Public Information Meeting Summary
NM 599-US 84/285 On-ramp Improvements
Control Number S100430
Zocalo Condominiums Clubhouse , 1301 Avenida Rincon, Santa Fe, NM 87506
Wednesday, January 22, 2020, from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

A Public Information Meeting for the NM 599-US 84/285 On-ramp Improvements project was held on Wednesday, January 22, 2020, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm at the Zocalo Condominiums Clubhouse, 1301 Avenida Rincon, Santa Fe, NM 87506. The meeting was advertised in the Santa Fe New Mexican on December 7, 2019 in the main section of newspaper and December 10, 2019 in the Pasatiempo section (proof attached). In addition, 25 notices of the meeting were emailed or sent to neighborhood associations, elected officials, agencies, businesses, and other potentially interested parties.

At the Public Information Meeting, project summary sheets and comment forms were available for attendees (copies attached). Large graphic plots of the project design concepts and boards summarizing the noise analysis and environmental process were available for participants to review, discuss with study team members, and make comments. From about 6:00 to 6:15 pm, the meeting was an informal opportunity for attendees to discuss the project with New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) and consultant staff. A formal PowerPoint presentation describing the project was then given at the meeting (copy attached).

Approximately 55 members of the public and study team attended the meeting (attached sign-in list).

The formal meeting presentation began at approximately 6:15 pm.

Denise Peralta, NMDOT Project Development Engineer, opened the meeting and introduced the NMDOT staff and consultants at the meeting.

Paul Brasher, NMDOT District 5 Engineer, discussed the NMDOT’s role in the region and described the history and need for the study.

Carlos Padilla, Consulting Engineer with Radian Engineering, described the project limits and basic design concepts and went through the agenda. He said that the purpose of the project is to address an unsafe condition at the NM 599 southbound on-ramp merge area with US 84/285. Sight distance is currently restricted in this area by a low hill between the NM 599 on-ramp and US 84/285 mainline. The project is needed to realign the ramp and correct this condition. The project will also include replacing deteriorating concrete wall barriers in the center median area of US 84/285 and closing the access from Viento Drive to US 84/285.

Carmen Silva, Radian Engineering, then discussed three alternative design concepts that were considered and the preferred alternative, which consists of realigning the on-ramp slightly to the northeast of the current ramp and removing the hill that blocks sight distance at the merge area. She said that all the construction work will take place within existing right-of-way and the earth berm and wall that currently block noise will remain in place. During construction, the existing ramp will remain open so disruption to traffic will be minimized.
John Taschek, Ecosphere Environmental Services, Inc., discuss the environmental process. Because there is state and federal funding for the project, it must follow the National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA. NEPA requires that information on potential impacts in a variety of environmental categories be considered in the decision-making process. Natural and cultural resource studies did not identify any impacts due to the disturbed condition of the project area. A noise analysis was conducted in accordance with state and federal guideline, using predictive modelling to evaluate existing and future noise at ground level and second story locations along the corridor. The analysis showed that no noise impacts would occur under existing or future conditions. Part of the NEPA process is public involvement, to identify local concerns and knowledge. We would like to hear your comments tonight.

Carlos Padilla then described the project schedule. Construction is anticipated to start during spring of 2021.

The meeting was then opened for public comments.

Comment 1: If you plan to close Viento Drive, are you looking at the impacts on Alamo Drive?

Response: Closing Viento Drive is proposed for safety reasons, to eliminate the conflict between slower traffic on Viento Drive entering and exiting the faster moving traffic on US 84/285. We have not looked at the Alamo Drive area as part of this project.

Comment 2: Did the noise analysis look at construction noise?

Response: No, the analysis only considered post-construction noise from traffic on the adjacent roadways. Construction noise can be modelled but it is temporary and somewhat unpredictable, so it is not typically analyzed.

Comment 3: How will you inform people about construction? When will it occur? Will I be able to sleep at night? Will there be consideration of restricted construction hours for people living near 285 for noise?

Response: There will be requirements in the construction contract to keep the public informed, typically through newspaper ads, radio announcements, and message boards. The public will have plenty of notice. We don’t anticipate night work.

Comment 4: On the southbound US 84/285 lanes, has the speed limit been addressed? Is there a way to slow people down?

Response: The speed limit is 65 miles per hour at the top of the hill north of NM 599 and it drops to 45 miles per hour as you approach town. We have to assume that people will obey the speed limit.

Comment 5: How many accidents have there been at Viento Drive? Where did you get your data? I use Viento Drive all the time and have never seen an accident.

Response: The NMDOT is currently updating the traffic data at Viento Drive and we can get you that information.
Comment 6: I mostly approve of what you are doing, but you may have missed the forest for the trees. You could create a widened turn lane from Viento Drive going south. I’ve never seen an accident there. Alamo Drive is the problem. Transit vehicles going to the park-and-ride lot have difficulty turning at Alamo Drive. You should spend money on widening Viento Drive and improving Alamo Drive.

Response: Comments noted. We are revising and updating our traffic information in this area. Closing Viento Drive has been discussed for the past ten years.

Comment 7: Viento Drive is nice even though it’s ugly. How do we get crash reports? I’m interested in data on the southbound NM 599 ramp to US 84/285, turn lanes into and out of Viento Drive, the Alamo Drive/St. Francis Drive intersection, and Alamo Drive/Calle Mejia intersection.

Response: If you request this data, we will get back to you with the revised numbers.

Comment 8: I’m happy with the plan except for closing Viento Drive. Also, there is a bump on Avenida Rincon at the NM 599 bridge.

Response: Comment noted. Avenida Rincon is outside the study area for this project.

Comment 9: I don’t want to see Viento Drive closed. I suggest you pull it out of the current plan and study the Calle Mejia/Alamo Drive/Viento Drive/St. Francis Drive area separately.

Response: Comment noted.

Comment 10: Snow and ice cause cars to slide down Calle Mejia. That is one reason why people use Viento Drive. It’s a safety issue. You need to improve Calle Mejia.

Response: Comment noted.

Comment 11: Pedestrian traffic on Calle Mejia is a problem, a scary situation. Will old Viento Drive just sit there if it is closed.

Response: The asphalt on Viento Drive will be removed and the area reseeded.

Comment 12: Do you have crash data on NMDOT’s website?

Response: We are finalizing and updating the crash data. Please request a copy on your comment form and we will send it to you.

Comment 13: I applaud the ramp improvements, but you have to slow people down before they get there. Can you lower the speed limit earlier to the north on US 84/285?

Response: People may speed no matter what we do, but the project will improve sight distance and safety. Maybe we can put in advanced warning lights for the reduced speed limit ahead, but we count on people to obey the law.
Comment 14: Thank you for the project; I think it will be an improvement. Are you going to replace the trail in the Cañada Rincon?

Response: The project would not affect the trail.

Comment 15: This may be project-creep, but when are you going to address pavement raveling on Ridge Top Road?

Response: The NMDOT District office intends to address this pavement issue when the weather permits. We were not able to get to it before winter arrived.

Comment 16: Has there been an evaluation of the impacts on emergency service from closing Viento Drive?

Response: So far, we have received no concerns from emergency service providers regarding the Viento Drive closure.

Comment 17: We live on Camino de las Montoyas. During construction, how are you going to manage traffic? Traffic will back up to Montoyas.

Response: We expect that NM 599 will remain operational except for a very short time when traffic is switched from the old ramp to the new ramp.

Comment 18: What are the plans for staging equipment during construction? Those of us who back up to the road will have to deal with noise, dust, etc.

Response: The contractor will be responsible for identifying an equipment staging area; however, it cannot be within the highway right-of-way.

Comment 19: What is the expected duration of construction?

Response: If we start in the spring of 2021, we probably can’t finish before winter. We need 40-degree temperatures. So, construction will likely extend into the following spring.

Comment 20: I support closing Viento Drive. I’ve seen near-misses and accidents at this location. The merge at the NM 599 southbound on-ramp is bad, especially when the sun is in your eyes. You should make the merge longer if possible. I’ve lived here since 1951. You should take the hay trucks off of US 84/285 and make them use the relief route. You should also start dropping the speed limit at the top of the hill and get the speed down to 55 miles per hour earlier. We need bigger speed limit signs.

Response: Comments noted.

Comment 21: Thank you for this project. I am pleased to see it.

Response: Comment noted.
Comment 22: Closing Viento Drive would be a good thing for the Cañada Rincon Trail. Alamo Drive is not a good crossing if the trail ever gets down that far.

Response: Comment noted.

Comment 23: You should increase signage to slow traffic down on US 84/285, maybe with a “traffic light ahead” sign.

Response: The NMDOT District office could possibly paint a large speed limit sign on the pavement. Our job is to make speed limit information as visible as possible. We will look into it.

Comment 24: I’m worried about construction during events like Indian Market or Spanish Market.

Response: The project will not be under construction during major events.

Comment 25: Is Alamo Drive a city road?

Response: Yes, the NMDOT will coordinate with the city on any future studies or work.

Comment 26: We are counting on you to conduct proper engineering studies and develop a safe intersection at Viento Drive. Viento Drive is an important secondary access to a populated area. Closing Viento Drive would impact emergency services.

Response: We contacted local emergency service providers and they did not object to closing Viento Drive.

Comment 27: Why not place flashing warning signs on US 84/285 before the NM 599 interchange?

Response: We will look into this.

Comment 28: We want more safety features getting from NM 599 onto Ridgetop Road. Currently, the weaving movement from NM 599 to the Ridgetop Road exit is dangerous. We need reflective paint on the lane dividers.

