NM DOT Dist 4
RCD 3/7/08
5/13/08

INPUT SYNOPSIS

NM 460 Improvement Project
Anthony, Doña Ana County, New Mexico

CAQ-CPIB-EBS-TPA-TPE-TPU-0478(9)
CN 3311

Prepared for
New Mexico Department of Transportation

Prepared by
Taschek Environmental Consulting

November 2007

32

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 PROJECT SUMMARY 2
1.1 Proposed Improvements in the EA 2
1.2 Proposed Improvements in the EA 3
2.0 PUBLIC AND AGENCY INPUT 4
2.1 Public Involvement Meeting on July 26, 2007 4
2.1.1 Design Modifications Presented on July 26, 2007 4
2.1.2 Questions and Comments Received at the Public Involvement Meeting 5
2.2 Public Involvement Meeting on October 25, 2007 10
2.2.1 Design Modifications Presented on October 25, 2007 10
2.2.1 Questions and Comments Received at the Public Involvement Meeting 11
3.0 CONCLUSIONS 14

Appendix A: Advertisement for Public Meeting (July 26, 2007)
Appendix B: Documentation on Public Meeting (July 26, 2007)
Appendix C: Advertisement for Public Meeting (October 25, 2007)
Appendix D: Documentation on Public Meeting (October 25, 2007)

1.0 PROJECT SUMMARY

This input synopsis was undertaken by the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) to evaluate and summarize public input for the NM 460 Improvement Project. The environmental assessment (EA) prepared for the NM 460 Improvement Project (CQX-TPA-TPS-0460(1)00, CN 3311) was signed on June 27, 2005 and prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 771 and 772, and the NMDOT *Location Study Procedures, a Guidebook for Alignment and Corridor Studies, August 2000*. Subsequent to the EA, an initial input synopsis as well as a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) were prepared in June of 2006. The FONSI was signed on September 9, 2006.

Subsequent to the FONSI, the design engineer recommended modifications to the proposed improvements determined to be significant enough to warrant an additional public involvement meeting and the completion of an additional input synopsis and a possible Categorical Exclusion (CE). Stakeholder agencies and members of the public were notified of the proposed changes and invited to a meeting held on July 26, 2007.

Comments following the July 26, 2007 meeting indicated strong, divergent opinions on those improvements, resulting in a subsequent set of proposed improvements for construction. An update on the project, including that set of proposed improvements, was provided at a public meeting held on October 25, 2007. The final modification in improvements removed the need for a CE, because final design closely resembled the preliminary design presented in the EA. This input synopsis analysis process serves to inform the public and elected officials of the consequences of the proposed action as well as considers and documents their input. This input synopsis provides documentation on the public involvement process in compliance with NEPA regulations and serves as a decision-making document for this project and potentially for future projects in the Anthony area.

The need for the NM 460 Improvement Project and alternatives considered are summarized in this document, as well as a description of the proposed design modifications and a summary of public input on those proposed design modifications.

1.1 Proposed Improvements in the EA

The purpose and need for the project, evaluated according to the NMDOT *Location Study Procedures*, established the following needs along NM 460.

- Insufficient capacity for current and future traffic volumes
- Limited access control
- Inadequate intersections
- Deficient drainage structures
- Lack of pedestrian/bicycle facilities
- Accident rate above the statewide average

1.2 Proposed Improvements in the EA

The NM 460 Improvement Project involves roadway improvements along NM 460 within Anthony, in Doña Ana County, New Mexico. For design and construction purposes, the southern boundary of the project area is the New Mexico/Texas State Line and the northern boundary is the intersection of NM 460 and NM 404. For purposes of the environmental analysis, the boundaries for the project were extended south to the intersection of Texas 20 (TX 20) and Texas Farm Road 1905 (FM 1905), and north to the intersection of the Interstate 10 (I-10) frontage road.

Throughout the entire corridor, the proposed improvements include four driving lanes, a center turn lane, improved shoulders, and intersection improvements. The urban section of the corridor, beginning at the state line and continuing north to Acosta Road, also includes a drainage structure along the west side of the roadway, curb and gutter, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant sidewalk improvements. At Acosta Road, the urban section transitions to a rural section, continuing north to NM 404. Within the rural section, ADA-compliant pedestrian/bicycle facilities will be constructed as an 8-foot (ft) multi-use path along the east side of the roadway, and drainage improvements will be addressed by the rural typical section.

The following intersection improvements are proposed as part of the project:

- A roundabout at the intersection of NM 460/NM 478.
- Signalization and additional turn lanes at the intersection of NM 460/NM 404.
- Signalization at the intersection of NM 460/Landers Road.

