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NMOOT, ENVIRONMENTAL SECTION



NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NMD07

Version Date: December 2012

Control Number: S100282	NMDOT District: 5
Fe Rail Trail Segment 4	
From Avenida Vista Grande @ MP 36	County: Santa Fe
ad right of way.	
Environmental Security T/LG Project Manag	
: Scott Belonger, P.E., Loris and As	
Pittenger, Senior Ecologist, Blue Ear	th Ecological Consultants, Inc.
al Funding for Project: 🗌 No 🛛 Y	es es
	Fe Rail Trail Segment 4 From Avenida Vista Grande @ MP 36 ad right of way. Environmental Security T/LG Project Manager: Scott Belonger, P.E., Loris and Astronomer, Senior Ecologist, Blue Ear

This document has been prepared pursuant to 23 CFR 771.117, FHWA Technical Advisory T6640.8, and the latest Programmatic Categorical Exclusion agreement between FHWA and NMDOT. The proposed project will have no significant impact on the quality of the human or natural environment, either singularly or cumulatively, provided stipulations identified during this analysis are met. Supporting documentation is available at the NMDOT Environmental Section.

Osly Pitlen	5/12/14 Kathering	Approved as to form Santa Fe Quinty Attorney By: Turney Art of the Date:
Environmental Specialist	Date NMOOT Project Engineer Project Proponent Tribal/Local Government Author	Date
Environmental Section Manager	7-3-14 Poss All Date FOR FHWA NM Division Administrator	3 July Date

- Project location map with aerial photography as background layer attached as following page.
- STIP page attached.
- Project area photos attached.
- Environmental Commitments included in this project.



Project Number: Control Number: S100282 NMDOT District: 5

PROJECT PURPOSE & NEED:

The purpose of the project is three-fold: 1) to improve the existing trail to bring it into compliance with federal safety requirements for a trail along an active railroad; 2) to correct drainage and erosion problems along the trail corridor; and 3) to make the trail more accessible to a wider range of users as a primary multi-modal recreational trail. The project will improve the trail surface quality, reduce surface erosion, meet minimum railroad setback requirements and reduce trail grades in some areas to provide a more sustainable and accessible trail to a wide range of users.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT:

The Santa Fe Rail Trail is a regional, unpaved, natural surface, multi-modal recreational trail that runs along the historic Atchison, Topeka, Santa Fe Railway from downtown Santa Fe, NM to Lamy, NM. The portion of the trail that is managed by Santa Fe County is approximately 12 miles long and runs from I-25 to NM 285. The County constructed the section of the trail between I-25 and Rabbit Rd. in 2010 as a separate project. Santa Fe County hired Loris and Associates, Inc. to design the trail from Rabbit Rd. to NM 285. The design was broken into 6 Segments to provide flexibility in funding the construction. The County completed the construction of Segment 1 in 2012. The cost estimate for construction of segments 2 and 3 of the trail combined is \$1,063,984. The County is in the process of bidding segments 2 and 3 for construction. Segment 4, from Avenida Vista Grande at MP 6.5 to Avenida Eldorado at MP 4.86, estimated construction cost \$471,212, is scheduled for construction in fall 2014. The County received a notice of award from the New Mexico Department of Transportation for \$113,294 in Federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding with a local match of \$374,415 from County gross receipts tax revenues. Segment 5, from Avenida Eldorado at MP 4.86 to Spur Ranch Road at MP 3.35, estimated construction cost \$300,784, anticipated construction fall 2015. Segment 6, from Spur Ranch Road at MP 3.35 to US 285, estimated construction cost \$366,704, anticipated construction fall 2017.

The current project involves construction of Segment 4 from Avenida Vista Grande (MP 6.5) to Avenida Eldorado (MP 4.86). The total length of the proposed improvements is approximately 1.7 miles (8,800 linear feet). This portion of the trail is located within the NMDOT right-of-way of the Santa Fe Southern Railway. Santa Fe County has an easement for the trail within the NMDOT right-of-way. No additional right-of-way will be acquired for this project. No utilities will be impacted by this project. The trail crosses 2 arroyos within this 1.7 mile stretch that have been identified as Waters of the US. No trail improvements will be constructed within the ordinary high water mark of the channels. Trail users will cross through the unimproved arroyo channels. The design of the trail works with the existing topography as much as possible so as not to impede natural drainage patterns, using drainage features such as grade dips and rock rip rap slope protection. There are 5 locations where culverts will be installed in order to allow surface drainage to pass under the trail because the finished trail grade is higher than the existing topography. The Santa Fo Rail Trail is designed to accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists and equestrians. The trail is closed to motorized vehicle use. None of these culverts will be placed within Waters

The trail surface will be improved by importing a 6 inch thick crusher fines trail surface comprised of locally available materials. The material was selected to provide a natural looking trail surface that is less susceptible to becoming muddy and slippery in wet conditions compared to the existing site materials.

Approximately .7 miles (3,400 linear feet) of the proposed improvements will be located on the current trail alignment. In these areas, the existing surface materials will be removed and replaced with imported crusher fines material. Only the top 4 to 6 inches of the existing surface materials are expected to be disturbed along the current trail alignment for the 8 foot trail width.

