

Road Advisory Minutes

August 12, 2009

Members Present: Chairman Ed Benrock, Co-Chair John Romero, Chris Mayrant, Manny Chavez, Richard Sena, Linda McThoy, Garry Onstott, Edward L. Medina, Anne Probst, Ivan Pato, Tom Pogue, Jason Shepherd

Staff Present: James Martinez, Robert Martinez

Residents Present: None

Item One- Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM

Item Two- Roll Call- Chairman Ed Benrock passed around the sign in sheet, agenda, and minutes. Roll call.

Item Three- Approval of Agenda, Motion to approve the agenda by Ivan Pato and Richard Sena second the motion.

Item Four- Approval of Minutes, Motion to approve the July 8th minutes by Richard Sena and Chris Mayrant second the motion.

Item Five- Introductions, Marian

Item Six- Matters from the Commission, None

Item Seven- Matters from the Public, None

Item Eight- Old Business,

- **Report from Subcommittee on Road Advisory Manual**

Co-Chairman John Romero, I would like to present business cards to members and can work on getting business cards for new members. I would like to pass a copy of the handout outline for the Santa Fe County Road Advisory Handbook. The scope of the handbook is to help members understand what the committee does and what members goals are if they serve on the committee. I hope get the handbook done by this fall. I proposed that the handbook have two letters of introduction, one welcome letter from the Public Works Department and another from the acting Chairman of the committee. This is to add to the professionalism of the handbook for individuals who serve on the committee and it will be left open for discussion to Chairman Ed. Moving to page three which is section one introduction to the Road Advisory Committee, back in February or March, there was discussion concerning the initial outline that was proposed on the abbreviated outline, John asked if this was approved?

Chairman Ed Benrock, Yes.

Co-Chairman John Romero, Due to limited resources the outline was abbreviated and now the attention is to get it out and ready to use and to continue to add to it over the years. Any member can add to the handbook. On section one, page four, is “Who is the Santa Fe County Road Advisory Committee?” Copies of the bylaws and maps of the areas will serve to cover section one. Next is to put it in a format that would be ready to propose to the committee for approval. We need feedback on the page, “Who is the Santa Fe County Road Advisory Committee?” Make sure that the scope of that document is appropriate for the handbook in section one.

Robert Martinez, Made a correction that there are fifteen areas and not fourteen.

Co-Chairman John Romero, John noted the correction. In section one, there is the introduction to Road Advisory Committee, responsibilities of the committee, responsibilities of the members, the bylaws and essentially how it works. Section two would be what it is to serve as a member of this committee and what to do. I have a couple of pieces that are ready to be inserted into this section. Some need to be written. I proposed that Chairman Ed Benrock contribute to this section on the annual road survey, on meetings and how they are conducted, and on what member are responsible for. I would like to make some assignments to Chairman Ed Benrock and anyone else in order to make progress. Section three is about Santa Fe County Public Works and the different funding vehicles for road work and road planning projects. I was going to work on this further with Robert and his Senior Secretary. Lots of this information is online that I pulled to show the committee and I would like more insight. At this point it is a very simple handbook that will do a good job to help initiate and bring some understanding to what members do and what they need to come to serve. A rough draft to review will be done in eight weeks. In October we will have a final proof to begin looking at in hopes to have an approved handbook by the end of the year that we could begin using in 2010.

Robert Martinez, One thing that needs to be brought to your attention that may affect some of the information on this handbook is that the county is looking at revamping the committees. Some of the committees that were on the county books were dissolved last month at commission meeting because either the purpose that they were formed for had been completed or some committees that were created were never active or their mission was unclear and their mission was being accomplished by other subcommittees. One of the questions that were asked that are specific to the Road Advisory Committee is do we need to meet once a month or can we meet every other month or quarterly? We are required to publish in the news paper and advertising the meetings just like all the other committees. The minutes are on county website. When I get further down the process with the department that is driving these committee issues, I'll get more information for you to discuss at a future meeting. This is something that we may need to consider if we do set an amount of meetings in this handbook.

Chairman Ed Benrock, I spoke to Robert in regards to this and we agreed to bring it up before the Road Committee here. My point of contention is this is a pre exchange of information between the Committee and the Public Works Department and whether we view this information on a monthly basis, on a bi monthly basis, and quarterly. Quarterly

we would lose scope of our original intention of this committee and our mission statement. The problem in the past has been the attendance. As long as we have a quorum we can continue to be an active committee. The commissioners must agree. We are a very active in exchange of information from the committee members to staff and from staff back to committee members. It is an expense to the county.

Robert Martinez, I have been a liaison for this committee for thirteen years and were not directed to publish the minutes in the past, we used to advertise in the paper until we were not getting a quorum. It may have been due to vacancies and now that Commissioner Holian and Commissioner Stephanics came in they filled several vacancies. Now that we are closer to fully being represented it is easier meeting a quorum than it had been in the past. At that time the County Attorney had said that even though the ordinance had said that eight is a quorum and awhile back we were using seven because of the vacancies, I was advised that was not proper, we need eight, whether thirteen areas are filled or ten. So that may change and I will keep you updated as soon as I get more information.

