01/07/2025

Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments

I-40 Prewitt Interchange Reconstruction Project  
  
Public Input Synopsis

Oct. 9, 2024, Public Meeting

# Prewitt 10-09-24 Meeting Summary

## Project Background

In collaboration with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the New Mexico Department of Transportation completed a corridor study of I-40 in 2024. This study identified the Prewitt and I-40 interchange (Exit 63) as an area requiring safety and traffic flow improvements.

To address these transportation needs, the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments (NWNMCOG) has initiated the I-40 Thoreau Interchange Reconstruction Project.

In summer 2024, the project team analyzed deficiencies and infrastructure issues. They held a public meeting and open comment period to gather community feedback.

## Public Meeting

The NWNMCOG hosted the first public meeting for the I-40 Prewitt Interchange Reconstruction Project on Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Bluewater Elementary School (15 W Chess Road, Bluewater, NM 87005). The purpose of this meeting was to introduce the project to the public and initiate engagement and awareness from an early stage in the project timeline. The meeting was led by Wilson & Company consultants:

* Stephen Lujan, Project Manager
* Francine Pacheco, Public Involvement Lead/Senior Planner
* Hannah Haake, Public Involvement Coordinator/Planner

The meeting commenced with a presentation given by Stephen Lujan and Francine Pacheco. The presentation included an overview of the project background, current conditions pertaining to surrounding land uses, identified issues, and the subsequent steps for the project. The session concluded with a Q&A segment where participants were able to raise questions and express their concerns.

Francine Pacheco announced that the public comment period would be open until Nov. 9, providing a 30-day window following the meeting for feedback submission. Attendees were given the option to submit written comments via provided comment cards or digitally by emailing info@prewittinterchange.com.

## Outreach and Public Engagement Process

The Public Involvement (PI) team created an Outreach Plan and Outreach Package detailing the types of outreach methods, their content, and the timeline for engagement. A postcard mailer was distributed to 568 addresses, including 57 residences, 5 businesses, and 506 PO boxes, using information from the USPS database, to notify recipients of the public meeting.

Additionally, an 8.5 x 11 meeting notice flyer was produced and provided to Baca Community School, Baca Prewitt Chapter House, Blue Water Chapter House, and Thoreau Chapter House. An electronic notification for the public meeting was also sent to NWNMCOG for digital posting.

## Public Meeting Comments

One individual attended the public meeting. This attendee was an employee of the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) working on the interchange project, leading to a detailed discussion about internal findings and planned next steps.

## Written Public Comments

No public written comments were submitted.

## Digital Public Comments

No digital public comments were received via project email.