Approximately .2 miles (1,200 linear feet) of the proposed improvements will be located on a new trail alignment within the railroad right of way, at approximately the existing grade. In these areas, the existing surface materials will be removed and replaced with imported crusher fines material. Only the top 4 to 6 inches of the existing surface materials are expected to be disturbed along the new trail alignment for the

Waters of the

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8 foot trail width.

The remaining .8 miles (4,200 linear feet) of the proposed improvements will be located on a new trail alignment within the railroad right of way with some changes in grade. The grade changes will vary but will primarily be on the order of 1-2 feet. A few short areas may require grade changes of up to 4 feet. The width of disturbance in these areas will generally be 12 feet to 20 feet in width.

Construction activities will include grading and placement of fills, base preparation, placement of base course in selected areas, construction of drainage features, slope protection, fencing, site restoration, and signage. The proposed work will involve operation of mechanized equipment along the trail corridor in the project area. Construction equipment may include: skid-steer, bulldozer, tractor, grader, front end loader, back blade, pick-up trucks (½ to 1-ton), dump truck, water-tank truck, steel-wheeled roller, lay-down machine (for placement of crushed-rock surfacing material), and rubber tire roller. The proposed action is expected to take approximately 180 working days to complete. Construction is expected to take place during the period from August 2014 through June 2015.

DESCRIPTION OF EXISTING FACILITY: Include the Functional Classification of the roadway and the current infrastructure conditions.

The existing trail is an unimproved dirt path or two-track dirt road. Santa Fe County has a Grant of Trail Easement from NMDOT within the right of way of the Santa Fe Southern Railroad for the Santa Fe Rail Trail. The easement is 20 feet wide by 11.6 miles long (US 285 at MP 1.7 to I-25 at MP 13.32), and encompasses approximately 28.2 acres. The trail is closed to emolorized vehicle use.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT, OBSERVED RIGHT-OF-WAY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SURROUNDINGS:

The project area consists of undeveloped, dirt trail and adjacent juniper savanna habitat with residential development. Elevation in the project area ranges from 6,890 to 6,610 feet above mean sea level. The trail corridor traverses a landscape of undulating hills and valleys as it crosses a network of southwest-flowing intermittent drainages. The principal drainages in the project area, from north to south, are Arroyo Hondo, Cañada del Rancho, Cienega Creek, Cañada de las Minas, Cañada Ancha, Gallina Arroyo, Pueblo Cañon, and Cañada de los Alamos. Land use in the vicinity of the project area is dispersed residential housing. The trail corridor itself is railroad right of way. Soils of upland sites, which compose approximately 83 percent of the project area. range are loams and sandy loams with gravelly loams on steeper slopes. Prominent upland soils in the project area include Alire loam, Tanoan-Encantado complex, Predawn Joam, and Khapo fine sandy loam). Floodplain and terrace sites composed 13 percent of the project area. Soils of these sites include loamy sand, coarse sandy loam, and gravelly sandy loam. Characteristic soils on floodplain and terrace sites are Buckhorse-Altzano complex and Altzano loamy sand. Drainage channel sites compose the remaining four percent of the project area. Soils at channel sites are dominated by sand and range from loamy sand to coarse gravelly sand. Characteristic soils at channel sites include Levante-Riverwash complex and DeVargas-Rio Vista-Riverwash complex. Based on dominant species and plant community structure, vegetation in the project area can be classified as juniper savanna, which is an ecotone between woodland and grassland. One-seed luniper was the dominant species in the tree stratum in the project area and blue grama was the most common herbaceous plant throughout the project area. Common shrub species in the project area included four-wing saltbush, tree cholla, soapweed yucca, and rubber rabbitbrush. Rubber rabbitbrush was particularly abundant on floodplain and terraces associated with arroyos. Pale desert-thorn was a common shrub in the southern half of the project area. No wetlands or riparian plant communities occur in the project area.



Pro	ject Number:	Control Number: S100282	NMDOT District: 5
1.	below. The appropriate land m impacts, alternatives and possi Commitments section should re	I(S): Select the appropriate land manager anagement agency shall be contacted to a lible mitigating measures for the proposed effect any mutually agreed upon stipulation with the land management entity.	address the potential action. The Environmental
	Bureau of Land Management, I U.S. Forest Service, USFS For Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Entity: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Park Service Bureau of Reclamation Department of Defense New Mexico State Land Office New Mexico Department of Ga New Mexico State Parks Federal Aviation Administration Private Other: Santa Fe County Grant	rest and Ranger District: me and Fish of Trail Easement	
	-	erding communication with land management ESTIGATIONS: Conduct cultural resource ction.	
NM Cul	CRIS records check date: 5/31/ tural resource inventory conduc	/13 ted? ☐ No	6/24/14.
	email from NMDOT Environme The proposed project would ha NMDOT Environmental Section	ive no effect to cultural resources. (See att	ached letter or email from
	letter.) MOA for mitigation has bee A project-specific Programm Special properties of concern (lare present. Specify:	nve an adverse effect to cultural resources n developed under Section 106 of NHPA. natic Agreement has been developed under listed SRCP or NRHP properties, historic of	er Section 106 of NHPA. districts, historic bridges, etc)



