

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
AUGUST 11, 2016  
6:00 p.m.  
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
BOSQUE MULTI-USE ACCESSIBLE PATH PROJECT  
PHASE III  
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING  
LOS DURANES COMMUNITY CENTER  
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

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1 MR. RIORDAN: Ood evening. My name is  
2 Michael Riordan. I'm the Chief Operations Officer  
3 for the City of Albuquerque. We're here tonight to  
4 discuss both what's the status of the current work on  
5 the Bosque Phase 1 and 2 are, the restoration plans,  
6 and then more importantly, the specific purpose of  
7 the meeting is to talk about Phase 3, which is the  
8 final phase of the environmental report that was done  
9 that started this project off from Mayor Berry.

10 So the project tonight, Phase 3 of it, will  
11 go from Campbell Road, north up to Montano.

12 What we've completed so far is Central up  
13 to Campbell Road, a six-foot wide crusher fine trail.

14 Phase 1 brought us up to I-40. Phase 2  
15 brought us to between I-40 and Campbell Road. And  
16 now Phase 3, Campbell to Montano, like I said before.

17 So Phase 1 is complete. We also have done  
18 the follow-up environmental study on that through  
19 SWCA, our environmental consultant on the project.  
20 They went back out and had a -- or reported that  
21 there's no impact to wildlife in the area after Phase  
22 1. Phase 2 was just completed earlier this year, and  
23 they will be doing the same. They were out there  
24 monitoring it throughout the entire construction  
25 period. They will come out and do their follow-up

1 before on that section of it as well.

2           And then for Phase 3, we've had -- we've  
3 had three walking tours to date, June, 11th, 18th,  
4 and 25th. Dr. Schmader was able to lead and --  
5 he's not here.

6           MS. TAYLOR: No, he's in the back.

7           MR. RIORDAN: Oh, there he is. And Bill  
8 led the third one of those.

9           We had a meeting with Bosque Working Group,  
10 which is a group that was put together specifically  
11 to talk about this project. And at that, we  
12 developed three alternatives, and then a fourth one  
13 after the Bosque Working Group, of alternatives that  
14 will be presented tonight.

15           And starting tonight through this time next  
16 week, so probably through Friday of next week, I'll  
17 be accepting comments on these four alternatives to  
18 make the ultimate decision of which alternative will  
19 get selected and be under construction this fall.

20           And that will complete, again, the  
21 environmental -- or the area that was in the  
22 environmental monitoring plan Central to Montano.

23           I sort of -- I just wanted to also take a  
24 moment to let you know about the efforts from the  
25 Bosque Youth Working Group that's been happening out

1 there. At the last meeting we had at the Center, we  
2 talked about the significant amount of debris and  
3 trail closures and environmental work that the Bosque  
4 workgroup was able to do last summer. Well, that  
5 group again, led by Barbara Taylor and her staff, was  
6 able to go out again this summer.

7           And so these stats are just on top of what  
8 they did last year. But they hauled off and dumped  
9 trail loads of weeds, about 48 cubic yards of weeds,  
10 planted 12 acres of native Bosque grass and seed mix,  
11 closed 150 feet of rogue trail, planted 51 shrubs,  
12 wrapped cottonwood trees, removed grass bundles,  
13 removed metal and tire, and fix some severe erosion  
14 areas. They also installed 7 trail signs and 5  
15 directional signs out at the Bosque.

16           So this is the youth. They're making  
17 minimum wage, Barbara; right? And it's youth  
18 primarily from schools that are in and around the  
19 valley areas. They're going out and using their time  
20 to do this.

21           So it's an excellent program. I think  
22 we're having lunch with them tomorrow to celebrate  
23 their works. But it's important for the City of  
24 Albuquerque to know that our youth are out there  
25 helping us out.

1           So tonight we've got Bill Moye here to help  
2 guide the conversation and make sure all of the  
3 comments are noted, make sure everyone has a chance  
4 to speak. And I just want to introduce a couple of  
5 team members here, as well. Everyone knows Matt and  
6 Bill that I just talked about. Barbara Taylor is  
7 Director of Parks and Rec. Thank you very much.  
8 Mike Hamman, from the Mid-Region -- Middle Rio Grande  
9 Conservancy District, and has been executive director  
10 there and seen what a great program it is. Matt  
11 Whalen with Parks and Recreation. Thank you for  
12 being here tonight.

13           Again the purpose of this is provide a  
14 guided pathway within the Bosque area for all  
15 persons, and I think that Phase 1 and Phase 2 of that  
16 project has shown how we've been able to do that.

17           We've got reports back from the state and  
18 their access control committee about how this is one  
19 of the finer trails that they've ever been on, for  
20 handicap accessibility.

21           AUDIENCE MEMBER: We can't hear you.

22           MR. RIORDAN: My name is Michael Riordan.  
23 I'll start over again.

24           The big point of this is tonight you've got  
25 four alternatives for a trail between Campbell Road

1 and Montano Road that will finish off a portion of  
2 environmental document. And we're taking notes about  
3 everyone's comments on those from tonight's meeting,  
4 and all of the way through next week and end of next  
5 week, to make a decision on which alignment will be  
6 installed in between Campbell Road and Montano.

7           So, Barbara, Mike, Matt Whalen are here.  
8 Bill Moye's going to host the conversation here, make  
9 sure that we comment -- get all of the comments  
10 written down. We're here to listen. Matt's going to  
11 be here to identify the alternatives that we have  
12 today, and of the pros and cons of each one. And I'd  
13 just like to acknowledge Matt. Matt, it's all yours.

14           MR. MOYE: I'm going to take over tonight.  
15 I'm sorry. I am Bill Moye. And it's a pleasure to  
16 be here with you. I was at the last meeting we had  
17 here in this lovely facility. But what I'd like to  
18 just say is that we've got an agenda over there.  
19 We're running this meeting from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.  
20 The introductions on welcoming you, we just have had  
21 that.

22           The second part of that is I want to go  
23 over these ground rules for all of us. When we're  
24 done with that, Matt will do the presentation of  
25 alternatives, and then we're going to have a comment

1 period, and we'll have to get done with the comment  
2 period at 7:30 so we can get all of this undone, and  
3 then let these people go home that are working. So,  
4 that's that side.

5           So on this side, the ground rules that I  
6 run my meetings by, I respect the speaker and respect  
7 the listener. So don't talk too long. Let everybody  
8 have a chance to talk. That's respecting the  
9 listener.

10           And the other side of it is, this is to  
11 learn. Everybody in this group is going to have  
12 something important to say and it's going to have  
13 some value. Talk on the issues. Be easy on the  
14 person. And then cell phones silent, that would be  
15 really good, okay?

16           With that, I'm going to turn this over to  
17 Matt Schmader.

18           MR. SCHMADER: Thank you, Bill. Thank you  
19 everybody for coming out this evening. I appreciate  
20 the amount of time that people want to put into these  
21 types of issues that are really important to the  
22 community. And I'm going to make sure that I'm  
23 talking into the microphone as well as I can.

24           Now, we have a PowerPoint presentation  
25 tonight, and we did provide copies of the

1 alternatives maps, but the PowerPoint presentation  
2 also has photographs and other information in it.

3           So if you want to be able to see it better,  
4 this is a good time to come further downstream, get  
5 closer to the screen. I haven't tried looking at it  
6 from the back of the room, so anyone who wants to  
7 move at any time to be able to see better, feel free  
8 and be my guest, so that you can see this a little  
9 bit better, or if I'm going to try not to block your  
10 way, and I will have to range up and down a little  
11 bit to hit the forward button on the -- on -- so,  
12 anyway, my purpose tonight is to go over and describe  
13 the existing conditions in this stretch of the Bosque  
14 and from Campbell Road north to Montano. And then  
15 describe how it is that coming out of the various  
16 public hikes that we made, and field analysis,  
17 checking on what is out on the ground that we started  
18 to make several different alternatives, different  
19 routes that we might be able to try to propose for  
20 the final phase of trail construction.