The environmental analysis indicates that the proposed construction of the NM 460 Improvement Project in Anthony, New Mexico will serve a need for improved facilities, increased capacity, and pedestrian/bicycle accommodations. The engineering, social, economic, and environmental investigations conducted and presented in the EA did not disclose any significant impacts on either the quality of the human or natural environments. The public involvement process did not identify any significant impacts.

A FONSI request was prepared and submitted to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The FONSI authorized final design of the NM 460 Improvement Project on September 9, 2006.

2.0 PUBLIC AND AGENCY INPUT

Opportunities for public and agency input on the proposed modifications to the NM 460 Improvement Project were provided through two public involvement meetings, held on July 26, 2007 and October 25, 2007, both at the Anthony Water and Sanitation District office in Anthony, New Mexico. A Spanish translator was available at both meetings to meet the needs of the community. A summary of the meetings and comments received is presented below. Documentation on the meetings is provided in Appendices A through D.

2.1 Public Involvement Meeting on July 26, 2007

The public involvement meeting on July 26, 2007, was advertised as follows:

- Display ad in the Las Cruces Sun News (July 13, 2007 and July 22, 2007)
- Display ad in the El Paso Times (July 18, 2007)
- Direct-mail, bilingual flyers to previous meeting attendees
- Direct-mail, bilingual flyers to elected officials and local agency representatives
- Bilingual flyers posted at local venues such as utility payment centers and grocery stores

Supporting information on the advertisement of the public meeting is included in Appendix A.

The meeting began at 6:30pm with a presentation by Michael Smelker (project engineer with the NMDOT) and Denise Weston (environmental planner with Taschek Environmental Consulting). The proposed modifications as described in the previous section, as well as a project overview, were provided to the public in a Power Point presentation. Following the presentation, questions and comments from the public were addressed by both Mr. Smelker and Ms. Weston and are summarized in the following section. A copy of the Power Point is included in Appendix B.

2.1.1 Design Modifications Presented on July 26, 2007

During final design, modifications to the proposed typical section represented in the EA were recommended by the design team as a result of additional engineering analysis. The modifications are explained as follows and were presented at the public meeting on July 26, 2007.

2.1.1.a Drainage Improvements

Engineering analysis discovered a limitation in drainage facilities between Elm Street and the intersection with NM 478 due to the existing grade at that location. Under the EA, this area is proposed to be an urban typical section with curb and gutter. Two alternatives to address drainage concerns in this area were presented to the public on July 26, 2007 and are explained as follows:

1). A drainage pond on the west side of NM 460, between Elm Street and Madero Street, was proposed to address drainage issues. Construction of the pond was proposed on a vacant piece of privately owned land and would allow the urban section to extend north to Acosta Road as originally presented in the EA.

2) The continuation of a modified version of the rural section, connecting to the urban section at the intersection with NM 478 instead of at Acosta Road was also proposed. This alternative

requires the elimination of the center left-turn lane and modified pedestrian/bicycle access within the section between Elm Street and the NM 478 intersection only. It would address the drainage concerns, but is not expected to address drainage concerns to the same level as the drainage pond alternative.

2.1.1.b Intersection Improvements

As a result of further engineering analysis, it was recommended that a signal be installed at the intersection of NM 460/Acosta Road instead of the intersection of NM 460/Landers Road, as was originally presented in the EA. Investigations determined that the traffic volumes were higher at Acosta Road; Acosta Road currently connects to the I-10 frontage road to the east, and the Acosta Road location would provide overall better traffic flow for the entire corridor. However, to address the original recommendation of a traffic signal at NM 460/Landers Road, some improvements were recommended. The intersection at Landers Road was designed to accommodate signalization in the future without required reconstruction. In addition, the entrance to the United Stated Post Office (USPO) was relocated from Landers Road to NM 460, further south from the intersection of NM 460/Landers Road, minimizing the overall volume of traffic at the existing intersection.

Finally, an environmental commitment was recommended to conduct another signal warrant analysis at the intersection of NM 460/Landers Road subsequent to construction to evaluate the result of the proposed improvements at the intersection in conjunction with the signalization at NM 460/NM 404 and NM 460/Acosta Road.

Throughout the environmental process, all public and agency input has been documented and considered.

2.1.2 Questions and Comments Received at the Public Involvement Meeting

Primary concerns expressed at the meeting pertained to the following issues:

- Opposition to the proposed drainage pond
- Need for improved drainage along NM 460

Following the presentation on the proposed improvements, there were over forty (40) questions and comments made on the project. Primary concerns expressed at the meeting and responses provided are outlined in this section.

