

Form No. A-1291
New 01/13



NMDOT

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Project Number:	Control Number: S100550	NMDOT District: 5
Title of Proposed Project: Santa Fe Rail Trail Segment 5		
Location (Route and Milepost): Avenida Eldorado @ MP 4.86 to Spur Ranch Rd. @ MP 3.35		County: Santa Fe
Land Ownership: NMDOT, NMRX Railroad right-of-way		
Engineer or Project Proponent: Santa Fe County	Environmental Section Staff or T/LG Project Manager: Colleen Baker	
Engineer Contact and Company: Peter J. Loris, P.E., Loris and Associates, Inc.		
Environmental Consultant: John Pittenger, Senior Ecologist, Blue Earth Ecological Consultants, Inc.		
Federal Funding for Project: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes		

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. The aforementioned project meets all of the conditions stipulated in the Programmatic Categorical Exclusion under 23 CFR 771.117(c)(3), and 23 CFR 771.117(c)(23)(i). Supporting documentation is available at the NMDOT Environmental Section.

<p><u>John Pittenger</u> 9/12/17 Environmental Specialist Date</p>	<p><u>Katharine Miller</u> 9.25.17 NMDOT Project Engineer Date Project Proponent <u>Tribal/Local Government Authority</u></p>
<p>_____ Environmental Section Manager Date</p>	<p>_____ FHWA NM Division Administrator Date</p>

- ☒ 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.



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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, Segments 2-3 in 2016 and Segment 4 in 2017. Segment 5, from Avenida Eldorado at MP 4.86 to Spur Ranch Rd. at MP 3.35, estimated construction cost \$455,363, is scheduled for construction in fall 2018. The County received a notice of award from the New Mexico Department of Transportation for \$389,062 in Federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding with a local match of \$66,301 from County general obligation bond revenues. Segment 6, from Spur Ranch Road at MP 3.35 to US 285, estimated construction cost \$366,704, anticipated construction fall 2020.

The current project involves construction of Segment 5 from Avenida Eldorado (MP 4.86) to Spur Ranch Rd. (MP 3.35), Figure 1. The total length of the proposed improvements is approximately 1.6 miles (8,060 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 1.6 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 2 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. A third culvert will be placed under Spur Ranch Rd. to allow storm water to pass under the road. None of these culverts will be placed within Waters of the US.

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 .6 miles (3,000 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 .9 miles (4,900 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 8 foot trail width.



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The remaining .04 miles (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. Examples of trail improvement elements are shown in Figures 2 and 3. 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 80 working days to complete. Construction is expected to take place during the period from August 2018 through December 2018.

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. The typical character of the existing unimproved trail is shown in Figure 4. 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 motorized 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, Figure 5. Elevation in the project area ranges from 6,763 to 6,608 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 swales and small drainages. The principal drainage in the project area is 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. Thirteen soil units are mapped in the project area. Five of these soil map units make up about 80 percent of the total project area. These major soil map units are: Predawn loam, 1 to 4 percent slopes; Tanoan-Encantado complex, 5 to 25 percent slopes; Alire loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes; Dondiego-Urban land complex, 1 to 3 percent slopes; and Khapo fine sandy loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes. Texture of at least the upper foot-and-a-half of these soil map units range from clay or fine sandy loam to loam on the flatter slopes to gravelly loam or gravelly sandy loam on the steeper slopes. Characteristic soils on floodplain and drainage terrace sites are: Buckhorse-Altzano complex, 2 to 8 percent slopes; Altazano loamy sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes; and Devargas-Riovista-Riverwash complex, 0 to 5 percent slopes. Texture of the upper foot-and-a-half or so of these soil map units include fine sandy loam, sandy loam, coarse sandy loam, and loam. 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, Figure 6. One-seed juniper 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 project area. No wetlands or riparian plant communities occur in the project area.



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1. **OTHER LAND JURISDICTION(S):** Select the appropriate land management entity from the list below. The appropriate land management agency shall be contacted to address the potential impacts, alternatives and possible mitigating measures for the proposed action. The Environmental Commitments section should reflect any mutually agreed upon stipulations or mitigation measures determined through coordination with the land management entity.

- ☐ Bureau of Land Management, BLM Field Office:
- ☐ U.S. Forest Service, USFS Forest and Ranger District:
- ☐ 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 Game and Fish
- ☐ New Mexico State Parks
- ☐ Federal Aviation Administration
- ☐ Private
- ☒ Other: Santa Fe County Grant of Trail Easement

Provide additional information regarding communication with land management entities below.

2. **CULTURAL RESOURCE INVESTIGATIONS:** Conduct cultural resource investigations as directed by the NMDOT Environmental Section.

