

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

**February 28, 2024**

**Santa Fe, New Mexico**

1. a. This meeting of the Santa Fe County Transportation Advisory Committee was convened at approximately 4:10 p.m. on the above-cited date by Chair John Nitzel in the Plaza Conference Room at the County Administrative Complex. The meeting was conducted in hybrid fashion incorporating both in-person and virtual participation.

b. A quorum was achieved with the following members:

**Members Present:**

John Nitzel, Chair, Member-at-large  
Christina Chavarria, District 1  
Ruben Cedeño, District 3  
Steve McLaughlin, District 3 [Webex]  
David Martin, District 2 [Webex]  
Bill Miller, District 4  
Jim Murphy, At-large  
Tim O'Malley, District 2  
Dan Painter, District 5  
Phil Rowe, District 5

**Member(s) Excused:**

Jack Sullivan, At-large  
Gillis Lang, District 1  
[One Vacancy - District 4]

**Staff Present:**

Gary Brett Clavio, Senior Transportation Planner  
Mathew Martinez, Public Works Traffic Manager [Webex]  
Will Donahoo, Sustainability Department

**Others Present:**

Justin Greene, County Commissioner  
Elizabeth West, Guest  
Anna Brunson, NCRTD  
Mark Hayden, Guest, Former State Purchasing Director [Webex]  
Marissa Aurora, Madrid representative  
Karen Farrell, Wordswork

SFC CLERK RECORDED 08/09/2024

**c. Approval of Agenda**

It was noted that item 1.d., approval of minutes, should read November 15<sup>th</sup> and he added that the subcommittee minutes do not require action. Mr. Clavio then provided a review of the subcommittee meeting.

Mr. O'Malley moved to approve the agenda and Mr. Miller seconded. The agenda was approved without opposition.

**d. Approval of Minutes: November 15, 2023**

Ms. Chavarria moved to approve the minutes and Mr. O'Malley seconded. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote. [Mr. Martin abstained]

**2. Introductions**

Those present introduced themselves.

**3. Presentation: Madrid Walk and Pavement Art**

Mr. Clavio presented a video of the Madrid Art & History Walk proposals of art painted on the road. A road safety study was conducted of Madrid in conjunction with NMDOT and the County's Economic Development Department. There was consensus with the County and DOT that safety was needed along the community stretch of SR 14. At the time of the study, there was community discord about implementing safety devices. That has since diminished and the community is now welcoming safety enhancements. The safety issues in Madrid include:

- People walking in the street because there is no sidewalk
- The speed limit of 55 mph north and south of the village, abruptly dropping to 20 mph
- Lack of parking other than the ballpark

Chair Nitzel noted that the Madrid walk is listed on the agenda as an action item to move forward to the BCC.

It was noted that DOT supports the project, with the caveat that if the mural/mandala art causes accidents, Santa Fe County would have to convert it to its original state. NMDOT will continue to maintain Hwy 14; however, if there are issues with the art work, that will be Santa Fe County's responsibility.

Mr. Cedeño recalled from the subcommittee meeting that Madrid would have a group of volunteers to maintain the road art.

Mr. Martinez said that, as a state road, Santa Fe County does not receive any funding for the road. Public Works has concerns about the paint.

Madrid representative Marissa Aurora said that these types of road art projects exist all over the world. Guidelines and requirements have been obtained from other cities' public works. The DOT engineer has indicated that, in the event the paint creates a slippery surface or increases

crashes, Santa Fe County would be required to rectify the issue. The likelihood of that is extremely low, and Portland has a number of these street paintings without any incidents.

Chair Nitzel said that there are more durable types of pavement markings which can be utilized, e.g., pavement marking tape. Ms. Aurora said working with the County and DOT on paint specifications will be important, and she added that a list of paint products was obtained from Portland and Arizona as well as additives for road traction.

Research from a large foundation, depicting data from before and after murals were placed on the road, revealed that adherence to stop signs and speed limits improved.

An accident that occurred a few years ago with a large rig coming into Madrid from the north and losing control resulted in DOT banning large rigs from that stretch of SR 14.