- Resident (Donna Heddleston) questioned public notification process.
  Response: Weston explained that the meeting was advertised in both the Las Cruces Sun News, the El Paso Times, posted locally, and flyers were sent to previous meeting attendees.
- Resident (Victor Montoya) stated that the existing drainage ponds are not effective, not maintained, and visually unappealing. Questioned why this one will be different.
  Response: Smelker explained that this drainage pond is constructed with a piping system that will keep water from sitting, that the area will be fenced, and commits the NMDOT to maintain it properly.
- Resident (Art Terrazas, Jr.) questioned whether the proposed pond will affect the existing infrastructure for the AWSD.

Response: Smelker explained that the NMDOT has communicated with the AWSD and there is no impact anticipated and the AWSD is in support of the proposed drainage pond.

- Resident (Victor Montoya) questioned whether the water could be taken to the arroyo.
  Response: Smelker explained that to bring the water to the arroyo it would have to go under the railroad tracks. Involving the railroad would add 2-3 years to the time frame and the construction would cost about 2-3 million extra dollars. Both of which are not available for this project.
- Jorge Granados (DAC) questioned why a lift station was not proposed.
  Response: Smelker explained that a lift station is not viable. It is outside the budget of the project and it would need a deep pond for water storage.
- Several residents commented that the culverts in the area were not cleaned and have not been functioning properly resulting in recent flooding to local residents. Several residents felt that if the culverts were maintained properly, a drainage pond would not be needed.
  Response: Jim Grogan with NMDOT stated that District 1 did recently clean the culverts. Grogan was concerned, along with the residents, about the culverts adjacent to the railroad. He said that it appears that one is collapsed and he recently contacted the railroad to repair and clean their culverts.
- Several residents questioned that if the existing infrastructure is not maintained properly by the NMDOT, how could they expect the drainage pond to be maintained properly.
  Response: NMDOT agreed with their concern, but stated again that they would continue to maintain the local drainage facilities as appropriate.
- Resident questioned the availability of Spanish translation for the residents.
  Response: Weston introduced the Spanish translator in the back of the room. The Spanish translator again asked in Spanish if anyone needed her translation services. She was currently providing translation for two local citizens.
- Granados (DAC) explained that there has been recent coordination with the residents of Anthony including plans to partner with local agencies and develop infrastructure plans on a regional scale. He emphasized that development needs to be regionalized.
- Resident (Elena Escajeda) expressed concern over the drainage pond due to condition of the other ponds in the area. It was stated that the other ponds collect trash, tires, dead animals, and mosquitoes and they don't want that in their neighborhood.
  Response: Smelker again stated that the drainage pond design includes flow inlets to keep the water from standing and attracting mosquitoes.
- Resident (Bejarano) expressed concern over the fact that when they first widened NM 460, they told her father they would not take any more land. Now, the NMDOT is back and asking for more land from her family.
  Response: Smelker stated that it is difficult to anticipate the needs of a roadway in the future.
- Residents (Betty Gonzales, Bejarano) questioned why the drainage pond could not be placed in a different location. The area behind La Clinica was recommended.
  Response: Smelker explained that he considered other locations but that they were not feasible primarily due to grade and/or acreage.
- A list of concerns over the drainage pond was read by the resident adjacent to the proposed drainage pond area (Elena Escajeda). Concerns were as follows: lower property values, unsightly, visual impacts from the main street into Anthony, gas/oil run-off, and

mosquitoes with at-risk people nearby such as elderly and pregnant woman walking to La Clinica.
Response: Smelker stated that these concerns would be documented and considered.

- Resident stated that the property proposed for the pond was her grandmother's property and she was not pleased with the way it was being presented as a ponding area with little respect for its benefit to the family including the pecan trees on it. She went on to state that she was not comfortable with the term urban section including sidewalks given the sidewalks that the community of Anthony recently received along Church Street. She requested clarification on the proposed roadway sections.
- *Response: Smelker explained that the NMDOT was not at all trying to be disrespectful to her family or their land. He stated again that without a drainage plan, the NMDOT only has two options: the drainage pond with the urban section or the rural section without a drainage pond. He continued to explain that the urban section included a sidewalk, curb, and gutter.*
- Resident (Art Terrazas, Sr.) asked if the property had been acquired yet.
  Response: Smelker stated no, it had not been purchased.
- The owner of the proposed drainage pond property asked if his land had been surveyed and if constructed, who would maintain the pond.
  Response: Smelker stated that no, they hadn't gone on his property yet. All investigations had been done with aerial analysis. He also stated that the NMDOT would maintain the pond.
- Resident (Art Terrazas, Jr.) questioned whether the project could be phased in. He suggested that the rural section be built now and the drainage improvements be constructed later when additional funds are available. He was also concerned about soil erosion and questioned whether the rural section would impact the soil erosion.
  Response: Smelker agreed that the rural section would not preclude any drainage improvements in the future. He also stated that there would be no impact to soil erosion.
- Resident (Art Terrazas, Jr.) asked if the water could be taken to the arroyo with a lift station.
  Response: Smelker explained that because the arroyo is actually at a higher grade; therefore, the water can not get to the arroyo without a lift station.
- Residents (Victor Montoya, ME Bejarano) expressed a desire to have lighting along NM 460.
  Response: Smelker stated that lighting was not in the budget of this project but if they found additional funding sources for lighting, the roadway design would not preclude the inclusion of street lighting in the future. He further explained that they would have to bore under NM 460 to put the lighting in but thought it was completely possible to construct lighting after the completion of the roadway improvements.
- Art Terrazas explained that the community of Anthony has received legislative funding ($125,000) for landscaping along NM 460.
- Resident (ME Bejarano) asked again if the pond could be relocated, maybe further north; expressing the difficulty for the community when the proposed pond is in the backyard of their fellow community member.
  Response: Smelker again explained that the location needs to be specific to serve the function as a drainage pond and that the NMDOT has provided two options for the community to choose between.

