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BERNALILLO COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION

SUNPORT BLVD. EXTENSION
PUBLIC HEARING

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2015, 6:35 P.M.

MOUNTAIN VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER
201 Prosperity Avenue, Southeast
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87105

BEFORE: KELLI A. GALLEGOS
Court Reporter for the State of New Mexico
PAUL BACA PROFESSIONAL COURT REPORTERS
500 Fourth Street, NW, Suite 105
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

1 MR. GALLEGOS: Good evening, everyone.
2 Welcome to this meeting tonight. We'll be
3 starting in about ten minutes with the
4 presentation. And for those who would like, there
5 will be Spanish translation available and, of
6 course, that makes more sense in Spanish instead
7 of English.

8 MR. EICHWALD: (Speaking Spanish.)

9 MR. GALLEGOS: If you would like to speak
10 tonight, there is a sign-up list at the table in
11 the back. Please go sign up so you can give your
12 words. Thank you very much.

13 MR. EICHWALD: Good evening. Let's get
14 started, please. Good evening and welcome to the
15 hearing for the environmental assessment for
16 Sunport Boulevard Extension Project. (Speaking
17 Spanish.)

18 My name is Rodrigo Eichwald. I am the
19 project engineer for Bernalillo County. Tonight
20 the county will present its findings and
21 differences in its new environmental assessment,
22 which was initially done in 2011, and now we have
23 an updated version.

24 Following the presentation, the public
25 can give their comments regarding this project.

1 The comment period will be open till
2 September 7th, which is a total of 50 days, which
3 is longer than the normal 30-day comment period.
4 There's still plenty of time for people to review
5 the environmental assessment. I realize that
6 you've only had two weeks to read this
7 environmental assessment. It's a large document.
8 But tonight is just one way comments can be
9 presented. Written comments are equally as
10 important as spoken comments, and they will be
11 weighted equally and will be all part of the
12 public input synopsis.

13 Presenting this environmental assessment
14 and the comment period is the reason we're here
15 tonight, but more important than that, the fact
16 that we're all here tonight to share why this
17 regional project is needed and necessary for the
18 community and for the greater good of Bernalillo
19 County.

20 I also wanted to point out what this
21 meeting is not about. This is not a discussion
22 about choosing an alignment. That was chosen
23 during the alignment study. At this point, we
24 will discuss the build and no-build portion of
25 this project.

1 This is also not a path for a future
2 river crossing, and it is also not a connection to
3 Santolina in any way. This project is here to
4 address the traffic congestion in the area,
5 promote infill development, complete the original
6 project that began in the '80s, and it could be
7 another path to the Valle de Oro Wildlife
8 Preserve.

9 And now I'd like to introduce
10 Commissioner De La Cruz to say a few words.

11 COMMISSIONER DE LA CRUZ: Thank you, Rod.

12 And I want to officially welcome all of
13 you here this evening. It's important to have
14 community participation, and unfortunately, we
15 don't always have enough, so I'm really happy to
16 see all of you here.

17 I want to share with you a couple things
18 that I think are important. First of all, this
19 project started in 2010, so it's been something
20 that the county has been working on, something
21 that I've been work on for at least five years
22 now.

23 And I also want to especially thank our
24 Congressman, Martin Heinrich, because he actually
25 gave the first round of funding toward this

1 project to do a study, which was about \$90,000.

2 Important money.

3 The project itself, which would bring
4 the extension onto Broadway, is about a
5 \$19 million project, and we are fully funded at
6 this time. It is my expectation and hope that
7 this will spur some very positive infill
8 development because we already have -- have had, I
9 should say, an exhaustive public comment and input
10 time on the sector plan.

11 And that sector plan, which is specially
12 for north of Rio Bravo, bounded by 2nd Street and
13 by Broadway, calls for some very, very nice
14 development. And that, pardon the pun, is the
15 roadmap for what will happen in those lands that
16 are in that area or around that boundary. And it
17 calls for light, clean industrial, calls for
18 residential, light commercial, and housing. So
19 this access point is a critical point so that we
20 have some were positive development.

21 Another part that I particularly
22 appreciate is that much of the traffic now that
23 traverses north and south, particularly on the
24 residential areas of Broadway, will now have
25 another point of access that they don't have to do

1 that any longer.

2 So, again, welcome, and I'm glad you're
3 here. And let's have a great meeting. Thank you.

4 MR. EICHWALD: Paging Toni. Please come to
5 the front.

6 MS. MARTORELLI: Good evening. My name is
7 Toni Martorelli, and I am the facilitator this
8 evening. I'm with a group called STAR Group, and
9 we are a strategic planning and facilitation
10 company that is local. But we do work throughout
11 the United States, but a lot of work here in
12 Albuquerque.

13 In fact, I live not too far away, but
14 it's off Isleta, a little bit far from this
15 location. And I'm glad to see a lot of friends
16 here tonight, a lot of neighbors. And I'm glad to
17 see a lot of people here tonight. This is just a
18 wonderful gathering, and I can't think of a better
19 thing to be doing on a Wednesday night.

20 Our purpose is to provide a summary
21 tonight of the environmental assessment and its
22 major findings and listen to and record your
23 comments related to it. We are set up. We've got
24 a court reporter. We are ready to take all your
25 comments in writing, and we are ready to listen to

1 your comments after the meeting.

2 But this presentation will start out
3 explaining everything about the report. We expect
4 the presentation to take 30 minutes, after which
5 those who have signed up may -- will speak during
6 the course of -- may do so, and they'll have five
7 minutes to speak. So it looks to me like we've
8 got about 22 people so far who signed up, so we'll
9 be listening to them after the presentation.

10 The presentation will cover the
11 environmental assessment, the proposed action,
12 bicycle and presentation issues, as well as those
13 related to natural and cultural resources. And
14 those are the comments that we're looking for
15 tonight.

16 We're going to run through the
17 presentation without questions tonight. If you
18 have questions or want to comment on the project
19 or presentation, please sign up. Throughout the
20 meeting, there will be sign-up sheets in the back.
21 And to address the team with your comments
22 afterwards.

23 If your time is limited tonight, and I
24 know I've talked to a lot of who have come in, but
25 we've got a form that you can write your comments

1 on and send those in afterwards, at your leisure,
2 but before September 7th. So there is a fairly
3 long comment period on this project that you'll
4 have the opportunity to send those in.

5 Tonight's presentation will be done by
6 three people, Rodrigo Eichwald, who you've already
7 met. And we thank him for welcoming everybody in
8 Spanish. And he's the county's project manager.
9 And he's been the lead county engineer on this
10 project.

11 Rodrigo, caio.

12 There he is. Then he'll be joined by
13 Nolan Bennett, who is Bernalillo County's
14 construction manager.

15 Nolan, you want to stand up?

16 So when he get up, you know he's the
17 construction manager. And he's another engineer.
18 Lots of engineers here tonight.

19 Peter Hinckley, the consultant project
20 manager, and he's part of URS/AECOM engineering
21 team who's been working on this for five years
22 now. And he's the person to whom your comments
23 get sent. So later on -- or if you gave them to
24 us at the table at the back, they go to Peter
25 Hinckley.

1 So that all of our time is well-spent
2 this evening, we ask that you -- we have a few
3 ground rules. And they're very simple. Respect
4 the speakers and listen, just like you're doing
5 right now. And that means if you've got a sidebar
6 conversation, if you wouldn't mind taking it
7 outside. We ask that you turn your cell phones
8 onto silent, so that's something you might think
9 about right now. And if a phone call comes in, if
10 it's vibrating, you've got to take that call, take
11 it outside. It's a wonderful evening.

12 And, again, I'd like to point out, we've
13 got the court reporter here to record the
14 proceedings, and there's also interpretation
15 available. And so if you need or if you know of
16 somebody who might need interpretation this
17 evening in Spanish, we've got a wonderful system
18 for doing that tonight. Just see somebody over at
19 the check-in desk.

20 After the presentation, as we move into
21 the comment part of the agenda, I'll talk to you
22 about the ground rules for that part. But it's
23 going to be great.

24 So, Rodrigo, will you lead us off on the
25 presentation. Thank you.

1 MR. EICHWALD: Now, I'd like to go over the
2 presentation agenda. At this point, this
3 environmental assessment was initially advertised
4 in the July 19 edition of the Sunday Journal, the
5 Albuquerque Journal. It's currently available
6 online for people to look at, or there are
7 physical copies at the three community centers,
8 including this one in the neighborhood. There's
9 also a copy at the Bernalillo County Public Works
10 office on Broadway. And there's also a copy at
11 the South Broadway Library. You just probably
12 have to ask somebody if you're looking for it and
13 they'll help you get to it. I also want to talk
14 to that.

15 So next I'm going to speak about the
16 history of public involvement for this project,
17 and then we'll go over the project, the government
18 process. Then Nolan will stand up to talk about
19 the build/no-build alternatives. And then Pete
20 will discuss the revisions, updates and major
21 finding, and then I will come back to say what's
22 next in the process.

23 There have been many opportunities for
24 public input, and that public input has made this
25 project stronger. As you can see, we've had

1 several meetings in 2012 and 2013. 2014 was spent
2 revising and doing several different studies for
3 this project. And then in April, we had a general
4 transportation meeting for many different South
5 Valley projects, not just Sunport. And then we're
6 here tonight to discuss the environmental
7 assessment.

8 Now I briefly want to go over the
9 project development process. The Sunport
10 Boulevard Extension Project has been in process
11 since 2010. Project management and planning and
12 funding for the project were the first steps,
13 followed by an alignment study of the possible
14 routes for the roadway extension. Environmental
15 studies were conducted to determine the impact of
16 Sunport Boulevard to the project's area. The
17 route that was selected for construction has had
18 different environmental studies and assessments
19 conducted at the request of the community. And
20 those findings are what we're here to discuss
21 tonight.

22 I will now briefly talk about the NEPA
23 process. We're currently at the environmental
24 assessment portion to discuss the findings of the
25 environmental assessment. After the comment

1 period ends, which, again, is on September 7, a
2 comprehensive report will be compiled of the
3 public comments, both verbal and written, and will
4 be submitted to the Federal Highway Administration
5 for the project's evaluation.

6 If approved, a finding of no significant
7 impact would be given, and at that point, design
8 would be begin and we would also have further
9 public input during the design portion of the
10 project, if it were to get approved. Another
11 thing that could happen is an environmental impact
12 statement could be requested by the federal
13 highways, and that would result in a record of
14 decision.

15 Now I'd like to introduce Mr. Nolan
16 Bennett to speak. He's the construction manager
17 for Bernalillo County.

18 MR. BENNETT: Thank you, Rodrigo.

19 Again, good evening to everybody. My
20 name is Nolan Bennett. I'm the construction
21 manager with Bernalillo County, and I'd like to go
22 over the chosen alignment of the roadway. It's a
23 connection that directly connects I-25 to Broadway
24 at the existing signalized intersection at
25 Woodward Road. This would span the south

1 diversion channel and Edmond Street at
2 approximately 90-degree angles, which would
3 facilitate the bridge crossing. This alignment
4 would have no additional railroad crossings, and
5 it would not result in the relocation of any
6 existing businesses. The alignment would also
7 raise the intersection at Woodward and Broadway by
8 about half a foot, which would help relieve some
9 of the drainage issues at the intersection. And
10 it would also provide connectivity to the west,
11 which would lead to Valle de Oro or downtown,
12 those types of connections.

