

MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 17, 2021

Santa Fe, New Mexico

I. This meeting of the Santa Fe County Transportation Advisory Committee was called to order by John Nitzel, Chair, at approximately 5:30 p.m. on the above-cited date.

In accordance with the Public Health Emergency Order issued by the State of New Mexico, and pursuant to the New Mexico Attorney General's Open Government Division Advisory during COVID-19, public entities are authorized to conduct virtual meetings.

II. Roll call indicated a quorum with the following members present:

Members Present:

John Nitzel, Chair, Member-at-large
Gillis Lang, District 1
William Mee, District 2
Rick Drake, District 2
Bill Miller, District 4
Fred Greve, District 4
Nolan Zisman, District 5

Member(s) Excused:

Christina Chavarria, District 1
Joe Archuleta, District 1
[Three vacancies]

Staff Present:

Gary Giron, Public Works Director
Gary Brett Clavio, Senior Transportation Planner
Robert Griego, Planning Manager
Ryan Ward, Public Works Road Division Director

Others Present:

Leah Yngue, Santa Fe MPO
Joseph Moriarty, NM DOT Planner
Ivan Trujillo, Souder Miller, Inc.
Karen Farrell, Wordswork

III. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Zisman requested feedback regarding the Road Acceptance Policy that was presented to the BCC. Mr. Ward offered to update the Committee on that as item VII.D.



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COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 3RD Day Of October, 2023 at 09:48:38 AM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 2020794
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Katharine E. Clari
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

Deputy *Dorothy Romero*

SFC CLERK RECORDED 10/03/2023

Upon motion by Mr. Drake and second by Mr. Greve, the agenda was approved, as amended, by unanimous voice vote.

Chair Nitzel requested an update on the bond issue and legislative issues the County is pursuing at this meeting or the next. [This was moved to the May meeting]

IV. Approval of the November 18, 2020 TAC Minutes

Mr. Nolan moved to approve and Mr. Greve seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

V. Introductions

Committee members present introduced themselves as did staff and others present. Chair Nitzel commended the Road Division for the excellent snow removal.

VI. Action Items – None were presented

VII. Discussion Items:

A. Review Current Road Map – 2020 County Maintained Roads Update

Mr. Clavio said this item was listed on the November 10th TAC agenda and due to time constraints was not covered.

Mr. Ward shared his screen and indicated that there were minimal changes to the County-maintained road list. A road that goes through one of the County’s Housing Authority areas was added. The additions are:

- Camino Justicia from Highway 14 to its dead end
- Camino Jacobo from Rufina to 4th Street which is situated in the City but goes through the County’s Housing Authority
- Sudeste Place was shown as a gap section in the middle and that has been added to the County list

The County is currently conducting distance measuring on the roadways which is accomplished with a GPS device mounted onto a vehicles while the driving the roads. This provides an accurate measurement and will provide information for funding purposes. The distance measuring project began in the early fall of 2020 and next year’s submittal will include several corrections. The total overall miles have indicated that there is more distance than previously shown. Accurate measurements will allow County Public Works to better determine road funding for projects.

Mr. Ward said the County road list which contains a great deal of road information will be reconfigured to ensure maintenance and identify Commission districts. He envisioned having the information collated for next year’s book. The total added miles of County-maintained roads was 1.4 miles.

Chair Nitzel asked how the County handles signage on the more primitive roads. Mr. Ward said County-maintained roads have blue and gold street signs and further into a rural road the signs

focus on safety issues – curves, flooding, etc. The main thing is at the beginning point and the “end of County maintenance” is also signed.

