



Susana Martinez
Governor

Tom Church
Cabinet Secretary

November 14, 2014

Press Release

Public Involvement Meeting for the I-25 / Rio Bravo Boulevard Interchange Project

(NMDOT Project/Control Number: A300280)

Albuquerque — The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is inviting the public to participate in a public information meeting to discuss the I-25 / Rio Bravo Interchange Project. NMDOT has initiated this project to reconstruct the interchange into a modernized facility capable of handling future traffic volumes and multimodal transportation demands. The public meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 18th, 6:00 PM** at the Mountain View Community Center, 201 Prosperity Avenue SE, Albuquerque, NM 87105.

The purpose of the public meeting is to present the project purpose and need, project scope, alternatives being considered, and the project schedule. Information will also be presented, and public comment solicited, on roadway and traffic conditions and issues, multimodal access, natural and cultural resources, and community and business concerns.

The project is currently in the conceptual and preliminary study phase, in which alternative concepts for the interchange are being developed and analyzed. Three project concept alternatives will be presented at the public meeting: a conventional diamond interchange, a single-point urban interchange (SPUI), and an offset single-point hybrid interchange. The SPUI alternative is similar in configuration to the existing Paseo del Norte / Coors Boulevard interchange. The offset single-point hybrid interchange is a unique configuration in which the entrance and exit ramps meet in a single intersection offset to the west of the interstate, and a loop ramp is provided for the heavy eastbound-to-northbound traffic movement.

In addition to the interchange itself, the project will widen I-25 to three lanes in each direction, which will tie into the I-25 widening project south to the Broadway Boulevard interchange, which will be under construction by the end of this year. Improvements to Rio Bravo Boulevard will extend from west of Broadway Boulevard east through the I-25 interchange to University Boulevard. The Rio Bravo Boulevard bridge over the AMAFCA South Diversion Channel (just

west of Broadway Boulevard) will be replaced to provide three lanes in each direction, eliminating the current traffic bottleneck there.

The project funding includes \$30 million in FHWA National Highway Performance Program and Surface Transportation Program funds, along with \$5 million in state matching funds. The project planning and design team is led by local engineering consultant URS Corporation, along with Parsons Brinckerhoff, Souder Miller & Associates, AMEC, and CobbFendley.

The project team expects to select the preferred interchange alternative in early 2015, and a second public meeting will be held in the spring to gather public comment on the concept design. The preliminary design and environmental clearances will take place through summer 2015, after which the project will move into final design. A third public meeting will be held in the fall of 2015 for public comments on the final design. Construction is anticipated to begin in late 2016.

Questions regarding this project may be directed to:

Phil Gallegos
NMDOT District 3 Public Information Officer
(505) 798-6645
phillip.r.gallegos@state.nm.us

Peter Hinckley, P.E.
URS Project Manager
(505) 855-7409
peter.hinckley@urs.com

Hooshang Tavanaiepour, P.E.
NMDOT Project Development Engineer
(505) 798-6723
hooshang.tavanaiepour@state.nm.us

###