



SCENIC CORRIDOR AND ROADS

Bishop's Lodge Road and Tesuque Village Road provide a scenic corridor, a spine through the community that connects us to our history and to each other. Preserving this unique corridor as well as our network of traditional narrow roads supports our rural lifestyles and the historic character of the valley.

INTRODUCTION

As with many historic roads that wind through our traditional communities in Santa Fe County, Bishop's Lodge Road has all the characteristics of a winding, historic country road that could be found in Europe. Tesuque residents are committed to maintaining this aesthetic, complete with its over-arching tree canopy, present narrow and curving road surface, and lack of paved road shoulders.

Bishop's Lodge Road and the Tesuque Village Road form the spine of Tesuque and connect the long narrow valley that follows the contours of the river. Low speed limits are appropriate and necessary given the number of curves in the road, and limited sight distance in many areas.

Rights of way for acequias that adjoin or cross the road must also be maintained and respected. Because of visibility and safety concerns as well as the desire to maintain a visual connection to the pastures, orchards and natural features of the landscape, residents want to encourage owners of land along these roads to build appropriate walls and fences.

KEY ISSUES & OBJECTIVES

SCENIC CORRIDOR AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AAMODT SETTLEMENT

There is concern that if and when the project comes through the planning area, the historic rural character of the scenic corridor will be degraded or completely lost; the road will be widened and the trees, acequias and natural features along the way will be destroyed.

Due to the significance of the Scenic Corridor to the community, every effort should be made to seek alternative alignments for the water lines associated with the Aamodt settlement. However, in the event that proposed alignment of the pipes through the plan area is congruent with the Scenic Corridor and Tesuque Village Road and Bishop's Lodge Road are slated to be dug up and reconstructed to accommodate the water lines the objective of this plan is to affect the design and timing of the project to limit impacts to the scenic corridor.

Protect the intrinsic qualities of the scenic corridor from impacts of the project.

Adopt Tesuque Scenic Corridor Road Policy and Standards that provide for the preservation and maintenance of features that contribute to the rural character of the corridor including narrow roadway with minimum paving, adjacent acequias and stream beds, and mature trees and landscaping.

- Conduct a road survey that maps cultural resources, important scenic features including heritage trees and tree canopies, existing roadway widths and right of way. Develop preservation standards for implementation through a Scenic Corridor Overlay zone which will require permits for all new road construction and improvement projects.
- Draft cross section in 3- 4 different sections of the corridor to help define appropriate road standard for future improvements to the scenic corridor.

CARS, BICYCLES AND PEOPLE

Bishop's Lodge Road and Tesuque Village Road are single purpose roads designed to serve motor vehicles. Some sections are dangerous for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. This is due to a combination of traffic exceeding the posted speeds, driveways with limited visibility, narrow road widths, poor road conditions and in some places steep and curvy

road configuration. Increasing safety while preserving the rural character of the scenic corridor requires low impact intervention in specific locations.

- Work within the existing right-of way and maintain current narrow lane widths and limited pavement. Limited expansion should only be considered in order to provide on-road bike lanes and pedestrian paths in locations described below and identified on the Scenic Corridor Schematic Plan.
- Analyze appropriate traffic calming measures including additional signage, striping, edge treatments and rubble strips for transition zones between the higher speeds (50 MPH and higher) associated with traffic coming into the valley on Bishop's Lodge Road and Tesuque Valley Road and the slower speeds associated with the traditional historic community.

Bike Routes and On-Road Bike Lanes

Several options should be considered to alleviate the fear and potential danger resulting from car and cyclist sharing dangerous sections of the road:

- Formalized bike route to follow Tesuque Village Road to US 285 west frontage to connect with Tano Rd and Camino Encantado which are designated bike routes connecting cyclists to the City of Santa Fe and surrounding areas.
- Support SGMP and CIP directive to establish on-road bike lane on Tesuque Village Road by "retrofit through widening" on the northern section, and "retrofit through striping" on the southern section.
- Keep speed limits low on Bishop's Lodge Road to accommodate an in-traffic bicycle route from its intersection with Tesuque Village Road to the intersection with the south entrance of Bishop's Lodge Resort.
- Support an on-road bike lane for a limited section of road on Bishop's Lodge Road to provide the ability for southbound vehicles to pass cyclists biking up the steep climb from approximately the entrance of Bishop's Lodge Resort to of the top of the hill.
- Amend the SGMP to remove/ or change future Roadways Map and language that refers Bishop's Lodge Rd and the directive to "retrofit through widening" priority 2.

