



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
MOBILITY FOR EVERYONE



Prepared by:

HDR Engineering, Inc.
2155 Louisiana Blvd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110

In cooperation with:

NMDOT
FHWA

Public Outreach Summary

NM 264 Alignment Study Milepost 0 to 16

CN 6101220

New Mexico Department of Transportation

October 10, 2022

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Introduction

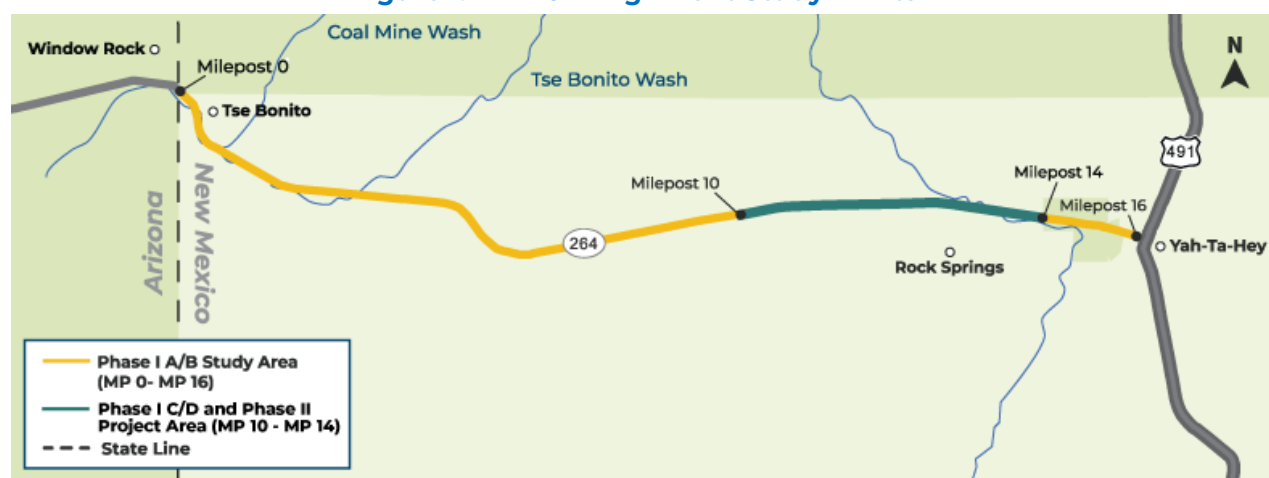
The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is conducting an Alignment Study on NM 264 in McKinley County from the Arizona/New Mexico state line to the US 491 interchange near Yah-Ta-Hey.

The corridor improvements will be completed in segments. Funding has been programmed for the first construction segment (Segment 1), which will run from milepost 10 to 14 and is currently under design.

NM 264 Alignment Study Milepost 0 to 16

NM 264 serves as a key corridor to the Navajo Nation, connecting communities to Window Rock, Arizona, and serves as a connection to US 491. The purpose of the study is to document existing conditions and develop highway improvement alternatives along the entire NM 264 corridor from milepost 0 to 16.

Figure 1: NM 264 Alignment Study Limits



Public Involvement Process

NM 264 is a unique corridor, including both rural and urban segments, that provides key access for the Navajo Nation between Arizona and New Mexico. Due to this, there is a wide variety of stakeholders we must reach through these efforts including groups such as tribal communities, commuters, emergency services, schools and school transportation, agencies, and the traveling public among others. Ultimately, the goal of these public involvement efforts is to identify these stakeholders' concerns and values to help guide the development of improvements along this corridor.

Public and agency coordination for this study began in summer of 2022 with initial scoping letters being distributed to agencies and organizations in July of 2022. Following the initial coordination with agencies, the study team planned and implemented two virtual meetings to provide study information and solicit feedback. A summary of those efforts is highlighted below.

Agency Scoping Meeting

The study team, in collaboration with NMDOT and FHWA, held a virtual stakeholder meeting on Wednesday, August 17, 2022, at 10 a.m. MST via Webex. To participate, stakeholders were invited to log in to the meeting using the Webex application, web browser, or via telephone. The meeting had a total of 29 attendees. The meeting focused on an overview of the study area, the preliminary purpose and need, existing roadway conditions, and proposed highway improvements. Comments and questions were accepted live, following the presentation.

Stakeholder Meeting Notification

The team prepared an email meeting invitation that was sent to 12 organizations and invitees. A copy of the stakeholder scoping meeting invitation and list of invitees can be found in Appendix A.

Virtual Public Meeting

The study team, including NMDOT staff, held a virtual public meeting on Tuesday, August 23, 2022, at 6 p.m. via Webex. To participate, the public was invited to log in to the meeting using the Webex application, web browser, or via telephone.

The meeting focused on an overview of the study area, the preliminary purpose and need, existing roadway conditions, and proposed highway improvements. Three participants attended the virtual meeting. Comments and questions were accepted live, following the presentation. All questions and comments provided at the virtual public meeting were recorded and are included in Appendix C.

Notifications

Newspaper Advertisements

The team developed and distributed two newspaper advertisements for this meeting. The newspaper advertisements provided an overview of the study, invited the public to attend the virtual public meeting, and provided information on how to provide their comments. The advertisements – which also included the date, time, and log-in information for the meeting – were distributed in the following publications:

- Navajo Times (August 4, 2022)
- Gallup Independent (August 8, 2022)

Copies of the newspaper advertisements can be found in Appendix A.

Meeting Notification Poster

The study team distributed virtual public meeting fliers electronically to key stakeholders such as other agencies and tribal chapter houses, which included details on how to attend and participate in the virtual public meeting. Following the meeting, a second poster was created and distributed to the same list, which included details on how to watch a recording of the virtual public meeting. Copies of the posters can be found in Appendix A.

Direct Mailer

A direct mailer was sent to 6,970 addresses in the study area to inform residents and property owners of the virtual public meeting. The mailer was distributed on August 2, 2022. The mailers were sent to the following postal codes within the study area:

- 86515- PBOX
- 87375- PBOX
- 87305- PBOX
- 87301- H033

A copy of the direct mailer can be found in Appendix A.

Press Release

NMDOT distributed a press release to their local media list on August 15, 2022, that included details of the study and how to participate in the virtual public meeting. A second press release was distributed on August 30, 2022, following the meeting, which included details on how to watch a recording of the virtual public meeting. Copies of both press releases can be found in Appendix A.

Local Radio Stations

Copies of the direct mailer were provided electronically to local radio stations within the study area via email on August 9, 2022. The emails were sent to the following radio stations:

- KXXI 93.7 FM
- KYAT 94.5 FM
- KGLP 91.7 FM

- KTNN 660 AM/101.5 FM
- KHAC 880 AM
- KGAK 1330 AM

A copy of the email can be found in Appendix A.

Social Media

Social media posts were developed for NMDOT accounts, including details on how to participate in the virtual public meeting, how to comment, and how to watch the recording of the virtual public meeting. Copies of the social media posts can be found in Appendix A.

Project Webpage

The study webpage www.dot.nm.gov/projects/nm264study was updated in August 2022 and included information about the study and a link to the event webpage with full meeting details.

Event Webpage

An event webpage was created at www.dot.nm.gov/event/nm-264-public-meeting, which included information about the study, how to log in and participate in the meeting, and how to provide comments on the study. Following the meeting, the recording of the event was also placed on this webpage to allow the public to watch the meeting at their convenience and continue to provide comments through September 22.

Public Meeting Materials

Presentation

A PDF of the presentation was made available to the public through the study webpage in August 2022. In addition to the presentation, a link to the recording of the virtual public meeting was posted to the study webpage in August 2022. A copy of the presentation is available in Appendix B.

Fact Sheet

A fact sheet was posted to the webpage and provided information on the study, a map of the study area, and a study timeline. A copy of the fact sheet can be found in Appendix B.

Public Comments

Public comments were accepted from August 23 – September 22 in the following ways:

- Live at the virtual public meeting
- Study webpage: www.dot.nm.gov/event/nm-264-public-meeting/
- Email: NM264Study@hdrinc.com
- Phone: 602.299.9581
- Mail: NM 264 Alignment Study C/O Kristi Shepherd, HDR Engineering
20 E. Thomas Road, Ste 2500, Phoenix, AZ 85012

In total, seven comments were received throughout the study period which focused on safety, school bus access, drainage, access, lighting, and pavement. Of the seven comments received, six were study-specific and one was unrelated to the current study.

Virtual Meeting Questions and Answers

Four questions/comments were submitted by attendees during the virtual public meeting and were responded to by the study team on August 23, 2022. A summary of those questions and answers can be found in Appendix C.

Additional Comments/Questions

Three additional questions/comments were received during the comments period and were responded to by the study team. A summary of those comments and responses can be found in Appendix C.

Appendix A – Public Meeting Notification

Agency Scoping Meeting

Newspaper Advertisements

Meeting Notification Poster

Direct Mailer

Press Release

Radio Station Emails

Social Media

Study Webpage

Shepherd, Kristi

To: Shepherd, Kristi
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] NM 264 Alignment Study Agency Scoping Meeting

From: Altemus, Maria <Maria.Altemus@hdrinc.com>

Sent: Friday, August 5, 2022 12:48 PM

To: Sanchez-Ramos, Gabriel, NMDOT; Benavides, Priscilla, NMDOT; Gisler, Steven, NMDOT; Kazmi, Arif, NMDOT; Rizvi, Rais, NMDOT; Potthoff, Edward; Gutierrez, Amanda; Shepherd, Kristi; Unger, Audrey C.; Policar, Randy

Cc: Rock Springs Chapter; Williams, Evan; marmijo@slo.state.nm.us; blm_nm_comments@blm.gov; Wyatt.T.Medley@usace.army.mil; Patrick Antonio; Joseph J. Peterman; Milligan, Lauren S., DPS; Martin, Shawn R., DPS; leonard.notah@bia.gov; Myles.Lytle@bia.gov

Subject: [EXTERNAL] NM 264 Alignment Study Agency Scoping Meeting

When: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 2:00 PM-3:00 PM (UTC-07:00) Mountain Time (US & Canada).

Where: <https://meethdr.webex.com/meethdr/j.php?MTID=m362770e4e7ac14a967609cd5797d77df>

CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

On behalf of the New Mexico Department of Transportation, we would like to invite you to an agency scoping meeting for the NM 264 Alignment Study. The meeting will provide a presentation to introduce the study, the conditions identified and receive agency input. The presentation will also briefly cover the proposed project from milepost 10 to 14 on NM 264 that will improve the roadway and include drainage improvements.

If you or someone from your agency would like to attend, please RSVP to this meeting invite. The meeting will be held virtually. Login details can be found below.

For more information on the project, please visit this website: www.dot.nm.gov/projects/nm264study

If you have any questions or comments prior to the meeting, feel free to email Maria Altemus, Environmental Planner at HDR (maria.altemus@hdrinc.com) or Kristi Shepherd, Strategic Communications Manager at HDR (Kristi.shepherd@hdrinc.com).

