

In the Works....

Public Works Update – February 2015

Airport Division

Commercial Air Service

Responses to the Request for Qualifications for a new airline to fly between Los Alamos and Albuquerque are due by March 3. The selection committee will meet as soon as possible after that to rank the submittals based on their qualifications. It is anticipated that the entire ranking, negotiation, and approval process will take at least two months. We hope to have airline service restored in the May/June timeframe.

Future Airport Development Projects

The annual update to the Airport Capital Improvement Program (ACIP) for the airport is due to the FAA and the State by the end of March for projects anticipated to be undertaken for the next six years. In anticipation of a project in FY 2016 to replace a portion of the security fence around the airport, the documentation requesting an environmental Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) for the project has been submitted to the FAA. A response from the FAA is expected within the next few weeks.

Airport Landfill Remediation

Several years ago the Department of Energy filled in, paved, and installed five concrete pads on the old landfill that exists at the airport. The five concrete pads were to eventually serve as foundations for aircraft hangars. Since that time the landfill has settled in an unexpected manner making the construction of hangars on the pads impossible. In addition, the landfill has begun to generate methane gas. The DOE has done further studies that have shown that it will not be possible to stabilize the majority of the landfill sufficiently to enable the construction of hangars. The DOE is now formulating plans to remove the asphalt covering and the five pads to mitigate the production of the methane gas. As part of these plans it appears that it may be possible to stabilize the western edge of the landfill area enough to be able to construct one concrete pad for the eventual construction of hangars. It is anticipated that the final plans for the remediation of the landfill will be completed within the next few months.

Engineering Division

Central Ave. Improvements

Street furniture (bike racks) were installed on February 20th. All major work is complete with a few punch list items remaining which includes asphalt repairs and an isolated sewer line repair. This work will be scheduled for completion when weather conditions are favorable.

Western Area Road Reconstruction Phase 3

Currently under design by Engineering Staff in coordination with Public Utilities. A public meeting is scheduled for March 11th at Fuller Lodge. Construction bid advertisement is scheduled for March 15th. Tentative construction start date is June 1.

NM502/Trinity NMDOT Project

Engineering Staff continues to work with the NMDOT, Souder Miller & Associates, and Los Alamos Public Schools on the design of Central/4th/State Road 502 roundabout and right-of-way requirements. The NMDOT design team has informed staff that 90% construction drawings are scheduled for submission early March 2015, with a presentation to the Transportation Board on March 5. Construction contract bid letting anticipated for late 2015 with a spring 2016 construction start.

20th Street Improvements

The 20th Street Improvements Project is from Trinity Drive to Central Avenue. Improvements include removal and replacement of curb and gutter, new drainage structures, new asphalt pavement and new sidewalks and ramps to meet ADA standards with two new pedestrian crosswalks. Design currently in progress by Engineering Staff. A presentation to the Main Street Futures Committee is scheduled for March 9th and a public meeting is tentatively scheduled for late March 2015. It is anticipated project construction will occur during the Community Building/Teen Center renovation.

Fuller Lodge Parking Lot Improvements

Engineering Staff has begun design work for rebuilding the Fuller Lodge parking lot on the west side of Bathtub Row. This is the parking lot which has the large trash enclosures which service Fuller Lodge and the library. Improvements largely include reconstruction of the parking surface with isolated replacement of curb, gutter, sidewalk and ADA ramps. It is anticipated this project will be included as an additive bid alternate to the 20th Street Improvements Project due to their close proximity.

Ice Rink Improvements

Engineering has been working with Los Alamos National Laboratories to identify the limits to construct additional parking spaces. The County proposed to relocate the existing gate on Omega Road approximately 125 feet to the east of its current location, which has been accepted by DOE and LANL with a written agreement pending. This would allow for a total of 48 parking spaces added at the Ice Rink. The improvements will consist of new parking spaces, a walk path and lighting for safety. The design of the project is expected to continue once the overlying snow and ice melts to allow for completion of a topographic survey.