- Resident (Victor Montoya) asked if there would be a crosswalk at the senior citizen center.
  Response: Smelker explained that they prefer to keep the crosswalks at the signalized intersections as well as the roundabout. Smelker expected that the senior citizens should be able to use the crosswalk at Acosta Road safely.
- Resident (Art Terrazas Sr.) asked if it would be cheaper to build the rural section than the urban section and if the remaining money could be used for additional improvements such as lighting or landscaping.
  Response: Smelker explained that it may be slightly cheaper; however, the existing design is currently 200 to 300 thousand dollars over budget so the reduction in cost is anticipated to bring the cost of the project in the same range as the existing budget.
- Resident (Betty Gonzales) questioned whether the vacant land adjacent to Sonic had been considered.
  Response: Smelker explained that he did consider that land; however, it does not have direct access for the outflow process, it is a bit higher in grade, and would require a deeper pond area.
- Granados (DAC) questioned whether the signals would be synchronized. He also stated that any additional power/water conduits that could be placed in the roadway for future use would be much appreciated.
  Response: Smelker stated that they weren't currently planned for synchronization but it could certainly be considered in the design phase. He also explained that they could coordinate on possible conduit placement prior to construction.
- Resident (Art Terrazas, Jr.) requested that they coordinate on the landscaping plans at the roundabout.
  Response: Smelker stated that he would provide the community with the preliminary plans and invite them to participate in the landscape design.
- Resident (Victor Montoya) invited Michael Smelker to join the local group pursuing a master plan including drainage for the community.
- Resident (Donna Heddleston) questioned why the water just can't continue to flow to the arroyo.
  Response: Smelker explained that the arroyo is uphill so the water won't flow directly without assistance. He stated again the importance of a regional drainage plan for the area.
- Resident (Victor Montoya) questioned why they could not adjust the grade of the roadway while they were making the improvements.
  Response: Smelker explained that they are using the existing two-lane road bed at the existing grade and that the improvements do not include a grade change anywhere in the corridor.
- Resident (Elena Escajeda) asked again why the water can not be carried further west away from her property.
  Response: Smelker explained that if the water goes outside of the roadway corridor, it will require coordination with a different entity such as the railroad and/or Doña Ana County adding both time and money to the project.
- Resident (Donna Heddleston) asked how big and how deep the pond would be as well as how much water would it collect.

Response: Smelker stated that it would be approximately 5 feet deep and cover the entire property. He stated that it would only collect water that is on the roadway.

- Resident (Elena Escajeda) questioned that if the pond was only collecting water on the roadway then during a storm they may still be flooded.
  Response: Smelker explained that the drainage pond is built for the 10 year storm and that it may not in fact be able to handle the water resulting from a 100 year storm.
- Resident (Donna Heddleston) questioned that if all of the water was being brought to one location, wouldn't it overflow and flood her yard.
  Response: Smelker explained that on the west side of the pond the water would be outlet so that the pond does not overflow. He also agreed that the pipes west of the pond would need to be cleaned and maintained for the pond to work effectively.
- Resident (Donna Heddleston) again expressed concern over the condition of the culverts along the railroad. She stated that when the water got to the pipes along NM 478 at the railroad, it could not go any further so it returned to flood her house. She also stated that maybe the pipes need to be bigger under the railroad.
  Response: Grogan stated that he would continue to follow up on the condition of the drainage pipes on railroad property; however, the NMDOT would not be able to do anything about the size of piping the railroad chooses to use.
- Granados (DAC) expressed concern over re-routing the water flow.
  Response: Smelker stated that the proposed drainage improvements would not alter the existing water flow patterns.
- Resident (Art Terrazas, Jr.) stated that the community does not want a drainage pond. He stated that the hand-vote taken at the meeting, resulting in unanimous support for the rural section and no drainage pond, proves this.
  Response: Smelker explained that their opinions would be documented and considered by the NMDOT. He reiterated that that is why we came to the public with the two options: urban section and drainage pond or rural section and no drainage pond..
- Several residents assured the NMDOT that they would be calling if the culverts were not maintained and cleaned regularly.
- Resident (ME Bejarano) questioned again that if there were extra funds, could they be used within the project corridor.
  Response: Smelker explained that he did not think there would be much money remaining because the project was already over budget; however, in agreement with Ms. Weston, he said that if there were funds they could possibly be used for the landscaping of the roundabout as was committed in the EA.
- Granados (DAC) asked what the original purpose and need for the project was based on.
  Response: Smelker and Weston explained that it was safety and capacity.
- Granados (DAC) recommended to the people of Anthony that they identify a drainage corridor now and even acquire the right-of-way, if possible.
- Resident asked if the minutes would be available to the public. *Response: Weston stated that she would provide a paper copy for review at the AWSD office upon approval by the NMDOT. Or, she was welcome to email Weston directly and receive an electronic copy.*

