



NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

November 30, 2012

Mr. Philo S. Shelton III, P.E.
Public Works Director, Los Alamos County
1925 Trinity Drive, Suite B
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Re: NM 502, CN 5100650

Mr. Shelton:

This letter is to inform Los Alamos County (County) that New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) cannot participate in the current proposed alternative for NM 502 as presented to us in our meeting of November 13, 2012. While the 502 corridor elements were acceptable, the side streets connecting to NM 502 need to have a level of service of D or better to help improve safety on this corridor. The project will need to be developed to bring the facility to an acceptable level of service in order to be eligible for Federal Funds.

Currently the project is programmed in the NMDOT District 5 STIP for Fiscal Year 2014. A total of \$3.8 Million has been identified for this project. As we have discussed with the County, these funds cannot be moved back any further. In order to meet the current funding schedule, this project will need to begin the environmental reevaluation process no later than February of 2013. FHWA and NMDOT require that this update to the environmental document maintain the same study limits from Knecht Street to Tewa Loop. Based on these study limits and the limited availability of funding, the project may need to be phased into two projects.

NMDOT is looking forward to working with the County in the successful completion of this project. It is in the best interest of the traveling public and our respective agencies that this project be developed as described above and move forward to meet the current funding schedule.

Should you have any further questions, please contact District 5 Technical Support Engineer, David D. Quintana at (505) 476-4169.

Sincerely,

Miguel B. Gabaldon, District Engineer
NMDOT District 5

Xc: Phil Gallegos, P.E., D5-ADE
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