Response: The NMDOT District plans to re-apply reflective paint after the winter season.

Comment 29: Can you separate the closing of Viento Drive from the rest of the project and study it independently?

Response: It is something we will consider.

Comment 30: Did you look at noise at the residences in the southeast part of Zocalo just south of the existing noise wall? Also, why are there no streetlights at the NM 599/Ridgetop Road interchange. There are many streetlights out along NM 599.
Response: We did look at noise levels at the residences in question and the analysis showed that they would remain below the noise standards. The city and PNM have an agreement to maintain street lighting on NM 599. Some of the lights have been subject to theft. Repairs are currently underway.

Comment 31: How will the old on-ramp be rehabilitated, with trees and re-seeding? Can you plant pinon and juniper trees within the reclaimed area of the old ramp?

Response: The abandoned on-ramp would be cleared of pavement and revegetated per NMDOT specifications. Typically, revegetation consists of native grasses and shrubs. Trees are not usually planted with highway right-of-way because it may take years of maintenance before they become self-sufficient and they may present a hazard for collisions once they become established.

There being no more comments, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 pm.

Approximately 42 emails and written public comments were received before the end of the comment period on February 5, 2020. These are summarized below and included in full in the attachments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comment Topics</th>
<th>Number of Comments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opposed to Closing Viento Drive</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Congestion at Alamo Drive/St. Francis Drive and Alamo Drive/Calle Mejia</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Loss of access to a populated area</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Decrease in emergency service</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Access is difficult for park-and-ride busses</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve Alamo Drive/St. Francis Dive and Alamo Drive/Calle Mejia intersections</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve Calle Mejia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Dangerous when it’s icy</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Lack of pedestrian and bike facilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide acceleration/deceleration lanes at Viento Drive or add a third lane to US 84/285</td>
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<td>Want traffic analysis/data in the Viento Drive/Alamo Drive/St. Francis Drive area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support NM 599 On-ramp project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Favor closing Viento Drive</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extend the southbound NM 599 merge lane on US 84/285</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slow traffic down on southbound US 84/285</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Rumble strips</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Signs and/or warning lights</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Improve markings</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Address construction noise and impacts</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project should include Cañada Rincon Trail from Viento Drive to Alamo Drive</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project should include revegetation of old ramp area</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comment Topics</td>
<td>Number of Comments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improve and maintain lighting along NM 599</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project will cause congestion at the NM 599/Las Montoyas intersection</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concerns with improvements to other streets in the area</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You should have another public meeting</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would like copy of meeting minutes</td>
<td>1</td>
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Public Information Meeting
NM 599-US 84/285 On-ramp Improvements
Control Number S50430

The New Mexico Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration are sponsoring a public meeting to provide information and obtain your valuable input on a proposal to realign and reconstruct the east to southbound on-ramp, including an acceleration lane, from New Mexico State Highway 599 (NM 599) to US Highway 84/285 (US 84/285) in the City of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Where:
Zacarias Condominiums Clubhouse
1301 Avenida Ranch
Santa Fe, NM 87506

Purpose: The proposed realignment and reconstruction is intended to improve:

- visibility and merge distance at the NM 599-US 84/285 ramp,
- thus enhancing safety
- drainage
- access, by closing the Vicente Drive US 84/285 intersection
- lighting (replacement of existing lighting)
- deteriorating center concrete wall barrier on US 84/285

Residents, landowners, and all interested parties are encouraged to participate in the meeting.

ADA: To request ADA related accommodations for this meeting, contact John Taschek at (505) 980-0993 at least 48-hour prior to the meeting.

The public can submit questions or comments about the project during or after the meeting to John Taschek, Transportation Services, Inc., at 1011 Cuesta Road NE, Suite C-1, Albuquerque, NM 87107 or jsanchez@transportation-services.com.
Comments will be accepted until February 5, 2020.
Public Information Meeting
for
NM 599 Southbound On-ramp to
US 84/285 - Control Number S100430

January 22, 2020
Tonight’s Meeting…

- Agenda
  - Project Team Introductions
  - Purpose of the Project
  - Existing Conditions & Key Project Issues
  - Scope of Improvements
  - Environmental Considerations
  - Next Steps – Project Schedule
  - Receiving Public Input
Purpose of the Project...

To Enhance Safety On US 84/285

- NM 599 On-ramp to US 84/285
  - Improve difficult merge conditions at on-ramp entrance to Southbound US 84/285

- US 84/285 Median Wall Barrier
  - Replace aging/sub-standard median wall barrier between NM 599 and Guadalupe

- Viento Drive Intersection Closure to US 84/285
  - Improve safety and traffic operations on US 84/285
Difficult merge conditions at on-ramp to Southbound US 84/285
- Poor visibility between mainline and on-ramp traffic
- Lack of adequate space for on-ramp traffic to accelerate

Median Wall Barrier on US 84/285
- Aging concrete barrier beginning to deteriorate
- Existing barrier does not meet current design safety standards

Viento Drive Intersection
- Direct access to mainline US 84/285 poses on-going safety and operational concerns
Scope of Proposed Improvements...

- **Existing on-ramp improvements**
  - 3-Options Evaluated
    - Add acceleration lane to existing on-ramp
    - Realign & reconstruct on-ramp (720-foot acceleration lane)
    - Realign & reconstruct on-ramp (1200-foot acceleration lane)
Scope of Proposed Improvements...

- Realign & reconstruct on-ramp (1200-foot acceleration lane)
  - Improves visibility between US 84/285 and on-ramp
  - Provides new 1200-foot acceleration lane for on-ramp merge
  - No impact to existing earth berm or existing noise wall

Re-graded area to improve sight distance
New median barrier wall on US 84/285

- Replaces deteriorating concrete barrier between NM 599 & Guadalupe
- New wall barrier meets all current design safety standards
Scope of Proposed Improvements...

- **Viento Drive Intersection Closure**
  - Improved safety & traffic operations on US 84/285
  - Access to Viento Drive provided at Alamo Drive

To Alamo Drive

New concrete curb & gutter
Other Important Considerations...

- **Right-of-Way**
  - All improvements to be constructed within existing right-of-way

- **Existing earth berm & noise wall**
  - Existing earth berm and noise wall will not be impacted

- **Maintenance of Traffic During Construction**
  - Existing on-ramp to remain open
  - Inside northbound lane on US 84/285 will be closed to allow for construction of new center median barrier
  - 2-lanes of traffic northbound & southbound on US 84/285 to remain open
Environmental Considerations...

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process

Detailed Analysis of Issues for the NM 599-US 84/285 On-ramp Improvements

- Cultural Resources – No Effect
- Biological Resources
  - No threatened, endangered, or sensitive species
  - Possible nesting birds
  - Weed Management
- Noise Analysis
  - Little or no change over No-Build condition
  - Intervening terrain and distance to road maintain noise levels below state and federal standards
**Environmental Considerations...**

### Traffic Noise Analysis Results: NM 599-US 84/285 On-ramp Improvements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Receptor Number-Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Noise Levels (dBA Leq)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2019 No-Build</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-Category B Residential</td>
<td>North Zocalo-250 feet to NM 599 and On-ramp</td>
<td>56.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-Category B Residential</td>
<td>North Zocalo-310 feet to NM 599 and On-ramp</td>
<td>53.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-Category B Residential</td>
<td>Zocalo - Avenida Rincon-650 to 1,100 feet to US 84/285</td>
<td>46.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-Category B Residential</td>
<td>East side Zocalo-450 feet to US 84/285</td>
<td>45.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-Category B Residential</td>
<td>East side Zocalo-Avenida Celaya-280 feet to US 84/285</td>
<td>50.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-Category B Residential</td>
<td>East side Zocalo-Avenida Colima-70 feet to US 84/285</td>
<td>56.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-Category B Residential</td>
<td>South Zocalo- Circulo de Morella-125 feet to US 84/285</td>
<td>60.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-Category B Residential</td>
<td>South Zocalo - Avenida Morella-250 feet to US 84/285</td>
<td>57.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-Category B Residential</td>
<td>Reserve at Santa Fe-380 feet to US 84/285</td>
<td>54.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-Category B Residential</td>
<td>Viento Drive apartments-280 feet to US 84/285</td>
<td>59.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Next Steps / Project Schedule...

- Complete Environmental Documentation - (Spring 2020)
- Complete Final Design - (Fall 2020)
- Begin Construction - (Spring 2021)
Providing Your Input...

- Comment Sheet Provided with the Handout
  - Complete and Leave with Study Team Member Tonight
  - Take Home to Complete and Mail In (via e-mail or regular mail)

- We would appreciate receiving your comments by February 5, 2020
QUESTIONS?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Elizabeth Peck</td>
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<td>505-982-4046</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jon Blanket</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dorthe Wehrnsick</td>
<td>10 Avenida RXZ</td>
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<td>250-493-2387</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Meeting Sign In Sheet

January 22nd, 2020
Control Number 5100430
NM 599 Southbound On-Ramp to US 84/285
Public Information Meeting for

Name
Phone No.
Email
Address

Tim Rogers
629 Sec. 0-9

Paul Marsh
101 Doughtys 330
2986 Texas AVE
1100 N. Broad St.

Dautcheson Carroll 872 Camino Real
110 Pacheco St.

Monica Garza 772 1/2 live Oak
204 1/2 39th

F. C. Santamaria
P.O. Box 914

Kerwin Rehman 350 Camino Real

St. Michael's Church
341 Camino Real

S. Caraway 123 ABC

Alice Minnis 634 N. Main St.