13 As this illustrates, you can see that
14 the proposal is that the roadway would continue
15 where it currently dead-ends at Sunport and I-25,
16 travel down the hill over Edmond Street, over the
17 diversion channel, and then it would connect with
18 Broadway at the existing signalized intersection.

19 A few other aspects of the build
20 alternative, this would be a four-lane facility on
21 about a 7 percent grade up to I-25. There would
22 be bridges over the existing AMAFCA south
23 diversion channel and over Edmond Street. We'd be
24 adding bike lanes. We'd be building sidewalk from
25 Broadway just east of the local access road. We'd

1 also be making improvements to the intersections
2 and traffic signals at Broadway and at I-25. We'd
3 be widening the I-25 southbound ramp to add
4 additional capacity, and it would require the
5 relocation of several PNM transmission lines which
6 actually predate the interstate in the area.

7 This is just a draft cross-section that
8 we have where we have two lanes of traffic and
9 bike lanes on each side. There will be certain
10 portions that will be a retaining wall, most
11 likely. And many of those aspects will be
12 clarified and finalized in design if the project
13 moves forward.

14 The no-build alternative, there are
15 consequences if we do not build Sunport. And,
16 obviously, there would be no Sunport Boulevard or
17 connection between Broadway and I-25. But also,
18 whether this project moves forward or not, there
19 is future traffic growth predicted for the area.
20 And this traffic would have to be wholly
21 accommodated on existing roadways such as
22 Broadway, Gibson and Woodward.

23 We would not have any multi-modal
24 facilities in the area that would connect the
25 bosque trail to the east side of I-25. There are

1 very few bicycle connections that cross over I-25.
2 And this would result in -- this would not allow
3 another connection to be made. There would be no
4 improvements to prevent the street flooding that
5 occurs on Broadway. And there would be a
6 decreased priority and need for improvements at
7 the 2nd and Woodward intersection.

8 Now I'm going to turn it over to Pete
9 Hinckley. He's going to discuss the revisions,
10 updates and findings. We did add additional
11 details at the request of several community
12 members, so this will go on for a little while.
13 But there was a request for additional information
14 on some of the changes between the previous
15 environmental assessment and this one.

16 MR. HINCKLEY: Thanks, Nolan.

17 Good evening. Again, my name is Peter
18 Hinckley. I'm with URS/AECOM, the project
19 consultant manager. I've been working on this
20 project for Bernalillo County for over five years.
21 So I've seen many of you folks at previous public
22 meetings, and I'm glad you came out again tonight.

23 So I'm just going to describe some of
24 the key, major changes and revisions, updates in
25 the environmental documents. We issued a previous

1 environmental document in September 2011 at a
2 public meeting; a public hearing in October
3 of 2011. We received a lot of comments from the
4 public.

5 So what we've done now is address those
6 comments with additional studies, additional
7 in-depth analysis of a lot of the parts of the
8 project, and really have gotten, I think, a
9 greater, more refined and more comprehensive
10 document here that we're going to describe
11 tonight.

12 So one of the key elements of the
13 project or the document is the purpose and need.
14 We've expanded the purpose and need to address --
15 transportation system connectivity is a key focus
16 of the project. We're trying to close the gap
17 between Gibson and Rio Bravo and provide
18 additional access between Sunport, I-25 and the
19 Broadway area. There's about two and a half miles
20 currently between Rio Bravo and Gibson with the
21 half interchange in the middle of that. The half
22 interchange is currently the Sunport interchange
23 that only serves the east side of the road to the
24 airport. That roadway was intended back in the
25 '80s and '90s to actually run to the west and down

1 to Broadway and even potentially to 2nd Street.

2 So we're proposing now to close that gap
3 and build that roadway. It has a benefit of
4 congestion relief. Traffic volume forecasts have
5 changed over the years since we've been working on
6 the project, and they're different relative to the
7 different metropolitan transportation plans we've
8 been working with. But the project does have the
9 benefit of reducing congestion on Rio Bravo and
10 particularly on Gibson and Broadway north of
11 Sunport and pulling traffic off of that, putting
12 the traffic onto Sunport.

13 We will improve pedestrian and bicycle
14 facilities. We will provide facilities. With the
15 addition of another project, we'll actually be
16 connected to the bosque riverside trail with the
17 University Boulevard system, where there's going
18 to be bike lanes. And I know additional lanes are
19 being constructed by the city. And we'll also
20 have a byproduct that will improve emergency
21 access for the area.

22 We've expanded our discussion of
23 alternatives as well. We've added a couple of
24 alternatives that are not actually alignment
25 alternatives, but we looked at the transportation

1 system management and travel demand management
2 alternative. That's more of a traffic
3 operational-type approach. It does not meet our
4 purpose and need and has been excluded and dropped
5 from further consideration.

6 We also added another alternative in
7 our discussion, which is the Alternative C from
8 the 1990 studies. Alternative C is actually
9 incorporated into the current preferred
10 alternative, which is why we discuss it in some
11 more length in our current document. No other
12 alternatives were considered north of the
13 preferred alternative, and that's because there
14 are homes there. Anything north of the preferred
15 alternative would have been too close and on top
16 of the Wesmeco Neighborhood and we consciously
17 avoided that and didn't consider anything north of
18 that area.

19 We've also in the document expanded that
20 detail that we provided for Alternatives A, D and
21 H, the ones that were actually looked at and
22 closely considered. And we've expanded our
23 discussion of a no-build.

24 Now, here's the key findings. As a
25 result of the public comments that we got, we've

1 looked at this in depth and spent some
2 considerable time over the past year actually
3 developing this. And another project has been
4 programmed on Woodward Road. That's in direct
5 response to public comment. So the project on
6 Woodward Road addresses traffic growth that is
7 going to be expected on Woodward Road when Sunport
8 is put in.

9 In the future, probably in a 10- to
10 15-year time frame, Woodward will probably be
11 under capacity and need improvements. So we're
12 proposing to do those improvements now. This is
13 called an interdependent project on Woodward
14 because they go hand in hand. The Sunport project
15 and the Woodward project will be developed from
16 here on out simultaneously so that at the end of
17 it all, the Sunport project will be open at the
18 same time as the Woodward project.

19 There will be a separate environmental
20 and design processes to develop the Woodward
21 project. We'll probably have a public meeting
22 back in this area in a matter of a few months to
23 address the Woodward project specifically.

24 The Woodward project will be determined
25 by looking at design principles associated with

1 Complete Streets, and what that means is we will
2 address all transportation users: Bicyclists,
3 pedestrians, transit users, as well as vehicles.
4 The improvements at Woodward will, as I said
5 earlier, be required before we actually open up
6 the Sunport Boulevard Project.

7 We've looked at other things, other
8 detailed studies. We called these resource
9 studies in various specific environmental areas.
10 So we've looked at air quality in more detail.
11 Back when we did the 2011 version, we actually
12 made comparisons between other busy intersections
13 in the city. Now what we've done is what we call
14 a more quantitative analysis, by actually modeling
15 and looking at air quality specific at this
16 location.

17 So two previous studies were done and a
18 third. During the time of these studies, the
19 Federal Highway Administration actually changed
20 their software, so we got into a process of having
21 to do studies using different software and had to
22 somewhat repeat things. But we did a hot-spot
23 analysis which is looking at the future prediction
24 of air quality at the three major intersections of
25 the project. So we started looking at Broadway,

1 Sunport Boulevard and Woodward. We also looked at
2 the I-25 ramps with Sunport Boulevard. What we
3 found with these studies, that in none of these
4 locations were the air quality numbers up near the
5 EPA guidelines for the threshold values. So in
6 other words, the addition of Sunport Boulevard
7 does not have a significant impact in the area of
8 air quality.

9 There are other issues with the area, we
10 understand. Industrial air quality is going to be
11 addressed by the local governments via zoning and
12 design controls that we'll discuss in a minute.

13 We also looked at noise in detail. We
14 actually went out there and monitored noise on the
15 south side of the Wesmeco Neighborhood. We set up
16 noise monitors at street intersections on the very
17 south end of Wesmeco, close to the proposed
18 Sunport area. With the results from those
19 monitorings that were done in 2013, we
20 incorporated that into our noise model, calibrated
21 the model with those measurements, and then
22 developed forecasts for noise in the future.

23 What we saw is that there is going to be
24 noise increases along Broadway that go hand in
25 hand with traffic increases along Broadway. All

1 of the noise relative to the sectors that we've
2 modeled and looked at is all due to traffic on
3 Broadway and not due to traffic on Sunport
4 Boulevard. In effect, the noise increase is only
5 along Broadway without Sunport Boulevard and
6 actually is going to occur with or without Sunport
7 as Broadway traffic growth is forecast even if
8 Sunport Boulevard is no constructed. So in
9 conclusion, on that study, we saw that there was
10 effectively no impact from noise.

11 We looked at land use also. We expanded
12 our discussion and our study of land use. We
13 previously understood the area to be fairly
14 industrial through which the project was passing.
15 Obviously, there's many industrial uses in the
16 area, but we're looking at a broader area
17 currently. Obviously, there's residential and
18 mixed use throughout the area. It's zoned M-2,
19 which addresses various uses, such as residences
20 within the industrial area or vice versa.

21 We've looked at the conformity with
22 existing plans. We've looked at the sector plans.
23 We've also looked at the plans that are being
24 developed by Bernalillo County to address the
25 smaller areas within the zoning, to provide an

1 opportunity to encourage responsible development.
2 A previous plan was put into place called the
3 Sunport Stationary Plan, and a new plan is being
4 developed by county planning which is a design
5 overlay that will address this entire area.

6 So the objective of that design overlay
7 is to encourage responsible development and
8 incorporate features into development that will be
9 under the control of the county. Those features
10 are things like building orientation, setbacks,
11 building height, landscaping, parking and access,
12 fencing and walls, pedestrian and bicycle
13 facilities, many of these aspects relative to the
14 design and development of many of the parcels of
15 land along that area.

16 And we just wanted to point out, too, we
17 did point out that not building the project has an
18 impact, and that's discussed in the environmental
19 document. Not building the project, there's no
20 potential to alter current land use trends or
21 development trends.

22 We've also expanded our discussion on
23 environmental justice. This was a comment we
24 received and we were aware of this, but we
25 expanded it in great detail. We understand that

1 the area is subject to health concerns. We have
2 seen health impact assessments done for other
3 projects in this area. We expected to see another
4 one for this project. We understand that there's
5 a greater percentage of minorities and low-income
6 folks in this area, greater percentages than
7 within the county, city or state as a whole. We
8 also know the unemployment rate is higher. And
9 clearly there's an environmental justice
10 population here in this part of the South Valley.

