

MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 18, 2022

Santa Fe, New Mexico

1. a. This meeting of the Santa Fe County Transportation Advisory Committee was called to order at approximately 5:31 p.m. on the above-cited date by Chair John Nitzel.

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.

b. A quorum was achieved with the following members present:

Members Present:

John Nitzel, Chair, Member-at-large
Christina Chavarria, District 1
Fred Greve, District 4
Gillis Lang, District 1
Tim O'Malley, District 2
Dan Painter, District 5 [via Webex]
Bill Miller, District 4 [via Webex]
Nolan Zisman, District 5 [via Webex]

Member(s) Excused:

Joe Archuleta, District 1
David Martin, District 2
Steve McLaughlin, District 3
[Two Vacancies]

Staff Present:

Gary Brett Clavio, Senior Transportation Planner
Robert Griego, Planning Manager
Ivan Trujillo, Public Works, Engineering Services Manager

c. **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. O'Malley moved approval. Ms. Chavarria seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

d. **March 19, 2022 TAC Minutes**

Mr. Zisman noted that on the first page he was referred to as Mr. Nolan. With that change Ms. Chavarria moved to approve the March meeting minutes and Mr. Zisman seconded. The motion carried unanimously

SEC CLERK RECORDED 10/03/2023

2. **Introductions**
 - A. **Santa Fe County Transportation Advisory Committee**
 - B. **Santa Fe County Staff**
 - C. **Guests**

Those present introduced themselves.

3. **Presentation: None**
4. **Action Items: None**

5. **Information Items**
 - A. **Current Transportation Updates**
 1. **Tesuque Road Safety Study**

Mr. Clavio stated the solicitation for the study has gone out to bid. There are three pre-qualified candidates. The plan is to look at Tesuque Village Road, Bishop's Lodge Road, and Arroyo Griego Road. The latter has many drainage challenges. He hoped it would be awarded in a few months. Mr. Griego noted the delay occurred due to staffing problems in Procurement

Mr. Griego announced that starting tomorrow, all Santa Fe County trails with access to the Santa Fe National Forest will be closed due to forest closure.

Mr. Clavio said the City is moving ahead with a multi-modal corridor on their section of Bishop's Lodge Road so it behooves the County to continue that. Chair Nitzel indicated it would be a good idea to have modal separation on that stretch of road due to high speeds. Mr. Griego said the Tesuque Planning Committee has identified various safety issues.

2. **NE/SE Connector Project**

Mr. Trujillo stated the County hosted a virtual public meeting on April 27th. 200 people registered and 150 logged in. They gave the presentation the TAC saw at a previous meeting. It was a good discussion with substantive, technical questions from the public, generally about traffic projections and modeling as well as access to the Community College. The project is approximately a month behind as they head into the second phase of procurement. The first phase was vetting the contractors based on past experience. There is now a short list of contenders. They have 45 days to assemble their bids.

A slight budget shortfall is anticipated due to rising prices and they have applied for additional state funding. They hope to finish by the end of fall 2023. The project has been 20 years in the making and is the largest non-developer-driven project the County has undertaken. Mr. Griego added the County has always planned an interconnected road system in the area that is designated for growth.

Mr. Greve asked if all rights-of-way have been acquired. Mr. Trujillo said acquisition is complete; four landowners have donated 55 acres, a process that took quite a while.

Noting that it was an expensive project, Chair Nitzel asked if the County had a mechanism to recover costs from developers, such as impact fees. Mr. Griego said the County currently only has fire impact fees. However, there is a Capital Improvement Advisory Committee that is

reviewing potential impact fees for open space, emergency services, etc. Mr. Clavio said there are a number of future projects in the county that are slated to benefit from potential impact fees. However, the NE/SE Connector is not one of them.

Regarding the possibility of a new interchange onto I-25, Mr. Trujillo noted that NMDOT does not want the interstate to be used for local traffic. Chair Nitzel agreed that is the current political situation, but that could change. Mr. Trujillo said there is a real possibility of an extension of Avenida del Sur to SR 14, which would make an easy connection to I-25. Mr. Clavio stated that is on a three-year timeline. Chair Nitzel said Rancho Viejo is a huge development and thus has a potential for vastly increased traffic. Mr. Griego added Oshara, after a hiatus, is starting to come back on line as a big development.

3. Zafarano Drive Extension Study

Mr. Trujillo said staffing issues and a new contract for the engineers have delayed the feasibility study but when these are resolved the public meeting will take place in the fall to present all the traffic data. Mr. O'Malley said Agua Fria will be there in force. Chair Nitzel asked if this a City or a County project, and Mr. Trujillo said the County is the fiscal agent even though most of it is within city limits. Mr. Griego said the Village of Agua Fria is in the county. Mr. Trujillo noted that years ago, there was similar resistance to Siler Road.