Signature: ____________________________
January 22nd, 2020

We would like to know of any ideas, information, or comments that you may have regarding the proposed NM 599 to Southbound US 84/285 On-Ramp Project. Please submit comments no later than February 5, 2020.

Comments:

Viento Dr. closure: 1) Severe decrease to access and egress regarding normal traffic, emergency equipment access, bus access, construction equipment access and egress.
   Note: Viento Dr. is an important secondary access and egress point for a densely populated area. Traffic jams will be a result if Viento Dr. is closed.

* Solution* Don't close Viento Dr.
   2) Improve the off ramp access to Viento Dr.

* Note:* Improve Viento Dr. rather than closing it and create a traffic problem.

Contact information (optional)

Jim Roszell
1735 Ridge Pointe Loop,
S. Fe 87506-4500
505-983-7224

email address (optional)

Submit comments by:

Email to: jtaschek@ecosphere-services.com (or)
Fold and mail to: preprinted address on back

☐ Check here if you would like your name added to our mailing list so that you can be notified of any future meetings regarding NM 599 to Southbound US 84/285 On-Ramp Project.
January 22nd, 2020

We would like to know of any ideas, information, or comments that you may have regarding the proposed NM 599 to Southbound US 84/285 On-Ramp Project. Please submit comments no later than February 5, 2020.

Comments:

- Great Project! All Aspects
- Look forward to schedule of construction so that we can work around noise, lights & traffic patterns as you complete the project.

Contact information (optional)

DR Richard O & Janie Gill
250 Avenue Morelia
#103
Santa Fe, NM 87506
RRT4455@aol.com

Submit comments by:

Email to: jtaschek@ecosphere-services.com (or)
Fold and mail to: preprinted address on back

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January 22nd, 2020

We would like to know of any ideas, information, or comments that you may have regarding the proposed NM 599 to Southbound US 84/285 On-Ramp Project. Please submit comments no later than February 5, 2020.

Comments:
Thank you all for your time!
I support all parts of this proposed except closing Viento drive. Please consider improvements to Viento/Ivema/Calle Mejia as a group instead of closing Viento in this project.

I believe rumble strips on southbound 84 at the top of the hill would help with speed limit violations, in addition to more signage.

Thanks again!

Contact information (optional)
Teresa Bradford

email address (optional)
terezabrad@gmail.com

Submit comments by:
Email to: jtaschek@ecosphere-services.com (or)
Fold and mail to: preprinted address on back

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January 22nd, 2020

We would like to know of any ideas, information, or comments that you may have regarding the proposed NM 599 to Southbound US 84/285 On-Ramp Project. Please submit comments no later than February 5, 2020.

Comments:

Concerns—How will the old on ramp be rehabilitated with trees and re-seeding? How many trees will be destroyed by the project?

Closure of Vento is a good idea.

Contact information (optional)

Margaret Alexander
1116 Isano del Este
Santa Fe NM 87506

email address (optional)

Submit comments by:
Email to: jtaschek@ecosphere-services.com (or)
Fold and mail to: preprinted address on back

Check here if you would like your name added to our mailing list so that you can be notified of any future meetings regarding NM 599 to Southbound US 84/285 On-Ramp Project.
January 22nd, 2020

We would like to know of any ideas, information, or comments that you may have regarding the proposed NM 599 to Southbound US 84/285 On-Ramp Project. Please submit comments no later than February 5, 2020.

Comments:

When constructed is complete PLEASE redo all the white line marking. Currently they are very poor especially all the ramps on NM 599.

Contact information (optional)  
Jan Gill.

email address (optional)  
jan_tgill@gmail.com

Submit comments by:
Email to: jtaschek@ecosphere-services.com (or)
Fold and mail to: preprinted address on back

Check here if you would like your name added to our mailing list so that you can be notified of any future meetings regarding NM 599 to Southbound US 84/285 On-Ramp Project.
January 22nd, 2020

We would like to know of any ideas, information, or comments that you may have regarding the proposed NM 599 to Southbound US 84/285 On-Ramp Project. **Please submit comments no later than February 5, 2020.**

Comments:

[Handwritten text]

---

Contact information (optional) 

[Handwritten text]

email address (optional) 

[Handwritten text]

Submit comments by:

Email to: jtaschek@ecosphere-services.com  (or)
Fold and mail to: preprinted address on back

[Handwritten box]

Check here if you would like your name added to our mailing list so that you can be notified of any future meetings regarding NM 599 to Southbound US 84/285 On-Ramp Project.
NM 599 to SB US 84/285 On-Ramp

January 22nd, 2020

We would like to know of any ideas, information, or comments that you may have regarding the proposed NM 599 to Southbound US 84/285 On-Ramp Project. Please submit comments no later than February 5, 2020.

Comments:

Thank you for realizing this ramp.

Contact information (optional)

Tracey Enright
1730 Ridge Point Loop

email address (optional)

Submit comments by:
Email to: jtschek@ecosphere-services.com (or)
Fold and mail to: preprinted address on back

Check here if you would like your name added to our mailing list so that you can be notified of any future meetings regarding NM 599 to Southbound US 84/285 On-Ramp Project.
1. Are you going to consider making the 599 cutoff/exit off 84/285 into a real truck bypass? (signage)? Get alfalfa trucks off 84/285.

2. Are you going to consider putting the rumble strips in like you used to have on the offramp northbound to westbound 599 off of 84/285?

3. When are you going to put lighting in at Ridgetop Road exit?

4. When are you going to give us reliable inspections of lights out at intersections along 599 and a reliable phone number to call when lights are out at exit intersections along 599? For instance, there are 19 streetlights out at the south Meanders/599 intersection right now that have been out for at least 2.5 years.

5. When are you going to put up better speed limit signage on all the roads you take care of in and around Santa Fe? Example: coming off of Tesuque Hill southbound.

6. When are you going to figure out ingress and egress at 599 southbound 84/285; at Cerrillos Road northeast bound off St. Frances Drive; and at north bound offramps from St. Michael's Drive onto St. Frances Drive?
1. When are you going to install stop bars and crosswalks in proper places (especially when contractors are finished re-paving), and how about maintenance on an ongoing basis?

2. How about regular inspections and maintenance on a regular basis on all items listed above?
NM 599 to SB US 84/285 On-Ramp

January 22nd, 2020

We would like to know of any ideas, information, or comments that you may have regarding the proposed NM 599 to Southbound US 84/285 On-Ramp Project. Please submit comments no later than February 5, 2020.

Comments:

Calle Mejía, lot of Horrible conditions, steep hill to a stop sign on Alamo w/ opposing lanes turning into Meja. NIGHTMARE. I will not take Meja when it is icy. Also a lot of pedestrian/bike people that you can easily run over.

If you close Viento – Then Buses can’t turn. Closing Viento will create already dangerous intersection (Alamo+Meja) into a WORSE situation. If Viento was widened or reconfigured it would alleviate traffic.

Yes signage is bad on Viento – We need more of a warning to change speed.

Accidents on Alamo – Yes I’ve seen them.
Viento – No I haven’t. (Although there may have been)

Also you gave the meeting a look forward to do-able solutions

Why not divert large semi trucks onto 599 – Not able to fit into 84/285 coming south down a hill - That is just stupid.

Submit comments by:

Email to: jtaschek@ecosphere-services.com (or)
Fold and mail to: preprinted address on back

[Check box] Check here if you would like your name added to our mailing list so that you can be notified of any future meetings regarding NM 599 to Southbound US 84/285 On-Ramp Project.
January 22nd, 2020

We would like to know of any ideas, information, or comments that you may have regarding the proposed NM 599 to Southbound US 84/285 On-Ramp Project. Please submit comments no later than February 5, 2020.

Comments:

We agree with your project as presented at this meeting — especially the relocated & lengthened on-ramp from I-599 to US 285! We also agree with closing Vicente St. access onto US 285.

Discussion at the meeting by attendees was orderly & informative.

Contact information (optional)

Email address (optional)

Submit comments by:
Email to: jtaschek@ecosphere-services.com (or)
Fold and mail to: preprinted address on back

Check here if you would like your name added to our mailing list so that you can be notified of any future meetings regarding NM 599 to Southbound US 84/285 On-Ramp Project.
Hi John, the comment form was not editable so I'm just sending the following as a text. Please submit my comments. Thanks, -Paul

I've lived in Santa Fe for over 40 years, I've never seen an accident at the Viento Drive access, can you cite studies showing the danger and need to close it? However, I've seen numerous accidents and near misses at the Alamo/St Francis intersection, there seem to be no plans to address the problems with that intersection. The closing of the Viento drive access will exacerbate the problems with traffic backing up. Traffic is sometimes backed up as far as The Lodge on Calle Mejia, and motorists frequently have to sit through several lights to get onto St Francis. Drivers are often left sitting in the middle of St Francis unable to move when the lights change because of the problems with the Calle Mejia/Alamo intersection (this is a serious safety problem with oncoming traffic heading south on 285). There is less than 25 feet access at that nexus. Closing Viento will exacerbate the backups and increase the likelihood of serious accidents at the Alamo Drive traffic light.

There will be no redundancy relief for emergency conditions by closing Viento Drive, further endangering local residents and businesses.

Ride and Share buses will no longer be able to access the parking lot on Calle Mejia. The turning radius is too short for Alamo and St Francis. Tour buses will no longer be able to access The Lodge.

A single continuous third lane from 599 to Alamo along 285 will obviate the need to reconfigure the entry lane onto 285. There would be no need to merge traffic. There is enough existing excess road for most of that stretch. A third lane can include reconfiguring Viento Drive to smooth the flow of traffic. And a reconfiguration at Alamo could easily include access for Guadalupe street. If DOT decides they cannot afford the extra funds for this option then at least improving the exit for Viento and an access lane along 285 before and after Viento to Alamo should be considered.