11 So what we did is looked at where the
12 impacts might be that would affect the
13 environmental justice population that exists here.
14 And we looked at things like traffic, transit use,
15 land use, air quality, and found some of these
16 points here of summaries of that. We had some
17 traffic decreases, actually, in our forecast on
18 Gibson and Broadway north of Sunport. That should
19 be a benefit. We also see that there is going to
20 be traffic increase on Woodward, as was pointed
21 out and commented on and as we have now addressed
22 with the other Woodward project we are proposing.

23 Transit service was brought up as an
24 issue. ABQ Ride has now routed the transit
25 service from Woodward Road onto San Jose Avenue,

1 so that effectively is now out of the project
2 area.

3 The industries' effects are being
4 addressed by the county. The adoption of these
5 policies to encourage responsible development,
6 such as the design overlay in these small area
7 plans that I mentioned earlier. And we see
8 ultimately, in summary, that there's no
9 disproportionate impact on this population.

10 We've looked at hazardous materials,
11 particularly the Superfund sight. The Superfund
12 site that's there actually caused the original
13 project to be cut off and only the eastern portion
14 built. That was 25 years ago. The Superfund
15 cleanup was just getting under way. The
16 construction of this project will not impact the
17 cleanup process. The site cleanup that's under
18 way is actually a very deep groundwater
19 remediation, 7-, 800 feet below the surface, and
20 all the work we're going to do is right on the
21 surface, with the top 20 feet or so. So we have
22 no impact to it directly or indirectly.

23 That cleanup has been effective. Some
24 of those wells are actually in the process of
25 being closed and removed. I know that from my

1 attending other public meetings sponsored by the
2 EPA, I've seen the plume sight significantly being
3 reduced, and we certainly don't want this project
4 to impact that and it will not. The wells and
5 pipelines that are on the surface that are in the
6 area of the project footprint will be relocated by
7 the project remediation contractors, not by the
8 project, but by the remediation contractors that
9 are actually currently doing that work now, and
10 the county will fund those relocations as part of
11 the project.

12 And lastly in my small presentation
13 here, I'm just going to mention some indirect
14 impacts. We've expanded our discussion of
15 indirect impacts in the document, but this is just
16 a short summary of those. Relative to the
17 no-build, the no-build was pointed out earlier by
18 Nolan, there's no change in access to the area.
19 Things like the illegal dumping grounds that's
20 going on now, there's trash and debris in the
21 project area, those things are likely to continue.
22 They're certainly not going to change as a result
23 of the project if there is no project. There's
24 also no economic development opportunity. Land
25 use is likely to remain the same. Possible

1 degradation of air quality is possible, relative
2 to whatever else might be going in there in the
3 future without the project.

4 We do see a benefit to the project in
5 one area that's indirect. We see another point of
6 access being provided to Valle de Oro National
7 Wildlife Refuge, and that in itself will also
8 support the EPA Urban Waters Initiative, which is
9 an initiative by EPA to connect urban populations
10 within major waterways, such as the Rio Grande
11 here. So we see that as a benefit as well,
12 although indirect.

13 So I'm going to turn it back over to
14 Rodrigo now and he'll discuss the next steps.

15 MR. EICHWALD: So what happens next, after
16 tonight's meeting? I would like to emphasize that
17 written comments are equally weighted as verbal
18 comments that will both be part of the public
19 records. The comment period ends on September 7.
20 And so after the public comments are completed, we
21 will prepare the input synopsis and then a
22 determination will be made by the Federal Highway
23 Administration. Once again, they can either
24 determine a finding of no significant impact, in
25 which case final design and right-of-way

1 acquisition would begin, public meetings would
2 occur during the design phase, and then once
3 that's all completed, construction would begin.
4 However, if it's not approved or further research
5 is required, then an environmental impact
6 statements could be given.

7 So the next -- finally I want to show
8 you a vision of what the project will look like
9 once it's built. The 3-D rendering is set up and
10 you can see -- in the background you can see I-25,
11 and once the project is built, it would basically
12 look like this. So that's just kind of a 3-D
13 model of what it will look like once it's
14 constructed.

15 Now I would like to bring back Toni.

16 MS. MARTORELLI: We've moving to the public
17 comment part of our meeting, but we actually have
18 to move a little bit to do that. So I'm going to
19 ask if somebody can help. And we're going to move
20 the podium over there so that they'll have a place
21 to speak from.

22 And I need Chris to come up here. Chris
23 is doing time work. Thank you. We'll set up the
24 microphone here.

25 MR. EICHWALD: So just to remind you, you

1 can write your comments in the comment forms we
2 provided, or if you'd like to send an e-mail, you
3 can do that. You can also fax them, if you still
4 fax. You can e-mail the comments to either Pete
5 or I, and our e-mail addresses are up here. And
6 you can also look for updates for the project on
7 the county website. And just, once again, please
8 provide comments by September 7.

9 MS. MARTORELLI: Thank you.

10 So now it's your turn. As I mentioned
11 earlier, and everybody has mentioned about the
12 written comments. Can you tell that we want to
13 make sure that anybody who has got anything to say
14 about this project has everything they need in
15 order to do that. If you're planning to speak
16 tonight, hopefully you've already signed up.
17 We've got the sign-up table in the back.

18 We've got the major engineers on this
19 project. We've got some public officials here in
20 the room to hear you. Any questions posed will be
21 addressed in a document prepared after this
22 hearing, and it will be posted on the county's
23 project website, just like the whole report.

24 And I know a few people asked about the
25 whole report in the back. That whole report is on

1 the website, so you can look at every single one
2 of the maps, you can look at the findings. So
3 tonight we provided a summary, but all of that is
4 on the website.

5 Again, the purpose of this section of
6 the meeting is to hear and record your input. As
7 with the presentation portion earlier, we ask that
8 you respect the speaker and listen, which you have
9 been fabulous at, silence your cell phones,
10 haven't heard a one, and take sidebar
11 conversations outside.

12 And when you get up to speak, if would
13 come to the podium and state who you are, and also
14 what your -- so your name and your address, and
15 say it loud and clear, because that is all being
16 recorded by our court reporter. And if you can't
17 hear someone, would you speak up and ask them to
18 do so. Thank you.

19 Then I am going to call the next three
20 people on the list. We've got two lists that I
21 picked up as the meeting was starting. I kind of
22 started in the middle of the list and worked up
23 and back. And so here it is.

24 So, again, come to the podium. You've
25 got five minutes to speak. We have Chris Russell,

1 he's back there and he's got very subdued signs.

2 Do you have the signs, Chris? They're
3 right here.

4 And he's going to show -- so don't get
5 frightened should you see this sign that says "One
6 minute," and that means kind of close up your
7 comments because you've got one minute left. And
8 when your time is up, there will be this sign,
9 "Your time is up." Thank you very much.

10 If you're colorblind, I did it in two
11 ways, black and red, just in case. But, you know,
12 five minutes sometimes feels like a long time, so
13 you might not even get to the one minute and
14 you're finished, and that's okay. We've got about
15 22 people signed up. If everybody has five
16 minutes, we'll be here for a while, but we're glad
17 to do that. And I hope you are too.

18 So the first person to speak is Kristine
19 Suozzi, and the next two people, just so you can
20 be ready, will be James Aranda, and the third
21 person is Paul Chavez. So just be prepared.
22 Thank you.

23 DR. SUOZZI: Before I begin, may I ask a
24 question? So the commissioner and Nolan and Peter
25 all mentioned a sector plan. Which sector plan is

1 that, please?

2 Kristine Suozzi. 1312 Bryn Mawr,
3 Northeast.

4 MR. HINCKLEY: The sector plans we looked at
5 in the document consisted of those Mountain View
6 Sector Plan draft developed around '05 and '06.
7 That did not get adopted, but they do correspond
8 and they are in compliance with the intent of that
9 draft. The other sector plans were older sector
10 plans but they had updates throughout the '80s and
11 '90s. Both of them -- I think there was two
12 others that dated back into the '80s. To my
13 knowledge, there is no new, current sector plan to
14 the area. The most recent one was that 2006
15 Mountain View Sector Plan draft.

16 DR. SUOZZI: Thank you, Peter.

17 MS. MARTORELLI: That was a perfect example
18 of a simple question that can be answered in a
19 minute or less. If you can do that, then do that.
20 But if the question is kind of just rhetorical or
21 isn't as precise as that question, please add
22 those to your comments and we will get back to you
23 on those. Thank you very much.

24 DR. SUOZZI: Thank you. I'm going to read
25 my comment.

1 My name is Dr. Kristine Suozzi, and I'm
2 here on behalf of the New Mexico Health Equity
3 Working Group. This is a working group, a
4 nonprofit, with the goal of increasing equity for
5 all by educating people about the social
6 determinants of health, connecting like-minded
7 individuals, organizations, agencies, and
8 advocating for policies and programs that mitigate
9 inequalities and improve health equity.

10 I'm here tonight because the proposed
11 Sunport extension is neither healthy nor equitable
12 for the community of East San Jose. This proposed
13 project would have an adverse impact on this low
14 income community of color, which already has its
15 share of environmental burdens, including two
16 Superfund sites.

17 This project would increase vehicle
18 volumes in the area, resulting in more air
19 pollution and increases in upper respiratory
20 diseases, including asthma. Increased vehicle
21 volumes are associated with increased chronic
22 disease, motor vehicle-related accidents and lower
23 life expectancy.

24 The proposed expansion would also
25 increase noise in the area. And I thank you for

1 addressing that, Peter, but there will be noise.
2 And the noise is associated with a host of
3 negative outcomes, including sleep disturbance,
4 hearing impairment, learning difficulties,
5 decreases in work performance, heart disease and
6 increased stress hormones.

7 These two health issues of increased
8 traffic and increased noise substantiate that this
9 project represents an environmental injustice to
10 this community. Exacerbating these issues is the
11 fact that the community of East San Jose has not
12 been sufficiently involved in the decision-making
13 processes.

14 Adequate community participation is
15 required of a project of this size. I suggest
16 that Bernalillo County and URS meet with the
17 community of San Jose and that the county and URS
18 conduct an environmental impact study on the
19 entire project, not just piecemeal.

20 Thank you for your consideration of this
21 request and this information.

22 MS. MARTORELLI: Thank you, Doctor.

23 DR. SUOZZI: Do you want me to stand for
24 questions, or I can just sit down?

25 MS. MARTORELLI: Our next person is James

1 Aranda.

2 MR. ARANDA: Good evening. As I was
3 introduced, my name is James Aranda. I reside at
4 1824 Neat Lane, Southeast. N, as in Nancy, e-a,
5 t, as in Tom. I am here on behalf of Place
6 Matters. We are a local, community-based
7 nonprofit organization that advocates for sound
8 land use, environmental and social policies that
9 provide equal opportunities for safe, clean and
10 healthy neighborhoods.

11 Over time we have built partnerships,
12 alliances and friendships with numerous community
13 members throughout the county. Tonight, Place
14 Matters stands in solidarity with our friends and
15 neighbors in San Jose and Mountain View who have
16 grave concerns with the potential impacts of the
17 proposed Sunport Extension Project.

