



NP2023-95

December 21, 2023

Mr. Paul Sittig
Transportation Planner
Northern Pueblos Regional Transportation Planning Organization
Santa Fe, NM

Re: **Pueblo of Nambé NP 101 Improvement**

Dear Mr. Sittig:

The Pueblo of Nambé (Pueblo) Roads and Transportation Department is proposing 8.01 (42,292.7 linear feet) of roadway reconstruction and widening for Nambé NP 101 from Highway 503 to Nambé Falls in Sante Fe County, New Mexico (See Figure 1 to Figure 3). NP 101, or Poechunu Poe, is a two-lane major collector road with rights-of-way (ROW) that vary from 40 to 100 feet. The Pueblo of Nambé proposes road reconstruction and surface improvements which would include a 10-foot widening of the two-lane paved roadway to accommodate a multi-use path along the side of the road, improvements to the parking lot entrance for the Nambé Waterfalls and Lake Recreation Area, and paving the road around Nambé Lake. There are also proposed improvements at several culverts and drainages along the route.

The project is located on the Pueblo of Nambé in Township 19N, Range 29E, Sections 3, 10,11, 14, 23, and 24, and Township 19E, Range 10E, Sections 19, 20, 29, 30 of the New Mexico Base and Meridian, in Santa Fe County, New Mexico.

The project is needed to improve the safety, connectivity, movement of goods and services, and efficient operation and maintenance of the Pueblo's transportation system. NP 101 is a two-lane roadway that connects the Pueblo's main village area, several residential subdivisions, government centers, service facilities, educational institutions, and the Nambé Waterfalls and Lake Recreation Area. Originally built in the 1970s, the road requires updates based on current use. Several sections have degraded shoulders; widening or installing guardrails would address safety concerns. Speeding along the route is also an issue and the updated design would mitigate issues by adjusting road curvature, shoulder widths and surface features. The Pueblo is also interested in installing a multi-use path to keep pedestrians, cyclists, and horses safe while using the route. Several private residences are adjacent to the roadway with numerous associated turnouts for access, most of which are unpaved. Improvements to these access points would provide safe crossings for cars and trail users entering and exiting the road, especially by the entrance station to the Nambé Waterfalls and Lake Recreation Area. A paved parking area would be created north of the Nambé Waterfalls and Lake Recreation Area entrance and a widened median would be installed to separate traffic entering the area from affecting vehicles passing through. Finally, the entire road would be constructed with an all-weather surfaced roadway that meets New Mexico and Association of State

Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) standards for current and projected average daily traffic volumes.

The project action consists of two components to permit the construction of roadway improvements within the project area: 1) granting the necessary new ROW to be acquired by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Southwest Region from Puebloan lands; and 2) approval of expenditure of Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) funds for the proposed improvements.

The project scope of work includes:

- Reconstructing and paving the roadway to provide two travel lanes (one lane in each direction) with shoulders.
- Constructing a multi-use lane for pedestrians, cyclists, and horses.
- Constructing a new median to separate traffic entering Nambé Waterfalls and Lake Recreation Area.
- Constructing a paved parking area across from the Nambé Waterfalls and Lake Recreation Area entrance.
- Replacing and installing drainage structures and erosion control protection features, as needed, including culverts and piping.
- Removing, relocating, and reconstructing driveway entrances to meet current New Mexico and AASHTO standards.
- Constructing ditches to manage stormwater.
- Adding roadway striping and pavement markers.
- Removing trees to maintain a clear zone, as needed.
- Replacing and installing new permanent signage.
- Conducting geotechnical activities, including potholing investigations, for utilities and relocating utilities as needed.
- Installing temporary signage associated with traffic control.
- Installing cattleguards and ROW fencing.

The current paved portion of the road would require a standard 100-foot ROW (50-foot from the center on either side) acquired from the BIA Southwest Region. However, some areas would require ROWs on one side that extend up to 100 feet to accommodate wider shoulder slopes for driver safety. The lower portion of the road, which is currently unpaved, would acquire a 200-foot-wide ROW (100 feet on either side) along its route. All work is planned to occur within the ROW and no temporary construction easements are anticipated. Efforts would be made to maintain a narrow roadway profile and to avoid/minimize impacts to existing washes and surrounding vegetation. To convey stormwater, ditches would be installed along both sides of the roadway. The project would be completed via phased construction throughout the project limits, therefore temporary single-lane closures and traffic control signage would occur along the roadway during construction. Access to all homes would be maintained during construction. Traffic control signage may be used to alert motorists to restrictions and would be placed throughout the project

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area and in the surrounding vicinity. Potential contractor-use areas for parking, staging, and stockpiling would be located within the project area.