-	I at Manager		
Pro	ject Number:	Control Number: S100282	NMDOT District: 5
3.	TRADITIONAL CULTURAL P in the Environmental Section.	ROPERTIES: Contact the NMDOT Native	American/Tribal Coordinator
	with NMDOT Native American. Traditional Cultural Properties with land management agencic See attached documentation fi	otential to impact Traditional Cultural Prope /Tribal Coordinator. identified, management recommendations of es and Tribal/State Historic Preservation Of rom the NMDOT Native American/Tribal Co mmitments section for cultural resource trea	developed, and coordinatior fficer completed. ordinator.
4.	BIOLOGICAL COMMUNITY: Environmental Section.	Conduct biological investigations as directe	d by the NMDOT
	logical report prepared? No o, explain:	☑ Yes Date: January 2013	
Fed hab	lerally listed threatened, endang itat present within or adjacent t	gered, or proposed species and/or critical h o the project area? 🏿 No 🔲 Yes	abitat or proposed critical
	species and/or modify critical has been been been been been been been bee	encies completed (see attached correspondence	hreatened, endangered, or ical habitat. atened, endangered, or ical habitat. (If selected,
Is the	ne proposed project expected to cies? 🛛 No 🗌 Yes If yes,	o impact state-listed species, tribal-listed sp explain:	ecies, or other agency
If ye are	es, explain: Bluebird nest house	associated with the proposed project? Is have been installed throughout the project the project that the project is the project in the project in the project in the project is the project in the project i	ct area. If any nest houses
	there wildlife issues associated es, explain:	I with the proposed project? 🛛 No 🗌 Ye	es .
If ye C s _l ang	es, identify noxious weed specie pecies occur in scattered location ustifolia) and Siberian elm (Ulm	by the NM Dept. of Agriculture, present? [es, classification (A, B, C), and explain mitigons in the project area in arroyos: Russian dus pumila). Revegetation of disturbed area otential for spread of these two noxious we	gation measures: Two Class olive (Elaeagnus as with native species is
Are	New Mexico Rare Plants prese	ent within the project area? 🛛 No 🗌 Yes	i
ls re	evegetation of the project area r	needed after construction is completed?	No ⊠ Yes



Project Number:	Control Number: S100282	NMDOT District: 5
If no, explain: Revegetation plan deve	eloped. Date:	
Additional information regarding the Refer to the Environmental Co	e biological community: mmitments section for biological community	mitigation measures.
5. WATER RESOURCES: Evalua	ate impacts to water resources within and a	adjacent to the project area.
Are floodplains present within the plf yes, explain: Associated with 2 a		
Is a designated Wild and Scenic Rif yes, explain:	iver present within the project area? 🛛 No	Yes
Is an acequia or irrigation ditch pre If yes, explain:	sent within the project area? 🛭 No 🗌 Ye	s
Are Outstanding National Resource ☑ No ☐ Yes If yes, explain:	e Waters or Impaired Surface Waters prese	ent within the project area?
	ng: Determine if Waters of the United State impacted by the proposed project.	s, subject to jurisdictional
Are wetlands present within the pro Are the wetlands expected to be in If yes to either question above, exp	•	
☐ Wetland determination and deli	neation report prepared. Date of report:	
☐ CWA §404 Nationwide Permit ☐ CWA §404 Individual Permit re	CWA §404 Maintenance Exemption applies pre-construction Notification equired (If selected, verify NEPA level of efform: NMED EPA Tribal Entity	n required? No Yes ort with NMDOT.)
Additional CWA permitting informa arroyo channels that have been de	tion: No fill will be placed within the ordinar stermined to be waters of the U.S.	y high water mark of the
Are there any impacts to non-juriso If yes, explain:	dictional waterway within the project area?	⊠ No ☐ Yes
	Determine if the provisions of the NPDES Cook the proposed project. Contact the NMDO	
 ☐ The proposed project would disperennial stream, therefore, a ☑ The proposed project would dispersely 	sturb less than 1 acre of land, CGP does no sturb less than 1 acre of land, but the project Temporary Erosion and Sediment Control f sturb more than 1 acre of land, therefore a sed in accordance with the CGP.	ct area is located near a Plan is being developed.
Action area map is attached.		

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Project Number:	Control Number: S100282	NMDOT District: 5
☐ Map of identified federally-lister	d species and/or critical habitat is attach	ned.
federal or state listed species would include any designated or propose	rotection Criterion (for the 402 permit ap d be affected by the proposed action ar d critical habitat (see biological technical ea that should be avoided for BMP impl	nd the project area does not all memo for project).
☐ Refer to the Environmental Cor	mmitments section for water resources	mitigation measures.

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Project Number:	Control Number: S10	00282	NMDOT District: 5
 RIGHT-OF-WAY REQUIREME maintenance easements (CME transfers, or acquisitions are no), temporary constructi		
Are any of the above types of right	of-way required for the	proposed project?	⊠ No ☐ Yes
If yes, complete the table below.			
Estimated number of -	Quantity	Property Deta	ils
Parcels affected			
Acres required for CME(s)			
Acres required for TCP(s)			
Acres required for work permit(s)			
Acres required for acquisition			
Acres required for federal land tran			
Relocations (residential or busines If selected, verify level of effort with			
☐ Proposed right-of-way map atta Additional right-of-way information: 7. AIR QUALITY ANALYSIS: De Is a Fugitive Dust Control Permit re Is the proposed project area within ☐ Bernalillo County ☐ Sunland Park ☐ Anthony ☐ A non-attainment or maintenant If none of the four boxes above are	etermine if the proposed equired for the proposed any of the following are ace area not listed above	d project? No [eas?] Yes
If one of the geographic areas about	ve is checked, complete	e the section below	
Is hotspot analysis required for the	ne proposed project?] No 🗌 Yes	
Describe the extent of project lev and attach pertinent corresponde		nat has been condu	cted for the proposed project
☐ Refer to the Environmental Cor	mmitments section for a	air quality mitigation	measures.