18 In their view, this project will likely
19 only add on to the unreasonably high amount of
20 traffic and polluting industries already in the
21 area. These two longstanding communities have
22 long been overburdened by noise and air pollution,
23 groundwater contamination, and health problems
24 from decades of heavy industry that is literally
25 located in their backyards.

1 Not only are these economically
2 disadvantaged communities dealing with a glaring
3 lack of adequate access the fresh, healthy food,
4 walking and biking trails, open space and other
5 amenities that could make their neighborhoods
6 healthier, they're also dealing with the ongoing
7 cleanup of numerous Superfund sites.

8 It is a well known fact that the design
9 of our neighborhoods impacts community health.
10 Community members can and should be engaged in the
11 decisions that impact their neighborhoods.
12 Despite the many potential impacts of the proposed
13 Sunport extension, what is of graver concern to
14 our friends and neighbors is the way in which the
15 county has failed to meaningfully involve those
16 who will be most impacted by this project.

17 Rather, the county's actions throughout
18 the process have given community members the
19 impression that Bernalillo County is trying to
20 impose this road project on their neighborhoods
21 without the community's consent or input. Let us
22 not forget that the reason we are here tonight is
23 because the community was forced to file a
24 Title VI civil rights complaint with the
25 Environmental Protection Agency for the county's

1 failure to involve the public in the planning
2 process.

3 Now, to be fair, the county has held a
4 number of meetings in conjunction with this
5 project in which the public has been invited to
6 hear about the proposal. But according to
7 community members, never have they been given an
8 opportunity to weigh in on the merits, necessity
9 or any other aspects of this project.

10 Let me be clear, public meetings that
11 limit opportunity for public comment and disallow
12 meaningful input is not community engagement, nor
13 is it good government.

14 Because the county technically is an
15 applicant in this case, the community feels it is
16 only right that you address our concerns and
17 answer our questions in an honest, concerned and
18 timely manner.

19 Tonight, Bernalillo County Place Matters
20 joins our friends and neighbors in San Jose and
21 Mountain View to demand not only a seat in the
22 room but a seat at the table. Only through open
23 dialogue and a sincere willingness to work
24 together can a partnership based on mutual trust
25 and respect be built. Like the speaker before me,

1 I recommend a well-thought-out and engaged process
2 from here on out. And not only am I recommending
3 it, but I'm offering help. Bernalillo County
4 Place Maters is willing to assist in any way we
5 can to make this partnership a reality.

6 Thank you for your time.

7 MS. MARTORELLI: Thank you, Mr. Aranda.

8 Our next speaker is Paul Chavez, and the
9 person who will speak after that is Tom Horda.

10 MR. CHAVEZ: My name is Paul Chavez, and I
11 live at 2209 Elm Street, right at the northwest
12 corner of Gibson and I-25.

13 And I think this project is going to be
14 very helpful and good for our community. Because
15 of the traffic, we've dealt with the noise for all
16 these years, with the truckers using their Jake
17 brake, and I know they had a study about the noise
18 on Broadway. But us that live along Elm Street,
19 we have quite a bit of noise with those trucks.

20 And we are hearing about the health part
21 of this project. Those truckers, especially the
22 18-wheelers that turn on Gibson and Broadway, I've
23 lived in this area all my life in that address,
24 and I've seen gravel trucks dump their load on the
25 neighbors there on the southwest corner of

1 Broadway and Gibson. I've seen a liquid tar
2 truck, 18-wheeler, dump its load right there on
3 Broadway and Gibson, going east on Gibson. And
4 the worst one, it happened over 30 years ago, a
5 gas truck dumped its load there turning east on
6 Gibson from Broadway. The gas went into the
7 roadway, into the drains next to San Jose
8 Elementary School. Me and the coach were right
9 outside when that happened. We tried to stop the
10 cars. We stopped -- we didn't stop all of them.
11 There were two cars that went by. Two inches of
12 gas coming down Broadway towards East San Jose.
13 They splashed through the gas, they stopped about
14 two blocks down the road.

15 What I was thinking is, imagine if that
16 gas would have caught fire. They evacuated East
17 San Jose that year. The fire department dumped
18 water into the drains for probably 24 hours. But
19 that was mainly my concern, is the danger that is
20 there at that intersection of Broadway and Gibson
21 because of those big trucks.

22 And like I said, this project will be
23 helpful for all of us, especially if they live on
24 Gibson or on Elm Street, where those trucks come
25 through.

1 And thank you for giving me this chance.

2 MS. MARTORELLI: Thank you, Mr. Chavez.

3 Our speaker is Tom Horda. Tim Houda.

4 Tim Houda. I'm sorry. And Tim will be followed
5 by Michael Conway.

6 MR. HOVDA: Yeah, nobody gets it right.

7 It's Honda with a V instead of an N.

8 MS. MARTORELLI: Thank you.

9 MR. HOVDA: Good evening, everybody. I'll
10 be very brief. I represent Quikrete of
11 New Mexico. We have a facility at 2700 2nd
12 Street, Southwest. We started that facility in
13 1984. And with all due respect, Councillor,
14 wherever you are, I've been looking at this
15 project since about 1992.

16 It's very beneficial for our company and
17 I feel very beneficial for the neighborhood. We
18 have several trucks that come, semis, and that was
19 previously talked about, we have several semis
20 that come in and go out every day. And we use the
21 Woodward/Broadway/Gibson corridor and all the way
22 down to Isleta.

23 We did a time/work study on this several
24 years ago, and we anticipate we'll save over 5,000
25 gallons of diesel a year just by having this

1 extension put in and not having to drive up to
2 Gibson and drive down to Rio Bravo, either there,
3 or drive down to Isleta, for that matter.

4 So the carbon imprint will be reduced by
5 our company in the neighborhood, the noise will be
6 reduced and we will obviously benefit from the
7 reduction of diesel prices.

8 Thank you very much.

9 MS. MARTORELLI: Thank you very much.

10 Michael Conway.

11 And I'd like for remind people to
12 mention your address so we can have it for the
13 record as well.

14 MR. CONWAY: Michael Conway, 2204 La Veta,
15 V-e-t-a, Court, Northeast. I'm up here tonight.
16 I just wanted to assure the community that the
17 business owners on Woodward and Broadway,
18 95 percent have signed petitions supporting this
19 project.

20 This will breathe new life into the
21 community. It will provide new jobs, new hope,
22 and it will definitely take the semis off Broadway
23 between Woodward and Gibson, which is what
24 Mr. Chavez was alluding to.

25 In the long range, the Gibson

1 intersection is going to have to be remodeled.
2 That intersection was built in 1962. So use your
3 imagination, imagine how handy Woodward will be
4 during the period that they remodel the Gibson
5 interchange. This is the only place in the city
6 where the interstate freeway system has not been
7 completed and they deserve this. And I sincerely
8 hope they get the benefits that flow with it.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. MARTORELLI: Thank you, Mr. Conway.

11 Our next speaker is Isaac Benton, and
12 the person after that is Esther Abeyta.

13 COUNCILLOR BENTON: Good evening. Just a
14 quick statement. I just wanted people to know
15 that, and I think some of design team probably
16 knows, we did send a letter from city council
17 District 2 office to the county and to the FHWA
18 administrator suggesting that the comment period
19 for this meeting, leading up to this meeting has
20 been too short for analysis of the very lengthy
21 document and that we do support the community
22 request for a second meeting to be conducted at
23 San Jose, somewhere in the San Jose Neighborhood,
24 and with a lengthier comment period after that
25 meeting.

1 So I just wanted to let people know of
2 that specific request. Thank you.

3 MR. MARTORELLI: Thank you, Mr. Benton,
4 Councillor Benton.

5 And our next speaker is Esther Abeyta.
6 And the person after Ms. Abeyta is Julie Stephens.

7 MS. ABEYTA: My name is Esther Abeyta. My
8 address is 2419 Williams, Southeast. I am a home
9 owner and a resident of the community of San Jose
10 and a member of Southwest Organizing Project. I
11 am speaking against the building of the Sunport
12 extension for the following reasons.

13 The proponents of the Sunport extension,
14 Bernalillo County Pubic Works, never included the
15 residents of San Jose in the planning discussions
16 of the proposed Sunport extension. Rather, today,
17 August 5th, 2015, Bernalillo County is having a
18 public hearing presenting to the public a road
19 design that looks like it's already set in stone.

20 When the Federal Highway Administration
21 rejected the original environmental assessment,
22 Bernalillo County was told to do the following
23 things: Number 1, update the 2011 environmental
24 assessment, which they did, and Bernalillo County
25 released the EA to the public after two years of

1 working on the revised environmental assessment.

2 The public and the communities that will
3 be impacted by the proposed road are only given 30
4 days to review a 500-page document, with three
5 subpart documents called an environmental
6 assessment. Thirty days is not enough for
7 community members to read a report that is 500
8 pages, plus other related reports on the
9 Bernalillo County website.

10 Bernalillo County Public Works shall
11 give the residents of San Jose/Mountain View that
12 will be greatly impacted by the proposed Sunport
13 extension at least three months to review the
14 environmental assessment plus other related
15 reports on the county's website, which was very
16 difficult to locate documents pertaining to the
17 Sunport extension and this public hearing.

18 Number 2, Bernalillo County was told to
19 reconvene public participation, discuss the
20 alternative and mitigation strategies, which
21 Bernalillo County has failed to do. What
22 Bernalillo County has done in two years: Hold two
23 meetings, one at East San Jose in 2013; another
24 with Mid Regional Council of Governments at U.S.
25 Foods in 2015.

1 At both of these meetings, the public
2 was told to be quiet and view the presentation.
3 Verbal comments by the community were not allowed.
4 This is not how the NEPA process was designed to
5 work.

6 Number 3, addressing impacts to Woodward
7 Road. The families of San Jose, whose community
8 is adjacent to Woodward Road, have never had a
9 meeting in the community to discuss or have seen
10 any proposed designs for Woodward Road.
11 Connecting Woodward Road with the proposed Sunport
12 extension creates safety and congestion issues to
13 put the residents of San Jose at risk.

14 What will the Sunport extension do for
15 the families of San Jose/Mountain View? Bring
16 even more air pollution and noise to
17 San Jose/Mountain View community to our economic
18 disadvantaged, who for two years have dealt with
19 an overabundance of industrial pollution, idle
20 trains and adjacent to two Superfund sites.

21 The community members of
22 San Jose/Mountain View are tired of seeing
23 families and neighborhoods deal with a series of
24 ill health related to pollution industry. Health
25 issues such as asthma, heart conditions,

1 hypertension and other respiratory elements. The
2 illnesses are a result of where we live. We are
3 surrounded by polluting industries. The impact to
4 the community of San Jose/Mountain View from the
5 existing and future businesses have not been
6 adequately evaluated. This is the reason we need
7 an environmental impact study performed before any
8 construction is undertaken.

9 The road project will not reduce heavy
10 traffic through Broadway near the community of
11 San Jose because the Sunport extension is not, is
12 not designed for semi trucks to drive up a
13 7 percent steep grade. When a road is not
14 designed for semi trucks, semi truck drivers will
15 have to go seek another route, driving through
16 Broadway near the community of San Jose to go to
17 the freeway.