B. Current Transportation Projects Updates
1. NE/SE Connector Project

Mr. Ward offered the following information:

- This is an important project to the County and a great connector for the community
- The 60 percent design plans were accepted on July 30, 2020
- Souder Miller is the engineer of record on the project
- Rights-of-way exhibits have been developed and County Legal is developing a donation of ROW that removes the liabilities from the property owners and provides a tax benefit
- Several developments are dependent on the progress of the connector for tie-ins to the network
- Once the r-o-w donation letters are completed and signed the final design plans will be completed and released for bids
- Construction is anticipated late summer/early fall 2021
- Critical path items include a map revision for the drainage study, a Section 404 permit of the Clean Water Act (CWA), EIS completion, Cultural Resource follow-up, compliance with the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act survey, and utility coordination impact analysis
- The project is moving forward
- The cost estimate is \$11.5 million
- Depending on the bids the preference is all intersections will be roundabouts
- An extensive traffic control plan will be implemented during construction although the majority of the connector is new road

Commending the County for choosing roundabouts, Chair Nitzel remarked that they are significantly safer than intersections, even signalized intersections.

Regarding bike and pedestrian lanes, Souder Miller representative Ivan Trujillo said the bike lanes will parallel the roadway. An 8-foot single multi-use trail will be offset from the roadway. ROW has been requested to accommodate a second multi-use trail.

ii. Zafarano Drive Extension Study

Mr. Ward said this project was granted funding and is currently examining feasibility on where the road could go through up to Agua Fria as well as impacts. An engineering firm is conducting a survey on this project and he noted that William Mee is involved in the meetings. Five options have been developed based on land costs, shared access, ROW, etc. At this point, the project goes back and forth – people are either eager for the extensions or anything but welcoming. Community outreach will be important to move the project forward or stop it. A community update is planned mid-March.

Public Works Director Gary Giron noted that the County does not have a plan to move forward with construction. These are merely the preliminary steps to identify an alignment.

The project may address road circulation issues in Agua Fria. The residential area is made up of a great deal of long narrow lot divisions. People often cut through private roads to access Agua Fria or Alameda. Mr. Clavio said the circulation in that area could use improvement and an interested party talked to his legislator and obtained some funding for the study. Ironically, Zafarano is not within the County's plans. The study will determine whether an extension is workable.

From a planning perspective, Chair Nitzel suggested Zafarano be added to the master plan. He asked whether a traffic model has been done by the MPO. Mr. Ward said MPO has reached out to the County regarding a model. The firm working on the project is conducting long-term traffic studies to determine the volume of traffic in 10, 20 and 30 years out.

The Chair requested that the TAC members be advised of public meetings regarding this project.

Mr. Clavio noted that running along Zafarano to Los Alamos are a series of high voltage power lines. It will be a challenging project.

As a resident of Agua Fria Village, Mr. Mee said Senator Nancy Rodriguez had a few million dollars appropriated for this project but with the state's budget shortfall the funding was clawed back. The community is against the extension and views it as an intrusion into the village. With both Meadows and Siler completed, people in the area believe no additional roads are necessary. The community is sensitive to further intrusions.

iii. Madrid Safety Study

Joe Moriarty, an urban and regional planner with the Multi-Modal Planning and Programs Bureau within NM DOT said plans are built from a multi-modal and community-wide holistic perspective for safety. The process uses a data driven approach and the data is used as a foundation throughout the planning process. This is viewed as a partnership which seeks stakeholder and public engagement. He thanked Santa Fe County staff for being a partner in this endeavor.

The funding comes from the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) which is geared towards reduction of fatality and serious injuries on all public roads. The HSIP is part of the FAST Act legislation. The funding is designed for small cities and towns in rural areas that lack the expertise or resources to initiate these plans.

Mr. Moriarty said Lee Engineering is serving as the technical consultant which is paid by DOT. Safety is NM DOT's priority and New Mexico had the highest pedestrian fatality rate of all the states in 2016, 2017 and 2018. Florida has the absolute highest number of pedestrian fatalities but New Mexico leads the nation in the rate of pedestrian fatalities. Non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries are a growing trend on NM public roads. NM DOT is very concerned.