Pr	oject Number:	Control Number: S100282	NMDOT District: 5
8.	NOISE ANALYSIS: Determine receptors on nearby properties	e if noise levels associated with the pro and determine if local noise abatemen	posed project would impact nt ordinances apply.
ls I Ab	the proposed project considered atement of Highway Traffic Nois	Type 1 as defined by NMDOT's curre te? ⊠ No ☐ Yes	nt Design Directive for
Are	e receptors (existing or permitted	d) present in the project area? 🛛 No	☐ Yes
lf n allo	sed on consultation with NMDO no, explain: The route is a trail for owed. no, noise analysis is complete.	T a traffic noise analysis is required. ⊠r bicycles, pedestrians, and horseback	☑ No ☐ Yes criders. No motorized use is
lf y	es, traffic noise analysis has bee	en completed. Date of report:	
lf y lf y	es, include applicable information	ise impacts from the proposed project on in Section 17 Public Involvement. Sures been determined to be reasonable	
	Refer to Environmental Commit	ments section for noise mitigation mea	asures.
9.	SECTION 4(f): Section 4(f) refeareas, wildlife and waterfowl re	ers to situations where transportation pulges, and historic sites.	projects use parks, recreation
Wil doc	ll the proposed project use a Sec cumentation with the NMDOT Er	ction 4(f) property? \square No \boxtimes Yes (If ynvironmental Section.)	yes, verify the level of 4(f)
	Programmatic Section 4(f) eval	uation has been signed and is in the p	roject record.
Adı	ditional Section 4(f) information:	This will be a net benefit 4(f) in consul	tation with NMDOT and FHWA.
10.	infrastructure, verify whether th	ects that add new, or substantially mode e proposed project is compatible with eat cross federal lands, check with the	urban policy and/or land use
	he proposed project consistent v o, explain:	with land use plans or zoning? No	⊠ Yes
11.	HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AN adjacent to the proposed project	NALYSIS: Determine if hazardous mat ct area.	terials are located within or
	The EPA EnviroMapper databas The EGB has determined no ac	se has been consulted and no addition se has been consulted and additional inditional investigations are required. Signal investigations are required. The f	nvestigations are required.



Project Number:	Control Number: S100282	NMDOT District: 5
12. SOCIOECONOMICS: Determine the proposed project.	ne potential impacts to social and econom	ic resources resulting from
	in an adverse impact to social or economic vith NMDOT Environmental Section.)	resources? 🛛 No 🗌 Yes
Would the proposed project result i	ecessary to build the proposed project? in a permanent change in access or acces eighborhood continuity and/or community o e, explain:	s control? ⊠ No ☐ Yes
	Refer to FHWA Order 6640.23A to review ensus data may be a source to determine	
Based on the definitions provided in adjacent to the project area? ☐ Low income ☐ African American ☐ Hispanic or Latino ☐ Asian American ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Na ☐ Native Hawaiian and Other Page		populations located in or
	disproportionately high and adverse effect s (If yes, verify NEPA level of effort with N	
	mine whether the project would result in adape's foreground and background.	Iverse impacts to visual
Would the proposed project change is the proposed project located alo	e major cut/fills, bridges, or large retaining e the vertical profile of an existing road or l ng a designated Scenic Byway? ⊠ No ☐ in an adverse impact to visual resources?	bridge? ⊠ No
Additional visual resource informati	ion:	
☐ Refer to the Environmental Cor	mmitments section for visual resource miti	gation measures.
15. MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORT bicyclists, or transit facilities.	ATION: Determine whether the project wo	uld impact pedestrians,
Would the proposed project impact Would the proposed project impact	ng a proposed or designated bicycle route t pedestrian and/or bicycle access? ☑ No t transit facilities? ☑ No ☐ Yes in: The project area is the Santa Fe Rail T	Yes
	multi-modal access with the proposed project nake the existing unimproved trail more sun n users.	



☐ Refer to the Environmental Commitments section for pedestrian/bicyclist mitigation measures.

