

NM 502/TRINITY DRIVE SAFETY AND ADA IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT UPDATE

Incorporated County of Los Alamos

Public Works Department – Jennifer Morrow, PE

December 2, 2025

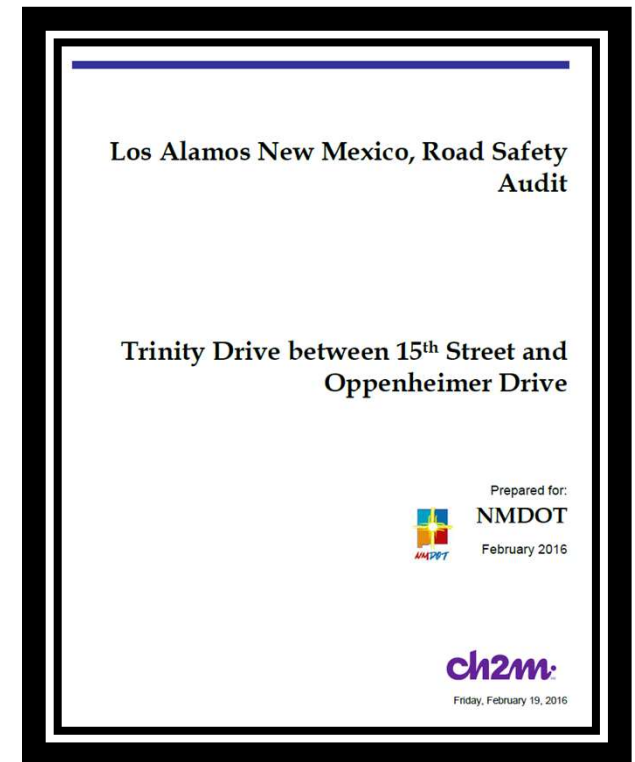


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Background:

NM 502 Trinity Drive Road Safety Audit (RSA)

- RSA completed in 2016 by NMDOT as part of the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)
- Project Limits: 15th Street to Oppenheimer Dr.
- Evaluated various multi-modal improvements to benefit pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and motorists.
- RSA Recommendations:
 - A road diet with bike lines and bus pullouts
 - Installation of medians for traffic channelization and access management
 - ADA-compliant curb ramps
 - Wider sidewalks with buffers
 - Enhanced pedestrian crossings
 - LED roadway and pedestrian lighting



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Background: NM 502 Trinity Study

HSIP grant funding was awarded to Los Alamos County from NMDOT to develop a study and design to help achieve the recommendations from the RSA. Wilson and Company was awarded a contract for this scope of work.

In October 2024, a Traffic Study was completed by Wilson and Company to evaluate potential safety improvements for this corridor. The study considered the following alternatives:

- No Build Alternative
- Four-Lane Alternative
- Roundabout Alternative
- Road Diet Alternative

August 6, 2024, the hybrid road diet was selected as the preferred alternative with a Council Resolution of support signed in September 2024.

Hybrid Road Diet 2 Typical Section

Roadway Section

- Provides smooth transition from existing roadway sections to the east and west
- Separates bicyclists and pedestrians
 - Separates speed differential between bikes and pedestrians
- Two eastbound lanes
 - Used as a shared right turn lane allowing continuous eastbound flow on inside lane
 - Facilitates evacuations



