

Synopsis of Tramway Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail renovations- March 2010

by John Thomas, Chairman, Tramway Corridor Advisory

The NMDOT was awarded \$1 million for improvements to the Tramway B/P Trail on July 1, 2009. The money would come from federal "stimulus" funds. In August of 2009, NMDOT, District 3 held a public hearing to solicit public ideas.

In November of 2009, the Project Engineer, Priscilla Benavides, gave a briefing on the "improvement" plans to the NMDOT bicycle/Pedestrian/Equestrian Advisory Committee.

Basically, the existing Trail would be overlaid with asphalt - but the asphalt pavement would not be widened - over its entire length with the exception of the section north of Montgomery that was recently resurfaced. NMDOT would remove some vehicle barriers and relocate pedestrian signal posts that are currently hazardous. They would also add a 4' wide compacted gravel skirt to the Trail between Rover and Encantado, with the exception of the 400' of Trail near ABQ Health Partners. NMDOT would install new decks on all four timber pedestrian bridges. In addition, the Project Engineer has told me that NMDOT will add compacted gravel skirts to sections of the Trail where there are drop-off problems on the edge of the pavement.

The section of the Trail south of Montgomery was designed and constructed in the mid-1970's. It is 10' wide in most places. It was not designed to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

At the August, 2009 public meeting, a NMDOT spokesperson said that the Trail pavement should be widened to 12-14' to comply with the AASHTO national standards for combined use pedestrian/ bicyclist trails. This will not happen nor will any changes be made to bring the Trail into full compliance with the ADA regulations. However, the Trail will be ADA compliant at intersections.

You may find more information about the renovations and schedule by going to the NMDOT Website. The Project Engineer is **Priscilla Benavides**, tel 222-6787.

This synopsis was submitted by John Thomas, Chairman of the Tramway Corridor Advisory, 298-5234.

Source: NMDOT Web site