NMCRIS records check date: 5/31/13

Cultural resource inventory conducted? ☐ No ☒ Yes Concurrence date: 6/24/14

- ☐ The proposed project would have no potential to affect cultural resources. (See attached letter or email from NMDOT Environmental Section.)
- ☐ The proposed project would have no effect to cultural resources. (See attached letter or email from NMDOT Environmental Section.)
- ☒ The proposed project would have no adverse effect to cultural resources. (See attached concurrence letter.)
- ☐ The proposed project would have an adverse effect to cultural resources. (See attached concurrence letter.)
 - ☐ MOA for mitigation has been developed under Section 106 of NHPA.
 - ☐ A project-specific Programmatic Agreement has been developed under Section 106 of NHPA.
- ☐ Special properties of concern (listed SRCP or NRHP properties, historic districts, historic bridges, etc) are present. Specify:
- ☐ Refer to the Environmental Commitments section for cultural resource treatment measures.



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3. TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTIES: Contact the NMDOT Native American/Tribal Coordinator in the Environmental Section.

- ☒ The proposed project has no potential to impact Traditional Cultural Properties based on coordination with NMDOT Native American/Tribal Coordinator.
- ☐ Traditional Cultural Properties identified, management recommendations developed, and coordination with land management agencies and Tribal/State Historic Preservation Officer completed.
- ☐ See attached documentation from the NMDOT Native American/Tribal Coordinator.
- ☐ Refer to the Environmental Commitments section for cultural resource treatment measures.

4. BIOLOGICAL COMMUNITY: Conduct biological investigations as directed by the NMDOT Environmental Section.

Biological report prepared? ☐ No ☒ Yes Date: June 2017

If no, explain:

Federally listed threatened, endangered, or proposed species and/or critical habitat or proposed critical habitat present within or adjacent to the project area? ☒ No ☐ Yes

- ☒ The proposed project would have no effect to federally listed threatened, endangered, or proposed species and/or modify critical habitat or proposed critical habitat.
- ☐ The proposed project may affect, is not likely to adversely affect federally threatened, endangered, or proposed species and/or adversely modify critical habitat or proposed critical habitat.
- ☐ The proposed project may affect, is likely to adversely affect federally threatened, endangered, or proposed species and/or adversely modify critical habitat or proposed critical habitat. (If selected, verify NEPA level of effort with NMDOT.)
- ☐ Consultation with regulatory agencies completed (see attached correspondence).
Describe consultation process:

Is the proposed project expected to impact state-listed species, tribal-listed species, or other agency species? ☒ No ☐ Yes If yes, explain:

Are there migratory bird concerns associated with the proposed project? ☐ No ☒ Yes
If yes, explain: Bluebird houses have been installed at various locations along the right-of-way fence in the project area, Figure 7. Proposed construction would be conducted from August 2018 through December 2018, which is outside of the nesting season (i.e. 15 April through 15 July). Consequently, project scheduling would prevent direct or indirect impacts to nesting birds in the project area. The proposed action would not change the quality or quantity of juniper savanna habitat in the project area. If any bluebird houses are within the proposed alignment of the improved trail, they would be relocated.

Are there wildlife issues associated with the proposed project? ☒ No ☐ Yes
If yes, explain:

Are noxious weeds, as recognized by the NM Dept. of Agriculture, present? ☐ No ☒ Yes
If yes, identify noxious weed species, classification (A, B, C), and explain mitigation measures: Two Class C species occur in scattered locations in the project area in arroyos: Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) and Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*). Revegetation of disturbed areas with native species is proposed, which will reduced the potential for spread of these two noxious weed species.



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Are New Mexico Rare Plants present within the project area? ☒ No ☐ Yes

Is revegetation of the project area needed after construction is completed? ☐ No ☒ Yes

If no, explain:

☐ Revegetation plan developed. Date:

Additional information regarding the biological community:

☐ Refer to the Environmental Commitments section for biological community mitigation measures.

5. WATER RESOURCES: Evaluate impacts to water resources within and adjacent to the project area.

Are floodplains present within the project area? ☐ No ☒ Yes

If yes, explain: Cañada de los Alamos Zone A, FIRM 35049C0550E.

Is a designated Wild and Scenic River present within the project area? ☒ No ☐ Yes

If yes, explain:

Is an acequia or irrigation ditch present within the project area? ☒ No ☐ Yes

If yes, explain:

Are Outstanding National Resource Waters or Impaired Surface Waters present within the project area?

☒ No ☐ Yes

If yes, explain:

Clean Water Act (CWA) Permitting: Determine if Waters of the United States, subject to jurisdictional authority under the CWA, would be impacted by the proposed project.

Are wetlands present within the proposed project area? ☒ No ☐ Yes

Are the wetlands expected to be impacted? ☒ No ☐ Yes

If yes to either question above, explain:

☐ Wetland determination and delineation report prepared. Date of report:

☐ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers CWA §404 Maintenance Exemption applies to the proposed project.