21           The trail is proposed to be the same as the  
22 prior two-and-a-half to three miles of trail that  
23 have already been built from Central Avenue to  
24 Campbell Road. That is six feet wide, stabilized  
25 crusher fine, and intended to be multiple use,

1 intended particularly and specifically to try to  
2 increase access for all citizens as best we can to  
3 enable as many people as possible to enjoy this  
4 beautiful area of the woods.

5           So the existing conditions in this area.  
6 The total length from Campbell Road -- excuse me, I  
7 have a pointer. I hope people are fine with the use  
8 of a laser.

9           AUDIENCE MEMBER: As long as it's not in my  
10 eyes.

11           MR. SCHMADER: I'll try not to wave it  
12 around too much.

13           Campbell Road is down here. This is the  
14 Nature Center, and the Candelaria Farms Fields at the  
15 Nature Center. This is Montano Road right here.

16           So this total length from Campbell,  
17 straight line as the bird flies, is about 8,900 feet.  
18 It's 1 point -- one-and-two-thirds miles in a  
19 straight line distance.

20           In that area, the total number of all of  
21 the existing trails, all of the black lines in here,  
22 is 27,000 feet. It's over five miles of user-made  
23 trails in this area. That's enough existing trail  
24 system to be able to run three trails parallel all  
25 the way from Campbell Road to Montano.

1           It's one of the most important goals of the  
2 project is to identify primary trails so that we can  
3 eliminate all of the trail redundancy and to close  
4 off the fragmentation of the habitat that we see.

5           Almost exactly half of the 27,000 feet are  
6 officially designated trails, that is primarily the  
7 trail system that many people know within the Nature  
8 Center area. And about half is just user-made trails  
9 that people have created by bushwhacking through the  
10 woods and the vegetation over the years.

11           There are a number of trails at the Nature  
12 Center already that are crusher-fine trails. So when  
13 we talk about crusher fine, there already are  
14 crusher-fine trails in the Nature Center area that  
15 were installed quite some time ago. The difference  
16 is, these do not have a stabilizer. So they're  
17 hard-pack on occasion, but they can tend to be softer  
18 and they don't really meet ADA standards.

19           There's also an existing 8-foot wide  
20 asphalt trail called the Aldo Leopold Asphalt Trail.  
21 It's just opposite the Nature Center bridge, and runs  
22 north for about 3,600 feet, about two-thirds of a  
23 mile, into a dead-end loop right here.

24           There are nearly 7,700 linear feet of jetty  
25 jacks. The people that are familiar with jetty jacks

1 will see some pictures of them. There's quite a few  
2 jetty jacks in the area. And there is some old  
3 construction. Big piles over here near the south  
4 end. We'll see pictures of these.

5           So this is some of the existing condition I  
6 was talking about. There's a significant amount of  
7 off-trailing. There's a main trail and then a  
8 user-made side trail, user-made side trails that look  
9 like this, places where the main part of the trail  
10 splits into a second one.

11           So this is part of that existing condition  
12 that the -- that creates almost five miles of these  
13 interior trails in the Bosque.

14           And as I had mentioned, there are existing  
15 six-foot wide crusher-fine trails, especially in the  
16 southern part of the Nature Center area and through  
17 the middle part of the Nature Center area that create  
18 some of the river trail loop that's there.

19           So this material, the crusher fine already  
20 exists and has been installed in the Nature Center  
21 area, or it's just -- it wasn't built according to  
22 more modern standards in terms of stabilization and  
23 adherence to the ADA compliance.

24           And as I mentioned, there's an existing  
25 8-foot wide asphalt trail in the Bosque. This is a

1 fairly interesting artifact, because this was built  
2 in the late 1980s, and is today still the only  
3 existing asphalt trail in the Bosque.

4           As I said, it goes two-thirds of a mile,  
5 connecting from the Nature Center bridge over to the  
6 riverside terrain. It's fenced on both sides. And  
7 you can see that there are existing cracks in that  
8 trail. It's aging well, but aren't we all?

9           Also, as part of the existing condition,  
10 there are a number of trails that are right along the  
11 riverside, and some of these get to be quite narrow.  
12 They go through a lot of different kinds of existing  
13 vegetation. A fair bit of vegetation in places is  
14 not native. So that you have Salt Cedar and Russian  
15 Olive. But in other areas, it goes through places  
16 that's native vegetation, like willow and willow  
17 thickets near cottonwoods.

18           So, quite a bit of that off-trailing looks  
19 like this. Part of the idea would be to make sure  
20 that not all of those trails stay open, because it  
21 ends up breaking the habitat too much by having  
22 people go everywhere.

23           Now, the Nature Center, of course, is one  
24 of the most important places along the entire river  
25 in Bernalillo County for the public to access the

1 Bosque.

2           And so along with its existing trail  
3 system, there are a number of features or  
4 improvements that are already in place, benches that  
5 are near the river, signage, trails that have  
6 branches and logs along the edges of the trail  
7 system.

8           And also, because the Nature Center is a  
9 very important access point, this is one of the  
10 places that has quite a bit of interpretation,  
11 on-site interpretation and wayside signs, signs that  
12 explain and encourage public use, signs that try to  
13 encourage the right kind of trail etiquette in the  
14 area.

15           And the Nature Center also has a number of  
16 interesting artifacts that go back to the days of  
17 trying to get up and down some steep embankments.  
18 You can see these stairs don't really work any more  
19 because people just go around them and instead of  
20 going down the steps. But this is an area that would  
21 be very, very hard to make compliant for wheelchair  
22 and ADA access.

23           And then, of course, the lovely jetty jacks  
24 that I was talking about. These were installed in  
25 the 1950s and 1960s by the Army Corps of Engineers

1 and the Bureau of Reclamation.

2           So this is part of the main trail that  
3 comes off of Paseo del Bosque bike trail, and then  
4 connects to the crusher fine that's already in the  
5 Nature Center area as part of the Bosque Loop Trail.  
6 And you can see that there are long lines of jetty  
7 jacks. Some of them double lines all throughout.  
8 And on the maps, that you have, you'll see the jetty  
9 jacks in the brown alignments throughout the area.

10           So these can present a bit of a difficulty  
11 in terms of being able to have connectivity going  
12 north and south through the area, because you can be  
13 going along and all of a sudden, there's a line of  
14 jetty jacks. But by staying only on existing trails  
15 and not proposing any new alignments, and you don't  
16 have to end up having to cut through any of the jack  
17 lines.

18           And there's other interesting uses that  
19 happen in the area. I'm not sure if it's sort of a  
20 form of environment art. And just to point out that  
21 there are other activities that go on. There are  
22 lots of other activities that go on in the area.

23           And then I was mentioning the debris piles  
24 that are down in the southern portion there near  
25 Campbell Road, and one of the goals of implementing

1 this project would be to clean up these debris piles.

2           Now, as Michael Riordan had mentioned,  
3 restoration is very important as a component to go  
4 along with any kind of proposed trail, and all of  
5 these slides show the activity of the Mayor's Bosque  
6 Youth Program, digging out stumps, cutting out  
7 wheelbarrows full of native vegetation, and weedy  
8 annual plants, planting shrubs, pulling out tires,  
9 and all sorts of nasty debris that has been dumped in  
10 the area over time.

11           So don't be fooled that youth can't be  
12 engaged in very important, very hard work, and  
13 restoration of the environment. I really hope we've  
14 created a good generation of stewards here. They've  
15 done a lot of great work.

