Public Information Meeting Summary
NM 68-US 64 Roadway Project
La Posta Road to Camino de la Placita
November 28, 2017
Taos County Commission Chambers

Meeting Announced in: The Taos News
Dates announced: November 15, and 22,2017
Mail outs sent: November 15, and November 20, 2017 to 178 addresses each time

Meeting Attendees

Thirty people attended the meeting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>No.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Darryl Maestas</td>
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<td>Julie Swanstrom</td>
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<td>Pat Randall</td>
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<td>John Miller</td>
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<td>French</td>
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<td>Jim Pollard</td>
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<td>Fritz Hahn</td>
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<td>Shannon Romeling</td>
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<td>Matt Farrar</td>
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<td>Leroy Gonzales</td>
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<td>Paula Ervin</td>
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<td>Vernon Lujan</td>
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<td>Daniel Pritchard</td>
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<td>Angel Reyes</td>
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<td>Doug Pickett</td>
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<td>Jake Caldwell</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>Angel Pala (25)</td>
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<td>Jeff Stadler (26)</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>Carl Colonius (27)</td>
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<td>Richard Martinez (28)</td>
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<td>Joel Perovich (29)</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Palacios (31)</td>
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<td>Oscar Palacios (32)</td>
<td>23</td>
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<td>Anonymous (33)</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rick Bellis (34)</td>
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<td>Bob Gontram (35)</td>
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<td>Mayor (36)</td>
<td>27</td>
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<td>Stacey McGuire (49)</td>
<td>28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anonymous (50)</td>
<td>29</td>
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<td>Joan Duncan (79)</td>
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The following project team member were present:

- Antonio Jaramillo, NMDOT
- Lawrence Lopez, NMDOT
- Stephen Lopez, NMDOT
- Paul Brasher, NMDOT
- Jennifer Mullins, NMDOT
- William Hutchinson, NMDOT
- George Herrera, Souder Miller
- Matthew Nighbert, Souder Miller
- Shelly Herbst, Marron and Associates
- Eric Johnson, Marron and Associates

**Presentation**

Antonio Jaramillo introduced the project team and review the meeting purpose. His presentation included the following: project intent, roadway typical sections, major intersection improvements, proposed bio-swale locations, other improvements, and project updates.

**Question and Answer Session**

(\textit{Project team responses are in italics})

\textbf{Richard Martinez:} The intersection right now with two right lanes, I think that needs to be considered for public safety.

\textit{We have been talking with the town, and we have identified that as an issue.}

\textbf{Richard Martinez:} Conduit, is that included, or is that something utilities would have to cover?

\textit{We can get you in contact with our utilities department. They are the ones who will handle that. We do have conduit in there for the interconnect for the signals. I believe that is the only thing we incorporated as far as anything new.}

\textbf{Richard Martinez:} Are you going to need power?

\textit{We are going to need power at the signals, and we are going to have to work with you to connect those signals, as well as the lighting is concerned. But as far as new conduit, I don’t think we’ve incorporated that.}

\textbf{Richard Martinez:} Was there ever a consideration for a one-way pair?

\textit{Yes, that is one alternative that we had identified during the Phase A/B study. There was a lot of feedback from the public that was against the one-way pair.}

\textbf{Angel Reyes:} What is the current engineer’s estimate for the budget?
That cannot be disclosed, because it can potentially be bid. I can give the STIP amount, $12.4 million, and then I can get you the updated STIP amount once we get that programmed.

Angel Reyes: And it sounds like you guys are confident that you can bridge the gap?
Yes.

Leroy Gonzales: I think I heard you mentioned the synchronized timing of the lights? And the crossings, and new lighting that you are going to do for fire?
I believe so, yes.

Shannon Romeling: Is there any construction proposed for the part where Paseo crosses ???
I think we have one location near this intersection. The location of where they are at are on the plots.

Daniel Pritchard: Do you think the project will go smoothly?
There are always challenges with the projects. But Souder Miller has really good ideas on how to mitigate challenges.