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Project Number:	Control Number: S100282	NMDOT District: 5
	ANALYSIS: Determine if any other resour addressed in the previous sections.	ce issues apply to the
Paleontological resources (forPrime and Unique Farmland	dentified and no additional coordination rec projects on federal land only) n 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation	
Additional resource analysis:		
	termine the level of public involvement necessal buld be based on the resource issues identions listed below.	
	fic lanes, substantially change the layout or I transportation facilities, including access li	
Would the project have an adverse	e impact on abutting property? 🛭 No 🔲 Y	'es
Would the project result in noise in	npacts? 🛭 No 🔲 Yes	
Would the project result in socioed	conomic, visual, environmental, or other imp	pacts? ⊠ No ☐ Yes
If the answer to any of the question should be considered in consultation	ns above is yes, a public meeting or an oppon with NMDOT.	portunity for a public meeting
Were scoping letters mailed for thi If no, explain:	s project? ☐ No Yes	
	as been provided? Select the appropriate it be of opportunity for a public meeting, date conses to substantive comments.	
☑ Public notice attached. Date p	oublished: 3/22/14, 3/30/14	
 ☑ Formal public meeting. Date: 4 ☐ Open house. Date: ☐ Neighborhood meeting. Date: ☑ Agency coordination and/or medical City Council Meeting. Date: ☐ Other: 		
☑ Public meeting notes attached☐ Summary of public and/or age		
Additional public involvement infor	mation:	



Project Number: Control Number: S100282 NMDOT District: 5

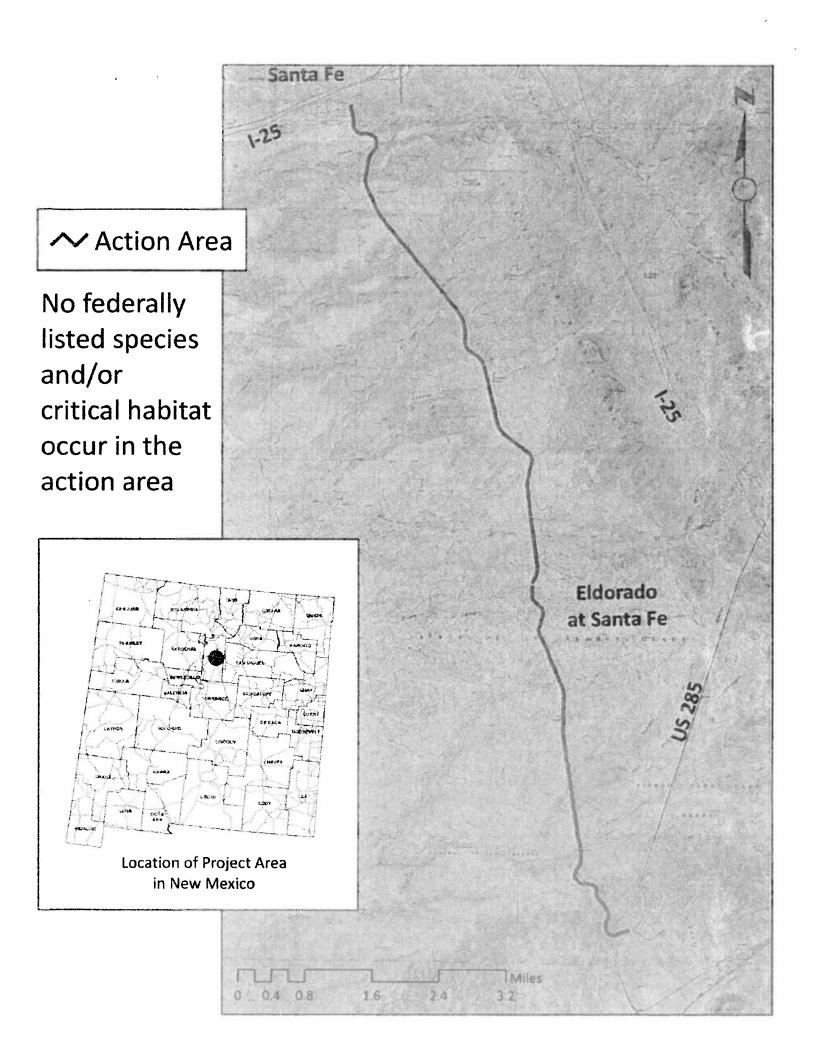
18. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

The following environmental commitments shall be included in the final construction plans for the project:

- 1. The contractor shall minimize vegetation and soil disturbance for all locations where equipment will be parked during construction, and the contractor shall acquire environmental and cultural resources clearances for these sites in accordance with Section 107.14 of the 2007 edition of the NMDOT Standard Specifications for Highway and Bridge Construction.
- 2. The contractor shall prepare and implement a storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) and a temporary erosion and sediment control plan (TESCP) in compliance with Section 402 of the Clean Water Act. Best Management Practices (BMP's) shall be installed and maintained both during and after construction to prevent, to the extent practicable, pollutants in storm water runoff from entering Waters of the U.S. Temporarily disturbed areas will be re-vegetated after construction to limit erosion potential.
- 3. To prevent the spread of noxious weeds, the contractor shall thoroughly clean all equipment with a high pressure washer prior to entering and leaving the project area. Materials transported into or out of the project area shall be carefully inspected to avoid the introduction of additional noxious weed species. Material sources containing noxious weed seeds shall not be utilized by the contractor. Mulch and compost used on the project must be certified noxious weed free, as required by Section 632 of the 2007 edition of the NMDOT Standard Specifications for Highway and Bridge Construction.
- 4. If buried archeological or cultural deposits are discovered during construction, work in the area shall cease while the SHPO, the NMDOT, and Santa Fe County are consulted.
- 5. If any of the bluebird nest houses that have been installed within the railroad ROW will be negatively impacted by the construction of the trail improvements, they shall be relocated. The relocation of nest houses must occur outside of the bird nesting season, April 15 September 1.
- 6. Subsequent phases of the Santa Fe Rail Trail will be certified separately as funding for construction becomes available.