16           So restoration is an important component to  
17 always take into consideration, in conjunction with  
18 any kind of trail management, because you can't  
19 simply use trail management as a way to guide where  
20 people should go and not go, without trying to  
21 follow-up, trying to improve the habitat as well.

22           So along those lines, we have done  
23 additional studies that recommend the types of  
24 restoration activity that should occur at least  
25 between Central and Campbell Road, that we're

1 planning to implement, and I'll get to that later on  
2 in my presentation.

3           So after going through some of the public  
4 hikes, getting input, and going back out into the  
5 area with other agency partners and with staff, we've  
6 come up with four alternatives that you can follow  
7 along now.

8           Alternative 1 is what we called existing  
9 conditions, and no action. So this is what it would  
10 look like if we -- no. I guess I will have to -- I  
11 must have moved that slide. I'll show you existing  
12 conditions in a minute.

13           Alternative 1 takes a trail alignment that  
14 is closest to the Paseo del Bosque.

15           Oh, I already showed you the existing  
16 conditions when I was talking about the statistics.  
17 I'm sorry. I thought I had shown you.

18           One thing about this area is that it  
19 divides into segments, basically going from east to  
20 west, that is from the Paseo del Bosque paved trail  
21 to the river bank, there are a number of trunk lines  
22 that are successively closer to the river. And then  
23 divides into areas north and south. It's sort of a  
24 southern area, a central area where the Nature Center  
25 is, and a northern area.

1           So the alternatives start further east and  
2 work west.

3           The first, Alternative 1 begins at Campbell  
4 Road, taking off from the existing crusher-fine trail  
5 and following the trail that is closest to the edge  
6 of the levee, and the Paseo del Bosque bike trail,  
7 and will pick up at the paved Aldo Leopold Trail  
8 right here, utilize the paved trail, and then  
9 continue on off the end of the paved trail, and go up  
10 to form a loop just south of Montano Road.

11           So this alternative makes use of connecting  
12 the interior trail with the interior asphalt trail.  
13 It has the least amount of river edge experience of  
14 all of the alternatives. It's over 14,000 linear  
15 feet long, if you include the asphalt trail. It's  
16 just a little over two miles long, 10,600 feet of new  
17 crusher-fine trail if you subtract out the existing  
18 asphalt trail.

19           Yes.

20           MS. LINDA ZIPP: So would the Nature Center  
21 Trail then be modified so it would meet all of those  
22 requirements as part of this alternative?

23           MR. SCHMADER: She's asking if the Nature  
24 Center trail would be modified on this. I think we  
25 may end up having to wait for question and answer

1 afterwards, because of the court reporter.

2 THE REPORTER: And I need your name.

3 MR. SCHMADER: It's too hard this way.

4 THE REPORTER: I need your name.

5 MR. SCHMADER: So make sure to keep track  
6 of questions that we may be able to answer.

7 THE REPORTER: I need to have your name,  
8 though, to show you spoke.

9 Linda --

10 THE REPORTER: I'm sorry?

11 MS. LINDA ZIPP: Linda Zipp, Z-I-P-P.

12 THE REPORTER: Thank you.

13 MR. SCHMADER: Thank you very much.

14 MS. DIANA BEAUMONT: Excuse me, as you're  
15 describing these trails, are these dirt paths, fines  
16 paths, concrete paths? What are they?

17 MR. SCHMADER: I'm going to show you the  
18 existing conditions right now through these  
19 photographs.

20 MS. DIANA BEAUMONT: Awesome.

21 THE REPORTER: And I need your name.

22 MS. DIANA BEAUMONT: Diana Beaumont.

23 MR. SCHMADER: This is why it will probably  
24 be better to hold off questions, but, thank you.  
25 What you did is you anticipated what my next slide

1 was going to be.

2 MS. DIANA BEAUMONT: There you go.

3 MR. SCHMADER: So this is the existing  
4 condition of Alternative 1 as you go north from  
5 Campbell Road towards the Nature Center.

6 And so in places it's four or five feet;  
7 some places three feet wide of clear dirt trail that  
8 basically goes through open cottonwood canopy with a  
9 little bit of an understory of grass.

10 So that's what it looks like on Alternative  
11 1 closest to Campbell Road.

12 When you get further up Alternative 1,  
13 further north, then you start to get into the more  
14 developed sections of the Nature Center trail system  
15 on the river loop. And this is -- as I was  
16 indicating before, some portions have crusher-fine  
17 trail already, and it's about six feet wide in some  
18 of these places here.

19 Alternative 2 takes a kind of a middle path  
20 north from Campbell Road and going west from  
21 Alternative 1. And what it ends up doing is rather  
22 than connecting to the asphalt trail, it continues on  
23 to parts of the Nature Center trail, and then goes up  
24 towards Montano Road. It doesn't make an entire loop  
25 there. It just connects back up to Paseo del

1 Bosque bike trail a little bit further south.

2           This alternative would be 17,000 linear  
3 feet and about three-and-a-quarter miles long. And  
4 this is some of what it looks like.

5           Again, in going north from Campbell Road,  
6 much of it is three or four feet wide up through five  
7 feet wide in places of packed natural surface. And  
8 much of it goes through either open canopy of  
9 cottonwoods with grass understory, or goes back  
10 through a little bit more heavily wooded areas that  
11 have some mixture of native and nonnative, like these  
12 Russian Olives over here.

13           And going further north on Alternative 2 up  
14 towards the Nature Center area, again you can see  
15 that in some places it's three or four feet wide.  
16 Some on the embankments, and is in some places due to  
17 the immediate undergrowth, it's just about three feet  
18 wide at present.

19           Alternative 3 is proposed to take off from  
20 Campbell Road and go over to the embankment of the  
21 river. And this is an alternative that was purposely  
22 chosen to have the greatest amount of river edge  
23 experience. So it cuts over to the edge of the river  
24 and follows the existing trail along the river edge  
25 before it comes back into the Nature Center of River

1 Loop trail, and then follows north all the way to  
2 Montano.

3           This, too, will bypass the existing asphalt  
4 trail and it ends up being the longest of all of the  
5 alternatives. It's over 18,000 linear feet, almost  
6 three-and-a-half miles long.

7           And this is some of what it looks like.  
8 This is closer to Campbell Road. I don't know  
9 whether many of you have walked on this part of the  
10 trail before, but it's mostly grassy area along the  
11 river, and in some places just two or three feet  
12 wide, maybe even a little less, depending on how the  
13 grass has grown in. And has the most amount of view  
14 of the river. And there are also scattered Russian  
15 Olive trees in the area, some New Mexico Olive, but  
16 there's not a lot of Cottonwood canopy roads going in  
17 this area.

18           When you get further north in the Nature  
19 Center area, and maybe you're familiar with some of  
20 this. This is some of the river loop, the Bosque  
21 loop in the Nature Center. These are existing trails  
22 that are four or five feet wide, lined with logs and  
23 branches often that kind of meander through this  
24 fence or understory that is primarily not native.  
25 It's dominated by New Mexico -- or by Russian Olive.

1 And a little bit of Salt Cedar and there's some tall  
2 Cottonwoods over, but it's not -- it's not really  
3 dominated by native tree species.

4           And then as a result of some of the public  
5 input we've already had, we've gotten at least one  
6 proposed alternative that we're calling  
7 Alternative 4. And what this does, is it uses -- so  
8 what I need to emphasize here is all of the  
9 alternatives that we've gone over, Alternatives 1, 2,  
10 3, had components of them that can be mixed and  
11 matched, depending on -- depending on what people  
12 tell us that they would like to see, depending on  
13 what the logic of some of the connections may be.