Design Details: Ashley Pond Multi-use Path

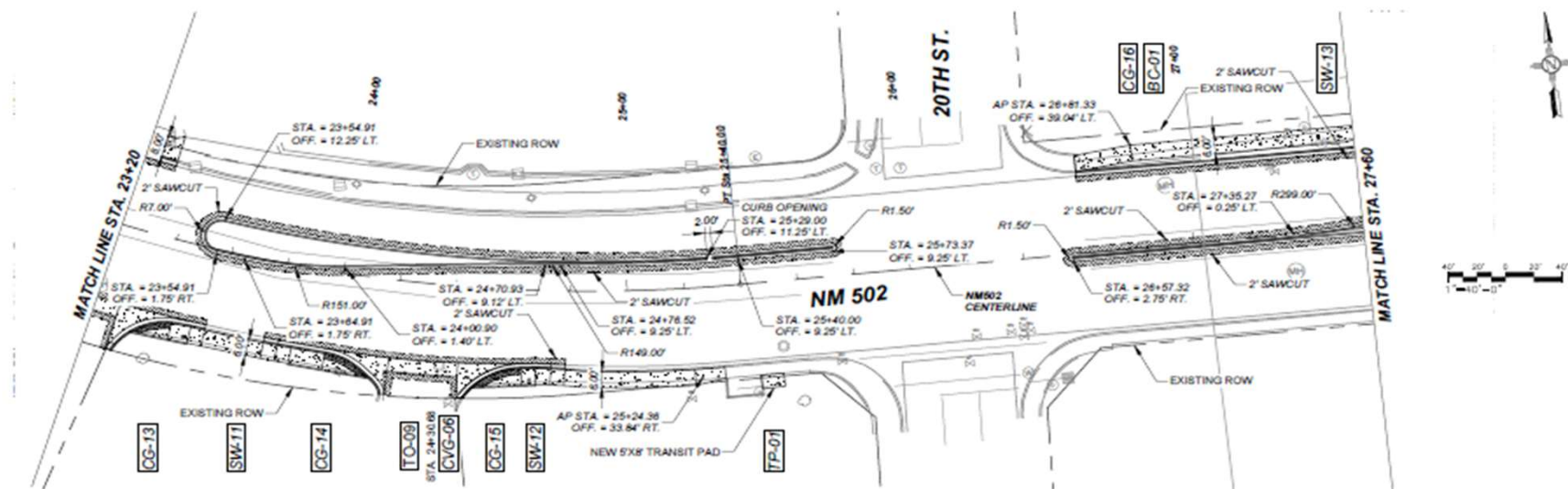
- 8' Multiuse path: 20th Street to the Justice Center
 - Better serves special events and provides connectivity to Canyon Rim and Urban Trails
- Bus pullout: NMDOT Park-and-Ride Layover (northside)



Design Details: New Median Locations

Access Management

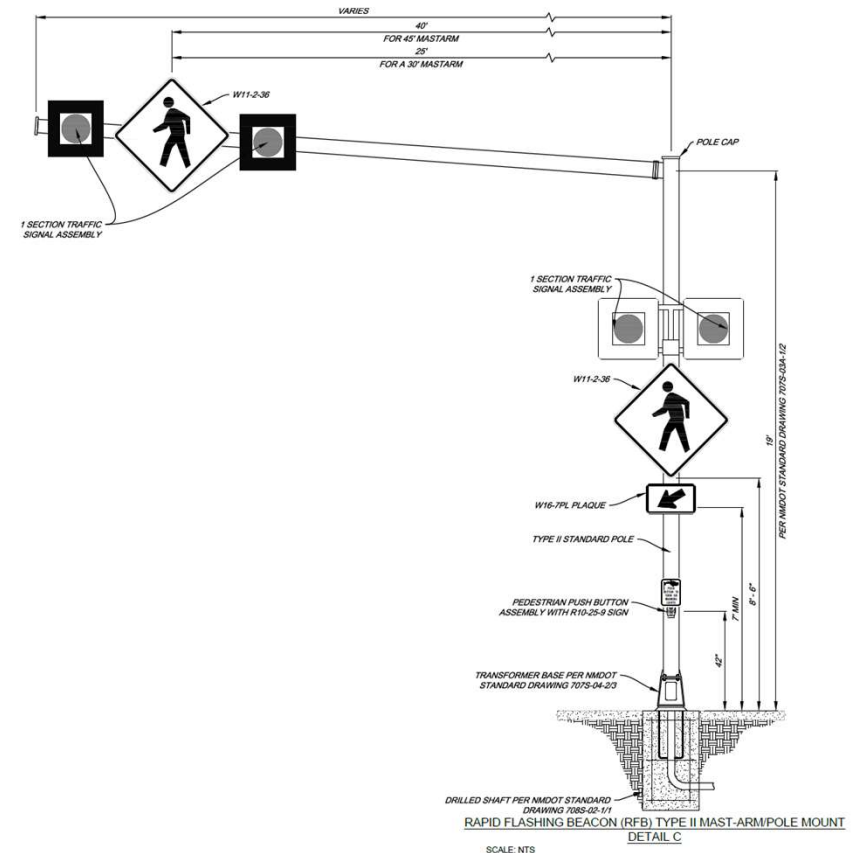
- Reviewed potential driveway consolidation
- 2 new medians between Oppenheimer Dr. and 20th St.
- 2 new medians between 20th St. and 15th St.
- 3 new medians between 15th St. and Knecht St.