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 pm.

Throughout the comment/question session, Mr. Smelker explained that the purpose of the project was to address safety issues along NM 460. He stated that without a drainage plan in place it is difficult to address localized drainage issues with a road improvement project. He also reiterated that any drainage improvements included in the project would be to address the 10-year storm not the 100-year storm; therefore, all drainage issues may not be resolved.

A large number of written comments, for and against the drainage pond, were received in response to the public involvement meeting. Among the comments opposing the drainage pond is a petition signed by over 100 residents. A copy of the written comments including the petition are included in Appendix D and summarized below:

- Opposition to the drainage pond was based on concern over aesthetics, mosquitoes, property values, and odor.
- Proponents of the drainage pond felt the impact to the overall community drainage issues needed to be considered and not just the impact to the one property adjacent to the proposed drainage pond.

All of the comments received have been documented and considered by the design engineer. All persons that provided responses were thanked directly for their input.

2.2 Public Involvement Meeting on October 25, 2007

In response to previously-presented concerns about the community not being properly notified, additional steps were taken to advertise the meeting including a direct-mail effort to over 250 residents of Anthony. The public involvement meeting on October 25, 2007, was advertised as follows:

- Display ad in the Las Cruces Sun News (October 11, 2007 and October 21, 2007)
- Display ad in the El Paso Times (October 17, 2007)
- Direct-mail, bilingual invite letters to previous meeting attendees
- Direct-mail, bilingual invite letters to previous petition signers
- Direct-mail, bilingual invite letters to all adjacent property owners along NM 460
- Direct-mail, bilingual flyers to elected officials and local agency representatives
- Bilingual flyers posted at local venues

Supporting information on the advertisement of the public meeting is included in Appendix C.

The meeting began at 6:00pm with a presentation by Michael Smelker, project engineer with the NMDOT. An update on the NM 460 improvements, as well as a schedule for construction, was provided to the public in a Power Point presentation. Following the presentation, questions and comments from the public were addressed by Mr. Smelker and are summarized in the following section. A copy of the Power Point is included in Appendix D.

2.2.1 Design Modifications Presented on October 25, 2007

In response to comments received after the July 26, 2007 meeting and as a result of additional engineering analysis, modifications to the proposed improvements were recommended by the design team. The final design of NM 460 improvements closely represent the preliminary design presented in the EA; however, there were some variations on the previously proposed

improvements. Those variations are as follows and were presented to the public at a meeting on October 25, 2007:

- Additional signal warrant analysis resulted in the signalization of NM 460/Landers Road as well as NM 460/Acosta Road.

- Analysis of utility conditions resulted in the elimination of 4th Street closure allowing right-in/right-out only turning movements at the intersection of 4th Street and NM 404.

- Elimination of the 4th Street Closure resulted in the elimination of the Audrey Nance Road Extension

- In response to public comment, the drainage pond proposed at the meeting on July 26, 2007 was eliminated from the project.

2.2.1 Questions and Comments Received at the Public Involvement Meeting

Primary concerns expressed at the meeting pertained to the following issues:

- When and how will you address the drainage along NM 460
- Need for improved drainage along NM 460

Following the presentation on the proposed improvements, there were over twenty (20) questions and comments made on the project. Primary concerns expressed at the meeting and responses provided are outlined in this section.

