



County of Los Alamos

1000 Central Avenue
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Agenda - Final Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board

*Jennifer Olsen, Chair; Conner Tharp, Vice-Chair; Dana Even; and
Sonia Ruiz, Brandi Engemen, Members*

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

12:00 PM

1000 Central Avenue - Council Chambers

NOTE: This meeting is in person and open to the public. However, for convenience, the following Zoom meeting link and/or telephone call in numbers may be used for public viewing and participation:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85072848071>

Or Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 301 715 8592
or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099

Webinar ID: 850-7284-8071

I. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

A. *Call to Order/Introductions*

B. *Approval of Today's Agenda*

C. *Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes*

[21463-26](#) Minutes from the Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board Meeting on January 13, 2026

Presenters: Ellyn Felton

Attachments: [LTABMeetingMinutesDraft_01132026](#)

D. *Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda*

II. REPORTS

[21442-26](#) DestinationIQ Report

Presenters: Ellyn Felton

- Attachments:** [A - DestinationIQ Update March 2026](#)
- [21441-26](#) Discover Los Alamos Report
- Presenters:** Ellyn Felton
- Attachments:** [DLA 2025 Year in Review Report](#)
- [21464-26](#) FY26 Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board Approved Work Plan
- Presenters:** Ellyn Felton
- Attachments:** [FY26 Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board Approved Work Plan](#)

III. **PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS**

- [21443-26](#) Year 7 Progress Report Tourism Strategic Plan Discussion
- Presenters:** Ellyn Felton
- Attachments:** [A - LAC Tourism Strategic Plan 2018](#)
[B - Year 7 Progress Report Tourism Strategic Plan Implementation Action Plan](#)
- [21444-26](#) Lodgers' Tax Revenue Report & FY27 Budget Approval
- Presenters:** Ellyn Felton
- Attachments:** [A - 202602FundStatementOfficialUseLodgersTax](#)
[B - Proposed LTAB Budget FY27](#)

E. **Councilor Report**

F. **Boards & Commissions Report**

G. **Other Announcements (All)**

IV. **NEXT MEETING(S)/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

V. **ADJOURN**

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact the County Human Resources Division at 662-8040 at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including the agenda and minutes can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact the personnel in the Economic Development Department at 662-8087 if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.



County of Los Alamos

Los Alamos, NM 87544
www.losalamosnm.us

Staff Report

March 17, 2026

Agenda No.:

Index (Council Goals):

Presenters: Ellyn Felton

Legislative File: 21463-26

Title

Minutes from the Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board Meeting on January 13, 2026

Recommended Action

I move the board approve the Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board Meeting minutes from January 13, 2026.

Attachments

A - Drafted January 13, 2026, LTAB Meeting Minutes



County of Los Alamos
Meeting Minutes - Action Only
Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board

1000 Central Avenue
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Jennifer Olsen, Chair; Conner Tharp, Vice-Chair; Dana Even; and Sonia Ruiz, Brandi Engemen, Members

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

12:00 PM

1000 Central Avenue - Council
Chambers

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Webinar ID: 850-7284-8071

I. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

A. Call to Order/Introductions

B. Approval of Today's Agenda

A motion was made by Vice Chair Tharp, seconded by Member Even, that the agenda be approved. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

C. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes

i. Minutes from the Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board Meeting on December 16, 2025

A motion was made by Vice Chair Tharp, seconded by Member Even, that the board approve the Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board Meeting minutes from December 16, 2025. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

D. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

II. MONTHLY REPORTS

A. DestinationIQ Report

- B. Discover Los Alamos Report

III. PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

- A. Discussion and Approval of the 2026 Lodger's Tax Advisory Board Work Plan

A motion was made by Chair Olsen, seconded by Member Engeman to approve the 2026 Lodger's Tax Advisory Board Work Plan as discussed in today's meeting with changes as noted. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

- B. Discussion and Approval of 2026 Meeting Times

A motion was made by Chair Olsen and seconded by Vice Chair Tharp to Approve the Six Meeting Times for 2026. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

- C. Discussion of Boards & Commissions Terms

IV. Election of Chair and Vice Chair, Action Needed

A motion was made by Member Even and seconded by Member Engeman to have Chair Olsen and Vice Chair Tharp continuing to serve for another year. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

V. Other Announcements (All)

VI. NEXT MEETING(S)/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

VII. ADJOURN

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March 17, 2026

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DestinationiQ Report

Attachments

A - DestinationiQ Update March 2026

Los Alamos County, NM

LTAB Meeting | March 17, 2026



ATTACHMENT A

DestinationiQ

Reporting & Accounting



Website Data Report

Evaluate website traffic to understand user behavior and site performance.



Meta Ads Report

Data and optimization details for Meta advertising campaigns to improve ROI.



Google Ads Report

Data and optimization details for Google Ads campaigns, focusing on performance and efficiency.



2026 Accounting Spreadsheet

2026 Marketing Plan with associated financial documentation for strategic planning.

Website User Traffic

- Having the increase in Total users, Direct Traffic, and Organic Traffic after cleaning up the bot traffic from last year is showing that the Brand awareness is growing with our launch of Google and Meta Ads.
- Steady Organic Growth (+10%): Compounding interest in our core attractions—like Manhattan Project history, the Bradbury Science Museum, and Bandelier is driving high-intent 'things to do' traffic. This is high-quality traffic.

+141.24%

Total
8,347 vs. 3,460

NA%

Paid Search
2,100 vs 0

+142.13%

Direct
1,908 vs 788

N/A%

Paid Social
948 vs 0

+10.03%

Organic Search
1,788 vs 1,625

+1,119.05%

Organic Social
768 vs 63

Meta Ads

Overall

*We can't optimize to leads or Visitor guides downloads due to tracking issues.

- February 2026 showed some efficiency challenges with increased cost and reduced conversion volume.
- Ad spend of \$1,000.06 generated 409 landing page views at \$2.45 cost per view, representing a **27% efficiency decline** from January's \$1.93 cost per view. The campaign received a total of **1,544 link clicks at an average cost of \$0.65 per link click**. The gap between link clicks and landing pages views widened, suggesting continued tracking concerns.

ABQ & SF 30% of Budget

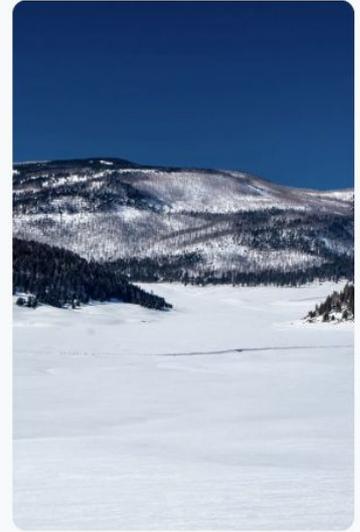
- 82 landing page views at \$3.66 cost per view (least efficient)
- Highest CTR at 3.26% = showing strong creative engagement
- 981 clicks = excellent awareness-stage performance but poor conversion.

DFW 40%

- 189 landing page views at \$2.12 cost per view (second most efficient Market)
- 2.80% CTR with 971 clicks
- Efficiency declined from January, Still solid performance, but lost its competitive advantage

Colorado 30%

- 138 landing page views at \$2.17 cost per view (most efficient in February)
- 2.57% CTR with 718 clicks
- Maintained relatively stable cost per view to January's \$1.99



Winter Wonderland Carousel - Top Performer

Total Spend \$475.59

Avg Cost per LPV \$2.54

Total Impressions 45,471

Total Landing Page Views 187

Spend Share 47.5%

Google Search Ads

- February showed a seasonal decline in overall activity with decreased impressions and clicks, coupled with rising costs, typical for the winter-to-spring transition period.
- Mt. Biking ad group saw a 66% improvement in CTR MoM, whereas Skiing ad group saw a 6% decline.
- We saw a decrease in Impressions (-6.4%), Interactions (-7.5), & Interaction Rate (-1.2%) and feel like these are minor when you consider the seasonal variables.
- Attraction campaign remains dominant: White Rock Visitors Center and Bradbury Museum driving the highest CTRs. Although Bandelier National Monument drove high volume, efficiency metrics on these

Keyword	Clicks	Imp.	CTR
Bandelier National Monument	456	7139	6.39%
Hiking trails los alamos	347	5662	6.13%
Attractions los alamos	167	5006	3.34%
Visit los alamos	129	471	27.39%
Los alamos	87	805	10.81%
Manhattan project los alamos	80	885	9.04%
Bandelier National Monument	71	1413	5.02%
Los alamos museums	67	486	13.79%
Valles caldera	47	654	7.19%
los alamos museums	45	674	6.68%

Projects & Tasks Review

✓ Current Tasks

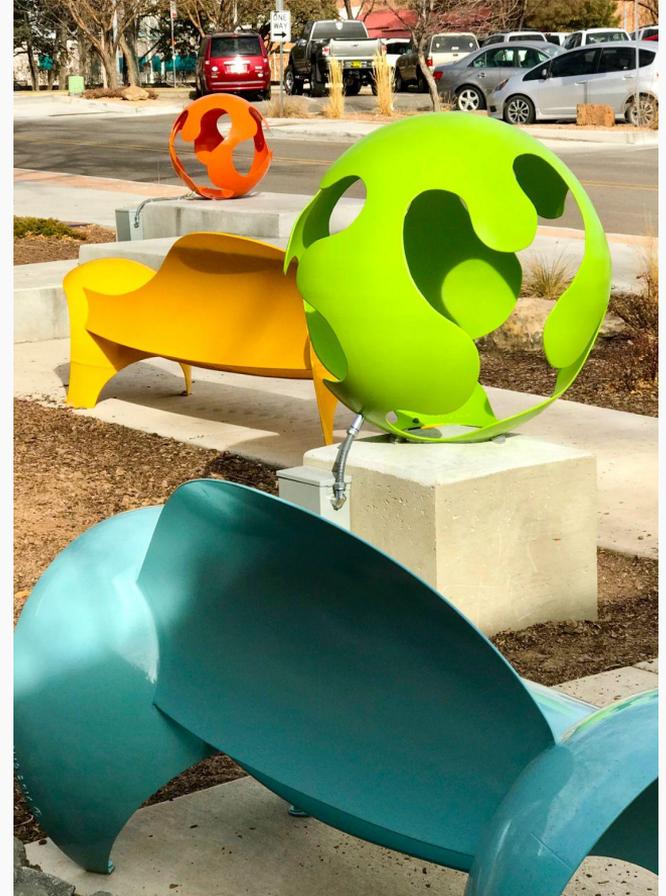
- Loading Leads in Constant Contact
 - Still unable to add
- Tourism Marketing Data Plan Development
- Annual Marketing Plan Development
- [Survey Results](#)

⌵ Completed Tasks

- NM True Updates
- Gratis Digital Ad : March, April, & May
- Interim Marketing Plan
 - [Long Version](#)
 - [Short Version](#)
- [Initial Market Assessment](#)
- Q1 Stakeholders email
- [Tourism Marketing Data Plan](#)

☰ Future Tasks

- March 11, Tourism Kickoff & County Meetings
 - Bryan's Presentation
- NMTrue Coop Choices





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Discover Los Alamos Report

Attachments

A - DLA 2025 Year in Review Report



2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

- **Summary**

2025 was a productive year for both the Los Alamos and White Rock Visitor Centers. The film Oppenheimer continued to generate visitor interest in Los Alamos. Unfortunately, the White Rock Visitor Center experienced a decline in visitation, largely due to the absence of the mandatory summer shuttles to and from Bandelier National Monument that had operated in previous years. Discover Los Alamos worked with Los Alamos County Risk Management to address several security concerns and successfully completed a comprehensive emergency action plan for both visitor centers. Visitation for the Valles Caldera National Preserve was not included for 2025, which currently changes the 2025 LAC tourism numbers vs. DLA's numbers. The Valles Caldera visitation data will be included going forward. Below is a summary of my report along with the key statistics collected for the year.

- **Total Annual Visitors at each Visitor Center**

- Los Alamos Visitor Center: **20,657 (-16%) vs. 2024 – 24,681**
- White Rock Visitor Center: **9,583 (-70%) vs. 2024 – 32,403**
 - Total for Both Visitor Centers: **30,240 (-47%) vs. 2024 – 57,084**

- **Visitor Kiosk Survey Results**

- A total of **663** iPad Kiosk entries were completed and collected from both Visitor Centers in 2025. The following categories were tracked from these entries.

- **Age of Visitors (LAVC) – 586 Responses**

AGE	RESPONSES	TOTAL
Under 18	3%	18
18-24	4%	25
25-34	12%	69
35-44	9%	52
45-54	12%	71
55-64	18%	108
65+	41%	243

- **Age of Visitors (WRVC) – 77 Responses**

AGE	RESPONSES	TOTAL
Under 18	6%	5
18-24	1%	1

25-34	1%	1
35-44	8%	6
45-54	8%	6
55-64	27%	21
65+	48%	37

- **Where are you staying? (LAVC) – 586 Responses**

LAVC	RESPONSES	TOTAL
This is a day trip from home	9%	53
This is a road trip, just passing through	26%	150
Lodging in Albuquerque	8%	46
Lodging in Los Alamos/White Rock	10%	60
Lodging in Santa Fe	43%	251
Lodging in Taos, Abiquiu, or Espanola	3%	20
Other	1%	6

- **Where are you staying? (WRVC) – 77 Responses**

WRVC	RESPONSES	TOTAL
This is a day trip from home	14%	11
This is a road trip, just passing through	16%	12
Lodging in Albuquerque	4%	3
Lodging in Los Alamos/White Rock,	18%	14
Lodging in Santa Fe	45%	35
Lodging in Taos, Abiquiu, or Espanola	3%	2

- **How you heard about Los Alamos? (LAVC) – 586 Responses**

LAVC	RESPONSES	TOTAL
Family/Friends	32%	189
School/History Education	44%	255
Business	3%	18
Film	23%	135
Online/Media	22%	131
Local Event	1%	7

- **How you heard about Los Alamos? (WRVC) – 77 Responses**

WRVC	RESPONSES	TOTAL
Family/Friends	42%	32
School/History Education	42%	32
Business	5%	4
Film	12%	9
Online/Media	17%	13
Local Event	5%	4

- **What brought you to Los Alamos? (LAVC) – 586 Responses**

LAVC	RESPONSES	TOTAL
To visit friends/family	11%	64
To work	4%	22
To attend special event or conference	3%	17
To learn more about the Manhattan Project	43%	253
To visit Bandelier	32%	186
To visit Valles Caldera	14%	82
To visit Manhattan Project	54%	319
To visit Bradbury	27%	158
To visit History Museum	31%	182
To visit Nature Center	3%	20
Discover new outdoor activities, trails, etc,	11%	67
Enjoy some local shopping/food	10%	57

- **What brought to you Los Alamos? (WRVC) – 77 Responses**

WRVC	RESPONSES	TOTAL
To visit friends/family	21%	16
To work	5%	4
To attend special event or conference	1%	1
To learn more about the Manhattan Project	23%	18
To visit Bandelier	56%	43
To visit Valles Caldera	19%	15

To visit Manhattan Project	22%	17
To visit Bradbury	22%	17
To visit History Museum	19%	15
To visit Nature Center	12%	9
Discover new outdoor activities	13%	10
Enjoy some local shopping/food	10%	8

○ Rate your experience? (LAVC) – 586 Responses

LAVC	RESPONSES	TOTAL
Very Positive	83%	484
Somewhat Positive	10%	58
Neutral	7%	40
Somewhat Negative	0.50%	3
Very Negative	0.17%	1

○ Rate your experience? (WRVC) – 77 Responses

WRVC	RESPONSES	TOTAL
Very Positive	95%	73
Somewhat Positive	4%	3
Neutral	1%	1
Somewhat Negative	0%	0
Very Negative	0%	0

● 2025 / 2024 Los Alamos & White Rock Visitation Recap – 593 Responses

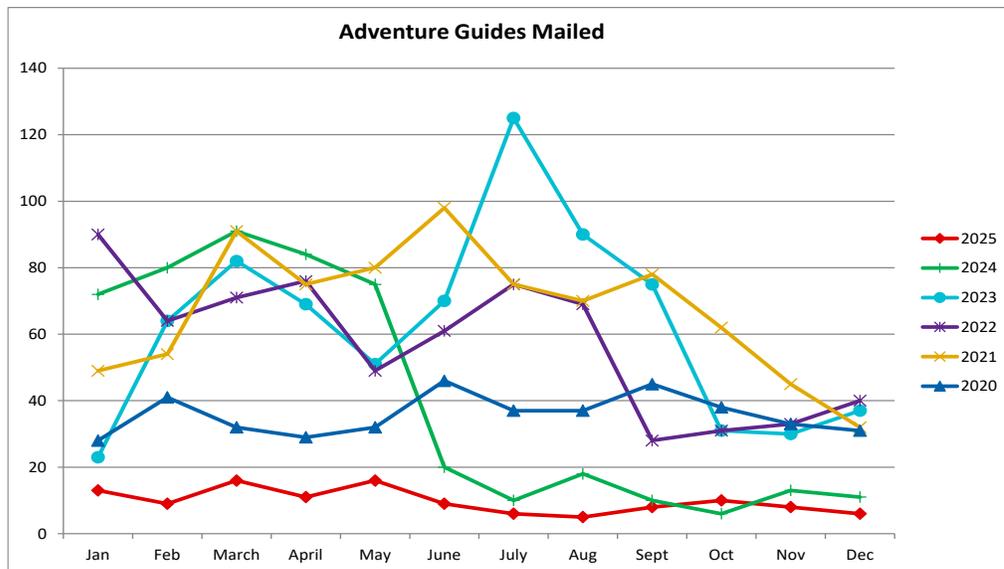
In order from the most to the least number of entries recorded for 2025 and 2024

2025 – Out of State	2024 – Out of State	2025 - International	2024 - International	2025 - New Mexico	2024 - New Mexico
Texas	Texas	Germany	United Kingdom	Albuquerque	Albuquerque
California	Colorado	France	Puerto Rico	Rio Rancho	Santa Fe
Colorado	California	Canada	Norway	Santa Fe	Rio Rancho
Arizona	Florida	Australia	Cote D'Ivoire	Jemez Springs	Cliff
Florida	New York	Japan	Japan	Corrales	Alamogordo

Illinois	Arizona	Ukraine	Malaysia	Farmington	Roswell
North Carolina	Virginia	China		Socorro	Las Cruces
Pennsylvania	North Carolina	Austria Denmark Italy Maylasia UK		Truth or Consequences	Taos

- **Los Alamos Adventure Guides mailed Out of State in 2025**

- Visitlosalamos.org website requests - 2025 Annual Total = **117** Adventure Guides mailed. This is down from 2024, with **490 (-76%)** guides mailed.



Year	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Total Adventure Guides Mailed	117	490	747	687	809	429

- **Los Alamos Adventure Guides In-State Distribution**

- In-State adventure guide distribution was completed through the following companies:
 - Santa Fe Distribution (Santa Fe Airport and surrounding areas in Northern New Mexico)
 - Visit Albuquerque (ABQ Sunport International Airport)
- Approximately **5,000** (25 boxes) copies of the current Adventure Guides are currently available in storage for distribution.

- **Discover Los Alamos Paid Employees**
 - **14** part time staff have been employed at both Visitor Centers in 2025.
 - **Los Alamos & White Rock Volunteers and Volunteer Hours**
 - **2** Volunteers
 - Total Volunteer Hours = **302**
 - **Los Alamos/White Rock Kiosk Locations**
 - **27** current kiosk locations in both Los Alamos and White Rock. **4** metal kiosks are located along Central Avenue.
 - **8-10** different Los Alamos County tourism pamphlets are kept stocked at each of these locations.
 - Happening This Week – Attraction Addresses, Hours and Websites
 - Special Event for the Week – Kiosk poster of the highlighted event for the week
 - LAC Tourism Pamphlets in order of popularity:
 - Historic Walking Tour
 - Oppenheimer Film Tour
 - Townsite Map
 - Orientation Guide
 - All Network Trails Map
 - Walk and Shop Guide
 - Historic Fuller Lodge
 - San Ildefonso Pottery Replicas Map
 - Although the exact quantities of pamphlets that are distributed at each kiosk are not tracked or recorded, these are the most frequently reordered pamphlets. Which determines that they are the ones most often picked up.
- **Kiosk Locations and Restock Dates**
 - **Restocked Daily**
 - Los Alamos Visitor Center- Inside & Outside
 - White Rock Visitor Center- Inside & Outside
 - **Restocked Weekly** – Including a Happening This Week and Special Event Poster
 - Aquatic Center
 - Bradbury Science Museum
 - Del Norte Credit Union – LA
 - Del Norte Credit Union - WR
 - Fuller Lodge Lobby
 - Hampton Inn
 - Historic Portrait Gallery / Blue Window Bistro
 - Holiday Inn Express

- Los Alamos Airport
 - Los Alamos History Museum
 - Los Alamos Coop Market
 - Main Gate Park
 - Municipal Building
 - Wingate Hotel (formerly Comfort Inn)
- **Restocked Biweekly** (LAC Tourism Pamphlets Only)
 - Fuller Lodge Art Center
 - LANL Badge Office
 - Los Alamos Golf Course/Ice Rink (seasonal)
 - Los Alamos Nature Center
 - SALA Event Center
- **Restocked Monthly** or As Needed (LAC Tourism Pamphlets Only)
 - Hot Rocks Java Café / Research Park
 - LANL Otowi Building (cafeteria)
 - Pajarito Mountain (seasonal)
 - White Rock Visitor Center Outdoor Restrooms and Pavillion
 - 4 Metal Kiosks with Attraction Locations & Hours, 2 (11x17) event posters and the Walk and Shop Map (along Central Ave.)
- **Busiest** Los Alamos & White Rock Kiosk Locations:
 - Main Gate Park
 - Bradbury Science Museum
 - Fuller Lodge Lobby
 - Holiday Inn Express
 - Historic Portrait Gallery / Blue Window Bistro
 - Los Alamos Visitor Center (inside & outside)
 - White Rock Visitor Center (inside & outside)
- **All tourism related materials are stocked at the White Rock Visitor Center and distributed from the Los Alamos Visitor Center.**
- **Bandelier Shuttle Service at the White Rock Visitor Center**
 - Bandelier National Monument and the mandatory summer shuttle service run by Atomic City Transit did NOT operate this year out of the White Rock Visitor Center. This is a change from prior years, where shuttles were required to and from the White Rock Visitor Center. Because of this, visitation at the White Rock Visitor Center was severely impacted. We currently do not know the status of shuttle service resuming from the White Visitor Center for future years.
 - Bandelier National Monument DID provide their visitors with an expanded parking lot at Juniper Campgrounds. They also provided a daily shuttle service by Atomic City Transit ONLY within the park itself, which shuttled visitors

to and from Juniper Campgrounds to their park Visitor Center running every 30 minutes.

- **Ambassador Training**

- The Los Alamos Ambassador Program, designed for employees and volunteers at local businesses, attractions, and tourism-related organizations in Los Alamos County. This is a free program that delivers training in customer service excellence, accurate community information, and strategies for highlighting tourism opportunities.
- **80** new Ambassadors in 2025.
- New Ambassadors include the staff and volunteers at the Valles Caldera National Preserve, Bradbury Science Museum, Gadgets @ the Bradbury, Los Alamos Historical Society, Bandelier National Monument, Los Alamos and White Rock Visitor Center new staff and LANL employment recruiters.

- **Local Business Support**

- The White Rock Visitor Center features two glass display cases highlighting local businesses and attractions. The large case is dedicated to attractions and events happening throughout Los Alamos County. The other glass case showcases businesses that offer Los Alamos souvenirs, travel essentials, or related products and services—items visitors can purchase directly at those businesses. Los Alamos Visitor Center also has a smaller glass display case. Opportunities to participate are offered to all applicable local businesses and organizations, and it is up to the business to participate. These displays are for free promotional and marketing purposes only. Opportunities to participate are offered once a year via email. Local businesses that are currently displayed in the two smaller glass display cases are:
 - Los Alamos History Museum
 - Nature Center (PEEC)
 - Gadgets (Bradbury Science Museum Gift Shop)
 - Boomerang Consignment Store
 - Los Alamos Coop Market
 - Metzger's Los Alamos/White Rock
 - Bathtub Row Brewing Coop
 - Samizdat Bookstore & Teahouse
 - Pajarito Mountain
 - Pet Pangaea
- Discover Los Alamos also maintains and updates a current food and beverage map, a food truck map, and a weekend hours list for dining establishments in Los Alamos and White Rock. Federal holiday opening and closure details are also included. These restaurant guides and maps are printed for distribution at both Visitor Centers and are also provided online as free downloadable PDFs.

- **Concierge Calendar Weekly Emails**

- DLA distributes two weekly emails: one featuring current local events and another dedicated to weekend-only events. Recipients include hotel concierges, local businesses, New Mexico state tourism professionals, and over 280 other individuals.

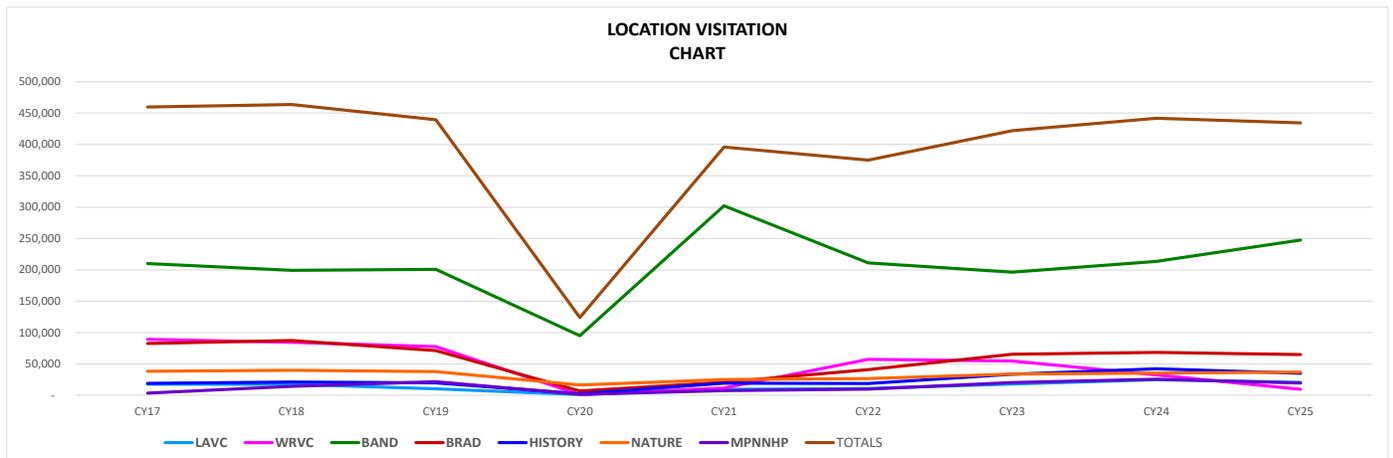
- **Welcome Bags for Events, Organizations, Recruitment and Relocation**

- LAVC staff prepared and provided a total of -
 - **865** Welcome Bags for different events, organizations, and LANL Recruitment during 2025. We were up from last year, when LAVC staff received **535 (+62%)** Welcome Bag requests.

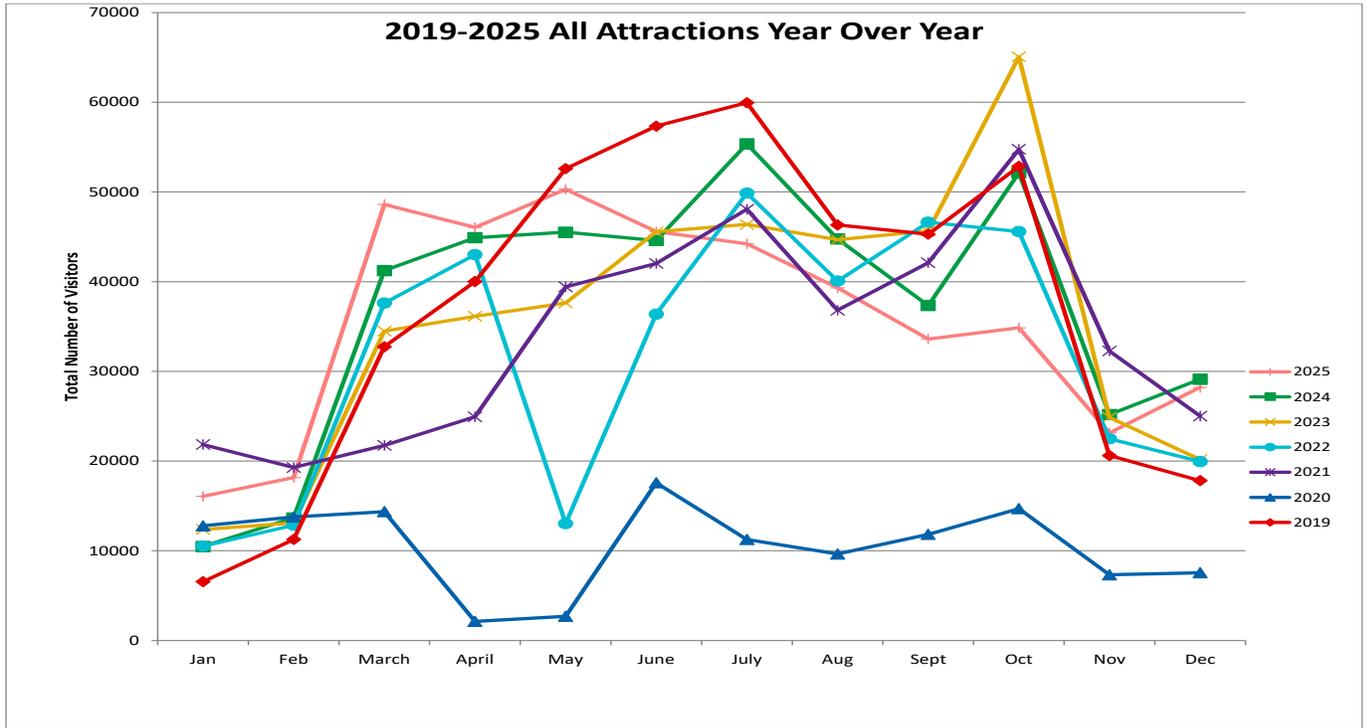
- **Annual Visitation by Attraction**

- Visitation data from each attraction is collected monthly and compiled into a report that is presented to the Lodger's Tax Advisory Board (LTAB). The accompanying four graphs display:
 - Aggregate visitation across all attractions combined, spanning the last 5 to 9 years.
 - Year-over-year and month-over-month visitation for each attraction in 2025.