Chairman Ed Benrock, I have given you my thoughts as your chair and Robert has given his information, give it thought as to what you want to discuss at a later meeting.

Co-Chairman John Romero, I would add to validate that it is a healthy forum to have public members to report back on road conditions. More importantly if the committee continues to lose the ability to have funding to direct improvements in the county as citizens in the county, I think it brings up the question, "What is the purpose of the Santa Fe County Road Advisory Committee?" I would like to see that control and some feedback continued in the future. To help meet quorums, maybe we should restructure the fifteen areas, can we combine some to better allow us to give us a larger pool of citizens to pull from so that they provide feedback to Public Works in relation to road improvements.

Robert Martinez, Another thing that was discussed is that we need to look at the primary purpose of the committee as per the ordinance it was adopted back in 1988 or so. Some of the committee's purposes for road improvements have changed. One of the main purposes of this committee was to put together a road improvement plan that went to the legislature. This is prior to an ICIP being in existence. That was the responsibility of this committee at that time. Now with the ICIP there is a department that puts together this plan that is inclusive of not just roads, but senior centers, teen centers, libraries. Years ago what we did as a committee was we put together that road improvement plan that was based on all of road projects that we had outstanding, plus projects that the commission put in and project put in by the staff that they felt was important so our five year road improvement plan which turns out to be a ten year improvement plan has been a successful tool for us to show the public that we are making improvements to county roads. From that road improvement plan that had about 125 roads on it when we got started now over half of them have been completed because we received legislative funding, bond funding, LGRF funding and GRIP II funding. We have made good progress on taking a big bite out of that plan. We still need to be proactive for those projects that don't have funding in trying to acquire funding for those projects.

Chairman Ed Benrock, Getting back to the manual, I would like to compliment John on the work he has done on his own, I would like to plead to this committee to help John and help in getting this manual to get closure.

Robert Martinez, In section two of the manual please look at the duties and see if there is anything that should be added to reflect what we really do because we need to revise the scope of this committee and this can brought up to the department that is looking at making changes to the committees. The ordinance that created the committee back then was vague and we need to get more specific on what we do.

Member, John, will it help you if we email you some suggestions in paragraph?

Co-Chairman John Romero, Absolutely.

Member, I got missed on the business cards.

Linda McThoy, I need a name change.

Co-Chairman John Romero, Maybe our Chairman could collect whatever name, phone numbers, email addresses for me and I will be happy to get those out for next time.

Item Nine – New Business,

- **Report from Members on Road Conditions in their Respective Areas:**

Area 1 Member-

Manny Chavez, Nothing to report.

Area 1 Alternate-

Edward L. Medina, Nothing to report.

Area 2 Member-

Bennie G. Gomez, Not present

Area 2 Alternate- Vacant

Area 3 Member-

Barbara Jeffe, Not Present

Area 3 Alternate-

Katy Glenn, Not Present

Area 4 Member-

Robert Horning, Not Present

Area 4 Alternate-

Paul White, Not Present

Area 5 Member-

Andrew Griego, Not Present

Area 5 Alternate-

Garry Onstott, CR51E looks good.

Area 6 Member-

Thomas Pogue, CR58 has erosion needing attention on the opposite side of where the contractors are working.

Area 6 Alternate- Vacant,

Area 7 Member-

Ivan Pato, Area looks great. An advisory curve ahead sign is half way down on the east side of Richards and South of Alta Vista.

Area 7 Alternate- Vacant,

Area 8 Member-

Richard Sena, Calle Sinsonte needs grading. Is there a schedule for grading?

Robert Martinez, No, it is based on the Foreman going out to see what is needed and on historical data (If a road is needing grading once a month the foreman knows) Scheduling was tried before and found to work under ideal conditions only where no equipment is broken down, nobody calls in sick, nobody takes any leave. The same guys that do pot hole repair are the same guys that run the equipment plus guys needed for traffic control.

Richard Sena, Thanked the county for the work done on the low water crossing at Pinon Hills. It is fantastic.

Area 8 Alternate-

Anne Probst, Pinon Hills looks really nice, the only thing that might be a problem is the sharp corner cutting into the intersection. Anne asked if it would ever become a stop.

Robert Martinez, The true T intersection was done with intent to have people stop for sight distance coming from the west. There is not enough traffic to warrant a freeway.

Richard Sena, What is the status on the Agua Fria archeological digs? Will they be completed soon because of schools starting up?

Robert Martinez, The archeological portion of this should be completed by the end of September and we will have to deal with this while school is on and the archeological is the short amount of time compared to the construction that will start in March which is a

six month project. Unfortunately it impacts the traffic and we are in continuous contact with the schools.

Area 9 Member-
Paul Montoya, Not Present

Area 9 Alternate-
Richard Weinberg, Not Present

Area 10 Member- Vacant

Area 10 Alternate- Vacant

Area 11 Member-
Chairman Ed Benrock, Nothing to report, everything has been well covered.

Area 11 Alternate-
Frank Schober, Not Present

Area 12 Member-
Larry J. DesJarlais, Jr., Not Present

Area 12 Alternate-
Linda McThoy, Everything is good and there is nothing to report.

