

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

**STUDY SESSION - May 17, 2023**

**Santa Fe, New Mexico**

1. a. This study session 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 in the Plaza Conference Room at the County Administrative Complex.

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

b. A quorum was not achieved. The following members were present:

**Members Present:**

John Nitzel, Chair, Member-at-large  
Christina Chavarria, District 1  
Fred Greve, District 4  
Tim O'Malley, District 2  
Bill Miller, District 4

**Member(s) Excused:**

Joe Archuleta, District 1  
Steve McLaughlin, District 3  
Gillis Lang, District  
David Martin, District 2  
Dan Painter, District 5

**Staff Present:**

Gary Brett Clavio, Senior Transportation Planner  
Ivan Trujillo, Public Works, Engineering Services Manager [via Webex]  
Johnny Baca, Public Works [via Webex]

**Others Present:**

William Mee, Agua Fria Village [via Webex]  
Karen Farrell, Wordswork

c. **Approval of Agenda**

There was consensus to accept the agenda.

d. **Approval of Minutes: April 12, 2022**

This item was postponed until a quorum is present.

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

Those present introduced themselves.

- 3. Presentation – Recognition of Committee Member Nolan A. Zisman**

Mr. Clavio announced the recent death of Nolan Zisman, a former TAC District 5 representative. Mr. Zisman had contributed local knowledge and volunteered for many organizations. Chair Nitzel said he will be missed.

- 4. Action Items**
  - a. Review and make recommendation regarding Formation of a Safety Subcommittee**

Mr. Clavio said a TAC Safety Subcommittee could provide an important planning framework to address existing and proposed safety studies and oversight. He noted that the Public Works Department works on road safety studies, maintenance projects and capital improvement projects to improve overall safety. USDOT recommends in their SS4A (Safe Streets and Road for All) grant that a committee-type group be charged with oversight of the action plan development, implementation, and monitoring for current and future road safety plans. The grant will provide funding opportunities for the next five years. According to DOT, the intent of the grant is to improve roadway safety by significantly reducing or eliminating roadway fatalities and serious injuries through a safety action plan.

Mr. Clavio indicated that Santa Fe County is an eligible recipient for the SS4A grant.

Micromobility refers to bicycles or scooters, especially electric ones, that may be borrowed as part of a self-service rental program in which people rent vehicles for short-term use within a town or city. Santa Fe County does not have such a program at this time.

SS4A is an 80-20 split requiring 20 percent match from the recipient. The next grant cycle is in July 2023 and Mr. Clavio suggested the County was not prepared for this round but with a subcommittee in place could be ready for the following one. This grant may be useful to extend safety down Bishop's Lodge Road beyond the city limits. The MPO could sponsor the grant application on behalf of the City and the County.

In response to the Chair's questions, Mr. Clavio said TAC was empowered to create its own subcommittees and a design guidelines subcommittee may also be useful.

Mr. Baca said he envisioned staff serving in an advisory role and having a seat at the table with the subcommittee since it would be Public Works instituting the safety policies.

Chair Nitzel said the US DOT has made safety a core program of national importance. Safety refers to three Es: education, enforcement and engineering. The DWI program may also be valuable at the table.

The MPO's high injury network study and the County's road safety study in Tesuque both qualify as Safety Action Plans. The MPO's study identifies the metro area and it would be useful to look at the remainder of the County.

Mr. Clavio noted that a fire emergency access study will be conducted for the Santa Fe foothills. A number of locations within the County require additional safety planning.

Public representation from the area under discussion would be warranted. Mr. Trujillo recommended adding a DOT advisor because their grant policies need to be carefully aligned to the project. Chair Nitzel supported a collaborative effort with the City, MPO and organizations that represent bicyclists and pedestrians.

Mr. Clavio said the County could apply for the Bishop's Lodge Road project since the safety study was conducted for Tesuque Village.

It was noted that the Public Works Road Maintenance team is down 52 percent.

With the reduction in staff, Mr. Clavio said he'll need a safety committee to ensure the movement of obtaining a grant. Once a high-injury network is identified, projects can be identified. Tesuque and Bishop's Lodge are not high injury roads and for purposes of this grant it would have to be explained to apply for the grant. Roads that need addressing were Camino La Tierra, Los Pinos Road, and Old Santa Fe Trail, to name a few. Chair Nitzel discussed reactive and proactive safety. Adding more traffic to Bishop's Lodge could cause safety concerns and working on it now could reduce future issues.

Madrid was slated for safety improvement but without the community's support they were not implemented. Mr. Clavio noted that there are improvements being implemented to the trail that runs from the County parking area at the ball field to the road.