Canyon Rim Trail Project

The project consists of continuing the existing trail from Fire Station #6 west towards the new Smith's Marketplace. The design is comprised of a 10 ft. asphalt trail, retaining walls, handrail and a 180 foot bridge to span across DP Canyon. Wilson & Company, the engineering design consultant, has submitted 60% design plans for review with a review meeting scheduled for February 25, 2015. Design completion and construction start anticipated April 2015 and summer 2015, respectively.

Sherwood Blvd. Improvements

Improvements of Sherwood Blvd. include full reconstruction from NM 4 to the Cañada del Buey tributary, just north of Aztec Ave. Improvements consist of new asphalt driving surface including curb, gutter, landscaping, trees and 6 ft. sidewalks on each side of the roadway.

A public meeting was conducted on February 18, 2015 at the Activity Center in White Rock. Huitt-Zollars, the engineering design consultant, has submitted 90% design drawings for review. Construction is expected to start in late June/early July and completed late fall of 2015.

Environmental Services Division

Environmental Service Positions

Environmental Services Division is composed of 17 employees. There are currently two vacant positions which includes one superintendent and one laborer. The recruitment process is underway for the superintendent. Two equipment operator vacancies were filled by Andy Broadus and Donald Baros, as they joined the Environmental Services team on January 17th. We are thrilled to have the new additions on our team.

2015 Quarterly Update

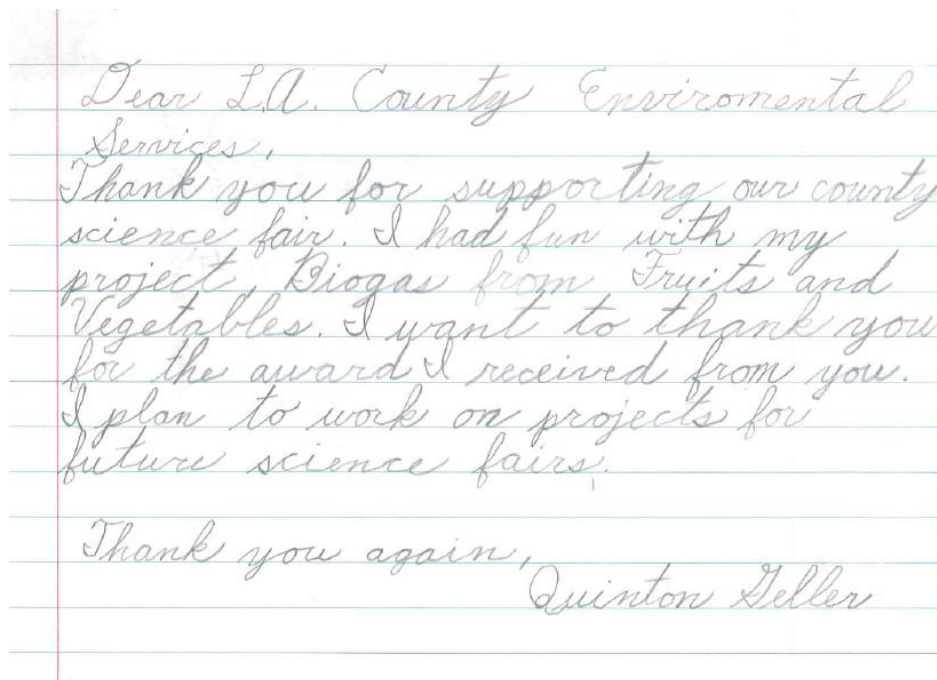
The winter quarterly brush and bulk item collection began January 5. Most of the materials collected at the curbside are Christmas trees. The Environmental Services Division is one week behind schedule due to the shortage in staff resources; however, we expect to complete this collection by end of the business week. To date we have collected 14 tons of trash and 17 tons of brush.

Landfill Cap Methane Mitigation

The mobile methane gas extraction system arrived mid-December and has been active for over 2 months. Due to the freezing temperatures we have experienced condensate freezing in the pipes that has restricted the system from functioning properly. SCS consultants has taken measures to combat the freezing temperatures. With this modification we expect to observe a negative vacuum pressure at each of the established vacuum points. The negative values indicate the methane extraction system is working as intended and extracting methane gas.

Los Alamos County Science Fair Kudos

The Environmental Sustainability Board sponsored the Los Alamos County Science Fair. The following note is from one of the participant winners, Quinton Geller.