Vernon Lujan: On Quesnel is there any crosswalk going northbound behind the Pub?
Yes, it is such a small area, I don’t know that it made it in the plots. There is actually not going to be a crosswalk going north.

Vernon Lujan: There’s going to be some inebriated people.
Here there will be a crosswalk, on the Northside, there won’t be one.

Vernon Lujan: Why is that?
It affects movement, so the fewer crosswalks we can have, and geometrically, having a ramp on that side. If we allow them to cross here, operationally it drains that intersection.

Anonymous: Can you tell me where on the website, the announcement of this meeting can be found?
We didn’t put it on the website.

Anonymous: Is there a reason why it’s not on the website?
We sent out a mailing list, we put it in the paper, and we email it out.

Anonymous: So a mailing list, and email, but you didn’t declare it to the public.
Well it was published in the paper twice.

Anonymous: That still doesn’t answer my question, why was it not on the website?

Because I forgot to have our Public Information Officer to put out.

Anonymous: That is a serious problem, it happens every time. There’s never a public announcement.

We will assure that happens for the next meeting.

Anonymous: Can you tell me who I should contact? And the funding for this project, to find out where the funding comes from? I want an actual general ledger, this much money in/out.

We have a website we just started Estip, available to the public, and it will give you information on what type of funding there is associated with this project, and an explanation of what type of funding it is, Federal, and what type of Federal funds. I can give you the website. I don’t have it with me now, but if you give me your information, I can forward that to you.

Anonymous: Where, in what document, does this information appear? What’s on the screen? There was a document that was due to be signed on the 16th. Is this a new document, and is this part of that background?

I am not sure what document you are referring to, but this we can have uploaded to the District 5 website. And you can view this information at that location.

Anonymous: Why is it now there now? I am on the District 5 website now and it’s not on there?

Because I just made minor adjustments about 5 minutes ago. Typically, when we have a public information meeting, we upload that within a week.

Oscar Palacios: At the Taos Inn corridor, there’s a sidewalk on the north part of that intersection, but not on the south part of the intersection. And I notice the tourist just want to cross the street there, closer to the entrance to the Taos Inn. I was wondering, are you guys putting stripes in there? Because it’s a state road?

I would assume so, but I can’t verify that.

Elizabeth Palacios: This is the choke right here. I just want some reassurance. I know you said you have traffic lights that are timed, and places where cars can turn. You’ve done the studies. How is this really easing our traffic?

In the sense that right now, those signals are not communicating with each other. With the new system, they will be able to communicate with each other. So essentially, one signal can say, I have a lot of traffic here, and keep the next signal green to alleviate some of that traffic. Will it be able to function at 100% and have no delay? Probably not.
Elizabeth Palacios: So the traffic lights are talking to each other?

Correct, that’s the theory, and in other locations it does alleviate the traffic a bit. It is not going to alleviate the traffic totally, because in some cases, when traffic is so congested. Even though you have those lights communicating with each other, you still have to relieve some of those side streets, so they eventually have to turn red. There are thresholds that you can only have green time a certain amount of time. Will it improve? Yes. Will it improve greatly? That remains to be seen.

Elizabeth Palacios: So, after the signals are all put in, how much time do you come back tweaking the system?

We have a signal team at the DOT, and they come out periodically, and if a signal gets hit, or if they need to be retimed, they have crews that come as needed, to adjust. And we work with the Town of Taos to do that as well.

Daniel Pritchard: The realignment of Los Pandos, this is also a very problematic intersection. The website said there was discussion about parking? That could increase the pedestrian traffic. As you know there are a lot of businesses east.

We have talked to the town, and we are talking about purchasing the property just south of that intersection. We are proposing to do that as part of the project. I hadn’t mentioned it because it is not 100 percent yet. But it is an option that we identified because it could help the town with that issue. Because the business will not have direct parking, so allowing parking here they can cross Los Pandos safely and go wherever they need to go.

Anonymous: Why were the lights done before? As a fundamental part of the lights that were put in before?