He summarized the scope of work comprised of seven tasks and the overall schedule is six months. The scope of work is limited to the boundary of Madrid. Currently, the technical work is underway. The notice to proceed was issued in January and the consultant team is currently collecting and analyzing transportation data. Public meetings will be held at the beginning and at the end of the project. The consultant team is charged to identify transportation safety measures

and improvement opportunities. The project should wrap up in June/July with a community-wide multi-modal transportation safety plan document for Madrid. The plans are considered foundational and provides an opportunity to apply for federal, state, regional and local levels.

The boundary of Madrid is primarily NM 14 that runs through the community.

Bicycle and motorcycle clubs as well as the Santa Fe Century were mentioned as significant stakeholders. It was noted that around Cerrillos visibility is an issue.

Mr. Clavio said the County Economic Development Division has concerns about the lack of infrastructure on NM 14 for Madrid merchants during the summer.

Chair Nitzel said the pedestrian fatalities are of serious concern. He noted that he served as the consultant that prepared four HSIP programs for the state – and New Mexico has been the leader in these fatalities. Enhancing safety will add to economic development and he mentioned the Complete Street Program and that traffic calming tactics can be very effective.

Mr. Mee mentioned accessibility for emergency response vehicles can be difficult.

iv. Other Pedestrian, Bicycle, Transit, Vehicle Projects

Mr. Clavio said NM DOT released a call for projects through the Santa Fe MPO to apply for Surface Transportation Block Grant Program funds: three projects were listed: Avenida del Sur extension, Arroyo Hondo trail segment 1, and Rancho Viejo Blvd. bike lane.

Leah Yngue, Santa Fe MPO, said the applications were well done and at this point there is no update on the projects.

Mr. Moriarty commented that NM DOT will be issuing a call for projects for the TAP (Transportation Alternative Programs), RTP (Recreational Trails Program), and CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation Air Quality) programs in May 2021. They are also tracking the Transportation Project fund that is a state fund which the legislature is currently considering. The eligibility was recently expanded.

C. Santa Fe County Transportation Plan Draft Review

- i. Discuss Comments received from the last meeting**
- ii. Functional Classification of Roadway Systems Plan Update**

Mr. Clavio said the plan update is to bring the committee up to date on roadway user data that informs transportation and land use planning in the region and address health, safety or welfare concerns. The functional classification of the roadway system plan for Santa Fe County was last updated in 2015 in conjunction with the Sustainable Growth Management Plan. The plan was approved by the US DOT and NM DOT in 2016. He outlined the different guiding documents that are referenced in the reports and maps.

The update was driven by data – annual average daily trip data from the DOT, MPO, and Santa Fe County Public Works. The data was measured against existing classifications, future build-out scenarios and roadway function within the larger network. The roadway classification was

measured using the County's summary of existing road data and Google map imagery for determining other profiles.

The 2016 color-coded County road map was shared on the screen followed by the current map. The County has over 60 communities and half are of a traditional form with roots in the agricultural history and the others are contemporary and developed around the automobile.

The County has the SGA (sustainable growth area) 1 which is anticipated to get the most growth and SGA 2 which is more rural. Average daily trips are used to determine the road classification. The federal function classification decision tree assists in figuring out a road's classification. Traffic generators are used in determining classifications. Mobility and accessibility are also used in determining a classification.

Chair Nitzel commented that this committee has developed into being more multi-modal type and asked whether staff could integrate and factor in other road users. Mr. Clavio said the maps as presented are a requirement of NM DOT and US DOT. While the inclusion of pedestrian and bike lanes would be useful it would not meet the requirements.

D. Road Acceptance Policy

Mr. Ward said the policy included the removal of the shared maintenance and a locally maintained road with the County's participation. The BCC was receptive to the idea and it will be presented in late March for action. The Road Improvement Policy was also well received by the BCC. This policy basically scores roads based on traffic volume and safety factors.

VIII. Matters from Staff - None were raised.

IX. Matters of Public Concern - None were raised.

X. Matters from the Committee – None were raised.

XI. Schedule Next Meeting -- May 29, 2021, 5:30.

XII. Adjournment

Upon motion and second the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Approved by:



John Nitzel, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:

Karen Farrell, Wordswork