- Resident questioned what will be done at the Anthony Wash.
  Response: Mr. Smelker explained that no modifications to the Anthony Wash will be done as a part of this project.
- Resident wanted clarification on directional turns allowed off of 4th Street.
  Response: Mr. Smelker explained that if traveling north off of 4th Street, you would only be able to turn right onto NM 404 (toward the interstate).
- Resident questioned whether Duffer Road will remain open.
  Response: Mr. Smelker stated that yes, Duffer Road would remain open.
- Paul Dugie (Doña Ana County Flood Commission [DACFC]) questioned how the increased water volumes would be handled by the proposed project. Mr. Dugie also requested that drainage impacts from the proposed improvements on I-10 be incorporated into this project.
  Response: Mr. Smelker explained that the project was designed to handle the increased flow that results from the proposed improvements on NM 460 only. He stated that Doña Ana County and the Anthony community do not have a drainage master plan so it is difficult for the NMDOT to address community-wide drainage issues with this one road project. Mr. Smelker emphasized that future coordination on this issue would be welcomed and necessary to address the overall drainage issues.
- Paul Dugie (DACFC) expressed concern over flooding on the multi-use path.
  Response: Mr. Smelker stated that it was designed to minimize that but only for the 10-year flood.
- Resident questioned the size of laterals placed in the right-of-way.

Response: Mr. Smelker explained that the laterals would be 24 inches in diameter and that they would eventually be connected to a larger trunk line.

- Paul Dugie (DACFC) questioned whether that was sufficient to collect the drainage flow caused by the road improvements.
  Response: Mr. Smelker explained that it was based on the results of the drainage study completed for roadway project and yes, it was intended to handle the flows caused by the roadway improvements.
- Paul Dugie (DACFC) questioned the time-line and suggested financial coordination between the NMDOT and Doña Ana County.
  Response: Mr. Smelker stated that there has been no time-line attached to the drainage improvements. Mr. Smelker explains that the next phase of the project will be placed back on the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) so that funding can be identified for the project. Mr. Smelker was very receptive to financial coordination between the NMDOT and Doña Ana County on the project. Discussion continued that there was some legislative funding identified for planning and implementation of drainage improvements in the Anthony area.
- Resident questioned the location of the trunk line.
  Response: Mr. Smelker explained that from Miller to Acosta there would only be four travel lanes and no center turn lane to accommodate the future trunk line addressing drainage. He further explained that the laterals would be connected every 300 feet within this section.
- Resident asked about water collection and possible locations.
  Response: Mr. Smelker stated that the location of water collection would only be answered after a further, community-wide drainage study was completed.
- Paul Dugie (DACFC) emphasized again that with regard to water collection, there are drainage problems up and down stream and that we all need to work together. He stated again that the NMDOT must consider drainage in their projects.
  Response: Mr. Smelker stated that the NMDOT did consider drainage and the improvements do address some drainage concerns but it is difficult to mend a community-wide drainage problem with one roadway project.
- Paul Dugie (DACFC) requested a copy of the drainage study completed for the NM 460 improvement project.
  Response: Mr. Smelker stated that he would make the drainage report available to the County. Mr. Smelker also stressed that he has provided plans and tried to coordinate with the County throughout the project but has not received any prior input on proposed improvements.
- Resident questioned how the trunk-line system worked.
  Response: Mr. Smelker explained that the system collects the water parallel to the road, carries it out to a ponding location, and then drains it out of the area. He reiterated that it would only be designed for a 10-year storm only.
- Resident questioned the pedestrian access along the project corridor.
  Response: Mr. Smelker explained that there is pedestrian access along the entire corridor; however not on both the east and west side in all locations. Pedestrians would be required to cross NM 460 at Acosta Road to switch between the sidewalk on the west side and the multi-use path on the east side. Mr. Smelker stated that there would be a full signal with pedestrian indicators at Acosta Road.

- Resident asked about land impacts on the west side near Landers Road intersection.
  Response: Mr. Smelker stated that there would be no need for land acquisition of the Boldt property in that location.
- Jorge Granados (Doña Ana County) questioned if the STIP was constrained or unconstrained and when drainage improvements would be built.
  Response: Mr. Smelker stated that he is does not represent NMDOT District 1 and that he could not answer questions directly related to the STIP.
- Jorge Granados (Doña Ana County) questioned how much money was allocated for the drainage study, what did the drainage study include, and why has drainage been taken out of the project. Mr. Granados went on to question the impacts and schedule for the I-10 project.
  Response: Mr. Smelker stated that the money was not separated out identifying the financial allocation for the drainage study. Mr. Smelker further stated that the drainage study addressed only the drainage impacts of the roadway improvements. He agreed that the there are additional community-wide drainage issues and emphasized that that is why the NMDOT is putting additional drainage improvements under Phase 2 of the project on the STIP for further consideration. Mr. Smelker agreed that coordination of all local agencies is critical for the community. He stated that he has tried to get coordination from the County on this project but has had little participation up to this point. Mr. Smelker also requested that communication with the County should be done in a separate venue and that tonight's meeting was to address concerns of the residents.
- Art Terrazas, Jr. clarified that the decision to remove the drainage pond from the project was agreed upon by the community at the July 26, 2007 meeting. Mr. Terrazas stated that prior to the next phase of the project to address further drainage issues, there would need to be coordination between NMDOT, DAC, and Anthony Water and Sanitation District for the next phase to be successful on a community-wide basis.
- Jorge Granados (DAC) questioned the purpose and need for the project and that if drainage was included why it was not addressed as part of the project.
  Response: Denise Weston (Taschek Environmental Consulting) stated that the primary purpose/need of the project was based on safety and access issues. That drainage was not removed from the project scope and that drainage concerns were considered as part of the project. Ms. Weston stated that removing the drainage pond option was a direct response to public input.
- Resident questioned when the construction would begin.
  Response: Mr. Smelker stated that the construction is scheduled to begin in January or February of 2008. He explained that residents would be able to travel on NM 460 at all times. There may be some delays but travel would be allowed.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:45 pm.

