

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

**November 18, 2020**

**Santa Fe, New Mexico**

1. This meeting of the Santa Fe County Transportation Advisory Committee commenced 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.

B. The following members present:

**Members Present:**

John Nitzel, Chair, Member-at-large  
Christina Chavarria, 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:**

Tamara Haas, Vice Chair, District 5  
Gillis Lang, District 1  
[Three vacancies]

**Staff Present:**

Paul Olafson, Planning Projects Manager  
Gary Brett Clavio, Transportation Planner  
Robert Griego, Planning Manager  
Ryan Ward, Public Works/Road Maintenance

**Others Present:**

Hannah Burnham, MPO Planning Technician  
Isabel Alves, *Albuquerque Journal*  
Debbie Doyle, Wordswork

Mr. Olafson explained how the Webex platform functions and how to navigate around the functions.



COUNTY OF SANTA FE )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss

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PAGES: 6

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
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Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office  
Katharine E. Clark  
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

Deputy *Dexter Romero*

SEC CLERK RECORDED 10/03/2023

**D R A F T**

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

**C. Approval of Agenda**

Upon motion by Mr. Drake and second by Mr. Greve, the agenda was approved as published.

**D. Approval of the February 19, 2020 TAC Minutes**

It was noted that on page 2, Section 6, the second bullet, third line contained an error.

Mr. Zisman moved to approve as corrected and Ms. Chavarria seconded. The motion to approve the minutes as corrected passed without opposition. [Mr. Zisman, Mr. Drake and Mr. Greve recused themselves, having not been present at the previous meeting.]

**2. A. Introductions**

Mr. Clavio welcomed those in attendance. Committee members present introduced themselves as did staff.

**3. A. Election of Officers**

Mr. Greve nominated John Nitzel to continue as Chairman of the committee. Mr. Zisman seconded and upon unanimous roll call vote Mr. Nitzel was acclaimed Chair.

There being no expression of interest in serving as Vice Chair, Mr. Mee nominated Ms Haas to continue in that position, contingent upon her accepting the role. Ms. Chavarria seconded and Tammy Haas was unanimously acclaimed as Vice Chair upon roll call vote.

**3. B. Approve 2021 TAC Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Clavio said the meetings are held quarterly on the third Wednesday in February, May, August and November. Mr. Mee noted an error in the calendar presentation and Mr. Clavio indicated he would send the corrected version. Meeting dates are February 17<sup>th</sup>, May 19<sup>th</sup>, August 18<sup>th</sup>, and November 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Zisman moved approval and Mr. Mee seconded. The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**3. C. Review and Make Recommendation Regarding 2021 TAC Work Plan and Tasks**

Chair Nitzel said the work plan appeared to be comprehensive. Mr. Clavio said this is an important task undertaken by the committee and he reviewed the items anticipated to be tackled in the coming year, including the road acceptance proposal, right-of-way issues that arise, the updated road map, the transportation plan, the road improvement policy, and the transportation finance review. He pointed out the bond issue providing funding for road projects was recently passed by the voters. Other items may arise necessitating special meetings. The plan is to bring this to the Board of County Commissioners in January.

Mr. Greve said the plan was excellent in reflecting the tasks that have been identified.

Mr. Nitzel commended the addition of the matrix showing how the tasks progress. The fiscal issue is new. He asked if project updates were implicitly included. Mr. Clavio said updates are regularly provided but it could be included. Mr. Zisman said he understood that to be an ongoing agenda item. Mr. Olafson agreed it should be a standing agenda item but was hesitant to include it on the work plan.

Chair Nitzel asked about adding new items to the list during the course of the year, say, bus service. Mr. Clavio said the final item, Other Tasks, is a catch-all for items to be added as proposed.

Mr. Zisman moved to recommend the work plan to the BCC. Mr. Mee seconded and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**3. D. Review and Make Recommendation Regarding Santa Fe County Road Acceptance Policy**

Mr. Ward described the current policy of "shared maintenance" as being ambiguous and unworkable. The updated policy removes the shared maintenance options. Mr. Zisman pointed out that the policy was not in the packet. Mr. Clavio said it was not uploaded due to a glitch. It's now in BoardDocs and it was discussed at the previous meeting. In response to a question from Mr. Olafson, Mr. Ward said there is a little bit of urgency in moving the policy forward, given the fact the committee only meets quarterly. Mr. Olafson suggested making a motion to approve contingent upon further review by the committee and recommendations passed along to staff.

