

Introduction:

Since the New Year's Eve snowstorm, sections of Los Alamos received over four feet of snow in the month of January. This amount of snow exceeded Staff's capacity to clear all this snow from the County. Contractors were hired to assist in the County's snow removal efforts as well as NMDOT assisted the County with two of their snow blowers. To add to this storm cleanup efforts, January's days were both cold and short on daytime sunlight and hence we did not see temperatures above freezing for any extended period to facilitate melting. In fact, the January freeze/thaw cycles negatively impacted the open graded friction course pavement on Diamond Drive and caused it to fail in most locations. On January 28th, Los Alamos County issued an Emergency Declaration that may assist the County in receiving aid to reimburse the County on snow removal costs, repairs for Diamond Drive, and roof and gutter repairs on County facilities.

Level of Service:

County Staff have fielded over 1,000 emails and voicemails over the course of the month of January. There were comments on both sides of the spectrum that ranged from not enough service to too much service or not enough efforts in certain areas. While staff worked hard to respond to requests for service, there were other requests that are policy related and fall in line with a review of the County's Snow and Ice Control Plan. It seems appropriate to spend some time to review how our Snow and Ice Control Plan functioned, and I have invited several members of the public to attend the T-Board meeting to offer some comments and suggestion to help improve this plan. The list of suggestions varied greatly from how and when to clear snow, need to prioritize bike lanes and parking areas, or not to allow parking on streets so snow can be removed. Keep in mind the sequence of storms and amount of snow we experienced in January is not a normal storm cycle that we usually experience.

At County Council's 2019 goal setting work session, Council identified a goal on determining; what is the appropriate level of service the County offers to residents on a specific service or program? In preparation for this Thursday's meeting, I am attaching an article from American Public Works Association Reporter written by Marc F. Valenti that discusses level of service for winter operations. It would be good to receive public comment and T-Board's feedback at this meeting in order to propose revisions to this Snow and Ice Control Plan in an effort to improve this plan. Finally, attached is this year's Snow and Ice Control plan for review.