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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I sort of -- I just wanted to also take a
moment to let you know about the efforts from the
Bosque Youth Working Group that's been happening out
there. At the last meeting we had at the Center, we talked about the significant amount of debris and trail closures and environmental work that the Bosque workgroup was able to do last summer. Well, that group again, led by Barbara Taylor and her staff, was able to go out again this summer.

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

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

So it's an excellent program. I think we're having lunch with them tomorrow to celebrate their works. But it's important for the City of Albuquerque to know that our youth are out there helping us out.
So tonight we've got Bill Moye here to help guide the conversation and make sure all of the comments are noted, make sure everyone has a chance to speak. And I just want to introduce a couple of team members here, as well. Everyone knows Matt and Bill that I just talked about. Barbara Taylor is Director of Parks and Rec. Thank you very much. Mike Hamman, from the Mid-Region -- Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, and has been executive director there and seen what a great program it is. Matt Whalen with Parks and Recreation. Thank you for being here tonight.

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

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

AUDIENCE MEMBER: We can't hear you.

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

The big point of this is tonight you've got four alternatives for a trail between Campbell Road
and Montano Road that will finish off a portion of environmental document. And we're taking notes about everyone's comments on those from tonight's meeting, and all of the way through next week and end of next week, to make a decision on which alignment will be installed in between Campbell Road and Montano.

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

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

The second part of that is I want to go over these ground rules for all of us. When we're done with that, Matt will do the presentation of alternatives, and then we're going to have a comment
period, and we'll have to get done with the comment period at 7:30 so we can get all of this undone, and then let these people go home that are working. So, that's that side.

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

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

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

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

Now, we have a PowerPoint presentation tonight, and we did provide copies of the
alternatives maps, but the PowerPoint presentation also has photographs and other information in it.

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

The trail is proposed to be the same as the prior two-and-a-half to three miles of trail that have already been built from Central Avenue to Campbell Road. That is six feet wide, stabilized crusher fine, and intended to be multiple use,
intended particularly and specifically to try to increase access for all citizens as best we can to enable as many people as possible to enjoy this beautiful area of the woods.

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

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

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

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

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

In that area, the total number of all of the existing trails, all of the black lines in here, is 27,000 feet. It's over five miles of user-made trails in this area. That's enough existing trail system to be able to run three trails parallel all the way from Campbell Road to Montano.
It's one of the most important goals of the project is to identify primary trails so that we can eliminate all of the trail redundancy and to close off the fragmentation of the habitat that we see.

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

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

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

There are nearly 7,700 linear feet of jetty jacks. The people that are familiar with jetty jacks
will see some pictures of them. There's quite a few
jetty jacks in the area. And there is some old
construction. Big piles over here near the south
end. We'll see pictures of these.

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

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

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

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

And as I mentioned, there's an existing
8-foot wide asphalt trail in the Bosque. This is a
fairly interesting artifact, because this was built in the late 1980s, and is today still the only existing asphalt trail in the Bosque.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

And then I was mentioning the debris piles that are down in the southern portion there near Campbell Road, and one of the goals of implementing
this project would be to clean up these debris piles.

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

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

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

So along those lines, we have done additional studies that recommend the types of restoration activity that should occur at least between Central and Campbell Road, that we're
planning to implement, and I'll get to that later on in my presentation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yes.

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

MR. SCHMADER: She's asking if the Nature Center trail would be modified on this. I think we may end up having to wait for question and answer...
afterwards, because of the court reporter.

   THE REPORTER: And I need your name.

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

   THE REPORTER: I need your name.

   MR. SCHMADER: So make sure to keep track

of questions that we may be able to answer.

   THE REPORTER: I need to have your name,

though, to show you spoke.

   Linda --

   THE REPORTER: I'm sorry?

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

   THE REPORTER: Thank you.

   MR. SCHMADER: Thank you very much.

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

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

   MS. DIANA BEAUMONT: Awesome.

   THE REPORTER: And I need your name.

   MS. DIANA BEAUMONT: Diana Beaumont.

   MR. SCHMADER: This is why it will probably

be better to hold off questions, but, thank you.

What you did is you anticipated what my next slide
was going to be.

MS. DIANA BEAUMONT: There you go.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Alternative 3 is proposed to take off from Campbell Road and go over to the embankment of the river. And this is an alternative that was purposely chosen to have the greatest amount of river edge experience. So it cuts over to the edge of the river and follows the existing trail along the river edge before it comes back into the Nature Center of River.
Loop trail, and then follows north all the way to Montano.

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

And this is some of what it looks like.

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

When you get further north in the Nature Center area, and maybe you're familiar with some of this. This is some of the river loop, the Bosque loop in the Nature Center. These are existing trails that are four or five feet wide, lined with logs and branches often that kind of meander through this fence or understory that is primarily not native.

It's dominated by New Mexico -- or by Russian Olive.
And a little bit of Salt Cedar and there's some tall Cottonwoods over, but it's not -- it's not really dominated by native tree species.

