

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**SANTA FE COUNTY**  
**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**November 17, 2021**

**Santa Fe, New Mexico**

**I.** This meeting of the Santa Fe County Transportation Advisory Committee was called to order at approximately 5:30 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.

**II.** A quorum was achieved with the following members present:

**Members Present:**

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

**Member(s) Excused:**

Joe Archuleta, District 1  
Gillis Lang, District 1  
[Four Vacancies]

**Staff Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

Paul Sittig, NCNMEDD  
Bryce Gibson, NCRD Planning  
Leah Yngve, SFMPO

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Mr. O'Malley moved to approve the agenda and Mr. Painter seconded.

Chair Nitzel requested that under Matters for the Committee the County's vaccination policy and the status of having in-person meetings be discussed.

The additions were accepted and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

#### **IV. Approval of the August 18, 2021 TAC Minutes**

Mr. O'Malley moved to approve the minutes as published and Mr. Painter seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

#### **V. Introductions**

Bryce Gibson, NCRTD planner, introduced himself and requested the opportunity to discuss the La Cienega route. Mr. Clavio recommended hearing that under Matters of Public Concern.

Those present introduced themselves. Ivan Trujillo said he would be representing Public Works this evening.

Chair Nitzel congratulated Mr. Clavio for the outstanding agenda and support materials.

#### **VI. Action Items**

##### **A. Election of Officers: Chair and Vice Chair (one-year terms)**

Mr. Clavio said elections are required annually. John Nitzel is the current chair and Christina Chavarria is vice chair. Mr. Nitzel said he was willing to serve as chair for an additional term.

Mr. O'Malley nominated John Nitzel as chair. Mr. Greve seconded and Mr. Nitzel was elected chair by unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Chavarria said she too was willing to serve an additional term.

Mr. Painter nominated Christina Chavarria as vice chair. Mr. Greve seconded and Ms. Chavarria was elected vice chair by unanimous voice vote.

##### **B. Approval of 2022 Meeting Calendar**

Mr. Clavio said the proposed calendar schedules TAC on the third Wednesday in February, May, August and November.

Mr. Zisman moved to adopt the 2022 meeting calendar as presented. Ms. Chavarria seconded and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

##### **C. Review and Make Recommendation Regarding 2022 TAC Work Plan and Work Tasks [See page 3 for action]**

Mr. Clavio advised the committee that the enabling resolution established nine items for the committee's attention: Work Plan 2022, Road Acceptance Proposals, Other Right-of-Way administrative duties, 2022 Road Map - Summary of County Maintained Roads, Santa Fe County Transportation Plan development, Functional Classification of Roadways Update, Santa Fe County Road Improvement Policy, Transportation Finance Review, Transportation Project Prioritization, and Other Tasks that the BCC may forward. A proposed calendar of how the nine

items would be distributed during 2022 was provided. The County Transportation Plan and Functional Classifications will be reviewed at every meeting until completed.

Regarding the Santa Fe County Road Improvement Policy, Mr. Clavio said Public Works has worked on the policy and there may be no need to discuss it.

Chair Nitzel asked whether an inventory of signs and pavement markings would be appropriate for the County. Mr. Trujillo said the department is currently conducting an asset inventory of all County signage, bridges, culverts, etc. and completion is anticipated by spring of 2022. The inventory will greatly assist the County in determining maintenance.

**E. Discussion and possible action on the formation of a TAC Subcommittee to review the Functional Classification of Roadway Systems Plan Update**

Mr. Clavio recommended the committee consider holding subcommittee meetings. The subcommittee would be part of the work plan and could meet the month before TAC's quarterly meetings. He appreciated the density of the materials presented to TAC. The subcommittee would serve as a working group to review the update in sufficient detail. He proposed the subcommittee meet as needed quarterly one month prior to the regular TAC meeting. The subcommittee would be comprised of three members who would discuss and recommend approval of functional classification of roadways.

There was consensus that a subcommittee was an excellent idea and Members Nitzel, O'Malley, Painter, Miller and Chavarria volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. It was anticipated the subcommittee would meet on the third Wednesday of January, April and July at 5:30.