Pedestrian Circulation in the Village Core

The community core is centered at the intersection of Bishop's Lodge Road and Tesuque Village Road and includes small-scaled commercial and community development. The lack

of safe pedestrian connections limits community members from walking to, from and in-between the post office, the school and the village market. Currently most people walk along the very narrow shoulders along the road.

- Develop a pedestrian circulation plan that establishes safe pedestrian connections and crossing between the elementary school, the Village Market and the post office.
- Analyze and implement traffic calming measures to slow down traffic as it approaches the Tesuque Elementary school from the south on Bishop's Lodge Road

REGIONAL TRANSIT STOP

The North Central Regional Transit District provides bus services to from the City of Santa Fe to many small communities in the region. Currently, the closest stop is located about a half mile north of the plan area adjacent to the Tesuque Trailer Park. To accommodate aging in place goals and to provide more transit options for community members this plan supports a transit stop in the vicinity of the Village Core.

BRIDGE IMPROVEMENT/ REPLACEMENT **TBC**

PRIVACY FENCES AND WALLS ALONG THE SCENIC CORRIDOR

The proliferation of privacy fences and walls abutting Bishop's Lodge Road has decreased visual connections to the historic agricultural landscape and detracts from our rural character. In short they impede the view and reduce the sense of openness. To limit these impacts Develop standards that regulate the height and setbacks of new fences and walls that abut the on properties that front the Scenic Corridor.

- Encourage fencing that does not interfere with public views.
- Fences and walls adjacent to the corridor should be constructed of materials that will complement the surrounding scenic resources and, where feasible, be combined with landscaping.
- Chain link fence is discouraged.
- Straight, uninterrupted walls should not exceed 150 feet in length. Walls greater than 150 feet in length should be staggered or undulating.
- A 50' overlay zone should be established on properties that abut the scenic corridor to provide design guidelines for new fencing, walls, building setbacks and terrain management.
- Walls and fences within 25' of the pavement edge should be limited to 3 feet in height as measured from grade. Maximum height for all walls and fences should be limited to 6'
- 50' Minimum setback for buildings



ILLEGAL AND DANGEROUS DRIVEWAYS

Existing illegal driveways continue to be a problem.

- Establish enforceable standards including thorough inspection processes to prevent future problem driveways. Future county road improvement projects should be required to inventory all driveways within the project area and include improvements to mitigate existing illegal or dangerous driveways.

ABOVE GROUND UTILITIES

Future county road improvement projects should be required to inventory all utilities and working with utility providers to replace above ground utilities with underground utilities.

BUS TURNOUTS

Bus loading and unloading at the Santa Fe Mountain Center entrance causes stacking on Bishop's Lodge Road.

- Establish a bus turnout (or bus pullout) or require the bus drop off to access the Mountain Center via Dorothy Hicks Way.

TRANSITION ZONES – SLOWING TRAFFIC DOWN

As traffic enters the Tesuque from the north and west on Tesuque Village road and from the South on Bishop's Lodge Road there is a need to slow traffic down and make drivers aware that they are entering into a traditional village area with slower speeds, narrow rural roads and the occasional walker, cyclists and horseback rider. Additionally there is a need to slow traffic on approach to the Tesuque Elementary School Appropriate Traffic Calming measures including striping, signage, edge treatments and rumble strips should be considered.

DANGEROUS CURVES

Specific sections of Bishop's Lodge Road are dangerous due to sharp curves and cars driving faster than the posted speed: Just after Bishop's Lodge Property at the "S" curve and the curve at the intersection of Big Tesuque Canyon.

- Analyze a variety of approaches to increase safety without widening the road.

DRAINAGE AND EROSION

Road design and lack of preventative maintenance on both county and privately maintained roads has caused or contributed to soil erosion, impaired road surface and degradation of adjacent properties, stream beds and acequias.

- Preventative maintenance and the use of bar ditches in lieu of curb and gutter should be required.

DARK NIGHT SKY STANDARDS TBC