NMDOT CN 6101020 - NM 264 Alignment Study Agency Scoping Meeting
Hosted by Kristi Shepherd

<https://meethdr.webex.com/meethdr/j.php?MTID=m362770e4e7ac14a967609cd5797d77df>

Wednesday, Aug 17, 2022 2:00 pm | 1 hour

Meeting number: 2482 515 4980

Password: NM264

Join by phone: +1-408-418-9388 United States Toll

Access code: 248 251 54980

EDUCATION BRIEFS

Diné College grants pay for tuition, meals, housing, books

TSAILE, Ariz. – To help students earn college degrees, Diné College will offer grants to all students to fully pay for tuition, meals and residential halls, as well as books.

Starting this fall, the college will provide 100% grants to make college accessible and increase student success.

Diné College President Charles Roessel said, "We live

in extraordinary times and we need to take extraordinary steps to help our Navajo people."

A recent survey showed that 75% of Diné College students faced one or more forms of basic needs insecurity. This includes food insecurity, housing insecurity or homelessness.

Provost Geraldine Garrity said, "We wanted to target the needs we are seeing in our students with this initiative. We have been discussing what interventions and supports we can provide for our students

and we finally just said, let's think bigger."

Funding for this plan will come from money the college received through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund and the American Rescue Plan Act.

Bo Lewis, vice president of finance and administration, said, "The goal is that by improving retention rates and increasing enrollment, this plan can become sustainable beyond these Covid-related funds."

The plan will be in place

through 2024.

Coconino Co. brings Starlink to Navajo students

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — Coconino County is leading the effort to bring high-speed broadband internet with SpaceX's Starlink to students in grades K-12 on the Navajo Nation, according to a county news release.

The county began conversations with SpaceX when District 5 Supervisor Lena Fowler and

the county's Chief Information Officer Matt Fowler met with the company in 2019.

This resulted in securing accounts for the county to utilize SpaceX beta technology to make internet accessible to rural areas of Northern Arizona.

The county successfully became an early customer, purchasing and launching Starlink beta internet in a 45-household trial on May 6, 2021.

Shortly after, the county identified K-12 students living on the Navajo Nation without

access to the internet or existing speeds less than 5 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload.

The Information Technology Department engaged with the board of supervisors and the Flagstaff Unified School District, seeking eligible students.

To date, approximately 150 households have received Starlink hardware and internet services for a free two-year period, which was made possible by private donations.

This provides students the ability to connect with education providers and continue their studies remotely.

Supervisor Lena Fowler said, "We know the critical need for quality, reliable internet access to rural Coconino County. Our families and workforce need to be connected to compete in today's market, grow in their education, and enhance their quality of life."

Starlink is now available in Arizona. Those interested in service should visit <https://www.starlink.com/>

Two IAIA students awarded Warner Bros. scholarship

SANTA FE – Two outstanding students in the Institute of American Indian Arts' Low Residency MFA in Creative Writing program have been

awarded scholarships of \$10,000 each from Warner Bros. Discovery Access.

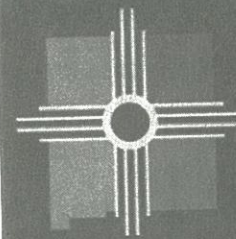
The scholarship is annually awarded to second-year Indigenous master's

students with a concentration in screenwriting.

The students are Sabrina Saleha, Diné, and Cressandra Thibodeaux, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

The scholarship committee noted their promising TV pilot screenplays and commitment to advancing visibility, opportunities, and intellectual property rights for Indigenous people in the television and film industries.

As Warner Bros. Discovery



NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF
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MOBILITY FOR EVERYONE



CN 6101220

Learn more and share your thoughts!

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NMDOT invites you to participate in a live virtual public meeting on **Tuesday, August 23, 2022, starting at 6:00 pm (MT)** to learn more about and share your input on the study.

We Want to Hear from You!

Comments are being accepted from August 23, 2022, through September 22, 2022.

You can comment in the following ways:

- Attend virtual meeting
- Email: NM264Study@hdrinc.com
- Call: 602-299-9581
- Visit the project website:

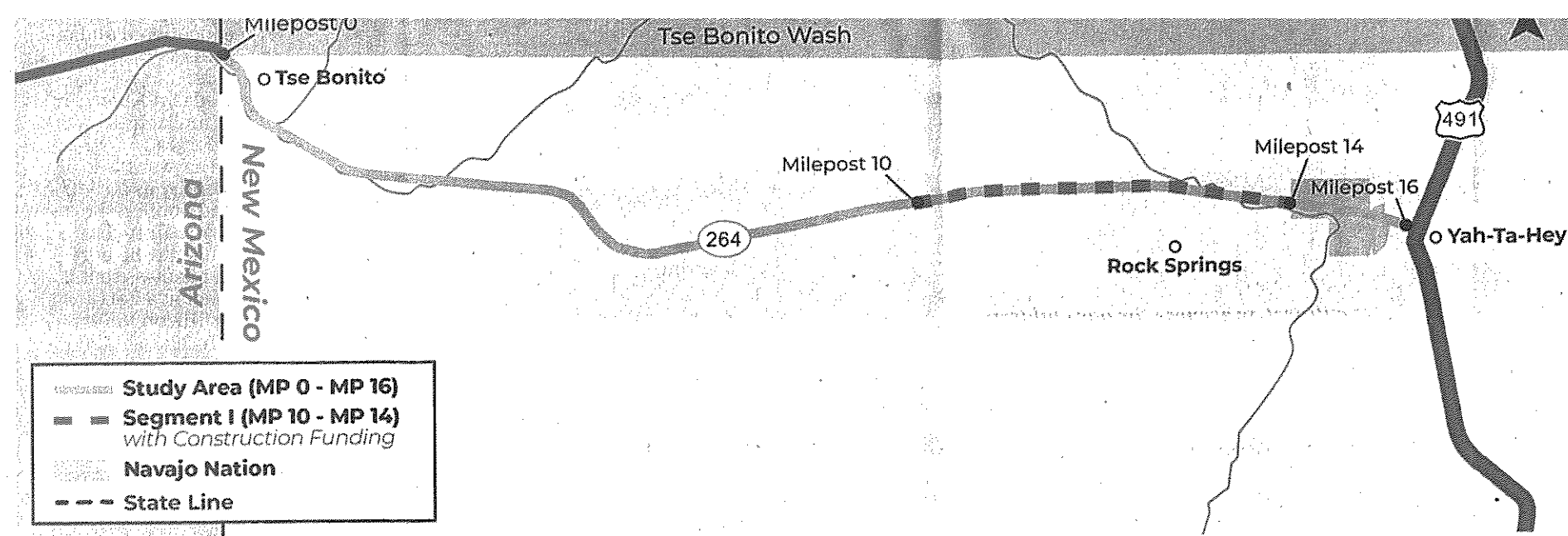
www.dot.nm.gov/projects/nm264study

- USPS mail to: NM 264 Study C/O

Kristi Shepherd | HDR Engineering
20 E. Thomas Road, Ste 2500
Phoenix, AZ 85012



Sabrina Saleha



How To Participate

Tuesday, August 23, 2022 | Beginning at 6:00 pm (MT)

Join the live virtual public meeting on your computer, smartphone or tablet by using the link below, or by calling in on your telephone:

ONLINE OR CALL-IN

- **Link:** bit.ly/NM264-EN
- **Phone:** +1-408-418-9388
- **Meeting number (Access code):** 2485 956 3910
- **Password:** NM264 (66264 from phones)

Unable to attend?

If you cannot participate in the virtual meeting, the event will be recorded and posted on the project website shortly after the meeting.

To request meeting assistance, language translation, or ADA accommodations, please contact **Kristi Shepherd at 602.299.9581 or NM264Study@hdrinc.com by August 16, 2022.**

Learn more at: www.dot.nm.gov/projects/nm264study | Navajo Times: August 4, 2022

educational and professional goals as screenwriters.

Saleha is a Navajo and Bangladeshi-American screenwriter and actress based in Atlanta, Georgia.

Her work is influenced by her identity as a Native American and South Asian woman.

As a first-generation college student, she pursued studies in business that led to employment at a Fortune 500 company in Silicon Valley.

In 2018, she left the corporate world to pursue her passion for storytelling. Saleha, who writes science fiction and fantasy, is working on adapting Navajo stories for film and television that accurately represent Indigenous people and cultures through complex and nuanced story arcs.

She says she is inspired "to tell stories that reflect her love of her culture" and "to show younger generations that they're loved and can dream of being whomever they want to be in this world."

Cressandra Thibodeaux has already experienced great success as a filmmaker, playwright, and photojournalist.

She earned an MFA in directing from Columbia University's film program and received many awards, including two MacDowell Colony Fellowships and a Rockefeller grant.

Coconino Co. superintendent announces nominations for 2023 awards

FLAGSTAFF — Cheryl Mango-Paget, superintendent of schools for Coconino County, issued a request for nominations for the 10th annual teacher of the year, fifth annual rookie teacher of the year and second annual lifetime achievement award.

The awards celebrate, honor and recognize full-time teachers from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade.

Nominations are required for all three award categories. Nominations must be received Sept. 15 at 5 p.m.

A panel of five judges will score the applications using a rubric and discussion to determine the top six candidates in each category. The top six candidates will then be interviewed. Judges will score the interviews with another rubric to determine the three finalists in each category.

Information: <https://coconino.az.gov/1863/Celebrate>

Grain ship from Ukraine docks in Turkey, nuke plant shelled

By Mehmet Guzel and Andrew Wilks
Associated Press

DERINCE, Turkey — The first of the ships to leave Ukraine under a deal to unblock grain supplies and stave off a potential global food crisis arrived at its destination in Turkey on Monday, as Russia again accused Ukraine of shelling Europe's largest nuclear power station.

The Turkey-flagged Polarnet docked at Derince port in the Gulf of Izmit after setting off from Chornomorsk on Aug. 5 laden with 12,000 tons of corn.

"This sends a message of hope to every family in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia: Ukraine won't abandon you," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba tweeted. "If Russia sticks to its obligations, the 'grain corridor' will keep maintaining global food security."

Polarnet Captain Ahmet Yucel Alibeyler highlighted the risks faced by the three grain-carrying ships that left Ukraine.

"These were, of course, dangerous areas, corridors that had been cleared, demined," he said, adding that the convoy was escorted by a harbor pilot ship until it left the risky waters.

A total of 12 ships have now been authorized to sail under the grain deal between Ukraine and Russia, which was brokered by Turkey and the United Nations — ten outbound and two headed for Ukraine. Some 322,000 metric tons of agricultural products have left Ukrainian ports, the bulk of it corn but also sunflower oil and soy.

Four ships that left Ukraine on Sunday are expected to anchor near Istanbul on Monday evening, Turkey's Defense Ministry said. They are due to be inspected on Tuesday.

