

**East Mountain Trails and Bikeways Master Plan  
Technical Committee Meeting Summary  
December 9, 2003, 2-4 p.m. Los Vecinos Community Center**

**Agenda**

**Introduce Project and Team Members**

- Confirm contact information

**Review Project Scope, Schedule, Role of Technical Team**

- Future Meeting Dates

**Discuss Pertinent Data, Documents, Website Links**

**List Issues, Concerns, Ideas**

**Mapping Exercise**

**Next Steps**

**Materials**

- **Project scope summary, schedule**
- **Technical Committee List**
- **Relevant Document List**
- **Stakeholder Mailing List**
- **Media List, Website Links List**
- **Issues and Concerns survey**
- **Full-size color base maps of East Mountain Area**
- **Comment sheet**

**Summary**

Eight invitees came to the first Technical Team meeting for the Master Plan process, including representatives from the Forest Service, NM Department of Transportation, Public Service Company of New Mexico, COA Open Space, and Mid-Region Council of Governments. Project planners Clay Campbell, Bernalillo County, and John Barney, Sites Southwest, described the project scope, presented the schedule, and asked the technical team to provide advice regarding the type, material, placement and other aspects of trail design as well as issues and concerns of various regional user communities. The team recommended that a representative from the State Game and Fish Department be added to the technical team. It also recommended that the US Department of Defense and Department of Energy be added as stakeholders, given the Otero Canyon trail issues.

For the remainder of the meeting, the Sites Southwest team led the group through an exercise designed to elicit and group into categories various issues and concerns the project should take into account. Following that, Technical Team members helped map existing trails and potential conflicts or



The second Technical Team meeting (to be combined with the Steering Committee) was scheduled for February 24, 2004, at 5 pm. at Los Vecinos.

## Issues and Concerns

The following is a list of issues and concerns noted by technical team members and grouped into categories at the meeting.

### **ORVs**

- Design Standards for ORVs—do they exist?
- “New” NM legislation for ATVs and motorcycles: How does this integrate with the plan?

### **Teaching/Interpretation**

- Hawk Watch site
- Tres Pistolas, Carlito Spring, Ojito, San Antonito
- NM 14 is the Turquoise Trail Scenic Byway. Should coordinate with them in interpretation, also Route 66 is in this area.
- Opportunities exist at all OS sites—“compelling stories” emerged from EMOS process
- Area that could be used: Talking Talons

### **Human and Financial Resources**

- The planning process has to create trail stewards
- Mobilizing resources: financial, stewardship, enforcement
- Talking Talons has been ranked high in FY 04 funding for a trail along San Pedro Creek on their facility (Scenic Byways funds)
- On-street bike lanes vs. AASHTO shoulders: funding potentials may be different as perceived as legislature

### **Destinations and Existing Trails**

- Existing trails need one map that is accurate and inclusive
- Get accurate boundaries for all public lands/ and current owner (include City open space such as San Antonito, Guitierrez, Juan Tomas, Carolino Canyon, Tres Pistolas)
- For origins and destinations, look at population areas, activity centers. Use GIS socioeconomic analysis.

### **Design**

- Accessibility, travel times (walking etc.)
- Multi-modal issues
- Staging areas/ parking
- “Coyote” trails, for example, “personal” access from subdivisions.
- Identify areas where trail-head parking might need to be acquired
- Motorized and non-motorized use of system: specific designations by facility

- Seamless network of trails: connections to USFS, open space. Visitors should not have to encounter different regulations between Bernalillo County and USFS
- A plan that is connected and consistent
- Which trails will be ADA-accessible?
- High tensile fencing, gravel parking lots and trail, sign design

### **Limits to Access**

- Areas that should have limited access: archeological sites/PNM easements
- Environmentally sensitive, protected wildlife habitat
- Areas of cultural sensitivity
- Existing trails have lost access at some places, eg. Cole Springs
- Limited access: Tres Pistolas, Tijeras Arroyo, Carlito Spring, Ojito
- Links through Tijeras Canyon may be difficult to achieve because of private property, land grant, environmental, etc. constraints.
- Connectivity possibilities may not be achieved because of private property owner opposition [Do we have a law protecting property owners who grant trail easements?]

### **ROW/ Easements**

- Trails parallel to roads may require purchase of additional ROW. Identification of these trail sections should be done very early in the process.
- Are there other continuous ROWs that might be used? (eg. railroads?)
- Landowners permission to use PNM easements

### **Management**

- Consider using a system of reserved times to separate modes
- Designated trails versus open areas (cross-country travel)
- PNM easement maintenance is trail easement maintenance (they will cut branches, etc.)
- Joint management opportunities
- Multiple ownership of land, eg, variety of public owners as well as private who will maintain trails?

### **Conflicts:**

- Crossings: roadway/trail conflict
- Areas of possible conflict: pedestrians on roads with no accommodations
- OHV –accommodation on roadways
- Trails crossing NMDOT ROWs will create a need for signage, striping. Early identification of crossings is important in order to allow NMDOT engineers to begin the warranting process.
- Potential conflict points where trail system and roadway network intersect.

### **Coordination in Planning Process**

- Work with developers to “keep” informal trail systems open to public
- “Mesh” with other planning processes: EM Open Space, E M Comp Plan (open house on 12/10)
- Otero Fence EA
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## **Safety**

- Safety concerns: Tijeras Arrojo, Guitierrez Canyon
- Electrical clearance issues—PNM
- Line-of-sight/visibility issues for potential routes to schools
- Crossings at intersections
- Remote trail system: emergency access
- Down guy markings—PNM

## **User Conflicts**

- Continuity and Compatibility; eg. motorized uses
- Address motorized use: latch key ATV use, jurisdictional issues
- Motorized, non-motorized modal conflicts
- Fear motorized/non-motorized concerns may make trail development prohibitive
- Possible conflicts: Differences in vision. Residents may have different concerns than other users.
- Hunting activities (bow-hunting in Sandias, what else?)
- Conflicts between users..find a use for everyone
- City open space: Trails are multi-use but no motorized vehicles

<b>List of Attendees</b>
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### Technical Team

Atilla Bality, Facilitator for East Mountain Open Space Management Plans, National Park Service

Mary Bean, Recreation Planner, U.S. Forest Service, Sandia Ranger District

Cliff Dils, U.S. Forest Service, Sandia Ranger

Laurie Evans, Transportation Planner, NM Department of Transportation

Laurie Moye, Regulatory Project and Public Participation Coordinator

Matt Schmader, Assn.t Superintendent, COA Open Space Division

Loretta Tollefson, Transportation Program Manager, Mid-Region Council of Governments

Greg White, Bicycle, Pedestrian, Equestrian Program Coordinator, NM Department of Transportation

### County Staff

Clay Campbell, Senior Park Planner and Co-Project Manager

Nathan Masek, Senior Park Planner and Co-Project Manager

### Consultants

John Barney, Community Designer and Project Manager, Sites Southwest

Barbara Herrington, Planner, Sites Southwest

Maura Lewiecki, Designer, Sites Southwest

Karen Aspelin, Engineering Sub-Consultant, Parsons Brinkerhoff

Diane Scena, Trails Sub-Consultant

