Railrunner Construction Neighborhood Meeting

Monday, December 17; 5:30 pm

Genoveva Chavez Community Center

Railrunner's Route

The Railrunner Train, from Bernalillo to Santa Fe, will run on existing BNSF tracks located alongside I-25 to La Bajada. At La Bajada, it there will be new track east of I-25, around Waldo, to north of the La Bajada Rest Area. From there, it will go through a "tunnel" underneath I-25 to the median between NB/SB I-25. (Bridges will be constructed between La Cienega and St. Francis Drive.) It will stay in the median, past Richard's Avenue, then cross under the SB lanes of I-25 before St. Francis Drive. From there, it will tie into the Santa Fe Southern Railroad.

Why is night time construction needed?

⇒ Material haul trucks must cross the travel lanes of I-25 to remove dirt from the large excavation area near St. Francis Dr. and to fill the track segment between St. Francis Dr. & Richards Ave. Doing this at night, reduces the risk of accidents to construction crews and motorists traveling through construction zones

⇒ Less traffic disruption

⇒ Project's progress is more efficient

Night construction is scheduled at two primary locations affecting neighborhoods adjacent to I-25:

⇒ The first area is the deep cut where the tracks leave the I-25 median and turn north to intersect with the Santa Fe Southern alignment.

- ◊ This cut provides additional shielding for the neighborhoods adjacent to the north side of I-25.
- ◊ This excavation occurs during the day however, loading and hauling this material out of the cut section will occur at night because of the large amount of material that needs to be transported.
- ◊ Approximately 100,000 cubic yards of material have been removed leaving an additional 300,000 cubic yards yet to be excavated.
- ◊ This work will continue at night for approximately 4 months, however the noise generated will decrease as the operation cuts deeper and deeper below existing grade.

♦ Galisteo St. from Avenida La Cerca, south to the right of way will be closed for several months.

- ◊ Crews are constructing a retaining wall and reconstructing the road along the top of the cut slope. Guardrail and fence will be provided to protect vehicles and pedestrians. Motorists can use Yucca St. for access to the area.

⇒ The second area is the I-25 median area adjacent to Pueblos del Sol along Nizhoni Drive.

- ◊ Construction in this area, which will require approximately 2 more weeks of night time operations, involves placing and compacting fill material in the I-25 median to raise the rail track profile, making a smooth vertical alignment, preparing for sub-ballast placement.
- ◊ Placement of the sub-ballast & ballast (foundation material for the rail) will begin in the spring, weather permitting. Each operation, at different times, will take approximately one week of night time construction to complete.

What is the NMDOT doing to minimize impacts to the adjacent neighborhoods?

⇒ Back-up alarms on construction vehicles, at night, are placed at the lowest decibel setting allowed by OSHA.

⇒ Construction trucks used to haul various materials are not allowed to use engine brakes ("jake brakes").

⇒ Truck horns, commonly used to communicate between equipment operators during filling and hauling operations, have been prohibited.

⇒ Lighting will be directed away from residential dwellings to the extent that safe working conditions are not compromised. Consequently, it is not always possible to keep lights from shining towards residential areas however, crews are doing all possible to do so.

**Please note that weather and other schedule impacts could alter the time frames discussed above and could lengthen the time needed for night construction. If this occurs, the NMDOT will notify the affected neighborhoods and provide an updated schedule.*