14           So, in a sense, there's a mix-and-match  
15 working route or suite of selections that can be  
16 made. And Alternative 4 just shows one of those  
17 might work. It uses most of Alternative 2 in the  
18 southern part and the northern part, but in the  
19 middle what it does, is it creates a pedestrian-only  
20 section that starts here, and ends at the end of the  
21 asphalt trail in the Nature Center area.

22           So with all of these alternatives, and  
23 anything the public may want to suggest or prefer or  
24 like to see or propose, what we have to do is we have  
25 to figure out, if you get this far, on a crusher-fine

1 trail, if you're on a bicycle or on a horse, or  
2 whatever, what happens at a dismount area, or should  
3 we be creating another spur that goes over here and  
4 goes to the Paseo del Bosque bike trail.

5 Same thing with down over here. You know,  
6 we just have to look at the way traffic flow is  
7 handled and whether or not it can achieve, you know,  
8 visitor use, and then people have some of the areas,  
9 and enable us to close off and improve the habitat in  
10 conjunction with finding these opportunities.

11 So this particular example is about 12,000  
12 linear feet or about two-and-a-quarter miles of  
13 trail, but it does create a pedestrian-only, no-ride  
14 zone through the center part of the -- of this.

15 We have comment forms outside that show  
16 where to send your comments to, to this CABQ Parks  
17 and Recreation website. And if people are interested  
18 in studies, transcripts, looking at maps, various  
19 things like that, all of those materials are at this  
20 particular link, or URL under the parks and  
21 recreation main web page.

22 So, that is the end of the basic  
23 description. I've left the maps up here, so we can  
24 go back and forth if you want to get some of the --  
25 look at some of the maps.

1 I don't know whether you want to first have  
2 public comment. I think we want to make sure we're  
3 allowing the public enough time to be able to  
4 comment. And, then, if there's time allowing it  
5 after that, we can go over some things.

6 MR. MOYE: We have about 55 minutes left.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We can't hear you.

8 MR. MOYE: We have about 55 minutes left.

9 We've had 15 people sign up. If we use three minutes  
10 apiece of this 45 minutes, 10 minutes for additional  
11 Q and A.

12 Okay. So how about Peggy Norton has a  
13 comment. Come on up.

14 MS. NORTON: I'm Peggy Norton, speaking as  
15 president of the North Valley Coalition. We support  
16 the no-action alternative. People live in the North  
17 Valley for a variety of reasons, and one of them is  
18 to enjoy the treasures of the Bosque. And now we  
19 need to protect those treasures. People enjoy the  
20 many birds, porcupines, lizards, turtles, et cetera.  
21 Several of us enjoyed watching great horned owlets in  
22 a nest in this area that nobody knew about. A  
23 nontraditional one.

24 People ride horses here, including walking  
25 injured horses, bike-ride the dirt trails, walk

1 quietly maybe with dogs. After a real tiny -- after  
2 a rain, tiny toads are everywhere.

3           Some people using the Bosque don't notice  
4 the wildlife, but that doesn't mean we need to  
5 develop the entire area and drive out the wildlife.  
6 In well-developed high-usage areas, there's little  
7 wildlife compared to lesser used and developed areas.

8           The City hired one biologist who was  
9 willing to say there will be no impact to wildlife by  
10 building path-wide trails, increasing usage by some  
11 fold, which we do not know. Many biologists would  
12 and have disagreed with this.

13           However, there will be no monitoring now  
14 that is required by the Bosque Action Plan, which  
15 should have been done since 1993.

16           Many people have given numerous arguments,  
17 both in writing and in prior hearings, which have  
18 been ignored, after publicly stating they would  
19 follow the future works agreement, the City abandoned  
20 it.

21           Alternatives do not provide different trail  
22 designs. People enjoy natural trails and will build  
23 road trails if the only trail to use is a six-foot  
24 wide crusher-fine colored, noisy trail.

25           I was handing out flyers for this meeting

1 in the Bosque, and ran into several different  
2 visitors from out of state. They all said what a gem  
3 of a place this is. They had enjoyed walking the  
4 trails that are there. And the southern part of this  
5 area is very popular and heavily used.

6 Use the money to do the restoration that  
7 has been promised and provide handicap access to the  
8 five-mile loop that has already been built, and it's  
9 only accessible from Central.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. MOYE: I'm going to call on two people.  
12 Fred -- is it Houdek?

13 MR. HOUDEK: Houdek.

14 MR. MOYE: And then I'd also like to have  
15 Karen Cushnyr. Do you want to come up here and be  
16 ready. One of you.

17 MR. HOUDEK: Use the term we're being  
18 staged.

19 My name is Fred Houdek. And my comments  
20 are going to be pretty brief.

21 The best Alternative for Phase 3 is the no  
22 action one. I'm sure that tonight you're going to  
23 hear several reasons for this choice, not to mention  
24 that it's probably the most heavily used area in the  
25 state park.

1           However, if the past history is any  
2 indication, I am sure that the mayor and his  
3 administration will find this no action alternative  
4 unacceptable.

5           Thus, I believe that Alternative Number 4  
6 is the best new trail to be chosen for several  
7 reasons: It's a consensus of the Bosque Action Team,  
8 the MRGCD, and the Working Group with the City.

9           I have attended two of the hikes with  
10 Dr. Schmader, walked the area with several others  
11 several times. I agree with the input of all of them  
12 and feel that it takes into consideration the  
13 environment, the wishes of the many people who use  
14 those trails, and primarily the safety of others.

15           The dismount zone is a must for this  
16 stretch of the existing trails. These trails are  
17 heavily used by student group, nature center  
18 visitors, those physically challenged, and families,  
19 including those with strollers.

20           Directing the bikers to the Paseo del  
21 Bosque trail is a good move, especially for those who  
22 are not familiar with the route or the area. Adding  
23 barriers, forcing the biker to dismount is desirable  
24 at these locations that are noted on the map. I  
25 should say that I'm a very avid biker and ride these

1 routes regularly.

2           Regardless of the final route, I strongly  
3 recommend supporting the restoration efforts and the  
4 improvement of the accessibility for those who are  
5 physically challenged.

6           This should be done not only for Phase 3,  
7 but also complete that part of the section for  
8 Phase 1 and Phase 2, which still need a lot of work  
9 for accessibility.

10           Thank you.

11           MR. CUSHNYR: Good evening everyone. My  
12 name is Brad Cushnyr, C-U-S-H-N-Y-R.

13           And I'm actually standing up here speaking  
14 on behalf of my wife who's sitting over there. And  
15 the reason I'm speaking for her is because she can't  
16 stand up here for long enough to speak, because she  
17 has spina bifida. She has a spinal cord injury that  
18 she was born with that makes it difficult for her to  
19 walk and stand for long periods of time.

20           And certainly walking through unimproved  
21 portions of the Bosque is impossible. So she can't  
22 share in all of the lovely nature that you folks want  
23 to protect. And while I understand that it's  
24 important to do as much as we can to protect the  
25 Bosque, I think it's also important that we do what

1 we can to make sure that all of our citizens can  
2 share in that experience. And I know we can have  
3 arguing Ph.Ds. until the end of time as to whether a  
4 six-foot wide crusher trail is going to significantly  
5 impede wildlife.

6 But the fact of the matter is, that without  
7 a trail like that, we have significantly impeded  
8 hundreds if not thousands of citizens in the city of  
9 Albuquerque and the surrounding area from ever  
10 experiencing that wonderful place of the Bosque.

11 So we support the issue or the 2 and 3  
12 alternatives that do include this trail, not because  
13 we want to eliminate wildlife, not because we want to  
14 overrun the Bosque with activity that's counter to  
15 the goal of preserving that nature.