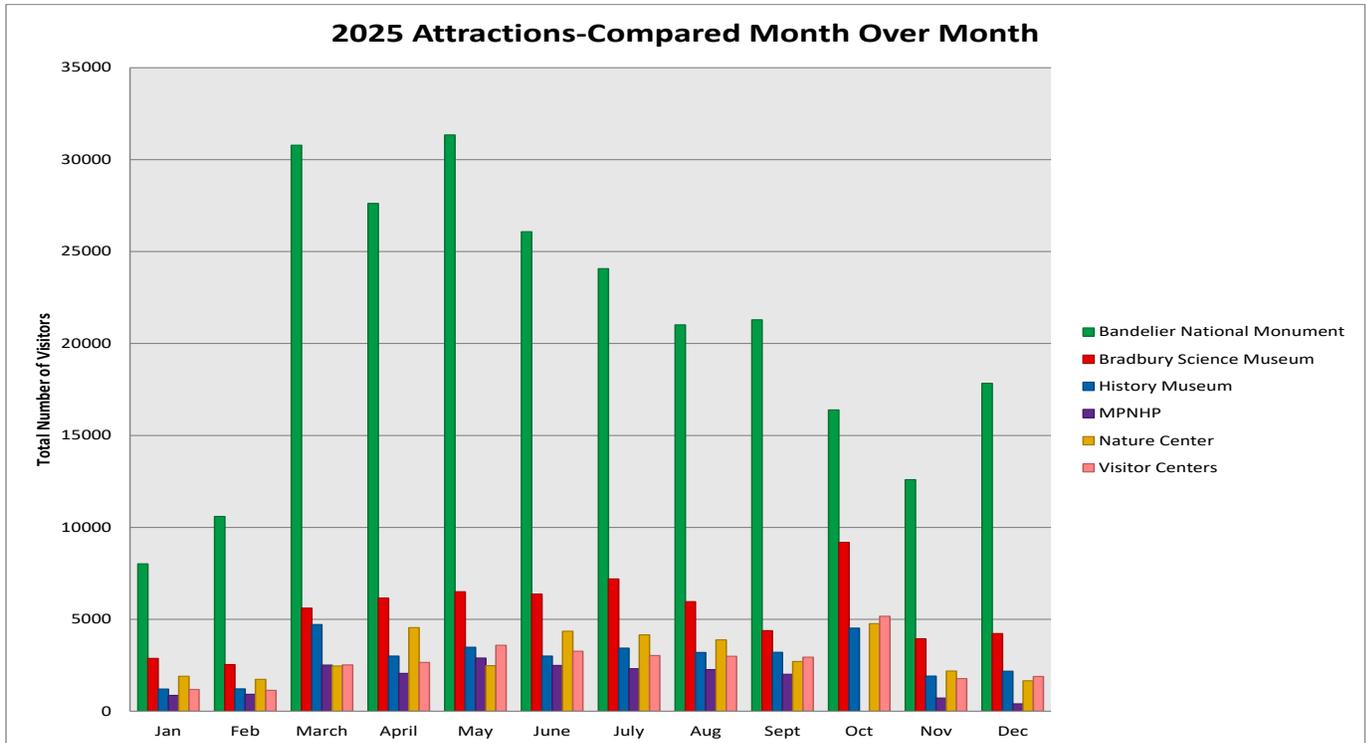
LOCATION	CY17	CY18	CY19	CY20	CY21	CY22	CY23	CY24	CY25
LAVC	17,530	17,383	10,259	1,134	9,601	10,694	17,951	24,681	20,657
WRVC	89,225	84,531	77,669	1,010	11,648	57,221	54,684	32,403	9,583
BAND	209,981	199,281	200,741	94,948	302,295	211,241	196,432	213,595	247,642
BRAD	82,492	87,471	71,372	6,722	20,735	40,902	65,561	68,269	64,955
HISTORY	18,895	21,056	19,750	2,426	19,281	18,682	33,465	42,151	35,088
NATURE	38,245	39,939	37,839	16,370	24,941	26,648	33,678	35,350	36,884
MPNNHP	3,449	14,161	21,679	1,486	7,310	9,643	20,220	25,448	19,487
TOTALS	459,817	463,822	439,309	124,096	395,811	375,031	421,991	441,897	434,296



- Year over Year Annual ALL Attractions Visitation



- Peak Months of 2025 Attraction Visitation



- **What's Happened This Year!**

- 2025 Tourism Day @ New Mexico State Capitol
- 2025 Trend's Hospitality & Tourism Conference
- 2025 Annual Tourism Kickoff Meeting
- 2025 Los Alamos Spring & Fall Job Fair
- 2025 New Mexico Governor's Conference on Hospitality & Tourism
- 2025 TOP Hat Awards – Los Alamos Arts Council (LAAC) winning for Excellence in Community Engagement, and the Pajarito Environmental Education Center (PEEC) honored as Outstanding Attraction.
- Attended and presented at monthly Lodger's Tax Advisory Board meetings.
- Phase 1 of the White Rock Visitor Center Outdoor Restrooms and Pavillion opened to the public.
- DLA Director hosted the Cultural Session for the 2025 Leadership Los Alamos Class.
- White Rock Visitor Center hosted LANL – Behind the Fence Tours in both May and October.
- Discover Los Alamos worked with Los Alamos County Risk Management to address safety concerns in both Visitor Centers. Emergency plans were created for both centers.
- LAPD conducted a deescalation training for all LACDC and Visitor Center staff and volunteers.
- White Rock Visitor Center had 2 new safety mirrors and 2 security cameras installed, plus our HVAC system was cleaned.
- Los Alamos Visitor Center had 1 security camera and a new lighted emergency exit sign installed.

- **Visitor Center Needs & Recommendations**

- **White Rock Visitor Center**

- Better signage and a kiosk installed for County RV Park payment collection.
- Potential installation of AED (Automated External Defibrillator) inside the building and training for staff and volunteers.
- Evacuation map needs to be posted inside the building.
- This Visitor Center needs a large shade and wind resistant structure for the outdoor patio seating areas, so that visitors can utilize these areas all year round.
- More and better signage for parking areas that are available during the busy shuttle season, especially where the current overflow parking lot is located if there is a shuttle season in 2026, if applicable.
- Consider designating some motorcycle parking, as we have many motorcyclists, especially during the summer shuttle season, if applicable.
- Amendment to our current contracted summer hours (shorten) if the Bandelier Shuttles no longer run out of the White Rock Visitor Center.

- Adding more Visitor Center signage that is visible along NM 4.
 - Several outdoor invasive plants, foliage and dead trees need to be removed.
 - A large bottom seat cushion for the large wood bench, so visitors can comfortably sit on it without getting splinters.
 - The outside windows need to be cleaned.
- **Los Alamos Visitor Center**
 - Visitor Center Wayfinding Signage on Central Ave. and Trinity Dr.
 - New updated collapsable banners for inside the Visitor Center.
 - Potential installation of AED (Automated External Defibrillator) inside the building and training for staff and volunteers.
 - Evacuation map needs to be posted inside the building.
 - Fire Alarm relocated outside of the bathroom.
 - Pull style fire alarm needs to be installed inside the building.
 - The outside windows need to be cleaned.
 - More clarity online between LAC Visitor Center and MAPR Visitor Center.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with Los Alamos County and Destination IQ to best serve our expanding tourism opportunities.

Melanie Peña

Discover Los Alamos Director



County of Los Alamos

Staff Report

March 17, 2026

Los Alamos, NM 87544
www.losalamosnm.us

Agenda No.:

Index (Council Goals):

Presenters: Ellyn Felton

Legislative File: 21464-26

Title

FY26 Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board Approved Work Plan

Attachments

A - FY26 Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board Approved Work Plan

Board or Commission Name: Lodger's Tax Advisory Board

Date Prepared: 1/13/26

Date Approved by Council: 3/3/26

Prepared By: Lodger's Tax Advisory Board

Purpose:

The purpose of the work plan is to provide a detailed outline of tasks, activities, timelines, and resources required by this Board or Commission to achieve its annual goals. The purpose of most boards is to gather public input, to review policy recommendations by staff when requested, and to make policy recommendations to the County Council.

Process Timeline:

November: County Council Strategic Planning

December: Boards and Commissions review and develop work plans (primary item on December agenda)

January: Finalize and submit work plans for Council review.

Due Date: February 1

Time Frame: This work plan will be accomplished in the following time frame:

January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026.

Members: List members, term start and end dates, and term number.

Member	Start/End Dates	Term (1st or 2nd)
Jennifer Olsen, Chair	December 2, 2024 - December 1, 2027	2nd
Conner Tharp, Vice Chair	December 2, 2024 - December 1, 2027	1st
Dana Even	December 2, 2023 - December 1, 2026	1st
Sonia Ruiz	December 2, 2024 - December 1, 2027	1st
Brandi Engeman	December 2, 2025 - December 1, 2028	1st

Chairperson: Jennifer Olsen

Department Director: Elias Isaacson

Work plan developed in collaboration with Department Director? (Y/N) Y

Staff Liaison: Ellyn Felton

Administrative Support:

Council Liaison: Melanee Hand

Work plan reviewed by Council Liaison? (Y/N) Yes

1.0 Previous Calendar Year Work Plan Highlights

1.1 List the top five activities for the previous calendar year.

1.1.1	Approved 2025 Work Plan. Met more often than previous years, which allowed the board to start working on and accomplishing more work plan goals.
1.1.2	Prior to 2025, meetings were regularly canceled due to a lack of quorum. 2025 saw improved attendance and fewer cancellations. The Board met seven times.
1.1.3	Initiated and substantially completed the Year 7 review of the Tourism Strategic Plan . Upon completion, the board will discuss additional projects and initiatives to increase visitor spending, extend length of stay, and maximize the economic benefits of tourism for Los Alamos County. The Chair and Vice Chair plan to provide an update to Council in 2026 with the board's findings and recommendations.
1.1.4	Members attended two training sessions to discuss the purview of LTAB and the role of LTAB in accomplishing the County Council's strategic priorities.
1.1.5	

1.2 List the top five accomplishments for the previous calendar year.

1.2.1	Advised staff on scope of work and deliverables to be included in the Request for Proposal (RFP) for a new Tourism Marketing Services contractor.
1.2.2	Held seven meetings, during which most of the Year 7 Review of the Tourism Strategic Plan was reviewed and discussed. The remainder of the review will be completed once the work plan is approved in January 2026.
1.2.3	Participated in NMTrue Grant (FY26) for a total value of \$163,500. This allowed for more advertisements and videos, and freed up Lodgers' Tax funds to be used for printing and binding of promotional materials.
1.2.4	

1.2.5

[Empty text box]

1.3 List the lessons learned for the previous calendar year.

1.3.1

Meetings need to be succinct, organized, and have a purpose.

1.3.2

Ongoing training — especially around the purpose and purview of the board— is necessary to understand the board’s role and how it can help County Council accomplish its goals for tourism in Los Alamos County.

1.3.3

Having quorum allows the board to achieve their goals. Due to the rules around board membership (most members are required to be in the tourism industry), staffing challenges at local hotels and attractions makes it difficult for LTAB members to attend all meetings.

1.3.4

[Empty text box]

1.3.5

[Empty text box]

2.0 Calendar Year 2026 Work Plan

2.1 List any special projects or assignments given to this Board/Commission by Council or the Department Director.

2.1.1

Continued oversight and reporting of Lodgers' Tax expenditures.

2.1.2

Complete review of the Year 7 Review of the Tourism Strategic Plan to determine what items have been addressed and in what capacity, and which items still need to be initiated. This review considers the County’s abilities, capacities, and resources when making recommendations as to how to move forward.

2.1.3 Promote tourism, sponsor special events, and support community events, by enhancing amenities, utilizing indoor and outdoor facilities, and encouraging local business support and increasing capacity for overnight stays. This will be done within the Lodger's Tax state statute to advise on the spending of funds to encourage these overnight stays.

2.1.4 Work with DestinationiQ to grow, identify, and enhance tourism opportunities in Los Alamos County.

2.1.5

2.2 List other projects and/or activities being proposed by this Board/Commission, in priority order.

2.2.1 Continue working to identify and evaluate potential projects and initiatives that can effectively increase visitor spending, extend visitor time spent in the community, and maximize the economic benefits of tourism/visitation for Los Alamos County. Included in this effort is the Year 7 Review of the Tourism Strategic Plan.

2.2.2 Work with DestinationiQ to grow, identify, and enhance tourism opportunities in Los Alamos County. Additionally, work with them so information regarding their efforts is easier to access by the public.

2.2.3 In working with DestinationiQ and the County, explore ways to highlight the small business community to visitors and increase visitor length of stay in Los Alamos County to help benefit the small business community.

2.2.4

2.2.5

2.2.6

2.3 List the guiding documents or plans used by this Board/Commission.

2.3.1

- Article II, Section 36-31, Los Alamos County Municipal Code
- 2019 Economic Vitality Action Plan
- 2018 Tourism Strategic Plan
- Plans created by Tourism Marketing Services Contractor DestinationIQ (to be delivered in January 2026)

Reference: <https://www.losalamosnm.us/Government/Departments-and-Divisions/Community-Development/Economic-Development/Economic-Vitality-Strategic-Plan>

3.0 Identify interfaces with County departments and/or other Boards/Commissions that are necessary to achieve this work plan.

3.1

County Council, County Manager's Office, Community Development Department, Community Services Department, and others as needed.

3.2

Interface with the Art in Public Places Board, Environmental Sustainability Board, Historic Preservation Advisory Board, Library Board, Parks and Recreation Board, Transportation Board, and Inclusivity Task Force.

3.3

3.4

3.5

4.0 List any special events this Board/Commission plans to participate in that will support this work plan.

4.1

N/A

4.2

4.3

4.4

4.5

5.0 List active Working Groups within this Board/Commission, if any, along with the purpose and member names of each one.

5.1

LTAB does not currently have any working groups. A working group tasked with exploring other tourism plans for areas similar in size and/or demographics to Los Alamos was discussed and created, but the Board was unable to assign a liaison to the group and it has not yet started its work.

5.2

5.3

5.4

5.5

Attachment A

Place an X in the column on the right if the Council priority is related to the work of the Board or Commission:

Quality Governance	
Quality governance is participatory, consensus-oriented, transparent, accountable, effective, efficient, and responsive to the present and future needs of stakeholders.	
Communication and Engagement	
Inform, engage, and solicit feedback from community members and affected parties, including boards and commissions, on County projects, policies, and priorities to promote a culture of open communication and collaboration to increase public participation.	X
Intergovernmental, Tribal, Regional Relations, and Partnerships	
Collaborate and problem-solve with the County’s major employers; community partner organizations (local education, health care, and other organizations); neighboring Pueblos; and regional, state, and federal governmental entities.	X
Fiscal Stewardship	
Evaluate alternative methods and approaches for expenditures and investments, ensure transparency, and comply with applicable budgetary and financial regulatory standards and fiscal sustainability.	X
Operational Excellence	
Operational excellence involves having structures, processes, standards, and oversight in place to ensure that effective services are efficiently delivered within available resources and that services continuously improve to anticipate and meet future needs.	
Effective, Efficient, and Reliable Services	
Deliver customer-focused, accessible, reliable, and sustainable services to the community through collaborative decision-making, and efficient implementation.	
Infrastructure Asset Management	
Evaluate the County’s assets and infrastructure to prioritize funding to first maintain and protect those investments and to second inform new investments.	
Employee Recruitment and Retention	
Attract and employ diverse and highly qualified staff, retain staff through development opportunities, equity and upskilling opportunities, and compensation and benefits, and promote staff to address increasingly complex challenges.	
Economic Vitality	
Economic vitality encompasses the ability of the community to diversify, develop, grow, and sustain the many elements necessary for a local economy to flourish.	
Housing	
Increase the capacity for new housing development and the amount and variety of housing types to meet the needs of a changing and growing population, particularly middle- and lower-income households.	
Local Business	
Encourage the retention of existing businesses, facilitate the startup of new businesses, and assist in opportunities for growth.	X
Downtown Revitalization	
Revitalize the downtown areas of Los Alamos and White Rock by facilitating and incentivizing development opportunities.	X
Educational, Arts, Cultural, and Historical Amenities	
Promote and enable educational, arts, cultural, and historical enrichment opportunities, in coordination with community partners, and provide for the preservation and restoration of historic buildings and the protection of archaeological sites.	X
Tourism and Special Events	

Promote tourism, sponsor special events, and support community events, by enhancing amenities, utilizing indoor and outdoor facilities, and encouraging local business support and increasing capacity for overnight stays.	X
Community Broadband	
Implement community broadband as a self-sustaining essential service that enables reliable high-speed Internet access throughout the County at competitive pricing.	
Quality of Life Quality of life is a reflection of general wellbeing and the degree to which community members are healthy, comfortable, welcomed, included, and able to enjoy the activities of daily living.	
Health, Wellbeing, and Social Services	
Expand access to behavioral, mental, and physical health and social services and amenities to address identified issues and promote wellbeing in the County and the region.	
Inclusion, Access, and Belonging	
Promote inclusion, access, and belonging through events and training, facility planning, and expanded opportunities and services for diverse needs and interests.	
Mobility	
Improve and expand access to, and provide disability accommodation for, alternative modes of travel including public transit, cycling, and walking amenities and services.	
Open Space, Parks, and Recreation	
Manage, maintain, and improve designated open spaces, parks and recreation facilities, trails, and amenities as defined by adopted plans and approved projects.	X
Public Safety	
Ensure overall community safety through proactive and sustained implementation of police, fire, hazard mitigation, and emergency response plans.	
Environmental Stewardship Environmental stewardship is the responsible use and protection of the natural environment through active participation in conservation efforts and sustainable practices in coordination with community and organizational partners.	
Natural Resource Protection	
Take actions to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat, safeguard water quality, and mitigate tree loss in the community.	
Water Conservation	
Reduce potable water use and increase non-potable water use and water harvesting for irrigation where suitable.	
Climate Action and Resiliency	
Implement the roadmap for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, achieving a carbon neutral energy supply, and increasing climate resilience.	
Waste Management	
Divert community waste from landfills through recycling, re-use, composting and waste reduction programs, and zero-waste campaigns.	



County of Los Alamos

Los Alamos, NM 87544
www.losalamosnm.us

Staff Report

March 17, 2026

Agenda No.:

Index (Council Goals):

Presenters: Ellyn Felton

Legislative File: 21443-26

Title

Year 7 Progress Report Tourism Strategic Plan Discussion

Recommended Action

Following a discussion of the Implementation Action Plan and status of items, it is recommended the board provide Council with 3-5 immediate items they would like the County to focus on completing. In addition, it is recommended the Board identify 3-5 items as part of a "Phase II" for County staff and Council to complete. These items should be identified and voted upon, with understanding that the Chair and/or Vice Chair will bring these items to Council for recommendation of completion.

Body

In 2018, Los Alamos County adopted the Tourism Strategic Plan to guide long-term tourism development, marketing, and visitor experience improvements. The plan established a coordinated approach to strengthening the visitor economy while ensuring tourism supports community priorities, preserves local character, and contributes to economic vitality. An Implementation Action Plan accompanied the strategy and identified a range of projects and initiatives to be pursued over time by County staff, partners, and the Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board. Since adoption, several initiatives have been completed or advanced, while others remain ongoing or have yet to begin. In addition, tourism priorities have evolved. County staff conducted a review of the Tourism Strategic Plan Implementation Action Plan to assess progress and identify the current status of initiatives in July 2026 upon the request of Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board. Following status updates, Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board will have a discussion to determine which 6-10 items the Board feels are high priority to complete during a Phase I and Phase II.

Attachments

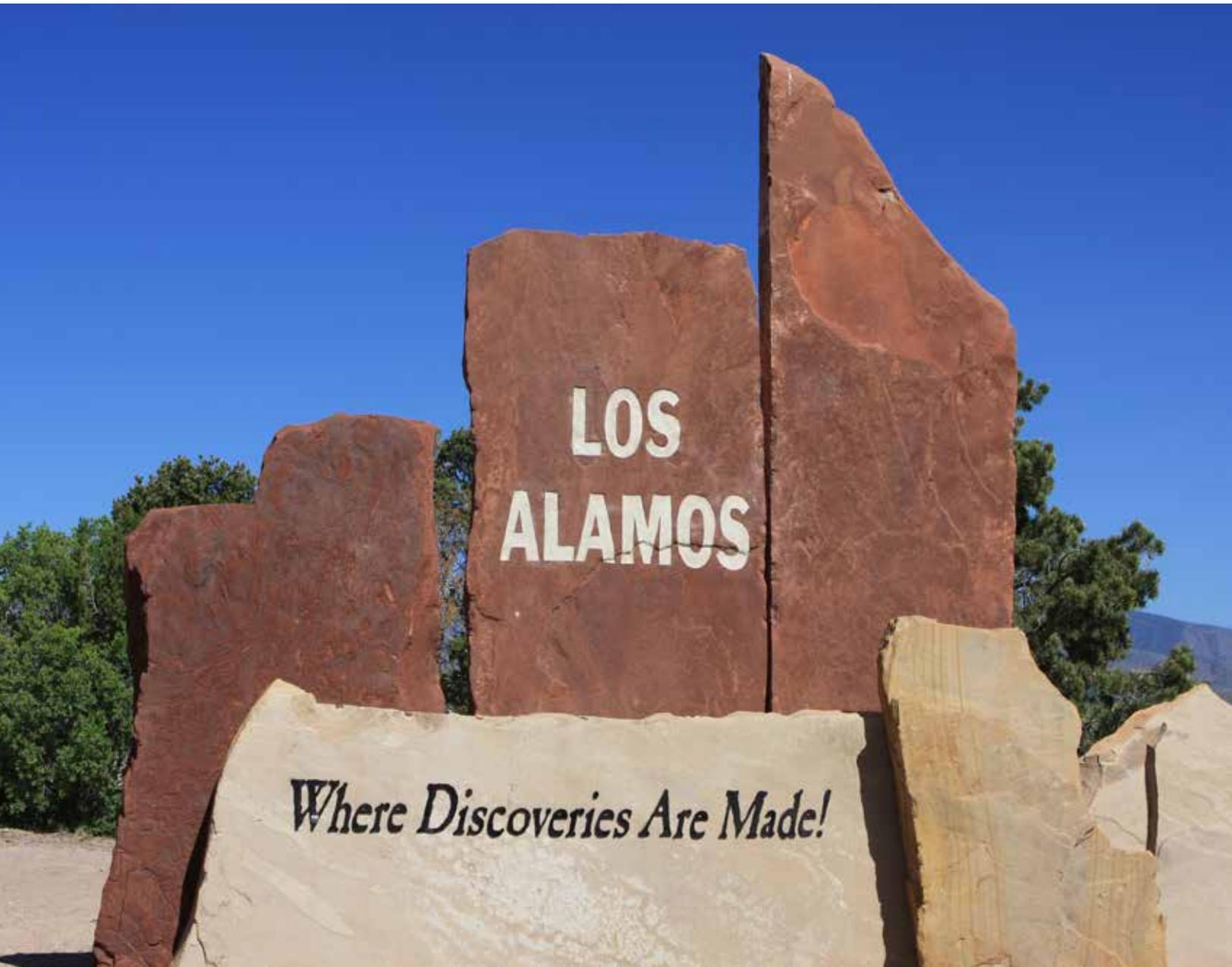
A - LAC Tourism Strategic Plan 2018

B - Year 7 Progress Report Tourism Strategic Plan Implementation Action Plan



LOS ALAMOS TOURISM STRATEGIC PLAN

February 16, 2018



Gateway to Los Alamos
Photographer: Leslie Bucklin

Cover Image
View of Pajarito Plateau Mesas +
Sangre de Cristo
Photographer: Leslie Bucklin

For those who never stop questioning what's possible, Los Alamos County, in the elevated outdoors of Northern New Mexico, and home to the Los Alamos National Laboratory, is where some of the world's best brains power the breakthroughs that shape our world, so you are challenged to think bigger and live brighter.

- Los Alamos Brand Platform



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LOS ALAMOS COUNTY COUNCIL

David Izraelevitz, Chair
Chris Chandler, Vice Chair
James Chrobocinski, Councilor
Antonio Maggiore, Councilor
Susan O’Leary, Councilor
Rick Reiss, Councilor
Pete Sheehey, Councilor

COUNTY STAFF

Harry Burgess, County Manager
Steven Lynne, Deputy County Manager
Linda Matteson, Assistant to County Manager
Jackie Salazar, Senior Office Specialist
Joanie Ahlers, Economic Development Administrator
Kelly Stewart, Marketing Specialist
Kirsten Bell, Senior Management Analyst
Julie Habiger, Public Information Officer
Leslie Bucklin, Visual Information Specialist
Tamara Baer, Planning Manager

TOURISM WORK GROUP

Susan O’Leary, Chair	Craig Martin
Elizabeth Allen	Brad Nyenhuis
Micheline Devaurs	Irene Powell
Dennis Erickson	Andrea D. Romero
Dave Fox	Georgia Strickfaden
Suzette Fox	Laura Tietjen
Phil Gursky	Blake Wood
Kristin Henderson	Susan Brockway-Hahn (Tom Long), <i>Pajarito Mountain</i>
Linda Hull	Katie Bruell, <i>Los Alamos Nature Center</i>
David Jolly	Heather McClenahan, <i>Los Alamos History Museum</i>
Philip Kunsberg	

LOS ALAMOS COMMUNITY MEMBERS

DESIGNWORKSHOP

Becky Zimmermann, President
Anna Laybourn, Principal + Project Manager
Sarah Horn, Project Planner
Nino Pero, Pero Designs: Website Designer

LODGERS’ TAX ADVISORY BOARD

Ryn Herrmann, Chair
Linda Deck, Vice Chair
Elizabeth Allen
Katie Bruell
Catherine Mockler
Barbara Lai, Administrative Support

ECONOMIC VITALITY ACTION TEAM

Micheline Devaurs
Tony Fox
Doug Hintze
Kathy Keith
Ian Maes
Charlie Nakhleh
Cindy Rooney
Patrick Sullivan
Dave Woodruff

TOURISM WORK GROUP LIAISONS

Jason Lott, Superintendent
Bandelier National Monument
Jorge Silva-Banuelos, Superintendent
Valles Caldera National Preserve
Charlie Strickfaden, Superintendent
*Fort Union National Monument; Los
Alamos Site Manager for Manhattan
Project National Historical Park*

*A special thank you to UNM-LA for use of
Student Center for first public forum.*

*All images courtesy of Leslie Bucklin unless
noted otherwise.*

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1 TOURISM STRATEGIC PLANNING

02 Context

05 Purpose

06 Process

2 TOURISM TODAY AND PROSPECTS FOR LOS ALAMOS

14 National Travel + Tourism Trends

16 State + Regional Tourism Trends

18 Los Alamos Tourism

26 Issues + Opportunities

3 STRATEGIC DIRECTION

31 Focus Areas

32 1: Create + Market an Inviting Community

38 2: Increase the Capture of Visitor Dollars

41 3: Enrich Our Attractions and Downtowns + Celebrate the Natural Beauty

45 4: Operate with Intentional Leadership, Investment + Partnerships

4 RECOMMENDED IMPLEMENTATION ACTION PLAN

56 Strategic Priorities

57 Recommended Implementation Action Plan

5 NEXT STEPS

73 Priority Action Items

76 Community Indicators

77 In Summary



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

LOS ALAMOS: WHERE DISCOVERIES ARE MADE!

Los Alamos is in a position to harness the economic impact of tourism development by using it as a **driver** to grow and diversify the local economy and as a **catalyst** for increased options for the local community.

The *Los Alamos Tourism Strategic Plan* has been developed as a practical roadmap detailing the strategies and actions needed to promote tourism as an economic driver for Los Alamos and White Rock. It builds on previous efforts and integrates the recent branding and wayfinding plans the County is currently implementing.

The plan assesses Los Alamos' strengths and weaknesses regarding tourism, and focuses on key action items that are expected to make substantial positive future impacts. It develops and provides recommendations based on the desires of the County and local community members, as well as the Community Vision and Goals adopted by the Los Alamos County Council, as expressed in the *2016 Los Alamos County Comprehensive Plan* and the community engagement process for this plan.

Tourism is a growing sector of the economy nationally and in New Mexico. The state is experiencing annual growth in the number of visitors (local, regional and out-of-state) and in visitor spending. Visits to National Parks, including Bandelier National Monument have been increasing for the last five years. Tourism exists today in Los Alamos. As more people learn about the beautiful environment, outdoor recreation, intriguing history, scientific discoveries and its position as a gateway to three National Parks, more visitors will come to Los Alamos.

Today, community leaders must decide if they are going to let tourism evolve haphazardly or to be strategic in driving the type of tourism that is wanted, which will diversify the economy and support additional restaurants and retail stores that the local community desires.



Ashley Pond Park

The strategic direction for the future of tourism in Los Alamos has four focus areas:



CREATE + MARKET AN INVITING COMMUNITY



INCREASE THE CAPTURE OF VISITOR DOLLARS



ENRICH OUR ATTRACTIONS AND DOWNTOWNS
+ CELEBRATE THE NATURAL BEAUTY



OPERATE WITH INTENTIONAL LEADERSHIP, PUBLIC
AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT & PARTNERSHIPS

Each of these areas of focus are defined with their intent, desired outcome, goals and tactics related to marketing, programming, physical improvements, infrastructure investments and policy changes for implementation in the next 10 years.

While there appear to be unlimited wants and needs for time and dollars for tourism development in Los Alamos, the top five priorities that the County can begin to focus on immediately include:



Increasing lodging supply



Modifying institutional structure



Making marketing efforts more effective



Enhancing guest experiences



Improving community quality for residents, businesses and LANL

Priority action items relating to each of these categories include those that require staff time only and those that require direct investment/expenses. The lists on the facing page describe each of these actions.

Implementing these, along with the other action items included in this plan will improve tourism as an economic driver to help Los Alamos diversify its economy and sustain community quality of life.



PRIORITY ACTIONS REQUIRING STAFF TIME

1. Form and activate Tourism Implementation Task Force.
2. Transition to County Tourism Division with a County Tourism Manager, as part of the County Manager's office.
3. Adopt ordinance for Airbnb and VRBO rentals to include in Lodgers' Tax assessments.
4. Continue to improve Los Alamos' presence with New Mexico True including additional content for online presence, creating an "Atomic Trail" as an addition to their other five trails, and utilize support and grants offered by New Mexico Tourism Department.
5. Explore the feasibility of, and grant opportunities for, expansion of Atomic City Transit service to provide weekend service (for Downtown Trolley).
6. Aggressively continue to explore hotel development incentive options, identify desirable locations for future lodging development (particularly full-service hotel), prepare hotel investor/developer pitch package, create targeted list, and meet with potential developers/operators.
7. Contact regional and national tour operator and travel agencies currently active in New Mexico to coordinate services and trips to Los Alamos. Focus on tour group itineraries with overnight stays in Los Alamos.
8. Reduce blight in the downtown districts through targeted and responsive commercial property maintenance and implementation of the County's Code Enforcement Program.
9. Expand specific strategies and actions to increase partnerships with regional economic development entities (e.g., Santa Fe, Taos, Angel Fire, the Pueblos) to grow visits to Los Alamos.
10. Improve approval, permitting, resources and assistance to community groups and organizers for events.

PRIORITY ACTIONS REQUIRING DIRECT INVESTMENT/EXPENSES

1. Improve the appeal, function and content of the visitosalamos.org website and social media platforms.
2. Fund and implement the Los Alamos Brand Action Plan.
3. Fund and implement Wayfinding Plan Phase 1 directional and informational signage to improve visitor navigation.
4. Implement Fuller Lodge interpretation plan to enhance visitor experience. Expand hours Fuller Lodge is staffed to meet guest needs.
5. Improve visitor centers' experience and effectiveness. At White Rock Visitor Center, create interactive and experiential displays, improve aesthetics, and provide conveniences visitors expect (i.e., beverages, snacks, sunscreen).
6. Relocate Los Alamos Visitor Center and furnish with interactive and engaging information dissemination.
7. Continue to implement the MainStreet and Creative District events that draw visitors and provide additional activities that encourage extended stays.
8. Support and create multi-day events, like "trail festivals", with marketing support and potential funding assistance.
9. Implement County plans for extensions, upgrades, maintenance and new trails that benefit visitor and residents. Increase funding and staffing to address trail maintenance and improvements.
10. Collect visitor data through agreement with attractions, hotels, merchants and event organizers. Analyze visitor information and its influence on future decision-making regarding visitor marketing, services and facilities.





1. TOURISM STRATEGIC PLANNING

COMMUNITY VISION INCLUDES TOURISM

LOS ALAMOS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN VISION STATEMENT

The community today has looked ahead to the next 10, even 20 years, and this is what it sees:

Los Alamos will continue to have a small town feel, while improving economic vitality that will bring significantly more choices for residents in local retail, restaurants, and recreational opportunities. There will be more and varied choices for housing, including senior housing and continuing care, smaller units, and affordable housing. Increased tourism will be a benefit to the community through promotion of diversity and growth of the local economy. The community will eliminate blight. It will protect and enhance open space and trails.

