

ST. FRANCIS DRIVE THROUGH THE CITY OF SANTA FE CORRIDOR STUDY DETAILED EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVES

PROJECT NO. NH-084-2(12)161 CN D5SF3

APRIL 2010

Prepared for:
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ENGINEERING ▲

SPATIAL DATA ▲

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES ▲

In Conjunction With:

DESIGNWORKSHOP

HDR

Parametrix

SOUTHWEST
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The St. Francis Drive Corridor Study is being conducted following the procedures of the New Mexico Department of Transportation's (NMDOT) *Location Study Procedures* manual. The current project is the Phase B *Detailed Evaluation of Alternatives*. The primary objectives of this study are to: 1) develop and evaluate the alternatives advanced from the Phase A *Initial Evaluation of Alternatives*, and, 2) screen the potential alternatives for recommendations for inclusion in the regional Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), and Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

In the *Location Study Procedures*, Phase C, *Environmental Documentation and Processing*, follows Phase B. Phase B includes preliminary design and detailed assessment of environmental impacts of a proposed project that has identified funding and is included in the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). As there is no current or proposed funding for projects in the St. Francis Drive Corridor, the Phase B Study developed a detailed list of potential projects for the Corridor in response to traffic, safety, pedestrian, and bicycle needs in the Corridor. The Santa Fe Metropolitan Planning Organization (SF MPO), which includes the county and city governments, will be able to use the project list from this study to select project for inclusion in future plans, after which funding may be identified and Phase C can be completed.

In 2009, the Phase A *Initial Evaluation of Alternatives* was completed. That study evaluated a range of alternatives that resulted in several alternatives being proposed for further evaluation. The selected alternatives will be discussed in more detail in later sections, but can be grouped into the following categories:

- No Build
- Trail Connectivity
- Enhanced Transit
- Intersection Improvements
- Transportation System Management
- Access Control

The alternatives considered in the report address a range of deficiencies and needs on the Corridor and vary substantially in cost and complexity. In addition, the breadth and scope of the alternatives developed for the Corridor, when combined with the I-25 and NM 599 Corridor Studies currently underway, will far exceed the funding available for transportation improvements in the region. The projects identified in this Corridor Study, as well as the others, will need to be integrated into the overall transportation strategy developed for the region, the 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), currently under development by the Santa Fe Metropolitan Planning Organization. The MTP will be the regional planning policy document for transportation improvements in the Santa Fe MPO area.

This Phase B Evaluation of Alternatives will provide sufficient information to the MPO to assist in the development of the 2035 MTP. Although this report will develop a list of project recommendations to present to the Santa Fe MPO, inclusion of a project on the Santa Fe MPO TIP or MTP will be at the discretion of the MPO and its member governments.

To that end, the alternatives evaluated in the Phase A and Phase B St. Francis Drive Corridor Study reports will be recommended in the following format – Short-Term, Medium-Term and Long-Term. The Short-Term projects will be those that are considered to be addressed in the near-term, cognizant of the current funding limitations. Other more extensive project recommendations will also be included, but prioritization and competition for funding will require hard financial and practical decisions.

The Medium-Term and Long-Term project recommendations include projects of larger size and scope. These projects are expected to be considered 5 or more years into the future. As such all these projects will require an engineering re-evaluation to determine if the alternatives developed in this study are still applicable and appropriate for the future condition. In addition all projects in the table will require completion of the environmental and design process prior to any construction activities.

Table 1 - Recommended Priorities and Timeframes		
Short Term Projects	Medium Term Projects	Long Term Projects
Transit Enhancement Study	Transit Enhancements/Expansion	Transit Enhancements/Expansion
Pedestrian Crossing Improvements*	Trail Connectivity Enhancements**	Trail Connectivity Enhancements**
Trail Connectivity Enhancements*	Access Control as opportunities arise	Access Control as opportunities arise
Access Control as opportunities arise	ITS Implementation District and City Traffic Management Centers Travel Monitoring CCTV's Communication Infrastructure and Integration	ITS Implementation DMS Traffic Adaptive Signal Timing?
Initial ITS Implementation Traffic Signal Upgrades Regular Signal Timing Updates	Joint NMDOT / City Zia Road Improvements**	Joint NMDOT / City Sawmill Road / Mainline St. Francis Drive Improvements** (combine with St. Francis Interchange Replacement?)
Guadalupe Interchange Replacement and EB NM 599-to-SB 84/285 Auxiliary Lane	St. Michael's Drive Improvements**	Joint NMDOT/City Cerrillos Road Improvements**
* Locations should be prioritized based on pedestrian volumes and crash history, proximity to employment centers and Rail Runner Stations		
** Implement Complete Street concepts to maximum extent possible		