A discussion ensued about a plan to upgrade the San Ysidro Crossing and detailed maps were displayed of the area to demonstrate the roads, rights-of-way, power lines, and inherent challenges. Mr. Clavio said it is an at-grade crossing that has to be closed during floods. Mr. O'Malley said it seemed a lot of money to spend on such rare events.

Ms. Chavarria spoke of the number of development that are going up in the area.

Chair Nitzel asked what was happening with the Madrid safety study. Mr. Clavio indicated Madrid received a MainStreet grant and there is positive consensus regarding the conceptual plan from the ballfield to the end of the park. There is some backlash over proceeding into the town itself, although as Mr. Painter pointed out, that's where the problems are. Mr. Clavio compared it to the Wild West.

6. Discussion Items

A. Santa Fe County Transportation Plan 2040; Functional Classification of Roadway Systems Subcommittee – Subcommittee Report

Chair Nitzel, chair of the Functional Classification Subcommittee spoke of the work done on the many roads in the 20 communities in the northern part of the county in determining where changes need to be made, using traffic counts and objective criteria with an eye to who the road serves. The study looks at state roads, paved roads, and even one non-paved road. A map was shared with color-coding to depict local roads, collectors and arterials.

B. Transportation Finance Review

Mr. Clavio noted this has been on the work plan although there is not a lot of data. Staff analyzes the best way to finance any given improvement – grants, bonds, development fees, public

improvement districts, developer agreements or combinations of methods. Mr. Trujillo said Public Works and Planning work together to coordinate funding with projects. The new methodology, through the Infrastructure Finance Capital Improvement Plan would make use of a flat fee per unit at the time of permitting. The fee would be dedicated funding to identified projects and would not go into retrofitting or maintenance, only towards new infrastructure. Chair Nitzel said the City has a similar process. He added it was a sensitive issue, given the already high cost of housing. Mr. Clavio said the fee is intended to be competitive with other New Mexican cities and counties.

Mr. Greve asked to see a breakdown of where the money comes from. Mr. Clavio indicated the New Mexico Transportation Project Fund generally provides a healthy amount, and the Congestion Management Air Quality (CMAQ), a federal program, provides grants. The Arroyo Hondo Trail segment to the NM599 NMRX station has benefited from this. They will be looking into a grant opportunity from Safe Streets, perhaps targeting La Cienega.

C. Transportation Project Prioritization

Mr. Trujillo stated they are using non-subjective data, including ADTs to prioritize rather than PASER. About 70 percent of County paved roadway is in good condition. Software will help prioritize both roads and bridges. DOT has inspected 25 bridges and the County has found an additional six. It is hoped that funding opportunities which arise through the Build Back Better program can be used. They plan to be shovel-ready in anticipation. Mr. Clavio noted that federal programs usually require a 20 percent match, whereas the state program only requests five percent.

Mr. Trujillo said current budget amounts won't cover operational needs for the abundance of road miles they maintain. Mr. Clavio said the third leg to the stool is the trails and parks under the purview of Public Works.

Mr. Greve asked about the bridge at Arroyo Hondo Road over I-25 that got a bad rating. Mr. Clavio recommended checking the MPO website; the project could be on the TIP.

Chair Nitzel mentioned the importance of the road system to the "farm to market" concept in the prioritization scheme. Mr. Trujillo stated they are hiring a consultant to help with that.

Mr. Zisman asked how the classification data figures into prioritization. Mr. Clavio said that's what the plan is all about, and he shared a spreadsheet with numerous variables that will yield recommendations for multi-modal use and improvements, such as wider shoulders or bike lanes. Chair Nitzel asked about the role of the committee in that. He added the plan seems to be the central collection of comprehensive metrics for roads. Mr. Zisman noted that now that El Norte is done, 40 other communities need to be worked on. Mr. Clavio said he's finished El Centro and is half finished Galisteo. The Estancia Basin should go fast.

7. Matters from Staff

Noting that the Catron building closes at 5:00 pm, making the 5:30 meeting time problematic. There was committee consensus to in the future hold the TAC meetings at 4:00 pm as the subcommittee does.

8. Matters of Public Concern

None were presented.

9. Matters from the Committee

Chair Nitzel noted the Zafarano extension was a matter of concern and Mr. Griego said he would keep the committee apprised of any developments or meetings.

10. Schedule Next Meeting

TAC: August 17, 2022, 4:00

Subcommittee: July 20, 2022, 4:00

XI. Adjournment

Upon motion and second the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Approved by:



John Nitzel, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:

Debbie Doyle, Wordswork

SFC CLERK RECORDED 10/03/2023

DRAFT

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

TRANSPORT ADVIS COMM M
PAGES: 6

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 3RD Day Of October, 2023 at 09:48:43 AM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 2020799
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

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