Two written comments were received in response to the public involvement meeting. A copy of the written comments are included in Appendix D and summarized below:

- Concern over compliance with the environmental process and consideration of cumulative impacts.
- Support for the project.

3.0 CONCLUSIONS

All public input received as a result of the public involvement meetings held on July 26, 2007 and October 25, 2007 for the NM 460 Improvement Project in Anthony, New Mexico has been summarized in this Input Synopsis, with supporting documentation attached. Based on the final set of improvements along NM 460, it was determined that a CE was not required in conjunction with this Input Synopsis. The investigations to date, including consideration of public input, combined with implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, indicate that no significant impact to either the human or natural environments would likely occur from the construction of the final set of recommended modifications to the NM 460 Improvement Project. Information contained in this Input Synopsis may be utilized when the NMDOT considers additional drainage improvements along NM 460, under a separate project number, in the undetermined future.

Appendix A:
Advertisement for Public Involvement Meeting
July 26, 2007

Newspaper Ad
Flyer
Mailing List

Appendix B:
Documentation on Public Involvement Meeting
July 26, 2007

Sign-In Sheets
Power Point Presentation
Written Comments
Petition

Appendix C:
Advertisement for Public Involvement Meeting
October 25, 2007

Newspaper Ad
Invite Letter
Flyer
Mailing List

Appendix D:
Documentation on Public Involvement Meeting
October 25, 2007

Sign-In Sheets
Power Point Presentation
Written Comments

NM DOT
RCD 3/7/08
5/13/08

Date: May 15, 2007 ***DRAFT***

Project: NM 273 Proposed Improvements
Doña Ana County, New Mexico

Subject: Summary of Public Involvement Meeting
May 10, 2007

Prepared for: NMDOT

Prepared by: Denise Weston, Taschek Environmental Consulting

Location: University of Phoenix, Orientation Room
1270 Country Club, Santa Teresa, NM

Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Project Team Members Present
Frank Guzman, NMDOT
Michael Smelker, NMDOT
Denise Weston, Taschek Environmental Consulting
Mitch Farnham, TRC

Meeting Attendees
In addition to project team members, approximately 19 people attended the meeting. Copies of the sign-in sheets are attached.

Summary of Meeting
The meeting began with an open house from 6:00–6:30pm. During this time, the study team was available to discuss the project and answer questions. Figures of the proposed improvements were available for viewing. At 6:30 pm, a PowerPoint presentation on the project was given by Michael Smelker and Denise Weston. The content of the presentation included project history and overview, proposed improvements, and environmental/public involvement process. A copy of the PowerPoint is attached to this summary.

Following the presentation, an opportunity for questions and comments was offered to the attendees. Several questions were asked and are summarized below:

1) *What will be the location and construction of the bike path in relation to the road (i.e. what is the distance from the edge of the pavement as well as how will they relate vertically to each other)?* Approximately 40-45 feet.
2) *Question asked about Crawford Rd. and another county road paving.* The individual a Hispanic male, was told to direct question to the City of Sunland Park.
3) *What exactly are Noise Impact Studies and models?* The Traffic noise analysis process was explained by Denise Weston.