Funding could have been an issue. However, this is a fairly new technology, I am not sure when the current singles were put in, but we are trying to get these signals up to date, and this is one effort in allowing for that.

Anonymous: You say new signals. The only one I can say is new is near the plaza. Within the last 8 months to a year, there was some work there. The light at Salazar and Ranchitos, all of these need the smart lights, and other intersections, need that arrow to turn.

With the new signals, there will be detection. Radar, new technology, a camera, it identifies if it needs that specific movement. Right now that is not incorporated. If there is no vehicle, it will skip over that phase.

Anonymous: How new is the technology?

I can get you in contact with the person who deal with those signals, and he would be able to answer that question.
Anonymous: Four or five years ago, I asked the same exact question, and I’ve never gotten a response. I am trying to be involved, and trying to ask questions, and I am constantly stonewalled.

Anonymous: I’d urge you to consider the Rio Fernando crossing, there is an effort in town to revitalize, there could be a potential bicycle crossing at Rio Fernando. What are you doing with the treatment of the water?

We have a water separator. The water comes in it absorbs the oils that are in there, and then releases it to where it drains too. There is additional maintenance that has to be done with this new system, but we are trying to capture that. Are we going to be able to collect it all? Probably not, but this is a step in the right direction.

Anonymous: I just want to clarify, he is asking about the potential bike lane going across Paseo. Not talking about the water capture into the Rio Fernando.

Let’s talk about that during the open house.

Anonymous: I appreciate the emphasis on the alternative transportation, bike lanes, signage, etc. I think the DOT has been very responsive to the community input. We’ve recently completed and Enchanted Circle Trails Plan. This is our number 1 priority.

Display Comment Summary

1. Consider adding a dedicated right turn bay to the Tewa Street eastbound approach to NM 68.
2. Consider on-street parking in front of the business at station 87+00, north of Ricky’s Restaurant.
3. Consider widening the driveway on the south side of Los Pandos Road, for the property east of the vacant lot, to allow for backing in of trailer to lot.
4. Consider using a painted median at NM 68 northbound approach to Camino de la Placita to allow for greater queue lengths.
5. Consider crosswalks on both the north and east legs of Quesnel and NM 68.
6. Consider a crosswalk on the south leg of NM 57 at Bent Street.
7. Delivery truck create congestion near Bent Street, northbound.
8. Consider replacing driveway for post office on to US 64 north of Sunset Lane. Current configuration closes the driveway.
9. Consider adding on-street parking for both sides of US 64, between Sunset Lane/Brook Street to the approximate southern boundary of the Kachina Lodge property.
10. Consider changing the median nose on the south side of Camino del Paseo Pueblo Norte and US 64 from a semicircular to a bullet nose for truck accommodation.
11. Consider flatting the right-turn channelization for the north to east movement at Camino del Paseo Pueblo Norte and US 64.

Written Comments

Comment 1: Paul Bryan Jones
I had some health issue and could not attend last night’s meeting. Could you send the minutes from the meeting.

Attached is the handout from last night’s meeting. I will request a copy of the presentation from NMDOT for you.

Comment 2: Michael Sayre

Could you tell me if the 11/28 presentation in Taos plans to address any proposals for specific modifications/improvements to Camino de la Placita? I have no particular interest in other aspects of the project, so you could save me a trip if that element of the project will not be addressed at the meeting.

The only improvements to Camino de la Placita will be at the NM 68/Camino de la Placita/Quesnel and US 64/Camino de la Placita/Rivali intersections. The Camino de la Placita improvements will be limited to these two intersections. There are no planned improvements to Camino de la Placita itself.

Comment 3: Carl Colonius

Very much appreciate the inclusion and emphasis on alternative transportation infrastructure, specifically the consistent emphasis on creating bike lanes, and bike signage. The improvement of pedestrian facilities with consistent, regular cross-walks is fantastic.

This proposal aligns with the recently completed “Enchanted Circle Trails Plan” where the inclusion of bike lanes along this route was the #1 priority for the region.