Ships leaving Ukraine are checked by officials from the three countries and the



AP photo/Khalil Hamra

The cargo ship Polarnet arrives at Derince port in the Gulf of Izmit, Turkey, Monday. The first of the ships to leave Ukraine under a deal to unblock grain supplies amid the threat of a global food crisis arrived at its destination in Turkey on Monday.

U.N. to make sure they carry only grain, fertilizer or food and not any other commodities. Inbound vessels are checked to ensure they are not carrying weapons.

But the grain deal remains far from plain sailing. The first ship to leave Ukraine, the Sierra Leone-flagged Razoni, which left on Aug. 1, will no longer dock in Lebanon and will change course, the director of the Tripoli Port told The Associated Press on Monday.

The Sierra Leone-flagged Razoni ship, carrying 26,000 metric tons of corn for chicken feed that departed from Odesa last Monday was set to dock in the northern Lebanese port on Sunday. But according to Marine Traffic, it changed its status on Saturday to "order," meaning the ship was waiting for someone to buy the corn.

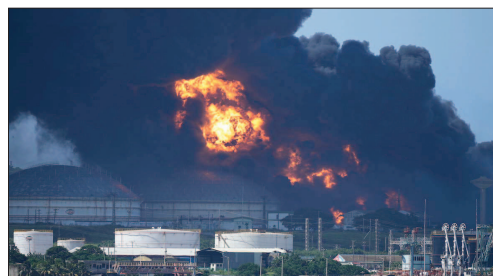
"All that I know is that the ship is no

longer coming here," Tripoli Port director Ahmad Tamer said.

Ukraine's embassy in Beirut tweeted Monday that the corn's final buyer in Lebanon refused to accept the cargo due to delivery delay beyond a contractual limit and that the shipper was now looking for another buyer.

The shipment had been a grain of hope for the economically-shattered tiny Mediterranean nation, also suffering from a food security crisis. Soaring food inflation, wheat shortages, and breadlines have crippled a population, of which about half are food insecure, according to the United Nations World Food Program.

Meanwhile, Moscow again accused Ukrainian forces of shelling the territory of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Station from Marganets on the opposite bank of the Dniپر River on Sunday.



AP photo/Ramon Espinosa

Flames and smoke rise from the Matanzas Supertanker Base as firefighters and specialists work to quell the blaze which began during a thunderstorm the night before in Matanzas, Cuba, Saturday. Cuban authorities say lightning struck a crude oil storage tank at the base, causing a fire that led to four explosions which injured dozens.

Firefighters battle big blaze at Cuba tank farm for 2nd day

By Andrea Rodriguez
Associated Press

HAVANA — Cuban firefighters were joined by special teams sent by Mexico and Venezuela on Sunday as they battled for a second day to control a fire blazing at a big oil tank farm in the western province of Matanzas.

The blaze began Friday night when lightning struck a storage tank during a thunder storm, and the fire spread to a second tank early Saturday, triggering a series of explosions, officials have said.

"The mission of the day is to keep the third tank cold," in hopes of preventing the flames from spreading into more of the site, provincial Gov. Mario Sabines said.

Most of the fuel held in the tank where the fire initially started was believed to have been consumed, officials said.

Authorities said a body found at the site Saturday had been identified as firefighter Juan Carlos Santana, 60. Officials previously said a group of 17 firefighters had gone missing while trying to quell flames, but there was no word if he was one of those.

Conditions were still too dangerous to mount a search for the missing firefighters, officials said.

A total of 122 people were treated for injuries, including five that officials said were in critical condition.

The governor said 4,946 people had been evacuated, mostly from the Dubrocq neighborhood,

which is next to the Matanzas Supertanker Base in Matanzas city. The facility's eight huge storage tanks hold oil used to fuel electricity generation.

Dense black smoke billowed up from the tank farm and spread westward more than 62 miles to Havana. The Ministry of Science and Technology said Sunday that the cloud contained sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide and other toxic substances.

The disaster comes as Cuba struggles with a severe economic and energy crisis, with frequent power blackouts hitting during a torrid summer. It was unknown how much fuel had been lost to the flames.

Cuba's government had appealed for help Saturday from oil nations, and specialized firefighting teams began arriving with their equipment from Mexico and Venezuela late Saturday. They brought helicopters and specialized chemicals for fighting oil fire.

"The support (is) in the prevention of risks and also help to quell the fire by means of cooling based on water and foam," Mexican Brig. Gen. Juan Bravo said upon arrival. "We hope that more support will arrive soon, such as chemical material."

President Miguel Diaz-Canel met with the heads of the teams from Mexico and Venezuela to coordinate efforts for controlling the blaze. He later told Cuban media he appreciated the help, since Cuba doesn't have experience or resources for fires of such magnitude.

Myanmar's ambassador to China dies

BEIJING (AP) — Myanmar's ambassador to China has died, the Chinese government said Monday.

"I can confirm what you mentioned," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said in response to a question about the reported death of Ambassador

Myo Thant Pe.


He did not say when the diplomat had died or what the cause of death was.

Myo Thant Pe had been ambassador to China since 2019, Wang said.

"He dedicated himself to the development of China-Myanmar relations," he

said. "We express our deep condolences and regret over his sudden passing and our sincere sympathies to his family."

China is one of Myanmar's closest allies and has expressed unequivocal support for the country's ruling military that seized power last year.



CN 6101220

Learn more and share your thoughts!

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Gallup Independent: August 8, 2022


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Virtual Public Meeting Recording Now Available for the NM 264 Alignment Study

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How To Participate

Watch the live recording:

The virtual meeting was recorded and posted to the project website. Visit www.dot.nm.gov/projects/nm264study to watch the meeting at your own convenience.

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You're Invited to a Virtual Public Meeting

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We Want to Hear From You!

Comments are being accepted from
August 23, 2022, through September 22, 2022.

You can comment in the following ways:

- **Attend virtual meeting**
- **Email:** NM264Study@hdrinc.com
- **Call:** 602-299-9581
- **Visit the project website:**
www.dot.nm.gov/projects/nm264study
- **USPS mail to:** NM 264 Study C/O
Kristi Shepherd, HDR Engineering
20 E. Thomas Road, Ste 2500
Phoenix, AZ 85012

NMDOT invites you to participate in a live virtual public meeting on **Tuesday, August 23, 2022, starting at 6:00 pm (MT)** to learn more about and share your input on the study.





New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
MOBILITY FOR EVERYONE



FHWA

Indicia
clearance area

How To Participate

Tuesday, August 23, 2022 | Beginning at 6:00 pm (MT)

Join the live virtual public meeting on your computer, smartphone or tablet by using the link below, or by calling in on your telephone:

ONLINE OR CALL-IN

- **Link:** bit.ly/NM264-EN
- **Phone:** +1-408-418-9388
- **Meeting number (Access code):** 2485 956 3910
- **Password:** NM264 (66264 from phones)

Unable to attend?

If you cannot participate in the virtual meeting, the event will be recorded and posted on the project website shortly after the meeting.

To request meeting assistance, language translation, or ADA accommodations, please contact

**Kristi Shepherd at 602-299-9581 or
NM264Study@hdrinc.com by August 16, 2022.**

Address and barcode
clearance area

Learn more at: www.dot.nm.gov/projects/nm264study



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
Ricky Serna, Cabinet Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 30, 2022

NMDOT Seeks Public Comment for NM 264 Alignment Study
Virtual Meeting Recording Now Available

MILAN – The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration, is conducting an Alignment Study on NM 264 in McKinley County from the Arizona/New Mexico state line to the US 491 interchange near Yah-Ta-Hey. NM 264 serves as a key corridor to the Navajo Nation, connecting communities to Window Rock, AZ and serves as a connection to US 491.

NMDOT hosted a virtual public meeting on August 23, 2022. The virtual meeting was recorded and posted to the project website at <https://www.dot.nm.gov/projects/nm264study>. Share your comments before September 22, 2022, in the following ways:

- Email: NM264Study@hdrinc.com
- Call: 602-299-9581
- Visit the project website: www.dot.nm.gov/projects/nm264study
- USPS mail to: NM 264 Study C/O, Kristi Shepherd, HDR Engineering, 20 E. Thomas Road, Ste 2500 Phoenix, AZ 85012



###

NMDOT
Mobility for everyone

Delane D. Baros, District-6 PIO | Delane.Baros@state.nm.us | 505 240 1392



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
Ricky Serna, Cabinet Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 15, 2022

Virtual Meeting Scheduled for NM 264 Alignment Study *NMDOT seeks public comment*

MILAN – The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration, is conducting an Alignment Study on NM 264 in McKinley County from the Arizona/New Mexico state line to the US 491 interchange near Yah-Ta-Hey. NM 264 serves as a key corridor to the Navajo Nation, connecting communities to Window Rock, AZ and serves as a connection to US 491.

NMDOT will be hosting a virtual public meeting on Tuesday, August 23, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the NM 264 alignment study and answer questions. The purpose of this meeting is to introduce the study, the conditions identified, and receive public input. Share your comments during the public meeting or submit before September 22, 2022. To request meeting assistance, language translation, or ADA accommodations, contact Kristi Shepherd at NM264Study@hdrinc.com or call (602) 299-9581.

To join online: bit.ly/NM264-EN, passcode NM264.

To join by phone: +1-408-418-9388, Webinar ID: 2485 956 3910, passcode 66264.

For more information about the study visit: www.dot.nm.gov/event/nm-264-public-meeting/ or visit the project webpage: <https://www.dot.nm.gov/projects/nm264study>



Shepherd, Kristi

From: NM264 study
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 1:12 PM
To: NM264 study
Cc: Mullins, Jennifer, NMDOT; Gisler, Steven, NMDOT; Policar, Randy
Subject: NMDOT Virtual Public Meeting for the NM 264 Alignment Study- August 23, 2022
Attachments: 7.11.2022_NM264_Direct Mailer_FNL_Radios.pdf

The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration, is conducting an Alignment Study on NM 264 in McKinley County from the Arizona/New Mexico state line to the US 491 interchange near Yah-Ta-Hey to document existing conditions and develop highway improvement alternatives. NM 264 serves as a key corridor to the Navajo Nation, connecting communities to Window Rock, AZ, and serves as a connection to US 491. The purpose of this meeting is to introduce the study, the conditions identified and receive public input.

NMDOT invites the public to participate in a live virtual public meeting on **Tuesday, August 23, 2022, starting at 6:00 pm (MT)** to learn more about and share input on the study.

Attached is a copy of the postcard that was sent to residents in the study area about the upcoming virtual meeting. We would appreciate it if you could share details about the meeting with your listeners. Thank you in advance and let us know if you have any additional questions.

NM 264 Study Team
NM264Study@hdrinc.com

Kristi Shepherd,
Strategic Communications Manager

Virtual Public Meeting

NM 264 Alignment Study, MP 0 to MP 16

CN 6101220

Tuesday, August 23, 2022 | 6 p.m.

We want to hear from you!