Was the 2010 DOT corridor study considered? In that study, an exit ramp and bridge to Guadalupe was the most recommended alternative. An access for Viento to the bridge would make the most sense.

There are other considerations for access to Guadalupe from Viento that I have in mind and I'd be glad to discuss them with the DOT.

Frankly, I'm concerned about the lack of notice or any attempts to involve the public in the planning process. Having the meeting at Zocolo was a poor choice because just about all of the people who will be affected were not informed (there was minimal public notice) and it was at least a ten-mile trip to go to that meeting.
The Lodge has offered to host another meeting. I urge DOT to consider having another meeting at The Lodge, I will help facilitate the meeting and get the word out to neighborhood organizations.

Thank you, -Paul White
Denise, I will not be able to attend the meeting because I am traveling. I will try to call you later today.

On Tue, Jan 21, 2020 at 10:21 AM Peralta, Denise, NMDOT <Denise.Peralta@state.nm.us> wrote:

Hello Mr. White,

Thank you very much for your comments.

We look forward to further discussing your concerns at the public meeting tomorrow.

Thanks.

(I did call you back and left you a voicemail)

Denise

NMDOT North Region Design

505-795-0246

Denise.Peralta@state.nm.us
Hi John, when we last spoke you indicated that you thought it was a good idea to have an additional meeting where those most affected by the closing of Viento Drive could meet closer to our neighborhoods. I've spent a considerable amount of time getting in touch with people about this possibility. After talking with some of the people in the area very few were aware of the meeting at Zocolo. It seems that notices were only sent out to a handful of the numerous HOA associations but not the general public or businesses. There are no signs on the roads or in the media that I've seen. I suppose you posted something in the newspapers but I haven't seen it. I did not get a notice in the mail. A meeting at Zocolo would involve driving 10 miles or more and would be a hardship for many in our area to attend. The community at Zocolo is the least affected by the proposed closing of Viento Drive.

Given that the closing of Viento will affect a large number of people, businesses and Ride Share, I strongly encourage you to do whatever it takes to include our neighborhoods in a future meeting at The Lodge. We need as much input as possible.

There are alternatives and we would like to have as much participation as possible before the DOT commits to their proposed plan.

The closing of Viento Drive will exacerbate the existing safety problems at the intersection of Alamo Drive and St Francis, we need to discuss viable alternatives including ideas that I feel would be better than the realignment of the merge lane at 599 and 285.

Has the City of Santa Fe been involved in the planning, will the City have representatives or MPO at the meeting? If so please send me the contacts you have.

I urge you and the DOT to consider an additional public meeting. Please forward this email to the DOT and study members.

Thank you,

~Paul
On Sat, Jan 18, 2020 at 7:46 AM John Taschek <jtaschek@ecosphere-services.com> wrote:

Hello Paul:

I don't think we can confirm another meeting at this time. Because the meeting on January 22 has been advertised and notices have been sent, we are committed to having that meeting. The study team, with NMDOT as the lead, will determine if another meeting is appropriate following the 22nd. I have passed on your comments to the study team and will keep you informed on the outcome of the meeting, as I know you can’t attend. Thanks again for your interest in the project.

John Taschek

From: Paul White <paulwhitesf@gmail.com>  
Sent: Friday, January 17, 2020 2:34 PM  
To: Alyssa Endres <aendres@hhandr.com>  
Cc: Nick Stofocik <nick@reserveatsantafe.org>; John Taschek <jtaschek@ecosphere-services.com>; Cecily Martin <cecilymartin@hhandr.com>  
Subject: Re: Regarding DOT meeting design planning 285 and Viento Drive

Hi all, I was hoping we could set something up for early February? John is that possible? Can we invite our City Counselors? 

Thanks,

~Paul

On Fri, Jan 17, 2020 at 2:30 PM Alyssa Endres <aendres@hhandr.com> wrote:

Hi Paul,
Thank you for your email. I have included Cecily Martin on this email. She would be the one to talk to about setting up a meeting. Please let me know if you have any questions and I will be happy to assist.

Thank You,

Alyssa Endres

Hospitality Rooms Director

The Lodge at Santa Fe

A Heritage Hotels & Resorts Property
Direct: 505-992-5816
750 North St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87501

On Tue, Jan 14, 2020 at 11:47 AM Paul White <paulwhitesf@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Alyssa, as most of the people affected by the closing of Viento Drive do not live at Zocolo I proposed to John Taschek, the designated contact person for the January 22nd meeting that we have another meeting that would be in a location more suited and convenient for the residents and businesses in our area. Thank you for considering The Lodge hosting the meeting regarding this very important issue. I would like to suggest an evening meeting during the week after people get out of work, so if you could include your events coordinator in followup emails that would be great.

See the attached flyer for the meeting. I'm alsoCc'ing The Reserve manager Nick and John Taschek the contact person for the DOT. I will be leaving for a trip this weekend and hope we can work out a date for the meeting at The Lodge soon.

~Paul

--

~Paul
Hi John, I spoke with the manager at The Lodge and she is willing to host a meeting. Can we pick two or three dates in the next month or so?
~Paul

On Fri, Jan 10, 2020 at 4:45 PM John Taschek <jtaschek@ecosphere-services.com> wrote:

Hello Paul:

Good talking with you. Attached is a comment form and another notice of meeting. Please feel free to distribute these to your neighbors and others with an interest. We look forward to your input.

John Taschek
John Taschek

From: Jim Murphy <jmurphy@goldengate.net>
Sent: Saturday, January 18, 2020 7:41 AM
To: John Taschek
Subject: RE: NM 599-US 84/285 On-ramp Improvements

Good morning John;

Thanks for the reply. As I said in my email, I am planning to attend the meeting on the 22nd.

Jim Murphy

From: John Taschek [mailto:jtaschek@ecosphere-services.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 18, 2020 7:59 AM
To: Jim Murphy <jmurphy@goldengate.net>
Cc: Peralta, Denise, NMDOT <Denise.Peralta@state.nm.us>; Mullins, Jennifer, NMDOT <Jennifer.Mullins@state.nm.us>; Carlos G. Padilla <cpadilla@RADIANENG.COM>
Subject: RE: NM 599-US 84/285 On-ramp Improvements

Hello Mr. Murphy:

Thank you for your comments. I am passing them on to the study team for the NM 599-US 84/285 On-ramp project. I don’t have any information about future projects at the NM 599/Los Montoyas intersection. I encourage you to attend the meeting on January 22 if you can to get acquainted with some of the NMDOT staff that may be able to point you in the right direction for future project development and planning at Los Montoyas.

John Taschek
(505) 980-0993

From: Jim Murphy <jmurphy@goldengate.net>
Sent: Sunday, January 12, 2020 10:03 AM
To: John Taschek <jtaschek@ecosphere-services.com>
Subject: NM 599-US 84/285 On-ramp Improvements

Good morning Mr. Taschek;

We live about half way between 599 and Tano Rd. just off Montoyas just outside Santa Fe.

First, let me say we are encouraged by what appears to be major work that will be done to the interchange mentioned in the announcement about the information scheduled for Jan. 22nd. It certainly needs work done.

I will be attending the open house on January 22nd. but I thought it would be good to get a leg up with a couple of questions before the meeting. They are;

1. Will there be any part of the presentation devoted to what will obviously happen with traffic flows through this interchange during construction which will, guaranteed, greatly affect our intersection at 599 & Montoyas? As it stands today, even without the work you will present, this intersection is a potential death trap just waiting to
happen, especially for anyone trying to turn left off Montoyas to go to the City of Santa Fe as well as for folks who are coming south on 599 around the corner at, usually, high rates of speed. There have been several serious accidents already. I can hardly visualize the problems we will have during construction if this is not seriously addressed.

This tees up my second question. This question I don’t expect to be addressed at the meeting as such but it is a serious one and is connected with the overall long range strategy for 599 improvements;

2. Who can I begin to have a serious discussion with about the potential deadly experience we are all having trying to navigate through the 599/Montoyas intersection I described above? If it is you great. If not you, who at the State or Federal Government can I meet with?

This intersection is ripe, costs aside, for a Montoyas overpass like the ones that have been built, over time, south and east of us on 599. We have heard rumors that any overpass at this spot is at the absolute bottom on any priority list. Yet I can attest that we and our neighbors are literally putting our lives at risk trying to navigate through this intersection trying to get into town. Rumor also has it that the Ridgetop overpass east of us was built due to pressure from the Thornburg Investment firm this overpass serves.

All this aside I’m not interested in finger pointing or raising any political voice. I’ve had some experience in dealing with State Transportation departments having served on the City Council for a suburb outside Minneapolis before we moved here that entertained a serious and complicated road reroute project a few years ago. I understood then and I believe now cooperation and understanding are key. So, I’d like to sit down with those who are in charge of 599 long range planning to get the planning story I might then be able to tell members of the Tano Road Association, of which we are members, at the right time.

Thank you for sorting through this. I hope my concerns are clear.

See you Jan 22nd.

James Murphy
15 Vista Chicoma Rd.
Santa Fe, 87506
505-983-0144
Thank you for your time today. As I mentioned, I represent The Reserve at Santa Fe Condominium Association.

I would like to have an opportunity to discuss the legal issues governing vacation of Viento Road with representatives of the New Mexico Department of Transportation. I understand that the project engineer is Denise Peralta.