16 We support it because we like to be  
17 inclusive for all of our citizens, and we would like  
18 all of our citizens to have the opportunity to  
19 experience what beautiful environment it is.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. MOYE: Okay. Next we have John Thomas  
22 and followed by Sam Karns. So, Sam, come up to the  
23 stage, right or left.

24 MR. THOMAS: I'm John Thomas.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: We can't hear you.

1 MR. THOMAS: I am John Thomas. I used to  
2 serve on the Greater Albuquerque Recreational Trails  
3 Committee.

4 I would like to comment just for a few  
5 seconds about some comments made by Richard Barish of  
6 the Sierra Club. I think Richard made some --  
7 several insightful comments regarding the Phase 3  
8 trail. The riverside is a sensitive area and home to  
9 some unusual birds, and who knows what other kinds of  
10 creatures. It should probably be avoided for the  
11 Phase 3 trail.

12 However, from my own experience just  
13 walking there, and putting myself in the place of an  
14 elderly person or a disabled person, it's nice to  
15 have some shady pathways. So that should be  
16 considered, too.

17 And then Richard and I believe also the  
18 City has pointed out there may be conflicts in the  
19 Nature Center between sightless and vulnerable  
20 citizens, such as the elderly and the disabled. I  
21 think that has to be dealt with, and in a rational  
22 manner. I won't tell you how to do it.

23 Now, I would like to address some access  
24 for the disabled issues. There's a big problem with  
25 the access to the Bosque at the end of Candelaria.

1 The spacing of the metal posts are too narrow,  
2 creating a general hazard and restricting access for  
3 the disabled and the elderly. And people have  
4 experienced this sort of filtering out disabled  
5 people.

6           The City violated numerous rules put out by  
7 the Transportation engineers, the Federal Highway  
8 Administration, ADA access for rule-makers. They  
9 hardly want to talk about the subject, and I find  
10 that regrettable.

11           Another ADA access issue is the bridge over  
12 the ditch west of the Nature Center. It's in  
13 deplorable condition and presents a hazard and a  
14 restriction to some disabled people. I think that  
15 can be dealt with.

16           The paved trail between that bridge at the  
17 west end of the Nature Center or at the ditch there  
18 up to Campbell Road is also in deplorable condition  
19 and violates numerous ADA recommendations. The  
20 cracks are horrible things for people with wheeled  
21 vehicles. People who are blind can have a problem if  
22 their wand gets stuck in the cracks.

23           So I think the access issue deals with the  
24 quality of these peripheral trails for getting them  
25 to the Bosque, and they should be dealt with in a

1 humane and considerate ADA-compliant manner.

2 I've talked a little bit with some of the  
3 City people about the access to the proposed Phase 3  
4 trail from Montano. The exact way of doing it seems  
5 to be uncertain. I'm not -- okay. I think I've  
6 spoke my piece. Thank you.

7 MR. KARNS: My name is Sam Karns. I walk  
8 in the Bosque once or twice a week every week of the  
9 year, and I have been doing it for 35 years, and I  
10 care about the Bosque. I love the Bosque. And when  
11 I saw what was -- bulldozing north of the Central,  
12 the trail being bulldozed through there, it just made  
13 me sick.

14 But unlike Phase 1 and Phase 2, in Phase 3,  
15 we actually have an alternative. That is the  
16 no-action alternative.

17 And I echo everything that Peggy Norton  
18 said. And the Bosque Action Team just today has come  
19 out in support of the no-action plan, and I think  
20 they should be applauded for that. But that doesn't  
21 mean everything is okay, because I've called the  
22 Bosque Action Team a couple of days ago, I e-mailed  
23 them. And they said that Mayor Berry really not --  
24 the no-action alternative is really not an  
25 alternative. It is really not on the agenda. This

1 is not being considered by the City.

2           And I called them again today and the  
3 Bosque Action Team, they said this has a snowball's  
4 chance in hell of being passed.

5           So, Mr. Schmader and Mr. Riordan have both  
6 said that the no-action alternative is an  
7 alternative, but it's really not. So what does this  
8 mean? It means that anything we say in support of  
9 the no-action alternative is not going to be listened  
10 to. It means that no matter how much support there  
11 is for the no-action alternative, it's going to be  
12 ignored.

13           So, why are we being told that there is a  
14 no-action alternative when there is not a no-action  
15 alternative? Why are we being lied to by Mayor Berry  
16 administration?

17           I don't have anything else to say.

18           MR. MOYE: Next I have David Parsons and  
19 Allison.

20           MS. ALLISON SCHACT: Schact.

21           MR. MOYE: Okay.

22           MR. DAVID PARSONS: My name is David  
23 Parsons. I am a career wildlife biologist. And I  
24 live, by choice, near the Rio Rancho Nature Center.

25           The reach from Campbell to Montano is

1 especially important to the legacy of Aldo Leopold.  
2 Many of you probably know who that is. He's a  
3 renowned early 20th century conservation maker and  
4 author. One of his major contributions is the  
5 formulation of what's called the land ethic.

6           The driving premise of the land ethic is  
7 best embodied in this quote by Leopold, "The thing is  
8 right when it tends to preserve the integrity,  
9 ability and beauty of the biotic community. It is  
10 wrong when it tends otherwise."

11           Leopold lived and worked in Albuquerque  
12 from 1914 to 1923. He served as Secretary of the  
13 Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce. He was a strong  
14 advocate for preserving the Bosque in its natural  
15 state and saw it as a valuable community asset.

16           The City rightly venerates Aldo Leopold  
17 with an interpretive trail in his honor within this  
18 reach under consideration.

19           The Rio Grande Valley State Park  
20 legislation establishing the park itself, has a  
21 policy that states, and I quote, "The preservation,  
22 protection and maintenance of the natural and scenic  
23 beauty of the state park is in the public's  
24 interests. And the City is the public trustee for  
25 the national public resources of the state park that

1 belong to us all."

2           The people have nearly unanimously  
3 supported a policy of ecological restoration and  
4 nature preservation over disturbance-causing  
5 development projects in the Bosque. We've seen this  
6 in a number of meetings that I attended, and I've  
7 attended just about all of them.

8           The six-foot wide crusher-fine trail as  
9 proposed under any alternative would desecrate the  
10 legacy of Aldo Leopold and is inconsistent with the  
11 policy of the Rio Grande State Park legislation.

12           I strongly support the no-action  
13 alternative and recommend that the City shift its  
14 priorities for the Bosque to restoration first, in  
15 keeping with the public's desires.

16           And my final question, alluded to by one of  
17 the previous speaker -- or one of the previous  
18 speakers is, where is the democracy in this process?

19           Thank you.

20           ALLISON SCHACHT: My name is Allison  
21 Schacht. I spend hours and hours in the Bosque  
22 between Central and Montano. I monitor hawk and owl  
23 nests there for Hawks Aloft every year, and I walk  
24 there for recreation.

25           My major concern with this whole project

1 has basically been that mixing pedestrians with  
2 bicycle traffic really doesn't work very well. I  
3 like to bird watch, I like to relax on the trail, but  
4 I have to keep an ear out for bicycles all the time.  
5 They come up fast. They don't give you a warning.  
6 And then you have to jump off the trail. It's kind  
7 of nerve-racking.

8           And my concern with this section of trail  
9 we're dealing with now is the Nature Center has some  
10 of the heaviest foot traffic and heaviest traffic in  
11 general. So I think it's important to have an  
12 alternative that allows pedestrians some place to  
13 walk where they don't have to worry about bicycles.

14           One thing that is not entirely clear to me  
15 from these maps is whether they would entirely  
16 eliminate any parts of the existing Nature Center  
17 trails, like the Bosque loop or river loop that are  
18 not considered on the crusher-fine trail. So, I  
19 can't really tell. If that's the case.

