



County of Los Alamos

Minutes

Transportation Board

Thursday, June 1, 2023

5:30 PM

1000 Central Avenue

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The June 1, 2023 Transportation Board Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Michael Dolejsi, Vice Chair

David North

Georgia Strickfaden

Michael Altherr

Board Members Absent:

Matt Heavner, Chair

Staff in attendance:

Juan Rael, Public Works Director

Eric Martinez, Deputy Public Works Director

Eric Ulibarri, County Engineer

Karen Henderson, Senior Engineer

Keith Wilson, Project Manager

James Malcom, Project Manager

Bobbi Huseman, Airport Manager

Oliver Morris, Deputy Police Chief

Louise Romero, Sr. Mgmt. Analyst

AV Support - Perry Rutherford

Council Liaison:

Keith Lepsch

Members of the public in attendance:

John & Nancy Ullmann

Ted Schultz

Via Zoom

Art Forster

Akkana Peck

Jerry Fleming
Sharon Higdon
A.S.
Patrick Mockler-Wood
Gerald
505-500-XXXX
Missy

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Member Strickfaden seconded by Member North that the June 1, 2023 meeting agenda be approved as presented; motion passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Akkana Peck - Ms. Peck commented on the footpaths between neighborhoods offering a shorter path to pedestrians and cyclists. Most of the paths don't have curb cuts making them less accessible for people in wheelchairs as well as cyclists.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the May 4, 2023, Transportation Board Minutes

[17462-23](#)

Attachments: [A - DRAFT Meeting Minutes - May 4, 2023](#)

A motion was made by Member Altherr and seconded by Member Strickfaden that the May 4, 2023 meeting minutes be approved as presented; motion passed unanimously.

5. PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS (Action maybe taken on these items)

Loma Linda Improvement Project

[17463-23](#)

Attachments: [A - Project Presentation Loma Linda Road Improvements](#)

Presenter: James Malcom, Project Manager

- Project goals - Roadway and drainage improvements, pedestrian and ADA improvements, rehabilitate existing valley gutters.

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- Project location - La Mirada Circle, La Tierra Road, and Loma Linda Road.
 - Project scope - Correct deficiencies identified in the geotechnical and pavement condition reports. Remove and replace asphalt surface, rehabilitate street lighting and remove and replace targeted concrete infrastructure.
 - Project schedule and budget - Advertise for bids, July 2023; award contract, August 2023; start of construction, Fall 2023; project completion, Summer 2024. Budget, \$2,400,000.
 - Project coordination - Environmental Services, Atomic City Transit, Loma Linda Neighborhood, LA Public Schools, and mail delivery.
 - Project challenges & concerns - Traffic management.
 - Public information and involvement.

NM 502 Zipper Merge

17465-23

Attachments: [A - Zipper Merge Presentation](#)

Presenter: Keith Wilson

- What is the issue? NM502 congestion increased earlier this year during afternoon peak hours. Roadway merges from two lanes to one lane.
- What has changed? Additional traffic diverting from truck route due to NM4/Jemez Road Construction. Reduction in telecommuting, and additional construction projects across the county.
- How can we increase capacity? Congestion is exacerbated by the following conditions and driver behaviors. Merging too soon after exiting the roundabout, stopping/slowng to let vehicles exit parking lots, and stopping/slowng for pedestrians crossing at crosswalks.
- Zipper Merge - A zipper merge is more efficient way for traffic to proceed towards a construction zone. It reduces differences in speeds between two lanes. It also reduces the overall length of a traffic backup by as much as 40 percent. Besides reducing congestion, it also creates a sense of fairness since all lanes are moving at the same rate.
- Zipper Merge has been applied to NM502 by installing additional signage to encourage driver behavior. Public education outreach with press releases.

[17475-23](#)**Los Alamos Traffic Board Update From LAPD**

Presenter: Oliver Morris, Deputy Police Chief

- Traffic crash records are critical to understanding traffic safety issues.
 - Traffic records are tied to federal funding for road improvement projects and provide better information for decision makers.
 - Uniform Crash Report vs Non-Reportable.
 - Violation and citation counts.
 - Traffic Safety Campaigns.
 - Traffic Study finalized in March 2023 for improving safety along Diamond Drive. Areas of focus included: crash data, pedestrian facilities, intersections, lighting, sight distance and advanced warning, and protective barriers.
- Note: handouts will be included as an attachment to the meeting minutes.