4) *Will the increase in traffic noise and vibration cause damage to my backyard wall fronting on NM 273?* Michael Smelker stated there should be no impact to your wall.
5) *What will the actual distance be between the wall and the edge of the pavement (i.e. from edge of pavement to the end of ROW: concern was expressed regarding safety related to the turn lane and visibility impairment related to piled-rock berms)?* Mitch Farnham stated it should be about 40-45 feet.
6) *Concern expressed regarding the parking of vehicles within ROW.* Frank Guzman responded by telling her that this was an enforcement issue and outside of their responsibilities but the improvements should minimize it.
7) *What will the posted speed limit be following the improvements?* Michael Smelker stated that the speed limit should be 45 mph.
8) *Will anything be done to improve the lighting (and safety) at the intersection of Airport and NM 273, and if no lighting what about signage?* Michael Smelker explained that turn lanes and lighting are being proposed at that intersection.
9) *What is 4(f)?* Denise Weston explained that 4(f) properties are lands being used for public purposes such as Riverside Park.
10) *Have you considered trees as an alternative for noise abatement?* Denise Weston explained that they have considered vegetation along the corridor but it does not meet the Federal criteria for noise mitigation.
11) *Was an Environmental Impact Study conducted for the new subdivision that is being constructed on the East side of NM 273, south of the intersection with NM 136?* Denise Weston explained that private development does not need to do an environmental assessment prior to construction. NMDOT stated that subdivision plans were probably submitted to either Dona Ana County or the City of Sunland Park.
12) *Concern was expressed regarding the infilling of natural arroyos/drainages in the area and future flooding problems that may result.* The NMDOT stated tha these activity are the result of other parties, unrelated to NMDOT.
13) *Will this project change our emergency services (i.e. will emergency services continue to provide from Anthony rather than Sunland Park)?* No, this should have no impact on your current service providers.
14) *Will public transportation be extended to include NM 273?* Michael Smelker stated that they would look into this but they did not anticipated a change in public transportation.
15) *Will any signage or traffic signals be added?* NMDOT stated that there would be no signal installation but there would be turn lanes to accommodate the traffic.
16) *How close (based on traffic models) is the intersection at Airport Rd. to having a traffic signal installed?* Michael Smelker explained that he was not sure but that it did not warrant one within the 20 year planning horizon, however, they are going to go ahead and install the conduit for a possible signal in the future.

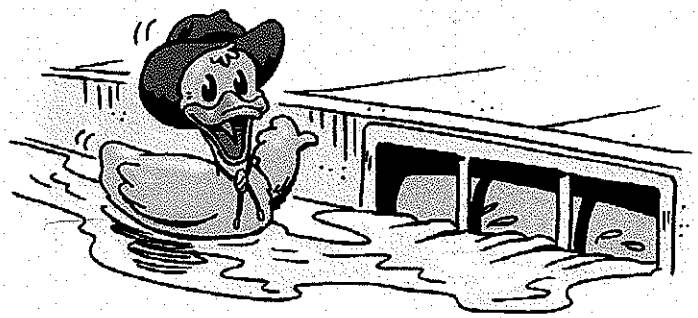
Comments
At the meeting one written comment was received from Peak Behavioral Health Services. There concern pertains primarily to the portion of NM 273 within the scope of CN 3031; however, their comments were readily accepted by the NMDOT.

As of June 10, 2007, no additional written comments have been received.

Attachments
PowerPoint Presentation including figures
Sign-In Sheets

NM DOT ~~DST~~
Gen
RCd 3/7/08
5/13/08

10 Things YOU Can Do To Keep the RIO Grand



Did you know that polluted storm water runoff is a major cause of water pollution in New Mexico?

Here are **10 SIMPLE THINGS** you can do to help keep our water clean.

1. Pet owners should pick up after their pets and dispose of pet waste by wrapping it and placing it in the garbage.

2. Don't litter . . . not even cigarette butts. They are not biodegradable.

3. Be sure to wash your cars on the grass or at a car wash so the dirty soap doesn't flow into nearby storm drains.

4. Turn your gutter downspouts away from hard surfaces (toward bushes, grass or trees) and fill bare spots in your yard to avoid erosion. Even better use a rain barrel to catch the water. You'll reduce runoff and conserve water.

5. Mulch leaves and grass clippings to keep them out of the gutter. Don't place them in the street.

6. Do not over-fertilize your lawn. And don't apply fertilizers or pesticides before a heavy rain. If fertilizer falls onto driveways or sidewalks, sweep it up instead of hosing it away.

7. Fix your cars so they do not leak oil & other fluids.

8. Keep lawn and household chemicals tightly sealed and in a place where rain cannot reach them. Dispose of old or unwanted chemicals at household hazardous waste collections sites or events.

9. Never put anything in a storm drain.

10. If you have a septic system, maintain it properly by having it pumped out/emptied every three to five years. If it is an older system, be sure it can still handle the volume needed. Never put chemicals down septic systems because they can harm the system and seep into the groundwater.

For more information, visit www.keeptheriogrand.org.

And, join our team to keep the Rio Grand!

AMAFCA - The Albuquerque Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority
COA - The City of Albuquerque
BC - Bernalillo County
UNM - The University of New Mexico
NMDOT - The New Mexico Department of Transportation