Fleet Division

The Fleet Division maintained snow equipment through the recent snow events. The Fleet Shop will be closed from Thursday, March 12 through Friday, March 13 to allow Fleet mechanics to attend training. Chris Sena, Fleet Division Manager, and Rey Ann Nastacio, Senior Office Specialist, will be in the office. If you require emergency Fleet support on either of these days, please contact Chris Sena, Fleet Manager, at (505) 629-5925. Any maintenance scheduled for March 12 or 13 will be rescheduled for Saturday, March 14, from 6:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we ensure that our mechanics receive appropriate training to maintain the County's fleet.

Traffic and Streets Division

Pavement Preservation

An RFP for concrete replacement in White Rock has been issued and will be opened March 6th. Once the concrete work has been completed (end of May depending on weather), roadway work will begin using a Cutler process. A slurry seal for the roads in White Rock that were chip sealed last summer is tentatively scheduled for late May. Bridge maintenance work is scheduled for the bridge leading into the Canyon Glen community this spring. Specific scheduling for the bridge work will be weather dependent.

Traffic

Crews have been performing routine maintenance on signal cabinets, signs and street lights including the installation of new lighting along Central and the repair of an electrical vault in the Tsikumu Village on North Mesa. In addition, some of the crew members have been assisting with snow removal and taking advantage of training opportunities for sign making and FEMA.

Streets

Crews have been primarily working on preparing for snow removal, performing snow removal or cleaning up from snow removal operations. In addition to snow removal, crews have also been filling potholes, mitigating sight visibility issues or working on other work orders as they arise. Crews have also completed mandatory training required to be eligible for future FEMA mitigation grant funding.

Transit Division

Google Transit and AVL Updates

Atomic City Transit will be rolling out the Avail AVL (Automatic Vehicle Location) system officially on March 16, in partnership with NCRTD. The system will tentatively be called the "ACTracker". We are in the process of creating our marketing material, including utility bill stuffers which will be included in utility bills going out mid-March. The QR code, which will be placed on all marketing materials and bus stops, has been created, and our ACTracker logo is being finalized. The electronic route information sign at the library has been installed but is currently waiting on some power installations issues to be resolved before the sign is powered on.

Our Google Transit Feed is nearing completion, but some minor modifications are still necessary. We want to make sure all data is correct before this is made available to the public, so Transit staff and Google staff have been monitoring and testing the feed daily.

Comprehensive Transit Study and Five-Year Plan Update:

On Tuesday, February 10, Albert T. Stoddard, LSC Transportation Consultants presented the Comprehensive Transit Study and Five-Year Service Plan to County Council at their scheduled Work Session. After an in-depth discussion, feedback from the County Council was positive and supportive. The plan was also reviewed by the Delilah Garcia, NMDOT Transit and Rail Division Program Manager. Minor edits were recommended, and the final plan will be presented to the County Council for approval on March 31.

Kudos

From: Keith and Alyce Elliott
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2015 3:04 PM
To: Shelton, Philo

Mr. Shelton,

My name is Keith Elliott and I live at 3488 Ridgeway Dr. I am writing you about Daniel Erickson.

We have had a storm drain issue here for the last 35 years, and have contacted the county multiple times over the years, earlier this fall I noticed the county repairing curbs in our area.

The storm drains in the Denver steel area on 35th & Pueblo and 34th & Questa had been replaced with large back drop type drains about 10-12 years ago and at that time we were told that the drains at 35th & Ridgeway were going to be done also but never were. The drains at 35th & Ridgeway are/ were small grates about 16" x 24". Every time we received a good amount of moisture, the drains would plug with debris flooding my drive way all the way through my back yard into the Canyon. When I noticed the county doing some work down here I contacted Daniel Erickson about the drain in front of my house and talked to him about the problem we have had, he came by that same day to look at it and said that he could probably take care of it. The drain, curbing, and my driveway entrance were repaired within about a week!!! Daniel Erickson was Kind, Considerate, and Professional and promptly addressed the issue. The Los Alamos County could use a lot more people like him!!! I am writing you to commend Daniel for his prompt and Professional attitude toward me and my neighbors and for addressing this issue.

Thank You
Keith E. Elliott
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