6. REPORTS & UPDATES**A. County Council Liaison Reports**

Councilor Keith Lepsch did not have a report this month.

B. Chair's Report

Chair Heavner was absent.

Vice Chair Dolejsi followed up on Ms. Peck's email to the board. Eric Ulibarri, County Engineer responded that it would need to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists.

Atomic City Transit will provide shuttle service for the Friday night concerts.

C. Board Member Reports

Member Strickfaden - Tourism Implementation Task Force expects an up tick in tourism due to the Oppenheimer movie.

Member North - Bicycle Working Group
Process continues. The map of infrastructure needs on Trinity Drive and Diamond Drive has been completed. A bridge from North Mesa to downtown has been discussed.

D. Staff Report17464-23**Attachments:** [A - Public Works Staff Report - May 2023](#)

Juan Rael, Public Works Director provided the following update:

- Eric Martinez, Deputy Public Works Director introduced Bobbi Huseman, Airport Manager.
- 33rd/34th & Arkansas Roadway & Utilities Project is on track.
- The Barranca Road Mill and Overlay Project was approved by Council and awarded to Albuquerque Asphalt, Inc. on May 23, 2023.
- Bandelier Shuttle service starts on June 14, 2023.

7. NEXT MEETING/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Finch Street Update (August 2023)
- Open Meetings Act Presentation (TBD)
- Public Works Design & Construction Standards (TBD)
- Revisit Bike and Pedestrian Plans (TBD)
- Update on buffer zones (TBD)

8. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Member Altherr and seconded by Member Strickfaden, that the June 1, 2023, Transportation Board meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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 505-662-8040 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 Public Works Division at 505-662-8150 if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.

Approved
Michael Dolejsi

7/10/2023

Michael Dolejsi, Vice Chair

Date

Los Alamos Traffic Board update from LAPD

Deputy Chief Oliver Morris

May 2023





Traffic Crash Records are critical to understanding traffic safety issues.

I joined the New Mexico State Traffic Records Crash Committee (NMSTRCC) several years ago. This committee was appointed by the Governor to improve Statewide Traffic Records Management to include:

- Traffic Crash Records
- Vehicle Registration Data
- Driver License Data
- Roadway Inventory Data
- EMS/Injury Surveillance Data
- Citation & Adjudication Data

The Committee completed a close out report for the work conducted and goals yet to complete for years 2020 -2022.

The biggest success is the improvement in Traffic Records Assessments from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration or (NHTSA).

New Mexico improved traffic records as a State and at the national level.

NHTSA identifies deficiencies in reporting traffic records and rates states on what they submit.

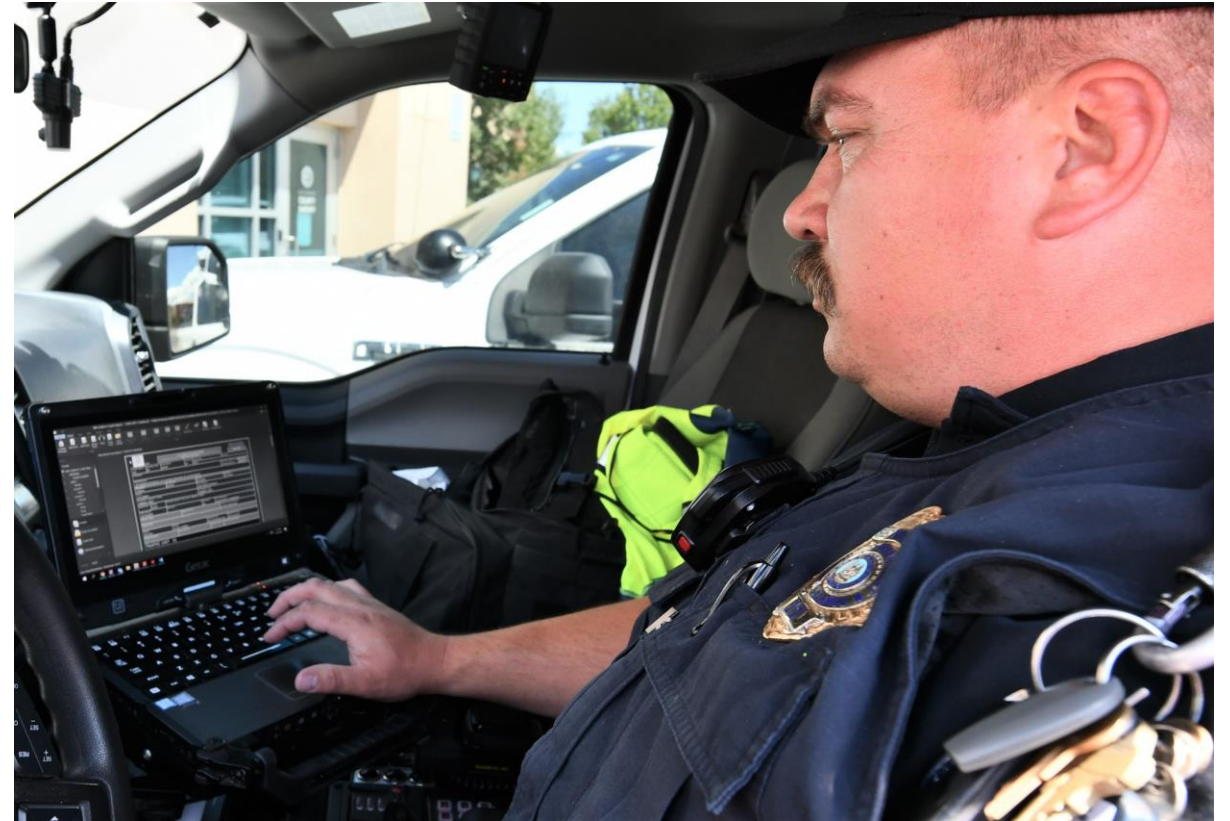
In 2016, New Mexico's rating was at 51% and the national average was 61%