Mr. Painter moved to approve the formation of a subcommittee with the members as listed above. Ms. Chavarria seconded and the motion passed without opposition.

**C. Review and make recommendation regarding 2022 TAC Work Plan and Work Tasks (cont.)**

Mr. Zisman moved to approve the work plan and tasks as presented by staff. Mr. Painter seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Chair Nitzel was appreciative that the plan included leeway to bring up other issues.

**D. Review 2022 County Road Map – 2022 County Maintained Roads Update**

Mr. Trujillo said the map identifies every County maintained road within the five maintenance districts. The map book identifies the road surface and assists in future maintenance programs. Currently, IMS, a contractor is conducting laser evaluation of all the paved roadway surfaces in the county. The County will shift from the PASER rating system to this new laser method. The evaluation projects future maintenance costs. The inventory will be delivered March 2022 and integrated into the roadmap book.

Mr. O'Malley said that the PASER system is widely accepted and asked why the County was changing. Mr. Trujillo said the laser system is entirely data driven and removes the subjectivity of a PASER evaluator.

Mr. Trujillo said that the initial data will provide a baseline and the surveys will continue. The intent is to address the roadways in a prioritized manner based on the data. The survey is very in depth with 15-foot aerial imagery. The equipment necessary to conduct the evaluations is very expensive and he assumed the County would work with IMS. Field teams are very valuable in identifying needs. Mr. Trujillo said Ryan Ward has been instrumental in getting this program underway for the County. The new system will consider location, bus route, safety, volume as well as cost in the maintenance formula. IMS has traveled 300 miles of the County's paved roadways.

Mr. O'Malley was interested in knowing who were IMS's competitors and the cost of the inventory.

The deliverables include a report as well as the database. The volume of data is great and will need to be placed on a cloud.

Referring to the road map, Mr. Clavio said the data indicates that the County has 557.32 miles of maintained roads. Once the TAC approves the map, the BCC will act on it and then DOT will hold the County accountable.

Mr. O'Malley moved to approve the 2022 County Road Map and Mr. Painter seconded. The motion passed without opposition.

## **VII. Discussion Items:**

### **A. Current Transportation Projects Updates**

#### **1. NE/SE Connector Project**

Mr. Trujillo advised the committee that the BCC has given direction to the engineering contractor to develop the final construction documents with the goal of starting construction in April 2022. The documents include the plans as well as the necessary permitting aspects. There is coordination with FEMA because the road will cross the Arroyo Hondo which will impact the surface water elevation and the flood zone boundary requires an amendment. The project is approximately 3.8 miles of new roadway and will connect Dinosaur Trail to Rabbit Road on the east and serve as a frontage road running parallel to I-25 and intersect Richards. Mr. Trujillo shared his excitement about the project adding that the road will be beautiful.

The signal at Richards and Dinosaur will be decommissioned and replaced with a roundabout.

Depending on weather, the project is estimated to take 12 to 18 months, stated Mr. Trujillo.

The County received a grant from the State's Transportation Project Fund in the amount of \$2.5 million. This provides the necessary additional funding to complete the project.

Speaking as a traffic engineer for the City of Santa Fe as well as the state, Chair Nitzel said his experience with roundabouts has been very positive. He recommended that the budget include

completion of the roundabouts at the six intersections. “If you do it right at the beginning, it is there for the life of the road.” Mr. Trujillo agreed and said the additional grant money will provide the funding for roundabouts. He noted that \$11.5 million of this project is County funded.

Chair Nitzel asked whether it was appropriate for TAC to make a motion in favor of roundabouts which was clearly the TAC’s preference. Mr. Painter recommended a policy be established that requires all new intersections be evaluated for a roundabout. Chair Nitzel recalled that the City of Santa Fe has such policy. Mr. Trujillo offered that Public Works draft a policy reflecting that sentiment and present it at the February meeting.