A Draft Environmental Assessment is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to document impacts that would occur as a result of the proposed project. As part of the environmental process, this letter serves as your agency's invitation to review the proposed project based upon the scope of the work outlined above. If you or others in your agency have specific concerns, suggestions, or recommendations pertaining to this proposed project, please let us know.

Please submit your comments and concerns by **January 22, 2023** to the Pueblo of Nambé in care of Sabrina Kleinman at Logan Simpson (51 West Third Street, Suite 450, Tempe Arizona 85281); via phone at (720) 390-0273; via fax at (480) 966-9232; or via email at skleinman@logansimpson.com. Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

John Vigil

John Vigil

Roads & Transportation Manager

Pueblo of Nambé

Enclosures: Figure 1. State Location Map
Figure 2. Project Aerial Map
Figure 3. Project Vicinity Map

cc: Tim Scott, Vice President/Director of Engineering Services Western Region, Red Plains Professionals, Inc.



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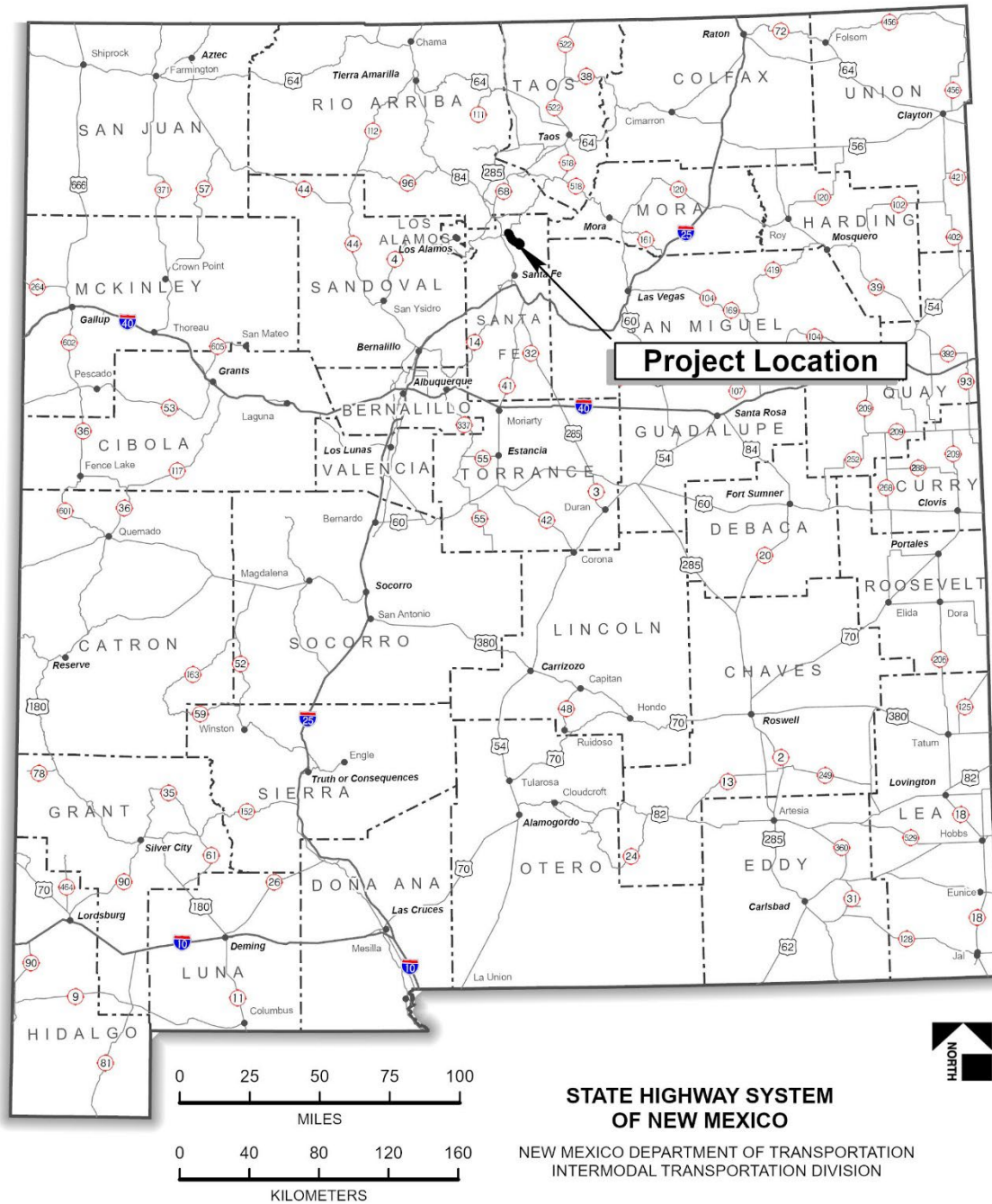