I have not been able to locate any information on the NMDOT’s website about the proposed project or contact information for Ms. Peralta. Kindly forward her contact information to me so that I can make some inquiries before the meeting on Wednesday.

Thank you,

JMA
Thank you for your presentation last evening.

As you know, the residents at The Reserve at Santa Fe, a Condominium are most interested in the proposed closing of Viento Drive. On behalf of The Reserve at Santa Fe Condominium Association, please forward to me a copy of the map included in the presentation and posted outside the meeting room. The map used in your presentation includes more details than in the handout.

I have assumed that you can provide the map in Adobe Acrobat or a pdf format. An electronic version of the map would allow more detailed review by interested owners affected by the proposed closure. The board of directors would like to provide this information to the unit owners and other owners in the neighborhood. The assumption is that a pdf will allow owners to see the details that cannot otherwise be seen in the handout. Also this will allow for more informed comments and alternative proposals to be forwarded to you.

Thank you for your cooperation,

JMA

AhernLaw PC | Janice M. Ahern
Post Office Box 2823 | Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-2823
Telephone 505.983.4834 | jma@ahernlawpc.com | www.ahernlawpc.com

As a reminder to clients, you should not forward this email message. Doing so may cause you to waive attorney-client privilege. This electronic message, along with any attachment, is confidential and may be legally privileged. If you have received it in error, please notify me immediately by reply email and delete this message from your system. Thank you.
Thank you for the pdf file.

We also noted that you deleted the reference to apartments and now show the property as “The Reserve at Santa Fe”. This change is appreciated.

Regards,

JMA
Dear John,

I am writing in support of keeping Viento Drive in Santa Fe open. It allows the traffic flow to have several options. If Viento closes there would only be one way out, or in, for those of us who live in The Reserve and the surrounding area—that would be Calle Mejia. In the mornings, especially icy ones, the traffic back-up would be dangerous and long. A bottleneck would develop and the stoplight at Alamo Drive is long and does not allow many cars through. Does the city plan a traffic analysis of the intersection of Calle Mejia and Alamo Drive? I am a recent owner at The Reserve and would like my opinion considered.

Thank you,

Jamie Shannon #1610
Dear Mr. Taschek,

I was not able to attend the meeting today about the improvements to the ramp. I have no issue with this improvement, but I do not understand the need to close the Viento Drive intersection, especially if the intention is to improve access. If the intention is to reduce the risk of collision due to the deceleration of vehicles that turn on Viento Drive, this could be better accomplished by adding a few meters of a deceleration lane. Closing this access obligates those of us that live north of Viento Drive to have to drive until Alamo Drive for our every day needs. I would appreciate an explanation on the matter if you have some time for it.

Thank you in advance,

Maria Sanchez
Resident of The Reserve
I could not attend the meeting last night, but I have several questions/concerns. Improving the ramp is fine. First are you going to lowed the speed limit from 55 to 45 MPH before the ramp? Many drivers are still going 65 in the 45 zone all the way to the ramp or Alamo Drive. I strongly disagree to removing the Viento Drive turn. Why don't you put in a turn lane so cars can get out of the way safely? Also the buses that go to the park and ride use that turn for access. Having the buses go to Alamo Drive would create a huge safety problem. The buses could not make the right turn and then another immediate right turn onto Calle Mejia (Less than 50 feet) causing a traffic and safety nightmare by having to go into oncoming traffic at the stop light or on Calle Mejia. Several of the Reserve residents and other complexes walk to the park and ride to catch the bus to work. I have taken the bus to work for several years. They may move the park and ride if the buses can't safely access the parking lot. Thank you

Charlie LeNoie
941 Calle Mejia #612  The Reserve
Dear Mr. Taschek: My name is Monica Andersen and I am an owner/resident at the Reserve at Santa Fe Condos. I am writing in response to your Public Inquiries related to NM Department of Transportation related to a proposal to realign and reconstruct the east to southbound on-ramp from NM 599 to US 84.

I main reason I want Viento to stay open is for safety reasons.

My main concern is that if Viento is closed then there is only one way out for the approximately 1000 people who live and work in establishments off of Calle Mejia: The Reserve at Santa Fe Condos; the Los Pinone Apartments; the Spa, The Lodge (Hotel); the Condos off of Mejia and Alamo; the park and ride, and the other small businesses and residents in the area.

If an emergency happened and these establishments needed to vacate; (e.g. a fire breaking out in the foothills behind these establishments requiring a total evacuation) and Viento is closed and if there was an accident at Mejia and Alamo, there would be no way for these 1000 people to get out. They would be trapped. And emergency vehicles would not be able to get into the area because Mejia would be clogged with automobiles. Another big concern in this type of situation, is that people would be panicking trying to get out and probable there would be more accidents.

This is not an unlikely situation. Los Alamos has had two main fires in the last two decades requiring the whole town to evacuate and the fire danger for Northern New Mexico is still high.

In building with offices, doesn’t code require that there are at least two ways for people to get out. Shouldn’t the same thing apply to the establishments off of Mejia?

I was told that there was a concern about accidents that have happened already on Viento. I have live here for twenty years and have never seen an accident off of Viento. I think there is greater probability of accidents if Viento is closed than if it is left open.

I have other safety concerns:
- The merging lane off of 599 to 84 south should be extended. There is not adequate lane length to be able to merge into the fast traffic coming down the hill.
- There should be a pull off lane for cars exiting onto Viento.
- Extend the third lane that starts at Alamo to Viento so cars can safety enter 84/St.Frances going south.
- Slow down the traffic coming down the hill. Car are driving faster than the posted 45 miles/hour. Put in rumble strips. Put in the machine that registers speed. Is there a way to automatically ticket speeders?

Here is my contact information if you need to get in touch with me.

Monica Andersen
941 Calle Mejia, #208
Santa Fe, NM 87501
(505) 660-0955
Monica.6@comcast.net

Thanks for your consideration,
Monica Andersen
Are there minutes of the meeting held on Wed., January 22, 2020? I was unable to attend, but would like information as to what occurred at the meeting. If there is a list of attendees that is available to the public, I would like to receive that, as well. Any information would be useful. Thank you.

FYI – I am the president of an HOA in the area (Viento del Norte Homeowners Association).

Thank you.

Deb Tupler, Paralegal
Deb.Tupler@gmail.com
(505) 310-8345 Phone
(505) 212-1719 Fax
Dear Mr. Taschek,

I have lived at 941 Calle Mejia, The Reserve at Santa Fe, for 22 years and have owned my condo since 2004. I want to express my concern that closing the Viento Drive access to U.S. 84/285 would make Calle Mejia much less safer as it would force cars from the many businesses and home complexes on the street to pile up at the Mejia/Alamo Drive stop sign. That intersection would become much more congested every day as a result of the closure, and many more accidents would occur. Should an emergency arise and evacuation be necessary, residents, workers and customers would have extreme difficulty leaving Mejia and essentially would become trapped in a huge traffic jam waiting to leave Mejia at its only outlet.

Thank you for listening to my concerns about this matter.

Erin Geddie
Homeowner
The Reserve at Santa Fe
I would like to have the issue of Viento taken off the proposal at this time.  
Thanks you
Sandra Mann
Resident of the Reserve
Sent from my iPad
Hi,

Thanks so much for the presentation on Weds, Jan 22nd at the Zocalo Clubhouse. The information presented was clear, concise and informative. I’d also like to commend the entire team for the professional manner in which the meeting was conducted. It makes me so proud to know that our highways are in your good hands.

I heartily approve of all of the changes your team has scheduled for NM599 and US 84/285. The current position of the 599 on-ramp is a problem to traffic on both roads. I applaud your decision to fix the problem.

As far as the Viento Drive access closure, I feel it is necessary. It is a hazard to all. I have seen cars cross the entire US 84/285 road to get to the Guadalupe exit across from the Viento Drive access.

I realize that the closure will be inconvenient for people who live near the access, but for the safety of all, it is imperative that the access be closed.

Thanks so much for asking for my opinion on this matter!

Thanks too for all you do to help make our highways safer.

Susan Breyer
Ecosphere Environmental Services
ATTN: John Taschek

Dear Mr. Taschek,

I am an owner of a unit at the Reserve at Santa Fe and wanted to write to express my concerns for a plan to close Viento Drive.

I request a complete study be made with alternatives researched to make Viento Drive safer. The closure of this street will only place more traffic at the intersection of Calle Mejia, Alamo and St. Francis, including traffic from the Spa, the Lodge, the business park, all the residents, deliveries, and the Park and Ride buses coming and leaving from Los Alamo.

Perhaps your study could include the possibilities of a real ‘on-ramp’ for traffic driving on or off Viento Drive, or a slower off ramp speed. To simply remove Viento Drive will increase the traffic without providing an answer to the dangerous on-ramp of 599.

I wanted to add my comment to the discussion.

Thank you,
Edyne Gordon

--
Edyne Gordon
I am an owner at the Reserve and am voicing my dissent re closing Viento Drive. If NMDOT believes that Viento Drive is unsafe and needs to be closed, then something must be done with the only other alternative: the intersection of Calle Mejia, Alamo and St. Francis. This intersection seems undeniably more dangerous than Viento Drive and will inherit all traffic the small street currently handles. This includes patrons of the Spa, the Lodge, the business park and all the residents of Los Pinones, on Viento Circle, on Viento Segundo, the delivery truck, and of course the Park and Ride buses coming and leaving from Los Alamos.

Another detail is having the secondary access for emergency vehicles and for people being able to drive out quickly with an emergency.

