Project Overview

The project is located on NM 599 and US 84/285 in Santa Fe County. The New Mexico Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration, are proposing to realign and reconstruct the NM 599 southbound on-ramp and acceleration lane as it merges onto US Highway 84/285, upgrade existing concrete median barrier, and close the Viento Drive access onto US 84/285.

The purpose of the proposed realignment and reconstruction is intended to enhance safety by:

- Increasing visibility and merge distance;
- Improving roadway drainage near the on-ramp;
- Reducing conflict points and potential crashes; and
- Upgrading concrete median and metal barriers to meet current NMDOT Standards.
Planned Improvements

Ramp Reconstruction

Existing terrain adjacent to the on-ramp limits sight distance and makes it difficult for drivers to see one another until vehicles reach a point where ramp traffic merges with mainline US 84/285. The proposed project would realign the on-ramp further to the north as it joins US 84/285, as shown on the display on the previous page.

Replacement of the Existing Center Median Barrier

The existing concrete wall barrier does not meet current design standards and is in poor condition. New median barrier will be constructed between NM 599 and Guadalupe Street. The location of this median barrier is also shown on the display on the previous page.

Closing of Viento Drive Access to US 84/285

Ongoing safety and operational concerns at the existing intersection have prompted the NMDOT’s decision to close the existing intersection at southbound US 84/285. Access to St. Francis is provided via Alamo Drive.

Other Important Issues

✔ Proposed improvements will be constructed within the existing right-of-way.
✔ The existing earth berm and noise wall adjacent to the on-ramp will not be affected by the project. A noise study has been completed for the project and shows little to no change in noise levels at adjacent properties.
✔ Traffic impacts during construction will be minimized to the greatest extent possible. The existing on-ramp will remain operational, and 2-lanes of traffic in each direction on US 84/285 will remain open throughout the construction phase.

Next Steps / Project Schedule

✔ Completion of Environmental Document (Spring 2020)
✔ Completion of Final Design (Fall 2020)
✔ Start of Construction (Spring 2021)

Project Comments

We have included a comment sheet for your use in submitting any comments or questions regarding the project. Please provide your comments no later than February 5, 2020. Comments can be submitted by email or mailed to the address found on the comment sheet.