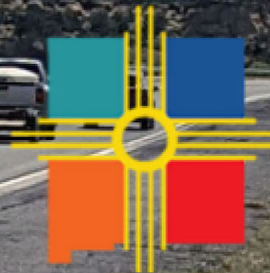


New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
MOVILITY FOR EVERYONE

Live Virtual Public Meeting

NM 264 Alignment Study, MP 0 to MP 16

Tuesday, August 23, 2022 | 6 p.m.



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
MOBILITY FOR EVERYONE

Live Virtual Public Meeting

NM 264 Alignment Study, MP 0 to MP 16

Tuesday, August 23, 2022 | 6 p.m.

Learn more and provide comments!



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
MOBILITY FOR EVERYONE

Virtual Public Meeting

NM 264 Alignment Study,

MP 0 to MP 16

CN 6101220

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

starting at 6 p.m.

Visit our project website
to learn more!



Help fight the spread of
Covid-19
Wash Your Hands & Remember!
MASKS. DISTANCING. STAY HOME.
BE SAFE & STAY SAFE



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
MOBILITY FOR EVERYONE

We Want to Hear From You!

NM 264 Alignment Study, MP 0 to MP 16

CN 6101220

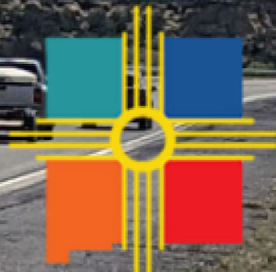
**Comment period open through
September 22.**



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
MOBILITY FOR EVERYONE

YOUR COMMENTS ARE IMPORTANT!

NM 264 Alignment Study, MP 0 to MP 16



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
MOBILITY FOR EVERYONE

NM 264 Alignment Study, MP 0 to MP 16

Learn more and provide comments by visiting:

<https://www.dot.nm.gov/event/nm-264-public-meeting/>



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
MOBILITY FOR EVERYONE

NM 264 Alignment Study, MP 0 to MP 16

How to Comment:

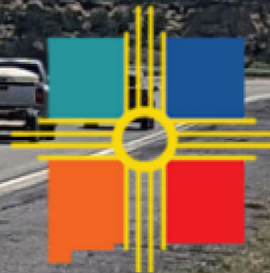
- On the study website:
<https://www.dot.nm.gov/event/nm-264-public-meeting/>
- Call: (602) 299-9581
- Email Us:
NM264Study@hdrinc.com



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
MOBILITY FOR EVERYONE

LAST CHANCE TO PROVIDE COMMENTS!

NM 264 Alignment Study, MP 0 to MP 16



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
MOBILITY FOR EVERYONE

Appendix B – Public Meeting Materials

Presentation

Fact Sheet



The NM 264 Alignment Study
public meeting will begin
shortly.

If you are having technical difficulties contact
Webex Help: 866.229.3239



New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION
MOBILITY FOR EVERYONE

NM 264 Alignment Study

CN 6101220

Public Scoping Meeting

August 23, 2022

Welcome

- All participants have been muted to avoid background noise.
- This meeting will be recorded.
- Technical difficulties:
- Call Webex at 866.229.3239
- Following the meeting presentation, we will take questions and comments online and by phone.
 - Instructions will be provided on how to participate.

Agenda

- Introductions: Study Team
- What is a public scoping meeting?
- NMDOT location study procedures
- Study location
- Alignment Study background and purpose
- Study overview
- Schedule
- Next steps
- How to provide input
- Question and Answer

Introductions: Study team

- NMDOT
 - Priscilla Benavides, PE , Central Region Design General Manager
 - Lisa Vega, PE, D6 District Engineer
 - Gabriel Sanchez-Ramos, Engineer Intern
 - Arif Kazmi, PE , D6 Assistant District Engineer
 - Rais Rizvi, PE , D6 Technical Support Engineer
 - Steven Gisler, D6 Environmental Bureau
 - Jennifer Mullins, Public Involvement Specialist
- Consultants
 - Ed Potthoff, PE, Project Manager
 - Amanda Gutierrez, PE, Roadway Engineer
 - Dan Pfeifer, PE, Drainage Engineer
 - Kristi Shepherd, Strategic Communications Manager
 - Maria Altemus, Environmental Planner

What is a Public Scoping Meeting?

- The first step of the study process as defined by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Solicit public feedback and insights of the study area such as:
 - Physical, environmental and operational characteristics
 - Other important considerations

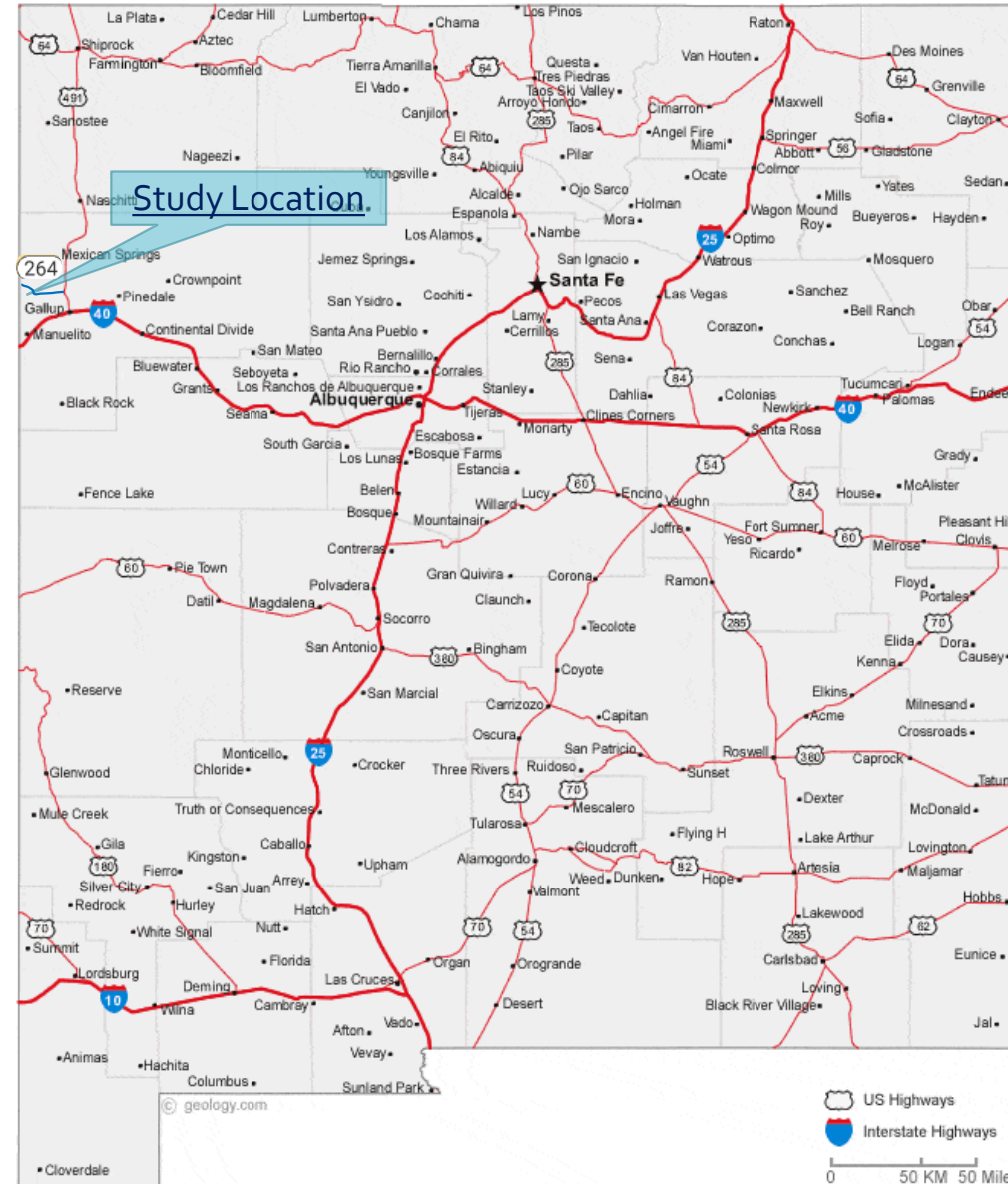
NMDOT Location Study Procedures

- Public involvement occurs throughout the Evaluation/Environmental/Design process
- Phase I (MP 0 – MP 16)
 - Phase A: Initial Evaluation of Alternatives
 - Phase B: Detailed Evaluation of Alternatives
- Phase I (MP 10 – MP 14)
 - Phase C: Environmental Documentation
 - Phase D: Preliminary Design
- Phase II (MP 10 – MP 14)
 - Final Design



Study Location

NM 264, AZ/NM State Line to Yah-Ta-Hey (MP 0 to MP 16)



Alignment Study Location:

NM 264
MP 0 to 16



Begin Study

End Study

Purpose of the Alignment Study

- **NM 264 Alignment Study will:**
 - Document existing conditions
 - Identify traffic and safety areas of concern
 - Investigate sensitive cultural and biological resources
 - Seek public and agency feedback
 - Identify improvement alternatives
 - Arrive at a proposed improvement alternative

Alignment Study Overview



- **Preliminary Purpose and Need:**
 - To address the existing roadway's conditions
 - To improve drainage conditions
 - To improve multi-modal access to the corridor
 - To improve safety

