajo government headquarters, chapter houses, Hopi civic organizations, Hopi village centers, non-profit corporations, and tourism meetings and conferences.

Kiosk/Taqatski Design Phase

A major component of this project was the design and development of a prototype structural landmark to be sited at strategic locations across the region. Phoenix architect Randy Ewens was commissioned to develop plans for a kiosk that could be built onsite by members of communities who opted to participate.

Northern Arizona Indian country is an important destination for travelers around the entire world. Interest in investing in tourism infrastructure has been expressed by Hopi and Navajo tribal business leaders and community members. Interest has been made clear through university-based research surveys sponsored by the Arizona Office of Tourism and onsite meetings with the Navajo Office of Tourism, Hopi Chamber of Commerce, Navajo chapter leaders, and Hopi village events. The Arizona Office of Tourism Rural Tourism Development Grant Program provided significant funding for the NPTAO projects.

Project Phases Include:
Identifying Disks

Community representatives were commissioned to design identifying disks reflecting the culture of the region. The disks were then installed on the kiosk/taqatski structures.

Visitor Information

Each community was charged with developing information outlining site-specific history, present-day political structure, and “rules of engagement” or visitor etiquette. See for example Second Mesa Villages’ Information and rules of Engagement (Visitor and Ceremonial Etiquette).
The Sipaulovi Village “Taqatski” (Hopi word for “shade structure”) is located at the intersection of Arizona Highways 87 and 264, near Second Mesa, Arizona.

The Shonto kiosk is located at the intersection of Arizona Highways 98 and 160, which is the southernmost point of the Navajo nation Office of Tourism “Naatsis’aan Scenic Road.”

With experience gained in building the first kiosk, Shonto Chapter members assisted with the development of the Tonalea kiosk. SR 160/BIA 21.
NPTAO provided drawings and specifications to interested organizations who continued the tradition. Park employees at Homol'ovi State Park established a site within the park boundaries on State Route 87.

The Navajo Nation Office of Tourism through Scenic Highway Destination program funds contracted with Otak Architects and Engineers, which completed three structures along SR 98.

For additional information on this project, or to learn how you could develop a tourism kiosk for your community, contact Claudia Nelson, Director of NPTAO at 520.626.9181.