20           At any rate, I would support out of these  
21 plans Alternative 4, which does allow for spurs to  
22 the river, so people can see the river. Keep the  
23 traffic away for most of the sensitive river bank,  
24 and provides for a bicycle free zone. So...

25           MR. MOYE: Okay. Next person is David

1 Ryan, and then Chandler. Is it Colston? Colston  
2 Chandler.

3 MR. CHANDLER: Colston Chandler.

4 MR. RYAN: I will be real brief. I can't  
5 really support the trail.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We can't hear you.

7 MR. RYAN: How about now? Okay. Yeah. My  
8 name's David Ryan. I'm just a person, I live in the  
9 area. I walk on the ditches in the Bosque at least  
10 five or six times a week with my dogs. So I've been  
11 on every one of the trails that we saw in the  
12 picture.

13 I personally like the idea of having more  
14 accessibility for the public, because that's how you  
15 build constituency for nature. If people are denied  
16 access, they don't care about it. And certainly  
17 New Mexico has plenty of hiking trails and open space  
18 throughout the state, and to have access to a  
19 wonderful area for all people is a good thing, and I  
20 don't -- whatever the final decision is is that we do  
21 have a nice trail. I think the trail that has been  
22 built has been very nice.

23 And we also keep a little bit of stretch  
24 along the river more of a natural state, much like  
25 that was done in Phase 2 where we come up the middle

1 with crusher-fine trail, and then we still have the  
2 dirt path along the river.

3           So I think it's a good plan to have access  
4 to everybody because it builds constituency for  
5 nature. And if we just keep it for people who live  
6 in the neighborhood or, you know, don't want anything  
7 changed, then we will be losing constituencies and  
8 we'll be losing future generations for nature.

9           So that's all I have to say.

10           MR. CHANDLER: I'm Colston Chandler,  
11 C-O-L-S-T-O-N. I also live in the Bosque and have  
12 for 26 years. I walk the Bosque regularly.

13           AUDIENCE MEMBER: Use the mic.

14           MR. CHANDLER: I walk in the Bosque  
15 regularly, although not every day. I live there  
16 because of the nature that is there.

17           I'm also interested in accessibility  
18 issues, because they're losing over -- me and my  
19 family. I have begun to help lead accessible hike  
20 walks in the Bosque, through the Bosque Action Team.

21           So there is an interest on the part of  
22 people who do want the trail building to -- improving  
23 accessibility.

24           There's one unspoken thing about this trail  
25 that is being built. And that is, why is it so

1 sacred it reaches Montano? No one discusses that.  
2 It's sacred as -- that is shall be six feet wide at  
3 every park. Not up for discussion.

4 My personal preference is a variant of the  
5 no-action. I would like to see, in fact, all of the  
6 effort in Phase 3 devoted to the improvement of the  
7 existing Nature Center trails, the river loop, the  
8 Bosque loop, and particularly accessibility from the  
9 Nature Center so that people who have impaired  
10 mobility can actually reach those trails.

11 MR. MOYE: Thank you. Sandra Cook and M.J.  
12 Zimmerman.

13 MS. COOK: Hi. My name's Sandra Cook.  
14 I've lived in and around the Bosque for over 20  
15 years, especially this part of the Bosque and  
16 Corrales.

17 And I've attended these meetings since the  
18 Albuquerque museum, and I've written letters. And  
19 most of the meetings I've attended to and the people  
20 that I have spoken to, have been against the plans.  
21 They want the Bosque to be preserved. They want the  
22 Bosque to be restored. They want the monies to go  
23 into restoration. And also some monies to go into  
24 making accessibility for those who have limited  
25 mobility.

1           Their needs to be education that comes  
2 along with this. Colston and the Bosque Action Team  
3 have been supplying this with walks.

4           So I do believe there needs to be  
5 education. I do believe there needs to be  
6 accessibility, but not at the expense of the natural  
7 habitat, because why do we all go there? And what is  
8 so precious to us and what's under attack more and  
9 more and more? People encroach and the more fiddling  
10 you do with it -- when you look into a lot of  
11 habitats, one reason why we have to restore them is  
12 because humans have tampered with them.

13           So, I think that personally I would like  
14 the no-action, with some attention to accessibility  
15 for people who have mobility issues, more education,  
16 and addressing the habitat preservation, get rid of  
17 little fingering trails that go off. We have already  
18 lost some coyotes who used to live in the area.  
19 They've left, and who knows who else has left.

20           So that's all I have to say. Thank you.

21           MS. ZIMMERMAN: May name's M.J. Zimmerman.  
22 I also spend lot of time in the Bosque, both north  
23 and south of Campbell Road. I'm familiar with all of  
24 these trails.

25           We have lost coyote den south of Campbell.

1 We've lost some Cooper's hawk's nest south of  
2 Campbell that were close to the new trail. So these  
3 trails do have an impact on wildlife, and  
4 particularly the bikes who go rapidly.

5 I would recommend limited action. There  
6 are already trails in this area that could be very  
7 easily accessible for wheelchairs, but that need  
8 improvement. A number of people have said that. We  
9 can improve some of the already crusher-fine trails  
10 in the Nature Center, and the asphalt trail, and  
11 improve the access to those trails.

12 I would also recommend, from my experience  
13 so far south of Campbell Road, which already has a  
14 crusher fine trail, we need a lot more education for  
15 the people using that trail. The bikers tend to not  
16 know that they're supposed to yield to wheelchairs  
17 and pedestrians and horses. They tend to expect you  
18 to get off the road.

19 Also we were told that one justification  
20 for that trail up in the middle was that the trail by  
21 the river would be pedestrian only. I don't think  
22 you can have a pedestrian-only trail by just calling  
23 it that, because there's still bikes using that  
24 trail. You have to put up barriers to bikes if you  
25 want the bikes away from the river.

1           If they do feel the need to have to build a  
2 trail north of Campbell Road, I would advocate option  
3 4, moderate it a little bit, with the first part of  
4 it being like up to one, up the center, and not over  
5 towards the river, because bikes will go on the trail  
6 next to the river if they get that close to it.

7           So lots more education, lots more  
8 restriction on the pedestrian-only trails. And focus  
9 on access and limit the bikes down right through the  
10 wildlife areas.

11           Thank you.

12           MR. MOYE: So, is it Rodema Ashby, Ashley,  
13 and Sharon Gross.

14           RODEMA ASHBY: I'm Rodema Ashby. I'm  
15 differently-abled. I'm one of those people that has  
16 chronic fatigue syndrome and my energy level will  
17 drop suddenly. So some days I can talk and some days  
18 I can't. Some days I need to sit and rest. And  
19 there's nothing like the forest as a place to do  
20 that.

21           I grew up in Arizona, but every trail I've  
22 ever been on, was fairly narrow, and there were wide  
23 spots, and that's what I look at when I see a natural  
24 environment. The minute you put in a fixed-width  
25 gravel road, you've lost the sense of being in

1 nature, which is the important experience I go to the  
2 Bosque for.

3           The multiuse trail, I've experienced this  
4 as well. Part of the reason for some of the  
5 fingering trails I think is to get away from being  
6 run over, especially if you're not a speedy person.

7           I think there needs to be variety. I --  
8 because of my energy limits, I appreciate places that  
9 have wheelchair access. It gives me access. But it  
10 doesn't have to be wheelchair access everywhere. I  
11 recognize that -- well, okay, I'm an Abbey Road  
12 for -- Abbey reader from -- you know, one of the  
13 first guys that sort of recognized that our national  
14 parks are being loved to death by putting roads  
15 everywhere.

16           And I am grateful there are wilderness  
17 places. I am grateful that there are places where I  
18 don't have to intrude in order to enjoy them.