Mr. Trujillo commented that the cost of the project has nearly doubled since inception. The project has been in development phase for a decade and is now at a shovel ready stage which may avail other funding.

Mr. Clavio said he attended a roundabout training session and learned that roundabouts can be constructed within 24 hours, cost approximately \$70,000, improve traffic flow and safety. Chair Nitzel commented that a single-lane roundabout is 75 percent safer than a signal insofar as reduction of crashes. The safety benefit is enormous. Mr. Painter agreed noting the T-bone accident is eliminated.

Mr. Trujillo said a public meeting to share the information regarding the connector is being organized with County staff and the design team. Once a date is selected the meeting information will be disseminated.

## **2. Zafarano Dr. Extension Study**

Mr. Trujillo said a contract engineer has completed a draft of the location study which includes traffic counting and traffic projections, alternatives alignments, intersection types, etc. Staff reviewed the study internally and has developed a series of questions regarding the projections and growth rates. The consultant is reviewing staff’s comments. Once staff’s concerns have been addressed, the location study will be finalized and a public information meeting scheduled sometime in 2022. The study’s growth rate identified the traffic volume in 2040 at over 10,000 vehicles using the Zafarano extension which would overwhelm Agua Fria. Staff wants assurance that the growth projections are solid. Mr. Griego said the Planning Division has developed land use growth projections that Public Works should review.

The project is a direct extension from the roundabout at Rufina and Zafarano to Agua Fria. The SLDC defines the width of the road as well as r-o-w requirements.

Chair Nitzel asked about the genesis of the project and Mr. Clavio said an individual interested in the project received legislative financial support for the study. The County is the fiscal agent of that funding. Ms. Yngve said the extension is not within the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and requested that the MPO be kept advised of the project.

The question of whether it was a developer driving the project or a matter of community need came up. Mr. O’Malley noted that Agua Fria is “very much against” the extension. He understood the funding from the legislature may disappear. The funding for the study was via a

legislative grant, stated Mr. Trujillo. If the traffic projection can be supported then it appears there is a definite need.

Ms. Yngve commented that the County submitted an application to the Congestion, Mitigation, Air Quality Program for the Arroyo Hondo Segment 1 extension. The County will receive notification from NM DOT in March 2022 whether the funds will be awarded.

**B. Santa Fe County Transportation Plan Draft, Review**  
**1. Functional Classification of Roadway Systems Plan Update**  
**a. Community Tables**

Mr. Clavio displayed the different communities in the El Norte region and provided a description of the columns. He said a concern was raised at the last TAC meeting that only automobiles were included and a multimodal approach was important. He has revised the tables to include the multimodal elements and conducted a level of service analysis for vehicles, pedestrians, bikes and transit facilities within each community. This is in the context of a functional classification study. The classifications are based on data that defines the functionality. It is data driven. The SLDC requires minor arterials to have bike lanes. Collectors are not required to have bike lanes, however, if the road is upgraded to an arterial, it should have bike lanes.

Mr. Clavio said he recommends that La Puebla Road receive bike lanes in conjunction with its functional classification update. A bike lane is essentially a 5-foot shoulder. The SLDC does provide direction with bike facilities, although it does not mention transit. Mr. Clavio said he wants to work with NCRTD because currently there is poor transit service in La Puebla which he attributed to the route timing.

Mr. Clavio referred to a wildlife corridor and ADA issues included in the tables.

The committee commended Mr. Clavio for his effort.

Referring to Bishop's Lodge Road in Tesuque, Mr. Clavio said the Tesuque community has requested a downgrade of the road and the volume of traffic supports that request. The road is on the County's bike master plan and some shoulders are necessary. He said installing 4-foot to 5-foot shoulders on both Bishop's Lodge and Rancho Viejo Blvd. may solve many issues.