END OF CHECKLIST

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July 3, 2014

J. Don Martinez
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
4001 Office Court Drive Suite 801
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Attention: Greg Heitmann:

RE: Section 4(f) net benefit determination for the construction of Phase 4 of the Santa Fe Rail Trail, Santa Fe County, New Mexico, CN S100282

Dear Mr. Martinez:

Santa Fe County, utilizing federal funds from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), proposes to construct Phase 4 of a trail adjacent to the historic Santa Fe Southern Railway railroad that begins at Avenida Vista Grande and will currently end at Avenida Eldorado in the community of Eldorado. The trail will be surfaced with gravel crusher fines. Construction activities will include cut and fill, headwall construction, and placement of treads are required in some locations. The trail is designed to avoid all aspects of the rail line. No alteration of the existing railroad, or its associated features, will occur in association with this project. All construction will be within the adjacent shoulders outside the engineered ROW. The trail will be constructed beneath existing trestles, with no alternation to those structures, and no alteration of the drainage channels at those points of intersection. FHWA has consulted with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the SHPO has concurred with FHWA's recommendation of "no adverse effect" to the historic property (HPD log 99357, June 24, 2014).

The Santa Fe Southern Railway railroad and right of way is owned by NMDOT. Santa Fe County has obtained a Grant of Trail Easement from NMDOT to construct and maintain the trail.

In order to obtain Federal Highway Administration approval of the environmental document, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 4(f) of the USDOT Act of 1966, we request your concurrence that the planned trail adjacent to the Santa Fe Southern Railway railroad will not adversely affect and will, in fact, result in a "net benefit" to the qualities that make the historic property eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. FHWA has developed a nationwide programmatic Section 4(f) evaluation for certain federally-assisted transportation improvement projects on existing or new alignments that will use a Section 4(f) property, such as a park, recreation area, wildlife or waterfowl refuge or historic property, and when the Administration and official(s) with jurisdiction over the Section 4(f) property view the use of the Section 4(f) property as a net benefit to that property.

Susana Martinez Governor

Tom Church Cabinet Secretary

Commission

Kenneth White Secretory District 1

Robert R. Wallach Commissioner District 2

Pete K. Rahn Chairman District 3

Ronald Schmeits Vice Chairman District 4

Butch Mathews Commissioner District 5

Jackson Gibson Commissioner District 6 A "net benefit" is achieved when the transportation use, the measures to minimize harm, and the mitigation incorporated into the project, result in an overall enhancement of the Section 4(f) property when compared to both the future do-nothing or avoidance alternatives and the present condition of the Section 4(f) property, while considering the activities, features, and attributes that qualify the property for Section 4(f) protection. A project does not achieve a "net benefit" if it will result in a substantial diminishment of the function or value of that makes the property eligible for Section 4(f) protection.

The proposed construction of Phase 4 of the Santa Fe Rail Trail will improve the user's experience of and appreciation for railroad and transportation history in New Mexico. Pedestrians and cyclists will be able to access and view the railroad and associated features using the improved trail surface. Since the trail will be constructed using native soils and earth-tone gravel crusher fines, the visual appearance of the historic railway will not be significantly altered. Re-vegetation efforts associated with trail construction will help prevent soil erosion in and around historic features. There will be no direct impacts to the railroad or any or its associated historic features. Therefore, we are requesting your concurrence with our recommendation that the "net benefit" determination is applicable.

Sincerely,

R. Blake Roxlau

NMDOT Environmental Section Manager

For: Tom Church

NMDOT Cabinet Secretary

Concurrence:

Date:

3 JUL14



New Mexico Division 4001 Office Court Dr., Ste. 801 Santa Fe, NM 87507

In Reply Refer To: ENVI 2 CN S100282

June 3, 2014

Dr. Jeff Pappas State Historic Preservation Officer Historic Preservation Division Bataan Memorial Building 407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501 RECEIVED

JUN - 6 2014

HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

Re: FHWA request for SHPO consultation regarding Santa Fe County's proposed Rail Trail Phase 4

Dear Dr. Pappas:

Santa Fe County, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), is proposing to construct Phase 4 of a multi-use trail along the Santa Fe Southern Railway. This phase is located between Avenida Eldorado and Avenida Vista Grande, in Santa Fe County, New Mexico (CN S100282). This project is funded, in part, by FHWA. Santa Fe County is the project proponent and funding recipient, FHWA is the lead federal agency for Section 106 consultation, and the NMDOT is acting as the reviewing and certifying agency on behalf of FHWA.

The FHWA is taking the administrative lead in completing the coordination with funding and land managing agencies in order to meet requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended through 1992, and in accordance with 36 CFR 800.7 (August 5, 2004). This proposed project is located on NMDOT-owned land.

Santa Fe County retained the services of Townsend Archaeological Consultants (TAC) to conduct a 100% intensive survey of Segments 2-6 for a length of 10.34 miles. Although Segment 1 has already been constructed, Santa Fe County requested TAC to conduct a thematic reconnaissance of that segment to be combined with the cultural resources survey for Segments 2-6. The trail will be 8 feet wide and maximum width of ground disturbance will be 25 feet.