Where possible, bike lanes at 5’ should be accompanied with a 2’ buffer. In a community with a propensity of trucks (wider), giving bikers a buffer zone would be considerate of public safety.

Comment 4: Jeff Stadler

I can’t find the current design as presented at the Nov. 28th meeting on the DOT site. I would appreciate the design emailed to me before comment period ends.

Comment 5: Richard Pritchard

Thank you for your efforts and the presentations of the NM68/US64 improvements plans in Taos last week. The upgrades to include curbing, sidewalks and bike lanes is HUGE!

For Stephen Lopez (NM DOT) - When will the NM DOT website be updated? The information and links there end at the Public Meeting for December 2016.

Eric, because you are collecting questions and comments, here are mine.
Where can I find the aerial photos w/ markups that were laid out on the tables at the Public Meeting? And the PowerPoint presentation? I will be passing this info along to others who are interested. I looked on both the NM DOT and the Marron and Associates websites and could not find this current information.

It would be helpful to publicize the website where all data is located, including: Meeting Announcements, Plans, Presentations, and Comments Received and Adjudicated. What is the primary information website for this project?

Also, here are my comments on the 90% design (not otherwise noted on the paper copy of the plans presented at the meeting):

1. It seems prudent to include provisions for a pedestrian and bicycle crossing at the Rio Fernando. I know the Rio is not much today, but it could be something in the future.
2. Many people cross Paseo del Sur on the north side of the intersection of Placita/Quesnel. The plan indicates a crosswalk on the south side of the intersection. I understand there are "slope issues" with a north side crosswalk. What grading can be done to create a crosswalk on the north side? (There is some parking to the west, and many businesses to the east, which supports the addition of this crosswalk.)
3. There were other crosswalk "comments" indicated in sharpie on the plans.
4. Street lighting was not indicated on the plans. Where can this design information be found? I support more street lights.
5. Storm drainage was not indicated on the plans. Where can this design information be found?
6. Parking is being eliminated on Paseo del Norte at the Post Office and across the street at the Ale House. I believe these parking spaces are important.
7. The exit lane is being eliminated at the Post Office. This is used frequently when cars try to exit the Post Office northbound. If all northbound cars have to exit at only one exit point, this backs up traffic in the Post Office parking lot.

Thanks and looking forward to the project!

Comment 6: Doug Pickett

Thank you for your inclusion of bicycle lanes and shared lanes. As a daily bicycle commuter and recreation bicyclist and former owner of a bicycle shop in Taos, there are many individuals who want to ride a bicycle instead of driving a car if only they felt safe. This is the number one reason why more people do not ride bicycles. Clearly, it will decrease motorized vehicle congestion on our roads and increase individual health.
**Public Information Meeting**

The Federal Highway Administration and New Mexico Department of Transportation announce a public information meeting

**NM 68-US 64 Roadway Project**

La Posta Road to Camino de la Placita

CN 5100750

**Date:** Tuesday

November 28, 2017

**Location:** Taos County Commission Chambers

105 Albright Street

Taos, New Mexico

**Time:** 6:00 pm – Open House and 6:15 pm – Presentation

**Project Summary:** The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) is proposing improvements to NM 68/US 64 (Paseo del Pueblo) from La Posta Road to Camino de la Placita in Taos, New Mexico.

**Public Meeting Purpose:** To provide an update on the Phase I-C Environmental Documentation and discuss the current project design and environmental study findings. Information will be presented on the proposed Build Alternative: Signal Coordination and Roadway Widening of Paseo del Pueblo from La Posta Road to Camino de la Placita. Proposed improvements include road reconstruction and widening of Paseo del Pueblo from 3-lanes to 4-lanes between La Posta Road to south of Los Pandos, 3-lane reconstruction from south of Los Pandos to La Placita/Quesnel, pavement reconstruction of 2-lane road from La Placita/Quesnel to Martyr’s Lane, pavement rehabilitation of 2-lane road from Martyr’s Lane to La Placita/Rivali Lane, realign four major intersections, coordinate traffic signals, construct new sidewalks, repair existing sidewalks, storm drain improvements, access management, mid-block crossings, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) enhancements, bike lane and/or bike-share lanes, drainage improvements, and potential enhancements, such as landscaping. The public is encouraged to attend and provide comments on the proposed improvements. Additional project information can be obtained on the NMDOT website: [http://dot.state.nm.us/content/nmdot/en/ProjectsD5.html](http://dot.state.nm.us/content/nmdot/en/ProjectsD5.html).