Instead, make Viento Drive safer:

1. Deny access to Guadalupe from Viento Drive
2. Create “on-ramps” for traffic coming onto and off of Viento
3. Slow down the traffic coming into the city

Please remove the closure from the overall project of the ramp realignment and conduct a separate study of Viento Drive and its use and impact on those of us on Calle Mejia and Alamo. The traffic increase at the intersection of Calle Mejia and Alamo will be dangerous if it is the sole access.
Greetings,

I write with concern regarding the possible closure of Viento Drive due to its potential impact on the already overburdened intersection of Alamo and St. Francis, where I have personally witnessed near fatal accidents.

Instead of closing Viento, would it be possible to create an exit lane extending from the entrance of 599 - which is scheduled to be improved anyway? Then, south of the exit, St. Francis could be widened to allow for a safer entrance to St. Francis from Calle Mejia. I agree with others that allowing traffic from Calle Mejia to cross two lanes to access Guadalupe from Viento is simply too dangerous. However, it would seem that there is room to accommodate and exit to Calle Mejia via the current Viento and allow room for an entrance lane to St. Francis. The volume of traffic on Calle Mejia is significant and closing Viento would create significant hardships for those who reside and work in this area.

I am also wondering if NMDOT has conducted an environmental survey of the proposed impacts of construction in the area?

Thanks for your kind attention to the important matters!

Sincerely,

Peter Alden Hyde
505 577-2021
The drawing that you provided does not seem to include a merge lane on southbound 84/285. Is there going to be a merge lane? I use that ramp about three times a day.

Nell Sale
To whom it may concern:

1) Create on ramps for traffic coming onto and off of Viento

2) Slow down traffic coming down the US285 hill into the city earlier.

3) There needs to be a separate study of Viento Dr. and its use and impact on those on that live on Calle Mejia and Alomo residents.

Regards,

Mark Curran
941 Calle Mejia
Santa Fe NM 87501
505 239 8485
I am an owner/occupier of a condo at 941 Calle Mejia and have lived here 15 years. I have never seen an accident at Viento and 84/285. I have seen numerous accidents at Alamo and 84/285. Please reconsider closing Viento Drive. The traffic is already horrible trying to get across Alamo. Thank you, Kent Kramer

--

Thank you

Kent Kramer

505-690-4776
kentkramer50@gmail.com

941 Calle Mejia
#1615
Santa Fe, NM 87501
Hello John and Carlos - Thank you for hosting the meeting on this topic at Zocalo on Jan. 22. Given more time to go over new information, I have additional input below that I am providing here, along with re-iterating my original input.

I believe that the expansion of the scope of this project to include closing Viento Dr. brings up new considerations and data needs that go well beyond the scope of the original project planning and environmental review focused on the on-ramp. With this e-mail I am providing some additional transportation planning and environmental review considerations relating to bicycle and pedestrian traffic in particular.

As I noted at the meeting, the primary considerations relating to bicycle and pedestrian traffic relate to areas along the project, rather than within or across it. In particular:

1) A natural-surface trail built for the City of Santa Fe by Zocalo is found within the open space around Zocalo, which belongs to Santa Fe Estates. This trail, and others discussed below, can be seen on the Santa Fe Bikeways and Trails map for 2018, available through the Santa Fe MPO at https://santafempo.org/resources/bikeways-map/.

As pointed out by the project team, this trail is not on NMDOT right of way and will not be directly affected by future construction on the on-ramp or US84/285 median.

At the northern-most end of the trail, just west of the current scope of work for the on-ramp, drainage coming off of and underneath NM599 and the on-ramp has eroded away the original natural-surface trail built by Zocalo. A new alignment of the trail has formed, through use, which could be improved upon if there were certainty that the drainage issue had been addressed.

This issue was my original reason for attending the meeting on behalf of Santa Fe Conservation Trust, which has a contract with the City of Santa Fe focusing on promotion, maintenance, and construction of natural-surface trails, as well as assistance with bicycle and pedestrian planning and promotion in general. I have met with Zocalo residents and staff on site several times in the past two years, and we determined to not make any changes to the trail unless the drainage situation improved.

The project team pointed out that the area that I am referring to is not part of the project. While it would be desirable to address the NM599 drainage issue and then improve the trail, the current alignment of the natural-surface trail is for the most part acceptable, and it may continue to be satisfactory for future use by recreational pedestrians and bicyclists.

2) The Cañada Rincon Trail is a multi-use trail alignment between the Santa Fe River Trail and Tano Rd. described in the 2012 Metropolitan Bicycle Master Plan as well as the 2019 BMP Update (Map on p. 29, description on p 31). The proposed project elements run directly parallel to this trail alignment to the west. Parts of this roughly three-mile alignment have been built, as 10-ft wide accessible paved trail, behind Gonzales Community School and between NM599 and Tano Rd.
The City has designed and received federal funding to build a section of the Canada Riñcon Trail that would connect Calle Mejia to Camino Francisca, in city open space along the Reserve apartments. We can anticipate that this trail will exist within 1-2 years, completing for the first time a legal alignment for cyclists and pedestrians to travel the full three miles between the River Trail and Tano Rd. on public right of way. More importantly, this connection will open non-motorized travel to Santa Fe for residents of Zocalo and all of the neighborhoods to its west and north to Tano Rd., whose only legal access to Santa Fe is currently to drive far-longer, out-of-direction (and bicycle-pedestrian-unfriendly) routes on NM599 and US84/285, or Camino de los Montoyas.

Until other parts of the Cañada Rincon trail are built, Rio Vista St. and Calle Mejia will remain as critical road segments serving this alignment. Calle Mejia between Alamo Dr. and Viento Dr. does not have sufficient width for bike lanes, nor for motor vehicles to otherwise pass cyclists without using the oncoming travel lane, space which would be particularly desirable for motorists as well as cyclists given the relatively slow speed of cyclists climbing the steep hill in either direction. Calle Mejia also lacks consistent accessible sidewalks for pedestrians.

Despite these shortcomings, Calle Mejia serves as the best transportation route for non-motorized traffic in this area, including those seeking to access the Park n Ride bus in the immediate area, or those traveling longer routes to and from downtown Santa Fe. Its only competition in this function is US84/285, a high-speed state highway with no bicycle or pedestrian facilities at all.

As I noted at the meeting on January 22, closing Viento Dr. would benefit the Cañada Rincon Trail in the LONG TERM, because it would eliminate a street crossing for the future trail. It is unknown when this future benefit would in fact accrue.

In the meantime, however, closing Viento Dr. will force ALL southbound motor vehicle traffic on Calle Mejia to remain on Calle Mejia, which will exacerbate conflicts with bicyclists and pedestrians - whose numbers can only be expected to increase with anticipated completion of the Cañada Rincon Trail around the Reserve. (For northbound traffic on Calle Mejia, a similar effect will take place but with far less impact since the majority of motorists, coming from within Santa Fe, must already use this route anyway.)

The City's substantial investment under way in the Cañada Rincon Trail is predicated on Calle Mejia continuing to serve walkers and cyclists as at least a marginally-acceptable facility, in terms of safety and comfort. The new traffic patterns that closing Viento Dr. will create will work directly AGAINST this reliance on Calle Mejia to safely handle increased non-motorized traffic along the Canada Rincon.

Three ways to mitigate this anticipated negative impact of closing Viento Dr. on the safety and comfort of non-motorized traffic on Calle Mejia:

(1) No build - do not close Viento Dr.

(2) Close Viento Dr. only after improving Calle Mejia with sufficient bike lanes and sidewalks, or

(3) Close Viento Dr. in conjunction with building the Cañada Rincon Trail south to Alamo Dr.

While neither is covered in the scope or budget of this project, of numbers 2 and 3, #3 is probably the more wise investment since it would create a superior route for most walkers and cyclists by providing a conflict-free dedicated trail facility to Alamo Dr. that eliminates the substantial hill climbed by Calle Mejia. Since the trail would be on NMDOT right of way, it would be quite appropriate to consider in the context of this project, which focuses on NM599 and US84/285, two state highways that otherwise do NOT accommodate non-motorized traffic in this area.

For these reasons I would urge the project team and NMDOT District 5 to fully examine the impact of closing Viento Dr. on local traffic patterns, including non-motorized traffic accessing Park and Ride and
using the Canada Rincon Trail alignment, as well as the crash data that might justify closing Viento Dr. in the first place.

As project outcomes I would hope that NMDOT and the City of Santa Fe work together to (1) keep Viento Dr. open in the near term, and (2) lay groundwork for a future Cañada Rincon Trail to be built on NMDOT right of way between Viento Dr. and Alamo Dr.

Thanks for your work to improve our transportation system! Regards, Tim

--

Tim Rogers
Trails Program Manager
Santa Fe Conservation Trust

tim@sfct.org
www.sfct.org

P.O. Box 23985
Santa Fe, NM 87502

505.989.7019 o
505.988.1455 f

The Land Beneath Our Feet, the Skies Above, and the Trails that Connect Our Communities.

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.
John Taschek

From: flobe@localnet.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 5:49 PM
To: John Taschek
Subject: NM 599 Feedback

[NOTICE: This email originated from an external sender.]

January 22 Public Information for NM 599 Southbound On-Ramp to US 84/285 Meeting

I attended this meeting. I would like to submit my written thoughts on the plan.

Excellent, great job with a very organized presentation. Each presenter was well informed and presented the information in an organized way so we all could understand.

This should solve the issue of the merge problem from 599 to St. Francis. I fully agree that Viento Drive should be closed. Today, as I was coming down 84/285, toward Santa Fe, a car came out of Viento Drive and crossed the two lanes headed (down St. Francis) over to get onto the lane for Guadeloupe Road. People coming down the hill had to slam on their brakes. Very dangerous intersection.