19           I will be putting in more comments on the  
20 little form thing. But I did want to just mention  
21 that, I really believe the Bosque is the wild part of  
22 Albuquerque, and we should not tear it apart.

23           SHARON GROSS: My name is Sharon Gross.  
24 And previous speakers have reflected my thoughts. I  
25 want to say I do not live near the Bosque. I live --

1 I like the Bosque very much. I do not go there as  
2 often as some of these speakers. And I think I  
3 represent more people that go to the Bosque, you  
4 know, most people that I see there at the Nature  
5 Center, aren't doing such long walks.

6           And so for me I think the no-action  
7 alternative is very important.

8           I want to say that I think the idea of  
9 multiuse is really not feasible to meet all the  
10 interests of people, because they're too diverse.

11           I am a nature lover and a hiker, and a  
12 six-foot wide crusher trail is not compatible with  
13 those interests.

14           And I see -- I have experience in the  
15 Bosque where bicyclists just crowd me and make it  
16 impossible to enjoy the area, and make it very scary.

17           I have walked places other than the Nature  
18 Center in the Bosque, and there I saw pheasants and  
19 birds in the Bosque. I almost never see any birds  
20 except on the lake and in -- occasionally in the  
21 river. But the wildlife there is very limited at the  
22 Nature Center. But still -- so I think that some of  
23 the special things in the Bosque is to experience the  
24 environment and nature. And if we have a six-foot  
25 wide crusher trail for a long distance, it's not

1 really meeting that need.

2           So I would ask that the no-action  
3 alternative be followed, and that the efforts be put  
4 into making better what already exists, which  
5 basically we need better education. We need to  
6 really focus on education.

7           We need restoration, because the area isn't  
8 going to preserve itself if we do not focus on  
9 restoration. And I think money is an important  
10 thing, and we have limited resources. So let's use  
11 our resources to make better what we already have,  
12 and get areas to be accessible.

13           And parking is also an issue. I park  
14 near -- from the Campbell Road entrance, and I don't  
15 really know where the people are going to park  
16 without really affecting homeowners there. And I  
17 also note in most places it's not very easy to  
18 determine even where to park to get started.

19           So I would really support trying to focus  
20 on the Nature Center and not put more people there on  
21 long-distance routes that are not really into  
22 observing the area. I have gone there with  
23 grandchildren and with children, and it is a delight  
24 to focus on the education and the opportunity to see  
25 birds in the pond, and to walk out to the river. And

1 I think most users are interested in something that  
2 is not too long. They want to have an experience,  
3 but they can't spend all day on the experience.

4 So I would urge the no-action alternative  
5 and to put the money into the restoration, education,  
6 and maintenance of what we already have.

7 And, I guess, in closing, I would say I am  
8 sympathetic to the idea of trying to deal with  
9 user-made paths. But I walk and hike with people who  
10 are adults and responsible, and I watch them make  
11 paths. So I don't think that the proposals are going  
12 to eliminate user-made paths, and I think that's  
13 important to recognize.

14 MR. MOYE: Is Camille here? Varb? Come on  
15 up. And Renee Walters.

16 Good evening.

17 MR. MOYE: State your name.

18 CAMILLE VAROS: I'm Camille Varos. And I'm  
19 a resident of Los Ranchos, and have been for 67  
20 years. The Bosque is my stomping grounds then and  
21 now. I'm a member of North Valley Coalition and  
22 serve on the executive board, but I'm here  
23 representing myself.

24 You know, I'm going to address two words,  
25 "no" and "all." They are fallacies. You know, how

1 could we not have action and how could we serve all  
2 when it comes to the consideration of natural  
3 inhabitants for nature.

4           And I think it's so important to think of,  
5 you know, where our nature and our -- the natural  
6 inhabitants of our wildlife, because we live -- we  
7 should live harmoniously. And if we can't consider  
8 that, and look at where we are, as humans, and how we  
9 want to experience the natural inhabitants, if we  
10 don't know or have an understanding of what that  
11 represents, then I think we need to step back.

12           I think collaboration in -- for these  
13 projects, and there's multiple projects throughout  
14 the city. I can't wrap myself around them. I can't  
15 go to all of the meetings, because I care about  
16 everything that's happening, but this hits close to  
17 home.

18           You know, Batman, or what those super  
19 heroes did. Greatness comes responsibility. Well,  
20 this is a greatness. It's our responsibility to  
21 preserve.

22           That's my points of view, and hopefully we  
23 can work out access for those who have limited  
24 mobilities. I'm a retired special ed teacher, and I,  
25 you know, have taken my students through nature, but

1 we also respect that situation. And they have an  
2 understanding. There is going to be limitations.  
3 But if there's some experience, you know, that's a  
4 sense of joy and a sense of honor and beauty, and  
5 hopefully we can come to some compromise.

6 MR. MOYE: Thank you.

7 RENEE WALTERS: Hi. I'm Renee Walters. I  
8 live on Campbell Road. And I've lived there for 25  
9 years. I lived through the destruction of our street  
10 to put a five-foot waterline down the street through  
11 the Bosque to serve the people across the river.  
12 That chunk through the Bosque never quite recovered.  
13 And now I see on one of these alternatives -- I think  
14 it's only on Alternative 4, that the Army Corps of  
15 Engineers is going to put another viewing platform at  
16 the river. I don't see that that's -- nobody's  
17 discussed it. I haven't heard anything about it from  
18 the City. And I'm really concerned about that.

19 The previous speaker said there's no  
20 parking on Campbell, or limited parking, and  
21 improving access, fine. Where are people going to  
22 park if they come to improved trails?

23 I think that the Army Corps of Engineers  
24 platform at Central is huge. It's like, probably,  
25 two or three times bigger than it needs to be.

1           And so that brings up another question.  
2 The Nature Center is a really special place to a lot  
3 of us, and I don't quite understand where the  
4 jurisdiction lies. We have the Army Corps of  
5 Engineers doing work, we have the Nature Center.  
6 City Parks and Rec is now going to build trails.  
7 Rio Grande Valley Park is part of this conglomerate  
8 as is Open Space. Who has the jurisdiction over this  
9 area? And how is it not that the Nature Center is  
10 not here represented? That's a big concern to me.

11           I support the no-action alternative, which  
12 probably won't happen, but I believe the City can do  
13 restoration riparian areas without building trails.  
14 They can remove concrete. They can remove jetty  
15 jacks, and they can improve accessibility.

16           Other than that, I guess option 4 provides  
17 the least impact if the City insists on doing  
18 something.

19           Thank you.

20           MR. MOYE: Thank you all. So, that was our  
21 last speaker. So the question is, if you have a  
22 burning specific question you would like to address  
23 or have addressed, you can come up here to the  
24 microphone, state your name, ask your question, and  
25 some person in this room will answer it, over there,

1 some of those people.

2 MR. RAMIREZ: We'll try.

3 MS. TAYLOR: We'll try.

4 MR. MOYE: Do you have a question, ma'am?

5 MS. TERRY BLAKE: May I just stand up?

6 MR. MOYE: No. I mean, can you not walk up  
7 here? We can take you the mic. How's that?

8 MS. TERRY BLAKE: No, I'm fine. I'm okay.

9 MR. MOYE: All right.

10 MS. TERRY BLAKE: Hello. What do I do with  
11 the mic?

12 MR. MOYE: Give me a question.

13 MS. TERRY BLAKE: Well, my name is Terry  
14 Blake. My question is, what is the rationale for the  
15 six-foot width? And I've asked the City that. I'm  
16 totally for ADA accessibility.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. SCHMADER: Maybe I should stay up here.  
19 The six-foot width is what has been determined to be  
20 the least width that can accommodate passing users  
21 going in both directions. If you have anything less  
22 than that, then you end up having user conflicts or  
23 you have people that have to jump off of the trail.