2016 Los Alamos County Comprehensive Plan

CONTEXT

People from all over the world come to Los Alamos to learn about the WWII Manhattan Project and its place in American and world history, to discover the Ancestral Pueblo culture that thrived in the area for 400 years, and to explore the vast and pristine natural resources of the surrounding area.

Los Alamos is located on the Pajarito Plateau, at 7,355 feet altitude and is surrounded by public lands, including National Parks and Forest.

Tourism has been a component of the Los Alamos economy for many years. Influenced by the top-secret operations of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), in the past many potential visitors perceived Los Alamos as gated and not open to them. As more people learn about the history, beauty and attractions of the area, visitation is increasing.

The County has engaged in multi-faceted tourism marketing and visitor services for many years, increasing efforts in the last five years. In 2012, the New Mexico Tourism Department launched the *New Mexico True* brand. This branding has helped increase visitation and visitor spending throughout New Mexico.

From 2012–2015, total visitation to the state increased by 1.45 million (from 32.55 million to 34 million). From 2012–2016, visitor spending increased from \$5.7 billion to \$6.4 billion. In 2016, tourism generated \$642 million in state and local taxes and 92,000 jobs statewide are sustained by visitor spending. These statistics point to the fact that the tourism industry is a growing and sustainable contributor to New Mexico's economy.

Los Alamos is the gateway to three National Parks that are less than a 30-minute drive. Each of these parks provides three very different experiences.

LOS ALAMOS COUNTY POPULATION

Los Alamos Townsite:
~10,500 residents

White Rock:
~6,500 residents

Los Alamos National Laboratory:
~11,200 employees

LOS ALAMOS COUNTY OVERVIEW

Los Alamos County, founded in 1949, uniquely has both county and municipal authority and powers. Los Alamos County has also adopted a home rule charter. Under this Charter, the Council is the governing body of the County. At 109 square miles, it is the smallest county in New Mexico.

The County includes residential community clusters in the Los Alamos Townsite and White Rock, Los Alamos National Laboratory and a portion of Bandelier National Monument. Los Alamos county is surrounded by National Forest, National Parks, neighboring Pueblos and other Federal lands.

DOCUMENT TERMINOLOGY

Throughout this document, the following terms will be used to refer to the various geographies:

Los Alamos County or County = government entity

Los Alamos = general area, including Los Alamos and White Rock

Los Alamos downtown = commercial core

White Rock downtown = commercial core

Local community or community = residents and business owners in Los Alamos and White Rock

Los Alamos New Mexico website: www.losalamosnm.us/quick_links/about_los_alamos; Los Alamos National Laboratory website: www.lanl.gov/about/facts-figures/index.php

Bandelier National Monument showcases the cliff dwellings and cultural history of the Ancestral Pueblo people. Los Alamos County's boundary is contiguous with San Ildefonso Pueblo. This pueblo, along with others in the region, add to the diverse culture of North Central New Mexico. Bandelier also has designated wilderness areas with hiking and camping.

Valles Caldera National Preserve is a vast, natural 90,000-acre, 13-mile wide environmentally rich land with abundant wildlife, created by a volcanic eruption 1.25 million years ago.

The recent addition of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park (MPNHP) to the National Park System is expected to bring more visitors to the Los Alamos area. The Manhattan Project National Historical Park explores the history of the top-secret WWII atomic energy program. This is further enhanced by the Los Alamos History Museum, Fuller Lodge and the Bradbury Science Museum.

There are many other natural and built assets that are attractive to visitors, such as the Pajarito Mountain Ski Area, Los Alamos Nature Center, 100-plus miles of hiking/biking/equestrian trails, scenic overlooks, sporting events and festivals.

Visitors are guests, and the local community has a role, to serve as hosts to these guests. While many local attractions have the potential to entice visitors, strategically and systematically deciding how to best utilize facilities, enhance amenities and optimize tourism economic development to benefit the local community and visitors will be critical for the future success of tourism in Los Alamos.



Los Alamos and White Rock are gateways to three National Parks, providing a variety of outdoor activities, cultural attractions and ways to learn about history.



The Los Alamos Farmers Market, which started in 1970, offers fresh produce and local crafts to market goers every year.



The Bradbury Science Museum offers visitors the chance to explore interactive exhibits, highlighting the Los Alamos National Laboratory's historic and current research projects.

New Mexico Tourism Department 2016 Annual Report;
Albuquerque Journal: Tourism Spending in NM Up 2.1%, Nov 2017;
2016 Los Alamos County Comprehensive Plan

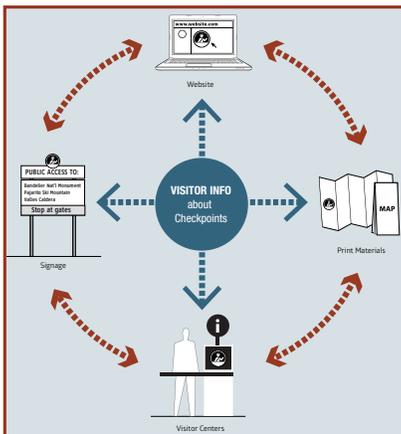
MARKETING, BRANDING + WAYFINDING

In 2015, Los Alamos was designated a New Mexico True destination and regularly hosts the governor, the tourism secretary and the tourism commission at several events each year. This designation, along with representation on the New Mexico Tourism Department's North Central Region Board, has also increased Los Alamos' visibility, since the County is now part of the comprehensive marketing efforts led by the State.

Capitalizing on this, Los Alamos County has been working to manage and enhance its own marketing efforts to position Los Alamos as a tourist destination. The 2016 *Los Alamos County Comprehensive Plan* demonstrated public support of several County Council priority goals that relate to enhancing tourism. Implementation of this Tourism Strategic Plan will help the County achieve its goals.

As part of the process of managing and enhancing marketing efforts for visitors, the County directed branding and wayfinding processes in 2016, which are currently being implemented. These initiatives led to an integrated plan that will provide information to visitors to make it easier for them to find their way around town and to learn about what Los Alamos has to offer. These efforts integrate perfectly with the Tourism Strategic Plan, as both are focused on strategic enhancements. A summary of the Wayfinding project can be found in Volume II.

Similar to this tourism effort, the County and the Economic Vitality Action Team (EVAT) are currently updating the Economic Vitality Strategic Plan, which is complementary to this effort.



Los Alamos brand;
merje Environments + Experiences Design Development presentation diagram

COUNTY COUNCIL STRATEGIC GOALS



Operational Excellence



Communication



Economic Vitality
Financial Sustainability



Intergovernmental
Relations



Housing/Lodging



Quality Cultural +
Recreational Amenities



Education



Mobility



Environmental
Stewardship

85% of the 2016 *Comprehensive Plan* survey respondents support increased tourism as a driver of economic development

PURPOSE

This Los Alamos Tourism Strategic Plan will help unify ongoing tourism efforts and position the County to optimize tourism economic development for the benefit of the local community. It will guide and provide direction to the County and partners when making decisions relating to tourism, community investment, cultural opportunities and physical development.

Ultimately, this plan will help the County PROACTIVELY **DEVELOP** AND **MANAGE** TOURISM in order to preserve, enhance and improve this special place “where discoveries are made!”

Los Alamos has an opportunity to leverage its natural and built assets, rich history and three National Parks to create economic diversity and enhance what already exists. This plan will assist the County in ensuring the long-term enhancement and viability of the built and natural environments, as well as its historical, cultural and scientific heritage.

Implementing the recommendations of this plan, along with other County and community initiatives, will result in an improved visitor experience and enriched quality of life for the local community.

“Tourism plays a vital role in diversifying our state’s economy. More people visiting New Mexico means more dollars going into our communities...”

New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez

PROJECT TIMELINE



PROCESS

The 2016 Los Alamos County Comprehensive Plan created the foundation for the development of a strategic plan to add tourism as an economic driver. Based on the comprehensive plan's vision for tourism, an eight month planning process was completed to inform the final Tourism Strategic Plan.

SOURCES OF INPUT

COMMUNITY



- Focus group meetings
- Public forums
- Online survey
- Previous studies + reports

LEADERSHIP

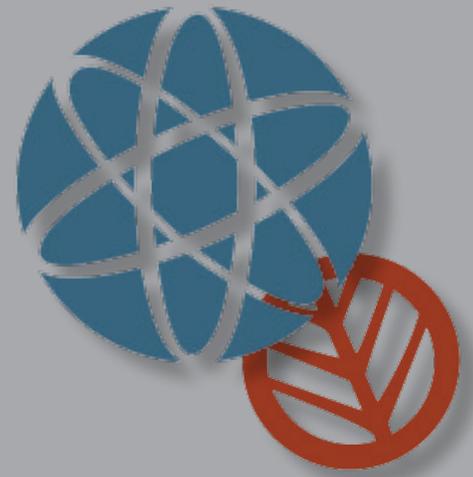


- County Council
- County Project Team
- Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board
- Tourism Work Group
- Economic Vitality Action Team

INDUSTRY EXPERTISE



- Design Workshop
- Signage + wayfinding
- Los Alamos branding
- NM Tourism Department



TOURISM WORK GROUP

The Tourism Work Group, appointed by the County Council, served as an advisory body to the County Council and planning consultants. The group met eight times throughout the process to help guide plan development, review progress and provide feedback on the status of the plan. The group also ensured that the interests of the community-at-large, as well as tourism stakeholders, were considered throughout plan development.

The group included 20 members comprised of representatives of businesses, attractions, local organizations and the local community. Three representatives from the National Park Service served as liaisons to the group.

TOURISM STRATEGIC PLAN WEBSITE

A project website was created to provide information about the planning process. Content was updated periodically throughout the project as new information was generated. The website included:

- A description of the project background, process and schedule
- An email link and comment form to collect feedback
- Project documents and downloadable presentation files and notes
- Links to online surveys
- Calendar of public and County Council meetings
- Links to social media and other resources

www.losalamostourismplan.com

FOCUS GROUPS

Three Focus Group meetings were conducted to help the planning team understand current conditions and to identify issues for the Los Alamos Tourism Strategic Plan to address. Approximately 80 subject matter experts and community members representing a variety of perspectives were invited to attend and provide their insight. Discussion sessions were organized around the following topics:

- Downtown vitality and visitor services
- Cultural attractions and events
- Recreation attractions and activities

The focus groups provided valuable information and perspectives. Three key items that were consistently raised in the discussions, included:

- Numerous ingredients exist for tourism development
- Lack of lodging is an impediment to multi-day visitors
- Some visitor services and facilities deficiencies also negatively impact residents (e.g., limited dining options and hours of operation, lack of activities at night, trail maintenance needs).

FOCUS GROUP COMMENTS

"We are a center for world-changing history and science"

"Our natural scenery is amazing, vistas are breathtaking"

"So many outdoor activities to participate in"

"There are hidden treasures and discoveries to be found"

"We are family friendly with a small town atmosphere"

BASELINE ANALYSIS

The consultant team began reviewing relevant plans and studies to inform its understanding of past and current planning efforts, as well as future community goals. Synthesizing this information with input received at the Strategic Kick-off meeting and the Focus Group meetings, the planning team created a Baseline Analysis report and a Situational Assessment to serve as the analytical foundation for the Tourism Strategic Plan. These reports are available in Volume II of this plan.

A detailed analysis of the current status of aspects impacting tourism was conducted under the following categories:

- Visitor Facilities + Resources
- Institutional Systems
- Market + Economics



Public Forum #1: over 100 attendees participating in keypad polling.

SITUATIONAL ASSESSMENT

The baseline analysis identified several factors of importance in defining the direction of this plan to build the local tourism economy:

- Los Alamos has many assets and attractions that create a solid foundation for tourism development. Being a gateway to three National Parks, having outdoor recreation options, stunning scenery, a long and rich science history, and ancient history are key assets.
- Limited accommodations result in Los Alamos being able to primarily serve only day visitors.
- There are limited connections (e.g., trails, signage) between assets and attractions.
- Los Alamos County currently pays for most of all tourism marketing and services for the area.
- The current tourism and marketing services structure is spread among several County divisions and contractors without a central point of responsibility.
- The brand “Where discoveries are made!” creates intrigue, can be flexibly applied to many things, and is a solid foundation on which to build the marketing message and deliver a positive experience.
- Based on feedback, the visitor centers provide basic information and need to be experientially improved.
- Today’s visitors expect many dining and shopping options. An increase in visitors will help support extended hours for existing businesses and help develop new businesses.
- Housing for employees supporting businesses serving visitors has been raised as a concern in Los Alamos. The County is actively working to develop a mix of affordable housing.

PUBLIC FORUM #1: VISIONING

The first of two public forums was held on September 6, 2017 to discuss the planning process with the Los Alamos community. It also gave residents, business owners and other stakeholders the opportunity to provide their perspectives, ideas and understanding of the current state of tourism, impacts of tourism, and what they envision for the future of tourism in Los Alamos. Over 100 people attended this visioning session, and 211 people responded to the online survey.

Four alternative scenarios were presented to solicit input from the Tourism Work Group and community to help answer the following questions regarding tourism:

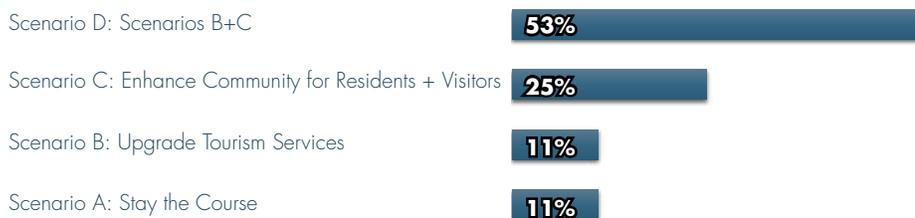
Where are we going? What do we want to do?

The alternative futures explored at the forum were:

- Scenario A: Stay the Course
- Scenario B: Upgrade Tourism Services for Day Visitors
- Scenario C: Enhance Community for Residents + Day & Destination Visitors*
- Scenario D: Increase Day Visitors + Target Destination Visitors*

Feedback from this forum was used to gain a deeper understanding of various points of view and values regarding tourism. Based on keypad polling and online survey results, a majority of participants were in favor of utilizing *Scenario D: Increase Day Visitors + Target Destination Visitors* to develop the focus areas and action items for the plan.

Which Scenario do you think best supports the community vision set forth in the Comprehensive Plan?



Public Forum #1 Keypad Polling question

* Destination visitors are overnight visitors

FORUM #1 ELEMENTS

MEETING PURPOSE

- Educate the public about Los Alamos' tourism current conditions and trends
- Present scenarios of optional courses of action to direct tourism efforts
- Gain an understanding of concerns, opportunities, values and needs
- Collect additional ideas or information regarding strategies

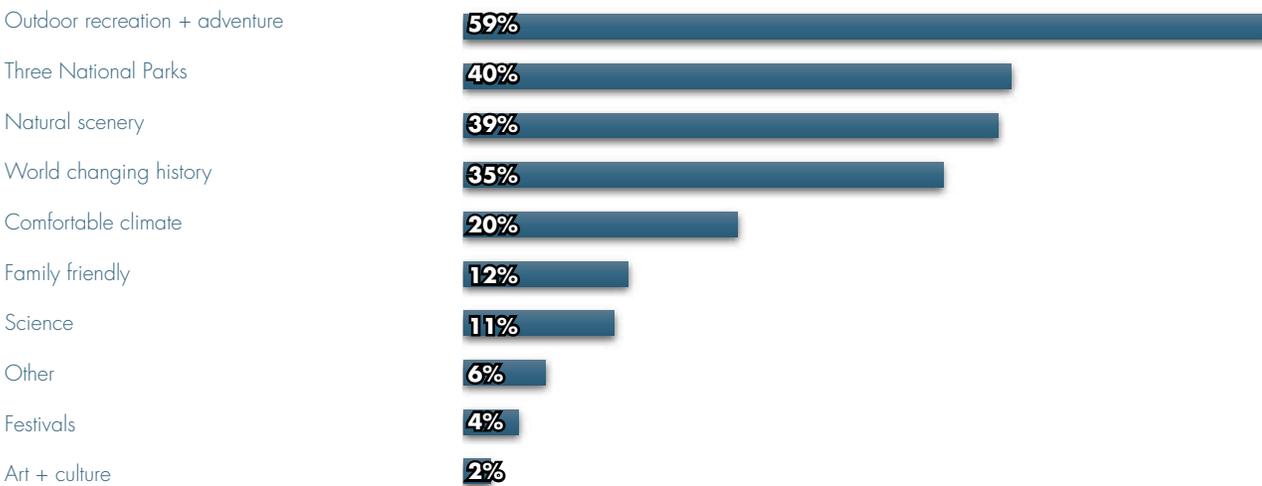
MEETING ACTIVITIES

- Presentation with live keypad polling
- Postcards telling a friend why they should visit Los Alamos
- Comment Cards
- Online survey posted for those who could not attend in person

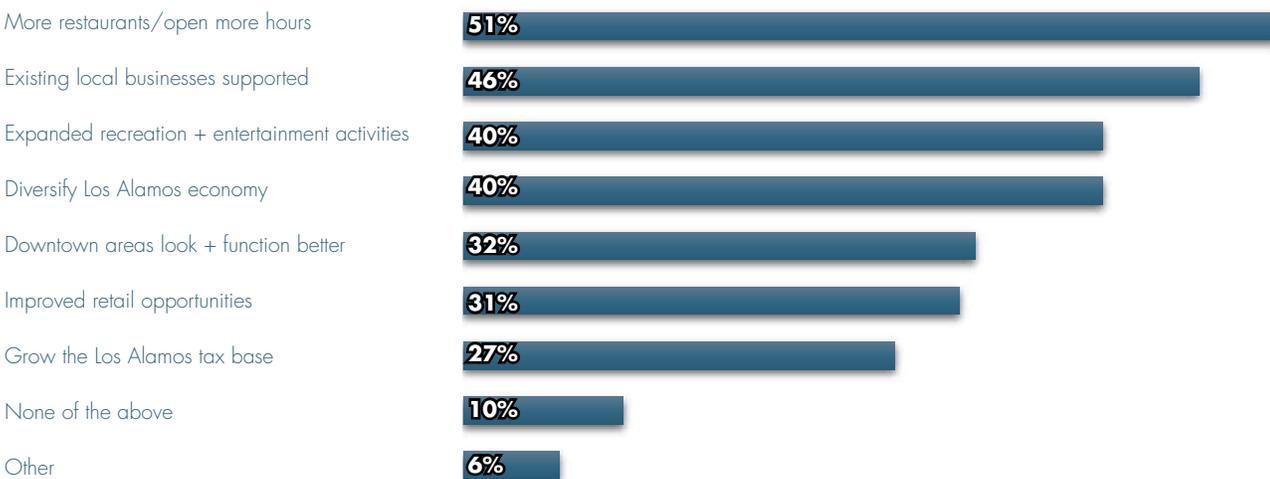
LIVE KEYPAD POLLING + ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

Seventeen questions were asked during the presentation and participants at the meeting shared their responses via keypad polling. With this technology, everyone attending the meeting could see the results in real time. Those who did not attend the meeting were able to respond via online survey. Below are the combined results for three key questions.

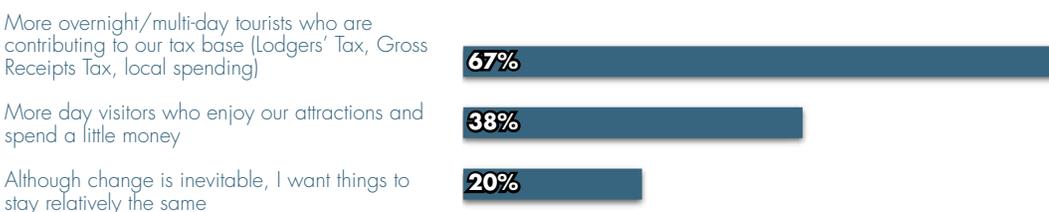
What might you tell a friend are the top two reasons to visit Los Alamos?



What are the most important outcomes for the community if the County implements an improved tourism plan?



In five years, what would you like to see related to tourism?



PUBLIC FORUM #2: INFORM

A second public forum, held on November 8, 2017, gave residents, business owners and other stakeholders the opportunity to learn about the direction of the Tourism Strategic Plan and comment on the four focus areas and various goals derived from this input.

Attendees were given the opportunity to provide feedback and ideas for potential action items under the four focus areas that will frame the plan recommendations.

CHOSEN COURSE OF ACTION

Tourism as an economic driver in Los Alamos will be achieved by attracting day and destination visitors. This option benefits both the local community and visitors by providing the elements necessary to create the appropriate infrastructure to accommodate both day visitors and overnight visitors.

Given the various inputs, four Tourism Focus Areas will guide the development and implementation of a series of near-, mid- and long-term tourism action items for Los Alamos, which are discussed in detail in Chapters 3 and 4.

TOURISM FOCUS AREAS



CREATE & MARKET AN INVITING COMMUNITY



INCREASE THE CAPTURE OF VISITOR DOLLARS



ENRICH OUR ATTRACTIONS AND DOWNTOWNS
+ CELEBRATE THE NATURAL BEAUTY



OPERATE WITH INTENTIONAL LEADERSHIP, PUBLIC
& PRIVATE INVESTMENT & PARTNERSHIPS

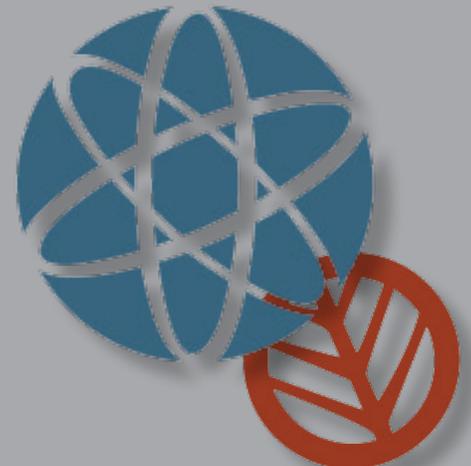
FORUM #2 ELEMENTS

MEETING PURPOSE

- Provide an update on plan progress to date
- Provide an opportunity for the public to provide input on plan focus areas and action items

MEETING ACTIVITIES

- Presentation with live keypad polling
- Exhibit boards detailing action items under each of the four focus areas
- Visitor attractions map input
- Comment cards





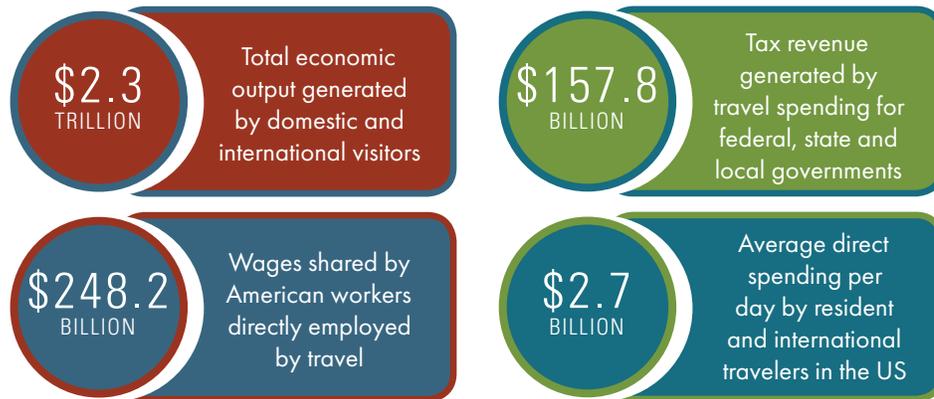


2.TOURISM TODAY AND PROSPECTS FOR LOS ALAMOS

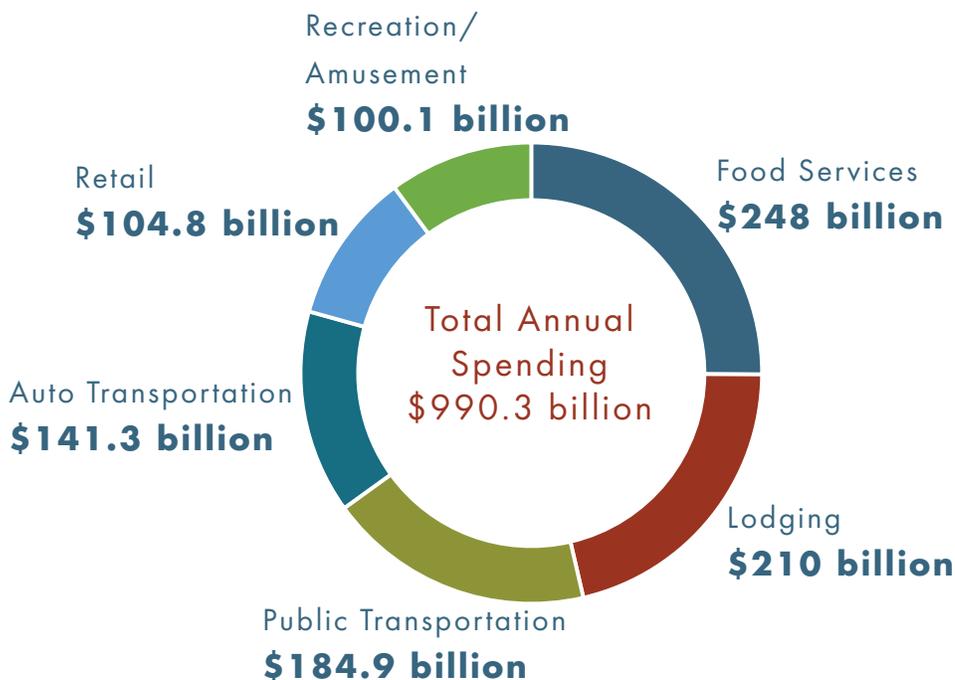
NATIONAL TRAVEL + TOURISM TRENDS

The tourism industry is a growing and sustainable contributor to the economy throughout the United States. The total contribution of travel and tourism to GDP was 8.1 percent in 2016. Understanding national tourism trends can help Los Alamos anticipate changes, look to the future and capitalize on opportunities to enhance tourism locally.

TRAVEL INDUSTRY IMPACT



U.S. TRAVEL SPENDING (includes leisure + business travel)



JOB CREATION

- In 2016, travel and tourism directly supported 5,486,000 jobs (3.6% of total employment). This is expected to rise to 7,074,000 jobs in 2018 (4.3% of total employment).
- 15.3 million jobs (direct + indirect and induced) are supported by travel in the U.S. – 8.6 million (approximately 78%) of these are directly supported.



2016 TRAVEL + TOURISM TRENDS

Major trends that impacted the industry in 2016 include:

- Alternative accommodations (e.g., Airbnb)
- Travel agents and packaged travel increasing in popularity because there are too many choices for potential travelers to sift through on their own
- Interest in 'unplugging' when traveling and getting away from technology

TOP 5 U.S. LEISURE ACTIVITIES

- Visiting relatives
- Shopping
- Visiting friends
- Fine dining
- Rural sightseeing

1.7 billion leisure person-trips (one person on a trip away from home overnight in paid accommodations) were taken by U.S. residents in 2016

STATE + REGIONAL TOURISM

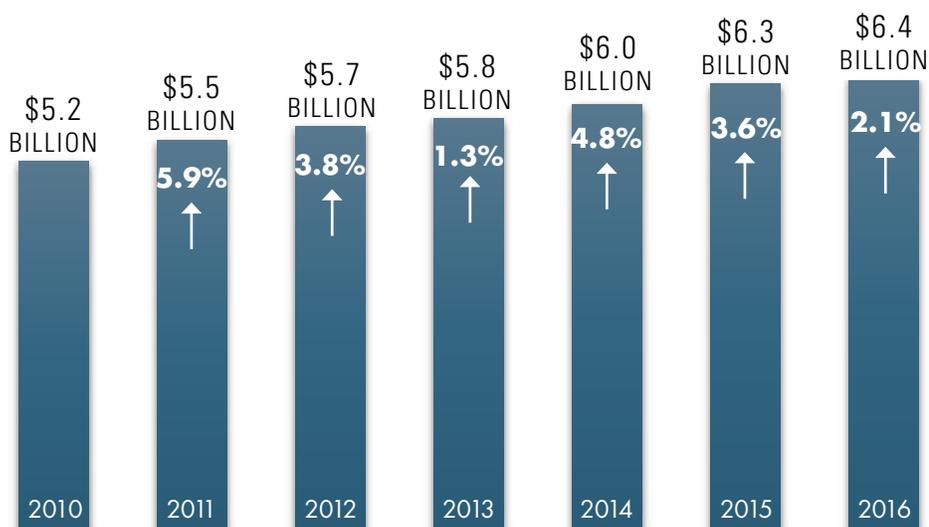
New Mexico's economic pillars are its natural resources, tourism, retail trade and federal government spending. The tourism industry is a growing contributor to New Mexico and Los Alamos economies. As visitation continues to increase, the local community will benefit from visitors' economic contributions.

STATE TOURISM STATISTICS

NEW MEXICO VISITATION SETS RECORD IN 2016



NEW MEXICO VISITOR SPENDING: 2010 - 2016



The three largest sectors for visitor spending in New Mexico in 2016 were: Lodging (31%); Food + Beverage (23%); Retail (17%)

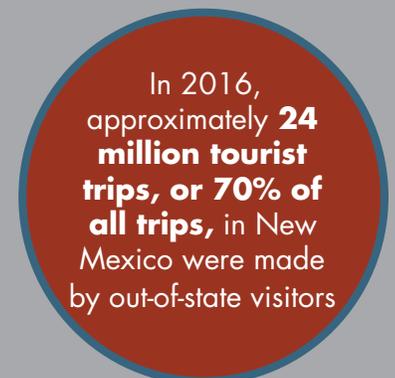
New Mexico Tourism Department, 2016 Annual Report + Nov 16, 2017 Website Press Release

TOP 5 NM VISITOR ACTIVITIES

- Shopping
- Visiting Landmark/historic site
- Fine Dining
- Visiting National/State park
- Visiting a museum

New Mexico Tourism Department, Visitor Profile 2014-2015

OUT OF STATE VISITORS



New Mexico hits tourism record, Albuquerque Journal, July 6, 2017

HOUSEHOLD TAX OFFSET

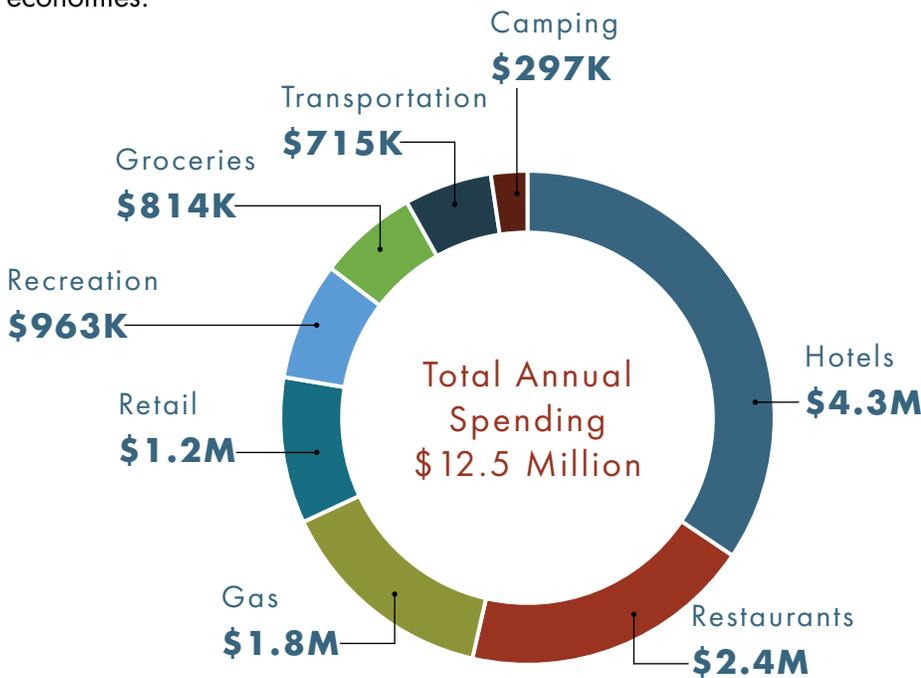


New Mexico Tourism Department: New Mexico True Website Nov 16, 2017

REGIONAL TOURISM STATISTICS: NATIONAL PARKS

BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT VISITORS SPEND MONEY IN LOCAL GATEWAY REGIONS

In 2016, 198,500 park visitors spent approximately \$12.5 million in local gateway regions while visiting Bandelier National Monument [see side bar]. This added \$15.8 million in economic output to local gateway economies.