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

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

So with all of these alternatives, and anything the public may want to suggest or prefer or like to see or propose, what we have to do is we have to figure out, if you get this far, on a crusher-fine
trail, if you're on a bicycle or on a horse, or whatever, what happens at a dismount area, or should we be creating another spur that goes over here and goes to the Paseo del Bosque bike trail.

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

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

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

    So, that is the end of the basic description. I've left the maps up here, so we can go back and forth if you want to get some of the -- look at some of the maps.
I don't know whether you want to first have public comment. I think we want to make sure we're allowing the public enough time to be able to comment. And, then, if there's time allowing it after that, we can go over some things.

MR. MOYE: We have about 55 minutes left.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: We can't hear you.

MR. MOYE: We have about 55 minutes left.

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

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

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

People ride horses here, including walking injured horses, bike-ride the dirt trails, walk
quietly maybe with dogs. After a real tiny -- after
a rain, tiny toads are everywhere.

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

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

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

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

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

I was handing out flyers for this meeting
in the Bosque, and ran into several different
visitors from out of state. They all said what a gem
of a place this is. They had enjoyed walking the
trails that are there. And the southern part of this
area is very popular and heavily used.

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

Thank you.

MR. MOYE: I'm going to call on two people.

Fred -- is it Houdek?

MR. HOUDEK: Houdek.

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

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

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

The best Alternative for Phase 3 is the no
action one. I'm sure that tonight you're going to
hear several reasons for this choice, not to mention
that it's probably the most heavily used area in the
state park.
However, if the past history is any indication, I am sure that the mayor and his administration will find this no action alternative unacceptable.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you.

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

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

And certainly walking through unimproved portions of the Bosque is impossible. So she can't share in all of the lovely nature that you folks want to protect. And while I understand that it's important to do as much as we can to protect the Bosque, I think it's also important that we do what
we can to make sure that all of our citizens can share in that experience. And I know we can have arguing Ph.Ds. until the end of time as to whether a six-foot wide crusher trail is going to significantly impede wildlife.

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

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

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

Thank you.

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

MR. THOMAS: I'm John Thomas.

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: We can't hear you.
MR. THOMAS: I am John Thomas. I used to serve on the Greater Albuquerque Recreational Trails Committee.

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

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

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

Now, I would like to address some access for the disabled issues. There's a big problem with the access to the Bosque at the end of Candelaria.
The spacing of the metal posts are too narrow, creating a general hazard and restricting access for the disabled and the elderly. And people have experienced this sort of filtering out disabled people.

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

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

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

So I think the access issue deals with the quality of these peripheral trails for getting them to the Bosque, and they should be dealt with in a
humane and considerate ADA-compliant manner.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I don't have anything else to say.

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

MS. ALLISON SCHACT: Schact.

MR. MOYE: Okay.

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

The reach from Campbell to Montano is
especially important to the legacy of Aldo Leopold.

Many of you probably know who that is. He's a renowned early 20th century conservation maker and author. One of his major contributions is the formulation of what's called the land ethic.

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

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

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

The Rio Grande Valley State Park legislation establishing the park itself, has a policy that states, and I quote, "The preservation, protection and maintenance of the natural and scenic beauty of the state park is in the public's interests. And the City is the public trustee for the national public resources of the state park that
belong to us all."

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

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

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

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

Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

MR. MOYE: Okay. Next person is David
Ryan, and then Chandler. Is it Colston? Colston Chandler.

MR. CHANDLER: Colston Chandler.

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

AUDIENCE MEMBER: We can't hear you.

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

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

And we also keep a little bit of stretch along the river more of a natural state, much like that was done in Phase 2 where we come up the middle
with crusher-fine trail, and then we still have the
dirt path along the river.

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

So that's all I have to say.

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

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Use the mic.

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

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

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

There's one unspoken thing about this trail
that is being built. And that is, why is it so
sacred it reaches Montano? No one discusses that.

It's sacred as -- that is shall be six feet wide at every park. Not up for discussion.

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

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

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

And I've attended these meetings since the Albuquerque museum, and I've written letters. And most of the meetings I've attended to and the people that I have spoken to, have been against the plans. They want the Bosque to be preserved. They want the Bosque to be restored. They want the monies to go into restoration. And also some monies to go into making accessibility for those who have limited mobility.
Their needs to be education that comes along with this. Colston and the Bosque Action Team have been supplying this with walks.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Also we were told that one justification for that trail up in the middle was that the trail by the river would be pedestrian only. I don't think you can have a pedestrian-only trail by just calling it that, because there's still bikes using that trail. You have to put up barriers to bikes if you want the bikes away from the river.
If they do feel the need to have to build a trail north of Campbell Road, I would advocate option 4, moderate it a little bit, with the first part of it being like up to one, up the center, and not over towards the river, because bikes will go on the trail next to the river if they get that close to it.

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

Thank you.

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

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

I grew up in Arizona, but every trail I've ever been on, was fairly narrow, and there were wide spots, and that's what I look at when I see a natural environment. The minute you put in a fixed-width gravel road, you've lost the sense of being in
nature, which is the important experience I go to the Bosque for.

