

The Impact of Modern Highways on American Indian Country

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ABRIDGMENT

•UNIQUE conditions exist where modern highways are constructed through isolated areas. They provide an opportunity to measure highway benefits in a more simplified environment than is ordinarily found. The nature and background of this environment are described, and the opportunity for a new and more productive approach to elusive problems in highway economics and finance is suggested.

The impact of a suddenly built modern highway providing access to the village of Kayenta, Arizona, long the most isolated village in the United States, is described. The income of Indian trading posts and motel accommodations is analyzed before and after access was provided in order to measure the impact and its effect on property values. The effect of the highway improvement on school enrollment, methods of travel by the Indian people and employment, is also delineated.