VALLES CALDERA NATIONAL PRESERVE

In 2016, Valles Caldera experienced a 10 percent increase in visitors over 2015, attracting approximately 50,000 people.

MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

According to the National Park Service, in 2016, undefined park visitors spent an estimated \$728,000 in local gateway regions while visiting Manhattan Project New Mexico. These expenditures supported a total of 9 jobs, \$361,400 in value added, and \$671,700 in economic output in local gateway economies.

NATIONAL PARK LOCAL GATEWAY REGIONS

Gateway Regions are the areas directly surrounding National Park Service sites - typically within 60 miles

Gateway economies include the cities and towns where visitors typically stay and spend money while visiting NPS sites.

In New Mexico, total visitor spending in National Parks local gateway regions has risen from \$81.1 million in 2012 to \$108.4 million in 2016, a 34% increase.

This spending has ripple effects outside of the parks. Jobs, labor income, value added and economic output throughout the state have directly benefited from this spending.

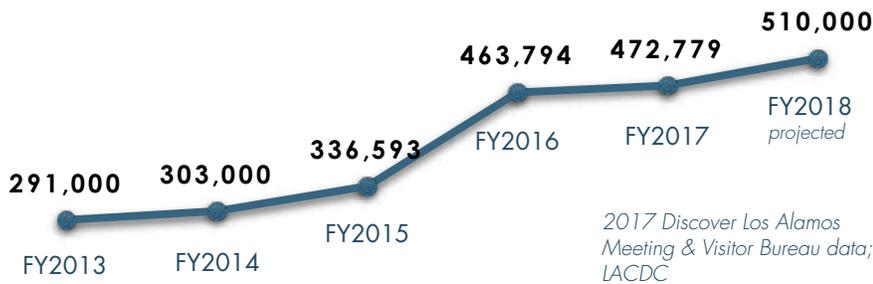
Capitalizing on the fact that Los Alamos is a gateway to three National Parks is a critical way to promote tourism. Lodging accounts for the largest share of park visitor spending. The County needs more hotels to increase the capture of visitor dollars and to support local businesses as park visitation increases.

All data on this page from National Park Service website: www.nps.gov/subjects/socialscience/vse.htm; 2016 Visitor Spending Effects Report

LOS ALAMOS TOURISM

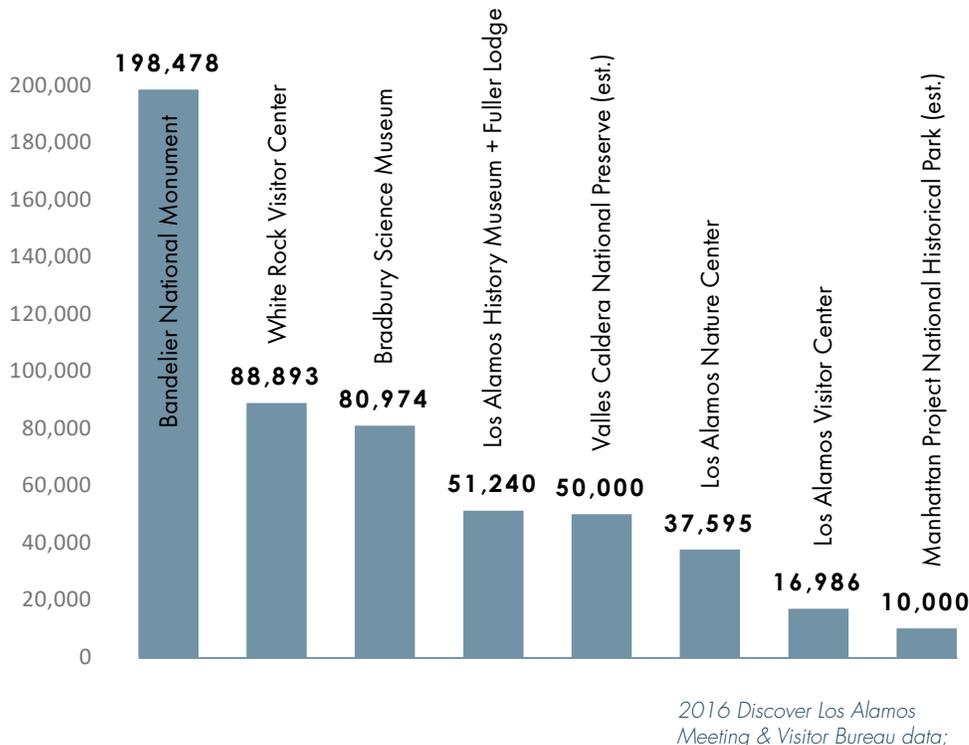
TOURIST VISITS TO LOS ALAMOS

Tourist visits to Los Alamos have been on the rise since 2013. With the recent addition of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park, visitor numbers are projected to increase even more, making it a critical time to strategically think about how to manage these visits, maximize economic returns, and provide experiences that bring people back.



VISITATION: ATTRACTIONS

Bandelier National Monument continues to be the most visited attraction near Los Alamos. Many visitors to Bandelier National Monument, White Rock Visitor Center and Valles Caldera National Preserve do not travel to downtown Los Alamos or other attractions.



DAY TRIPPERS

82 out of 100 visitors surveyed reported they visited Los Alamos for less than a day.

Discover Los Alamos Meeting & Visitor Bureau: June 2017 Report

VISITOR ACTIVITIES

Los Alamos has **3 of the top 5 activities** visitors in NM engage in:

- #2: Landmark historic sites
- #4: National Parks
- #5: Museums

(#1: Shopping, #3: Fine Dining)

New Mexico Tourism Department 2016 Visitor Profile

VISITLOSALAMOS.ORG

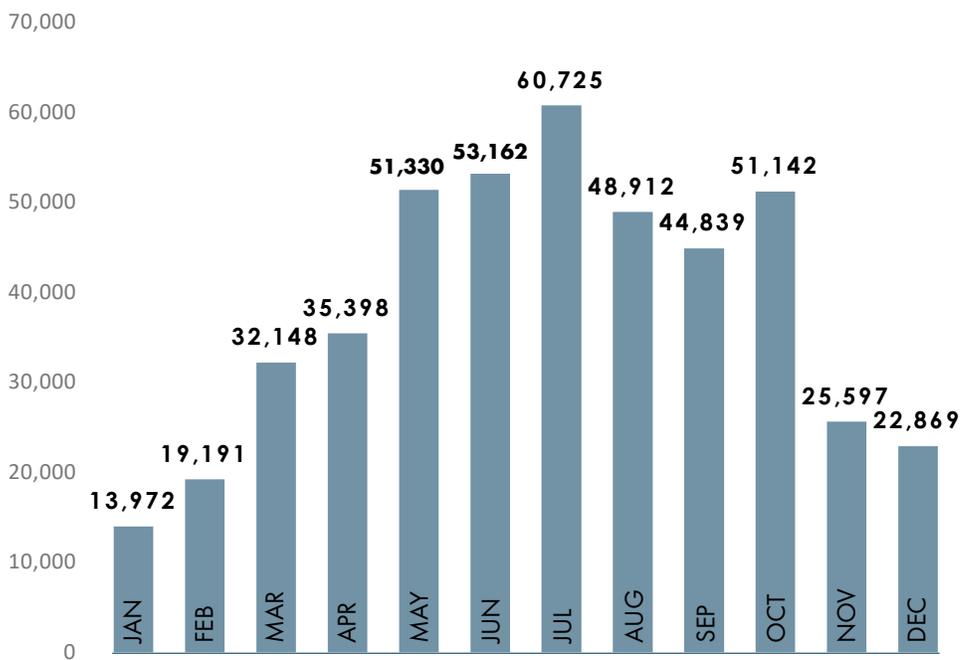
175,354 Visit Los Alamos website views in FY2017, up from 42,500 in FY2016.

Los Alamos FY2018 Tourism Marketing Plan

VISITATION: SEASONAL

The peak time for tourism visits to Los Alamos attractions is May to October. Typically the four months of November, December, January and February, combined, experience slightly more visitation than the month of July alone.

In 2017, visitation to attractions peaked in July, with 60,725 people visiting at least one of the following locations: Los Alamos Visitor Center, White Rock Visitor Center, Los Alamos Nature Center, Bandelier National Monument, Bradbury Science Museum, and/or Los Alamos History Museum.



Discover Los Alamos meeting & visitor bureau data; LACDC

ATTACHMENT A

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AS TOURISM ENTREPRENEURS

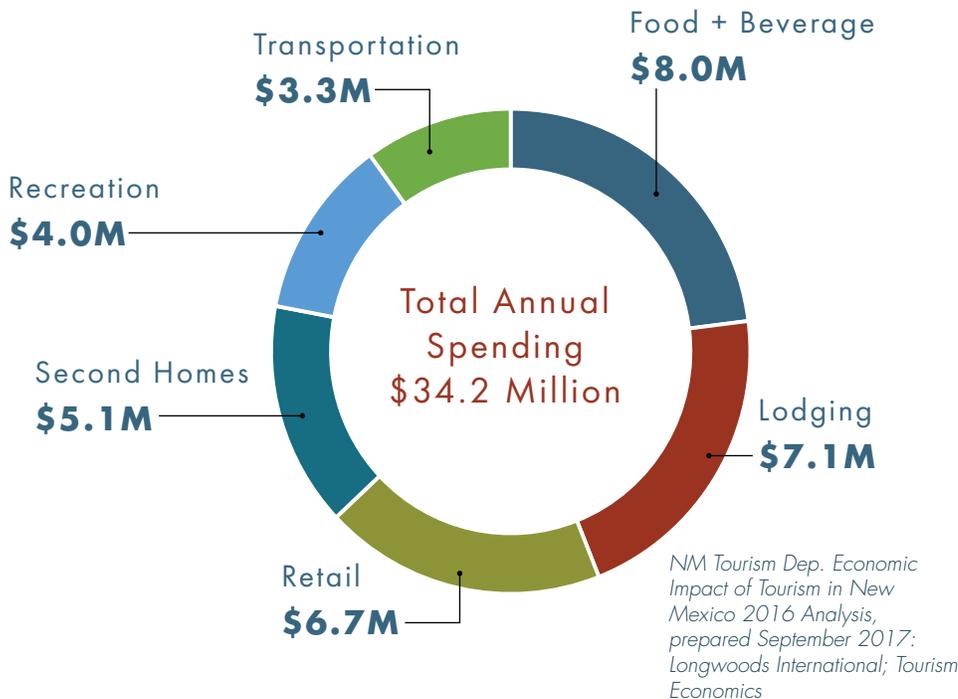
Los Alamos has a history of community-based organizations and entrepreneurs contributing to visitor and resident experiences. A few example results of creativity, entrepreneurship, fundraising, and collaborative partnering include:

- Los Alamos Historical Society: Manhattan Project National Historical Park
- Nature Center: Pajarito Environmental Education Center (PEEC)
- Pajarito Mountain Ski Area: Los Alamos Ski Club and successors
- Craft beer startup: Bathtub Row Brewing Co-Op
- Music offerings: Los Alamos Concert Association

LOS ALAMOS COUNTY VISITOR SPENDING

LOS ALAMOS COUNTY VISITOR SPENDING BY INDUSTRY

In 2016, visitors to Los Alamos County spent \$7.1 million on lodging (majority of demand comes from LANL-related business travel), \$8.0 million on food/beverage, \$6.7 million on retail, \$4.0 million on recreation and \$3.3 million on transportation. In total, visitors spent \$34.2 million, the same amount they spent in 2015, or 0% growth.



POWER OF THE VISITOR DOLLAR

As visitation to Los Alamos increases, so does the amount of money visitors spend. If the number of overnight visitors increases, the economic impact can be significant. This spending has both direct and indirect impacts in terms of County revenue, jobs generated, and infrastructure improvements that benefit both visitors and the local community.

LOS ALAMOS COUNTY VISITOR IMPACT

TOURISM EMPLOYMENT

TOURISM EMPLOYMENT			
Year	Direct	Total (Direct, Indirect Induced)	County Tourism Dependence
2016	357	991	6.5%
2015	353	949	6.2%
2014	331	805	5.2%
2013	345	833	5.2%
2012	366	930	5.6%

New Mexico Tourism Department Economic Impact of Tourism in New Mexico 2016 Analysis, prepared September 2017; Tourism Economics

DISCOVER LOS ALAMOS MEETING & VISITOR BUREAU

According to the Discover Los Alamos Meeting & Visitor Bureau monthly report for June 2017, visitors came most often from the following locations:

New Mexico Cities:

- Albuquerque
- Alamogordo
- Belen
- Espanola
- Farmington
- Las Vegas
- Rowe
- Santa Fe
- Taos
- Truth or Consequences

States:

- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- Florida
- Ohio
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Texas
- Washington State

Countries:

- Australia
- Canada
- England
- Japan
- Netherlands

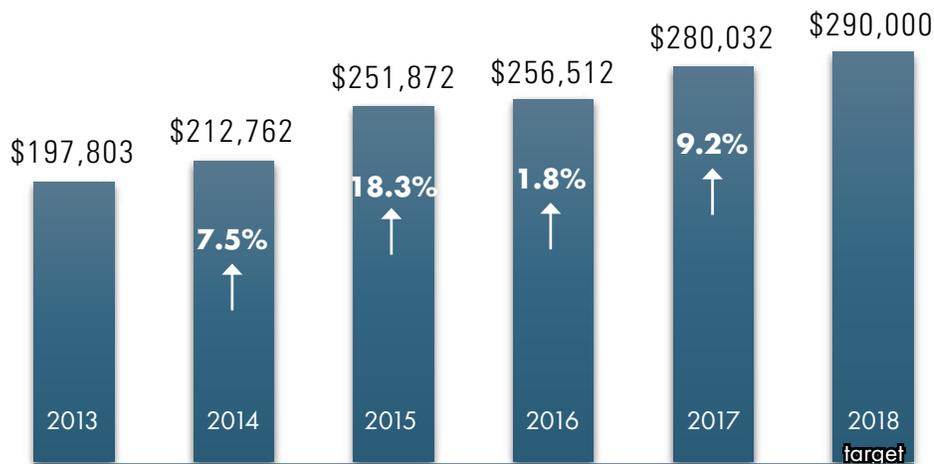
*Numbers of visitors from each location were not included in report.

HOW VISITORS CONTRIBUTE TO LOS ALAMOS COUNTY REVENUE

Direct economic impact from tourism to Los Alamos County revenue comes from the Lodgers' Tax and Gross Receipts Tax.

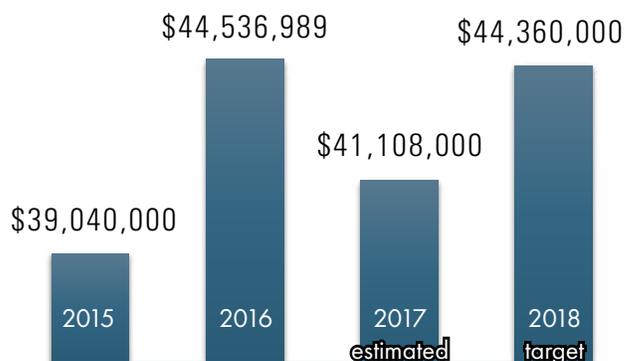
LODGERS' TAX REVENUES

Lodgers' Tax is a tax charged to people using commercial, short-term lodging accommodations. This tax revenue must be used for advertising, publicizing and promoting tourist attractions and facilities in and around Los Alamos. Lodgers' Tax revenues have been increasing since 2013. In 2017, revenues increased approximately 9% from 2016, despite a decrease in number of available hotel rooms.



GROSS RECEIPTS TAX REVENUES

Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) is imposed on businesses on the sale of goods and services. Both the local community and visitors are subjected to this tax. It accounts for 67% of the total General Fund budgeted revenues for Los Alamos County. For the last six months of 2017, the GRT rate was 7.31%. Most GRT revenue comes from LANL. Rates in New Mexico range from 5.50 to 9.25%.



NEW MEXICO LODGERS' TAX COLLECTION

Lodgers' Tax Receipts by County FY2015-2016:

- Los Alamos (5%): \$256,512
- Eddy (5%): \$76,644
- Grant (5%): \$63,928
- Lincoln (4%): \$49,066
- Luna (5%): \$2,755
- Rio Arriba (3%): \$67,053
- Sandoval (5%): \$13,678
- San Miguel (5%): \$29,828
- Santa Fe (5%): \$385,103
- Sierra (3%): \$5,553
- Socorro (3%): \$2,334
- Taos (5%): \$332,269

Lodgers' Tax Receipts by Selected Northern NM Municipalities FY2015-2016:

- Angel Fire (5%): \$278,512
- Bernalillo (3%): \$120,377
- Grants (5%): \$369,928
- Las Vegas (4%): \$305,374
- Santa Fe (5%): \$6,959,827
- Socorro (5%): \$426,520
- Taos (5%): \$1,151,943
- Taos Ski Valley (5%): \$334,423

Los Alamos County 2018 Biennial Budget - Proposed; Lodgers' Tax Report FY2016, State of New Mexico Finance + Administration; Gross Receipts Tax Rates Schedule, State of New Mexico Taxation & Revenue Dept.

LOS ALAMOS HOTEL OCCUPANCY: SMITH TRAVEL RESEARCH (STR) REPORT

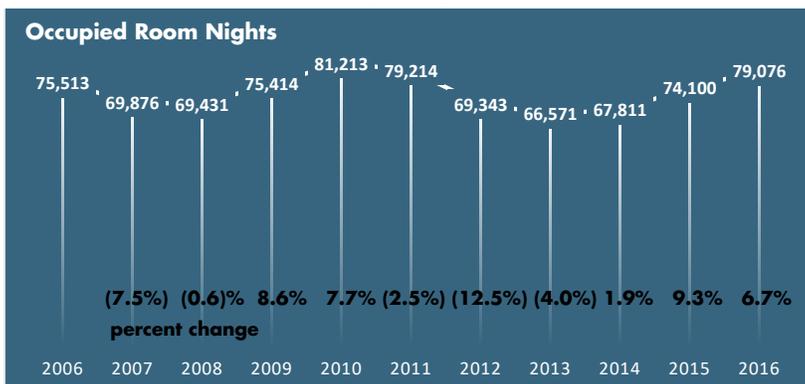
Currently, three hotels and three bed and breakfast establishments compose the stock of lodging inventory in Los Alamos, with 238 total rooms. Hilltop House closed in December 2014 and Motel 6 closed in May 2015. Recreational vehicle and campground locations are provided near the National Parks. Historically, hotel occupancy rates for the Los Alamos market have ranged from 50.9% to 73.6% and the average daily rate has trended upward, according to a 2017 HVS Consulting & Valuation Occupancy study referencing STR data. By comparison, the U.S. hotel industry reports a 65.7% average occupancy rate in 2017, and New Mexico a 63.5% average occupancy rate, according to the June 2017 Rocky Mountain Lodging Report.

Occupancy first peaked in 2006 when a new entity assumed management of Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), resulting in significant temporary demand by LANL contractors and visitors. The lowest occupancy rates between 2008–2013 are a result of the national recession and wildfires in 2011 that caused evacuation of the town and destruction of a portion of Bandelier National Monument that was again impacted by flooding in 2013.

Increases in occupancy have occurred since that time. The increases are attributed to growth at LANL, new National Parks in the area, the “New Mexico True” marketing campaign, closure of two hotel properties and overall strong economy.

Year-to-date 2017 data illustrates continued strengthening in occupancy and a roughly \$4 gain in average rate. A portion of demand related to LANL and nearby recreational offerings is reportedly diverted from this market and typically stays in Santa Fe. The tables below and on the following page provide additional context for hotel occupancy and revenue changes per a 2017 HVS Market Study.

LOS ALAMOS HOTEL HISTORICAL SUPPLY + DEMAND TRENDS (STR)



Year to Date through July
2016 | occupied room nights: 44,516
2017 | occupied room nights: 45,123; % change: 1.4%

Average Annual
Compounded
Change
 2007-2010: 5.1
 2010-2016: (0.4)

2017 HVS Market
 Study Through
 Occupancy and
 Average Rate

NEW MEXICO HOTEL OCCUPANCY JUNE 2017

Los Alamos

- Room Nights Available: 7,140
- Occupancy: ~73.6%

Albuquerque

- Room Nights Available: 239,991
- Occupancy: 76.8%

Farmington

- Room Nights Available: 26,871
- Occupancy: 72.9%

Las Cruces

- Room Nights Available: 31,021
- Occupancy: 66.6%

Santa Fe

- Room Nights Available: 109,622
- Occupancy: 79.9%

Taos

- Room Nights Available: 19,695
- Occupancy: 71.4%

Southeast NM

- Room Nights Available: 27,150
- Occupancy: 78.0%

Other NM

- Room Nights Available: 27,840
- Occupancy: 66.3%

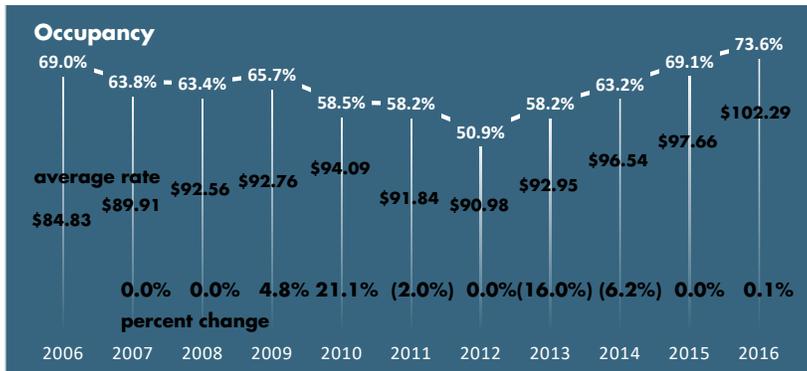
Los Alamos data: took rooms available (238) and multiplied by 30 (# of days in June); Other locations: Rocky Mountain Lodging Report, June 2017

STR DATA LIMITATIONS

“It is important to note some limitations of the STR data. Hotels are occasionally added to or removed from the sample; not every property reports data in a consistent and timely manner.

These factors can influence the overall quality of the information by skewing the results, and these inconsistencies may also cause the STR data to differ from the results of our competitive survey.

Nonetheless, STR data provide the best indication of aggregate growth or decline in existing supply and demand; these trends have been considered in our analysis. Opening dates, as available, are presented for each reporting hotel in the graphs to the left.”



Average Annual
Compounded
Change
2007-2010: 1.5
2010-2016: 1.4

Year to Date through July
2016 | occupancy: 71.4%; average rate: \$100.54
2017 | occupancy: 72.2%; average rate: \$104.36; % change: 3.8%



Average Annual
Compounded
Change
2007-2010: (1.4)
2010-2016: 5.4

Year to Date through July
2016 | RevPAR: \$71.81%
2017 | RevPAR: \$75.30; % change: 4.9%

Hotels Included in Sample HVS 2017 Market Study	Competitive Status	# of Rooms	Year Affiliated	Year Opened
Comfort Inn & Suites Los Alamos	Primary	55	Oct '09	Dec '97
Hampton Inn Suites Los Alamos	Primary	73	Dec '02	Dec '02
Holiday Inn Express + Suites Los Alamos Entrada	Primary	86	Nov '09	Nov '09
Atomic City Hotel (former Hilltop House)	Secondary	0	Nov '17	Jan '68
Homewood Suites Santa Fe North *	Secondary	81	Feb '05	Feb '05

*Note: Homewood Suites is located in Santa Fe County but is considered part of the Los Alamos hotel market area, and was included in the HVS 2017 Market Study. Bed and breakfast accommodations are not included in STR data.

LOS ALAMOS TRANSPORTATION

As in many mountain communities, access to Los Alamos is relatively limited. Two state roads (NM4 and NM 502) provide entry to Los Alamos and White Rock, in a loop formation connecting both communities. NM 502 connects Los Alamos with US 84/285, leading to Santa Fe. The Los Alamos County Airport is a general aviation facility. No airlines currently serve this airport. The closest locations for commercial flights are the Santa Fe Municipal Airport and Albuquerque International Sunport.

Los Alamos County's Atomic City Transit (ACT) operates public transit throughout Los Alamos, connecting to White Rock, and also operates a shuttle bus from White Rock Visitor Center to Bandelier National Monument. Free bus service is provided from 6am to 8pm, Monday to Friday, on seven routes, with a Dial-a-Ride service available until 9pm. This includes a downtown circulator trolley providing service between LANL and downtown Los Alamos every 30 minutes, with peak service provided every 15 minutes mid-day.

There is no transit service on weekends, the peak days visitors are in the area. The only exception to this is the running of the Bandelier shuttle, which operate seven days per week from mid-May to mid-October. The *2015 Los Alamos Comprehensive Transit Study* concluded that it is not viable to extend transit service through the weekend, due to lack of demand from students and workers, the system's main ridership.

Los Alamos is a Bronze Award Bicycle Friendly Community through the League of American Bicyclists. Currently, there are three dedicated bicycle lanes in Los Alamos. Right-of-way stripes are painted on Canyon Road while Central Avenue, one of downtown Los Alamos' main arterial roads includes sharrows. White Rock also has dedicated bicycle lanes and offers a multi-use trail. The Canyon Rim Trail, located approximately 1.8 miles from downtown Los Alamos, is a 2.7 mile asphalt surface multi-use trail for all skill levels. The Canyon Rim Trail provides an out and back option for hiking, nature trips, birding and mountain biking. It connects several mountain bike and multi-use trails in the area.

Sidewalks exist on key roads in Los Alamos and White Rock, and the downtown Los Alamos Historic Walking Tour provides a self-guided activity that promotes walking. While it is possible to walk to many of the attractions in downtown Los Alamos, distances between destinations can be long for visitors. There are several parking lots available to visitors, but they are spread out and signage will be improved with the implementation of the Wayfinding Plan.

ATOMIC CITY TRANSIT

Atomic City Transit operates a downtown circulator trolley that provides service between LANL and downtown every 30 minutes, Monday–Friday, from 6:15am – 7:13pm. Peak services is provided every 15 minutes, Monday–Friday, from 11:00am - 12:58pm.



The trolley operating in winter months.

Atomic City Transit also operates a free shuttle bus from the White Rock Visitor Center to Bandelier National Monument. The shuttle runs approximately every 30 minutes during the week and every 20 minutes on weekends, from 9:00am - 3:00pm.



The Bandelier Shuttle waiting for passengers at Bandelier National Monument.



ISSUES + OPPORTUNITIES

Los Alamos is at a crossroads. Visitors are coming. Community members can let tourism happen to them, or they can be strategic in driving the types of visitors and economic impact desired.

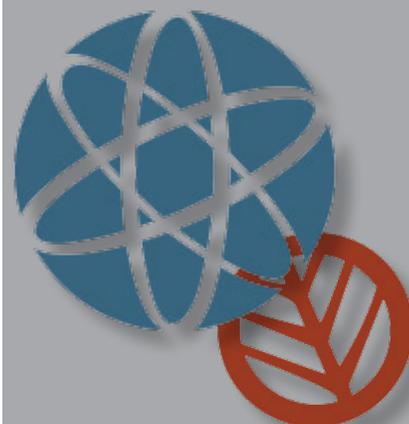
- Los Alamos has many assets and attractions that create a solid foundation for tourism development. Being a gateway to three National Parks, having outdoor recreation options and stunning scenery, having a long and rich science history, and an intriguing ancient history are key assets that many communities would love to have.
- Limited accommodations result in Los Alamos being able to serve primarily only day visitors.
- There are several well-used, multi-use trails in Los Alamos that local community members and visitors use for walking, hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding. Improvements to existing trails and better connections between all trails can help enhance the trail system.
- The Los Alamos County Economic Development Fund and Lodgers' Tax revenue pay for most of all tourism marketing and services for the area.
- Current tourism institutional structure lacks a central point of contact and responsibility. The County outsources tourism marketing and services to several contractors; which results in a lack of leadership, consistency, and responsiveness.
- The new Los Alamos brand "Where discoveries are made!" creates intrigue, can be applied to many things, and is a solid foundation on which to build the marketing message and deliver a positive experience.
- Today's visitors expect many dining and shopping options. An increase in visitors will help support extended hours for existing businesses and help develop new businesses.

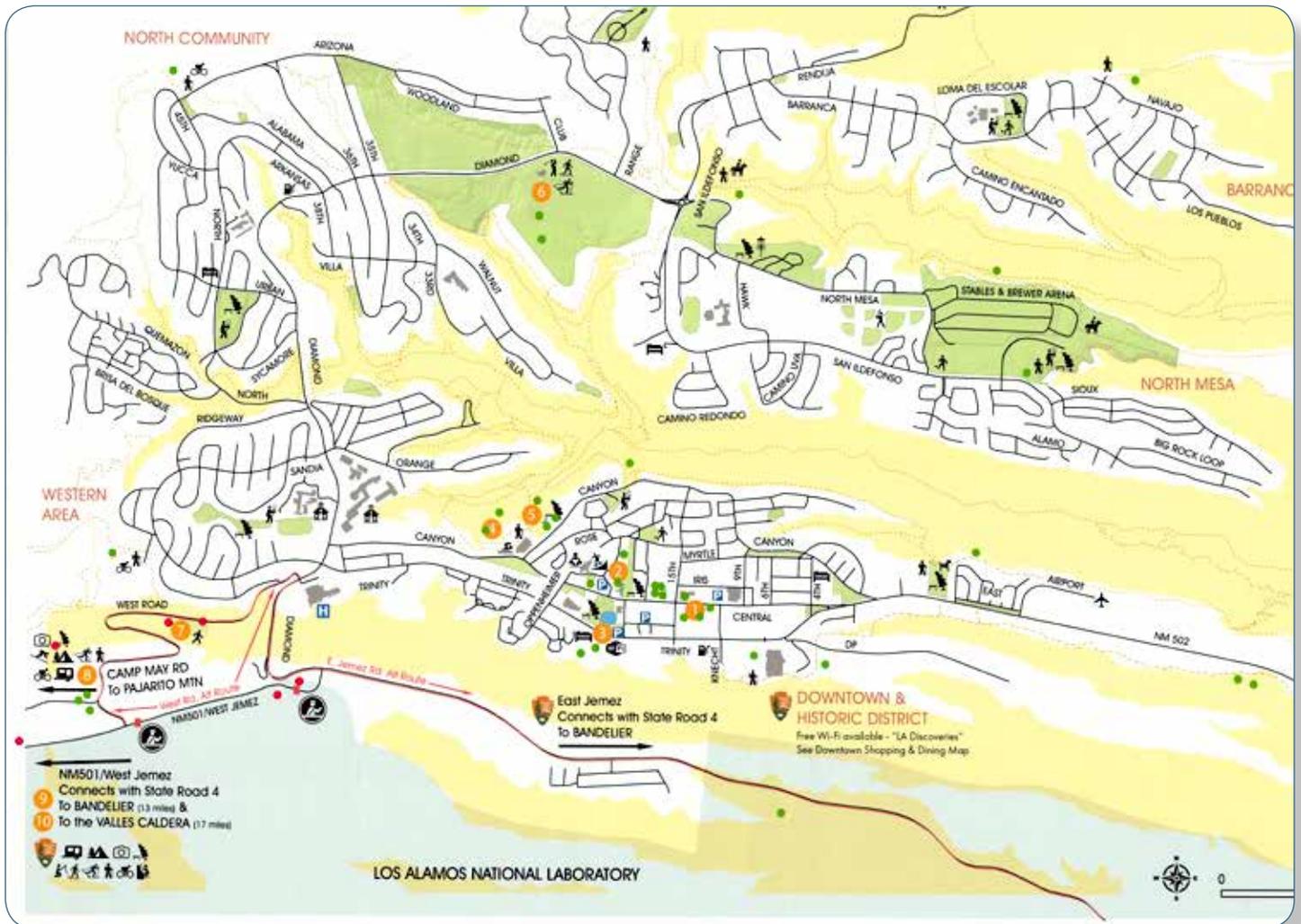
This Tourism Strategic Plan provides tactics Los Alamos County can use to leverage the community's strengths and begin to implement the infrastructure necessary to increase the impact of tourism as an economic driver.