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

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

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

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

SHARON GROSS: My name is Sharon Gross. And previous speakers have reflected my thoughts. I want to say I do not live near the Bosque. I live --
I like the Bosque very much. I do not go there as often as some of these speakers. And I think I represent more people that go to the Bosque, you know, most people that I see there at the Nature Center, aren't doing such long walks.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

So I would really support trying to focus on the Nature Center and not put more people there on long-distance routes that are not really into observing the area. I have gone there with grandchildren and with children, and it is a delight to focus on the education and the opportunity to see birds in the pond, and to walk out to the river. And
I think most users are interested in something that
is not too long. They want to have an experience,
but they can't spend all day on the experience.

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

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


Good evening.

MR. MOYE: State your name.

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

You know, I'm going to address two words,
"no" and "all." They are fallacies. You know, how
could we not have action and how could we serve all
can when it comes to the consideration of natural
inhabitants for nature.

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

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

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

That's my points of view, and hopefully we
can work out access for those who have limited
mobilities. I'm a retired special ed teacher, and I,
you know, have taken my students through nature, but
we also respect that situation. And they have an understanding. There is going to be limitations. But if there's some experience, you know, that's a sense of joy and a sense of honor and beauty, and hopefully we can come to some compromise.

MR. MOYE: Thank you.

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

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

I think that the Army Corps of Engineers platform at Central is huge. It's like, probably, two or three times bigger than it needs to be.
And so that brings up another question.

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

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

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

Thank you.

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

    MR. RAMIREZ: We'll try.

    MS. TAYLOR: We'll try.

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

    MS. TERRY BLAKE: May I just stand up?

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

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

    MR. MOYE: All right.

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

    MR. MOYE: Give me a question.

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

    Thank you.

    MR. SCHMADER: Maybe I should stay up here.

The six-foot width is what has been determined to be the least width that can accommodate passing users going in both directions. If you have anything less than that, then you end up having user conflicts or you have people that have to jump off of the trail.

    So in order to accommodate users coming in both directions, that's minimum width. Ordinarily,
it's recommended to be 8 feet or 10 feet, but 6 feet is the minimum to be able to accommodate that.

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

MS. TERRY BLAKE: Yes, sir. Terry Blake.

I respectfully question the logic of the answer because if you're on a trail, it's not like you're on a freeway or driving a car where you both have to pass at the same time. It seems etiquette-wise one waits for the other and continues. And even a wheelchair is only this wide. I don't get that answer as correct.

Thank you.

MS. ALLISON Schacht: I'm Allison Schacht.

My question is, are the portions of the Nature Center to loop trails that are not incorporated into multiuse trails going to be eliminated? And also is there any provision for any of the existing trails to remain open as pedestrian-only trails?

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

MR. MOYE: Come up.

MS. CLARE KOSLINSKI: I'm Clare Koslinski.

So there's a zillion redundant trails. How would they be closed off? With a fence? I can't imagine how that would happen.

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

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

MS. TIANNA BEAUMONT: Hi. My name is Tianna Beaumont, and I'm new to Albuquerque. I've only been here for two years, but I'm passionately in love with the treasures, the natural treasures that we have in this city.
And my question is: Why can't we phase this in a little at a time? And is anybody, any naturalist or wildlife expert taking stock of where we're at now, so over a period of, you know, increments of three months or four months, they can be assessing the impact of whatever development is done, and either back off or go forward? But to do it all or nothing with no measurements and no yardsticks to measure the impact, I just don't understand that.

Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.

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

And that's my thought.

MR. SCHMADER: Those are some excellent observations, and the thing I want to take this opportunity to emphasize to everybody is, please be sure you tell us what your thoughts are so that we have something to respond to.
So, as an example, when the suggestion is made that we do something close to no action, but maybe a little bit, please let us know what that might end up looking like.

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

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

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

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

MR. SCHMADER: That was correct and good clarification. And the other part about it is that the Rio Grande in Bernalillo County is 22 miles long. And so what we've been actively trying to do is to
improve the section that's five miles long along one
side of the river. So there's still 40 other miles
along both sides when you add it up that -- you know,
there's no proposal to go even beyond the boundary of
Bernalillo and Sandoval County -- and not to go to
Colorado. So I don't know. At least that part.

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

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

The second thing and -- the second thing I
want to say and observe is I get it. There's a
problem with bicycles. And we're not entirely sure,
frankly, how to handle that. We don't have a police
force to monitor everything that's happening all the
time in the Bosque. You know, a possibility for
those bicyclists in the room is speed limits. But I
probably had enough controversy with pedestrian paths
and multiuse paths in Bosque. But we hear that
problem. We hear that problem, and we are -- our
trail planners and others are thinking hard about
what we can do to slow the bikes down, especially
when they get on Paseo del Bosque.

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

Thank you.

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

(The meeting was concluded at 7:31 p.m.)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

ss.

COUNTY OF BERNALILLO

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, BEVERLY ANN SCHLEIMER, New Mexico Certified Court Reporter, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that I did report in stenographic shorthand the proceedings set forth herein, and the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the proceedings.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand on this 7th day of September, 2016.

[Signature]

Beverly Ann Schleimer, RDR
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