The following suggestions were offered:

- DOT should collect traffic/crash data for comparison pre- and post the road art
- Although there is signage to encourage parking at the ballpark there is no walkway to enter the village
- A sidewalk to separate pedestrians from the vehicles was recommended
- The area needs to be better identified as a community in order to slow traffic
- Strategically marked crosswalks and other safety countermeasures are needed
- Limit parking to the ballpark and the east side of SR 14
- A walkway on the west side of village on SR 14 would be advantageous
- An MOU between NM DOT and the County should be considered
- Consider reducing the speed below 20 mph and installing blinking lights

The notion of temporary stop lights was mentioned. That would require state approval and is not traditionally used in that manner. However, DOT has agreed to provide flagging while the painting is occurring.

Also noted was that the murals and cross walks are not the same. The murals are intended for traffic calming, while the cross walks will reduce pedestrians' tendency to cross wherever they want.

Mr. Martinez repeated Public Works' concern that DOT may require the County to put the road back to its original condition, which may entail more than the County can handle in-house.

Mr. Clavio said that Santa Fe County has received \$100,000 for the preliminary engineering of the Madrid Art Walk. He envisioned the engineering design extending from the ballpark to Hollar's restaurant, thus serving the entire village. Regarding the walkways, he noted that some residents may not be willing to donate or sell easement. There are no County roads in Madrid, and DOT needs the County to serve as the champion on behalf of the constituents.

Ms. Aurora said that the project is envisioned to be youth-designed, with a contest for the design by the Madrid youth. The project will have adult supervision and assistance from the Madrid Volunteer fire department. These projects are generally community-led and built, and she speculated that the project would increase community support of other safety-related projects.

Ms. Bronson said that bringing in the community youth is a smart engagement initiative.

Mr. Clavio said that the Madrid Safety Study is on BoardDoc 2021 and he brought it up on the screen for review. The recommended safety features included bollards, a median, and side path.

**4. Action Item(s):**

- a. **Make recommendation to the BCC regarding a resolution in support of implementing the Madrid Safety Study in cooperation with NMDOT and the Madrid Community, including the safety countermeasures of the proposed ‘Madrid Walk,’ new crosswalk, and new painted artwork on the pavement of NM14-Turquoise Trail**

Mr. Clavio said that approving the resolution is essentially implementing the safety study.

Ms. Aurora requested that, if the TAC recommends implementation of the safety study, it includes the community-initiated art traffic safety project.

It was mentioned that the suggestions listed on page three should be considered as an addendum to the resolution.

**Mr. Murphy introduced a motion to support a resolution to implement the Madrid Safety Study in cooperation with NMDOT and the Madrid Community. Mr. O’Malley seconded.**

Mr. Clavio said that forwarding the resolution to the BCC will assist in moving the project along. The resolution includes the safety countermeasures of the proposed Madrid Walk, the new crosswalks, and other countermeasure which include paving and striping, narrow the driving lanes, install oversized 20 mph signs, update pedestrian traffic signs, consider installation of rumble strips, as well as the community initiatives.

In response to a request to add sidewalks or boardwalks to the safety measures, Mr. Clavio said the study identified a single-side multi-use path. It needs to be a durable material with a lifespan of at least 10 years to receive federal funding.

Commissioner Greene said the safety upgrades will ultimately be the state’s financial responsibility. The project will need to be added to the state’s capital work plan.

**The motion passed without opposition.**

Mr. Clavio confirmed that the Safety Subcommittee is relatively new and is charged to keep these safety projects moving forward.

Commissioner Greene thanked the committee for their work and excused himself from the remainder of the meeting.

**5. Information Items**

- a. **Current Transportation Projects Updates**

NE/SE Connector Project: Mr. Martinez said that the project is in winter suspension, with the contractor doing small paths, weather permitting. Asphalt laying is anticipated at the end of March.

Chair Nitzel mentioned that he has heard from several individuals who have been lost in that area when on the frontage road from St. Francis in advance of the first curve that there is a “no public access” sign which is confusing. He recommended relocating the sign closer to the closure.

Tesuque Village: Mr. Clavio said that Tesuque is also interested in the implementation of the safety countermeasures. The easier measures have been implemented. However, there are larger projects that require scheduling within the capital improvement plan.

La Cienega: The County recently received \$50,000 in a legislative appropriation to conduct a transportation safety study. An RFP will be issued for that in the future.

#### **b. Summary of Transportation Safety Subcommittee Meeting**

Chair Nitzel said one of the things discussed was the overall process for a safety study or safety management system. Data collection is the first thing required and he provided, an outline of what the data collection process would entail. Jurisdictional boundaries will need to be identified to ensure the correct data is collected.

It was mentioned that all of the data, even that of the MPO and City of Santa Fe, should be provided to ensure the same methodology is used. The County database was characterized as excellent.