Alignment Study Background

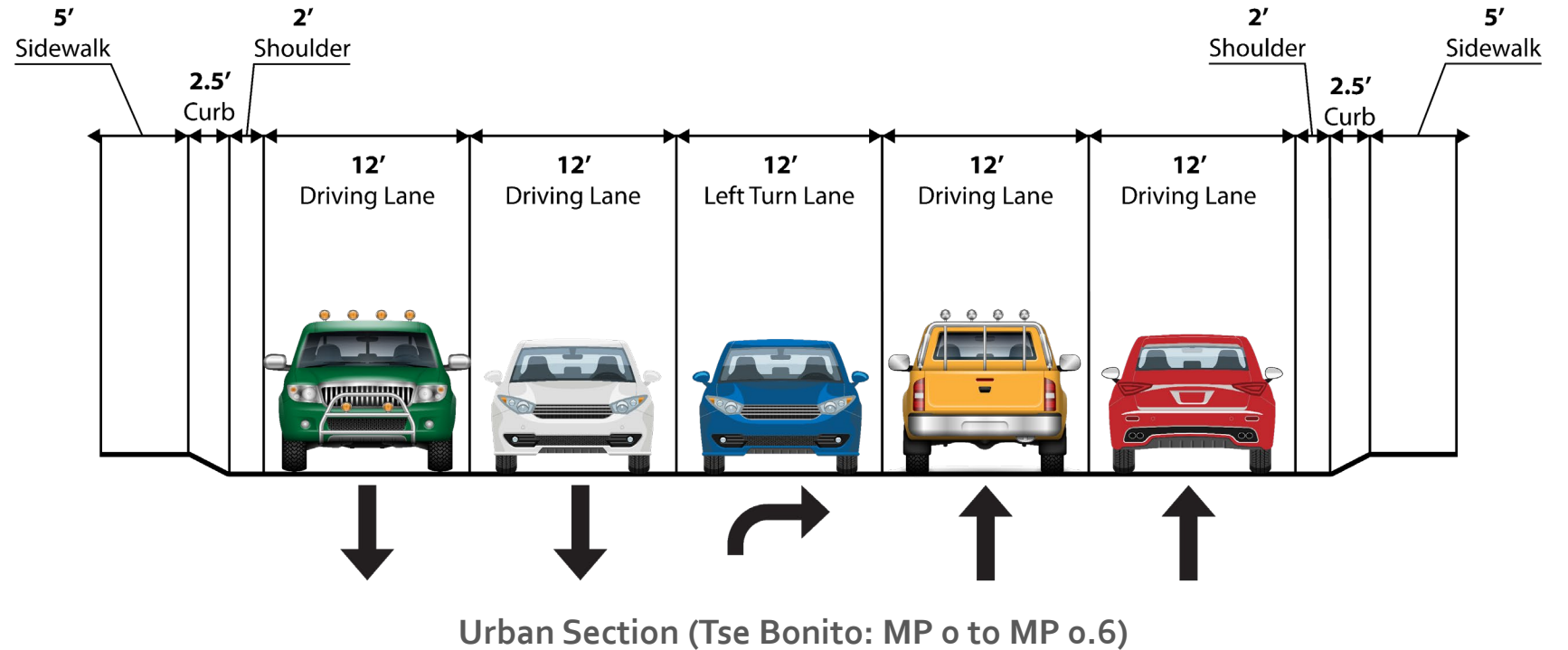
Existing Conditions



- Poor pavement conditions
- Substandard roadside barriers
- Dated pavement markings
- Roadway embankment erosion
- Right-of-way limitations
- Lack of median drainage system
- Pedestrian access routes don't meet current standards
- Significant sediment deposits

Alignment Study Area:

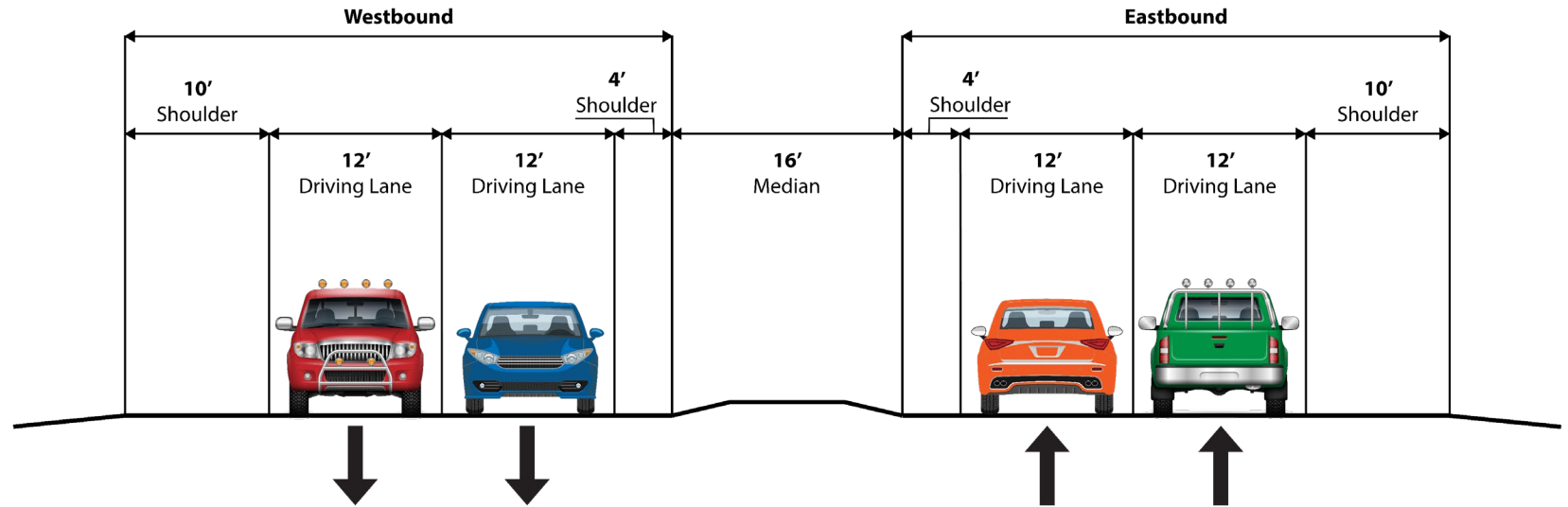
Existing Conditions Typical Sections



Alignment Study Area:

Existing Conditions Typical Sections

Rural Section (MP 0.6 to MP 15.5)

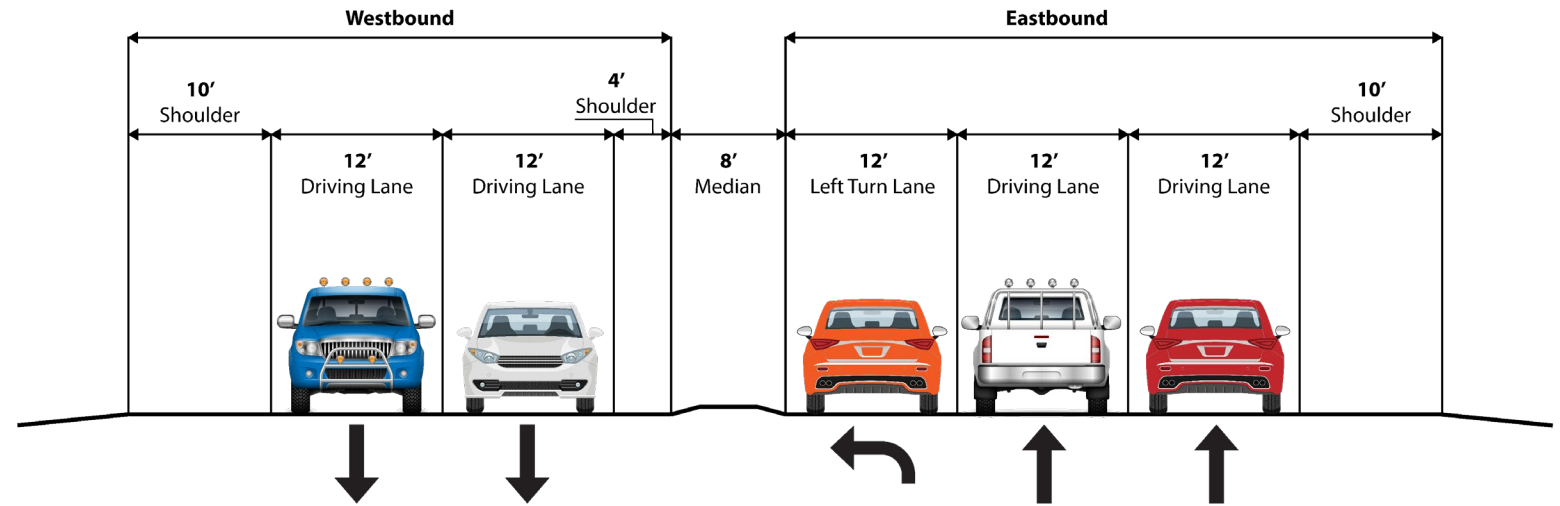


Standard Rural Section

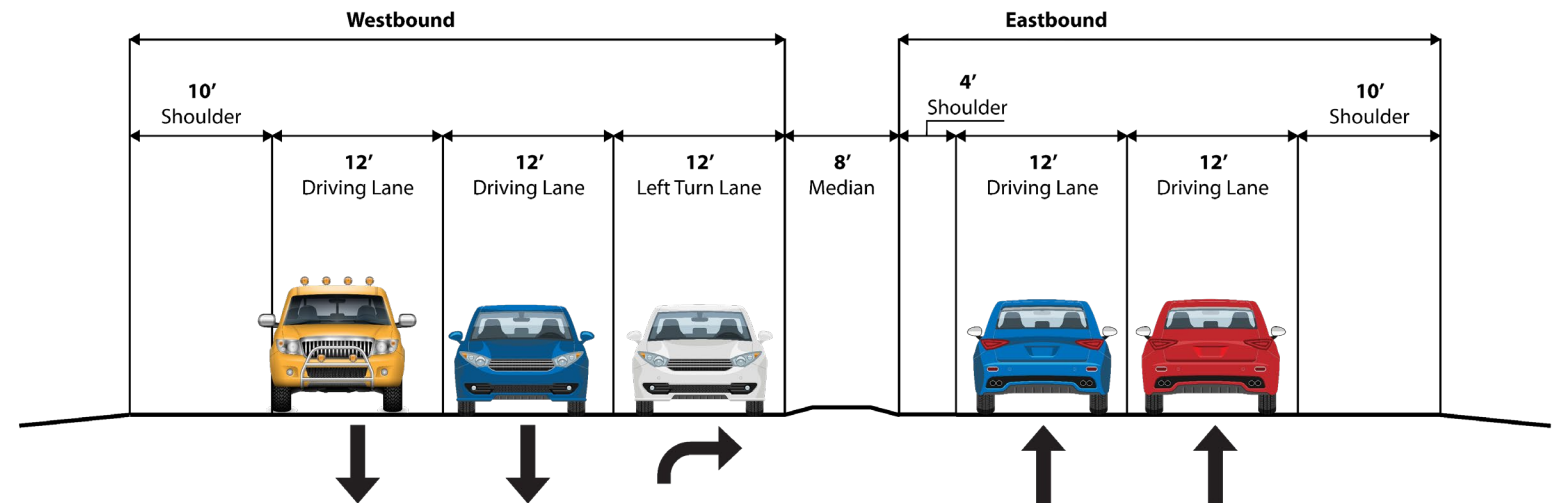
Alignment
Study Area:

Existing
Conditions
Typical Sections

Rural Section (MP 0.6 to MP 15.5)