PUBLIC FORUM #2 MAPPING EXERCISE

Participants at the second public forum were asked to place green dots in areas of Los Alamos and White Rock that currently work well for the local community and visitors and red dots in areas where improvements need to be made on large print versions of the visitor maps (shown on the facing page).

The dots indicate that people appreciate the close proximity of amenities in downtown Los Alamos, but recognize that connections to both Pajarito Mountain and White Rock could be improved. Dots also indicate that the trails in White Rock need improvement and better trail connections would be beneficial to the local community.





Public Forum participants placed green and red dots in specific locations on the Los Alamos and + White Rock visitor maps.





3. STRATEGIC DIRECTION

View from White Rock Canyon Rim Trail of White Rock Canyon overlooking the Rio Grande River



FOCUS AREAS

Encouraging and supporting the Los Alamos tourism economy has been an evolving effort, with the public and private sector participating on both a local and regional scale. The Tourism Strategic Plan addresses and calibrates these efforts under four areas of focus. It is not a comprehensive wish list, but instead provides a strategic and clear path to direct efforts for the next decade.

The Focus Areas are:



1 | **CREATE + MARKET** AN INVITING COMMUNITY



2 | **INCREASE** THE CAPTURE OF VISITOR DOLLARS



3 | **ENRICH** OUR ATTRACTIONS AND DOWNTOWN + CELEBRATE THE NATURAL BEAUTY



4 | **OPERATE** WITH INTENTIONAL LEADERSHIP, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT & PARTNERSHIPS

Each of the Focus Areas in this section includes an intent and desired outcome, along with the following:

- **GOALS:** broad, primary outcomes
- **STRATEGIES:** approaches to achieve goals
- **TACTICS:** tools used or steps to take in pursuing strategies
 - NT = Near-term (0 - 3 years)
 - MT = Mid-term (3 - 5 years)
 - LT = Long-term (5 - 10 years)

Strategic priorities are addressed in Chapter 4, which describes near-term actions and includes relative costs and potential funding sources for each action.

LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY

Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) is the primary economic contributor to Los Alamos.

The County should continue to serve the needs of LANL and its visitors and not do anything that puts its significant economic contribution to the County in jeopardy.



View of LANL facilities on United States Department of Energy grounds.



1 | CREATE + MARKET AN INVITING COMMUNITY

INTENT

The Strategic Tourism Plan provides the opportunity to examine how Los Alamos tourism marketing is perceived by potential visitors, evaluate its effectiveness in reaching target audiences, and understand how information meets their needs. It is also the opportunity to examine the impressions a place and the local community make on visitors. Visitors are already coming to Los Alamos, mostly for the three National Parks. Los Alamos could better capture the benefits of being a gateway community by giving attention to the impressions formed prior to arrival and experiences of these guests during their visit.

The three strongest components of Los Alamos' tourism offerings are outdoor recreation, history and science. Focusing on building and enhancing these three aspects is essential to the near and mid-term outlook, before stretching tourism marketing efforts to other aspects that visitors enjoy, such as the arts, music, team sports, western lifestyles, shopping and specific family-oriented attractions. Los Alamos has a strong collection of attractions and the creation of additional attractions should not be the first priority. Rather, adding accommodations and improving visitor services should be the primary focus for improved experiences.

DESIRED OUTCOME

Improved trip planning, increased hotel booking, improved first impressions, improved visitor conveniences, and increased repeat visitation.

GOAL 1.1 FOCUS OUR MARKETING EFFORTS TO REFLECT OUR COMMUNITY TO TARGETED VISITORS

FOCUS ON MARKETING 'OUTDOOR RECREATION, HISTORY AND SCIENCE' AS THE THREE CORE DESTINATION ASPECTS OF LOS ALAMOS

- Provide specific marketing to visitors at the three National Parks to showcase the primary outdoor recreation, history and science attractions in Los Alamos, as well as hospitality services. Marketing methods include: providing information on NPS shuttles, educating NPS visitor contacts about offerings and hours, and providing information on websites in which National Park visitors plan their trips. (NT)
- Create a promotional video to showcase outdoor recreation, history and science activities and events in Los Alamos. (NT)
- Work with Pajarito Environmental Education Center (PEEC) to develop local films about nature, outdoor recreation and history to show at the Planetarium. (NT)
- Improve and expand targeted marketing to science aficionados and people curious about science with the promotion and evolution of ScienceFest. Honoring contemporary scientific discoveries could also be a way to build the reputation of the festival beyond the immediate region. Market LANL's DisrupTech, a celebration of the disruptive technology created by Los Alamos scientists, with ScienceFest to create connections between the target markets for each event. (NT, MT)

- Support ongoing County partnerships with the Los Alamos Historical Society and Bradbury Science Museum in their collaborations with the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. (NT, MT, LT)
- Promote the Los Alamos Trails app to visitors (before they arrive and while they are visiting). (NT)

IMPROVE LOS ALAMOS TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY WEB AND SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE, AND IDENTIFY WAYS TO MAXIMIZE EXPOSURE TO TARGET MARKETS

- Implement or contract work to improve the function and appeal of the *visitlosalamos.org* website and social media platforms including the following:
 - Redesign the website to highlight outdoor recreation, history and science attractions and events. (MT)
 - Incorporate a promotional video(s) into the website. (NT)
 - Improve the calendar of events website feature to highlight categories of interest (e.g., outdoor recreation, history, science). Add a search engine so visitors can identify events of interest to them. Two-way link the calendar to other regional and state visitor calendars. (NT)
 - Implement the Wayfinding Tools recommendations for technology integration, such as map features, apps and kiosks to communicate information. Update online maps and website information to include communication of public parking locations and attraction information linked to common navigation websites/apps. (NT, MT)
 - Prepare an analytical report of Los Alamos tourism web and social media tracking for monthly evaluation. (NT)

- Improve Los Alamos' presence within New Mexico True online opportunities by requesting the following changes:
 - Add the three National Parks and Los Alamos attractions, along with a promotional video, to the North Central region page of the New Mexico Tourism Department website. (NT)
 - Utilize aspects of the Los Alamos visitor guide and website to update the descriptions and resources on the New Mexico True website. (NT)
 - Replace the photographs of Los Alamos with higher quality images that promote outdoor recreation, history and science offerings. (NT)
 - Feature more Los Alamos attractions within the New Mexico True topical areas such as outdoor adventures, trails and festivals. (NT)
 - Provide photography for the New Mexico True Instagram feed. (NT)

ENHANCE REGIONAL MARKETING EFFORTS

- Improve and expand New Mexico True branding and marketing opportunities and develop content to provide to the New Mexico Department of Tourism. (NT)
- Designate an "Atomic Trail" route (starting at 109 East Palace in Santa Fe and terminating at Fuller Lodge) with partners such as the Los Alamos History Museum to include on the New Mexico True website. (MT)
- Market Los Alamos as a home base to stay while exploring nearby retreats and other areas of interest (Jemez Springs, Abiqui, Ojo Caliente, Taos, Santa Fe, Northern New Mexico Pueblos). (NT)

- Leverage marketing dollars with participation in Northern New Mexico Air Alliance. (NT, MT)
- Strategically place and improve print tourism information materials where visitors are planning trips to encourage them to extend their stay. (NT)
- Market and coordinate with local, regional and national tour operators, travel agencies and hotel concierges. (NT, MT)
- Expand marketing to National Park Service visitors to increase awareness of, and drive visitation to, the many amenities in Los Alamos. (NT)
- Create marketing partnership with Heritage Hotel and Resorts or similar boutique hotel family of properties, encouraging day trips from their properties to Los Alamos area attractions. (NT, MT)
- Explore partnerships with nearby Pueblos. (NT)

COORDINATE LOCAL MARKETING EFFORTS TO BETTER INFORM VISITORS

- Implement the Los Alamos Brand Action Plan and provide LANL personnel and Los Alamos community members with marketing messages and information so they can serve as “ambassadors” for the community and its assets, and be welcoming to visitors. (NT, MT)
- Fund and continue to implement the Los Alamos Brand Action Plan. (NT)
- Integrate marketing efforts between attractions and local businesses to improve visitor awareness of all Los Alamos offerings. This includes encouraging participation in Brand Action Plan Visitor Journey A2D training (Arrival to Departure customer service, ambassador and docent training, local attractions training), and providing promotional information at attractions and local businesses. (NT, MT)
- Provide multi-day, themed packages for visitors to simplify their trip and combine discounts. (NT)

- Consolidate the amount of print materials produced for visitors, anticipating that they will primarily refer to digital materials until they are within the County. Provide greater distinction between print materials produced primarily for a local audience and create materials more directed toward the visitor experience. (NT)
- Include video marketing of Los Alamos on the Bandelier visitor shuttle bus (with app option for sound). (NT)
- Utilize a promotional video at visitor attractions to showcase the variety of activities available. (NT)
- Reorganize and revamp local information on the *visitlosalamos.org* website relevant to visitors regarding group event accommodation, retail, dining, services and entertainment to ensure ease of access for users. (NT)
- Market a “hotel packet” provided to hotels that includes the printed orientation map, recently developed by Wayfinding consultant, of Los Alamos shopping, dining and attraction options and a brochure of recreational opportunities. (NT)
- Create “I’m only here for a little while, what hikes should I do?” brochure. (NT)

GOAL 1.2 ENHANCE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION BY PROVIDING AN EASY TO NAVIGATE AND WELCOMING SETTING

IMPROVE LOS ALAMOS AND WHITE ROCK VISITOR CENTERS AND FULLER LODGE

- Relocate the Los Alamos Visitor Center to a more visible place better associated with visitor arrival and attractions. (NT, MT)
- Modernize displays at both visitor centers to be interactive and experiential. (MT)
- Improve the display and sharing of visitor information brochures with a more tailored and organized display of complete trip experiences for Los Alamos. (NT)

- Sell limited convenience items (i.e., refreshments) at both visitor centers to meet visitor expectations. (NT)
- Provide additional restrooms at the White Rock Visitor Center, along with picnic and outdoor play facilities. (MT, LT)
- Enhance White Rock Overlook Park by adding interpretive signage, entry features and landscape design. (MT)
- Implement Fuller Lodge interpretation plan to enhance visitor experience. (NT)
- Expand Fuller Lodge hours and provide a clear point of contact for information to better meet visitor needs. (NT)
- Implement the Los Alamos Brand Action Plan Visitor Journey A2D training for workers and local community members to welcome visitors. (NT)

ENHANCE LOS ALAMOS' ROLE AS A GATEWAY TO THREE NATIONAL PARKS

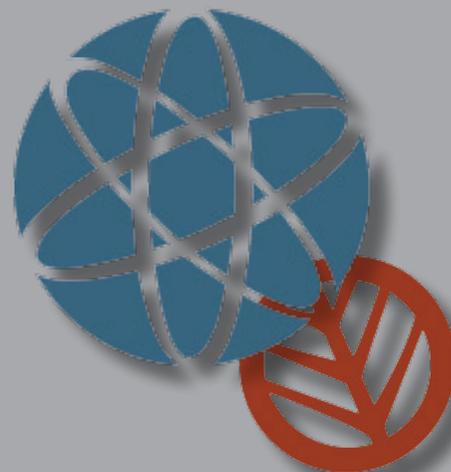
- Promote the branding slogan "Gateway to Three National Parks" consistently in key locations that encourage visitor awareness of all three parks and the gateway community (i.e., NPS locations and websites, lodging websites, visitor center, signage, and guest contact points). (NT, MT, LT)
- Continue to support Manhattan Project (including MPNHP) national branding and marketing effort with partners LACDC, Los Alamos Historical Society, Visit Tri-Cities, and Explore Oak Ridge. (NT, MT, LT)
- Develop access and market the Manhattan Project National Historical Park as part of Los Alamos with partners NPS, LANL, DOE, Los Alamos Historical Society, the State of New Mexico and the New Mexico Congressional delegation. (NT, MT, LT)
- Create an agreement between NPS and the County to include the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory National Historic Landmark District into the official boundaries of the park. (MT)
- Work with LANL and DOE to implement wayfinding recommendations to the security checkpoint. (NT)
- Promote the local "friends of" the National Parks groups as community volunteer opportunities. (NT)

VISITORS PREFER PEDESTRIAN- FRIENDLY PLACES

A recent survey by the National Recreation and Parks Association shows a significant number (42 percent) of Americans prefer visiting places that are pedestrian-friendly and easily walkable.

This national survey finding points to the importance of community design and ease of navigation in a visitor's initial location decision making, as well as decisions to extend or repeat a visit.

Source: www.nrpa.org/About-National-Recreation-and-Park-Association/press-room/new-survey-park-and-recreation-amenities-popular-among-vacation-goers/



ENHANCE ALL MOBILITY OPTIONS TO MAKE VISITOR TRAVEL EASIER AND ENCOURAGE OPTIONS OTHER THAN PERSONAL VEHICLE USE

- Improve bus connectivity and extend trips from the three National Parks to downtown Los Alamos, White Rock and nearby outdoor recreation areas by sharing transit information, increasing capacity and expanding to weekend service. (NT, MT, LT)
- Work on providing transfer system that brings visitors from Bandelier to Los Alamos to encourage them to spend time in Los Alamos. (NT, MT, LT)
- Add Atomic City Transit bus stop at Tsankawi in collaboration with BNM. (MT, LT)
- Continue to research available government funding to support the Bandelier Shuttle and potential extensions and capacity to support ridership needs. (NT, MT)
- Develop, in conjunction with the Transportation Board, a means for supporting the logistics of providing transit for larger scale events and festivals. (MT, LT)
- Prioritize, phase, fund and implement Wayfinding Plan Phases 1A + 1B for improved signage and visitor navigation. (NT)
- Coordinate with partners to organize additional walking tours with tour guides (e.g., History Museum). (NT)
- Create a walking tour app for downtown Los Alamos. (NT)
- Implement smart parking technology (i.e., real time parking and transit information and signage) and an online parking app. (LT)
- Improve visitor maps to highlight trails that best serve visitors and provide connections to attractions and add information about the trails app. (NT)
- Encourage NM DOT to complete the paving of NM Highway 126 (eight unpaved miles remaining) as part of the Jemez Mountain Trail National Scenic Byway. Work with Sandoval County to market the Byway to all types of users, including motorcyclists and bikers. (MT, LT)
- Support a bike-share program that is accessible for visitors. (MT)
- Evaluate feasibility of Los Alamos Regional Multi-Use Trail, a 30-mile bike and hike trail connecting Los Alamos and Bandelier National Monument. (NT, MT, LT)

LOS ALAMOS DOWNTOWN VISITOR CENTER RELOCATION

The Visitor Center in downtown Los Alamos is currently not a positive visitor experience. A shopping center is not where visitors look for, nor expect to find, visitor information. In addition, the current space is very limited and is crammed with tables and walls filled with information pamphlets, rack cards and brochures. There is no space for interpretive displays or elements to intrigue the visitors.

The primary purpose of a visitor center is to provide visitors with orientation and information on the area's attractions, lodging, businesses, services and other things relevant to tourism. Interpretive and educational information stimulate interest and enhance the visitor experience. Visitor centers should be a one-stop, physical location that is welcoming, personal, and provides all of the necessary information that is current, accurate and trustworthy. Where feasible, visitor centers are often integrated with services of Federal, state, or local agencies in the same geographic area.

Visitor centers also serve an important role in data collection. It is imperative to understand whom you are serving, what they want, and how they behave so that the destination can remain competitive and develop over time in response to the market. A destination information center can act as a central point in capturing, analyzing, and supplying this essential tourism data to the County and local stakeholders so that they understand the current situation and start a dialogue on how to appropriately develop, market, and sell the destination. A few of the things that can be included in the survey are length of stay, places they plan on visiting, trip expenditure, etc.

Along with the locations in the chart below, other locations that the County deems feasible should be considered. For example, the Post Office could be a possible location for the Visitor Center.

		CRITERIA				
		AT KEY DECISION POINT (often located at intercept location on the edge of town)	EASY + ADEQUATE PARKING	COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY	CO-LOCATION WITH MPNHP VISITOR CENTER	COST TO IMPLEMENT
LOCATIONS	FULLER LODGE (West Wing)	X	X	X	X	\$
	1010 CENTRAL (in front of Municipal Building)	X	X	X		\$\$\$
	PROPERTY AT ENTRANCE TO TOWN	X				\$\$\$
	ASHLEY POND (site of old Municipal Building)		X	X	X	\$\$



2 | INCREASE THE CAPTURE OF VISITOR DOLLARS

INTENT

Los Alamos is not currently capturing the maximum benefit of visitor spending. Hotels, restaurants, retail and recreation expenditures are the major categories for National Park gateway communities in the region. However, Los Alamos currently has limited options to capture this visitor spending.

There are a few hotels in the County with a collective total of 238 rooms. Occupancy rates have increased over the past decade and some hotels are often at capacity. However, there are no luxury and/or full-service hotels with the amenities that appeal to many visitors, including quality accommodations and services for business travel, meeting rooms, food and beverage services, spas, or in-house family entertainment. Filling this accommodation gap will make the greatest impact in increasing the capture of visitor dollars.

Festivals and events can be an important catalyst for tourism and can foster a positive image of a destination. Festivals provide an opportunity to encourage multi-day experiences, especially when accommodations, attractions, services and amenities provide more reason to extend a stay. Local communities play a vital role in tourism development through festivals. Events often start with a community focus and are then discovered by visitors. Rather than rely on this chance discovery, it is recommended that Los Alamos be intentional with the promotion of events and efforts to engage visitors in activities that highlight the key themes of outdoor recreation, history and science.

DESIRED OUTCOME

Increased visitor spending through overnight, extended and return visitation. Improved reputation for Los Alamos' hospitality and events that draw visitors.

GOAL 2.1 IMPROVE LODGING AND HOSPITALITY INFRASTRUCTURE, PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

INCREASE LODGING OPTIONS TO SUPPORT A HIGHER NUMBER OF OVERNIGHT VISITORS

- Continue to identify and engage hotel developers and operators to create full-service lodging and boutiques in Los Alamos. (NT, MT, LT)
- Create a development package for potential new lodging locations and coordinate an incentives program including (NT, MT):
 - Continue to identify desirable locations for future lodging development.
 - Prepare and coordinate design of a development packages for each site to promote development opportunities, infrastructure and design expectations.
 - Provide site-specific incentives for lodging development as applicable such as providing needed infrastructure connections and construction-ready preparation (including appropriate zoning and site environmental cleanup).
 - Explore hotel development incentive options such as land donations, infrastructure investments, tax abatement and/or favorable financing to attract a developer to construct a full-service hotel in downtown Los Alamos.
- Identify parcels for new RV parks in both Los Alamos and White Rock using criteria established by MPNHP Transportation sub-committee. Issue an RFP for an operator(s). Identify and facilitate a business to invest, develop and manage a new, high-quality, full-service RV Park for anticipated increase in tourism. (NT, MT)

- Work with public land managers to identify locations for future camp sites that minimize environmental impacts and provide an ideal experience for visitors. (MT)
- Adopt an ordinance to require informal tourism accommodations, such as Airbnb and VRBO rentals, to pay Lodgers' Tax. (NT)

IMPROVE HOSPITALITY BY PROVIDING SERVICE INDUSTRY TRAINING

- Implement hospitality training to assist local community members and service industry workers with how to truly welcome guests to Los Alamos. This training should include Visitor Journey A2D training, including customer service, ambassador and docent training, local attractions training. (NT, MT)
- Encourage the creation of a Hospitality Institute with UNM-LA degree program, certificate and seminars. (LT)

GOAL 2.2 ENHANCE MULTI-DAY EVENTS TO ENCOURAGE OVERNIGHT VISITATION

PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR EVENT MARKETING AND HOSTING

- Create an event fund and marketing support opportunities so event organizers can apply for grant assistance through an application process. Investigate the best process for collaboration with other grant opportunities, such as LACDC small projects promotion grant and New Mexico Tourism marketing promotion grants. (MT)
- Select highly attended events in Santa Fe, Albuquerque and Taos (e.g., Balloon Fiesta, Indian Market) and host complementary events in Los Alamos at the same time to leverage traffic already coming nearby and draw visitors to Los Alamos. Market these events aggressively to regional and national markets. (NT, MT)
- Utilize recommendations from the Los Alamos Brand Action Plan for incorporating the brandline "Where discoveries are made" in event marketing. (NT)

RV PARK EXAMPLE: GRANBY, CO

The Town of Granby, Colorado acquired land that was part of a failed real estate development called Shorefox in 2014. After marketing a portion of the land to an RV operator, the Town selected Sun Communities (a Michigan company specializing in RV Parks) to purchase 30 percent of the parcel.

The Town recently approved a long-term tax sharing agreement between Granby and Sun Communities, whereby Sun Communities will cover infrastructure costs up front and be reimbursed over the course of several years.

The funds used to reimburse Sun Communities for infrastructure costs at Shorefox will come directly from taxes assessed on commerce and recreational activities on the Shorefox property. The funding will not come from tax revenue generated outside the Shorefox parcel.

ENHANCE SCIENCE EVENTS, AND PROMOTE LANL STATUS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO ENCOURAGE OVERNIGHT VISITATION

- Enhance ScienceFest by better defining its purpose, desired outcome and niche in attracting visitors. Incorporate contemporary science achievements, and host an awards ceremony and/or symposium. Make the event more experiential for visitors so they can interact with the science and engineering work, including scientific team competitions. Create a more consistent theme and message to help draw more people from outside the region. Provide better clarity and signage regarding the locations that activities take place. (NT, MT)
- Explore the viability of hosting a high-tech retreat event to attract private sector talent to discuss application of LANL innovations. (MT)
- Create two additional dedicated science events, promoted regionally and state-wide. (MT)
- Leverage the Nature Center and Planetarium as part of science events and activity offerings. (NT)

ENHANCE OUTDOOR RECREATION EVENTS TO ENCOURAGE OVERNIGHT VISITATION

- Work with Pajarito Mountain Ski Area to develop opportunities to expand year-round, on-mountain activities. (MT)
- In the creation of community activity offerings, be mindful of how to promote activities to visitors and engage them in the low visitation seasons and in the evenings (e.g., winter recreation, late night ice skating). (MT)
- Support and create events that last for longer periods of time, like “trail festivals” with a variety of events (e.g., running races, mountain bike competitions, kids’ events). (MT)
- Encourage High Altitude Endurance organization(s) to host six events per year (e.g., mountain biking, long-distance road biking, skiing, trail running, marathons, triathlons). (MT)

CREATE NEW, AND ENHANCE EXISTING, EVENTS WITH A FOCUS ON SHARING HISTORY AND CULTURE TO ENCOURAGE OVERNIGHT VISITATION

- As the Manhattan Project National Historical Park is fully implemented, create an annual event to celebrate the “behind the fence” experience of the “Secret City”. (MT, LT)
- Leverage existing cultural and historical activities, such as Los Alamos Historical Society lecture series and Historias de Nuevo Mexico annual conference and determine how to market and expand. (NT, MT)
- Determine expanded partnership and collaboration with Los Alamos Historical Society that would result in increased visitation to Los Alamos History Museum. (NT, MT)

CREATE FACILITIES THAT SERVE THE COMMUNITY, AS WELL AS ENCOURAGE OVERNIGHT VISITATION

- Add a multi-use event space that supports 300 people and accommodates business meetings, community events and destination event space. (LT)
- Explore opportunities to create and expand activity participation (indoor and outdoor recreation facilities). (MT)
- Develop entertainment options with evening/ weekend hours geared toward young adults and millennials, as well as older visitors. (MT)

MOST POPULAR OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES IN THE U.S.

Running, jogging and trail running are the most popular outdoor activities in the U.S., engaging 14.8% of all adults (25 years and greater) and 24.3% of all youth. Investment in the creation of world-class mountain biking facilities has shown significant economic returns in locations such as Fruita and Durango, Colorado.

US Outdoor Recreation Participation Topline Report 2017



3 | ENRICH OUR ATTRACTIONS AND DOWNTOWNS + CELEBRATE THE NATURAL BEAUTY

INTENT

Los Alamos is fortunate to be adjacent to three National Parks, to be surrounded by a landscape of natural beauty that invites exploration and to be the home of museums that share a world-changing and unusual history. These aspects should be further enriched to meet visitor expectations and improve the visitor experience.

In terms of the built environment, Los Alamos was not established, nor were buildings originally developed, with visitor appeal in mind. The “towns” have slowly evolved with adaptations. While these adaptations have been positive, Los Alamos must still address deficiencies in its services and built environment to provide a higher quality experience for visitors, which will also benefit the local community.

Visitors notice many of the same things residents often complain about, such as limited business hours, lack of dining and retail choices, unattractive or vacant buildings, and the condition of recreation amenities. In recent years, Los Alamos County has been investing in efforts to address these issues by participating in the New Mexico MainStreet program and improving recreation trails.

DESIRED OUTCOME

Improved visitor experience and increased draw of Los Alamos through selective investments in capital improvements that benefit the local community and visitors. Retained community quality of life and leveraged visitation that encourages services and improvements the local community desires. Improved community quality throughout Los Alamos for residents, businesses, and LANL.

MAINSTREET PROGRAM

Los Alamos MainStreet is designated by the New Mexico MainStreet program (NMMS), under the New Mexico Economic Development Department, managed by the Los Alamos Commerce & Development Corporation. The program’s mission is to create a strong economic business climate while preserving cultural and historic resources. Two MainStreet Economic Transformation Strategies are aligned with tourism strategies:

1. Promote and encourage niche tourism by capitalizing on Los Alamos’ historic and scientific significance.
2. Create a strong entrepreneurial support environment.

Los Alamos is one of only eight state designated Arts & Cultural Districts, due to the strong influence of science and history on its arts and cultural district.



Recent MainStreet program improvements include banners, street furniture and landscape enhancements along Central Avenue.

GOAL 3.1 INVEST IN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS THAT BENEFIT BOTH LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND VISITORS.

EXPAND RECREATIONAL OFFERINGS THAT ATTRACT VISITORS AND IMPROVE THEIR EXPERIENCE

- Pursue County planning efforts for extensions, upgrades, maintenance and new trails that benefit visitors and local community members of all activity skill levels. (NT, MT, LT)
 - Pursue mountain bike trail projects for all skill levels on County-owned land. (MT, LT)
 - Increase funding and staff to address trail maintenance and improvement deficiencies. (NT)
 - Continue to expand Canyon Rim Trail to 20th Street and beyond, described as the “High Priority Multi-Use Corridor” in the Bicycle Transportation Plan, to connect users with many of our attractions. (MT, LT)
 - Continue to implement the downtown pedestrian/bike path to connect visitors to attractions and improve wayfinding. (NT, MT)
 - Connect White Rock to Los Alamos via recreation trails and include integrated interpretive signage. (LT)
 - Connect trails to Rio Grande River in White Rock. (MT, LT)
 - Continue to partner with the National Park Service to create trail linkages between the three National Parks and Los Alamos, including a Valles Caldera Rim Trail. (MT)
 - Develop partnership with the Santa Fe National Forest to find mutually beneficial ways to enhance the trail network in the National Forest, to establish trail connections between Pajarito Mountain and Los Alamos. (MT, LT)

- Make improvements to Overlook Park, including adding facilities needed to host tournaments. (MT, LT)
- Add informational kiosk at Overlook Scenic View area. (NT)
- Encourage and support improvements to Pajarito Mountain facilities, especially as they relate to developing mountain biking trails and water pipeline. (NT, MT)
- Create opportunities for more year-round activities at Ashley Pond with new amenities, such as a warming hut, determined by Ashley Pond Site Assessment. (MT)
- Capitalize on the dramatic nature of White Rock Canyon and Tent Rocks by promoting the fact that there are a variety of historic and cultural artifacts of the Native Puebloan culture in the area that will be of interest to visitors (if the County will invest substantially in the maintenance and cleanup of these areas). (NT, MT)
- As part of a County start-up incubation initiative, provide business innovation space to incentivize tourism support services, e.g., outdoor industry companies and outfitters (manufacturing and technologies). Continue to support Project Y. (MT, LT)

GOAL 3.2 MAKE DOWNTOWN LOS ALAMOS AND WHITE ROCK CENTER AESTHETICALLY PLEASING AND WELCOMING TO VISITORS

DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT APPROACHES TO IMPROVE THE APPEARANCE OF COMMERCIAL AREAS. ENCOURAGE INFILL OF VACANT COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS AND BEAUTIFICATION IN THE CORE AREAS OF LOS ALAMOS TO CREATE A VIBRANT AND WALKABLE EXPERIENCE.

- Promote CIP funded priority beautification of Deacon Street in downtown Los Alamos. (NT, MT)

- Paint the Los Alamos logo (similar to Central/15th Street intersection) on the NM4/Sherwood Boulevard intersection in White Rock, once signalization is implemented and home construction begins on A-19-A tracts. (MT, LT)
- Ensure adherence to the Los Alamos County Downtown and Mixed-Use District Development Standards. Provide greater guidance and requirements for pedestrian environments and connectivity, streetscape and landscape requirements. (MT)
- Reduce blight by enhancing appearances and property values in the downtown districts through targeted and responsive commercial property maintenance and implementation of the County's Code Enforcement Program. (NT, MT)
- Stimulate redevelopment in the downtown districts by supporting strategic development partnerships that will result in mixed uses that include new housing units. (MT, LT)
- Referencing the 2012 Los Alamos Downtown Sidewalk + Streetscape Assessment report, improve the appearance and function of Trinity Drive by participating with NMDOT in a streetscape improvement project. Maintain a connection between Trinity Drive to the Canyon Rim Trail. (MT, LT)
- Encourage redevelopment of the Longview development in White Rock and consider its visual appeal and walking comfort for visitors. (MT, LT)

MAXIMIZE MAIN STREET AND CREATIVE DISTRICT PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES, SERVICES AND VISIBILITY

- Continue to promote the expansion of the Los Alamos MainStreet District to include White Rock Center. (NT)

- Expand Los Alamos Creative District boundaries to include more attractions and businesses, providing events and other incentives to pursue the 10/10/10 goal of supporting 10 retail and 10 dining/treat establishments, with 10 of those businesses staying open evenings and weekends within the district. (MT, LT)
- Continue to implement the MainStreet and Creative District events that draw visitors and provide additional activities that encourage extended stays. (NT)
- Continue to partner with local businesses and incentivize their participation in the MainStreet and Creative Districts. (NT)

EXPAND EATING AND SHOPPING OPTIONS TO MEET VISITOR AND RESIDENT EXPECTATIONS

- Conduct an updated retail gap study to identify products and services that are in demand and not available, and develop a plan to address the gaps. (MT)
- Continue to proactively meet with commercial realtors, Kroger and the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) representatives to identify leads. Research and understand needs, including incentives and building improvements to recruit new retail. (NT, MT)
- Encourage more outdoor marketplace activities through policy changes to County zoning requirements, to effectively solicit vendors, including food trucks, and create a market street with vendor infrastructure, possibly at Central Park Square, Deacon Street, Ashley Pond or similar location. (MT, LT)
- Incentivize short term leases for pop-up stores, seasonal retail and weekly markets to fill vacant spaces. (NT)

GOAL 3.3 MANAGE POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF TOURISM TO RETAIN COMMUNITY QUALITY OF LIFE

PROACTIVELY DEVELOP PLANS TO MITIGATE IMPACTS THAT TYPICALLY OCCUR WITH VISITOR NUMBER INCREASES

- With improved parking information, shared parking and traffic demand management, a parking structure in downtown Los Alamos is not needed now, and may not be needed in the future. (NT)
- Incorporate the recommendations from the Wayfinding Study with respect to parking:
 - Name all parking lots. (NT)
 - Provide parking information for visitors in many places (e.g., website, visitor guide, visitor centers, kiosks). (NT)
 - Implement directional signage plan to provide consistent path that guides visitors to areas where they may park. (MT)
 - Implement parking lot arrival signs that state parking lot name and give clear direction to nearby attractions and destinations. (MT)
- Consider the use of technology, such as digital signs and apps, to inform people of parking locations, availability and policies. (MT)
- Provide or require event traffic demand management and parking staff for festivals to manage increased traffic. (NT, MT)
- Provide multimodal options as alternatives to individual cars, e.g., transit, bicycle, pedestrian, electric vehicle support. (MT, LT)
- Engage the County Environmental Sustainability Board, County Green Team and County Fleet Team in the planning of events with a regional draw to ensure sustainable operations practices are employed. (MT)
- Support the County's efforts to increase the number and variety of housing supply. (NT, MT, LT)
- Direct visitors to trailheads that have greater capacity to handle higher levels of use to minimize environmental harm. (NT)
- Protect scenic views from obstructions that reduce the appeal for visitors, e.g., billboards, signs, telecommunications towers. (NT, MT, LT)
- Proactively address capacity regarding future demand for water, wastewater and other infrastructure. (MT, LT)
- Measure and report community indicators as recommended in Chapter 4. (NT, MT, LT)

SCENIC AMERICA AS A QUALITY TOOL FOR LOS ALAMOS

Scenic America (scenic.org) is a national non-profit that helps citizens safeguard the scenic quality of America's roadways, countryside and communities. The organization believes that scenic conservation occurs with:

- an educated citizenry;
- a group of committed scenic activists;
- a business community that understands the economic value of beauty; and
- public policy that defends natural beauty and distinctive character.