☐ CWA §404 Nationwide Permit applies: Pre-construction Notification required? ☐ No ☐ Yes

☐ CWA §404 Individual Permit required (If selected, verify NEPA level of effort with NMDOT.)

☐ CWA §401 certification required from: ☐ NMED ☐ EPA ☐ Tribal Entity:

Additional CWA permitting information: No fill will be placed within the ordinary high water mark of the arroyo channels that have been determined to be waters of the U.S.

Are there any impacts to non-jurisdictional waterway within the project area? ☒ No ☐ Yes

If yes, explain:

Erosion and Sediment Control: Determine if the provisions of the NPDES Construction General Permit (CGP) issued by the EPA applies to the proposed project. Contact the NMDOT Drainage Section with questions regarding CWA §402.

☐ The proposed project would disturb less than 1 acre of land, CGP does not apply.

☐ The proposed project would disturb less than 1 acre of land, but the project area is located near a perennial stream, therefore, a Temporary Erosion and Sediment Control Plan is being developed.



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☒ The proposed project would disturb more than 1 acre of land, therefore a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan will be prepared in accordance with the CGP.

☒ Action area map is attached.

☐ Map of identified federally-listed species and/or critical habitat is attached.

Applicable Endangered Species Protection Criterion (for the 402 permit application): Criterion A - no federal or state listed species would be affected by the proposed action and the project area does not include any designated or proposed critical habitat (see biological technical memo for project).

Are there portions of the project area that should be avoided for BMP implementation? ☒ No ☐ Yes
If yes, explain:

☐ Refer to the Environmental Commitments section for water resources mitigation measures.

6. RIGHT-OF-WAY REQUIREMENTS: Determine if new NMDOT rights-of-way, construction maintenance easements (CME), temporary construction permits (TCP), work permits, federal land transfers, or acquisitions are necessary.

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 Details
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 transfer		
Relocations (residential or business)		
If selected, verify level of effort with NMDOT.		

☐ Proposed right-of-way map attached (required).

Additional right-of-way information:

7. AIR QUALITY ANALYSIS: Determine if the proposed project would impact air quality.

Is a Fugitive Dust Control Permit required for the proposed project? ☒ No ☐ Yes

Is the proposed project area within any of the following areas?

☐ Bernalillo County

☐ Sunland Park

☐ Anthony

☐ A non-attainment or maintenance area not listed above. If checked, explain:

If none of the four boxes above are checked, air quality conformity requirements are met.

If one of the geographic areas above is checked, complete the section below.

Is hotspot analysis required for the proposed project? ☐ No ☐ Yes



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Describe the extent of project level air quality analysis that has been conducted for the proposed project and attach pertinent correspondence.

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☐ Refer to the Environmental Commitments section for air quality mitigation measures.

8. NOISE ANALYSIS: Determine if noise levels associated with the proposed project would impact receptors on nearby properties and determine if local noise abatement ordinances apply.

Is the proposed project considered Type 1 as defined by NMDOT's current Design Directive for Abatement of Highway Traffic Noise? ☒ No ☐ Yes

Are receptors (existing or permitted) present in the project area? ☒ No ☐ Yes

Based on consultation with NMDOT a traffic noise analysis is required. ☒ No ☐ Yes

If no, explain: The route is a trail for bicycles, pedestrians, and horseback riders. No motorized use is allowed.

If no, noise analysis is complete.

If yes, traffic noise analysis has been completed. Date of report:

Does the noise analysis identify noise impacts from the proposed project? ☐ No ☐ Yes

If yes, include applicable information in Section 17 Public Involvement.

If yes, have noise abatement measures been determined to be reasonable and feasible? ☐ No ☐ Yes

If no, explain:

☐ Refer to Environmental Commitments section for noise mitigation measures.

9. SECTION 4(f): Section 4(f) refers to situations where transportation projects use parks, recreation areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites.

Will the proposed project use a Section 4(f) property? ☐ No ☒ Yes (If yes, verify the level of 4(f) documentation with the NMDOT Environmental Section.)

☐ Programmatic Section 4(f) evaluation has been signed and is in the project record.

Additional Section 4(f) information: This will be a net benefit 4(f) in consultation with NMDOT and FHWA.

10. LAND USE: For proposed projects that add new, or substantially modify existing, transportation infrastructure, verify whether the proposed project is compatible with urban policy and/or land use plans. For proposed projects that cross federal lands, check with the land management agency for applicable land use plan(s).

Is the proposed project consistent with land use plans or zoning? ☐ No ☒ Yes

If no, explain:

11. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ANALYSIS: Determine if hazardous materials are located within or adjacent to the proposed project area.

☐ The EPA EnviroMapper database has been consulted and no additional investigations are required.