In 2021, New Mexico's rating was 75.7 % and the national average was 71.1%

Why is this important?

Better traffic records are tied to federal funding for road improvement projects and provides better information for decision makers.

A big part of this increase is the TRACS software.



Uniform Crash Report (UCR) vs. Non-Reportable

UCR

- The UCR is a state validated form for crashes that occur on the roadway that are over \$500.
- There has been discussion to increase this limit to \$1000.
- TRACS validates the form to ensure it is properly filled out leading to better DATA.
- TRACS sends the form to UNM who provides DATA to NMDOT

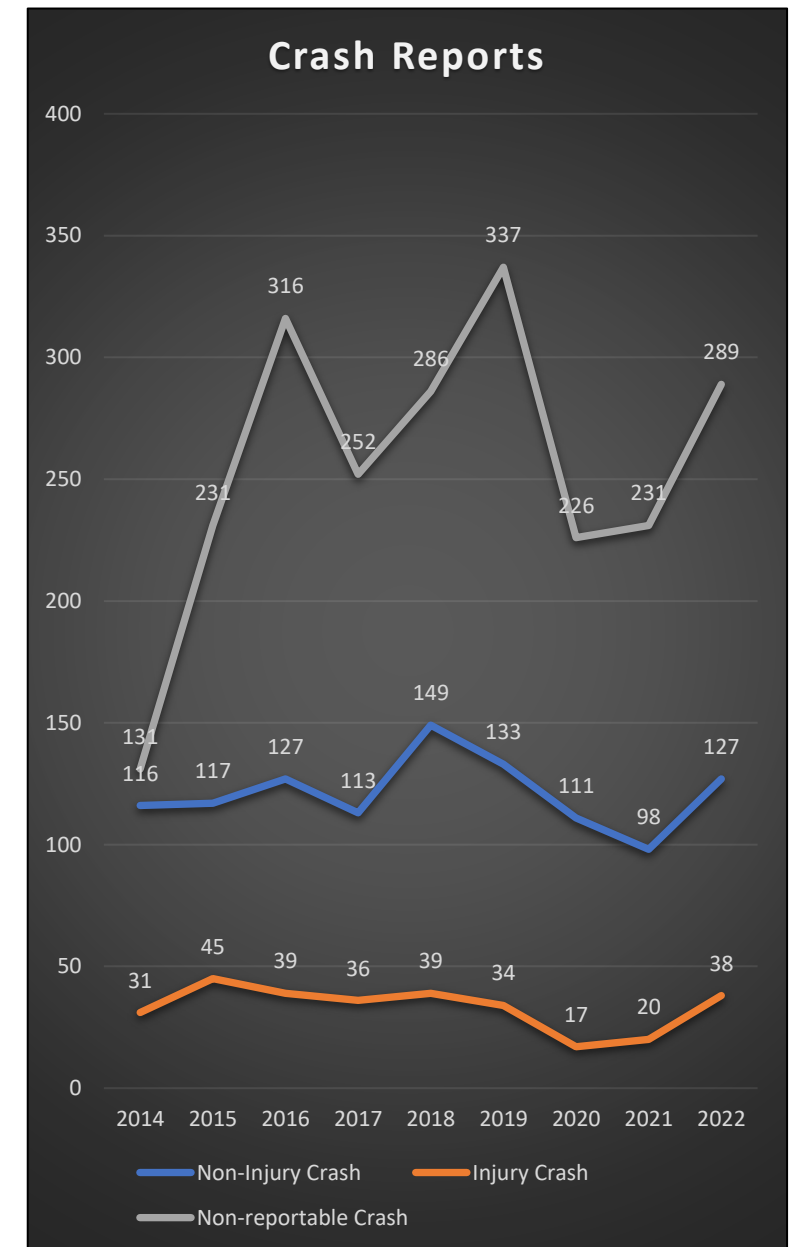
Non-Reportable

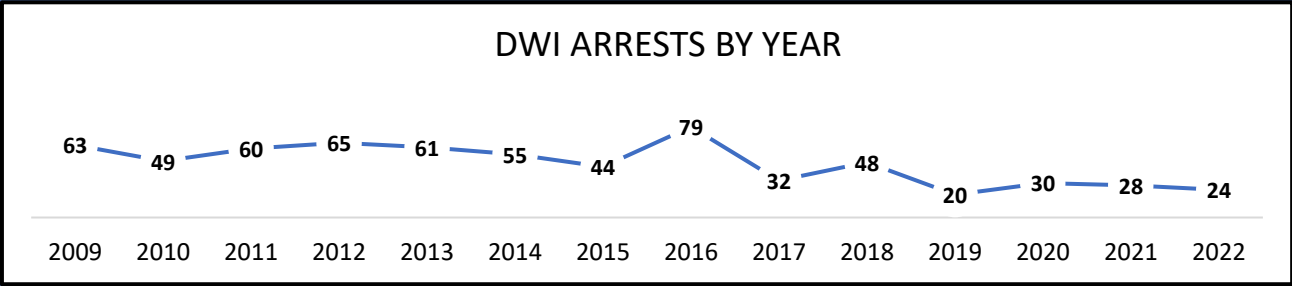
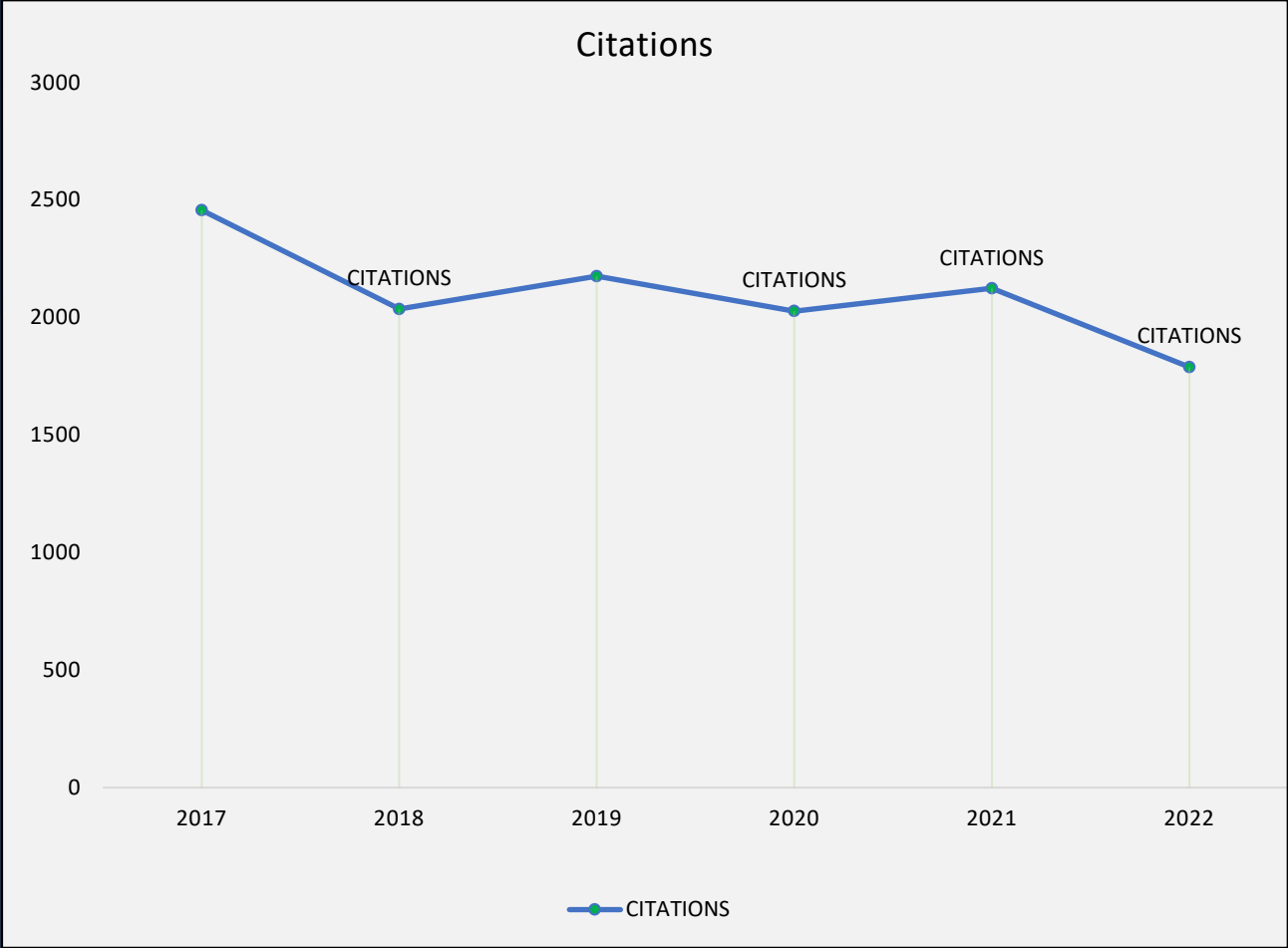
- Property Damage under \$500
- Private Property
- Reported after 2 hours
- Non-reportable hit & run
- Basic Information exchange