Los Alamos could potentially partner with Scenic America to protect scenic quality and promote open space conservation.



4 | OPERATE WITH INTENTIONAL LEADERSHIP, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT + PARTNERSHIPS

INTENT

The organizational structure and management of tourism efforts takes a different form in communities throughout the country as a result of varying opportunities, governmental structure, leadership, stakeholders and funding sources. Entities involved in providing marketing, visitor services and acting as liaisons between visitors and local accommodation service providers in Los Alamos include:

1. Los Alamos County: Tourism marketing support is funded through the Economic Development Fund and the Lodgers’ Tax Revenue fund. The County contracts services for visitor centers operations and tourism marketing services. The table below provides a description of the existing tourism contracts held by the County.

CURRENT COUNTY TOURISM CONTRACTS

COUNTY CONTRACT	SCOPE OF SERVICES	PRODUCTS	CONTRACTOR	FUNDING SOURCE
Visitor Center Operations and Management Services	Staff and volunteers assisting guests within a 50-mile radius in creating a positive experience in the Los Alamos area through website content, phone and face-to-face orientation, visitor guide/materials distribution, and welcome bags for large groups.	Visitor centers staff, volunteers, displays, materials and restrooms; Visitlosalamos.org; Group welcome services; Pet sitting	LACDC dba Discover Los Alamos Meeting & Visitor Bureau	EDF, LTR*
Tourism Marketing Services	Marketing experts using advertising, PR and social media via traditional and digital platforms to attract target visitors outside a 50-mile radius, including NMTD’s marketing opportunities.	Destination awareness through: print, broadcast, digital ad placements and campaigns; Earned media placements through: media releases and strategic media distribution; Facebook posts/contest-campaigns; Visitor conversion opportunities through destination prize packages and visitor guide requests.	Griffin and Associates (Albuquerque)	EDF, LTR
MainStreet Services (see description on p. 41)	Provide implementation, programming, coordination and management services for the MainStreet program in an effort to provide business development and downtown revitalization on a community at the grassroots level.	Coordination of County directed programs, projects and special events, including funding and logistics. Programs and events include: ScienceFest, community events (Halloweekend, WinterFest, etc.), Farmers Market, Creative District events.	LACDC dba Los Alamos MainStreet, LLC	EDF
Brand Implementation Consulting	Branding experts	Los Alamos Brand Action Plan Implementation	HK Advertising/The Idea Group of Santa Fe	EDF
Brand Execution	Los Alamos County operational costs for brand execution	Examples: promotional items, brochures, giveaways for events, advertising, etc.	LAC/EDD	EDF

*EDF = Los Alamos County Economic Development Fund, LTR = Los Alamos County Lodgers’ Tax Revenues

2. Los Alamos Commerce and Development Corporation (LACDC): A private, not-for-profit 501(c)6 organization established in 1983, the LACDC operates a variety of programs and provides services that are intended to promote economic vitality in Los Alamos including:
- Los Alamos Chamber of Commerce: membership program of the LACDC
 - Discover Los Alamos Meeting & Visitor Bureau: LACDC, through a contract with Los Alamos County, provides operational support to the Los Alamos and White Rock Visitor Centers
 - Los Alamos MainStreet District Program
 - Los Alamos Creative District
 - Property Operation and Real Estate Portfolio (LA Research Park and the Small Business Center, along with others)
 - Los Alamos Business Assistance Services/ Project Y

3. Tourism attractions and service providers: In Los Alamos, the National Park Service and the County are the primary providers of places and services that attract visitors. This group also includes Pajarito Recreation (operator of Pajarito Mountain Ski Area), LANL (operator of Bradbury Science Museum), Los Alamos Historical Society (operator of the Los Alamos History Museum campus), PEEC (operator of the Nature Center), Bathtub Row Brewing Co-Op and Santa Fe National Forest. State government/industry partnerships are listed in the table below.

DESIRED OUTCOME

Improved efficiency and quality of delivery of visitor services. Expanded funding sources and investments based on potential for economic return. Determination of whether new institutions or collaborations are needed.

STATE GOVERNMENT/INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

ORGANIZATION	SCOPE OF SERVICES	PRODUCTS
New Mexico Tourism Department	County Marketing Specialist serves as 1 of 7 board directors representing destinations and businesses in New Mexico's North Central Region, participating in cooperative marketing campaigns and events to attract international travelers to the North Central Region; Works with Griffin and Associates in partnership with LACDC's Marketing Communications Office to pursue NMTD grants to fund complementary media buys, events and programs; Participates in NMTD marketing, education and advocacy events, serving as a designated New Mexico True Destination for press conferences and Tourism Commission meetings for the Governor and Tourism Secretary.	National reach and awareness through NMTD extended media buys and events; Recognition by state government and tourism industry leaders as high-value destination.
New Mexico Hospitality Association	County marketing specialist is an association member and destination champion, participating in all tourism and hospitality events; Regularly submit and win Top Hospitality and Tourism (HAT) Awards for tourism professionals, programs and materials.	Recognition by state government and tourism industry leaders as high-value destination; Recognized by state tourism industry professionals for tourism professionals, materials and programs.

TOURISM MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE OPTIONS

TOURISM MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Focusing on tourism as an important economic driver is relatively new for Los Alamos. As a result, it currently lacks an effective institutional framework that can lead tourism development, represent diverse community interests and consolidate currently disjointed efforts. An integrated management structure can lead the implementation of the Tourism Strategic Plan and proactively pursue the type of visitors that benefit the community.

Communities that are partially or entirely tourism-dependent utilize a wide variety of institutional structures to deliver tourism marketing, facilities and services. These are frequently based on state, county, and city and/or other local influences and factors related to the types of funding used, specific management and staff systems, and the support the organization is able to garner from its members and constituents.

There are many ways to structure tourism marketing, facilities and services. The three most appropriate for consideration include: maintaining the current structure, forming a new entity, or creating a County Tourism Manager position.

OPTION 1: MAINTAIN CURRENT STRUCTURE

Los Alamos County employs one full-time staff member and parts of several other employee staff time to tourism efforts. The majority of the tourism-related responsibilities are contracted to third parties. Modifications to RFPs and contract agreements could result in minor improvements, as has been explored in previous contract updates. However, the lack of leadership and control will continue to be a weakness in driving tourism development most effectively for Los Alamos. The challenges of restrained County input and oversight, cross-partner coordination, and value and responsiveness in the delivery of services creates a less than optimal situation and outcome.

Tourism marketing and activities currently get done through multiple entities such as the Economic Development Division, Community Services Department and the County Managers Office, as well as several contractors. In combination, these structural elements tend to create a weaker foundation from which to address tourism development and promotion in a world of rapidly changing market conditions, where responsiveness can distinguish winners from losers in the game of market share. Keeping tourism marketing and delivery as is is not recommended.

OPTION 2: FORM A NEW ENTITY

One type of institutional structure often utilized to transfer responsibility outside of a municipal or County government, is a new association or quasi-public entity for tourism and hospitality services. This formation is typically the result of the need to represent diverse interests, such as resort associations, hospitality industry, local businesses and public land managers, that collectively experience high volumes of visitation and regional scale. This entity's primary purpose/business should be tourism development and have no other significant revenue from other business interests.

Currently, the tourism sector is not of a scale that would create a successful new entity. For example, more hotels and business who are dedicated to tourism development is required. Therefore, a new entity is not recommended for Los Alamos at this time.

OPTION 2 EXAMPLE

The North Lake Tahoe Resort Association (NLTRA) is a 501(c)(4) non profit public benefit corporation, established under the laws of the State of California and registered to do business in the State of Nevada. The NLTRA's adopted mission is to promote tourism and benefit business through efforts that enhance the economic, environmental, recreational and cultural climate of the area.

The NLTRA is an association of related and coordinated services provided to their members and the community at large. These services include operation of the North Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce and the Tahoe North Visitors and Convention Bureau. The NLTRA has an agreement for services with Placer County. Through this agreement, the NLTRA receives Placer County Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) funds to provide a full spectrum of management activities for tourism marketing and visitor services for businesses of the North Lake Tahoe area.

The NLTRA also serves as a partner with Placer County and other local organizations and agencies in the development and funding of infrastructure, transportation and strategic planning projects designed to enhance tourism and community quality of life for the benefit of all in the North Lake Tahoe region. To guide its work, the NLTRA has developed and adopted the North Lake Tahoe Tourism and Community Investment Master Plan (June 2004) which has also been adopted by the Placer County Board of Supervisors.

OPTION 3: CREATE COUNTY TOURISM DIVISION + MANAGER POSITION

None of the current County Departments or Divisions, such as Economic Development, Community Services or Communications and Public Relations, has a mission and focus to effectively drive the demands and needs of tourism and visitor services. A more centralized decision-making and accountability structure is necessary to effectively address the strategies to be implemented pursuant to this Tourism Strategic Plan. Creation of a County Tourism Division with a Tourism Manager within the County Manager Office (CMO), reporting directly to the County Manager, will centralize decision-making with respect to tourism issues. As required to implement tourism initiatives, the County will need to allocate existing resources, personnel and contracted services under the direction of the County Tourism Manager. [Note: This model currently exists. The Economic Development Division and the Communication and Public Relations Division are part of the CMO.]

Implementation of this Tourism Strategic Plan will also necessitate, initially and over time, a review of the sufficiency and efficiency of marketing, sales, social media, visitor services and facilities management, including oversight of all tourism related contract services. Consolidation of decision-making, with related resource allocation, will allow for better cost analysis and accountability for tourism related costs and provide a more streamlined implementation process for adoption of strategic directions. The Office of the County Manager will be able to provide comprehensive tourism budgeting, planning and goal achievement information to the Council. Finally, it is contemplated, as discussed in Goal 4.2, that some form of the Tourism Work Group be reconstituted as a Tourism Implementation Task Force to ensure continued citizen input and advice on tourism related issues.

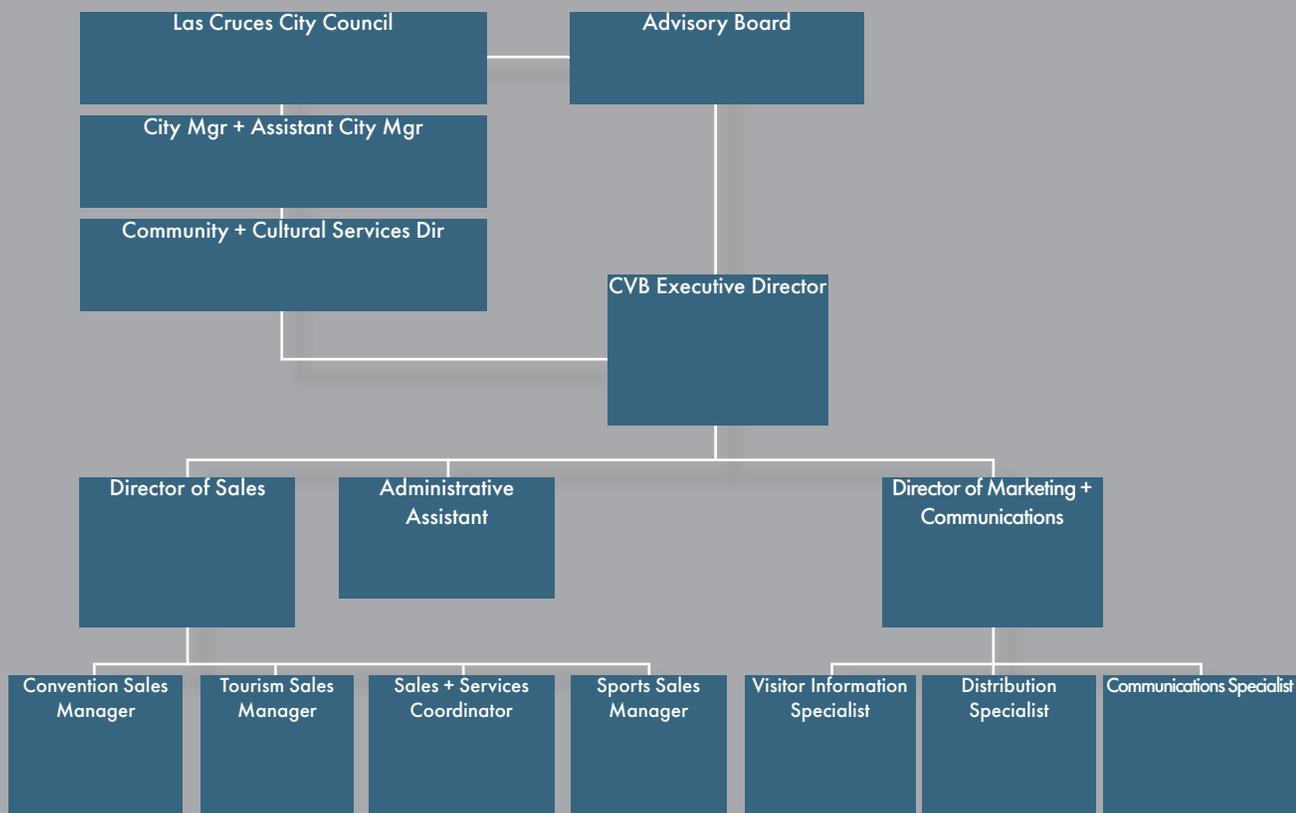
The consolidation of tourism decision-making and direction of tourism related resources in a County Tourism Manager position, will, in the short run, expedite consolidated and cost-effective leadership for implementation of this Tourism Strategic Plan. The function of Option 3 is to provide the County with effective and flexible options, while still providing the leadership necessary for successful implementation.

OPTION 3 EXAMPLE

The Las Cruces Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB), established by the City of Las Cruces in 1986, is the official tourism marketing department for the City of Las Cruces. The CVB serves as a catalyst for the area's hospitality industry, working in concert to build a year-round destination that offers a quality experience to all visitors as well as sustainable economic and social growth for the local community. Toward this end, the CVB plays a leading role in defining and branding Las Cruces as a desirable destination, offering a variety of activities, attractions and events now and in the future.

The CVB works nationally and internationally to enhance travel and tourism to Las Cruces and the immediate surrounding area. Five full-time sales staff members work to target the meetings and conventions, sports, and group travel markets in Arizona, Texas and New Mexico with research-driven marketing programs touting sports, arts and culture, food-based opportunities and year-round sunny weather. The CVB also partners with local attractions and industry partners to develop initiatives that strengthen the travel and tourism market within the city.

VISIT LAS CRUCES CVB ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Visit Las Cruces CVB 2015-16 Annual Report; 2016-17 Marketing Plan;
www.las-cruces-media.org/pdf/2016-17_Annual_Report-WEB.pdf

GOAL 4.1 CULTIVATE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS TO ENSURE OPERATIONAL SUCCESS

AT A LOCAL LEVEL, INVEST TIME AND FUNDING IN RELATIONSHIPS THAT SERVE TOURISM GOALS

- Continue to partner with National Park Service superintendents and staff. (NT)
- Continue to partner with local contractors, including PEEC, the Los Alamos Historical Society and the Los Alamos Arts Council, all of which contribute significant private funding to attract visitors to Los Alamos. (NT)
- Expand efforts with LANL to benefit the community, including improvements to LANL guest experiences prior to their arrival in Los Alamos, and the engagement of LANL employees in special events. (NT, MT)
- Continue to work with major landowners on redevelopment plans. (NT, MT)
- Improve approval, permitting, resources and assistance to community groups and event organizers. (MT)
- Engage outfitters and tour operators in opportunities to promote their services to visitors. (NT, MT)

COLLABORATE WITH REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO PROMOTE TOURISM AND IMPROVE VISITOR OFFERINGS

- Expand specific strategies and action plans to increase partnerships with regional economic development entities, such as Santa Fe, Taos, Albuquerque, Angel Fire, Red River and Pueblos, to grow visits to Los Alamos. (NT, MT)
- Explore ways to partner and collaborate with Northern Rio Grande Heritage Area to enhance visitor experience and education of entire region. (MT)

REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY EXAMPLE: ALBUQUERQUE, NM

Albuquerque's Metropolitan Redevelopment Agency is responsible for infill development in established Metropolitan Redevelopment Areas (MRAs), and in accordance with the centers and corridors approach to development outlined in the *Comprehensive Plan* and the City of Albuquerque's goals.

The centers and corridors concept provides a rational framework for the efficient allocation of public and private resources, concentrating on land uses for greater efficiency, stability, image, diversity and control. MRAs, centers and corridors are the areas where problems caused by lack of investment and deterioration have created the need for special intervention on the part of the City.

This is an example of a New Mexico Redevelopment Agency. It is a good precedent for Los Alamos County to follow, providing additional tools to reduce blight through redevelopment, should the County choose to create a redevelopment agency.

- Continue to participate in the New Mexico Hospitality Association. (NT)
- Explore opportunities to promote Pajarito Mountain through Ski New Mexico. (NT, MT)
- Participate in Northern New Mexico Air Alliance. (NT, MT)
- Continue to participate in and implement the results of the Stronger Economies Together (SET) Strategic Plan for the Mid Central Rural Corridor, involving Sandoval and Bernalillo counties. Develop and coordinate regional tourism opportunities through this planning effort. (NT, MT)
- Continue to participate in the State of New Mexico Tourism Department’s marketing, promotion, programs and activities. (NT, MT, LT)

GOAL 4.2 SUPPORT THE EFFICIENT IMPLEMENTATION OF TOURISM EFFORTS BY MODIFYING INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES

CREATE A COUNTY TOURISM MANAGER POSITION AND DESIGNATE OR REALLOCATE STAFFING TO SUPPORT CURRENT CONTRACT WORK IN-HOUSE

- Reallocate staff efforts for tourism to a new County Tourism Manager under the County Manager’s Office. (NT)
- Create tourism marketing, communication, and event support position(s) to support the County Tourism Manager to reallocate current contract efforts to a more centralized and responsive position. A transition period of 12-24 months to initiate this change should include structuring of new contracts accordingly. (NT, MT)
- Create a Tourism Implementation Task Force to advise the new County Tourism Manager and County Council. The membership of this Task Force will tie representation to economic interests and allow for wide participation of the tourism industry. Transition a subset of the Tourism Working Group to fulfill this role. (NT, MT)

COUNTY TOURISM MANAGER ROLES + RESPONSIBILITIES

COUNTY TOURISM MANAGER

- Lead and oversee implementation of the Tourism Strategic Plan
- Visitor Facilities/Destination Development (i.e., visitor facilities, transportation, economic development, redevelopment activities)
- County visitor facility management and operation
- Grant and funding sources lead
- Legislative affairs
- Contractor management
- Be responsible for marketing and visitor services:
- Tourism marketing/promotion (graphic design, web support, content creation, strategy, branding implementation):
 - Visitor activities program and special events (e.g., MainStreet program coordination including ScienceFest, recreation events)
 - Attractions and merchants coordination
 - Visitor contact/information facilitation
 - Visitor center operations/staffing contracting
 - Research and performance measurement

- Issue RFPs written to address the Tourism Strategic Plan action items identified for contract support (e.g., visitor survey, Wayfinding Plan Implementation Phases 1A and 1B). (NT, MT)

REDIRECT FUNDING SOURCES AND GRANT SEEKING EFFORTS TO THE NEW INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

- Transition budget oversight of Lodgers' Tax revenue and a portion of the Economic Development Funding to County Tourism Division in the context of the Tourism Strategic Plan. (NT, MT)
- Include measurable performance criteria but allow the County Tourism Manager and the Tourism Implementation Task Force to determine investment decisions and recommend annual budgets. (NT, MT)
- Lead the pursuit of grants, such as New Mexico Tourism, to coordinate partner efforts. (NT)

SUPPORT CENTRALIZED VISITOR CONTACT

- With improvements to the White Rock Visitor Center and relocation of the Los Alamos Visitor Center, new locational opportunities to better support centralized visitor contact are provided. County Tourism Staff and/or contracted visitor information services would be housed in this new Los Alamos Visitor Center location. (MT, LT)

MODIFY OR CREATE POLICIES AND GOVERNING AGENCIES TO IMPLEMENT THE TOURISM STRATEGIC TACTICS

- Explore the creation of a Redevelopment Agency to implement redevelopment and beautification efforts. (MT)

GOAL 4.3 SECURE AND OPTIMIZE PUBLIC + PRIVATE FUNDING BASED ON STRATEGIC CRITERIA

TIE BUDGETS AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO GOALS THAT CAN BE QUANTITATIVELY MEASURED.

- Collect visitor data through a periodic survey to measure performance and help calibrate marketing efforts and visitor services. (NT, MT)
- Improve methods of collecting visitor information at attractions, hotels and from merchants. (MT)
- Require data collection of marketing outreach efforts with analysis of return on marketing dollars spent. (NT, MT)
- Prioritize investment opportunities that offer the most value to residents and local businesses. (NT, MT, LT)
- Include an ROI (return on investment) calculation in making investment decisions for tourism projects. (NT, MT, LT)

GROW FUNDING FOR TOURISM EFFORTS FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES

- Generate more Lodgers' Tax revenue through the development of additional lodging accommodations. (MT, LT)
- Adopt ordinance for Airbnb and VRBO rentals to include in Lodgers' Tax assessments. (NT)
- Continue to secure New Mexico Tourism grants and seek additional state economic development grants. (NT, MT, LT)
- Continue to advocate for funding of New Mexico Main Street Capital Outlay Grant program. Identify qualifying projects and partners for grant opportunities when they become available. (NT, MT, LT)



Streetscape improvements and crosswalk branding installation in downtown Los Alamos at 15th Street + Central Avenue





4. RECOMMENDED IMPLEMENTATION ACTION PLAN

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The top priorities of the Strategic Tourism Plan to begin addressing immediately are:

- Increasing lodging supply
- Modifying institutional structure
- Making marketing efforts more effective
- Enhancing guest experiences
- Improving community quality for residents, businesses and LANL

The focus areas and goals presented in Chapter 3 provide definition and a long-term view of how these priorities fit together. The tactics from Chapter 3 have been filtered through these five priorities in order to provide a more strategic approach in the Action Plan.

Considerations for the implementation of these Strategic Priorities include:

LODGING

Increasing lodging will have the greatest impact on capturing more visitor spending. Los Alamos County has a role in attracting and facilitating the creation of lodging from a private sector developer. Creating new hotel properties can be a lengthy process from soliciting developer interest, preparing the land for development, gaining development approvals to final construction. Los Alamos should target full-service and boutique categories to fill current gaps in lodging accommodations. Selection of locations and careful planning of the infrastructure and connections to visitor attractions will also determine the long-term success of new accommodations.

INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

Operating under the same institutional structure will continue to have the same results as the current weaknesses in leadership, coordination, communication and strategic direction. This chapter identifies the near-term actions needed to modify the current structure by creating a County Tourism Division. The transition time should be 12–24 months and new contracts moving forward should be structured accordingly. As the Los Alamos tourism business sector grows, institutional structure can be converted to an entity outside of County government.

MARKETING

Marketing tools and audiences rapidly change, requiring adaption of methods and directing a new strategic approach. The Action Plan identifies near-term actions needed to revise current marketing efforts. Continued evaluation of marketing effectiveness and expansion in tourism offerings will create the need for updating strategy and actions.

GUEST EXPERIENCES



The Action Plan identifies some of the short term, relatively easy things to improve guest experiences. Initial planning stages are recommended to begin immediately for capital improvement projects, such as relocation of the Los Alamos Visitor Center, that will require a longer time investment to fully implement.

COMMUNITY QUALITY



This Tourism Strategic Plan, the 2016 Los Alamos Comprehensive Plan and the County Council Strategic Goals all align to improve the community and the quality of life for people who live and work here. Implementing this Action Plan will benefit residents and businesses with more dining and retail, beautification of downtowns, improved and well maintained trail system, increased visitor-generated revenue for businesses and County budget, and other investments made in the community that residents and visitors will appreciate.

RECOMMENDED IMPLEMENTATION ACTION PLAN

This is a Strategic Plan. As such, it is comprehensive in defining goals, tactics and the actions recommended to achieve desired outcomes. While this Recommended Implementation Action Plan includes actions relating to the proposed areas of focus and strategic priorities, it is subject to change. In addition, all actions requiring funding will need to be approved by the County Manager and County Council.

The following Implementation Action Plan provides near-term action items (0–3 years) the County can begin to implement immediately, organized according to the four focus areas presented in Chapter 3 and the Strategic Priorities on the facing page.

The Action Plan tables include:

- Description of actions
- Responsible parties and partners
- Relative costs
- Potential funding sources
- Implementation timing

Following the Action Plan, performance measures are recommended for tracking the outcomes of implementing the plan. Recommendations for metrics, and how they can be collected and reported, are also included. This chapter concludes with Next Steps that provides prioritized actions requiring time and those requiring funding.

ACTION PLAN TABLES KEY

The acronyms below are used in the following Actions tables under Responsible Parties + Partners and Funding Sources:

ACT = Atomic City Transit

CIP Fund = Capital Improvement Projects Fund

EDF = Los Alamos County Economic Development Fund

LAC = Los Alamos County

LACDC = Los Alamos Commerce & Development Corporation

LAHS = Los Alamos Historical Society

LAMS = Los Alamos Main Street

LANL = Los Alamos National Laboratory

LTR = Los Alamos County Lodgers' Tax Revenues

NMTD = New Mexico Tourism Department

NPS = National Park Service

TWG = Tourism Work Group

TBD = To Be Determined



GOAL 1.1: FOCUS ON OUR MARKETING EFFORTS TO REFLECT OUR COMMUNITY TO TARGETED VISITORS

ACTION ITEM	RESPONSIBLE PARTY + PARTNERS	RELATIVE COST	FUNDING SOURCE	TIMING	STRATEGIC PRIORITIES
Meet with NPS Superintendents to develop marketing strategies and coordinate efforts.	LAC, NPS, marketing contractor	Staff time	—	Quarterly	 
Fund and implement the Los Alamos Brand Action Plan. Implementation includes infusing the brandline: "where discoveries are made" into marketing efforts.	LAC, brand implementation contractor	\$50,000	EDF	2018	 
Commission the creation of a promotional video to showcase "where discoveries are made" including: outdoor recreation, history, and science activities and events in Los Alamos.	LAC, media contractor	\$30,000	LTR	2019	 
Create a targeted marketing plan for attracting science enthusiasts to Los Alamos.	Marketing contractor or LAC	\$10,000	LTR	2020	 
Implement or contract work to improve the function and appeal of the visitlosalamos.org website and social media platforms.	Marketing contractor or LAC	\$20,000	LTR	2019	 
Improve Los Alamos' presence within New Mexico True online opportunities by providing content and requested changes.	Marketing contractor or LAC	Staff time	—	2018	
Implement New Mexico True branding and marketing opportunities and develop content to provide to the New Mexico Department of Tourism.	Marketing contractor or LAC	Staff time or contract	—	2019-2021	
Designate an "Atomic Trail" route and planned itinerary (starting at 109 East Palace in Santa Fe and terminating at Fuller Lodge, passing through other Los Alamos historic sites) to include on the New Mexico True website. Develop maps, imagery and descriptions to be used in marketing efforts. Refer to other NM trails in marketing packages	LAC, TWG, LAHS, NMT, marketing contractor	\$10,000	LTR	2019	 
Ensure good visibility with participation in Northern New Mexico Air Alliance.	LAC	\$50,000	EDF	2018	

ACTION ITEM	RESPONSIBLE PARTY + PARTNERS	RELATIVE COST	FUNDING SOURCE	TIMING	STRATEGIC PRIORITIES
Contact regional and national tour operators and travel agencies currently active in New Mexico to coordinate services to Los Alamos.	LAC or marketing contractor	Staff time	—	Quarterly	 
Ongoing contact with Santa Fe, Albuquerque and other regional hotel concierges.	LAC or marketing contractor	Staff time	—	Quarterly	 
Contact Heritage Hotel and Resorts, or similar boutique hotel family of properties, to create marketing partnership, encouraging day trips from their properties to Los Alamos area attractions.	LAC	Staff time	—	Quarterly	  
Encourage participation in Brand Action Plan Visitor Journey A2D training and provide promotional information at attractions and local businesses.	LAC, brand implementation contractor, hospitality industry	Included above	—	2018	 
Develop multi-day, themed packages for visitors to simplify their trip and combine discounts.	LAC or marketing contractor, hospitality and service industry	Staff time	—	2018	 
Change the focus of marketing material creation from print to online. Inventory all marketing and promotional collateral to ensure consistent look and message.	LAC or marketing contractor	Staff time	—	2018	 
Coordinate with attractions and shuttle bus services to show Los Alamos promotional videos.	LAC or marketing contractor, attractions	Staff time	—	2019	 
Market a “hotel packet” provided to hotels that includes a printed brochure/map of Los Alamos shopping and dining options.	Marketing contractor or LAC, Brand Action Plan Implementation	\$10,000	LTR or EDF	2019 with Quarterly Updates	 



GOAL 1.2: ENHANCE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION BY PROVIDING AN EASY TO NAVIGATE + WELCOMING SETTING

