US 285 Alignment Study
Milepost (MP) 384 to MP 392.5
Virtual Open House and Opportunity for Public Input
Taos and Rio Arriba Counties

The NMDOT, in cooperation with FHWA, is proposing to rehabilitate the mainline and construct six (6) foot shoulders on US 285 from approximate milepost (MP) 384 to milepost 392.5, in Taos and Rio Arriba Counties, NM. The US 285 highway is part of the National Highway System and is a two-lane principal arterial roadway in northern NM. US 285 provides a vital connection for many mountainous communities along this stretch and also provides a critical connection to southern Colorado. The entire project would be within the existing NMDOT right-of-way (ROW).

How to Participate
In the interest of maintaining physical distancing, the NMDOT is hosting a virtual open house. Project engineers will describe the proposed improvements to US 285 and solicit your input.

A video meeting presentation is available online on the NMDOT website:
https://dot.state.nm.us/nmdotprojects

Paper copies of the presentation are available at the Tres Piedras Post Office, 38440 US Hwy 285, Tres Piedras, NM 87577, or via mail by request.

Submit your comments by August 24th to Conrad Ley, Project Manager, at 505-348-4133, conrad.ley@wilsonco.com, or by mail:

Wilson & Company
Attn: Conrad Ley – US 285 Tres Piedras
4401 Masthead St NE
Suite 150
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Project Purpose & Need
The project PURPOSE is to improve the safety of the corridor for the traveling public. The project NEED is based on:
- Inadequate shoulder width
- Roadway age (deteriorating pavement in area MP 390.4 to 392.3)

The 2018 Annual Average Daily Traffic was 880 vehicles for this segment of US 285 with approximately 17 percent heavy vehicles. The lack of shoulders does not allow for turning or disabled vehicles to slow down or maneuver from the driving lanes. A lack of shoulders also provides an uneasy feeling when larger vehicles are approaching from the opposite direction. The most problematic pavement area is from MP 390.4 to 392.3, where the roadway is experiencing pavement failure.

Proposed Project
The proposed typical section would provide six (6) foot shoulders for both the northbound and southbound directions, as well as rehabilitate the existing asphalt. All work would be confined to the existing NMDOT ROW, with turnouts tying in at or before the ROW line. The project would also replace the existing ROW fence with a wildlife friendly fence. This project is federally funded and construction is expected to start in the spring of 2023.