



Susana Martinez
Governor

Tom Church
Cabinet Secretary

November 13, 2014

Press Release

Public Involvement Meeting Valley Drive/N.M. 188 *Meeting will be Telecasted*

Las Cruces: The New Mexico Department of Transportation officials along with staff members from the City of Las Cruces and Molzen Corbin are inviting the public to participate in the first-of-its-kind project development meeting for New Mexico. The meeting will provide input on an upcoming improvement project for a portion of Valley Drive from US 70/Picacho Avenue to Avenida de Mesilla, and Avenida de Mesilla to Hickory Loop. This project is just in the study phase so the public input will help shape the improvements to the roadway. The project goals are to improve safety, improve access and address drainage issues.

The meeting is scheduled in two parts in order to cover all aspects of discussion which will begin at 7:00 p.m. November 18th. The first segment of the meeting will consist of eight transportation professionals as they will present information on the proposed design improvement project, schedule of the project, and how the public can submit their suggestions of the project.

This meeting will be the first in the state in reference to public involvement. What makes this meeting extraordinary is that residents will have the option to watch the meeting live from home on a local TV channel 98, or on the internet at www.ValleyDrive.net, where they can also participate in the meeting by placing a call to (575) 312-3589. The public will be able to ask questions or give input via Facebook, Twitter and email making this a true multi-media event.

These are the multiple ways to participate in the meeting, starting 7 p.m. on Nov. 18:

- Tune in to **Comcast Channel 98** (The Las Cruces Channel)
- Call in your questions and comments to **(575) 312-3589**
- Tweet at us **@LCvalleydrive**
- Post a message on our **“Valley Drive Project” Facebook** page
- Attend a broadcast location site at **MacArthur Elementary School**

“We are trying out this new meeting format in an effort to boost the opportunities for Las Cruces to learn about and participate in the planning process for a significant construction project in the city,” said Wyatt Kartchner, Project Manager for Valley Drive with Molzen Corbin. “Often times, meetings on road development projects take place where people aren’t able to attend because they’re out of town, have families to care for, or otherwise are unable to

travel to the physical location. This ground-breaking meeting format proposed by NMDOT will help to overcome some of the challenges people have in attending street meetings because it will deliver the meeting to their doorsteps.”

The telecast and live-streamed meeting will be using the slogan: “Your streets are your business.” That’s in recognition of the fact that the people who drive these roads every day should have the opportunity to have a strong voice in the planning process.

“We really encourage businesses, residents who live in the area, parents who use nearby schools and anyone with an interest in the project to tune in November 18th and express their concerns,” said Wyatt Kartchner. “We’re doing everything we can to make this the easiest possible way to attend a public meeting. We hope the people will support this with their participation.”

For information regarding this project visit www.valleydrive.net, or questions regarding the meeting can be submitted via email to contact@valleydrive.net .

###

For additional questions regarding this project you may contact Arthur J. Romero, PE – NMDOT, South Region Design at (575) 525-7341, or Bridget M. Spedalieri, NMDOT District One Public Information Officer at (575) 525-7340 bridget.spedalieri@state.nm.us.