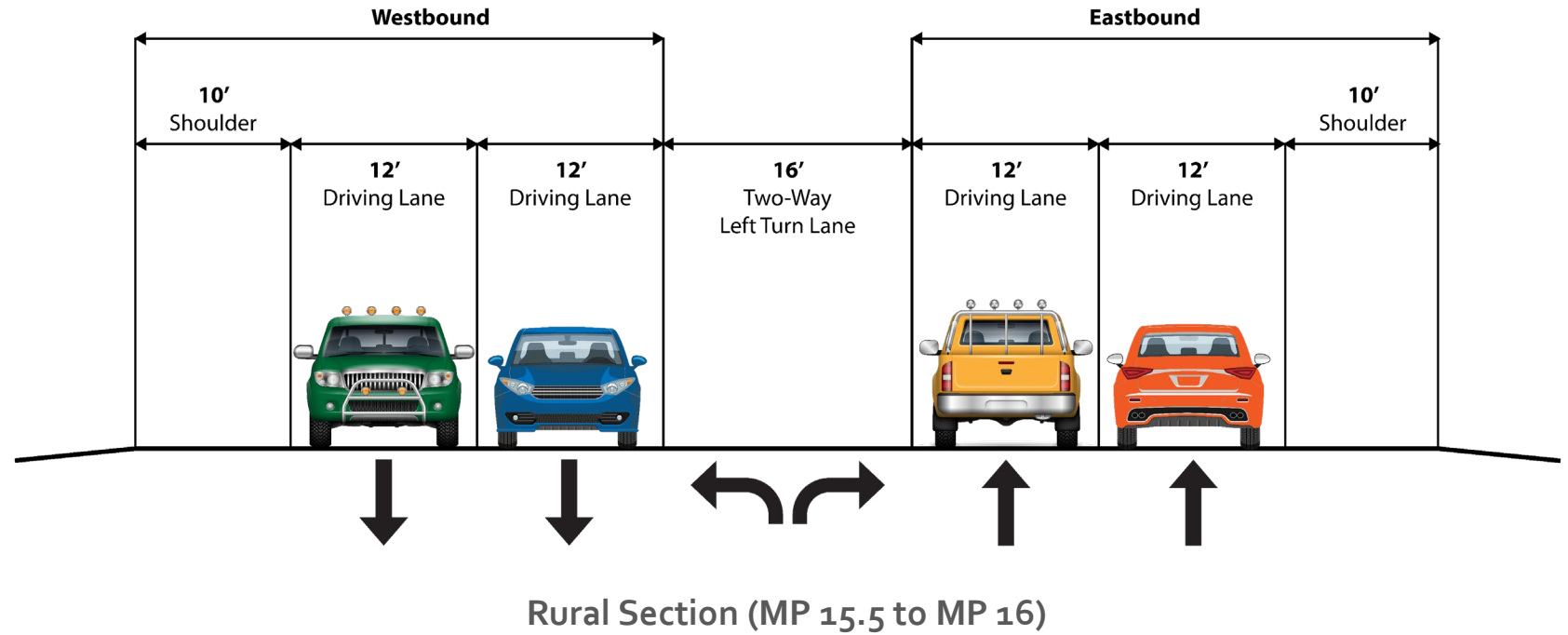


Eastbound Left Turn Access



Westbound Left Turn Access

Alignment
Study Area:
Existing
Conditions
Typical Sections



Existing
Conditions:

Drainage
Crossings



MP 3.0



MP 8.3



MP 12.3



MP 13.2

Existing Conditions: Traffic Speed



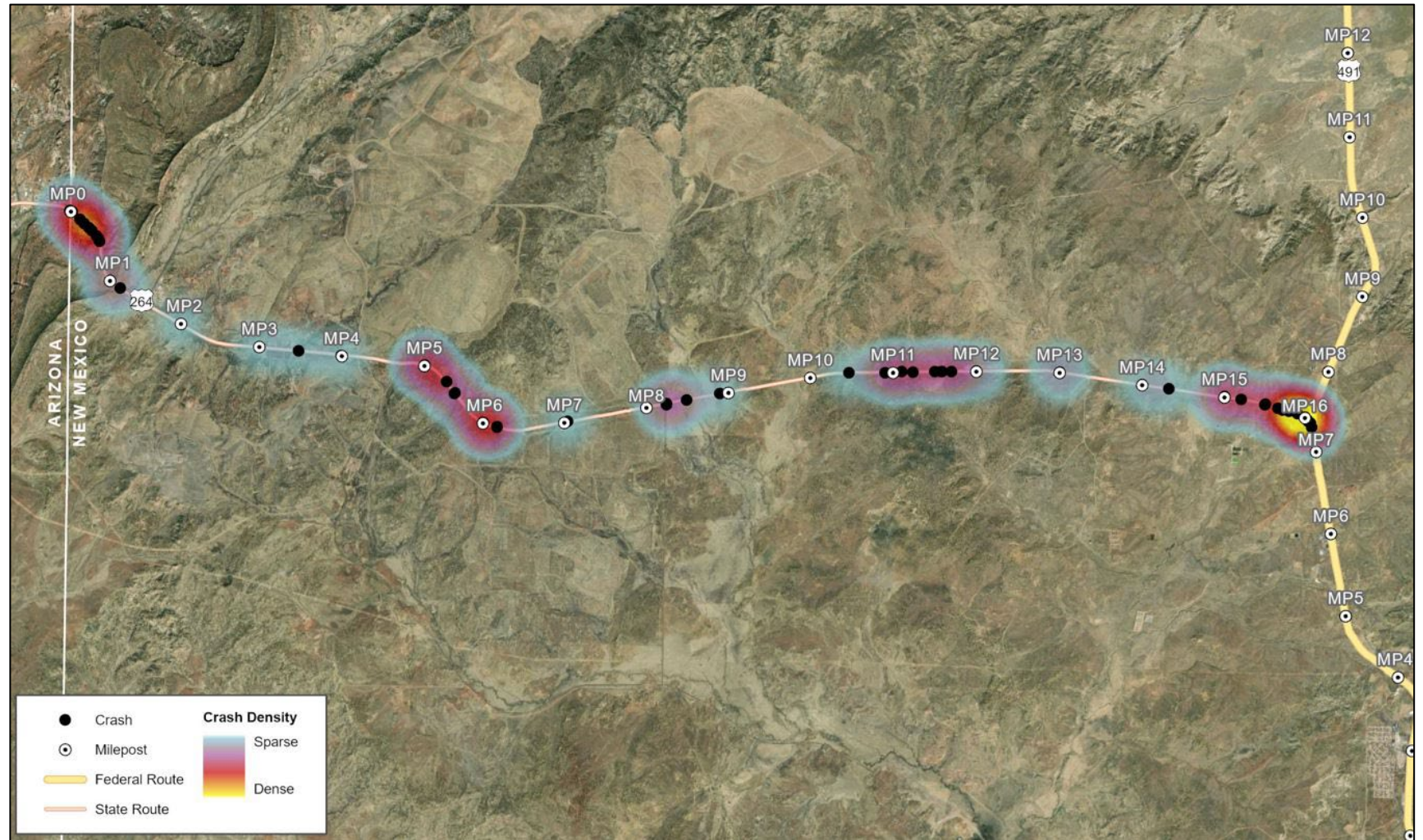
NM 264 Posted Speed Limits

Existing Conditions

- **Substandard Roadway Geometry:**
 - Horizontal Geometry
 - 6 deficient curves
 - Substandard superelevation
 - Vertical Geometry
 - 15 deficient curves
 - Substandard stopping sight distance or roadway grade

Existing Conditions:

Traffic Conditions



NM 264 Crash Locations

Alignment Study Overview

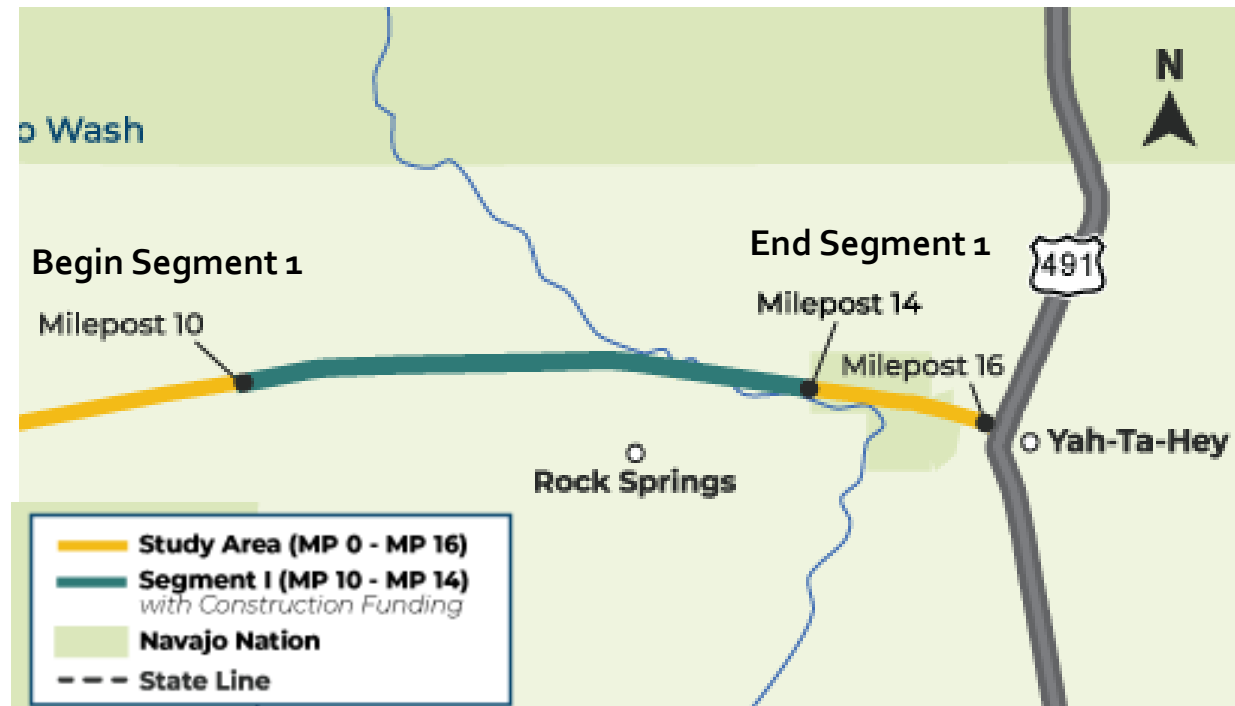
- Potential improvements include:
 - Improved roadside barriers
 - Improved turnouts/access
 - Updated pavement markings
 - Upgraded ITS infrastructure (broadband)
 - Upgraded signage
 - Addition of drainage improvements
 - Improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities

Segment 1 :

NM 264
MP 10 to 14

Segment 1:

- Environmental Documentation
- Preliminary Design Phase
- Final Design Phase



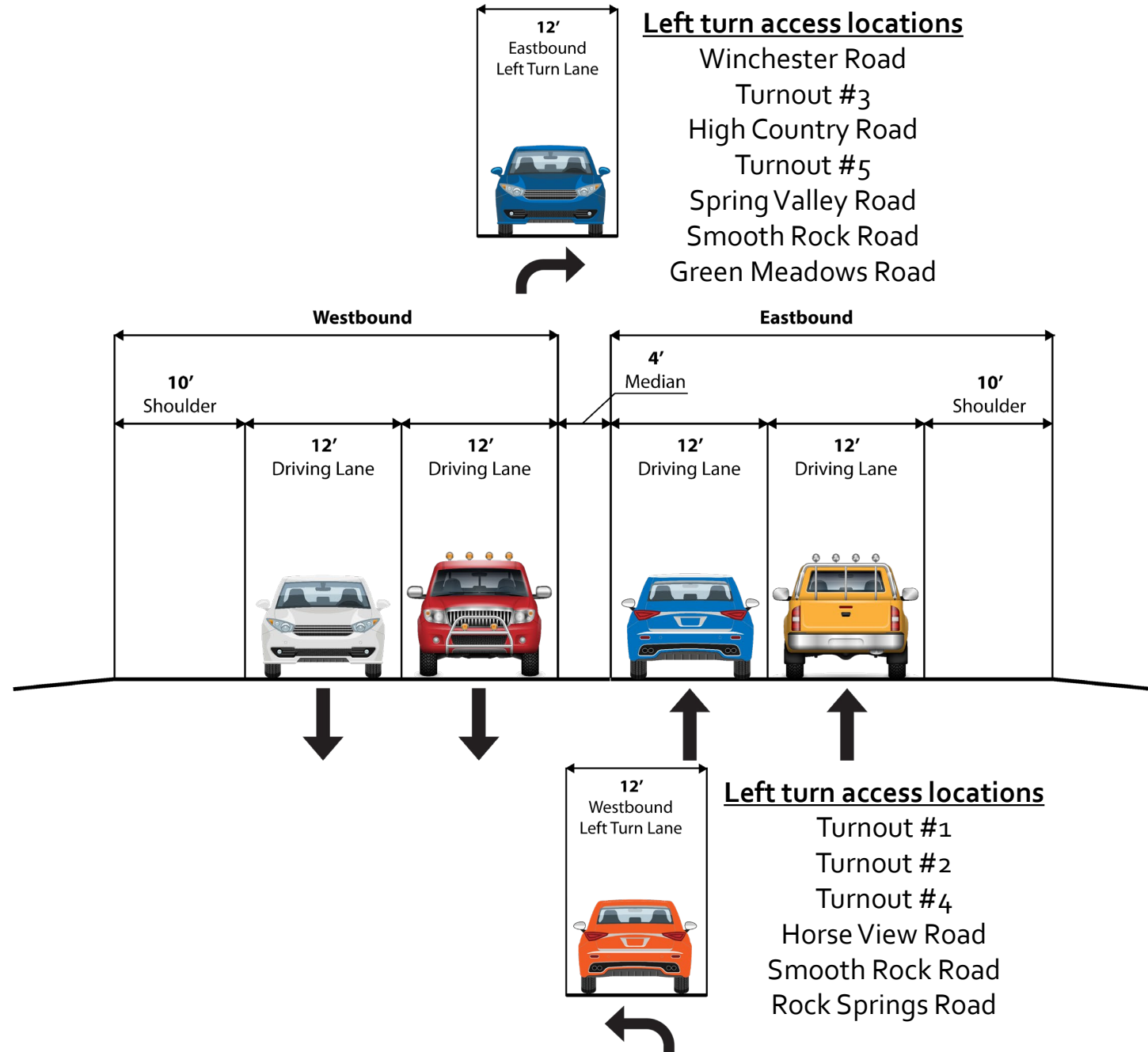
Segment 1 :

NM 264
MP 10 to 14

- Construction funding has been identified for Segment 1 (CN 6101221)
- Anticipated construction start Fall 2023
- Segment 1 highway improvements under design include full depth reconstruction of existing pavement, drainage improvements and updating roadside barriers, signing and pavement markings

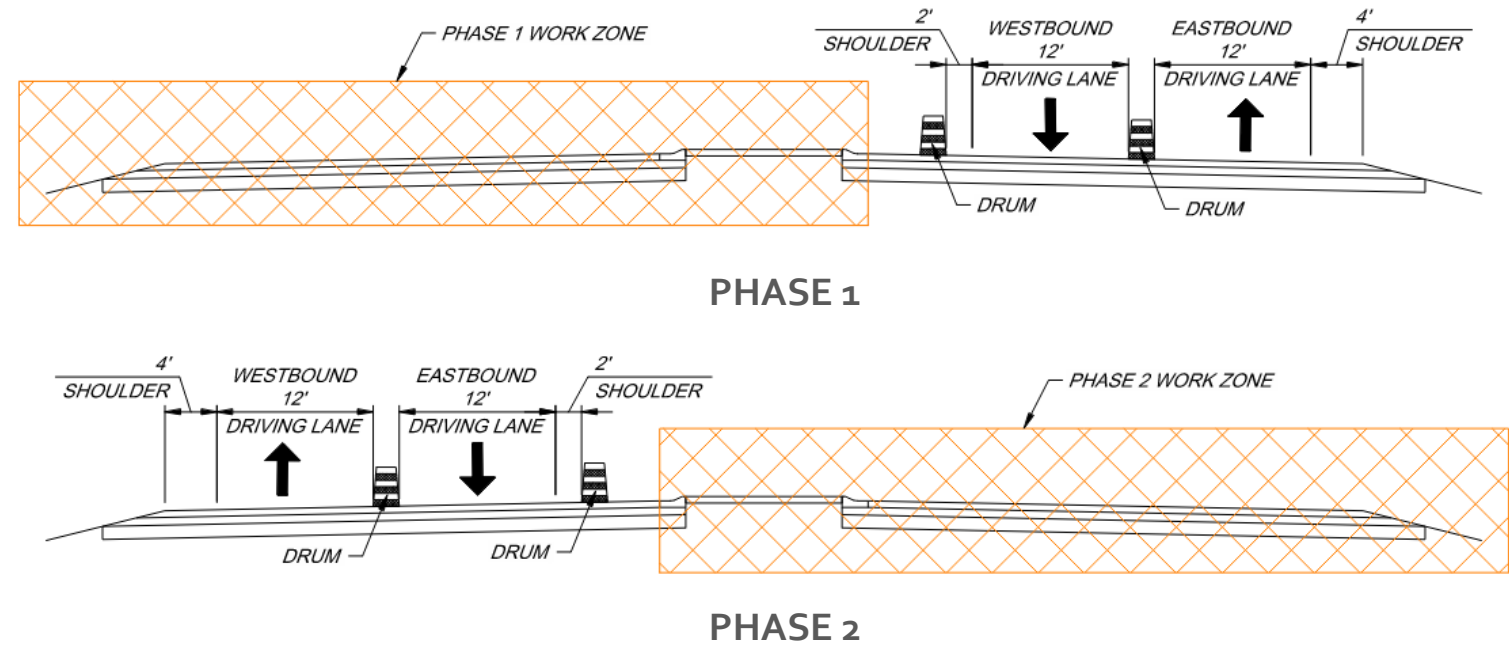
Segment 1 :

Proposed Typical Sections



Maintenance of Traffic

TRAFFIC CONTROL PHASING



Schedule

Spring/ Summer 2022	Fall 2022	Fall/ Winter 2022	Winter 2022/2023	Spring 2023	Fall 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish the need for improvements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual Public Meeting #1 Identify highway improvement alternatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate improvement alternatives Prepare draft Alignment Study document 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual Public Meeting #2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select preferred alternative(s) Completion of NM 264 Alignment Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anticipated Start of Construction for Segment 1 (CN 6101221)

Next Steps

- The consultant will collect background data for the Alignment Study
- Review and document public and agency input
- Develop potential alternatives based on input

How to Provide Input

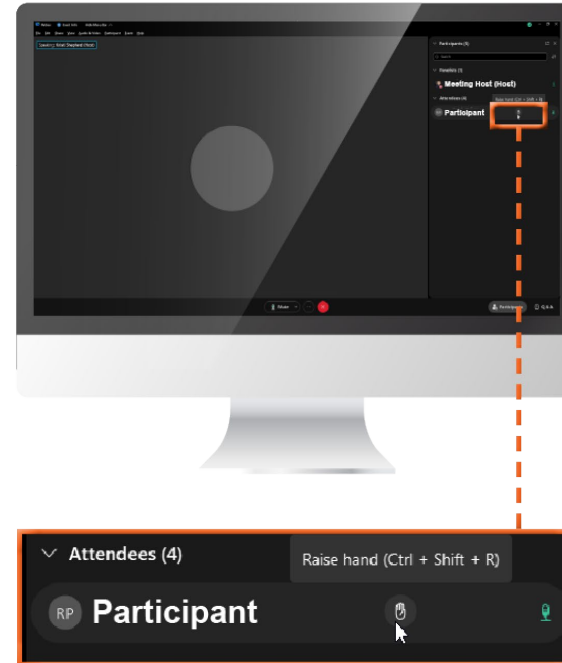
- Website Comments:
www.dot.nm.gov/projects/nm264study
- Call: 602.299.9581
- Email: NM264Study@hdrinc.com
- USPS Mail:
NM 264 Study
C/O Kristi Shepherd, HDR Engineering
20 E Thomas, Ste 2500
Phoenix, AZ 85012-3118

Comments should be received by September 22, 2022

Questions?