Members Chavarria and O'Malley expressed an interest in serving on the committee.

A common problem in Santa Fe is, as Chair Nitzel noted, that 40 percent of people killed in crashes are hit by drunk drivers, while it's 8 percent in Utah.

- B. Review and make recommendation regarding 2023 Functional Classification of Roadway Systems map with 2022-2027 TUP approved future routes**
- C. Review and make recommendation regarding 2040 Functional Classification of Roadway Systems map**

Chair Nitzel noted that a great deal of work was accomplished to determine how a road should be classified based on traffic, safety, etc. Mr. Clavio said classifications impact federal funding. Functional roads help serve the National Transportation network making them eligible for federal funds. Mr. Trujillo noted that the proper classification is important because it steers the direction of policies and standards of what is required for the road. Changing a road's classification must be done very carefully because it can affect funding.

Mr. Trujillo said when using federal money, typically there is state oversight. Aligning the project to the fund is very important

Design standards should match the road. For example, the Community College District (CCD) has design standards which work well. Changing the code will improve road standards. Chair Nitzel supported extending/implementing the CCD roadway standards throughout the County where possible. Retro-fits are difficult whereas new development can easily meet CCD standards.

Engineering and design services are being procured for Avenida del Sur West. Mr. Trujillo anticipated 60 percent of the engineering will be completed this time next year with construction in 2025. The County is concentrating on these roads for its future growth. Mr. Clavio displayed a map showing the road plan for the CCD over the next 10 to 20 years and noted there is a plan to connect Eldorado to the CCD. Chair Nitzel highlighted the importance of road networks.

In response to Mr. Miller's question regarding population growth in the CCD, Mr. Clavio said the figure of 1.013 percent is being used annually, resulting in 30 percent over 30 years. Is this what he meant?

A suggestion was made to recommend approval of the classifications and move it forward to the BCC.

Mr. Clavio noted a minor change in that Arroyo Hondo Road and Seton Village Road are currently minor collectors but as a result of the study they should be major collectors. It might require a third lane. Mr. Greve recommended bike lanes in that area.

Chair Nitzel suggested a breakdown table identifying how many miles of each category are in the County. It was noted that road level of service are pretty good while bike and pedestrian lanes are weak.

## **5. Information Items**

### **A. Current Transportation Project Updates**

#### **1. NE/SE Connector Projects**

Regarding the NE/SE Connector, Mr. Trujillo said the contractor is steadily moving along. The plan is to close Richards Avenue at Avenida del Sur beginning May 22<sup>nd</sup> for up to 60 days to build the roundabout. The closure has been well advertised. The earthwork is 70-80 percent complete. The project is on schedule and funds are quickly being drawn down. Police enforcement is not schedule but the closure will be monitored and there are detour signs to guide people around the construction area. EMS is aware of the closure.

As a resident of the Rancho Viejo area, Chair Nitzel said there are still people having trouble negotiating the roundabout and added that people can get crazy when roads are closed.

As far as a name for the road, Eldorado and El Paso were proffered as well as holding a naming contest.

#### **2. Zafarano Dr. Extension Study**

Regarding Zafarano, Mr. Trujillo said a public meeting was held on April 5<sup>th</sup> where the majority were not in favor of the project. The study – which was from Zafarano to Rufina/Agua Fria –



indicates the need is not immediate or necessary. It was a good meeting. Mr. O'Malley said he understood the only support was from the landowner. The scope of the study was defined within the legislature that funded the study.

A comprehensive traffic study would be appropriate for this area. Perhaps a planning process to analyze this portion of Santa Fe should be considered. If Area 1B is reincorporated into the County/Agua Fria THC, then there will be a need for integrating a comprehensive road study.

Displaying a map, Mr. Clavio pointed out that the north/south roads connecting Rufina to Agua Fria are all private roads. The utility easement was highlighted.

Mr. Greve said the extension was a bad idea going through Agua Fria's THC and he was opposed to additional crossing on the Santa Fe River. Ms. Chavarria said traditional communities throughout northern New Mexico are raising concerns about traffic.

**6. Discussion Items**

None were offered.

**7. Matters from Staff**

None were presented.

**8. Matters of Public Concern**

None were presented.

**9. Matters from the Committee**

No additional comments were offered.

**10. Schedule Next Meeting:** August 16, 2023 – 4 p.m.

**11. Adjournment**

Upon motion and second, Chair Nitzel declared this meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Approved by:

  
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John Nitzel, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:

Karen Farrell, Wordswork