This letter is a point of information only, since I do understand that you want feedback on NM 599 Southbound On-Ramp to US 84/285 only. My point: I do hope you will please be aware of the very dangerous merge on the other side, northbound traffic coming down from the north to get onto 599. Daily this merge area is problematic for those of us coming from Santa Fe trying to get up to Ridge Road Exit on the right. People crank their necks to try to see, blind spots on cars don't allow clear vision as you turn backward to look and merge right to get up to Ridge Road ramp. I have even had to put on my warning lights at night in bad weather to try to get the oncoming cars coming down the northern ramp to slow down.

I spoke briefly toward the end of the meeting asking if more blinking warning signs could let them know they need to slow down. In Colorado at busy on ramps like this they have had to install lights at the exits that allow you down the ramp but the stop lights only allow a small number of cars to merge at one time. This allows traffic to keep moving at a reasonable rate. Thank you for your future attention to this area.

X I would like to add my name to the mailing list regarding future meeting on this topic.
X I would also like to be added to the list of people the NM Dept of Transportation sends the accident report information to, regarding both 599 merge areas and Viento Drive. Thank you.

Shaunee Florence Higgins
flobe@localnet.com
505-820-0329
I oppose the closure of Viento drive. Instead, I support a dedicated approach/turning lane to Viento from Southbound 84/285. Closure of Viento drive will increase traffic at the intersection of Alamo Drive and Calle Mejia and that intersection is already dangerous. You should redesign the intersection of Alamo, US84/285 and Calle Mejia. You should also do something to mitigate the speed of vehicles approaching the US84/285 intersection with Alamo drive. The speed limit on that stretch of highway is routinely ignored and the intersection is dangerous.

Gerald A. Coppler
Please read my comments and keep me posted!

Blessings!
Cindy Breithaupt
720-350-8344
Shop online 24/7 with me.
www.marykay.com/cbreithaupt
January 22nd, 2020

We would like to know of any ideas, information, or comments that you may have regarding the proposed NM 599 to Southbound US 84/285 On-Ramp Project. Please submit comments no later than February 5, 2020.

Comments:

I am concerned to hear that you are considering closing NM 599 to Southbound US 84/285 On-Ramp.

The other option gets very busy and seems to already create accidents. I wonder what will happen when it's the only way into the neighborhood or should I say out of the neighborhood. The neighborhood is a high density area with many apartments and condos.

Has consideration been given to providing correction to the small intersection with one light for so many people?

Contact information (optional)  
Cindy Breithaupt

email address (optional)  
Cindy.b.05@msn.com

Submit comments by:  
Email to: jtaschek@ecosphere-services.com (or)  
Fold and mail to: preprinted address on back

✓ Check here if you would like your name added to our mailing list so that you can be notified of any future meetings regarding NM 599 to Southbound US 84/285 On-Ramp Project.
From: Dottie Starr <reserveboard2020@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2020 1:31 PM
To: NMDOT; P.E.; John Taschek; Carlos G. Padilla
Subject: Response to NMDOT plans for 599/285
Attachments: Residents concerns Viento Closure.pdf; BOD Response to DOT Plan.pdf

[NOTICE: This email originated from an external sender.]

Please see the attached documents

The Board of Directors
The Reserve at Santa Fe
January 19, 2020

CERTIFIED MAIL – Return Receipt
John Tasheck
Ecosphere Environmental Services
320 Osuna Road NE, Suite C-1
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107

Denise Peralta, Project Manager
Radian Engineering LLC
509 Camino de los Marquez, Suite 2
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Carlos G. Padilla, PE
Radian Engineering LLC
509 Camino de los Marquez, Suite 2
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Paul Brasher, PE
District Five Engineer
7315 Cerrillos Road
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

RE: Planned renovations to 599 and 285 interchange and adjacent areas

The Reserve at Santa Fe, which is located just south of Zocalo partially fronting 285, is a condominium project consisting of 260 units with approximately 420 residents. We appreciate the presentation last week at the Zocalo Clubhouse of the planned improvements to the 599/285 interchange and adjacent areas.

Upon reviewing the improvement plan, The Board of Directors concluded the following: We are highly supportive of your great design with one caveat – we oppose closing Viento Drive.

The greater Calle Mejia corridor has numerous apartment and condominium projects; over 2000 full time residents, a hotel, several businesses including Santa Fe Spa, which has some of the highest in/out traffic counts in town. Next door is the Park and Ride, where busses enter at Viento and exit the area at Alamo Drive.
The Alamo Drive/285 (St. Francis) intersection is one of the busiest and overused in town, and long overdue for enlargement and redesign. The Casa Solana subdivision, which consists of approximately 400-500 single-family residences, begins at Alamo just west of Calle Mejia. An informed estimate is that 250-300 of these homes use Alamo Drive for ingress/egress.

While Viento Drive could be improved (see attachment) we can find nothing online or from personal observation to suggest it is ‘dangerous’. To the contrary (and somewhat surprisingly) we can find no one in the area who can remember one vehicle or pedestrian accident on Viento Drive. Some of the businesses and residents polled have lived and worked her for over two decades. (The Alamo Drive/St. Francis intersection IS however a site of frequent accidents – one just last week.)

Our biggest worry is fire. The fact that Viento Drive is our secondary access in the event of a catastrophic emergency is our chief concern. The homeless encampment is directly behind Santa Fe Spa and campfires are built. Within the last 60 days, a resident in a Calle Mejia apartment complex committed “suicide-by-fire” and four residential units were destroyed. Should an event like this occur in the spring, when grasses are dry and winds are high, we could have a situation requiring mass evacuation. Think Los Alamos – two mass evacuations in 11 years. Santa Rosa, California – not a forest fire, just an out of control brush fire in a populated area that destroyed over 2800 homes and 400,000 square feet of commercial space.

If the Department of Transportation would remove the Viento Drive closing from this design, The Reserve at Santa Fe would wholeheartedly endorse the plan. Included with this letter and made part of this response is a list of specific concerns and suggested remedies from Reserve residents, and experts in the last week. We sincerely hope you will leave Viento open and even consider improving its’ utility, if not in this project, hopefully sometime in the near future.

**We consider secondary access essential to overall public safety. We will continue our efforts in the greater Calle Mejia community to stop the closing of Viento Drive.**

Very truly yours,

**THE RESERVE AT SANTA FE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

> Mark C. Little  
> Mark Little  
> President
Remarks, Analysis and Suggestions from Reserve Residents

Attachment to Board of Directors Letter to NMDOT/Planners Regarding 599/285 Project

January 29, 2020

Situation

The New Mexico Department of Transportation has informed the community of its plan to alter the ramp connecting 599 to 285/St Francis Drive. One portion of this project involves closing Viento Drive. The decision was made with minimal input from area residents and, possibly, without conducting a comprehensive traffic study. The last public input must be received by February 5, 2020.

The Reserve Homeowner’s Association supports the overall project but has serious concerns regarding the Viento Drive closure. The impact on access to the neighborhoods via car and emergency vehicles will be dramatic and could result in reduced safety and increased risk to the community, as well as increased liability to the city and state.

Questions / Concerns Regarding Planned Closure of Viento Drive from Calle Mejia to 285/St Francis

1. Authorized Emergency (Fire, ambulance, etc.) Vehicle access Southbound travel on 285 would be required to turn on Alamo and then onto Calle Mejia – is there sufficient turn radius for these large emergency vehicles?

2. Natural Disaster
   a. In the event of a natural disaster; such as, fire, flood, earthquake, etc. is there sufficient capacity for timely evacuation of the Reserve and other high density communities located on Calle Mejia?

3. Traffic Volume Study (Questions about the process)
   a. Please provide the date and method (i.e. statistical, GPS, interview, etc.) of the Traffic Volume Study that was conducted prior to considering the closure of Viento Drive.
   b. Was this study conducted solely on Viento Drive?
c. Was this study combined with the resulting increased traffic flow on Alamo?
d. Do the results of this study conclude that Alamo Drive can support the additional traffic volume?
e. Does the Calle Mejia and Alamo Drive intersection need to be re-configured?
f. Does the Alamo Drive and St Francis/285 intersection need to be re-configured?

4. Please list vehicle accidents that prompted the study to close Viento Drive.

5. Please list pedestrian accidents that prompted the study to close Viento Drive.

Suggestions to Improve the Viento Drive Access

1. As part of the widening of the 599 access to St Francis/285, include a deceleration lane to Viento Drive, travelling from north to south direction.
2. As part of the widening of the 599 access to St Francis/285, include an acceleration lane from Viento Drive, heading south onto St Francis/285.
3. Add flashing lights indicating the lower speed limit of 45 mph on St Francis/285, north of Viento Drive.

Please don’t close Viento Drive – Widen and Improve it

It is essential to the safety and well being of the entire Calle Mejia community
Hello

As an owner up at the Reserve I wanted to make my thoughts public on proposed changes to the Viento Drive proposal.

Regards,

Mike

Michael E. Greenberg CPA
Frenchvalleytax.com
43015 BlackDeer Loop #102
Temecula, CA 92590
P 951-235-6255
F 951-880-2937

IRS CIRCULAR 230 NOTICE: Please be advised that, based on current IRS rules and standards, the advice above was not intended or written to be used, and it cannot be used by the taxpayer, for the purpose of avoiding penalties that may be imposed on the taxpayer. If this message is proved in any manner to another taxpayer, he or she cannot use the advice and should seek advice based on his or her own particular circumstances from an independent tax advisor.