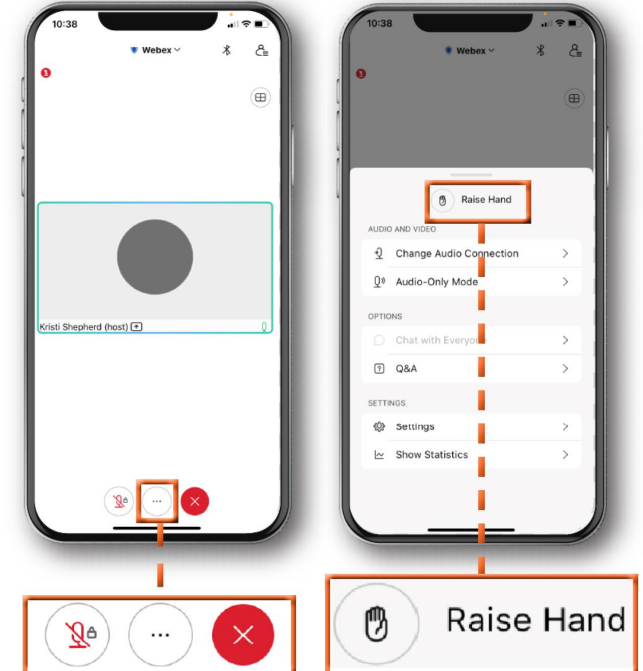
Raising Your Hand

Webex App & Online



1. Select "Participant" panel
2. Find your name
3. Click on the "hand" icon (raise/lower)

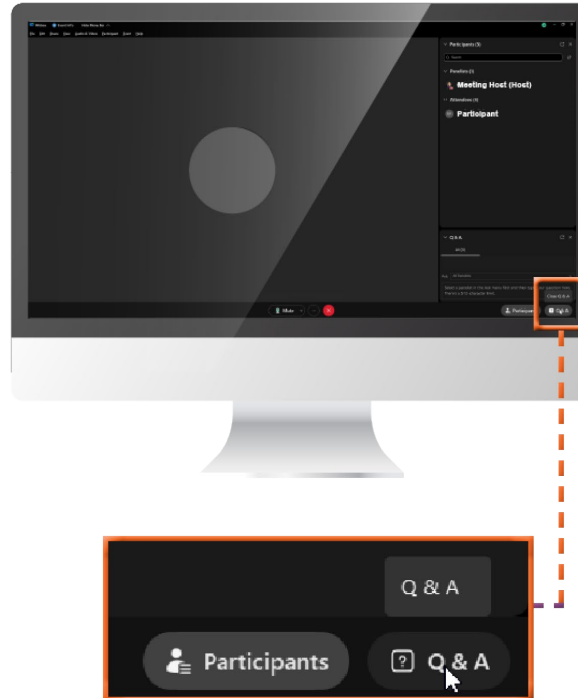
Mobile App



1. Click three dot menu icon
2. Click "Raise Hand" icon
3. To lower, click icon again

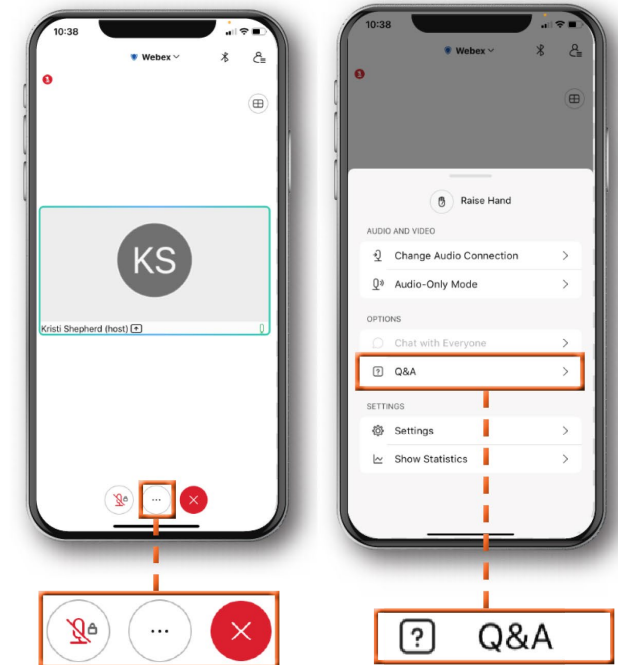
Asking a Question

Webex App & Online



1. Open the "Q&A" panel
2. "Q&A" panel will pop up
3. Type your question, hit send

Mobile App



1. Click three dot menu icon
2. Click "Q&A" tab
3. Type your question, hit send

NM 264 ALIGNMENT STUDY MILEPOST 0 TO 16

OVERVIEW

The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration, is conducting an Alignment Study on NM 264 in McKinley County from the Arizona/New Mexico state line to the US 491 interchange near Yah-Ta-Hey. The purpose of the study is to document existing conditions and develop highway improvement alternatives. NM 264 serves as a key corridor to the Navajo Nation, connecting communities to Window Rock, Arizona, and serves as a connection to US 491.

The corridor improvements will be completed in segments. Funding has been programmed for the first construction segment (Segment 1), which will run from milepost 10 to 14 and is currently under design.



PROJECT SCHEDULE

Spring/ Summer 2022	Fall 2022	Fall/ Winter 2022	Winter 2022/2023	Spring 2023	Fall 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish the need for improvements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual public meeting #1 Identify improvement alternatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate improvement alternatives Prepare draft Alignment Study document 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual public meeting #2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select preferred alternative(s) Completion of NM 264 Alignment Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anticipated start of construction for Segment 1 (CN 6101221)

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The study phase will document the existing conditions, identify traffic and safety areas of concern, investigate sensitive cultural and biological resources, seek public and agency feedback, identify improvement alternatives and arrive at a proposed improvement alternative.

Existing conditions include:

- **Poor pavement condition**
- **Roadway embankment erosion**
- **Right-of-Way limitations**
- **Lack of median drainage system**
- **Non-compliant pedestrian access routes**
- **Significant sediment deposits**

POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS



Improved roadside barriers



Improved turnouts/access



Updated lane striping and pavement markings



Improved drainage infrastructure



Upgraded ITS infrastructure (broadband fiber)



Upgraded signage



Improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

We are currently establishing a need for improvements and identifying highway improvement alternatives. Once highway improvement alternatives are identified and evaluated, the study team will present the alternatives to the public for review and input.

Appendix C – Public Comments

Virtual Meeting Q&A

Comment Period Comments

Public Comments

Virtual Public Meeting Q&A – August 23, 2022

Number	Question/Comment	Response	Themes
1	<p>I wanted the study team to be mindful of the buses. The Gallup/McKinley school buses who take that route. Sometimes there is no turn-off when they have to pick up students from the road.</p> <p>The second thing is drainage. I think with the amount of monsoon weather we have received, there are certain areas that always get filled to capacity. So, I am glad to hear of that change.</p> <p>The third thing is, around the Tsayatoh turn-off, where there are a number of accidents on your study sheet. Is there a better way to gauge that area? Sometimes in the mornings, I see vehicles coming from that road when I am on the main highway. Sometimes I am not too sure whether those vehicles are going to stop or not. I have seen a number of accidents at that turnoff and juncture. I am just hoping that you will be mindful of that.</p>	<p>These comments are greatly appreciated. We will make sure we incorporate them into our study. Thank you.</p>	<p>School Bus Access/Drainage/Safety</p>

2	<p>The Gallup McKinley school bus starts picking up students right at Tse Bonito and works its way toward Gallup. There are many roadside turn-offs that are paved off-roads, up to the cattle guards. The school buses will pull off to the road and sometimes those in the morning commute will merge to the left to get into the passing lane so there is no disruption. The bus does not turn on its lights nor do they display the stop sign. Traffic still flows through. In the winter, it's more hazardous because we are trying to mitigate trying to go through snow. So, we are having enough space between the other vehicles who don't consider the bus or follow the rules. There are several stops, I don't know if your team could observe during the early morning hours. I usually get through about 6:30 before 7, passing the bus. After school, I don't know how it is. I just see the morning commute. I know New Mexico, heading into window rock, they offered some turn-offs for buses. The county chipped in with the state on that, so they have about 6 or 7 turn-offs for buses so they aren't holding up traffic.</p>	<p>This is very helpful. We have reached out to the school as a stakeholder, but based on what you have told us, we will emphasize that effort to make sure we get some feedback from bus drivers and find out how we can improve the situation.</p>	<p>School Bus Access/Safety</p>
3	<p>I have noticed flooding, but past milepost 12 heading towards Tse Bonito where the abandoned trailer is, they had some flooding in that area. That's the same area where when it snows, it gets clogged up with snow slush. The</p>	<p>That is very helpful and I really appreciate the information. We will interview our local maintenance patrol to zero in</p>	<p>Drainage</p>

	<p>other area is a little past Tsayatoh. There's a small area that always gets flooded. You can see debris right now. The third area, we had the mass flooding not long ago, just right before you get to rimrock coming by south mine turn off, you come down that hill and the big curve, there's a bridge area there that lately has been flooded. You can still see mud debris today.</p>	<p>on some of those drainage issues.</p>	
4	<p>Just before the Edward Plummer interchange near Gallup, they had mass flooding in that area two weeks ago. Going under the bridge, you have a big pile of sand, and the lights don't work, but that's another major area that causes traffic delays. Just close to the tail end of 264 by the Edward O. Plummer interchange.</p>	<p>Thank you very much, this is very helpful.</p>	<p>Drainage</p>

Public Comments

Comment Period: August 23 – September 22, 2022

Received Via	Question/Comment	Response	Theme
Website	<p>I live at mile post 5.6 on the north side of Hwy 264. During monsoon season, July-September, large quantities of water, mud, and sediment move through the drainage ditch east of my driveway. This sediment then accumulates and fills the drain area on the east side of the driveway and is unable to continue east in the drainage area on the north side of Hwy 264. The design is inadequate to carry the water and sediment away from the driveway and then backs-up into the driveway. Almost every year I contact the Highway Dept and request the drainage ditch be cleared. Due to the angle of the ditch and the equipment that is dispatched only a small amount of sediment is removed and each year the conundrum continues. I would be happy to meet with a representative to show them the area. I have photos that can represent the problem. I would appreciate your consideration of improvement.</p>	<p>Thank you for your interest in the NMDOT NM 264 Alignment Study. Your comment has been received and will be reviewed by a member of the study team. If you are requesting more information, a member of the study team will respond shortly. All comments and responses received during the public comment period will be documented in the public involvement summary and posted to the study website following the close of the comment period.</p>	Drainage/Access/Safety

Also, each year the Highway Dept plows the snow into the middle of the road. As the snow melts the water damages the road as it runs to the shoulder as well as creates a hazard for drivers in the form of wet, slushy and ice covered asphalt. Plowing the left lane first and pushing the snow to the shoulder through multiple passes would be the least expensive way to avoid this problem. However, a more expensive way to handle this would be to provide a center drain system however winter temperatures will interfere with the effectiveness of the second idea. Another problem that is created by plowing the snow into the middle of the highway is that the crossovers are blocked and this makes ingress and egress of driveways impossible. Again, I am happy to meet with a representative.

Email

This email is a response to the public announcement and requests for input.

In the many years my family have traveled this portion of the New Mexico highways, we offer our opinions as to the improvements that Highway 264 may need:

- The roadway cross section needs to be 2% crown for drainage.

Thank you for your interest in the NMDOT NM 264 Alignment Study. Your comment has been received and will be reviewed by a member of the study team. If you are requesting more information, a member of the study team will respond shortly. All comments and responses received during the public comment period will be documented in the public

Drainage/Lighting/Pavement/Safety

- The subgrade at the median seems to settle over time and creates an inverted crown.
- The centre median needs enhancements, either with robust curbing or markings.
- The ac pavement has deteriorated and creates spalling or potholes.
- Low lying areas, need to consider additional drainage pipes and elevate as floodwaters have recently overtopped highway.
- Add lighting for visibility for both driver and pedestrian
- Add rumble strips for weary drivers and for snow conditions when markings are not visible.
- Pavement markings need improvement, consider raised pavement markings.
- A portion of the 264 is superelevated, this causes problems in the winter time when road is iced over, where motorists end up sliding into low side lane or into adjacent swale.
- Update roadway signage.

involvement summary and posted to the study website following the close of the comment period.

We offer these suggestions for improvements.
Thank you for asking for public input and considering the roadway improvements that will keep us safe.

Email	<p>This is James David Davis. I am the property owner of 1070 highway 264, Black Hat, NM 87301 since 2005.</p> <p>I am currently applying for access to my property and requesting a deceleration lane and proper turn out at mile post 5 1/2 264.</p> <p>My access that came with the property had been there since the 4 lane highway was built I am told. Though I recently have been told by NMDOT that it is an “illegal” access. Not too happy about that.</p> <p>Please reply so that I know I have contacted the correct people.</p>	<p>Thank you for contacting the NM 264 Alignment Study Team. We have received your comment and shared it with the appropriate contact at the New Mexico Department of Transportation, Jayson Grover at District 6. If you have additional questions or comments related to your access, please feel free to continue to coordinate with Jayson.</p>	Access/Unrelated to Study
-------	--	---	---------------------------