

First Corridor Study Meeting Held; Public Input Sought on Project

The first public information meeting for the Los Lunas Corridor Study has been held and five more are slated to be conducted in the next 18 months.

The corridor study is a transportation study that focuses on a particular area or part of a transportation system.

The Los Lunas Corridor Study is focusing on travel problems and needs specific to the NM Highway 6 corridor. NM Highway 6 is also called Main Street.

What the Study May Accomplish

The study will try to accomplish:

- Evaluating current and future traffic problems and the underlying factors affecting travel on NM 6 between Interstate 25 and NM Highway 47.
- Evaluating existing and anticipated future conditions and factors affecting traffic growth and travel.

Traffic volume and travel patterns are impacted by Valencia County growth and development.

- Identifying and evaluating potential solutions to improve travel and reduce congestion on NM 6.
- Assessing the costs and travel benefits of viable and reasonable options as well as the options' effects on the community, businesses and environment.

These activities will be performed in collaboration with state and local government and with input from area residents, businesses and other stakeholders.

Road Improvement Considered

Roadway improvements to be considered by the study include:

- Doing nothing. The consequences of not improving the transportation system will be evaluated.
- Improvements to NM 6 (Main Street) to eliminate bottlenecks and to improve traffic flow.
- A new interchange on I-25 and new roadway extending eastward.
- Other viable and reasonable options identified through public input.

New Road Alignment

The specific alignment of a new potential roadway has not yet been determined although there have been suggestions.

If a new roadway is implemented, an alignment will be sought that avoids community and natural resources to the extent practical.

Public Input Needed

Public input is an essential part of the corridor study.

Public input will be used to help define the factors that affect the need for the project, identify potential improvement options, and help identify issues of interest and concern within the study area.

Additional public meetings will be held where information will be shared and stakeholders can comment on current activities, findings and recommendations.

Citizens Advisory Committee

A Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is helping identify community issues and concerns. The CAC is a voluntary advisory group comprised of citizens and is not a decision-making body. The CAC meets monthly and the input is shared with the lead agencies.

Obtaining More Information

Several other mechanisms are available to obtain information and provide comments. These include:

- Newsletters with current information about the study which will be published every few months.
- Information about the Los Lunas Corridor Study is available at the Middle Rio Council of Governments (MRCOG) website at www.mrcog-nm.gov under the Transportation/Rural Planning tabs.

The Corridor Study is being conducted by the MRCOG with the Village of Los Lunas as the lead agency.

Elected officials are briefed on the study every few months. These officials can provide input and direction for the project.

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VILLAGE PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency.....	911
Administrative Offices.....	839-3840
Animal Control.....	839-3842
Fire Dept. (non-emergency).....	839-3847
Keep Los Lunas Clean & Beautiful..	839-3842
Municipal Court.....	839-3844
Parks and Recreation.....	352-3584
Police Dept. (non-emergency)....	839-3855
Public Library.....	839-3850
Public Works.....	839-3840
Recycling Information.....	839-3840
Senior Citizens Center.....	839-3853
Solid Waste	839-3840
Street Maintenance.....	839-3840
Transportation Dept.....	352-3595
Water Dept.....	839-3841
Wellness Center.....	839-3859

FAX Numbers

Administrative Offices	352-3580
Police Department.....	352-7741
Fire Department.....	352-7750

Village Police Officers Assigned to Specialty Positions; Grants Means Four More Officers

The Los Lunas Police Department has seen some changes with the arrival of Police Chief Roy E. Melnick in March.

The department is in the process of hiring four additional officers out of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) federal funds. The four new officers will be assigned to patrol positions to release four officers promoted to supervisory positions.

The total for the COPS grant which employs the four officers for three years is \$692,156. After the three years the village will slot the officers into the village budget.

The police department will also receive a federal Edward Byrne Memorial Grant for police equipment for \$63,187 and a Federal Edward Byrne Memorial Grant for a police vehicle for detectives for \$15,012.