18 Semi trucks would increase particulate
19 matter inn the community of San Jose from the
20 chutes of the diesel when it turns, putting the
21 children of San Jose at great risk. The corner of
22 Broadway and Gibson is approximately 528 feet from
23 East San Jose Elementary School. The community
24 feels of the route trucks will take because of not
25 being able to use the Sunport extension, it will

1 post health issues to the children of the
2 elementary school due to increased emissions, fuel
3 particulate from chutes and smoke. This will
4 create upper respiratory problems, increase asthma
5 attacks coming from the diesel exhaust of heavy
6 commercial vehicles that will not be able to drive
7 through the Sunport extension.

8 I request that Bernalillo County and URS
9 meet with the community of San Jose whose
10 neighborhood would be negatively changed forever
11 by this project. Having another public meeting in
12 the community of San Jose is necessary. And as it
13 stands right the, communities of San Jose and
14 Mountain View have been cheated again and we need
15 justice.

16 MS. MARTORELLI: Thank you very much.

17 Julie Stephens, we can bring the
18 microphone to you.

19 And the next two speakers will be Olivia
20 McPrice [sic] and Juan Reynosa.

21 MS. STEPHENS: Thank you. Julie Stephens at
22 4800 Congress Avenue, Northwest, 87114. I have
23 very few comments. And then I agree with several
24 of the speakers before me. And I applaud
25 Councillor Benton asking for another meeting and

1 true dialogue between our communities, the county
2 and the consultants and contractors. Obviously
3 there is a lack of communication and
4 miscommunication that needs to be addressed so
5 that however this project continues or not, and
6 hopefully with an EIS, then the community at large
7 can come together with our county government with
8 an agreed-upon approach. Thank you.

9 MS. MARTORELLI: Thank you.

10 And, Olivia.

11 MS. PRICE: My name is Olivia Price, and I
12 live at 408 Berto Drive, Southeast. We've lived
13 there since 1954.

14 And when this meeting started, I was
15 sitting there listening to all these people
16 speaking, and I said, oh, my gosh, I said
17 everything sounds beautiful, but I said "sounds,"
18 did you hear that? I said "sounds," because it's
19 not going to be beautiful.

20 I'm the treasurer of San Jose
21 Association. I don't speak usually. I sing. We
22 do not support the Sunport extension because,
23 you've all heard it before already, because all
24 it's going to bring is more noise, pollution,
25 dirty and heavy industrial and more sickness.

1 And we say more sickness, how is that?
2 Well, have you heard of people getting lung cancer
3 and they didn't even smoke cigarettes? It came
4 from the pollution. And asthma? It came from the
5 pollution. East San Jose school has a very high
6 rate of asthma.

7 So it's been proven, if kids don't
8 sleep, they don't learn. If we don't sleep, we're
9 going to get sick. So we are a poor community and
10 I believe this is what it's from, not sleeping,
11 extra noise, more pollution, more traffic. No, we
12 don't want it.

13 And for all of you that said, "Oh, it's
14 going to be good for Broadway, no more trucks
15 going to bother you, going to go there," well, I
16 went to a meeting and they said it's not made for
17 all these big trucks carrying cement, gravel,
18 gasoline, whatever you call it, it wasn't made for
19 that.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. MARTORELLI: Thank you. Juan Reynosa,
22 and will be followed by Lauro Silva.

23 MR. REYNOSA: Hello. Juan Reynosa. I'm
24 with the Southwest Organizing Project, 211 10th
25 Street, Southwest.

1 So I'll be reiterating a lot of what the
2 community members have said that have been
3 involved with this and have seen it for the past
4 year passing right in front of their face.
5 Despite claims of community engagement, this is
6 the first meeting I've seen where people can
7 actually come up to a mike like this and speak out
8 in public.

9 Other times I've seen communities
10 silenced and: Go to the station and write your
11 comments down, but don't talk amongst each other.
12 We won't give the opportunity for you all to learn
13 from other community members.

14 Just like Olivia was saying, you know,
15 giving information about how this road isn't meant
16 for these big trucks. That's how these meetings
17 are supposed to be set up. So I think there's a
18 big false premise being put out there that there's
19 been community participation.

20 The road is one example of that. People
21 were really only given one choice for a road,
22 which happens to run through the Superfund site.
23 To me, that's an extremely ridiculous notion. I'm
24 assuming if the public would have been able to
25 give input on the other road routes, they would

1 have said, "We want a different road route because
2 we want this Superfund site cleaned up well before
3 we actually have anything built there."

4 They weren't given that option.

5 Instead, they had this one road route imposed on
6 them and said, "Oh, that's your option. You know,
7 you gave input on it." That's not really input,
8 that's not how the NEPA process was supposed to
9 work. That's the reason why this revised EA is
10 happening, because federal highway authorities
11 acknowledged that that process wasn't being
12 communicated well to the community and they
13 haven't been engaged. And I will say that that's
14 still happening to this day.

15 I would question why you think it's a
16 good idea to build through a Superfund site.
17 Communities like San Jose/Mountain View are
18 already dealing with this issue of water
19 contamination and air pollution. Why would you
20 want to bring in a road that only exacerbates
21 that? Why would you bring a road through a site
22 that needed to be cleaned up first for a community
23 before you start building stuff there? It just
24 makes no sense.

25 We had an UNM engineering class come out

1 last year and they did a whole study on this road
2 project. They had no idea why it would be built
3 in the first place, besides trying to build
4 capacity across the river. I do not the believe
5 the statements being made about there's no
6 connection to Santolina, there's no impetus to
7 build a road across the river. Of course there
8 is.

9 I think it's also wrong that Woodward is
10 being separated out of this project. It is
11 extremely wrong to say this piece of road that
12 connects to Broadway and Woodward, we're not going
13 to include it. It was separated out, that way we
14 can start building this road already.

15 How is that justice for the community,
16 to be engaged in this process? Woodward needs to
17 be brought in right now. And the reason it's
18 being looked at is because community members
19 brought concerns that weren't being acknowledged
20 by the county in the first place.

21 It's pretty disappointing to see that
22 the build alternative slide didn't mention how the
23 wells and pumps of the Superfund site were going
24 to be dealt with. Yet, there were all these
25 glaring almost threats being put out about what's

1 going to happen if nothing is built. I just think
2 that's plain, very wrong.

3 This is not a done deal, despite the
4 fact that it's being shown that it is. I think
5 that there's a long way to go. At the very least,
6 an environmental impact statement needs to be
7 performed on this project. There's been too many
8 concerns still to this day that have not been
9 acknowledged. And if they're not going to be
10 acknowledged through this environmental
11 assessment, then we need to move forward to an
12 environmental impact statement.

13 I would also say that another meeting is
14 absolutely necessary in San Jose. If you all are
15 talking about both communities being impacted,
16 then both communities should have a meeting. You
17 need to have access and create access to the
18 community. That's part of having the public
19 involved and engaged. So if you're only having
20 one meeting in one community, you can't say that
21 you're fully engaging the community.

22 So I also stand with the community
23 members here. I've worked with them for the past
24 few years on this project, and this is being
25 imposed on them, there hasn't been any

1 participation. And the community needs to have a
2 seat at the table.

3 MS. MARTORELLI: Thank you.

4 MR. BENNETT: I did want to just provide one
5 clarification. There's been a number of comments
6 about the public meetings. Those are details in
7 the environmental assessment. They were handled
8 in multiple different ways and multiple different
9 locations, so all those meetings that we've had in
10 the past are detailed in that, if you'd like to
11 read further about them.

12 MR. EICHWALD: I also wanted to say one
13 thing. I just wanted to say that the Woodward
14 project would not be -- Sunport would not begin or
15 would not be allowed to be opened until the
16 Woodward project is completed. So we mentioned
17 earlier that those projects would go hand in hand.
18 So Sunport would not be allowed to be opened until
19 the Woodward project is completed. I just wanted
20 to clarify that. Thank you.

21 MR. SILVA: My name is Lauro Silva. I'm the
22 president of the Mountain View Neighborhood
23 Association.

24 Woodward and the extension themselves
25 are the boundary line between the community of

1 San Jose and the community of Mountain View. The
2 community of Mountain View has had very little
3 information. All of it had been indirect, except
4 for last week when Rodrigo called me, about ten
5 days ago, actually.

6 Is that correct, Rodrigo?

7 For the first time we had a
8 communication. We have gotten nothing in writing
9 to give us notice. I've been president for the
10 last two years and we haven't gotten any
11 information about anything. But some folks did go
12 to the U.S. Foods meeting. Of course people are
13 not allowed to comment at that point.

14 So we don't have very much opportunity,
15 haven't had much opportunity to review the
16 documents, find out what they say, have questions
17 answered, have dialogue and have any kind of
18 meaningful input. And in order to expect us to
19 have any kind of meaningful input at this stage, I
20 think it's absolutely outrageous and irresponsible
21 to expect us to do that. It would be
22 irresponsible of me to expect people in my
23 community to be able to provide meaningful comment
24 by going through 600 pages of analysis on these
25 technical documents. The technical documents have

1 a lot to do with the air quality.

2 Now, when you talk about hot spot, hot
3 spot analysis, that's ridiculous. That's not
4 scientific. Come on. I served on the Bernalillo
5 County Planning Commission, I served on the air
6 quality control board. And so I know that that's
7 not the way you do things.

8 What's the modeling process that's going
9 to be used here? We know that the monitoring
10 station in Mountain View only monitors for two
11 things. Now, the monitoring data that's been used
12 in the past on the concrete plant, for example,
13 that they wanted to put across the street from the
14 community center, where 250 children gather every
15 evening, was modeling that was done on the air
16 quality monitoring station at the airport, not the
17 one from Mountain View.

18 Again, these absurd kind of projections
19 that are being made are not scientific. They're
20 not based on reality. And in order to do that is
21 just a big smoke screen as far as I'm concerned
22 from where I'm standing right now. Now, maybe
23 after I get a chance to actually review those
24 documents thoroughly, I'll be able to come to
25 different conclusions. I may be able to take

1 those apart, and I intend to do that, but 30 days,
2 come on, for us to be able to break that down, the
3 scientific documents that have taken how many
4 years? At least five years for teams of experts,
5 not only engineers but specialists in the
6 environmental issues, people who have access to
7 that data that we don't have. We have to rely on
8 what's in those documents by themselves, and I
9 can't do that.

10 I know that the current studies show
11 that people-of-color communities are very highly
12 impacted whenever there's a highway construction.
13 We know that the most dangerous -- one of the most
14 dangerous things, besides the benzine and the
15 other kind of volatile organic compounds that will
16 be in the air from all the truck and auto
17 emissions using that, are going to be very
18 dangerous, especially the particulate matter. The
19 small particulate matter, the 2.5, is the most
20 dangerous, because it gets way down deep in your
21 lungs and that's where it does the damage, where
22 your capillary beds are.