Figure 1. State Location Map for Nambé NP 101 Improvement Project



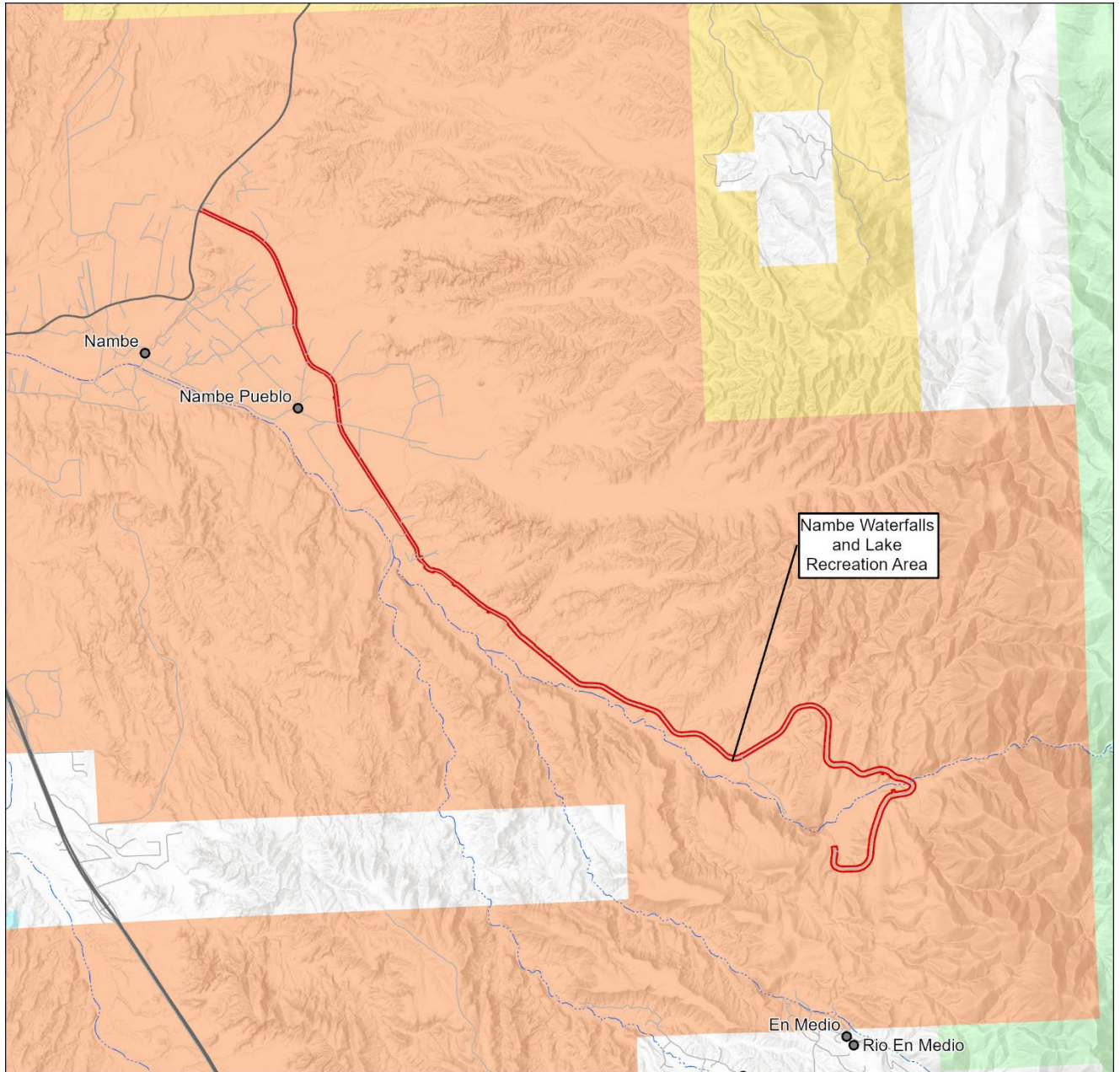
Source: Aerial Photography, Maxar (2022)

Key

Project Area



Figure 2. Aerial map for Nambé NP 101 Improvement Project



Source: Land ownership GIS coverage provided by Bureau of Land Management (2023)
 Transportation provided by US Census Bureau (2010)

Key

- Project Area
- New Mexico Land Ownership
 - US Bureau of Land Management
 - USDA Forest Service
 - Indian/Tribal
 - Private
 - State of New Mexico



Figure 3. Vicinity and land ownership for Nambé NP 101 Improvement Project