The department also received a NM Traffic Safety Bureau 100 Days/100 Nights Traffic Enforcement grant of \$6,900.

Los Lunas officers are being assigned to specialty positions to provide better quality police services and to also provide additional opportunities in the department for personnel.

Among the special assignments are those in the:

- Regional Gang Task Force which includes sharing information and going out on gang-related activities with other officers.
- Internet/Computer Crimes Investigators who are responsible for computer crimes, Internet investigations, child pornography and other high technology crimes.
- Teen Court where officers will act as mentors to teens who have made a mistake.

• Officers assigned to Juvenile Drug Court will improve relations with and build a stronger bond with the youth of the village.

• Valencia County Resiliency Corps officers are assigned specifically to community events.

• The Region I Middle Rio Grande Valley Drug Task Force officer assists in the investigation of drugs in the area on a regional basis as well as within the village limits.

Chief Melnick has met with the warden of Valencia County's Adult Detention Facility and the village police will be handling all crimes committed at the facility.

The department is also trying to build a stronger relationship with Los Lunas school officials, students, the private security officers assigned at the schools and village police officers. A Memorandum of Understanding establishes a clear understanding of expectations regarding information sharing and dealing with crimes occurring in schools and on school property under the jurisdiction of the police department.

Over the last four months, a variety of repairs, improvements and technology upgrades have been made to the police department located in the Village Administration Building at Don Pasqual and Main Street.

Attend A Council Meeting!

The Los Lunas Village Council meets twice monthly in the council chambers in the administration building at 660 Main St. NW. Remaining 2009 dates are:

September 17 October 8 & 22

November 5 & 19 December 3 & 17

Meetings begin at 6 p.m. Once in a while meetings are canceled or rescheduled so check with officials at 839-3840 or the village website at www.loslunasnm.gov.

LOS LUNAS MUNICIPAL ELECTION MARCH 2, 2010

All Registered Voters
in the Village Vote for
Mayor and Municipal Judge.
Voters in Districts
Two and Four Also Vote
for Village Council.

CALL VALENCIA COUNTY
BUREAU OF ELECTIONS
866-2080 FOR
INFORMATION
ABOUT REGISTERING
Primary Election June 2010
General Election November 2010



LL Arsenic Project Brings Parts Per Billion Below Ten

Work is progressing on the arsenic project which will improve the parts per billion (ppb) of arsenic in the village's water.

In January 2001, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued the Arsenic Rule that reduced the drinking water maximum contaminant level (MCL) for arsenic from 50 ppb to 10 ppb.

The Arsenic Rule required compliance by January 2006.

Village officials submitted a request in 2005 to the New Mexico Environment Department for a three-year exemption.

Because the request demonstrated that the health and safety of the public would not be jeopardized by the request, an exemption was granted and the compliance date was extended to January 2009.

Since the work on the project is ongoing, the village has complied with the order.

But what is involved with the arsenic project?

The ultimate goal, of course, is to bring down the ppb below ten. Village Public Utilities Director Betty Behrend said the number should be around seven when the project is completed.

Contractor for the project is RMCI which was awarded the bid by the village council in June for \$2,380,871.

RMCI is installing coagulation assisted oxidation/filtration systems at the four well sites the village is currently using to provide water to the community.

When the well pumps the water, a portion of that water will be diverted from the flow to run through a treatment system. This separate portion of water will be treated to well below the 10 ppb and will then be blended back into the water that goes into the tanks. The water from the tank is delivered to the public through the village's distribution system.

The water is treated with ferric chloride. The ferric chloride enables the arsenic to absorb onto ferric hydroxide particles that are then removed by a filter media as the water goes through the media.

The solids that accumulate from this process can be disposed of as sludge in a landfill that is permitted to handle special waste as sludge. The filter media, which will probably have to be replaced every 15 years, is not a hazardous waste and can also be disposed of as sludge in a landfill.