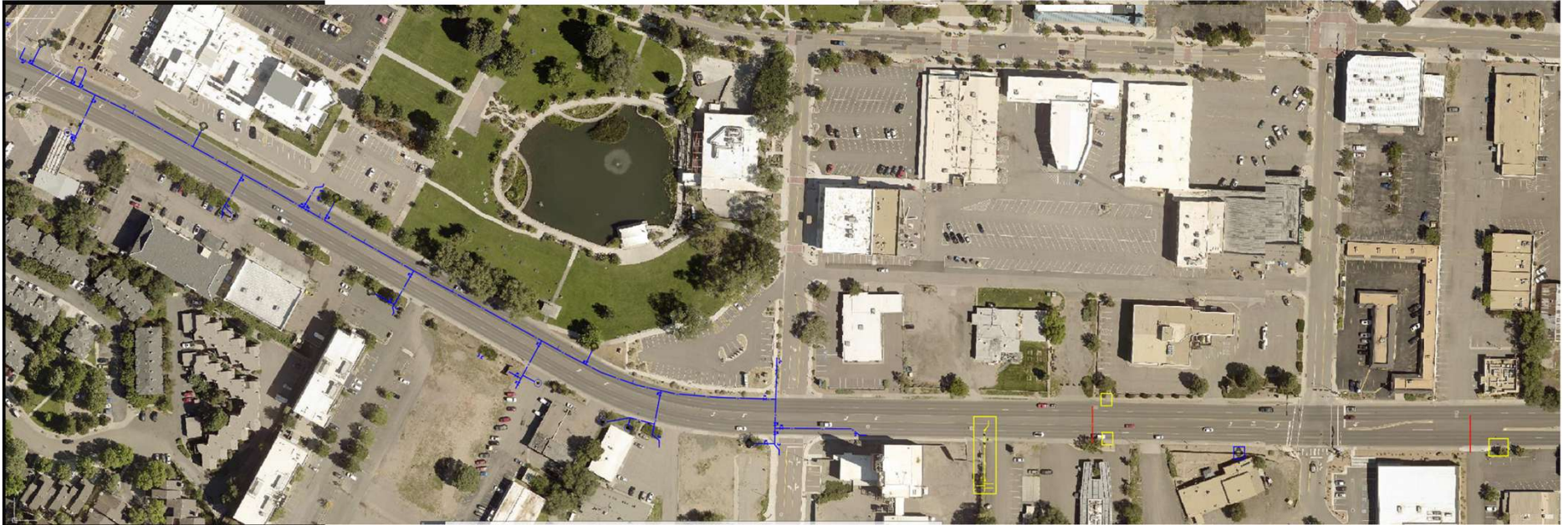
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Design Details: Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB)

- RSA recommendation for enhanced pedestrian crossings.
- Traffic signal or HAWK is not currently warranted at Trinity Dr and 20th St.
- RRFB will be installed using standardized signal pole and mast arms for future use.
- According to multiple studies including the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), RRFBs are a proven safety countermeasure.
- NMDOT requires the County to enter into a Maintenance Agreement w/ NMDOT for the RRFB.



Utility Improvements



- New water line and services from Oppenheimer to 20th St (blue).
- Selective gas line and valve replacements from 20th St. to Kinecht (yellow).
- Misc. electric line replacements (red)

Construction Impacts

- **Public Information & Involvement Plan**
 - Inform, Educate and Involve
 - Dedicated Webpage
 - Electronic Message Boards
 - Cone Zone
 - Evaluating use of a firm specializing in Public Outreach Services
 - Safety First and Minimize Impacts
 - Special Events Coordination (Concert Series, Farmers Markets, etc.)
 - Preconstruction Open Houses
 - Weekly Engagement with affected residents and businesses.
 - Review Lessons Learned from Past Project
- **Minimizing Impacts**
 - Scheduling utility work during off-peak times
 - Construction phasing to reduce impacts to the public and local businesses
 - Evaluating alternative pavement surface treatments to expedite construction

NM 502 Trinity Drive Project Funding

Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Funding History

- 2021: \$840,000 for Planning and Design
- 2023: \$3.41M for Construction (total \$4.25M)
- 2025: \$3.34M of additional HSIP funding was awarded for construction, (\$6.75M for Construction and \$7.59M total).
- Final agreements for the additional funding are still being processed.

NM 502 Trinity Drive Project Schedule

- Jan 2025: 60% plans submitted
- March 2025: 90% plans submitted
- March 6, 2025: Public meeting held at regularly scheduled Transportation Board Meeting
- December 2025:
 - Council Approval of NMDOT Maintenance Agreement
 - Construction Bid Advertisement
- January 2026: Construction Bid Award
- Spring 2026: Construction Starts
- Fall 2026: Project Substantial Completion
- Spring 2027: Project Final Completion

Questions?



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