**2. Generalized and Qualitative Level of Service Tables**

Mr. Clavio said these tables are also data driven to determine the level of service. Most of the roads in the El Norte community are in good shape. In fact, he did not foresee any problems for the next 20 years. However, the bike, pedestrian and transit facilities are weak. He measured the facilities on a qualitative basis. An A level is a broad sidewalk set off from the road on both sides and vehicle volume and speed is fairly low. Level B is also has a setback sidewalk on only one side of the road. From the pedestrian point of view, Agua Fria is functional at C. Mr. Griego noted that Agua Fria lacks adequate right-of-way width. Referring to Agua Fria, it was noted that some sections do not have adequate wheelchair clearance. Mr. O'Malley commented that the residents of Agua Fria oppose widening the road and do not want it to become a Cerrillos Road.

The allowable threshold of service in the County is D or better. A D-level may have a wide shoulder. Mr. Clavio referred to a road in Chimayo that is currently a major collector which he recommends upgrading to a minor arterial. Accordingly, the road would be programmed to receive a shoulder in town. A road at level F is fast traffic, no shoulder, and only suitable for vehicles. Levels E and F are not acceptable. Rabbit Road is a level E and W. Alameda is an F.

Referring to transit, Mr. Clavio said he based the rating on the national standards. An A would be waiting 15 minutes or less for a bus at a bench sheltered bus stop. A B would be a 15 to 30-minute wait. There may be a bench but no shelter. Level C, is a wait of 30 to 60 minutes and Level D is more than an hour. Level E is more than two hours. Level F is no service. The County wants levels to be D or better for everything.

Mr. Zisman asked whether the County was considering a fleet of electric vehicles and installing charging stations on County roads. Mr. Clavio said the County's Sustainability Committee is working on that issue. At this point, it was private business installing chargers although there are charging stations at the new County facility. Charging stations are market-driven somewhat like gas stations. Chair Nitzel noted that the new infrastructure bill has substantial money available for charging stations. Mr. Painter suggested requiring developers to install charging stations much like bike racks are required. Mr. Clavio noted that commercial developers are required to install bike racks.

Mr. Gibson commended staff on a great tool for measuring service, delivery and performance. He suggested differentiating between urban service and commuter and rural service. NCRTD service is mostly commuter service and the A level service does not necessarily make sense for them. Mr. Clavio said they were not aiming for A's. The study depicts the lack of infrastructure in rural areas.

## **VII. Matters from Staff**

None were presented.

## **VIII. Matters of Public Concern**

Mr. Gibson said the NCRTD board of directors reviewed the service plan update which is used as a tool for their routes, both fixed and on-demand. It analyzes and calls for adjustments to routes based on ridership. One of the update recommendations was to reduce the La Cienega route, which runs by the Rail Runner station and up to Santa Fe Place Mall, from its current 5 days a week to one day a week service. The route is currently on-demand Monday through Friday and provides approximately nine passenger trips per day. Cognizant of their stewardship of public funds, NCRTD is collecting feedback on the La Cienega route via its website, NCRTD.org, and he invited TAC participation. The survey feedback will be reviewed and a public hearing will occur in January 2022.

## **IX. Matters from the Committee**

Chair Nitzel requested that staff provide additional information regarding the County's vaccination policy and how it affects volunteers. Mr. Griego clarified that the County has a vaccination mandate policy requiring all staff and volunteers to be vaccinated. Proof of

vaccination should be emailed to the HR director Sonya Quintana by December 10<sup>th</sup>. It is the responsibility of volunteers to submit their proof of vaccination in order to continue to serve. An exception policy was provided within the memo that was sent out earlier. Mr. Clavio was tasked to resend the HR contact information.

**X. Schedule Next Meeting**

TAC: February 16, 2021, 5:30  
Subcommittee: January 19, 2022, 5:30

**XI. Adjournment**

Upon motion and second the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.


Approved by:

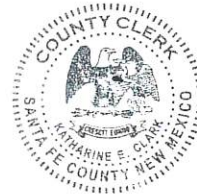
  
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John Nitzel, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:

Karen Farrell, Wordswork

COUNTY OF SANTA FE )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss  
TRANSPORT ADVIS COMM M  
PAGES: 8  
I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 3RD Day Of October, 2023 at 09:48:41 AM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 2020797  
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

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



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