In August 2013, FHWA consulted with your office regarding Segments 2-3 (see attached letter dated August 28, 2013, HPD Log 97602, CN S100040). At that time we submitted a preliminary report on these segments and your office concurred with a no adverse effect. For the current consultation, we are submitting the completed cultural resources report for Segments 2-6 titled A Cultural Resources Inventory of the Proposed Santa Fe Rail Trail Corridor from Rabbit Road to US 285, and an Assessment of the Railroad Related Resources in Segment 1, Santa Fe County, New Mexico (NMCRIS 129887; TAC).

The project area of potential effect (APE) includes approximately 125.35 acres. Survey was conducted from the railroad to fencing or other right of way markers. A 100-foot buffer beyond the right of way was visually inspected for historic standing structures, buildings, or objects that might be affected by the proposed project, of which there were none.

The survey thoroughly documented the Santa Fe Southern Railway railroad, HCPI 31944, and its 92 related features. A total of 62 isolated occurrences also were documented, the majority of which are likely associated with the railroad. Two previous surveys in 2004 and 2013 focused on the adjacent archaeology, but did not record the railroad and its engineering features. At that time, two sites were recorded, LA 144958 and LA 144959, neither of which could be found during the current survey.

The Santa Fe Southern Railway railroad is considered eligible to the National Register under criteria a and c. Under criterion a, the railroad is a clear expression of the westward expansion related to railroad construction. This spur tied the City of Santa Fe to the Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad at Lamy, New Mexico. Under criterion c, the railroad exhibits period-specific workmanship and use of materials.

Tribal consultation letters were sent April 16, 2013. To date, no comments have been received.

Sincerely,

Construction activities will avoid the railroad and all associated features. The trail will not impose a visual element that detracts from the historic character of the railroad. Subject to your concurrence, we have determined that the proposed undertaking will have no adverse effect on historic properties. Should cultural materials be exposed during construction, all work will cease in that area and Santa Fe County will notify your office.

Man John	SternWillen
Gregory L. Heitmann FHWA Environmental Specialist For: J. Don Martinez, FHWA Division Administrator	Laurel T. Wallace NMDOT Cultural Resources Coordinator For: Tom Church, NMDOT Cabinet Secretary
CONCURRENCE: Ala K Esta New Mexico Historic Pr	DATE: \square 24, 2014 eservation Division
COMMENTS:	
/gad CN S100282	



New Mexico Division 4001 Office Court Dr., Ste. 801 Santa Fe, NM 87507

In Reply Refer To: ENVI 2 CN A300753 S100040

August 28, 2013

Dr. Jeff Pappas State Historic Preservation Officer Historic Preservation Division Bataan Memorial Building 407 Galisteo Street, Suite 236 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501 RECEIVED

HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

Dear Dr. Pappas:

Please find enclosed for your review a copy of the report A Preliminary Report on the Inventory of Segments 2-3 of the Proposed Santa Fe Rail Trail, Avenida Vista Grande to Spur Trail, Santa Fe County, New Mexico (NMCRIS 128533). Santa Fe County, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), proposes to construct segments 2 and 3 of the Santa Fe Rail Trail, mile markers 6.5 through 11.5, (Avenida Vista Grande to Spur Trail). The trail will ultimately be constructed from US 285 to Rabbit Road, a distance of 13.2 miles. Segments 2-3 are located between Avenida Vista Grande in Eldorado (m.m. 6.5), and the Spur Trail (m.m. 11.5). The trail will be 10 feet wide and will be surfaced with crusher fines.

The inclusive surveyed area is entirely under the jurisdiction of the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT). Stephen Townsend, PI Townsend Archaeological Consultants completed the inventory on August 24-25, 2013. Ms. Colleen Baker, Program Manager, Santa Fe County Open Space and Trails requested the survey. Santa Fe County is the project proponent. The project will utilize construction funds from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the federal lead agency for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The NMDOT is coordinating project certification efforts on behalf of FHWA.

Because of time constraints directly related to FHWA construction funding, this report is preliminary in nature. It therefore lacks a detailed pre-field record review, environmental and cultural/historical summaries. A finalized document will follow, prepared in accordance with NMDOT and New Mexico State Historic Preservation Division (SHPO) guidance and regulation. The survey, as contracted by Santa Fe County, is a larger effort, and includes the linear distance from the US 285 crossing to Rabbit Road in Santa Fe County. Because the current funding is only for segments 2 and 3, only those segments are reported here. A final document including all six segments of the proposed trail (including segment 1, already constructed), will be produced in the near future. The document will be submitted to your office for final review.

Santa Fe County does not intend to acquire additional easement outside of the fenced NMDOT corridor within segments 2 and 3. The trail will occupy the west ROW (west of the tracks) in this area, with the exception of a crossing to the Nine Mile trailhead at the south end of segment 2, and a crossing to the east side of the ROW within segment 3, at m.m. 7.00. Between Avenida Vista Grande, (m.m. 6.5) and m.m 7.0, the trail will occupy the east ROW of the fenced railroad corridor. Within segments 2-3 the fenced railroad corridor is 200' or greater in width. Therefore, survey of the proposed trail, with the required buffers in those segments was accomplished by covering 100' wide survey units east of the tracks from m.m. 6.5 to m.m. 7.00, and west of the tracks from m.m. 7.00 to m.m. 11.5. At m.m. 9.4 an access trail will pass from the Nine Mile trailhead east of the tracks, beneath a trestle to the

west side of the tracks. A total of 56.97-acres (23.06-hectares) were surveyed within segments 2-3 in support of this project. All features of the railroad were recorded regardless of the proposed trail location.