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We would like to know of any ideas, information, or comments that you may have regarding the proposed NM 599 to Southbound US 84/285 On-Ramp Project. Please submit comments no later than February 5, 2020.

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard. I use both Vientos and the intersection at the bottom of Calle Media. Although Vientos has its issues, the intersection is also a mess to navigate. The solutions on your end are not easy, closing Vientos might seem to bring safety there, but it then creates more problems at the bottom of the hill, which already has issues. If Vientos is closed, I think a light needs to be put in place at the Calle Media intersection at the bottom of the hill so that traffic on Calle Media can be relieved and to ensure making that left hand turn is safe. At the end of the day, the expressway and the Calle Media intersection are just too close to each other.

Contact information (optional)

email address (optional)

Submit comments by:

Email to: jtaseck@ecosphere-services.com

Fold and mail to: preprinted address on back

Check here if you would like your name added to our mailing list so that you can be notified of any future meetings regarding NM 599 to Southbound US 84/285 On-Ramp Project.
Hello. I live at the Reserve of Santa Fe and wish to express my objection to closing access to 285 at Viento Drive. I personally have never seen an accident there and I’ve lived here and used it for some 16 years. However creating more of an exit lane from 285 onto Viento would be great. How about a flashing yellow light at the intersection sign?

Additionally, the Calle Mejia/ Alamo intersection is problematic due to poor sight lines of left turning cars from St. Francis.

Thank you for attempting to improve traffic safety.
Kristine Bartyzel

Sent from my iPhone
Good evening.

Please find a completed form with comments/concerns attached with this email.

Thank you.
As a resident of The Reserve of Santa Fe, I wish to voice my thoughts on your proposed construction project. While I agree with most of what you are proposing, I STRONGLY oppose the closing of Viento Drive for the following reasons: 1) This would cause residents and businesses SERIOUS harm in the event of an emergency - natural or otherwise - in leaving the property and the street of Calle Mejia. With only one way in and out, were the exit from Calle Mejia to Alamo Drive to be blocked off, there would be no escape route for those residents or those patronizing the businesses near Viento Drive. I cite the instance of the fire at the Los Pinones Apartments in which emergency vehicles were required to access the property. In the matter of a few moments of having to drive from US84/285 to Alamo Drive then return back up to Los Pinones, lives could have been in the balance because they couldn't access the property more quickly. 2) Many residents - especially those who use the Park and Ride service - would have serious issues were the road to be closed. In fact, I sincerely believe that were the busses to become stuck on Calle Mejia - with no other access point - residents would be unable to access their homes due to the roadway being blocked. This could occur with busses or any form of blockage of Calle Mejia. I strongly recommend that you do NOT close off Viento Drive and consider those of us who use it daily and need it to remain open in case of emergency escape as well as allowing emergency personnel more tools to be available to them if and when needed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jonathan Gallegos
941 Calle Mejia #1501
Santa Fe, NM 87501
EMail: KBishopF1@gmail.com
I have attached a form discussing the proposed closing of Viento Drive for your consideration.

Thank you.
I live at the Reserve of Santa Fe and am a member of the community of Calle Mejia. Upon hearing about your upcoming construction ideas, I was compelled to voice my opinion in this matter of closing our road of Viento Drive. It truly saddens me that NMDOT is actually considering permanently closing this road. For NMDOT to actually be considering closing the road, it leads me to believe that no one has actually taken the time to see what this road does and can do for our community. If someone from NMDOT were to be a resident near the road they would see how invaluable the road is for us when we have had to use it due to fire or flooding as the exit onto Alamo Drive was not accessible due to the flooding or the emergency vehicles blocking the exit.

Also, for example, today with the snow storm there were 3 accidents at or near the exit of Calle Mejia onto Alamo Drive. Were it not for the exit onto Viento Drive, there would have been more traffic congestion - not to mention chaos and even panic. I would also cite the duration of the time it took to get the traffic signals at the intersection of Alamo Drive and St. Francis. It seems more rush was put into this and not into fixing the signals.

This also goes to my point about that intersection. Viento Drive was a tremendous help in getting onto US84/285 and allowing us and other residents access to Guadalupe to bypass that intersection due to the fact that it took a tremendously long time to repair the signals for whatever reason. I truly hope that you take my letter and the letters of the other members of the community serviced by Viento Drive into consideration and do NOT close our road please!

Nicole Gallegos
941 Calle Mejia #1501
Santa Fe, NM 87501
moonstarmermaid87@gmail.com
January 22nd, 2020

We would like to know of any ideas, information, or comments that you may have regarding the proposed NM 599 to Southbound US 84/285 On-Ramp Project. Please submit comments no later than February 5, 2020.

Comments:

________________________________________

Do not close Viento Drive. Make Viento Drive safer:

1. Deny access to Guadalupe from Viento Drive
2. Create "on-ramps" for traffic coming onto and off of Viento
3. Slow down the traffic coming into the city earlier, before the hill

Have this section of the project removed from the overall project of the ramp realignment. There needs to be a separate study of Viento Drive and its use and impact on those of us on Calle Mejia and Alamo.

Contact information (optional)
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________

email address (optional)
________________________________________

Submit comments by:
Email to: jtaschek@ecosphere-services.com (or)
Fold and mail to: preprinted address on back

☐ Check here if you would like your name added to our mailing list so that you can be notified of any future meetings regarding NM 599 to Southbound US 84/285 On-Ramp Project.
John Taschek

From: jim.rammell <jim.rammell@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2020 2:38 PM
To: John Taschek
Subject: Viento Drive

[NOTICE: This email originated from an external sender.]

Mr. Taschek

As a resident in The Reserve condominium, I am concerned about the proposed closure of Viento Drive.

Below are my concerns.

Authorized Emergency (Fire, ambulance, etc.) Vehicle access Southbound travel on 285 would be required to turn on Alamo and then onto Calle Mejia – is there sufficient turn radius for these large emergency vehicles?

Natural Disaster

In the event of a natural disaster; such as, fire, flood, earthquake, etc. is there sufficient capacity for timely evacuation of the Reserve and other high density communities located on Calle Mejia?

Traffic Volume Study (Questions about the process)

Please provide the date and method (i.e. statistical, GPS, interview, etc.) of the Traffic Volume Study that was conducted prior to considering the closure of Viento Drive.

Was this study conducted solely on Viento Drive?

Was this study combined with the resulting increased traffic flow on Alamo?

Do the results of this study conclude that Alamo Drive can support the additional traffic volume?

Does the Calle Mejia and Alamo Drive intersection need to be re-configured?

Does the Alamo Drive and St Francis/285 intersection need to be re-configured?

Please list vehicle accidents that prompted the study to close Viento Drive.

Please list pedestrian accidents that prompted the study to close Viento Drive.

Please let me know.

Thanks
Jim Rammell

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S8.
We would like to know of any ideas, information, or comments that you may have regarding the proposed NM 599 to Southbound US 84/285 On-Ramp Project. Please submit comments no later than February 5, 2020.

Comments:

Jose L. Casillas am in agreement with proposed projects, with lamp reconstruction, replacement of existing center median barriers with the addition of closing Viento Drive access to SF285. It is at The Regency and use that access all the time. The other residents do so as well. The Condos and apartment complex have one Calle Mejia. My suggestion is to widen the access turn the trees over to provide visibility of oncoming traffic to Alamar Drive. A lower speed limit 35-40mph to slow traffic before the light at Alamar would greatly help. Also an attempt to locate the turns to 285 North gaze Southbound is problematic. If the access to Vol PDT Co could be closed, the other alternative would be at small cost and everyone, residents and residents would be using it and it would cause traffic build up. An emergency would create chaos as there would be only one exit if I am not using to close Viento Dr. The other two projects make sense. By the way, there have been no accidents that we are aware of and I think that reason I have been able to move to Calle Mejia in July 2019.

Thank you,

Jose L. Casillas
941 Calle Mejia #202
SANTA FE NM 87501
323-664-9237
joc9065@yahoo.com

Submit comments by:
Email to: jtaschek@ecosphere-services.com (or)
Fold and mail to: preprinted address on back

[ ] Check here if you would like your name added to our mailing list so that you can be notified of any future meetings regarding NM 599 to Southbound US 84/285 On-Ramp Project.
January 22nd, 2020

We would like to know of any ideas, information, or comments that you may have regarding the proposed NM 599 to Southbound US 84/285 On-Ramp Project. Please submit comments no later than February 5, 2020.

Comments: Re: the closing of Viento:
As has been stated time & time again, the intersection of Calle Mejia & Alamo & St. Francis has always been a very dangerous area. The inability to make a left hand turn from Calle Mejia onto Alamo is very poor & the oncoming traffic passing across St. Francis is always too fast. Closing Viento would make it literally impossible to leave Calle Mejia especially when the many shuttle busses are trying to turn right onto Calle Mejia. The “powerful” that he seem to have overlooked the fact that Calle Mejia is it’s of residents are densely populated i.e. apartments, condos, hotels, restaurants, spa, businesses, etc. & they would be extremely impacted by the closing of Viento. The creation of ramps for traffic coming out of Viento would be a simple solution. It was made clear at the meeting, that the property to either side of Viento is not privately owned so creating cut ramps would not involve payments for use.

Contact Information (optional)

Joan Stengel
Ohi Calle Mejia

email address (optional)

Submit comments by:

Email to: jtscheck@ecosphere-services.com (or)
Fold and mail to: preprinted address on back

Check here if you would like your name added to our mailing list so that you can be notified of any future meetings regarding NM 599 to Southbound US 84/285 On-Ramp Project.