ACTION ITEM	RESPONSIBLE PARTY + PARTNERS	RELATIVE COST	FUNDING SOURCE	TIMING	STRATEGIC PRIORITIES
Determine a better location for the Los Alamos Visitor Center by evaluating the potential for sites to be utilized, and develop a conceptual design and management for the development or building renovation.	LAC	\$50,000	EDF	2019	
Relocate the Los Alamos Visitor Center to a place better associated with visitor arrival and attractions. Develop construction/renovation and interior design plans and complete construction.	LAC	\$500,000 - \$2,000,000	CIP Fund	2020	
Modernize the White Rock Visitor Center displays to be more interactive and experiential.	LAC	\$100,000	General Fund	2020	
Provide additional restrooms and vendor space at the White Rock Visitor Center, along with picnic and outdoor play facilities. Sell refreshments and logo/souvenir items.	LAC	\$50,000	CIP Fund	2019	
Implement Fuller Lodge interpretation plan to enhance visitor experience.	LAC, LAHS	TBD	Possible grants	2018	
Expand Fuller Lodge hours and provide a clear point of contact for information to better meet visitor needs.	LAC	\$15,000	General Fund	2019	
Create an agreement to include the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory National Historic Landmark District into the official boundaries of MPNHP.	LAC, NPS	Staff time	—	2018	
Share transit information with visitors and coordinate transfer at the White Rock Visitor Center from the Bandelier shuttle to Los Alamos bus services.	LAC, ACT, NPS	Staff time	—	2018	
Increase capacity of the Bandelier shuttle to handle demand.	ACT, NPS	\$250,000	Federal Grants	2020	
Explore the feasibility of, and grant opportunities for, expansion of Atomic City Transit service to provide weekend service.	LAC, ACT	Staff time	—	2019	

ACTION ITEM	RESPONSIBLE PARTY + PARTNERS	RELATIVE COST	FUNDING SOURCE	TIMING	STRATEGIC PRIORITIES
Improve bus connectivity and extend trips from the three National Parks to downtown Los Alamos, White Rock and nearby outdoor recreation areas.	LAC, NPS	\$50,000	EDF	2020	 
Fund and implement Wayfinding Plan Phase 1A for improved signage and visitor navigation.	LAC	\$225,800	General Fund	2018 - 2019	 
Fund and implement Wayfinding Plan Phase 1B.	LAC	\$105,000	General Fund	2020 - 2021	 
Create a walking tour app for downtown Los Alamos.	LAC	\$250,000	LTR	2019	
Improve visitor maps to highlight trails that best serve visitors, and provide connections to attractions and add information about the trails app.	LAC or marketing contractor	\$10,000	LTR	2019	
Provide a letter to NM DOT encouraging the paving completion of NM Highway 126 as part of the Jemez Mountain Trail National Scenic Byway.	LAC	Staff time	—	2018	 



GOAL 2.1: IMPROVE LODGING + HOSPITALITY INFRASTRUCTURE, PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

ACTION ITEM	RESPONSIBLE PARTY + PARTNERS	RELATIVE COST	FUNDING SOURCE	TIMING	STRATEGIC PRIORITIES
Continue to identify desirable locations for future lodging development and promote these to encourage full-service lodging and boutique hotels to select Los Alamos.	LAC	Staff time	—	2018	
Continue to explore hotel development incentive options such as land donations, infrastructure investments, tax abatement and/or favorable financing to attract a developer to construct a full-service hotel in downtown Los Alamos.	LAC	Staff time	—	2018	
Prepare and coordinate design of a development package for each site to promote development opportunities, infrastructure and design expectations.	LAC	\$5,000	EDF	2019	
Identify parcels for new RV parks in both Los Alamos and White Rock. Issue an RFP for an operator(s). Identify and facilitate a business to invest, develop and manage a new, high-quality, full-service RV Park for anticipated increase in tourism.	LAC, development and management partner	\$2,000	—	2019	
Encourage UNM-LA to provide a Hospitality Institute with degree program, certificate and seminars.	UNM-LA	Staff time	—	2018	



GOAL 2.2: ENHANCE MULTI-DAY EVENTS TO ENCOURAGE OVERNIGHT VISITATION

ACTION ITEM	RESPONSIBLE PARTY + PARTNERS	RELATIVE COST	FUNDING SOURCE	TIMING	STRATEGIC PRIORITIES
Create an event fund and marketing support opportunities so event organizers can apply for grant assistance through an application process.	LAC, LA MainStreet Program	\$50,000	LTR	2020	
Enhance ScienceFest by better defining its purpose, desired outcome and niche in attracting visitors.	Visitor services, LAC, LANL, LAMS, LACDC	Staff time	—	2018	
Work with operator of Pajarito Mountain Ski Area (PMSA) to develop opportunities to expand year-round, on-mountain activities.	PMSA, LAC	Staff time	—	Ongoing	
Support and create events that last for longer periods of time, like “trail festivals”, with a variety of events.	LAC, event providers, marketing	\$100,000	LTR	2020	
Assist endurance organization(s) with event hosting by providing marketing support with special event funding application.	LAC, partnerships	Staff time	LTR	Ongoing	
Explore opportunities to incentivize developing a multi-use event space that supports 300 people and accommodates meetings, community events and destination event space.	LAC, LACDC, private partnerships	\$20,000	EDF	2020	



GOAL 3.1: INVEST IN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS THAT BENEFIT BOTH LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS + VISITORS

ACTION ITEM	RESPONSIBLE PARTY + PARTNERS	RELATIVE COST	FUNDING SOURCE	TIMING	STRATEGIC PRIORITIES
<p>Implement County plans for extensions, upgrades, and maintenance of existing and new trails that benefit visitors and local community members of all activity skill levels. Increase funding and staff to address all trail maintenance and improvement deficiencies.</p>	LAC	TBD	TBD	Ongoing	 
<p>Make improvements to Overlook Park, including facilities needed to host tournaments.</p>	LAC	\$100,000	CIP Fund	2019	 



GOAL 3.2: MAKE DOWNTOWN LOS ALAMOS + WHITE ROCK AESTHETICALLY PLEASING AND WELCOMING TO VISITORS

ACTION ITEM	RESPONSIBLE PARTY + PARTNERS	RELATIVE COST	FUNDING SOURCE	TIMING	STRATEGIC PRIORITIES
Ensure adherence to the Los Alamos County Downtown and Mixed-Use District Development Standards. Provide greater guidance and requirements for pedestrian environments, connectivity, streetscapes and landscaping.	LAC, Urban design consultant	\$75,000	General Fund	2019	 
Reduce blight in the downtown districts through targeted and responsive commercial property maintenance and implementation of the County's Code Enforcement Program.	LAC	Staff time	—	Ongoing	 
Referencing the 2012 Los Alamos Downtown Sidewalk + Streetscape Assessment report, improve the appearance and function of Trinity Drive by participating with NMDOT in a streetscape improvement project. Maintain a connection between Trinity Drive to the Canyon Rim Trail.	LAC, NMDOT, design consultant	\$75,000	NMDOT and General Fund	2019	 
Continue to implement the MainStreet and Creative District events that draw visitors and provide additional activities that encourage extended stays. Continue to partner with local businesses and incentivize their participation in the MainStreet and Creative District.	LAC, MainStreet Program	\$50,000	State Grants and EDF	Ongoing	  



GOAL 4.1: CULTIVATE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS TO ENSURE OPERATIONAL SUCCESS

ACTION ITEM	RESPONSIBLE PARTY + PARTNERS	RELATIVE COST	FUNDING SOURCE	TIMING	STRATEGIC PRIORITIES
Expand efforts with LANL to partner more with community and visitor activities, events and services.	LAC, LANL	Staff time	—	Quarterly	  
Improve approval, permitting, resources and assistance to community groups and organizers for events.	LAC, events management	Staff time	—	2019	  
Expand specific strategies and action plans to increase partnerships with regional economic development entities (e.g., Santa Fe, Taos, Albuquerque, Angel Fire, Red River, Pueblos) to grow visits to Los Alamos.	LAC, and regional partners	Staff time	—	2018	  
Explore ways to partner and collaborate with the Northern Rio Grande Heritage Area (NRGHA) to enhance visitor experience and education of entire region.	LAC, NPS, NRGHA	Staff time	—	2018	  
Continue to participate in and implement the results of the Stronger Economies Together (SET) Strategic Plan for the Mid Central Rural Corridor, involving Sandoval and Bernalillo counties. Develop and coordinate regional tourism opportunities through this planning effort.	LAC, SET partnerships	Staff time	State Grant	Ongoing	  
Continue to participate in the State of New Mexico True Tourism marketing, promotion, programs and activities.	LAC, NMTD	Staff time	State Grant	Ongoing	 



GOAL 4.2: MODIFY INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES TO SUPPORT THE EFFICIENT IMPLEMENTATION OF TOURISM EFFORTS

ACTION ITEM	RESPONSIBLE PARTY + PARTNERS	RELATIVE COST	FUNDING SOURCE	TIMING	STRATEGIC PRIORITIES
Explore the creation of a Redevelopment Agency to implement redevelopment and beautification efforts.	LAC	Staff time	—	2019	
Transition to County Tourism Division, hire County Tourism Manager, structure new tourism contracts accordingly.	LAC	Staff time	—	2018–2019	
Transition the Tourism Work Group to form a Tourism Implementation Task Force.	LAC, TWG	Staff time	—	2018-2019	

REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY EXAMPLE: PLACER COUNTY, CA

The Placer County Board of Supervisors created a Redevelopment Agency to develop and manage community improvement projects relating to economic development and infrastructure improvements in its project areas – in this case Tahoe City, Kings Beach, and Tahoe Vista. In addition, the agency has county wide responsibilities for the Workforce Housing Program.

In order to maximize benefits to the community, the agency has worked with the downtown business community (its targeted area to develop projects and programs specifically to improve long-term economic conditions). The resultant strategic plans and expenditures have been approved by the agency board of directors.

The Resort Association is an association of businesses from a much broader geographic and business base. It also encompasses the downtown areas that are the primary focus of the Redevelopment Agency. It has membership income as well as Transit Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenue allocated to it by both the Board of Supervisors and North Lake Tahoe Tourism and Community Investment Master Plan. Its charter includes an infrastructure element that, although broader than the agency’s area of responsibility, has a significant area of correlation.

As a result, the Redevelopment Agency and the Resort Association are natural partners on economic development and infrastructure projects that positively affect the downtown areas of Tahoe City, Kings Beach and Tahoe Vista.



GOAL 4.3: SECURE AND OPTIMIZE PUBLIC + PRIVATE FUNDING BASED ON STRATEGIC CRITERIA

ACTION ITEM	RESPONSIBLE PARTY + PARTNERS	RELATIVE COST	FUNDING SOURCE	TIMING	STRATEGIC PRIORITIES
Contract the creation of a visitor intercept interview survey instrument and methodology.	LAC, survey consultant	\$50,000	LTR	2018	  
Conduct visitor intercept interview surveys at local attractions to measure performance and help calibrate marketing efforts and visitor services.	LAC, volunteers (NPS friends groups) or survey consultant, attraction contractors	\$20,000	LTR	Biannual	 
Develop an agreement with attractions, hotels, merchants and event organizers for the collection of visitor information. Visitor data may be collected through electronic questionnaires, kiosks, online purchase records, or registration records. Standardize reporting methods.	LAC, key attractions, hotels, event organizers	\$50,000	LTR	2018	  
Analyze and report visitor data to provide return on investment information.	LAC or survey consultant	Staff time	—	Biannual	  
Develop capital improvement budgets for tourism projects, prioritizing investments that provide the most value to residents and local businesses. Include ROI calculations.	LAC	Staff time	—	Annual	  
Adopt ordinance for Airbnb and VRBO rentals to include in Lodgers' Tax assessments.	LAC, Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board	Staff time	—	2018	 
Monitor and advocate for funding of NMTD. Continue to apply for New Mexico Tourism grants and seek additional state economic development grants.	LAC and partners	Staff time	—	Biannual	   
Continue to monitor and advocate for funding of New Mexico Main Street Capital Outlay Grant program. Identify qualifying projects and partners for grant opportunities when they become available.	LAC, LA Main Street	Staff time	—	Biannual	  

INFORMATION COLLECTED IN VISITOR PROFILE + SATISFACTION SURVEYS

Methods for data collection of visitor characteristics and satisfaction levels involve conducting surveys to obtain responses through intercept interviews and kiosks located in key visitor locations. Because visitation often varies for communities seasonally, conducting a survey for more than one period a year is advised.

The types of information typically collected in these surveys include the following:

- Demographic Characteristics: age, gender, income, household status, country and zip-code of origin.
- Trip Characteristics: duration (overnight, seasonal resident, day visitor), accommodations, travel companions and party, repeat visitation, and transportation method.
- Trip Activities and Events: purpose of visit, activities participate in, attractions visited and special events.
- Expenditures: expenditures by type, total spending per destination.
- Information: sources used to gather information about the area, information that influenced visitation decision.
- Satisfaction with Experience: satisfaction ratings (friendliness of people, vacation value, amenities/ things to do, customer service, accommodations, restaurants), additions desired, preference attributes.

AIRBNB LODGING TAX

In 2017, Airbnb started collecting hotel occupancy tax in jurisdictions that require that tax to be collected for short-term accommodations. The tax is now a line item that guests see on their reservations, just like an ordinary hotel bill.

Previously, hosts were required to collect and remit the tax to the local jurisdiction. Los Alamos should ensure, and revise if necessary, that it is clear in the ordinance that created the Lodgers' Tax, that it applies to rentals such as Airbnb and VRBO.

Some communities with large visitor populations and hundreds of Airbnb properties, such as Avon, Colorado, have created new ordinances that designate which areas or neighborhoods that this type of short term rental is permitted and areas not allowed.





5. NEXT STEPS



FULLER LODGE
ART CENTER & GIFT SHOP
HISTORICAL MUSEUM & BOOKSTORE

Fuller Lodge



PRIORITY ACTION ITEMS

The actions in Chapter 4 range from simple to complex. Some are more important than others. This plan recognizes that Los Alamos County is preparing a maintenance-type budget, which is flat to the Adopted FY2018 budget, until the Los Alamos National Laboratory Management and Operation contract is completed and uncertainties concerning future revenue are eliminated.

Prioritizing actions, which can be started immediately after plan acceptance, serve as catalysts to create a positive momentum of accomplishments. Top priority items from the comprehensive list of actions delineated in Chapter 4 should:

1. Work toward achieving one or more Strategic Priorities.
2. Make a positive impact on improving the visitor experience and community quality of life.
3. Work toward increasing overnight visitation.

The most important actions that require staff time and those that require direct costs or capital improvements are listed on the following pages and should be the initial focus during plan implementation.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES KEY



Increasing lodging supply



Modifying institutional structure



Making marketing efforts more effective



Enhancing guest experiences



Improving community quality for residents, businesses and LANL



TOP TEN PRIORITY ACTION ITEMS REQUIRING STAFF TIME	STRATEGIC PRIORITIES
1. Form and activate Tourism Implementation Task Force.	
2. Transition to County Tourism Division with a County Tourism Manager, as part of the County Manager's office.	
3. Adopt ordinance for Airbnb and VRBO rentals to include in Lodgers' Tax assessments.	
4. Continue to improve Los Alamos' presence with New Mexico True including additional content for online presence, creating an "Atomic Trail" as an addition to their other five trails, and utilize support and grants offered by New Mexico Tourism Department.	
5. Explore the feasibility of, and grant opportunities for, expansion of Atomic City Transit service to provide weekend service (for Downtown Trolley).	
6. Aggressively continue to explore hotel development incentive options, identify desirable locations for future lodging development (particularly full-service hotel), prepare hotel investor/developer pitch package, create targeted list, and meet with potential developers/operators.	
7. Contact regional and national tour operator and travel agencies currently active in New Mexico to coordinate services and trips to Los Alamos. Focus on tour group itineraries with overnight stays in Los Alamos.	
8. Reduce blight in the downtown districts through targeted and responsive commercial property maintenance and implementation of the County's Code Enforcement Program.	
9. Expand specific strategies and actions to increase partnerships with regional economic development entities (e.g., Santa Fe, Taos, Angel Fire, the Pueblos) to grow visits to Los Alamos.	
10. Improve approval, permitting, resources and assistance to community groups and organizers for events.	



TOP TEN PRIORITY ACTION ITEMS REQUIRING DIRECT INVESTMENT/EXPENSES	STRATEGIC PRIORITIES
1. Improve the appeal, function and content of the visitosalamos.org website and social media platforms.	 
2. Fund and implement the Los Alamos Brand Action Plan.	  
3. Fund and implement Wayfinding Plan Phase 1 directional and informational signage to improve visitor navigation.	 
4. Implement Fuller Lodge interpretation plan to enhance visitor experience. Expand hours Fuller Lodge is staffed to meet guest needs.	 
5. Improve visitor centers' experience and effectiveness. At White Rock Visitor Center, create interactive and experiential displays at improve aesthetics, and provide conveniences visitors expect (i.e., beverages, snacks, sunscreen).	  
6. Relocate Los Alamos Visitor Center and furnish with interactive and engaging information dissemination.	 
7. Continue to implement the MainStreet and Creative District events that draw visitors and provide additional activities that encourage extended stays.	  
8. Support and create multi-day events, like "trail festivals", with marketing support and potential funding assistance.	  
9. Implement County plans for extensions, upgrades, maintenance and new trails that benefit visitor and residents. Increase funding and staffing to address trail maintenance and improvements.	 
10. Collect visitor data through agreement with attractions, hotels, merchants and event organizers. Analyze visitor information and its influence on future decision-making regarding visitor marketing, services and facilities.	  

COMMUNITY INDICATORS

Developing a suite of indicators to monitor goals, implementation progress, and impacts relating to tourism development will be beneficial for Los Alamos. A monitoring program tracks progress, informs decision-making and ensures accountability toward goals.

Key sources of information that should be used to compile the monitoring and reporting results include data from: Los Alamos County (multiple departments); Discover Los Alamos Meeting & Visitor Bureau; Los Alamos Community Perception Survey; local utility providers; New Mexico Department of Transportation; and other sources. The County's Environmental Sustainability Plan (ESP) dictates tracking and updating measurements every two years for nine sustainability indicators. This ESP, and updates, will provide an avenue for consideration and incorporation of additional indicators of environmental impacts and sustainability related to increased tourism.

The Tourism Strategic Plan recommends that Community Performance Indicators initially be implemented to monitor two areas:

- Enhancing the Visitor Experience
- Enriching Community Life

Enhancing the Visitor Experience:

- Visitor satisfaction
- Visitor attendance at visitor centers and key attractions
- Number of room nights

Enriching Community Life:

- Quality of life
- Overall resident satisfaction
- Satisfaction with recreation opportunities, facilities and trails
- Effectiveness of environmental sustainability program
- Quality of services
- Sense of safety

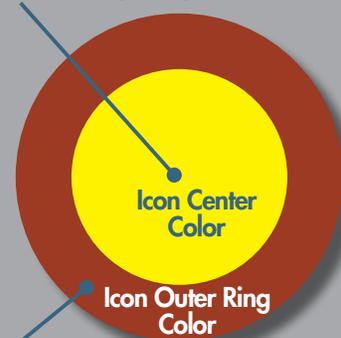
The addition of Community Performance Indicators would help augment current tracking of visitor numbers, spending and Lodgers' Tax receipts. As monitoring becomes more systematic, the County may want to consider performance indicators in additional areas, such as ensuring economic vitality, partnering for success and additional environmental metrics.

TRACKING PERFORMANCE INDICATORS EXAMPLE: RESORT MUNICIPALITY OF WHISTLER, BC CANADA

Community performance indicators, based on guiding priorities, provide measurement of, and guidance for various Whistler initiatives. Whistler communicates performance indicators on their website as demonstrated in the graphic below. The center color shows the indicator activity, while the outside ring measures performance relative to the targets. Tracking progress toward or away from the vision, allows the community to celebrate and build on successes and course correct when necessary.

STATISTICAL TREND LEGEND

- Desired direction
- Undesired direction
- No change, or statistically insignificant change



PERFORMANCE RELATIVE TO TARGET LEVEL

- Satisfied with current level of performance
- Not satisfied with current level of performance
- Desired target level unknown

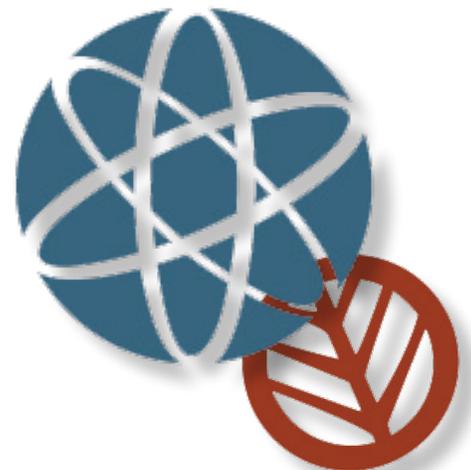
PERFORMANCE EXAMPLE

- Parks & Trails
- Village Ambiance & Atmosphere
- Impact of Events & Festivals

IN SUMMARY

Tourism as an economic driver has many positive impacts to a community. Los Alamos has historically been heavily dependent on LANL as its economic driver. Through implementation of a strategic plan, Los Alamos has the opportunity to significantly diversify its economic base through tourism. A tourism economy needs to be carefully planned and the impacts of tourism growth carefully managed.

- All visitor related activities being done by Los Alamos County should be re-evaluated with these Focus Areas and Strategic Priorities in mind.
- Visitors generate sales and hotel tax (in New Mexico, gross receipts and Lodgers' Tax).
- Visitors support local businesses, especially retail stores and restaurants. In many towns, the local, permanent population is not large enough to sustain good restaurants and a variety of retail stores.
- A sustainable tourism economy is one that supports the long-term interests of the local community and visitors.
- When tourism grows haphazardly, the community may not be equipped to deal with population growth, change in land use patterns and demand on infrastructure (i.e., water, sewer, roadways).
- While tourism is not intended to be a significant economic driver in Los Alamos, the support and maximization of the tourism industry will enhance the quality of life for the local community by making available amenities that may not otherwise be available in a town of this size.



Bayo Canyon
Photographer: Vint Miller



Goal	Top Action/Priority	Action Item	Responsible Party + Partners	Relative Cost	Funding Source	Timing	Status	Reasoning
1.1		Meet with NPS Superintendents to develop marketing strategies and coordinate efforts.	LAC, NPS, marketing contractor	Staff time	--	Quarterly	Continuous	County staff have ongoing dialogue with the NPS and how we can help support their tourism efforts through articles, highlighting events, etc.
1.1	x	Fund and implement the Los Alamos Brand Action Plan. Implementation includes infusing the brandline: "where discoveries are made" into marketing efforts.	LAC, brand implementation contractor	\$50,000	EDF	2018	Completed	The Brand Identity Style Guide was created and is still being used. It is currently on Version 7, last updated in 2019.
1.1		Commission the creation of a promotional video to showcase "where discoveries are made" including: outdoor recreation, history, and science activities and events in Los Alamos.	LAC, media contractor	\$30,000	LTR	2019	Continuous	Multiple promotional videos have been made over the years. These 15 videos can be found at https://www.youtube.com/@visitosalamos80 and https://www.youtube.com/@losalamoscountynmeconomicdev . With the 2025 NMTrue Grant, we will be making another video highlighting our outdoor recreation, history, and science activities. As a part of the NMTrue CoOp Grant in 2025 we will be creating another video.
1.1		Create a targeted marketing plan for attracting science enthusiasts to Los Alamos.	Marketing contractor or LAC	\$20,000	LTR	2020	Completed	This targeted plan included highlighting "Science is our Culture" in some of our promotional videos. Additionally, this included getting new video and photo assets to match. In addition, we have also highlighted science-focused attractions, such as the Bradbury Science Museum, Valles Caldera National Preserve, and Los Alamos Nature Center in our social media marketing and press releases. In addition, the "Oppenheimer" movie also helped put us more on the map with our science history.
1.1	x	Implement or contract work to improve the function and appeal of the visitosalamos.org website and social media platforms.	Marketing contractor or LAC	Staff time	LTR	2019	Completed	The website redesign went live in June 2024. Social media is continuously evolving but we are active on Facebook and Instagram, making plans each month for social media posts and utilizing stories.
1.1	x	Improve Los Alamos' presence within New Mexico True online opportunities by providing content and requested changes.	Marketing contractor or LAC	Staff time or contract	--	2018	Completed	Throughout the years, this has involved working with NMTrue to create articles and keep them up to date. Some of this is included with the grant package, while during the pandemic articles were created to help spread the word about tourism across the state. NMTrue works directly with Los Alamos County in efforts to promote tourism and ensure our list of events and businesses is up to date.
1.1	x	Implement New Mexico True branding and marketing opportunities and develop content to provide to the New Mexico Department of Tourism.	Marketing contractor or LAC	Staff time or contract	--	2019-2021	Continuous	Los Alamos County began participating in the NMTrue Partnership starting in 2019. This partnership continues to be active with yearly CoOp grants and other marketing and tourism initiatives.
1.1	x	Designate an "Atomic Trail" route and planned itinerary (starting at 109 East Palace in Santa Fe and terminating at Fuller Lodge, passing through other Los Alamos historic sites) to include on the New Mexico True website. Develop maps, imagery and descriptions to be used in marketing efforts. Refer to other NM trails in marketing packages	LAC, TWG, LAHS, NMT, marketing contractor	\$10,000	LTR	2019	Inactive	In a 2022 update to Council from the Tourism Implementation Task Force, it was noted that NMTD developed a New Mexico Science and Technology Trail, which includes museums and other experiences throughout the state, including Los Alamos' science-focused and Manhattan Project assets. It was noted in 2022 the Economic Development Division proposed to convene the asset/attraction members of the NM Science and Technology Trail at 2023 ScienceFest and work with the New Mexico Tourism Department to promote the trail. EDD also proposed to work with LACDC and other partners to promote the Atomic City Spy Tour and collaborate with partners in Santa Fe and Albuquerque to expand it to a statewide trail. In 2023 the Atomic City Spy Tour brochure was sunsetted, due to the materials being out of date, not maintained, and no longer available by LACDC. In 2023 the Atomic City Spy Tour was updated by Leslie Bucklin to become the Atomic Cities Spies resource brochure as an asset around the Oppenheimer movie release as a part of Project Oppenheimer. In addition, the History Museum offered an Espionage Tour to visitors for a time, but it is no longer offered.
1.1		Ensure good visibility with participation in Northern New Mexico Air Alliance.	LAC	\$50,000	EDF	2018	Inactive	As a part of this we were promoting Los Alamos through visual marketing in the airport and shared marketing on social media. These efforts were active approximately 2019-2020, as it was determined there were no longer deliverables that made the partnership viable.
1.1	x	Contact regional and national tour operators and travel agencies currently active in New Mexico to coordinate services to Los Alamos.	LAC or marketing contractor	Staff time	--	Quarterly	Continuous	This effort has been ongoing. Previously this task was incorporated into the scope of the County's contract with LACDC for Visitor Center Operations & Management, under "Event & Group Marketing" services. This is now a webpage that is often updated for what locations and options people have for catering in the community. Los Alamos County last met with regional guides in Spring 2025 and have reached out to some national operators with ideas of routes. We are currently waiting for the New Mexico Tourism Department to provide complete list of tour providers.
1.1		Ongoing contact with Santa Fe, Albuquerque and other regional hotel concierges.	LAC or marketing contractor	Staff time	--	Quarterly	Continuous	Discover Los Alamos sends out weekly emails as well as a weekend email to highlight events happening in the community each week. As of January 2025, there was an estimated 300+ people on the email distribution list. In addition, a distributor contract Discover Los Alamos has distributes Adventure Guides to these locations in the region.
1.1		Contact Heritage Hotel and Resorts, or similar boutique hotel family of properties, to create marketing partnership, encouraging day trips from their properties to Los Alamos area attractions.	LAC	Staff time	--	Quarterly	Inactive	Discussions were had with hotels in Santa Fe about creating a specific tour related to Atomic City history for a day trip. However, this never came to fruition. Barriers are unknown.
1.1		Encourage participation in Brand Action Plan Visitor Journey A2D training and provide promotional information at attractions and local businesses.	LAC, brand implementation contractor, hospitality industry	Included above	--	2018	Continuous	While we no longer use the A2D program, Discover Los Alamos' Ambassador Program continues to support these efforts. This program is a free training community members, businesses, and nonprofits can take advantage of to help better highlight our community.
1.1		Develop multi-day, themed packages for visitors to simplify their trip and combine discounts.	LAC or marketing contractor, hospitality and service industry	Staff time	--	2018	Continuous	The History & Science Brochure was created and distributed from 2020 - 2022. It was determined this brochure was unpopular, so it stopped being published. The Homestead Brochure was also created in 2020 and was pulled from distribution in 2024 due to being unpopular. We are working to update the interpretive signage for the Homesteaders, as the current signage was taken down due to aging. The Oppenheimer Film Tour was released as a part of Project Oppenheimer and continues to be published due to its popularity. We also offer highlights of what to do based on topic or number of days at https://www.visitosalamos.org/Plan-Your-Visit . We are currently exploring any discounts hotels might be able to offer larger groups of visitors, such as senior centers, etc.
1.1		Change the focus of marketing material creation from print to online. Inventory all marketing and promotional collateral to ensure consistent look and message.	LAC or marketing contractor	Staff time	--	2018	Continuous	In 2020, the Los Alamos County Visitor Materials were updated to be a full suite of materials. The items were fully distributed in 2021 due to COVID-19. In 2023, the suite of items was a finalist for a New Mexico TopHAT Award. We now have over 22 kiosks in Los Alamos County and distribute Adventure Guides across the state and region. In 2025, all brochures have been reviewed and updated to ensure relevance and accuracy to help strengthen the support of local businesses. In addition, we also started expanding distribution of the Seasonal Activity Guides regionally to interested locations in 2024 in addition to offering it at booth events like Balloon Fiesta and the New Mexico State Fair. Aside from continuously reviewing what materials move the most, our brochures are also available at visitosalamos.org .