The MPO facilitates interagency meetings, and includes the urban-metro area of Santa Fe but not the outer areas.

#### **6. Discussion Items**

##### **a. 2024 Work Plan**

The BCC has requested the inclusion of the following items:

- 1. Automated Speed Enforcement Program/Speed Cameras: Analyze and make recommendations concerning potential automated speed enforcement program, including pros and cons of such a program, experience of other jurisdictions, and, if such a program were to be adopted, criteria to be used in determining location of speed cameras. Tentative due date of June 30, 2024.**

Mr. Clavio said the staff working group will develop recommendations and present to the Safety Subcommittee for further evaluation and then to the full TAC. It was noted that the state is considering mandating front license plates. The June date is tentative and TAC can hold additional meetings when necessary. Albuquerque calls the speed cameras the STOP program. There are not many traffic signals in Santa Fe County, so it will be primarily to capture speeders.

According to heatmaps, there are several areas primarily on state maintained highways where at least 15 percent of the vehicles are going 15 percent faster than the posted speed limit.

**2. Make Recommendations to the BCC Concerning Potential Safety and Other Improvements to State Roads Within Santa Fe County**

Mr. Clavio noted that it is already occurring with the resolution regarding SR 14.

Ms. West supported installing more roundabouts.

**3. Make Recommendations to the BCC Concerning Potential Projects that May Be Considered by the MPO**

There are funding opportunities through grants. Mr. Clavio suggested that these grant projects will be vetted through this committee before submission to the MPO.

**4. Provide Recommendation to the BCC Concerning Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure [item merged with 6.b.]**

**b. SFC: USDOT CFI Grant Award – EV Charging Station Location Planning**

Mr. Clavio said that the proposed EV charging sites include three areas: multi-modal hubs, urban/suburban area charging and fueling solutions, and rural area charging and fueling solutions. The idea was to expand EV infrastructure within rural areas, low and moderate income neighborhoods and access to areas with a high ratio of multi-unit dwellings. The County reviewed and focused on what was wanted by USDOT and received funding. He noted that electricity and wifi is necessary at the charging facility. Thirteen sites were chosen, spread out throughout the County and at the Public Works facility with fast and conventional chargers.

Will Donahoo from the Sustainability Division said that the sites are a good mix within existing and planned public housing. Public Housing has an ongoing project with Forth Mobility to do an EV car share program. Sustainability is developing an RFP for a County EV fleet transition plan and the needed infrastructure.

Chair Nitzel commended staff on the grant writing and the award.

The Sustainability Division will be implementing the grant.

Ms. Chavarria recommended a charging station at Pojoaque's fire station or near the supermarket.

Ms. Hayden noted that NCRTD applied for two grants, and one is for a rural rapid transit system that will connect Santa Fe to Taos with seven mobility hubs.

**c. La Cienega Transportation Safety Study [See page 5]**

**d. Process for Future Safety Requests and Initiatives**

Chair Nitzel said that, as part of a safety management system, a process of how to manage the program is necessary. The process should be data-driven with the data showing where the problems exist.

7. **Matters from Staff: Constituent Safety Concerns about NM 14 in San Marcos**

Ms. West supported extensive dialogue about issues before forwarding recommendations to the BCC. She spoke in favor of roundabouts, especially around CR44/Shenandoah Trail. Chair Nitzel said roundabouts are typically 75 percent safer than a signal.

Ms. Chavarria said she was coming off of Camino los Abuelos, and it lacked sufficient signage of its merging onto SR 14.

8. **Matters from the Public** – None were presented

9. **Matters from the Committee**

It was recommended that the meetings be extended; meet more often or shortening the agenda.

COLTPAC met last week and discussed electric bicycles, and perhaps TAC should also discuss the issue. Hikers and equestrians are encountering electric bikes and it is becoming problematic.

10. **Schedule Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 15, 2004, 4:00**

11. **Adjournment**

Chair Nitzel declared this meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Approved by:

  
John Nitzel, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:

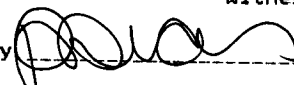
Karen Farrell, Wordswork

SFC CLERK RECORDED 08/09/2024



COUNTY OF SANTA FE )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss TRANSPORT ADVIS COMM M  
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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 9TH Day Of August, 2024 at 04:14:20 PM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 2039385  
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

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

# **D R A F T**

- SUBJECT TO APPROVAL -