24 So in order to accommodate users coming in  
25 both directions, that's minimum width. Ordinarily,

1 it's recommended to be 8 feet or 10 feet, but 6 feet  
2 is the minimum to be able to accommodate that.

3 MR. MOYE: Is that a follow-up question?

4 MS. TERRY BLAKE: Yes, sir. Terry Blake.  
5 I respectfully question the logic of the answer  
6 because if you're on a trail, it's not like you're on  
7 a freeway or driving a car where you both have to  
8 pass at the same time. It seems etiquette-wise one  
9 waits for the other and continues. And even a  
10 wheelchair is only this wide. I don't get that  
11 answer as correct.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. ALLISON Schacht: I'm Allison Schacht.  
14 My question is, are the portions of the Nature Center  
15 to loop trails that are not incorporated into  
16 multiuse trails going to be eliminated? And also is  
17 there any provision for any of the existing trails to  
18 remain open as pedestrian-only trails?

19 MR. SCHMADER: The answer is that the  
20 existing Nature Center trails would not be -- none of  
21 those are intended to be eliminated. But the final  
22 decision as to which alignment, if anything, is built  
23 will also try to include a map that shows the  
24 redundant user side trails that would be closed off.  
25 So, we're going to try to show the logic of how to

1 close off redundant trails by selecting a preferred  
2 route.

3 MR. MOYE: Come up.

4 MS. CLARE KOSLINSKI: I'm Clare Koslinski.  
5 So there's a zillion redundant trails. How would  
6 they be closed off? With a fence? I can't imagine  
7 how that would happen.

8 MR. SCHMADER: Thank you. We have  
9 experience, lots of experience in many parts of the  
10 Open Space system in closing unwanted user-made  
11 trails. And just as an example, in earlier phases,  
12 like in Phase 1 and Phase 2, for example, many, many  
13 hundreds of feet of trails were closed off by piling  
14 vegetation. That's the primary way of doing it. So  
15 you take branches and pile them over the trail that  
16 you don't want people to go on. Put a sign there  
17 saying, "Trail closed beyond this point." And also  
18 revegetate by using grass seed or shrubs.

19 So it can be done and has been done very  
20 effectively.

21 MS. TIANNA BEAUMONT: Hi. My name is  
22 Tianna Beaumont, and I'm new to Albuquerque. I've  
23 only been here for two years, but I'm passionately in  
24 love with the treasures, the natural treasures that  
25 we have in this city.

1           And my question is: Why can't we phase  
2 this in a little at a time? And is anybody, any  
3 naturalist or wildlife expert taking stock of where  
4 we're at now, so over a period of, you know,  
5 increments of three months or four months, they can  
6 be assessing the impact of whatever development is  
7 done, and either back off or go forward? But to do  
8 it all or nothing with no measurements and no  
9 yardsticks to measure the impact, I just don't  
10 understand that.

11           Thank you.

12           MR. SCHMADER: I won't have a hugely long  
13 dissertation answer on that, but the short answer is  
14 that the City has had a professional biological,  
15 ecological environmental monitoring going on from  
16 Central Avenue all the way to Montano since October  
17 of 2014. It's been done in stages to establish  
18 baseline conditions and then compare kind of pre,  
19 during, and post construction in the prior areas, and  
20 also been done in this area as well.

21           So it's being characterized and monitored  
22 as closely as we can afford to do.

23           CINDY McCANN: Hello. Can you hear me? My  
24 name is Cindy McCann. I have a quick -- I guess a  
25 couple of questions. I hope it's okay if I have a

1 couple.

2           Number one, when it says "no action,"  
3 honestly is that really no action? Is there an  
4 alternative means that we can do something about  
5 maintaining our Bosque? And I'm concerned about why  
6 we need to create these trails throughout the entire  
7 Rio Grande area from Central to Colorado, actually.

8           And can't there be a section where it is  
9 kept as natural as can be, in just a small section,  
10 maybe around the Nature Center where there is not no  
11 action, but maintaining what's already there. That's  
12 my question.

13           And I'm hoping that the City really does  
14 understand and hear this one thing. Those bicycles  
15 really are very, very dangerous.

16           AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.

17           MS. CINDY McCANN: And I really do hope  
18 that the mayor listens to that part. If anything,  
19 that part needs to really be heard.

20           And that's my thought.

21           MR. SCHMADER: Those are some excellent  
22 observations, and the thing I want to take this  
23 opportunity to emphasize to everybody is, please be  
24 sure you tell us what your thoughts are so that we  
25 have something to respond to.

1           So, as an example, when the suggestion is  
2 made that we do something close to no action, but  
3 maybe a little bit, please let us know what that  
4 might end up looking like.

5           So, you know, we've had a lot of great  
6 comments all throughout the night. And in some cases  
7 they've been very specific where we might be able to  
8 go back to the court reporter and tell exactly what.  
9 But in a lot of cases, there were suggestions for a  
10 modified no action. So please be sure that we  
11 understand, you know, what that entails.

12           MS. CINDY McCANN: Just quickly. I'm  
13 thinking if it's no action --

14           THE REPORTER: I can't hear. You need to  
15 speak up louder.

16           MS. CINDY McCANN: Cindy McCann. All  
17 right. I'll make it clear. I believe that there  
18 should be a section of the entire stretch of this  
19 project where there's no action taken by leaving it  
20 alone. Okay. Is that clear, guys? And maybe this  
21 is it.

22           MR. SCHMADER: That was correct and good  
23 clarification. And the other part about it is that  
24 the Rio Grande in Bernalillo County is 22 miles long.  
25 And so what we've been actively trying to do is to

1 improve the section that's five miles long along one  
2 side of the river. So there's still 40 other miles  
3 along both sides when you add it up that -- you know,  
4 there's no proposal to go even beyond the boundary of  
5 Bernalillo and Sandoval County -- and not to go to  
6 Colorado. So I don't know. At least that part.

7 MS. TAYLOR: I'm Barbara Taylor. I'm the  
8 Director of Parks and Rec. And I just wanted to add  
9 two things. A question was asked earlier about will  
10 there still be pedestrian-only trails? And the  
11 answer to that is absolutely yes, in both Phase 1  
12 between Central and I-40, and then again between I-40  
13 and Campbell Road, there are pedestrian-only  
14 alternatives.

15 I hear the comment about calling them  
16 pedestrian-only doesn't keep bicycles off of them.  
17 But they are much narrower and, hopefully, have the  
18 effect of slowing some of the bicycles down.

19 The second thing and -- the second thing I  
20 want to say and observe is I get it. There's a  
21 problem with bicycles. And we're not entirely sure,  
22 frankly, how to handle that. We don't have a police  
23 force to monitor everything that's happening all the  
24 time in the Bosque. You know, a possibility for  
25 those bicyclists in the room is speed limits. But I

1 probably had enough controversy with pedestrian paths  
2 and multiuse paths in Bosque. But we hear that  
3 problem. We hear that problem, and we are -- our  
4 trail planners and others are thinking hard about  
5 what we can do to slow the bikes down, especially  
6 when they get on Paseo del Bosque.

7 MS. TERRY CHRISTIANSON: My name is Terry  
8 Christianson. I don't really have a question, I just  
9 have a statement about the crowds. I was at the  
10 museum where there were about 4 or 500 people. The  
11 last time we were here it was standing room only.  
12 This is a very small crowd. I really feel like  
13 people are losing hope in being heard, and I would  
14 really like for us to be heard.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. MOYE: Okay. Ladies and gentlemen, I  
17 want to thank you for being here. We are now closed  
18 and we have to pick up all of the equipment and stuff  
19 and get out of here. Thank you for your attendance.

20 (The meeting was concluded at 7:31 p.m.)  
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