23 So let's not kid ourselves. This is
24 dangerous for the community. We have children at
25 the elementary school in Mountain View that have

1 had to go to the emergency room because they were
2 diagnosed with asthma. And their parents didn't
3 even know they had asthma; they just thought they
4 had bad coughs. High rates of respiratory
5 illnesses, high rates of cardiovascular disease,
6 infant mortality rates, those are all the studies
7 that we've been doing over last 12 years. Those
8 years that we've been involved in the sector
9 development plan that was tabled and has not been
10 brought back forth and is being discussed today in
11 the form of a draft, and plans are being made on a
12 draft that has not been approved yet, they're
13 talking about industrial on brown fields,
14 Superfund sites. The soil is contaminated.
15 There's a well, the well is 700 feet deep. It has
16 nothing to do with moving all that dirt and
17 getting it flying around in the air.

18 My time is up. I have a lot more to
19 comment. Thank you very much.

20 MR. BENNETT: Thank you very much, Lauro.

21 Just a quick clarification. The comment
22 period was extended from 30 to 50 days. The
23 typical comment period for environmental
24 assessment on a federal highway association
25 project is 30 days. We did extend that to 50

1 days, just as a clarification.

2 MS. MARTORELLI: Thank you.

3 Our next speaker is Steven Abeyta, and
4 the speaker after Mr. Abeyta will Lee Johnson.

5 MR. ABEYTA: My name is Steven Abeyta. I
6 reside at 2419 William Street, Southeast, in the
7 San Jose Neighborhood. I am a member of Southwest
8 Organizing Project.

9 I'm a person who loves the people of
10 Mountain View. I love the people of San Jose. I
11 love our representatives, Councillor Benton,
12 Andres Romero. We have them here to protect us.
13 We have our county to protect us. But the one
14 thing that's happening, all too often lately, is
15 our members of government, and the county, that
16 is, want to build something or want to have a
17 business or industry in our neighborhood, and they
18 don't involve us, like you're doing with the
19 Sunport extension.

20 You come out to our community and you
21 say, "I want you to pick what color the sides of
22 the freeway project are going to be." I used to
23 be in sales; it's called an indirect close. You
24 tried to trick me, you were deceptive.

25 I attended a meeting where Rodrigo

1 Eichwald said Sunport extension is not designed
2 for trucks. So all you people that work at
3 Quikrete and Synergy and Chevron, you're not going
4 to be able to make it up that hill. You may come
5 down and use your Jake brakes, create more noise,
6 obviously.

7 The one thing I wanted to say, when we
8 talk about disproportionate, what do you think the
9 Sunport is designed to do. The Sunport extension
10 is designed to build up the area with more
11 businesses. If I owned an industry and I had a
12 call center and a customer service center and I
13 was going to look for places to put them, would I
14 put them next to two tank farms? No. If I had an
15 asphalt company, a cement company, I would bring
16 them to San Jose and Mountain View because they're
17 zoned M-2.

18 I know they said that they're going to
19 give us an overlay. What that is is just like
20 someone said, it's like lipstick on a pig. Any
21 company can go on ahead and say, "We'll do the
22 landscaping, we'll do the parking spaces. Fine.
23 But we're going to still do our polluting."

24 The other thing is, when we talk about
25 disproportionate, we have a lot of people in my

1 neighborhood who speak Spanish, which is outlined
2 right directly in the environmental assessment
3 that was prepared by the county. And what has
4 happened is it's only in English. There was only
5 a portion of it in Spanish. How is that going to
6 help my people? They tell me to represent them,
7 and I'm here tonight to say we need that
8 assessment in Spanish, not just partially.

9 Now, I know we were threatened that the
10 improvements won't happen in our area, "If we
11 don't get this project, you're not going to get
12 the overlay." Well, I don't even know if we're
13 going to get the overlay anyway because the
14 landowners have to agree to it, and it's still M-2
15 zoning, which is the most biggest type of
16 polluting industries that are allowed.

17 Flooding, I spoke with one of my fellow
18 neighbors who lives a little bit down from the
19 site. And he spoke with representatives from the
20 project and they said, "We're going to stop the
21 flooding at your house." But little did they tell
22 him that your house is located a little bit
23 further down Broadway and that the only flooding
24 controls that are going to be done in the area is
25 going to be next to the site. So you're not going

1 to relieve any of our flooding.

2 We're a community that's going to take
3 all this industry, we're going to bear all the
4 pollution, we're going to smell all the gases,
5 we're going to feel the particulate matter from
6 Quikrete come down to our house, and we'll say,
7 "Why is my ground discolored?" Well, it's the
8 particulate matter. That's what we get. They get
9 the money. We get the pollution.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. MARTORELLI: Thank you.

12 MR. EICHWALD: I just wanted to make a
13 couple clarifications. Did once upon time did I
14 say, "My name is Rodrigo and this project is not
15 designed for trucks," I did say that. But I
16 said -- I didn't say that it was not designed for
17 trucks where trucks would not be able to use it.
18 I said: The project is not specifically made for
19 only trucks. It's made for all vehicles types,
20 not just specifically trucks.

21 MR. ABEYTA: We have it recorded,
22 Mr. Eichwald.

23 MR. EICHWALD: Then you misunderstood me,
24 and you should send me that recording. Because
25 trucks can go up this road. Thank you.

1 MS. MARTORELLI: Thank you. Thanks for that
2 clarification.

3 Lee Johnson is our next speaker. Leo,
4 sorry. And followed by Loretta Naranjo Lopez.

5 MR. JOHNSON: My name is Leo Johnson. I
6 live at 507 Wesmeco. I guess I'm right in the
7 middle of the Woodward extension.

8 My biggest problem has always been
9 you've got other alternatives. I haven't taken
10 the time to specifically talk to the people at the
11 table there as to why the other alternatives were
12 never or have not been decided on.

13 We talk about a 7 percent grade from
14 Broadway up to the top of the hill there, and I do
15 think that's going to be an issue, but I'm not an
16 engineer so, of course, my comments -- I would
17 just be able to sit and watch the traffic slide up
18 and down that hill in bad weather.

19 The other alternatives, I always
20 thought, as a layman, seem to me, not north but
21 going south of Woodward seemed like they would
22 blend into Broadway or they would blend into the
23 Rio Bravo traffic to where you wouldn't have a
24 90-degree turn right at Broadway and Woodward.
25 You've got all that traffic that I'm concerned

1 with, because of where I live, right at the corner
2 of Wesmeco and Broadway.

3 Another gentleman was talking about the
4 traffic that goes -- 18-wheelers that go around
5 the corner there, going Broadway up to Gibson on
6 two wheels or four wheels. Well, that would be in
7 my backyard, and of course I don't particularly
8 like that. But being that I went to San Jose, I
9 can understand and walk Broadway to Lincoln, and
10 all of those years I've seen the traffic grow.

11 I also see the need for what's going on
12 with the reserve that's coming out here into the
13 Mountain View area. And I think that's wonderful.
14 We have to be careful. So I say I would like to
15 have more information on those alternatives, and
16 maybe it's a moot issue at this point.

17 I think the one that they've selected is
18 the worst. One, I live there; two, I'm a retired
19 bureaucrat myself, so I kind of understand how
20 business is done. Looking at that alternative, I
21 just wanted to question that.

22 But I want to leave with this, and
23 that's that we have to be careful about the kind
24 of industry that we're bringing into San Jose/
25 Mountain View, lower Albuquerque.

1 We've seen what's happened in different
2 parts of the country, and I'm afraid that --
3 regulations are very tight in different parts of
4 the country and they're beefing up their EPA, they
5 have the staff to work and work with the laws that
6 are on the books now. What we're saying and what
7 we have to be careful about is that, we don't have
8 a lot of staff with our EPA now, we don't have the
9 staff to regulate and enforce rules that are
10 already in place, and we are bringing in
11 industries that are going to disturb our health.

12 Right now it's San Jose, tomorrow it's
13 Mountain View, and if you're not careful,
14 New Mexico citizens, the nation is looking at us
15 as being the next dump, so be careful the kind of
16 industry that we do bring in, because we're
17 getting residuals. We're getting the asphalt,
18 we're getting a lot of stuff that is hurting not
19 only me but us as New Mexicans.

20 So I appreciate the work that we're
21 doing and we're trying to bring in soft, good
22 industry. But I just think that we need to be
23 aware of the kind of industry that we draw. Be
24 careful what you ask for.

25 MS. MARTORELLI: Our next speaker is Loretta

1 Naranjo Lopez, followed by Joan Brown.

2 MS. NARANJO LOPEZ: Good evening. My name
3 is Loretta Naranjo Lopez, and I live at 1127
4 Walter, Northeast, 87102. I'm a leader with
5 Martineztown Work Group, Albuquerque Interfaith, a
6 nonprofit social justice organization.

7 The Martineztown Work Group is here to
8 support our neighbors to the south, San Jose and
9 Mountain View, who, like our neighborhood, have
10 endured the continued disenfranchising the city
11 and county have imposed on low income, older
12 neighborhoods. Martineztown Work Group opposes
13 the request to extend Sunport Boulevard into an
14 already congested area.

15 Traffic engineers often have failed to
16 acknowledge that increased roadway traffic
17 capacity can lead to more, not fewer, cars on the
18 road. The resulting phenomenon of induced demand
19 results in unanticipated consequences not only for
20 traffic on freeways but especially in neighbors
21 such as San Jose and Mountain View.

22 The city and county are currently
23 working on updating the comprehensive plan and
24 supporting walkable communities. If Sunport is
25 extended, this will not be a reality for San Jose

1 Neighborhood and Mountain View or the other older
2 neighbors downtown. If Sunport Boulevard Project
3 is extended it will also exacerbate the air and
4 noise pollution in the area from I-25, Broadway,
5 Gibson and Rio Bravo.

6 The city and Bernalillo County are not
7 protecting the residents from the existing
8 environmental impacts the San Jose residents are
9 dealing with today. Martineztown Work Group
10 respectfully asks that you consider the negative
11 impact from this proposal and we ask that you
12 provide another public hearing in the community of
13 San Jose.

14 I thank you for this opportunity to
15 talk. And I just want to say that we had a
16 health impact assessment done in Martineztown and
17 they not only said in the report that I-25
18 impacted our neighborhood, but miles away from our
19 neighbors, it impacts those neighborhoods also.
20 And when they opened up the frontage road to go
21 into Mountain Road, which is a residential
22 roadway, it has increased the impact of the
23 traffic and the noise and air pollution in our
24 neighborhood.

25 So I hope that the county really looks

1 at this and has a meeting at the San Jose
2 Neighborhood to have more input.

3 MS. MARTORELLI: Good evening.

4 MS. BROWN: Good evening. My name is Joan
5 Brown, I'm a Franciscan sister, and I live at
6 1004 Major Avenue, Northwest, Albuquerque.

7 And I'm here because I continually go
8 to, in my line of work, a number of meetings where
9 I find that the citizens of not just this
10 community but throughout the state are not
11 recognized and not appreciated for who they are as
12 human beings, and people with projects that are
13 touted as helping the economic situation of our
14 state, which is one that's economically poor,
15 those projects usually do not help the economic
16 situation.

17 In fact, we continue to be nearly last
18 in the states, continually. If these projects, if
19 these continued roads are of great benefit, some
20 things would be changing in the state.