The inventory resulted in the documentation of HCPI 31944, the Santa Fe Southern Railway, and 38 related features, along with 25 isolated occurrences of cultural material. The 38 recorded railroad features, and the railroad itself, all have contributing value to the historic significance of HCPI 31944. While the trestles appear to have undergone some level of reconstruction, they are likely true to design, and retain integrity of feeling, setting and association. Therefore HCPI 31944 and the 38 associated features within segments 2 and 3 of the proposed Santa Fe Rail Trail are recommended eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under criteria a-d of 36 CFR 60.4. Under criterion "a" the westward expansion was directly related to railroad construction, and hence HCPI is an expression of a broad pattern in history. Under criterion b, it is highly likely that notable persons at a national level were not only involved in the construction of the spur, but also frequented it (additional research may confirm this aspect of eligibility). Under criterion c, many period specific construction methods are evident. These include the incorporation of such features as cast steel drain piles, rock-faced culverts, timber trestles, and artfully executed shaped masonry vaulted bridges. Under criterion d, it is clear that HCPI possesses additional data potential.

All construction activities will avoid the railroad and all associated features. The earthen trail with crusher fines surfacing will not impose a visual element that detracts from the historic character of the railroad structures. Therefore, the construction of segments 2 and 3 of the Santa Fe Rail Trail will result in *no adverse effect* to HCPI 31944, or its associated features.

The FHWA and the NMDOT request your concurrence on the aforementioned recommendations.

Sincerely,

Gregory L. Heitmann

FHWA Environmental Specialist

Lead Agency

For: J. Don Martinez

FHWA Division Administrator

Laurel T. Wallace

NMDOT Cultural Resources Coordinator

For: Tom Church

NMDOT Cabinet Secretary

\br

Enclosures: TAC report and associated documents

Concurrence:

Dr. Jeff Pappas

NM State Historic Preservation Officer



June 16, 2014

Ms. Colleen Baker, Project Manager (via e-mail)
Santa Fe County Open Space and Trails
P.O. Box 276
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Subject: EGS acceptance of an ISA Determination for segment 4 of the Santa Fe

Rail Trail project, Santa Fe County, New Mexico, CN: S100282

Dear Ms. Baker,

Your June 13, 2014 ISA Determination letter for the project referenced above was received in this office. A Clarification of the project scope was received on this day. In accordance with the direction in the 2014 Tribal/Local Public Agency Handbook, the Environmental Geology Section (EGS) has reviewed your letter to verify that it meets the NMDOT's reporting requirements and industry-accepted standards for all appropriate inquiry. The EGS's review of this ISA Determination consists of our assessment of your opinions and conclusions given the scope of the project as described in your letter and based on the supporting information it contains.

Broadly, you described the scope of the CN S100282 project as "improvements to the existing Santa Fe Rail Trail" from Avenida Vista Grande to Avenida Eldorado. No additional right of way will be acquired and no utilities will be impacted by this project. During construction, the trail will be improved along its present alignment or will be relocated, although still within the ROW, by replacing the existing 4 to 6-inches of surface material with crusher fines. Where soil will be disturbed, the greatest depth could be as deep as four feet.

You conclude that a full ISA is unwarranted "since no additional right of way will be required, no utilities will be impacted, and the majority of the improvements will involve..." minimal soil disturbance. Based on the scope of work you described, the EGS adds that the triggers that would prompt a full ISA (property acquisition and/or significant soil disturbance) are not present for this project. As such, it is unlikely that even if a full ISA were performed, hazardous substances that might exist proximal to the trail would not be disturbed given the limited ground disturbance. Having said this, the area development (residential, undeveloped,

Susana Martinez Governor

Tom Church Cabinet Secretary

Commissioners

Pete K. Rahn Chairman District 3

Ronald Schmeits Vice Chairman District 4

Dr. Kenneth White Secretary District 1

David Sepich Commissioner District 2

Butch Mathews Commissioner District 5

Jackson Gibson Commissioner District 6 ISA Determination Acceptance Letter for CN S100282

Ms. Colleen baker

June 16, 2014

Page 2 of 2

and non-commercial rail) is not of the type typically associated with obvious sources of contamination.

The EGS agrees with your conclusion and therefore, the ISA Determination for CN S100282 is <u>accepted</u>. Based on the described scope of work, you have performed an appropriate level of inquiry. If you have questions regarding the content of this letter or have comments, do not hesitate to call my office at 505-827-1715.

Sincerely,

Audrey Moore, Manager

Environmental Geology Section

CC (via e-mail):

Gwyneth Duncan, Environmental Development Section

Yolanda Roybal, P.E., North Regional Design Division

EGS Project File (Local-Tribal Government Assistance, D-5, CN S100282)

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

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