**ADA:** To request ADA-related accommodations for the meeting, contact Eric Johnson at (505) 898-8848 at least two days before the meeting.

**Comments:** Written comments will be accepted at the meeting or they may be sent by December 12, 2017 to:

Eric Johnson

Marron and Associates

7511 Fourth Street NW

Albuquerque, NM 87107

phone: (505) 898-8848

email: eric@marroninc.com

fax: (505) 897-7847
NM 68 US 64 Taos Roadway Project Phase 1C

Meeting Handout

Project Summary: The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) is proposing improvements to NM 68 and US 64 in Taos. The project area includes Paseo del Pueblo from La Posta Road to Camino de la Placita.

Public Meeting Purpose: To provide an update on the Phase I-C Environmental Documentation and discuss the current project design and environmental study findings.

Proposed Improvements include the following:

- Road reconstruction and widening from 3-lanes to 4-lanes from La Posta Road to south of Los Pandos
- Reconstruction of 3-lane road from south of Los Pandos to La Placita/Queznel
- Pavement reconstruction of 2-lane road from La Placita/Queznel to Martyr's Lane
- Pavement rehabilitation of 2-lane road from Martyr's Lane to La Placita/Rivali Lane
- Realign four major intersections in this corridor
- Coordinate traffic signals
- Construct new sidewalks and repair existing sidewalks
- Storm drain improvements
- Access management
- Mid-block pedestrian crossings north of Martyr's Lane
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) enhancements
- Addition of bike lane and/or bike-share lanes
- Drainage improvements
- Potential enhancements, such as landscaping

Meeting Handout

Public Information Meeting

Tuesday, November 28, 2017
Taos County Commission Chambers
Taos, New Mexico

Agenda

Open House: 6:00 pm
Presentation: 6:15 pm
Comments and Questions: * 7:00 pm
* Please show numbered card and state number when asking questions or giving comments.
Project Roadway Sections:

- 2-lane road, rehabilitation
- 2-lane road, reconstruction
- 3-lane road, reconstruction
- 4-lane road, reconstruction

NM 68/US 64 Project Area
Comment Form
NM 68–US 64 Roadway Project, La Posta Road to Camino de la Placita
Control Number: 5100750

- Please provide comments on this form—letters and email messages also accepted.
- Fold form and place in Comment Box or mail comments to address on other side.

Date

Name

Address

City/State/Zip Code

Please mail or send your comments by December 12, 2017 to:

Marron and Associates, Inc.
7511 Fourth Street NW
Albuquerque, NM 87107
Attn: Eric Johnson

Phone: (505) 898-8848 Fax: (505) 897-7847
Email: eric@marroninc.com
NM 68/US 64 ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

LA POSTA ROAD TO CAMINO DE LA PLACITA CN 5100750

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
NOVEMBER 28, 2017
TAOS COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
PURPOSE OF MEETING

• Project Intent
• Project Update
• Open House
PROJECT INTENT

• MULTI MODAL FACILITY (PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE)
• AMERICANS DISABILITY ACT (ADA) COMPLIANT
• PAVEMENT REHABILITATION AND/OR PAVEMENT RECONSTRUCTION
• IMPROVE TRAFFIC OPERATIONS
• MANAGE STREET DRAINAGE FLOWS
• GEOMETRIC IMPROVEMENTS AT EXISTING INTERSECTIONS
• ACCESS MANAGEMENT
• IMPROVE SAFETY
Project Roadway Sections:

- 2-lane road, rehabilitation
- 2-lane road, reconstruction
- 3-lane road, reconstruction
- 4-lane road, reconstruction
SOUTH OF LOS PANDOS TO CAMINO DE LA PLACITA/QUESNEL

Two Lanes with Center Turn Lane, Bicycle Lane, and Pedestrian Sidewalks

Section can be re-striped in the future to accommodate a four lane section.