The arsenic treatment systems will be located in new buildings on the village's well sites.

Arsenic is odorless and tasteless. It enters drinking water supplies from natural deposits in the earth or from agricultural and industrial practices. Human exposure to arsenic can cause both short and long term health effects, but such effects are unlikely to occur from United States public water supplies that are in compliance with the arsenic standard.

The village received approval from the new Mexico Finance Authority for a Drinking Water Revolving Loan which will be used for this project.

Public Utilities Director Behrend said the village is working at keeping the costs down on the project as much as possible.

Highway 314/Main Street Reconstruction Starts Soon

Reconstruction of Highway 314 and Main Street (also known as NM 6) is expected to go to bid in September 2009.

Improvements/changes include:

- Adding a right turn lane from westbound Main Street on to northbound Highway 314.
- Adding a right turn lane from northbound 314 on to eastbound Main Street.
- Creating two left turn lanes from northbound Highway 314 to westbound Main Street.
- Improving and lengthening the left turn lane from eastbound Main Street to northbound 314.
- Adding a right turn lane from southbound 314 to westbound Main Street.
- Creating two left turn lanes from southbound 314 to eastbound Main Street.

Watch for this project starting in the fall and be careful going through this major intersection.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS

Robert Vialpando Mayor

Councilors

Cecilia CC Castillo	Charles Griego
Richard Lovato	Gerard Saiz
Municipal Judge Jeff Aragon	
Police Chief Roy E. Melnick	
Fire Chief Atiliano "Lito" Chavez	
Village Administrator Peter Fernandez	

Got a Food Craving at 5:30 a.m.? Go to Cafe Uno!

It's half past five on a weekday morning and you're craving a latte with a beef burrito. Or maybe it's a cup of spiced chai with a cinnamon roll. How about oatmeal and decaf?

You'll find it at Cafe Uno in the Los Lunas Transportation Center located at the intersection of Courthouse and Juan Perea Roads, otherwise known as the NM Rail Runner Express station.

Cafe Uno is open from 5:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday.

The Cafe Uno menu includes breakfast and lunch items as well as many different drinks. Daily specials are offered.

Also available is event catering as well as sack lunches.

The NM Commission for the Blind has the contract for the cafe which is being run by Barry Wood and Lori Wood and managed by Robin Harlow. Call Cafe Uno at 866-0596.

Business Survey Conducted

The village will be conducting a survey of businesses in a specific area of Los Lunas.

The area where businesses will be sent a survey is from the Rio Grande on the east to Don Pasqual on the west and on Highway 314 from just north of Daniel Fernandez Park on the south to just south of Carr Street on the north.

The survey will have 12 questions and is intended to find out what people in business feel about doing business in Los Lunas.

The survey is expected to go out in the mail to the businesses in mid-September and will include a letter of introduction explaining the survey.

Replies will be kept anonymous and will be sent back to the village's economic specialist in Albuquerque.

If you do not receive a survey and feel you should have then contact Vangie Gabaldon at 352-7724.



Robin Harlow, Lori Wood and Barry Wood, left to right, at Cafe Uno in the Transportation Building.

Work Near Completion On Wastewater Plant

Work is nearing completion on the update and expansion of the Village of Los Lunas wastewater treatment plant.

The \$15 million project should be online and running by the end of November, said Betty Behrend, Los Lunas Public Utilities Director.

The wastewater treatment plant treats all the village sewage which is basically everything that goes down the drain as well as what comes from toilets within the village limits.

Haunted House

OCTOBER 31 5 PM

A Spooktacular Event

at the Village
Administration Building
Main and Don Pasqual

Call Parks & Recreation 352-3584 for information

Two decorative illustrations. On the left is a white, friendly-looking ghost with a simple face and a small tuft of hair. On the right is a black cat wearing a pointed witch's hat, sitting on top of a large, dark, spherical object that looks like a jack-o'-lantern or a gourd. The cat has a small tuft of hair and is looking towards the right.