1.1		Coordinate with attractions and shuttle bus services to show Los Alamos promotional videos.	LAC or marketing contractor, attractions	Staff time	--	2019	Continuous	In 2017 the County started running promotional videos on the Bandelier Buses and the Downtown Circular. This continued until approximately 2020, when the software and hardware required to run the videos became old and antiquated. The County Manager's Office is currently pursuing updated hardware and software to connect this to our existing digital signs and add this to four buses in 2025.
1.1		Market a "hotel packet" provided to hotels that includes a printed brochure/map of Los Alamos shopping and dining options.	Marketing contractor or LAC, Brand Action Plan Implementation	\$10,000	LTR or EDF	2019 with Quarterly Updates	Continuous	Through the help of Discover Los Alamos, we created a one page information sheet on dining hours. This is in addition to kiosks at our larger hotels in the County. For smaller bed and breakfasts, we work with them to determine what items from our suite they are interested in having for guests.
1.2		Determine a better location for the Los Alamos Visitor Center by evaluating the potential for sites to be utilized, and develop a conceptual design and management for the development or building renovation.	LAC	\$50,000	CIP Fund	2019	In Progress	The Tourism Implementation Task Force developed criteria to evaluate potential new Visitor Center Locations. More than 20 different locations were identified as possible locations and using criteria five locations were visited and scored. The Task Force recommended to Council the relocation of the Visitor Center to the Community Building. The Los Alamos Visitor Center moved to the Community Building on April 17, 2019. Consideration for a more permanent location is on hold until the Manhattan Project Era Dormitory renovation and relocation of the MAPR-LA Visitor Center is complete.
1.2	x	Relocate the Los Alamos Visitor Center to a place better associated with visitor arrival and attractions. Develop construction/renovation and interior design plans and complete construction.	LAC	\$500,000-\$2,000,000	General Fund	2020	In Progress	The Tourism Implementation Task Force developed criteria to evaluate potential new Visitor Center Locations. More than 20 different locations were identified as possible locations and using criteria five locations were visited and scored. The Task Force recommended to Council the relocation of the Visitor Center to the Community Building. The Los Alamos Visitor Center moved to the Community Building on April 17, 2019. Consideration for a more permanent location is on hold until the Manhattan Project Era Dormitory renovation and relocation of the MAPR-LA Visitor Center is complete.
1.2	x	Modernize the White Rock Visitor Center displays to be more interactive and experiential.	LAC	\$100,000	General Fund	2020	Completed	A refresh was completed to the White Rock Visitor Center in Spring 2024. This included updating the interpretive panels, photographic and informational displays, décor, facility signage, regional information, and space organization.
1.2	x	Provide additional restrooms and vendor space at the White Rock Visitor Center, along with picnic and outdoor play facilities. Sell refreshments and logo/souvenir items.	LAC	\$50,000	CIP Fund	2019	In Progress	Completed Phase 1 of the project with restrooms in 2025. Phase 2 with food truck pads is anticipated to begin in 2026. The County has not added an outdoor play facility or started selling items at the location.
1.2	x	Implement Fuller Lodge interpretation plan to enhance visitor experience.	LAC, LAHS	TBD	Possible Grants	2018	Continuous	Since the completion of the Fuller Lodge Interpretive Plan, the Los Alamos Historical Society worked with the County and MainStreet to fund and produce the following interpretive exhibits: Free-Standing Interpretive Signs, Hotel Room Exhibit, and Oppenheimer Film Production Assets in the Pajarito Room and Ante room. A digital sign was added to the lobby for promotion information about the community, including a walk-through video of the lodge. The Plan is under review to determine any outstanding tasks.
1.2		Expand Fuller Lodge hours and provide a clear point of contact for information to better meet visitor needs.	LAC	\$15,000	General Fund	2019	Completed	Fuller Lodge began opening seven days a week aside from County holidays in approximately 2023. In addition, staff are on-site and available during open hours. During weekends, the hours of staff members are limited.
1.2		Create an agreement to include the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory National Historic Landmark District into the official boundaries of MPNHP.	LAC, NPS	Staff time	--	2018	Continuous	As a "Partnership Park," discussions have been had with NPS regional staff and the superintendent of the park. This likely will be reassessed upon the updating of the Manhattan Project Era Dormitory.
1.2		Share transit information with visitors and coordinate transfer at the White Rock Visitor Center from the Bandelier shuttle to Los Alamos bus services.	LAC, ACT, NPS	Staff time	--	2018	Continuous	A pilot project for weekend bus service between the White Rock Visitor Center and downtown Los Alamos was approved to begin in summer 2020, but due to COVID-19, this did not happen. Due to TSA imposing capacity constraints on public transportation nationwide, this reduced service and the ability to sustain an additional route. In summer 2021, TSA lifted capacity constraints in July, but it was too late in the season to hire and train employees to provide Bandelier Shuttle Services. Since the weekend service was tied to Bandelier Shuttle service, it too was suspended. ACT renewed a five-year cooperative agreement with Bandelier to provide Bandelier Shuttle services, 7 days a week, from mid-May to mid-October, as staffing allowed beginning in spring 2022. The agreement continued through summer 2024 with operations running only from the White Rock Visitor Center to Bandelier due to staffing. In 2025, the service was changed due to the needs of the National Park Service. Due to their limited staffing at Bandelier, it was determined the contract with ACT would only be for buses within Bandelier. As of 2025, the closest running shuttle to the White Rock Visitor Center is near Fire Station #3.
1.2		Increase capacity of the Bandelier shuttle to handle demand.	ACT, NPS	\$250,000	Federal Grants	2020	Continuous	Bandelier has a long-standing issue with limited parking and visitor access to Frijoles Canyon, which was first formally identified in 1977. During the Park's busy season, visitors would often experience long waits for a parking space in the canyon. When parking spaces filled up in Frijoles Canyon, entrance station staff would stop cars from entering the Park until parking spaces became available. During these times, long lines of traffic would form at the Park's entrance station and sometimes backup onto NM4. Traffic and parking conditions were exasperated from impacts from two wildfires in the area-the Cerro Grande and Las Conchas forest fires. Starting June 2012 through October 2016, NPS and Bandelier engaged in a partnership with the County, via Atomic City Transit, to provide emergency visitor shuttle service from White Rock to Frijoles Canyon. Based on results of the 2012-2016 Bandelier shuttle program, and in consideration of long-standing parking and traffic concerns for Bandelier, the Park engaged in a transportation workshop in July of 2015 to consider options for long-term visitor access into Frijoles Canyon and to the Park. Through this workshop, and a subsequent Environmental Analysis, a shuttle service from White Rock to Frijoles Canyon through a partnership with the County, was approved by the Chief Financial Officer and Associate Director, Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands of the National Park Service on March 22, 2016. In 2025 due to changes in funding from the National Park Service, the shuttle service was changed to only be offered from within the park through an agreement with NPS and Los Alamos County.
1.2	x	Explore the feasibility of, and grant opportunities for, expansion of Atomic City Transit service to provide weekend service.	LAC, ACT	Staff time	--	2019	Continuous	A pilot project for weekend bus service between the White Rock Visitor Center and downtown Los Alamos was approved to begin in summer 2020, but due to COVID-19, this did not happen. Due to TSA imposing capacity constraints on public transportation nationwide, this reduced service and the ability to sustain an additional route. In summer 2021, TSA lifted capacity constraints in July, but it was too late in the season to hire and train employees to provide Bandelier Shuttle Services. Since the weekend service was tied to Bandelier Shuttle service, it too was suspended. ACT renewed a five-year cooperative agreement with Bandelier to provide Bandelier Shuttle services, 7 days a week, from mid-May to mid-October, as staffing allowed beginning in spring 2022. The agreement continued through summer 2024 with operations running only from the White Rock Visitor Center to Bandelier due to staffing. In 2025, the service was changed due to the needs of the National Park Service. Due to their limited staffing at Bandelier, it was determined the contract with ACT would only be for buses within Bandelier. As of 2025, the closest running shuttle to the White Rock Visitor Center is near Fire Station #3.

1.2		Improve bus connectivity and extend trips from the three National Parks to downtown Los Alamos, White Rock and nearby outdoor recreation areas.	LAC, NPS	\$50,000	EDF	2020	In Progress	In 2024 there were conversations based on a study Bandelier National Monument did with how we could better connect shuttle services throughout the county to help with the visitor experience. As of 2025, the study is still ongoing.
1.2	x	Fund and implement Wayfinding Plan Phase 1A for improved signage and visitor navigation.	LAC	\$225,800	General Fund	2018-2019	In Progress	All signs that were a part of Phase 1 should be posted by the end of Summer 2025. The signs are being installed by Los Alamos County Public Works.
1.2		Fund and implement Wayfinding Plan Phase 1B.	LAC	\$105,000	General Fund	2020-2021	In Progress	As of June 2025, we are working on determining a new kiosk design. In addition, we are looking at what parts of this might be able to be furnished in house vs. utilizing an outside vendor.
1.2		Create a walking tour app for downtown Los Alamos.	LAC	\$250,000	LTR	2019	In Progress	This is continuing to be explored. The County has had multiple conversations with other communities to see how they have used this and how effective the app was. This currently is on pause as we are trying to determine a potential audio component that might be added to the Los Alamos History Museum to ensure ADA compliance, as this could be a multipurpose effort with the County Manager's Office and Economic Development Division.
1.2		Improve visitor maps to highlight trails that best serve visitors, and provide connections to attractions and add information about the trails app.	LAC or marketing contractor	\$10,000	LTR	2019	Completed & Continuous	Themed maps for biking, hiking, historically significant, and family friendly trails throughout Los Alamos County were created in 2018 and 2019. These pamphlets continue to be used and are updated as needed. Large trailhead maps were completed and hung at all trailheads in 2023. The parks division is currently exploring updating their maps and brochures to improve visibility, ADA compliance, and industry best practices.
1.2		Provide a letter to NM DOT encouraging the paving completion of NM Highway 126 as part of the Jemez Mountain Trail National Scenic Byway.	LAC	Staff time	--	2018	Pending	This initiative has not yet been responded to due to prioritization of other projects within Los Alamos County.
2.1		Continue to identify desirable locations for future lodging development and promote these to encourage full-service lodging and boutique hotels to select Los Alamos.	LAC	Staff time	--	2018	Continuous	The Tourism Implementation Task Force submitted a letter to council recommending approval of a land grant to facilitate in the development of a conference center co-located with a full-service hotel under the Marriott brand, with a restaurant at the corner of 20th and Trinity. In 2022, the developer, TNJLA LLC notified the County that they weren't able to secure a financial guarantee for the project per the terms and deadlines set out in the County ordinance and associated sales agreement. On August 9, 2022, County Council Approved Ordinance NO. 718 to terminate the Economic Development Project for Public Support of TNJLA to construct the Marriott and conference center. In addition, after the owner of Pajarito Mountain Ski Area purchased the former Hilltop House in 2015 and the property sat vacant. In 2021, it was deemed a "menace to public comfort, health, peace and safety" and in violation of firecode. The owner was ordered to demolish and remove all materials from the property. In September 2021, per a "clean and lien" action, the County procured and executed the demolition and clean-up of the Hilltop House property before initiating legal action to collect reimbursement of the associated costs from the owner. This was completed. On April 17, 2024, the property was sold to Grand Mesa Partners 400 LLC and Town House Rental. In January 2025, the Planning and Zoning Commission approved the site plan for the "Guest House Hotel," which is owned by Grand Mesa Partners 400 LLC & Town House Rental. The County continues to explore all options that will result in the development of another hotel or hotel and conference center, however many of the available site are privately owned.
2.1	x	Continue to explore hotel development incentive options such as land donations, infrastructure investments, tax abatement and/or favorable financing to attract a developer to construct a full-service hotel in downtown Los Alamos.	LAC	Staff time	--	2018	In Progress	Los Alamos County has actively created and leveraged available programs to support the development of a full-service hotel downtown and additional infrastructure. Efforts include evaluating opportunities through the Local Economic Development Act (LEDA) and Retail LEDA programs, as well as creating Metropolitan Redevelopment Areas (MRAs). These programs provide options such as infrastructure improvements, gap financing, and public-private partnership support to make downtown investment more feasible and encourage hospitality projects that strengthen the local economy and visitor experience.
2.1		Prepare and coordinate design of a development package for each site to promote development opportunities, infrastructure and design expectations.	LAC	\$5,000	EDF	2019	Inactive	Previously, the Tourism Implementation Task Force submitted a letter to council recommending approval of a land grant to facilitate in the development of a conference center co-located with a full-service hotel under the Marriott brand, with a restaurant at the corner of 20th and Trinity. In 2022, the developer, TNJLA LLC notified the County that they weren't able to secure a financial guarantee for the project per the terms and deadlines set out in the County ordinance and associated sales agreement. On August 9, 2022, County Council Approved Los Alamos Code Ordinance NO. 718 to terminate the Economic Development Project for Public Support of TNJLA to construct the Marriott and conference center. This area is currently being considered for development for rental housing. However, as of 2025, new extended stay hotel rooms are included in the former Hilltop House Site, "The Guest House". Two other privately owned properties in the townsite downtown area are options for those looking to build a hotel in Los Alamos. LEDA and MRA for properties within the districts can also be considered for public incentives to develop additional hotel rooms.
2.1		Identify parcels for new RV parks in both Los Alamos and White Rock. Issue an RFP for an operator(s). Identify and facilitate a business to invest, develop and manage a new, high-quality, full-service RV Park for anticipated increase in tourism.	LAC, development and management partner	\$2,000	--	2019	In Progress	CMO, CDD, and CSD are actively looking at additional locations for RV parks, including service upgrades and improvements at Camp May. The County is also exploring the potential for working with park developer-operators, and a RFP/RFPQ will be issued when opportunities are identified.
2.1		Encourage UNM-LA to provide a Hospitality Institute with degree program, certificate and seminars.	UNM-LA	Staff time	--	2018	Pending	This initiative has not yet been responded to due to prioritization of other programs at UNM-LA related to fire programs, coding, etc.
2.2		Create an event fund and marketing support opportunities so event organizers can apply for grant assistance through an application process.	LAC, LA MainStreet Program	\$50,000	LTR	2020	Continuous	Prior to COVID-19, money was allocated for small project grants of up to \$1,000 to an event organizer in the Los Alamos MainStreet District. The County's budgeted \$10,000 per contract year for grants. This was done through an application and award process. In the latest contract with Los Alamos MainStreet, the County Attorney determined this support might be in violation of the anti-donation clause and therefore the program is no longer funded. While this funding is no longer in the Los Alamos MainStreet contract, Los Alamos MainStreet and LACDC continue to support initiatives throughout the district through partnerships and sponsorships.
2.2		Enhance ScienceFest by better defining its purpose, desired outcome and niche in attracting visitors.	Visitor services, LAC, LANL, LAMS, LACDC	Staff time	--	2018	Continuous	Post-pandemic the event pivoted to offer more events for every audience, not just children. This included a Co-Op Grant through New Mexico True to help impact more statewide visitation along with Discovery After Dark for adults. It was determined that while this event can be marketed throughout the state, we are more focused on locals and daytrippers for ScienceFest. Each year this event continues to evolve to help highlight and expand our reach of STEAM participants and growing the economic impact from the event. Communications are ongoing about a statewide initiative to better link the national laboratories to regional communities.

2.2		Work with operator of Pajarito Mountain Ski Area (PMSA) to develop opportunities to expand year-round, on-mountain activities.	PMSA, LAC	Staff time	--	Ongoing	Continuous	We continue to work with General Manager Jason Bellomy to discuss ways to help increase visitation to Pajarito Mountain. The Jemez Mountain Fire Protection Project has begun which will allow for snow making on the mountain during the winter months. In addition, the mountain offers lift-assisted mountain biking and hiking opportunities throughout the summer months.
2.2	x	Support and create events that last for longer periods of time, like "trail festivals", with a variety of events.	LAC, event providers, marketing	\$100,000	LTR	2020	Continuous	The County held discussions about a several potential events, but the infrastructure for camping and the availability of hotel rooms is not great enough to support many of these potential events. However, the New Mexico NICA biking event has been held on Pajarito Mountain in recent years.
2.2		Assist endurance organization(s) with event hosting by providing marketing support with special event funding application.	LAC, partnerships	Staff time	LTR	Ongoing	Inactive	Nonprofits and special groups, including endurance organizations focused on running, cycling sports, etc., who can't support an event can often get their fees waived by Los Alamos County. This is usually related to closing streets, clean up, etc. Should GRT be increased, this concept is something LIAB could take on.
2.2		Explore opportunities to incentivize developing a multi-use event space that supports 300 people and accommodates meetings, community events and destination event space.	LAC, LACDC, private partnerships	\$20,000	EDF	2020	In Progress	In 2022, TNJLA LLC planned for the development of a hotel and conference center at the corner of 20th and Trinity, TNJLA LLC notified the County that they weren't able to secure a financial guarantee for the project per the terms and deadlines set out in the County Property Sale and Development Agreement (PSDA). On August 9, 2022, County Council Approved Ordinance NO. 718 to terminate the Economic Development Project for Public Support with TNJLA. However, the SALA Event Center has since opened and can host 100-200 person events in Los Alamos County.
3.1	0	Implement County plans for extensions, upgrades, and maintenance of existing and new trails that benefit visitors and local community members of all activity skill levels. Increase funding and staff to address all trail maintenance and improvement deficiencies.	LAC	TBD	TBD	Ongoing	In Progress	The County has completed ADA accessible trails like Kinnickinick and the Urban Trail. Bayo Canyon Equestrian Access was also completed through the Outdoor Recreation Plus Grant. Three staff positions were added to Trails and Open Space. An ADA audit and transition plan was created and completed in 2023 for all trailheads. The County is currently compiling all trail plans into a single Trails & Open Space Management Plan, with the draft currently out for review and public comment (July 2025).
3.1		Make improvements to Overlook Park, including facilities needed to host tournaments.	LAC	\$100,000	CIP Fund	2019	In Progress	Field renovations were completed for Hope Softball Field and Dara Jones Soccer Field. Spirio Soccer Field renovations are currently underway, which will make this facility better suited for events. As of end of July 2025 the artificial turf study is almost complete, which includes what the future might be in order to host sports tournaments at Overlook Park and North Mesa.
3.2		Ensure adherence to the Los Alamos County Downtown and Mixed-Use District Development Standards. Provide greater guidance and requirements for pedestrian environments, connectivity, streetscapes and landscaping.	LAC, Urban design consultant	\$75,000	General Fund	2019	Completed	The County considers this project completed with updates to the Chapter 16 downtown zoning standards and implementation of Metropolitan Redevelopment Areas. The County also anticipates starting an update to the County's Comprehensive Plan beginning in 2026.
3.2	x	Reduce blight in the downtown districts through targeted and responsive commercial property maintenance and implementation of the County's Code Enforcement Program.	LAC	Staff time	--	Ongoing	Continuous	The White Rock MRA was approved in October 2022. In September 2025, the East Downtown Los Alamos MRA was approved by council. These MRA Districts can help reduce blight through additional public and private reinvestment dollars.
3.2		Referencing the 2012 Los Alamos Downtown Sidewalk + Streetscape Assessment report, improve the appearance and function of Trinity Drive by participating with NMDOT in a streetscape improvement project. Maintain a connection between Trinity Drive to the Canyon Rim Trail.	LAC, NMDOT, design consultant	\$75,000	NMDOT and General Fund	2019	In Progress	As of September 2025, two projects are in the late stages of design and are scheduled to be advertised for construction bids in late 2025 for a construction start in 2026. The two projects are the Trinity Drive Safety Improvements Project from Knecht Street to Oppenheimer Drive, and the Canyon Rim Trail Extension, Phase 3A from Knecht Street to 15th Street, located on the south side of Trinity Drive. Both projects will enhance pedestrian and bicycle connectivity within the Los Alamos Downtown business district while also linking to the newly constructed Urban Trail north of Trinity Drive at 20th Street.
3.2	x	Continue to implement the MainStreet and Creative District events that draw visitors and provide additional activities that encourage extended stays. Continue to partner with local businesses and incentivize their participation in the MainStreet and Creative District.	LAC, MainStreet Program	\$50,000	State Grants and EDF	Ongoing	Continuous	Los Alamos County continues to work with Los Alamos MainStreet and Creative District to help support events like Halloween, ScienceFest, and WinterFest. These events not only benefit those that live here locally but also encourage people off the hill to come up for our events or the weekend to participate in various activities. ScienceFest added "Discovery After Dark" in 2023. In addition, Los Alamos County has updated their Historic Walking Tour signage that includes the Oppenheimer House and Manhattan Project Era Dormitory. In approximately 2023, Tuesdays at the Pond was moved to "Tuesdays at the Square" to better support the business community. Los Alamos MainStreet and Creative District is also heavily involved in the month of Arts & Humanities to curate a cultural celebration for art and history in our community in conjunction with the County and FLAC. In addition the groups work closely with the Chamber for Small Business Saturday to bring people from the region to the area for promotions. Los Alamos County, LACDC, and Los Alamos MainStreet and Creative District work in tandem with local events and activities to provide gift bags, shopping and dining information, and other community highlights to help grow the business community as events come into the area.
4.1	x	Improve approval, permitting, resources and assistance to community groups and organizers for events.	LAC, events management	Staff time	--	2019	Completed	The Temporary Use Permit and Special Event Permit templates were updated and a checklist was also created for events to help people better understand the process. The process continues to be updated as needed to simplify special event permitting. This effort was done in coordination with the Community Services Department, who also hosts many County events in the community. Multiple workshops were held in 2024 and 2025 to help explain how vendors can participate in these events.
4.1		Continue to participate in the State of New Mexico True Tourism marketing, promotion, programs and activities.	LAC, NMTD	Staff time	State Grant	Ongoing	Continuous	In May 2025, Los Alamos County accepted a FY2026 grant through the New Mexico Tourism Department Cooperative Grant program. This 2:1 match allows us to target and market to more of an audience than we would be able to do on our own. The County has worked with New Mexico Tourism Department through their grant program since 2019.
4.1	x	Expand specific strategies and action plans to increase partnerships with regional economic development entities (e.g., Santa Fe, Taos, Albuquerque, Angel Fire, Red River, Pueblos) to grow visits to Los Alamos.	LAC, and regional partners	Staff time	--	2018	Continuous	The County continues working with listed regional partners to have more prominent regional tourism. In addition, the County has partnered with other regional communities on various events to help promote regional tourism. We also distribute our Adventure Guides and Seasonal Activity Guides to these regional communities.
4.1		Expand efforts with LANL to partner more with community and visitor activities, events and services.	LAC, LANL	Staff time	--	Quarterly	Continuous	The Economic Development Division at Los Alamos County continues to meet often with LANL to identify opportunities for collaboration on various initiatives. This includes providing information about events for interns, working to connect potential vendors with LANL, and addressing other needs as they arise.
4.1		Plan for the Mid Central Rural Corridor, involving Sandoval and Bernalillo counties. Develop and coordinate regional tourism opportunities through this planning effort.	LAC, SET partnerships	Staff time	State Grant	Ongoing	Inactive	The SET plan was created and partially implemented. However, SET is no longer an active program.
4.1		Explore ways to partner and collaborate with the Northern Rio Grande Heritage Area (NRGHA) to enhance visitor experience and education of entire region.	LAC, NPS, NRGHA	Staff time	--	2018	Pending	We have continuous conversations with the organization but have not explored more ways to partner in developing cultural resource-based tourism opportunities

4.2	x	Transition to County Tourism Division, hire County Tourism Manager, structure new tourism contracts accordingly.	LAC	Staff time	--	2018-2019	Completed	The TIF researched and brainstormed a job description for the new position. Formal letters were sent from the TIF to Council recommending a County budget option to fund the Tourism Manager position and restructuring of the County Manager's Office to include a Tourism Division. A different path forward was determined by Council. Beginning in January 2022, all tourism activities became a focus of CDD's EDD. An economic development program manager was hired in 2022 to take on local business assistance responsibilities thus allowing the marketing specialist to focus efforts towards tourism management. This continues as of August 2025.
4.2	x	Transition the Tourism Work Group to form a Tourism Implementation Task Force.	LAC, TWG	Staff time	--	2018-2019	Completed	The Tourism Implementation Task Force was an ad hoc committee appointed by Council and was subject to biannual charter renewal. During its existence, the task force served as a subcommittee to LTAB. LTAB is mandated by state statute and County code to advise Council on the expenditure of Lodgers' Tax revenues for the purpose of attracting visitors. The Charter for the task force was revised in 2021 and was active until 2024, when the task force was absorbed back into LTAB.
4.2		Explore the creation of a Redevelopment Agency to implement redevelopment and beautification efforts.	LAC	Staff time	--	2019	Completed	The County has implemented Metropolitan Redevelopment Areas in both White Rock and Los Alamos. At this time, County Council will review and approve requests for MRA incentives.
4.3		Contract the creation of a visitor intercept interview survey instrument and methodology.	LAC, survey consultant	\$50,000	LTR	2018	Completed	In December 2023, a survey was launched and kiosks were installed at both the White Rock and Los Alamos Visitor Centers. The data collected includes information about where a visitor is from, what brought them to the area, and what attractions they plan to visit while in the area. In October 2025, we added an optional question to the survey for people to choose from a range of amounts as to how much they anticipate spending in the County on their visit.
4.3	x	Develop an agreement with attractions, hotels, merchants and event organizers for the collection of visitor information. Visitor data may be collected through electronic questionnaires, kiosks, online purchase records, or registration records. Standardize reporting methods.	LAC, key attractions, hotels, event organizers	\$50,000	LTR	2018	Continuous	The County, through LTAB and the Tourism Implementation Task Force, initiated efforts toward standardized visitor data collection. As of September 2025, the County has contracts with Placer.ai and Datatfy. Currently, visitation numbers for specific attractions are collected for LTAB reporting, though the level of detail of the data varies among visitors. The County plans to explore opportunities to strengthen partnerships with attractions, hotels, merchants, and event organizers to expand and standardize the data collected.
4.3		Monitor and advocate for funding of NMTD. Continue to apply for New Mexico Tourism grants and seek additional state economic development grants.	LAC and partners	Staff time	--	Biannual	Continuous	In May 2025, Los Alamos County accepted a 2026 grant through the New Mexico Tourism Department Cooperative Grant program. This 2:1 match allows us to target and market to a broader audience than we would be able to do on our own. In addition, we have also encouraged our contractors apply for funding for their events in the county. Los Alamos MainStreet received a Coop Grant through NMTrue one year for ScienceFest, but it was determined that the campaign was not successful enough to continue.
4.3	x	Analyze and report visitor data to provide return on investment information.	LAC or survey consultant	Staff time	--	Biannual	Continuous	This effort is being completed by LACDC with monthly reports. In addition, we also currently utilize the program Datatfy through the Tourism Marketing Services Contract. The County also collects data through Placer.ai.
4.3		Develop capital improvement budgets for tourism projects, prioritizing investments that provide the most value to residents and local businesses. Include ROI calculations.	LAC	Staff time	--	Annual	Continuous	Efforts include the White Rock Visitor Center restroom project, the Manhattan Project Era Dormitory, and the Wayfinding project. All of these efforts are still in progress.
4.3		Continue to monitor and advocate for funding of New Mexico Main Street Capital Outlay Grant program. Identify qualifying projects and partners for grant opportunities when they become available.	LAC, LA Main Street	Staff time	--	Biannual	In Progress	In 2025 a meeting was held with the State MainStreet Director to discuss potential Capital Outlay projects. This included discussion and approval of an Arts and Cultural Plan. In addition, there is a list of priorities for additional project(s) that could be considered. It was determined these projects are on hold until other projects currently in the pipeline are completed.
4.3	x	Adopt ordinance for Airbnb and VRBO rentals to include in Lodgers' Tax assessments.	LAC, Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board	Staff time	--	2018	In Progress	In response to letters of recommendation from the Tourism Implementation Task Force and the Lodgers' Tax Advisory Board during the FY22 budget process, CDD submitted a budget option to fund a Short-Term Rental (STR) Study. The initial RFP included both an assessment of Los Alamos' short-term rental market, as well as the financial infrastructure required to collect Lodgers' Tax revenues. Based on feedback during the solicitation process, CDD issued a new RFP without the financial piece which produced multiple proposals. A consultant was awarded the contract and work was expected to begin in fall 2022. As of 2025, the County has not adopted an ordinance regulating STRs.
4.3		Conduct visitor intercept interview surveys at local attractions to measure performance and help calibrate marketing efforts and visitor services.	LAC, volunteers (NPS friends groups) or survey consultant, attraction contractors	\$20,000	LTR	Biannual	Continuous	In 2023, the County added Visitor Center Survey Kiosks for data collection on visitors to provide insights about what their age, where they are from, and brought them to Los Alamos. In 2025, there is not a plan to add more kiosks to individual attractions, as we currently have additional data collecting programs like Datatfy and Placer.ai.



County of Los Alamos

Los Alamos, NM 87544
www.losalamosnm.us

Staff Report

March 17, 2026

Agenda No.:

Index (Council Goals):

Presenters: Ellyn Felton

Legislative File: 21444-26

Title

Lodgers' Tax Revenue Report & FY27 Budget Approval

Recommended Action

I move to approve the proposed budget, with the understanding it may stay stagnant if a reduction is not needed.

Body

The FY27 budget proposal reflects the same program and activities funded in FY26, but with a current proposed 10 percent reduction in funding as requested by the County. At the time of agenda submission, this reduction was included in consideration of broader County budget discussions while still maintaining the core scope of work and tourism promotion efforts supported by the Lodgers' Tax program. However, the budget may maintain the same funding level as the FY26 budget if the County determines that the program should continue operating at its current level without a reduction. The Board's recommendation will be forwarded to County Council for consideration as part of the FY27 budget approval process.

Attachments

A - 202602LodgersTaxFundStatementForOfficialUse

B - Proposed LTAB Budget FY27

COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS
 LODGERS' TAX FUND
 FY 2026 (Year ending Jun 30, 2026)

Updated Mar 10, 2026

	Annual Budget	Year to Date	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Fund balance, beginning of year	A	326,851.42	326,851.42											
Revenues														
Lodgers' tax	[1]	500,000.00	302,330.62	44,316.63	40,084.90	45,268.93	41,993.84	44,028.85	25,088.37	30,696.66	30,852.44			
Lodgers' tax refund			-											
Lodgers' tax penalty			-											
Interest - cash balance	[2]	5,000.00	-											
Interest - delinquent accounts														
	B	505,000.00	302,330.62											
Expenditures	[3]													
Contractual services		479,455.87												
LA Com & Dev Corp			145,100.64	26,463.37	26,463.37	26,463.37	21,903.51		21,903.51	21,903.51				
Griffin & Assoc			31,473.40	9,337.67	6,657.95	7,448.10		8,029.68						
NM Tourism Dept			-											
Hinkle + Landers Auditing			-											
Global Vista Technologies			54,534.43				15,000.00		28,344.42	11,190.01				
IDC-Administration		4,904.00	3,272.00	409.00	409.00	409.00	409.00	409.00	409.00	409.00				
Printing and binding		41,200.00	23,322.70	3,044.90	11,573.47	1,086.26	1,968.00		2,786.58	2,863.49				
Supplies		10,300.00	3,430.80	1,153.00		350.00	26.99		785.86	1,114.95				
Other tools/furn/equip<10,000			-											
Computer Assets			-											
	C	535,859.87	261,133.97											
Fund balance, year to date	A+B-C	295,991.55	368,048.07											
Encumbrances (commitments)			24,502.87											
Contractual services														
LA Com & Dev Corp			294,479.76	294,479.76										
Less payments			(145,100.64)	(26,463.37)	(26,463.37)	(26,463.37)	(21,903.51)		(21,903.51)	(21,903.51)				
Griffin & Assoc			8,029.71			8,029.69		0.02						
Less payments			(31,473.40)	(9,337.67)	(6,657.95)	(7,448.10)		(8,029.68)						
Hinkle + Landers Auditing			2,619.59		2,619.59									
Less payments			-											
Computer Assets Inc			-											
Less payments			-											
Los Alamos Visitor Center			1,114.95			1,114.95								
Less payments			(1,114.95)							(1,114.95)				
Global Vista Technologies			141,857.81				141,857.81							
Less payments			(54,534.43)				(15,000.00)		(28,344.42)	(11,190.01)				
			-											
			240,381.27											
YTD unencumbered balance (uncommitted):														
Annual budgeted expenditures		535,859.87												
Less year-to-date expenditures			(261,133.97)											
Less year-to-date encumbrances			(240,381.27)											
			34,344.63											

- Notes:
- [1] Lodgers' tax revenues are recorded on the cash basis, and adjusted to the accrual basis at year-end.
 - [2] Interest revenue is estimated during the year, and adjusted at year-end.
 - [3] Expenditures are recorded on the cash basis, and adjusted to the accrual basis at year-end.

Proposed LTAB Budget 2026

Organization	Object	Char	Account Description	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Adopted	2026 Revised	2027 Proposed	2027 Proposed to 2026 Adopted \$	2027 Proposed to 2026 Adopted %
12145510	8359	83	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES-OTHER	-	3,096	-	-	-		0%
12145510	8369	83	CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	407,012	431,310	454,953	479,456	409,458	(45,495)	-10%
		83 Total		407,012	434,407	454,953	479,456	409,458	(45,495)	-10%
12145510	8469	84	PRINTING AND BINDING	32,471	32,854	41,200	41,200	37,080	(4,120)	-10%
		84 Total		32,471	32,854	41,200	41,200	37,080	(4,120)	-10%
12145510	8559	85	SUPPLIES-OTHER OPERATIONAL	2,605	3,611	10,300	10,300	9,270	(1,030)	-10%
12145510	8579	85	OTHER TOOLS/FUR/EQUIP <\$10,000	25	-	-	-	-	-	0%
		85 Total		2,630	3,611	10,300	10,300	9,270	(1,030)	-10%
12145510	8719	87	IDC-ADMINISTRATION	3,144	5,918	4,904	4,904	5,800	896	18%
		87 Total		3,144	5,918	4,904	4,904	5,800	896	18%
		Grand Total		\$445,257	\$476,790	\$511,357	\$535,860	\$461,608	(99,365)	-10%