LA POSTA TO SOUTH OF LOS PANDOS

Four Lanes with Center Turn Lane, Bicycle Lane, Pedestrian Sidewalks
CAMINO DE LA PLACITA/QUESNEL TO US 64

Two Lanes with Shared Bicycle lanes in Travel Lane, Pedestrian Sidewalk on West Side only

US 64 TO MARTYR’S LANE

Two Lanes with Shared Bicycle lanes in Travel Lane, Pedestrian Sidewalks on both sides of the Roadway
MARTYR’S LANE TO CAMINO DE LA PLACITA/RIVALI LANE

Pavement Rehabilitation, Maintain Bicycle lane and On Street Parking where it is Existing, Pedestrian Sidewalk on both sides

MID-BLOCK CROSSING

Provide a ‘Bulb Out’ Crossing (3 Locations)
MAJOR INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

- NM 68 / LA POSTA ROAD
- NM 68 / ALBRIGHT (NEW SIGNALIZED INTERSECTION)
- NM 68 / SILER/LOS PANDOS ROAD
- NM 68 / CAMINO DE LA PLACITA/QUESNEL
- NM 68/US 64 (KIT CARSON ROAD)
- US 64 / CIVIC PLAZA DRIVE
- US 64 / ALLSUPS/TAOS PUEBLO TURN OFF (NEW SIGNALIZED INTERSECTION)
- US 64 / CAMINO DE LA PLACITA/RIVALI
LOS PANDOS/ SILER INTERSECTION REALIGNMENT

Realign Los Pandos to meet with Siler Road
Improves Intersection Operations and increases Safety
Provide In-Lane bicycle access due to limited access
Pedestrian access on west side of roadway
TAOS PUEBLO ACCESS

New Signalized intersection
Proposed Bio-Swale location on northern end of the vacant property
Close Access to Montecito Ln.
PROPOSED BIO-SWALE LOCATIONS

- Description: Soil and vegetation filtration device utilizing natural media for pollutant removal through a variety of physical, biological, and chemical treatments

- Primary Use: Removal of stormwater pollutants through absorption, filtration, plant uptake, sedimentation, and microbial activity.

- Will require a maintenance agreement between the NMDOT and the Town of Taos

- Locations of the proposed Bio-Swales can be viewed during Open House
OTHER IMPROVEMENTS

• GEOMETRIC IMPROVEMENTS
• SIGNALIZATION UPGRADES AND INTERCONNECT
• BIO SWALES ALONG CORRIDOR
• STREET DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS
• LIMITED LIGHTING AT SIGNALIZED INTERSECTIONS
• LIMITED WAYFINDING
• NEW SIGNING
PROJECT UPDATES

- INITIAL PROPERTY OWNER CONTACT MADE. PROPERTY OWNER INTERVIEWS WILL BE SCHEDULED IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY
- RIGHT-OF-WAY APPRAISALS AND ACQUISITIONS BEGINNING JANUARY 2018
- PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS AND DOCUMENTATION COMPLETE BY DECEMBER 2017
- DESIGN PLANS ARE 90% COMPLETE, REVIEW MEETING DECEMBER 2017
- CONSTRUCTION LATE FALL 2018 OR EARLY SPRING 2019
- PROGRAMMED AMOUNT $12.4 MILLION
QUESTIONS AND OPEN HOUSE

Written Comments accepted thru 12/19/17

Address to:
Marron and Associates
7511 4th Street NW
Albuquerque, NM 87107
Attn: Eric Johnson
Phone: (505) 898-8848
Fax: (505) 897-7847
Email: eric@marroninc.com