☐ The EPA EnviroMapper database has been consulted and additional investigations are required.

☒ The EGB has determined no additional investigations are required.

☐ The EGB has determined additional investigations are required. The EGB will coordinate the effort.



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12. SOCIOECONOMICS: Determine potential impacts to social and economic resources resulting from the proposed project.

Would the proposed project result in an adverse impact to social or economic resources? ☒ No ☐ Yes
(If yes, verify NEPA level of effort with NMDOT Environmental Section.)

Are relocations or displacements necessary to build the proposed project? ☒ No ☐ Yes

Would the proposed project result in a permanent change in access or access control? ☒ No ☐ Yes

Is the project expected to impact neighborhood continuity and/or community cohesion? ☒ No ☐ Yes

If yes to any of the questions above, explain:

13. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: Refer to FHWA Order 6640.23A to review key Environmental Justice definitions and policies. U.S. Census data may be a source to determine population characteristics.

Based on the definitions provided in FHWA Order 6640.23A, are the following populations located in or adjacent to the project area?

- ☒ Low income
- ☒ African American
- ☒ Hispanic or Latino
- ☒ Asian American
- ☒ American Indian or Alaskan Native
- ☐ Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

Would the proposed project cause disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority and/or low income populations? ☒ No ☐ Yes (If yes, verify NEPA level of effort with NMDOT Environmental Section.)

If yes, explain:

14. VISUAL RESOURCES: Determine whether the project would result in adverse impacts to visual resources, such as the landscape's foreground and background.

Would the proposed project require major cut/fills, bridges, or large retaining walls? ☒ No ☐ Yes

Would the proposed project change the vertical profile of an existing road or bridge? ☒ No ☐ Yes

Is the proposed project located along a designated Scenic Byway? ☒ No ☐ Yes

Would the proposed project result in an adverse impact to visual resources? ☒ No ☐ Yes

Additional visual resource information:

☐ Refer to the Environmental Commitments section for visual resource mitigation measures.

15. MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION: Determine whether the project would impact pedestrians, bicyclists, or transit facilities.

Is the proposed project located along a proposed or designated bicycle route? ☐ No ☒ Yes

Would the proposed project impact pedestrian and/or bicycle access? ☒ No ☐ Yes

Would the proposed project impact transit facilities? ☒ No ☐ Yes

If yes to any question above, explain: The project involves improvements to the Santa Fe Rail Trail.

Is there an opportunity to improve multi-modal access with the proposed project? ☐ No ☒ Yes

If yes, explain: The project would make the existing unimproved trail more suitable for a wider variety of pedestrian, bicyclist, and equestrian users.



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

16. OTHER INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS: Determine if any other resource issues apply to the proposed project that are not addressed in the previous sections.

- ☒ No other resource issues are identified and no additional coordination required.
- ☐ Paleontological resources (for projects on federal land only)
- ☐ Prime and Unique Farmland
- ☐ Properties protected by Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Act
- ☐ Other resource issues:

Additional resource analysis:

17. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: Determine the level of public involvement necessary for the proposed project. The determination should be based on the resource issues identified in the previous sections and the answers to the questions listed below.

Would the project add through traffic lanes, substantially change the layout or the function of the transportation facility or connected transportation facilities, including access limitations? ☒ No ☐ Yes

Would the project have an adverse impact on abutting property? ☒ No ☐ Yes

Would the project result in noise impacts? ☒ No ☐ Yes

Would the project result in socioeconomic, visual, environmental, or other impacts? ☒ No ☐ Yes

If the answer to any of the questions above is yes, a public meeting or an opportunity for a public meeting should be considered in consultation with NMDOT.

Were scoping letters mailed for this project? ☐ No ☒ Yes

If no, explain:

What type of public involvement has been provided? Select the appropriate item(s) below. Attach documentation identifying the notice of opportunity for a public meeting, date and location of the meeting, a summary of comments, and responses to substantive comments.

☒ Public notice attached. Date published: 8/12/17, 8/20/17

☒ Formal public meeting. Date: 8/22/17

☐ Open house. Date:

☐ Neighborhood meeting. Date:

☐ Agency coordination and/or meeting. Date:

☐ City Council Meeting. Date:

☐ Other:

☒ Public meeting notes attached.

☐ Summary of public and/or agency comments attached.

Additional public involvement information:



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18. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

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

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Historic Properties: If previously undocumented prehistoric or historic properties are identified during construction, all ground-disturbing activities within 100 feet of the materials shall immediately cease and measures shall be taken to protect the cultural resources. The project proponent and/or the contractor shall immediately contact Steven Lakatos, NMDOT Environmental Bureau, at (505) 827-5513 and by email at Steven.Lakatos@state.nm.us, and ensure that all construction in the area has ceased.
4. 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, which is April 15 through 15 July.

END OF CHECKLIST