Area 13 Member- Vacant,

Area 13 Alternate- Vacant,

Area 14 Member-
Co-Chairman John Romero, There are some residents in the San Pedro, Los Hermanos Subdivision that have concerns about the road expansion that took place in the last few weeks. Was this addressed with the residents?

James Martinez, I had them slant them to about eighteen feet wide, so that the bar ditches wouldn't be so deep. It widened out the road and it surprised the people.

Robert Martinez, So we are well within the easement?

James Martinez, Yes.

Co-Chairman John Romero, It was a little country road and now residents feel like it's a highway and they are angry for many reasons. Did the county address any of them? I want to make sure this was addressed with the residents. I understand why it was done but I'm not sure they do and I will direct them to James Martinez or Robert Martinez.

The road had some base course but now that it's been widened it is difficult to pass. Are there plans in widening that road to address the additional ground to compensate for.

James Martinez, Depending upon funding, this is a possibility.

Co-Chairman John Romero, I would like to see if there is any chance to get base course for the first 250 feet of Quiet Valley Loop and San Pedro.

Robert Martinez, Has there been any more talk about annexation by the town of Edgewood?

Co-Chairman John Romero, The last word from Bob is that a lot of annexations are on hold, they seem to have the money to do the road work and they are not spending it. Jason and I want to visit with the Mayor to see if we can construct some type of agreement to clarify some of these issues where have small pieces of road that they take ownership of and we will trade for areas that are closer out to Stanley.

Robert Martinez, We already discussed and came up with an exchange agreement with them and the commissioner adopted a resolution saying we would cooperate with them. A spreadsheet was sent to Public Works and we would like to see this infill annexation take place to eliminate these checker board areas where we get to a sign that says county maintenance ends and then go 100 feet and see a sign that says county maintenance begins. When you go to the Mayor, it would be good to know, even if they don't plan on annexation until a year from now.

Area 14 Alternate-

Jason Shepherd, Present

Area 15 Member-

Chris Mayrant, CR8 /CR23 At the four way intersection on the southeast corner there is a lot vegetation that is part of the field that is on private property and drivers can not see what is coming at them until they are out in the middle of the road. There is limited sight inviting car accidents. Harvesting season is coming up putting farm equipment on the roads and I would like to see signage warning drivers of this. Also, mowing is needed on Dinkle.

Area 15 Alternate- Vacant

- **Status on construction projects,**

Robert Martinez, Does anybody have comments on any of these project or maintenance issues that are scheduled in your areas?

Chairman Ed Benrock, Will there be anymore funding from GRIP?

Robert Martinez, No, GRIP was Governor Richardson's Investment Partnership or Program. He has one more year on this term and with funding sources the way they are I

don't foresee another GRIP funding. We are hoping to get some stimulus funding. We have applied for projects that are off of our Road Improvement Plan.

Member, Do some projects get moved up on the list?

Robert Martinez, I don't think there is any priority, the way it has been working is if some project have existing funding we want seek additional funding to complete the whole project and not have ten projects that have funding that we can't do anything with. That's been one of the priorities, if it's got any funding attached to it, if it's a school bus route, if there are any extenuating circumstances, like the crossing into Pino Hills.

Member, What is going on at the De Vargas Center?

James Martinez, We put a culvert across the intersection because the big dip was getting flooded out.

Co-Chairman John Romero, Concerning road improvement funds that the committee used to get, this was cut back. Is there any status on 2010 on what might happen to our funds for our community use for smaller improvement projects?

Robert Martinez, I need to check with our finance department. Some of our budget was not completed appropriated and I have to see what the status is of that one hundred and twenty five thousand that we typically receive for the base course program. The money may be there.

Co-Chairman John Romero, If the money is there, would that fit your timeframe to move on projects that were proposed, although we have yet to agree on what those projects to do, would this be done this next half of this year?

Robert Martinez, It depends on what type of project it is. If it is a chip seal project then it could be next year not this year. Base course projects could be done during the winter months and spring but it all depends on what type of project.

Co-Chairman John Romero, Any indication to how long it will take you to determine that the funding was there?

Robert Martinez, I will be out of the office tomorrow and by Monday or Tuesday I should be able to check with finance. Then we would be able to set up a tour as traditionally done based on the recommendations that the committee submits.

Co-Chairman John Romero, This spring we were late but I believe we submitted recommendations for road improvements if the funding was there, so would be able to act on those recommendations or would that process start again?

Robert Martinez, I will have to go back and look for those recommendations.

- **Discussion of duties of the Committee -
Item Ten - Matters from the Members,**

Chairman Ed Benrock, I would like to say something in remembrance to Henry Claycamp, a long time member to this committee in that and our heartfelt condolences to his family. He was a very active member in this committee and he certainly will be missed by this committee.

Item Eleven – Matters from County Staff and Attorney,
Robert Martinez, Reiterated what he stated before about the committee.

Item Twelve – Adjournment

Co-Chairman John Romero motion for adjourn and Manny Chavez second the motion.
6:57 PM.