21 I find it difficult to believe that
22 there would be no disproportionate impact on
23 minority or low-income populations in the
24 environmental justice impact of this proposal, and
25 maybe that needs to be reconsidered. Because in

1 my layperson's estimation, it seems like this
2 would only put more burden upon two communities
3 that are already overburden with high traffic and
4 very intense industrial polluting businesses and
5 past historical pollution that they're still
6 dealing with.

7 In the no-build alternatives that you
8 propose, I'm sure that you're very sincere in all
9 your work that you're doing, but some of this
10 seems rather disingenuous to me to say that in no
11 building there would be all these things, when I
12 think to say no-build would mean we'd have less
13 asthma, less noise, less traffic, less bronchial
14 problems, less hospital visits, less workdays
15 lost, less school days lost for our children,
16 healthy communities, a better sense of mental
17 health and well-being, and a better self-image.

18 For me, those would be things that we
19 need to take into consideration as true resources,
20 which are people in our communities; that would be
21 advantageous for no-build. And I think in public
22 hearings, I think those are the things that need
23 to be put forward.

24 Pope Francis just recently came out
25 with -- and it's cyclical in environment and

1 economics. And one of the things he talks about a
2 great deal is our throw-away culture, and he's
3 talking about, you know, too many consumer goods
4 and how we're all engaged in that. Well, once we
5 get into that kind of mindset, we begin to have
6 throw-away communities and throw-away people and
7 throw-away states.

8 And I feel the thing in this community
9 of Albuquerque with my brothers and sisters, that
10 we are part of that throw-away culture. And maybe
11 very innocently and unintentionally, but we are
12 part of that cultural mindset that really, really
13 needs to shift as we look at some of these
14 projects and look at really what is of benefit to
15 our community, what makes healthy, liveable
16 communities.

17 I respect a great deal all the people
18 who are here. I would invite them -- a liveable
19 community means you work and live in the
20 community. So I assume that maybe you are already
21 living in this community and you live right there
22 in San Jose and next to where this is going to be.
23 I would hope that that's the case so that you are
24 realizing or know the implications of more
25 traffic, of more pollution in the air, of

1 degradation of the water and compromising our
2 children's health, which is our future.

3 I support the community in desiring more
4 comment periods, more hearings and more inclusion
5 in this project, but also in future projects in
6 this county and the city. Oftentimes they come to
7 the public and they are already sort of a done
8 deal, and that is not good for us as a whole
9 community, and I believe we do want a whole
10 community. So thank you.

11 MS. MARTORELLI: Thank you. Our next
12 speaker is Alfred Volden, followed by Angela West.

13 MR. VOLDEN: Good evening. My name is
14 Alfred Volden. My address is 3215 2nd Street,
15 Southwest. I am a lifelong resident of this
16 community and a landowner. We have been very
17 responsible to the community, and I am supportive
18 of this project. I think it will take a brown
19 field area into infield that will be green and
20 create many jobs and create an economic tax base
21 for the county.

22 As landowners, we have been very
23 specific on what types of industry would go in,
24 and it would be clean industry. I think this
25 would be very supportive and would create an

1 economic base and employment for the community.

2 We support this project. Thank you.

3 MS. MARTORELLI: Thank you, Mr. Volden.

4 Our next speaker is Angela West,
5 followed by Marla Painter.

6 MS. WEST: My name is Angela West. I reside
7 at 226 Sunny Slope, Southwest. I am a member of
8 the Mountain View Neighborhood Association as well
9 as a member of 2nd Street Futures, a founding
10 member of that organization.

11 Like you, I've been working on this
12 project for over five years. I have -- my
13 comments are more in terms of the EA and the
14 analytics employed. I think -- and granted, I
15 have to go through it, and I will and I'll give
16 you a better job written. I was very pleased to
17 see the environmental justice section beefed up.
18 It wasn't there before. But it -- half of it is
19 describing and referencing the law itself, rather
20 than analytics, and I think that that's the place,
21 so I'm going to offer some suggestions.

22 Basically, my concern is
23 differentiating, assessing the impact of building
24 and doing the project, versus assessing the impact
25 on the use, what is the subsequent use and

1 pattern. You know, for instance, do we have a
2 loop happening here along 2nd Street, up Rio
3 Bravo, down Broadway and down this new extension,
4 and what kind of businesses are going to be
5 involved and drawn in. You've heard a lot about
6 that.

7 For instance, in Mountain View, we
8 recently had a creature called Gandy Dancer
9 dropped on our heads, as did the county, to some
10 degree, and many, many negative things, a lot of
11 verbiage, a lot of things not happening the way
12 they should. So that's one example of the kind of
13 thing that collectively we are concerned about
14 when we're talking about industry and the type of
15 industry, this pattern.

16 I'm a little concerned sometimes about
17 the analysis on benefits. I notice in the
18 language in there that it was a benefit to
19 San Jose by bringing bicycle lanes. I think I
20 heard that, as well. But I might add that those
21 bicycle lanes and amenities could go in without
22 Sunport as well.

23 I've also heard a lot of speculation on
24 benefits in terms of developmental use, and I
25 would call them at this juncture speculation as

1 either verbal or even some of them in writing as
2 somewhat verbal. Bright, clean industry,
3 conclusion of no disparate impact, based on that,
4 my speculation, lacking the data, is that the
5 industrial uses will be probably fairly negative.
6 They will contribute sufficiently to any economic
7 benefit, will have environmental concerns.

8 Also, schools, the school's a mile away.
9 This isn't going to bother the one little school
10 in San Jose, but the kids do walk and go home and
11 play.

12 I suppose one of my key points here is
13 that we don't have the analytics necessary in this
14 document to draw rational and reasonable
15 conclusions on impact. Neither on short-term
16 impact nor long-term impact and certainly not
17 cumulative impact. There's no timeline drawn. I
18 would like to see the air quality and
19 transportation, that data structured with this and
20 the impacts articulated in that fashion.

21 My primary objective is that if you can
22 effectively identify and defend and describe its
23 impact, then you're likely to be able to design
24 some mitigating measures. Right now, with this
25 it's difficult to design a mitigating measure for

1 this project. Fundamentally, I would think that
2 this -- either you can do this EA yet again, or I,
3 in looking at your analytics, would suggest that
4 the difficulty and clarity that you're driving
5 for -- I'm sorry, I'm a little -- I don't know
6 what that says -- thank you -- the depth that
7 you're driving for here is likely to be more
8 effectively presented in a DIS. This is extremely
9 complex and difficult to talk about.

10 I really -- the speculation, we can
11 speculate great, we can speculate not so great.
12 So let's have better data, more solid data, let's
13 draw some conclusions and discuss impact and have
14 a dialog on what mitigating measures there are.

15 The advocacy of new life, new hope and
16 new jobs, I like that phrase, but I'd like to see
17 some meat behind it. And, essentially, I have a
18 heart that goes with leap of faith, but a mind
19 that really, really locks on leap of logic. So I
20 think we can work together. I think there's
21 better analytics, and I took forward to that data.
22 And I will give you a detailed report.

23 Thank you for your time.

24 MS. MARTORELLI: Next speaker is Marla
25 Painter, followed Andres Romero.

1 MS. PAINTER: Thank you. My name is Marla
2 Painter. I live at 506 Valley High Street,
3 Southwest. I live in Mountain View. I'm a member
4 of the neighborhood association, past president of
5 the neighborhood association. I currently run a
6 little project to try to expedite communication
7 within our community on matters that affect our
8 lives of Mountain View community action.

9 I'm very familiar with the NEPA process,
10 and if one were to just read this and not know
11 much about the NEPA process or how things actually
12 operate in this county, I'd say, "Gee whiz, isn't
13 this swell." And I think it is a swell idea to
14 get the trucks off of Broadway in the heart of the
15 San Jose Neighborhood.

16 But this is a ruse, this is a fantasy.
17 And I understand why people support fantasy, it
18 sounds great but it ain't the truth, and you guys
19 know it. First of all, this is a really shabby
20 EA, and I agree with other speakers. There has to
21 be an EIS because this could be litigated at this
22 point.

23 For one thing, I've heard on the radio
24 numerous times employees of the county talking
25 about this project as if it's a done deal and how

1 this EA found no new information that would
2 counter the idea that this is a good project and
3 it's a done deal. I heard that last night on
4 KUNM. And the heart, the heart of the NEPA
5 process is to provide a thorough no-action
6 alternative.

7 The no-action alternative is a joke and
8 environmental justice analysis is a joke. There's
9 no nicer way to put it. The EA is intended to be
10 a document that assists in making a decision to
11 act or to not act. And it's not intended to be
12 justification for a decision that's already been
13 made. That's in the law. And on this point
14 alone, you failed.

15 I found it incredibly astounding that
16 the Mountain View Sector Plan was brought up as
17 something that was going to be followed in this
18 overall plan and project when, in fact, the
19 Mountain View Sector Plan, on which citizens
20 worked hard for four years, was not even allowed
21 to be heard before the county planning commission,
22 much less the county commission. Why? Because
23 Commissioner De La Cruz pulled it from the agenda
24 moments before it was to be heard, and that is the
25 truth. I was there. And so were many of the

1 people in this room.

2 I want to talk about this encouragement
3 of nicer industrial development. In Mountain
4 View, we've been promised nicer industrial
5 development, with overlays and conditions and all
6 kinds of things. Never happens. Gandy Dancer
7 came into our community a few months ago. They
8 promised us all kinds of flowers and lovely
9 additions to the community. We are now living,
10 before they've even officially opened, with
11 65 decibels of noise every morning, starting at
12 6:00 a.m. There are going to be 50-foot tall
13 lights over 36 acres in the middle of our home
14 community. No dark skies consideration. These
15 are going to be big, bright lights. It's going to
16 light up all of Mountain View, and there is
17 nothing the county can do. They can make all the
18 promises in the world to you people in San Jose
19 about how lovely this is going to be. Not going
20 to happen.

21 I want to also ask the question about
22 where this is going and why. Now, why would
23 people go down crowded, decrepit 2nd Street to
24 turn onto Woodward to go up the freeway via this
25 new boulevard? Doesn't make any sense. I think

1 it is an infill project between Rio Bravo and
2 Woodward Boulevard for heavy industry to come in
3 on that section of Broadway that's not yet
4 developed. And as much as that traffic is going
5 to go down to Rio Bravo to get on the freeway, as
6 it is going to go down to Sunport, depends on
7 where you are on each side of that little space on
8 Broadway. And the idea that people would go to
9 Valle de Oro, would drive to Valle de Oro by
10 getting off at Sunport Boulevard and then driving
11 through an extra couple of miles of heavy
12 industrial, ugly development? Please. In short,
13 go back to the drawing board.

14 MS. MARTORELLI: Thank you.

15 The next speaker is Andres Romero,
16 followed by Robert Maestas.

17 MR. ROMERO: Good evening, everybody. My
18 name is Andres Romero, and I live at 7411 Isleta
19 Boulevard in Los Padillas. I'm also the state
20 representative in House District 10 and I
21 represent Mountain View and the San Jose
22 community.