May 2022 through May 2023 UCR crashes and citation

Row Labels	Sum of COUNT OF VIOLATION
AGG DUI	1
DUI	4
CARELESS DRIVING	52
DRIVING WHILE TEXTING	2
DUTY TO NOTIFY	2
DWI	2
FAIL TO EXERCISE DUE CARE	2
FAIL TO OBEY SIGNAL	10
FAILURE TO STOP	2
FAILURE TO YIELD	31
FOLLOWING TOO CLOSELY	30
HIT AND RUN	2
IMPROPER LANE CHANGE	4
IMPROPER PARKING	2
IMPROPER TURN	6
LEAVING THE SCENE	3
LICENSE SUSPENDED	2
LIMITATION ON BACKING	3
MAINTAINING LANE	1
NO INSURANCE	9
NO LICENSE	7
NO REGISTRATION	3
SUSPENDED REGISTRATION	2
NO SEATBELT	2
OPEN CONTAINER	1
PASSING WHERE PROHIBITED	2
RIDING ON STREETS AND BICYCLE PATHS	2
SPEEDING	4
TURNING AND STOPPING MOVEMENTS	1
FAILURE TO MAINTAIN LANE	1
Grand Total	195

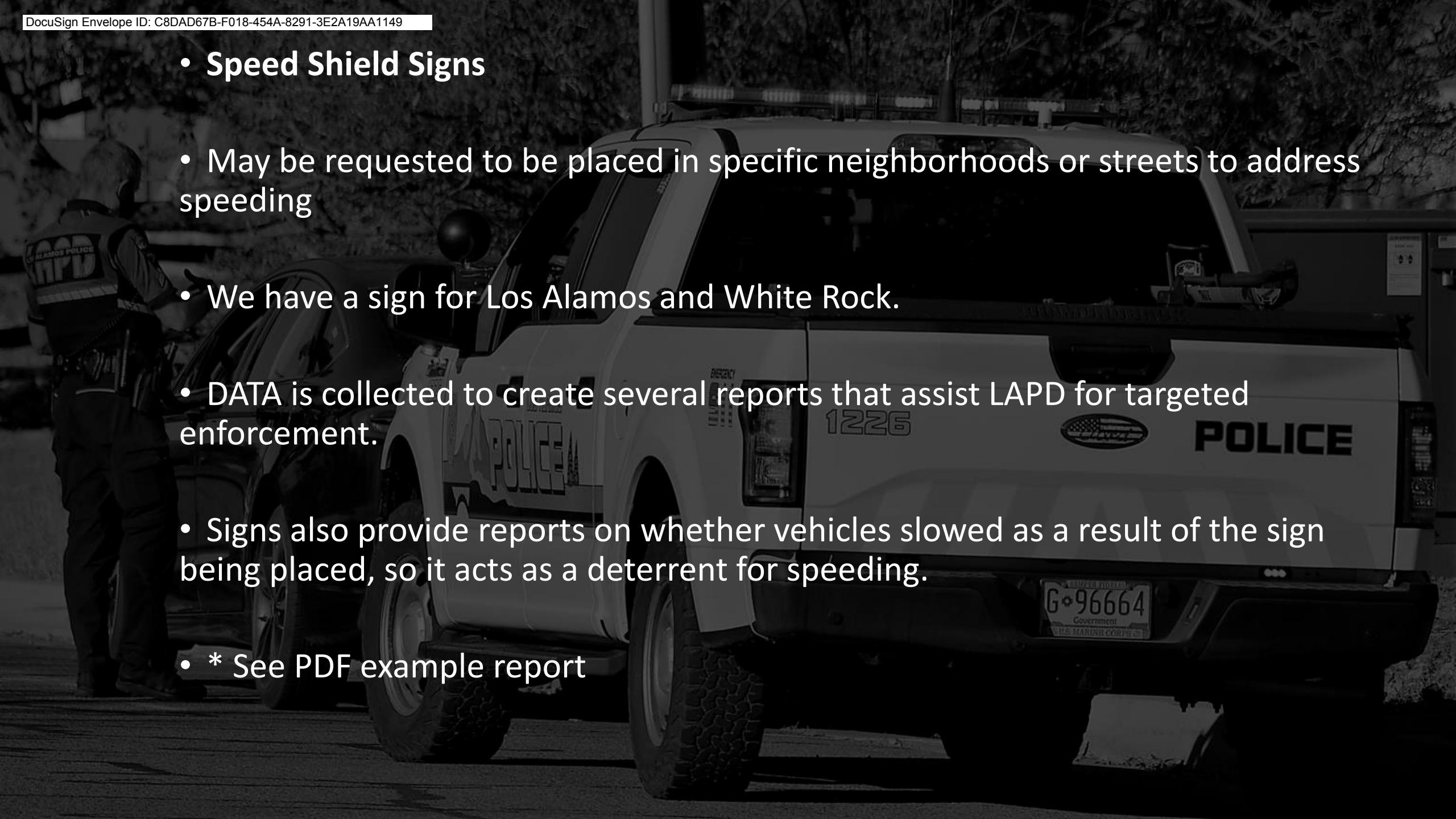
- Traffic Safety Campaigns by LAPD
- 2022 “Be Visible”
- 2023 “Vision Zero”
- 2024 ?
- The Transportation Board and other community partners are in a unique position to drive safety campaigns. Also, provide input for future planning due to the increased hiring and building in Los Alamos





- **Speed Shield Signs**

- May be requested to be placed in specific neighborhoods or streets to address speeding
- We have a sign for Los Alamos and White Rock.
- DATA is collected to create several reports that assist LAPD for targeted enforcement.
- Signs also provide reports on whether vehicles slowed as a result of the sign being placed, so it acts as a deterrent for speeding.
- * See PDF example report





LAPD funded a traffic study that was finalized in March of 2023 to look at improving safety along Diamond Dr.

The Study was conducted by Wilson & Company.

Areas of focus included:

- **Crash Data**
- **Pedestrian Facilities**
- **Intersections**
- **Lighting**
- **Sight Distance & advanced warning**
- **Protective Barriers**



Current traffic issues

- Round-about-merge East Rd.
- Failure to yield, pedestrians in crosswalks
- Aspen school, student drop off and pick up (during the school year)
- Speeding in different areas due to traffic congestion
- Red light violations in certain intersections

Driver Inattention, Failure to Yield, & Following too closely are leading causes of traffic crashes.



DRIVE *SAFELY*

CAUSED BY

FOLLOWING TOO CLOSELY

QUESTIONS?