Chair Nitzel agreed sending in suggestions was a good idea. He felt that the shared maintenance option is nebulous and could lead to litigation. He asked if residents were to be notified of changes. Mr. Ward said only a handful of roads that have been accepted and they will be contacted.

Sensing there was consensus to move forward, Chair Nitzel moved to recommend the road acceptance policy with potential feedback to be received from the committee by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Drake seconded, understanding that the document will be sent out tomorrow through Mr. Clavio. The motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

**3. E. Review and Make Recommendation Regarding Santa Fe County Road Improvement Policy**

Mr. Ward noted this has been discussed by the committee previously and pursuant to suggestions made at that time the scoring system was changed. The purpose of the policy is to definitively score all the roads in Santa Fe County based on ADT (average daily traffic) volumes, pavement studies (PASER), and other criteria. The scoring will provide an unbiased, bigger-picture, objective way to prioritize road maintenance. There is a 100-point maximum score. He showed an example of an example spreadsheet of the scoring system.

Chair Nitzel mentioned that the State has a similar system of prioritization in the light of financial constraints.

Mr. Mee asked how decisions were made in the past and Mr. Ward said PASER was used extensively for paved roads, along with traffic counts.

Mr. Zisman pointed out there didn't seem to be any consideration of bicycle and pedestrian traffic. In Eldorado these are important factors. Mr. Ward stated those fall in the safety category. Mr. Zisman noted that when a road gets paved traffic speed increases, affecting safety.

Chair Nitzel indicated the County has a transportation master plan. Mr. Ward added the MPO has a master plan for pedestrians and cyclists.

Chair Nitzel said there were many factors that needed to be taken into account and Mr. Clavio said the code dictates road requirements based on the road's identification, i.e., an arterial requires a bike lane. Maintenance is an issue apart.

Mr. Zisman asked if it was the committee's job to make recommendations on road improvements. Mr. Clavio said at the next meeting there will be a presentation on financing vis-à-vis maintenance priorities.

Mr. Greve agreed with Mr. Zisman's emphasis on pedestrians and cyclists. Mr. Mee added that in his district equestrian issues come into play.

Mr. Drake moved to recommend to the BCC that they approve the road improvement policy as presented. Mr. Mee seconded.

A friendly amendment to change the matrix to include factors such as pedestrian, cycle or equestrian access failed.

Mr. Ward pointed out this is a living document and can be changed in the future. Changes would require modifying the weighting to maintain a maximum score of 100. He recommended adopting it as is for the present and change it later.

The motion carried by 5-1 roll call vote, with Mr. Greve voting no and Mr. Zisman abstaining.

#### **4. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

##### **A. Current Transportation Project Updates**

Mr. Ward spoke of the great progress on the northeast-southeast connector, indicating the easement documents have been finalized. The next step is appraisals. The hope is the project will be bid out in the spring, with construction to begin late spring/early summer. The 90 percent design by Souder-Miller has been reviewed and funding appears to be in place.

General Goodwin Road easements are still being worked on. The design plans have not yet begun.

Asphalt overlay projects on four roads in Sunlit Hills are underway. Racetrack was finished and the close-out documents are being worked on. Completion is anticipated by Thanksgiving.

La Barbaria is completed and accepted with only the drainage document pending.

Mr. Zisman asked if it was possible to get a map of the northeast-southeast connector alignment. Mr. Ward said he would send that out.

Chair Nitzel asked about the fading road markings in Oshara. Mr. Ward said pavement markings are looked at yearly for potential restriping to federal reflectivity criteria. Some roads in Oshara have not been accepted by the County.

- 4. B. Review 2020 Road Map – 2020 County-Maintained Roads Update
- C. Santa Fe County Transportation Plan (DRAFT) Review

These matters were deferred to the next meeting.

**5. MATTERS FROM STAFF**

Mr. Clavio said the bond measures on the ballot during the general election passed, including funding \$11.4 million for roads. He said more information is available on the County website.

New Mexico DOT is offering the County the opportunity to participate in a safety study for the Town of Madrid, which has a number of traffic issues. There is no cost for the County. Chair Nitzel said that seemed like a positive step forward. Mr. Greve said issues are especially acute in the summer.

6. MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN - None were raised.

**7. MATTERS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

Wishes were expressed for a happy and safe holiday season.

8. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING - February 17, 2021.

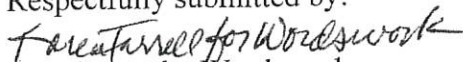
**9. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Approved by:

  
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John Nitzel, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:

  
Debbie Doyle, Wordswork