23 And this is obviously an issue that I've
24 heard much about from many of my constituents who
25 are here today, and also I've heard from the

1 county, and particularly Mr. Bennett has been
2 responsive to my questions. And I'm truly
3 appreciative of that.

4 I'm also appreciative of the fact that
5 there's a 50-day comment period, which has been
6 stated is longer than the traditional 30-day.
7 However, as we've heard from many of the community
8 members, given the health and environmental issues
9 that still plague these communities, I would urge,
10 in light of that, as well as the still short
11 window to review the documentation, that the
12 community be given the additional time to review
13 the material and make additional public comments
14 at a site in San Jose which is also one of the
15 potential affected areas, as we've heard.

16 This is a great presentation from the
17 county to provide a summation of the changes.
18 However, me, being a historian, I think it's
19 important that the community must be given ample
20 time to review the primary sources for themselves.
21 I don't think 50 days is nearly enough. And they
22 must be a part of the decision-making process,
23 again, as a part of an additional meeting at the
24 San Jose community.

25 So, again, I thank you for your time.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. MARTORELLI: Thank you. Robert Maestas
3 followed by Cipriano Lucero and John Lorentzen
4 after that. Thank you.

5 MR. MAESTAS: My name is Robert Maestas, and
6 I've lived at 2116 Edith, Southeast, for 43 years.
7 And I've owned a piece of property at 2818
8 Broadway for about 15 years.

9 Now, on Page 3, there should have been
10 around nine meetings on this thing, and I've only
11 been informed of two of them and I got papers that
12 those meetings were going on. And there's been
13 about nine of them. My son spoke at the last one
14 because I had to be out of town.

15 And I've got about five questions. The
16 first one is: Can we rezone from R-1, or whatever
17 we are, to a commercial zone? Because we live in
18 R-1 zone and somebody comes and buys us out and
19 they turn into commercial. They can get more
20 money out of our properties. That's the first
21 question.

22 The second one would be, with the city,
23 will there be any city, state, federal money or
24 anything to build to increase our property values,
25 to increase our own property value? Because

1 people come in and buy it as residential and they
2 get more money out of it than you sold it for.

3 The next things is, we will probably be
4 made to beautify our properties like in Santa Fe,
5 where people are priced out of their own
6 neighborhoods, where the taxes went up so high
7 that they couldn't pay them and had to suffer a
8 loss. A lot of people took advantage of that on
9 them.

10 Oh, and another -- can we be given help
11 on how it would be best for each one of us to
12 proceed on with our properties and all that? Will
13 there be any legal help from the county and the
14 city so they could advise us on what would be best
15 for our situation and the position we hold?

16 The next one would be: Will we -- will
17 these alternatives be available to them and will
18 be -- and can we contact -- who can we contact
19 about these alternatives?

20 And in closing, I want to say, how is
21 this going to benefit us, the person, each person
22 that has property? How is that going to benefit
23 us? The city seems to have taken a lot already,
24 saying how beautiful it's going to be and
25 everything. But how is it going to benefit each

1 one of us?

2 That's it. Thank you.

3 MS. MARTORELLI: Thank you, Mr. Maestas.

4 Our next speaker is Cipriano Lucero,
5 followed by John Lorentzen.

6 MR. LUCERO: Good evening. My name is
7 Cipriano Lucero, and I live at 325 Berto Avenue,
8 Southeast. And we live -- I'm actually speaking
9 for myself, my mother and my sisters and my nieces
10 that all live with us. We live about two blocks
11 from the proposed extension and all of this
12 traffic work.

13 But what I'd like to do is just
14 reiterate everything I think that's been said
15 because I want to go on record as saying that we
16 have not really been involved in the whole
17 process. The only reason I knew about this
18 meeting is because someone called me to tell me
19 they had gotten a postcard about the meeting. And
20 then Saturday, I saw a sign at the Bernalillo
21 County facility that said something about a
22 meeting. And I was surprised that it involved
23 San Jose directly and the meeting is being held
24 here at Mountain View. That's one thing that
25 surprised me greatly.

1 But I want to go from here and continue
2 with what I wanted to say. And I just want to let
3 everyone know that we are really very much opposed
4 to this. First of all, we don't believe that
5 everyone in the community has been allowed to be
6 part of the investigative process. And we don't
7 believe that we have been given the opportunity to
8 say yes or no to the project. It is just how we
9 are being told that it is happening no matter what
10 we think or want.

11 As a matter of fact, I received an
12 e-mail yesterday from someone who works for the
13 county that said this is going to go through
14 basically, that's it, and I can share that e-mail
15 with everybody if they want to, and reveal that,
16 once again, San Jose community is being forced to
17 accept something that we truly don't want, or at
18 least the residents, people that are there
19 continually there 24/7.

20 I've heard people talk about employment
21 opportunities because of the increase in business.
22 Well, most of my neighbors don't work in the
23 neighborhood. People that work in the
24 neighborhood, that fill all of the businesses that
25 are there, come from other parts of the city to

1 work. Our people have to go out to work.

2 And second, whatever studies and
3 guidelines are being used to try to convince
4 people that there is no harm has not been taken, I
5 don't believe taken into consideration of the true
6 cumulative effects of all of this. Every
7 individual company or business or car that goes by
8 may be well under the levels that are set by the
9 government, but take all of that and put Company A
10 and Company B, who may be at 90 percent, but
11 together, they're well over 100 percent of
12 emissions or pollution in the area.

13 And we've already been declared and
14 people have sat and declared we have been a
15 Superfund site. Those of us who have lived there
16 forever know that we all had well water when he
17 first moved in. We can't use our wells for
18 nothing. They're just dead, sitting there.

19 Increased traffic, I know that that will
20 affect the children. It's already been proven,
21 it's already been talked about. We sit on our
22 front porch right now and we watch the traffic on
23 the freeway go by, the airplanes go right over our
24 heads. We have counted 50, 60 airplanes coming
25 and going just in one evening alone, sitting there

1 for a couple hours. So with the added traffic, I
2 know what that's going to do.

3 I'll skip a lot of this because I think
4 people have already talked about the illnesses
5 that are well known that are caused by pollution
6 and emissions. And I want to make this very clear
7 that our community, I don't believe, sees any
8 benefits from this.

9 The only thing that San Jose community
10 is ever used for is a gateway for other parts of
11 the city. They use us as a go-between. You can
12 go through San Jose to get here, you can go to San
13 Jose to get there. That's the only good thing,
14 and that's why people want to put everything
15 through our area.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. MARTORELLI: Thank you, Mr. Lucero.

18 Our next speaker and final speaker is
19 John Lorentzen.

20 MR. LORENTZEN: Hello and good evening. My
21 name IS John Lorentzen, and I own a business at
22 2909 Yale Boulevard and a home in the Southwest
23 valley. And I've been in Albuquerque for, without
24 giving my age away, about 60 years. I grew up in
25 California and we moved to New Mexico because I

1 had asthma as a child. And the dry climate pretty
2 much fixed me up nicely.

3 We've heard a lot about health, the
4 environment, asthma. This interchange proposed
5 road is not creating health issues. If anything,
6 is it merely spreading them out from Gibson to
7 Broadway to Woodward to Broadway to Rio Bravo to
8 Broadway versus having them in two locations
9 consolidated. So if anything, the health
10 environment issues don't really make a lot of
11 sense.

12 Because building an interchange doesn't
13 increase population. As we all know, Albuquerque,
14 unfortunately, is ranking 45th to 50th in just
15 about everything and people are actually leaving
16 the state. So creating a new roadway does not
17 create environmental problems; it simply spreads
18 them out.

19 Did Paseo del Norte or Montano bridge
20 create environmental issues, which was the main
21 argument for building those crossways to the West
22 side where the population was growing more than it
23 was in the northeast heights? No. It simply
24 allowed traffic to flow, which, in essence,
25 unconsolidated the pollution and the environmental

1 issues that everybody here has been arguing about,
2 and spread them out. We're not increasing it,
3 we're not decreasing it, we're spreading it out.
4 So do you want to consolidate here and here or do
5 you want to spread them out.

6 I drive Interstate 25 to the airport to
7 Yale every day. This property, if it's not
8 developed -- I notice the city just got the
9 homeless people out of there, that tent city was
10 created, and that lasted about two months and then
11 they got away with it. The city said, "Move them
12 someplace else."

13 This land has had environmental issues,
14 which have been addressed by the Schwartzman
15 Trust, which owns the bulk of the property. It's
16 zoned M-1 and M-2, which is an intense zone where
17 you could put ammonia plants, animal -- where
18 they, you know, take them apart and -- what the
19 Schwartzmans did is they put restrictions on this
20 property. They didn't want adult entertainment.
21 They didn't want daycare for children because of
22 the water contamination that has been known and
23 they've been working on now for 15 to 20 years to
24 clean up. They wanted architectural control on
25 the building, on all the M-1, -2 and -3 zoned

1 property which benefits everyone. It basically
2 reduces the intense industrial zone to a mild IP
3 zone, which allows nice development, restricted,
4 has to go before the EPC for approval for parking,
5 site plan layout, so on and so forth. And I'm
6 sure no one in here is even aware of what they've
7 done to protect this property from the intense
8 zone that it actually had.

9 I look at the interchange just as
10 bridges to the west side. If you don't have
11 access, all you get is congestion. This is going
12 to help the neighborhood. It's not going to hurt
13 the neighborhood. People are going to be able to
14 get to the airport easier. They're going to be
15 able to get to I-25 northbound/southbound easier.
16 Access, is good.

17 A lot of people object to an office zone
18 next to their property 8:00 to 5:00, and then they
19 build apartments, which is 2 o'clock in the
20 morning parking. They don't like the 8:00 to 5:00
21 because it's offices, it's commercial, it's mean,
22 it's intense; whereas, the residential zone of
23 apartments is much worse because you got party
24 animals up till 2 o'clock at night. So let's not
25 get the zoning confused with the access.

1 And the access will create development
2 where development would not normally occur. It
3 would create jobs for the City of Albuquerque, and
4 it would also create gross receipts tax for the
5 city.

6 I'm totally in favor of this. It's long
7 overdue. We've studied it for five years. It's
8 time to approve it and get it built.

9 MS. MARTORELLI: Thank you, Mr. Lorentzen.

10 And thank you, everybody, for being
11 here. It's been a great time together.

12 MR. EICHWALD: Thank you, everybody, for
13 coming. We appreciate all your comments.

14 Now we will take these comments and we
15 will put them into a synopsis and we will submit
16 this environmental assessment to the Federal
17 Highway Administration, who will determine what
18 happens next.

19 And we thank you. And the comment
20 period is until September 7th. If you have any
21 questions, please feel free to call us.

22 (Proceedings concluded at 8:27 p.m.)

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1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO
2 COUNTY OF BERNALILLO

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4

5 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

6 I, Kelli Gallegos, New Mexico Provisional
7 Reporter, No. P-409, working under the direct
8 supervision of Paul Baca, NM CCR #112, do hereby
9 certify that I reported the foregoing proceedings
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14 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither
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