

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**SANTA FE COUNTY**  
**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**April 12, 2023**

**Santa Fe, New Mexico**

1. a. This meeting of the Santa Fe County Transportation Advisory Committee was called to order at approximately 4:05 p.m. on the above-cited date by Chair John Nitzel.

The meeting was conducted in hybrid fashion incorporating both in-person and virtual participation.

b. A quorum was achieved with the following members present:

**Members Present:**

John Nitzel, Chair, Member-at-large  
Christina Chavarria, District 1  
Gillis Lang, District 1 [via Webex]  
Tim O'Malley, District 2  
David Martin, District 2 [via Webex]  
Dan Painter, District 5  
Bill Miller, District 4

**Member(s) Excused:**

Joe Archuleta, District 1  
Steve McLaughlin, District 3  
Fred Greve, District 4  
[Three Vacancies]

Mr. Clavio noted that Nolan Zisman, District 5 Representative, has resigned and solicited suggestions from committee members regarding interested parties from that area.

**Staff Present:**

Gary Brett Clavio, Senior Transportation Planner  
Robert Griego, Planning Manager  
Angela Bordegaray, Planning Staff  
Ivan Trujillo, Public Works, Engineering Services Manager [via Webex]

**Others Present:**

Leah Yngve, MPO [via Webex]  
Lynn Pickard, Tesuque Resident  
Jeanne Boyles, Tesuque Resident  
Randy Buckley, Tesuque Resident  
Debbie Doyle, Wordswork

**c. Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Clavio recommended hearing item 5. a to after item 6. c to accommodate the schedule of Public Works. Mr. Painter moved to approve the agenda with that change, and Mr. O'Malley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**d. November 16, 2022 TAC Minutes**

Mr. O'Malley moved to approve the November 16, 2022 minutes. Ms. Chavarria seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**2. Introductions**

- a. Santa Fe County Transportation Advisory Committee**
- b. Santa Fe County Staff**
- c. Guests**

Those present introduced themselves.

**3. Presentation**

None were scheduled.

**4. Action Items**

None were scheduled.

**6. Discussion Items**

- a. Tesuque Road Safety Study**

Mr. Clavio listed the various safety challenges identified in the safety study along with its corresponding behavioral and/or operational countermeasures. The consultants also included costs and timelines. He mentioned a federal grant opportunity, Safe Streets for All, that could fit in well with the Complete Streets concept for this area.

Ms. Pickard thanked the County for the welcome signs and mentioned some incomplete striping that had been done; areas with narrow streets remain dangerous. Ms. Boyles asked if there were plans to widen certain roads where there is deterioration along the edges.

In response to questions from Mr. Buckley, Mr. Clavio elaborated on what the Safe Streets for All grant could encompass. Mr. Buckley gave a history of the controversies involving the area around Arroyo Griego.

A discussion ensued regarding drainage, parking and rights-of-way in the triangle area. Ms. Boyles mentioned the fact that during COVID the market expanded into an area previously used for parking. Mr. Buckley spoke of the previous configuration of the roads in that area due to settlements of lawsuits. It was not clear who was responsible for maintenance of the parking areas. Mr. Griego said the outdoor seating at the Tesuque Market was through a temporary

permit due to COVID. It has expired. Ms. Boyles noted the outdoor seating area has not been dismantled. She added the current situation is unsafe because of poor visibility.

Mr. Clavio stated he understood the Market is applying to make the outdoor seating permanent, but the County is not likely to view that favorably since they are in the right-of-way. He noted a restaurant is not a function of a road, whereas parking is.

Mr. Buckley provided details of the configuration of features of the triangle. He said he and his partners are not interested in developing the property. Surrounding areas have been built up rendering that area part of the drainage system. Chair Nitzel said the drainage engineering is odd. Ms. Boyles noted it is a continuation of an arroyo, and there is continual influx of silt which impedes the flow.

Ms. Boyles asked that the committee recommend adoption of the measures included in the safety study. Mr. Clavio said some of the suggestions are lower cost that could be pursued quickly. He noted the City has plans to make Bishop's Lodge Road a "complete street" up to the city limits. It would be better to continue it up to the resort. Coordination with the City and MPO is called for in cases like this. Mr. Griego explained the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan list, and Chair Nitzel added formulating a priority plan is a first step.

Mr. Clavio broached the topic of creating a safety subcommittee to keep the work of the consultants going.

[Mr. Trujillo joined the meeting virtually.]

Mr. Clavio indicated that TAC is interested in working on the low hanging fruit in the Tesuque Safety Study and Mr. Trujillo said Public Works is ready to be briefed on the discussion. Chair Nitzel stated a list of actions should be prepared for the next meeting, including formation of a subcommittee.

Ms. Chavarria asked what the businesses in the area think of the recommendations, and Ms. Boyles responded the businesses change hands often.

Mr. Painter mentioned that the study speaks of sharrows for bicycles, and the latest research, including from the originator of the concept, has shown these are not effective and should not be used. Ms. Pickard, a bicyclist advocate, spoke in favor of signs saying "bicycles may use full lane." Mr. Clavio said he favors separated facilities, but this is an expensive option.

#### **6. b. Santa Fe County Transportation Plan 2040 (Draft)**

Mr. Clavio indicated the plan has analyzed existing roads for various factors. The next step is to examine how they will look in 20 years. Meetings to discuss the longer-range plan were scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 1:00, and if needed, an additional meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 5:00.

**6. c. Road Safety on CR8 – Dinkle Road (Greater Edgewood) & CR9E – Living Water Road/NM344 (Cedar Grove)**

Mr. Clavio provided maps and the Edgewood/Cedar Grove area and shared a screen displaying where two accidents that took place over the last five years. The committee analyzed potential factors involved in the accident and offered potential design solutions.

**5. Information Items**

**a. Current Transportation Updates: Zafarano Drive Extension Study and NE/SE Connector**

Mr. Trujillo stated he attended a community meeting the previous Wednesday with approximately 50 people in attendance. There was a spirited discussion with partisans both for and against the project. Data was presented on the location study and the conclusion was that the extension could be needed within 20 years but not immediately. The question will be revisited in a few years. Any construction would be at a ten-year horizon. The public comment period ends April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Chair Nitzel asked if MPO modeling data was used by the consultant. He also asked if Agua Fria Village has a traffic plan. Mr. Trujillo said MPO data was used, and Agua Fria does not have a specific, detailed plan. However, the County is working with the City on Henry Lynch. There are also plans for a grade separation at San Ysidro Crossing and trail extension. He commended Mr. Clavio for his work on federal grant funding applications. Mr. Clavio said he was hopeful about both projects being awarded funding. The crossing would cost around \$9 million.

Mr. O'Malley asked about the historical repercussions and Mr. Clavio speculated that would be part of the environmental clearance. Mr. Trujillo said they would need to mitigate wherever necessary.

Chair Nitzel asked what was going to happen with the Zafarano project. Mr. Trujillo said they are waiting on the final draft of the consultants' report. Chair Nitzel asked if the County would incorporate Agua Fria's roads into their plan. Mr. Clavio said the Zafarano project is on private property. The study got legislative funding and the County is acting as an arbitrator. Mr. Trujillo said the initial legislation was for water and sewer infrastructure and the County was named the fiscal agent. Public Works did not initiate the request, but the County has regulatory oversight. Zafarano would be classified as an arterial.

A discussion ensued regarding rights-of-way and easements in the area.

Mr. Trujillo said he would pass along the report once it becomes available.

Chair Nitzel asked about a rumored interchange planned for Richards and I-25. Mr. Trujillo said that is not happening but there are plans for DOT to make improvements to the ramps on I-25. Mr. Clavio said there will not be an interchange but once Rabbit Road is extended and the NE/SE connector is done there will be an intersection.

Mr. O'Malley asked what was happening at the St. Michaels/St. Francis interchange. Mr. Trujillo stated he understood DOT had completed a design but did not have further information on the

timeline. Mr. Clavio said he thought they were going back into design. Ms. Yngve indicated she heard they have not decided on a preferred alternative, and it is still in the early stages.

#### **5. a. Northeast/Southeast Connector**

Mr. Trujillo said they are on day 30 of 240 construction days. Bad weather led to a slower start than anticipated. The entire corridor has been cleaned and grubbed and earthwork is starting. Construction is underway on the box culvert at Arroyo Hondo and they are gearing up for the roundabout at Richards and Dinosaur Trail. All utilities will have to be relocated and this will necessitate closing Richards which will cause major disruptions. However, this way the work can be accomplished more rapidly.

Mr. O'Malley asked what was going on at the washout on W. Alameda St? Mr. Trujillo said that it is in City jurisdiction and that they are anticipating two or three months before that is open.

Chair Nitzel asked about Beckner and would that help alleviate the problems on Richards. Mr. Trujillo said the City believes it will be another four months before Beckner is open, so that will not be available for rerouting. The plan is to use Governor Miles. Traffic will continue with signage to the area of Pantry Dos. He noted there will be message boards and information on the County website. Ms. Chavarria suggested text alerts as is done with Alert Santa Fe. Mr. Trujillo said they will look into using social media to inform the public.

#### **7. Matters from Staff**

Mr. Clavio said that in addition to the two RAISE grants already in the works, the County will be pursuing applications to the New Mexico Transportation Project Fund – Los Pinos Bridge in La Cienega, road rehabilitation of Richards from I-25 to Avenida del Sur, and College Drive Extension. The extension was originally going to be built by a developer, but at this point the County is looking to use College to connect to the NE/SE connector. If developers subsequently proceed with their plans cost sharing arrangements will be needed.

In response to a question from Mr. O'Malley regarding the road from IAIA to State Road 14, Mr. Trujillo said the project is funded through construction and the County is about to release an RFP for design. The County will perform the work and the developer will reimburse. Construction is targeted for 2025.

Mr. Trujillo indicated that they are in discussions with DOT to take ownership of Rabbit Road from St. Francis Dr. to the Northeast connector road, since this is more of a local network roadway. The County is asking that DOT bring it to an acceptable level, and that it include a side path.

Mr. Trujillo spoke highly of the partnerships the County is working through on joint jurisdictions, such as the RAISE grant in El Rancho and San Ildefonso Pueblo. Mr. Clavio said they are asking \$25 million for that project, the maximum. Mr. Trujillo said that requires six grade separated crossings and the total cost will be around \$70 million.

#### **8. Matters of Public Concern**

None were presented.

**9. Matters from the Committee**

No additional comments were offered.

**10. Schedule Next Meeting**

TAC: May 17, 4:00

Subcommittee: May 10, 2023, 9:00 am, and if needed, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 pm

**XI. Adjournment**

Upon motion and second the meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Approved by:

  
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John Nitzel, Chair


Respectfully submitted by:

Debbie Doyle, Wordswork

COUNTY OF SANTA FE )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss

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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 3RD Day Of October, 2023 at 09:48:46 AM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 2020802  
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office  
Katharine E. Clark  
Deputy  County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

