



21ST RIO GRANDE TRAIL COMMISSION MEETING

Information Package for Commissioners



NEW MEXICO
OUTDOOR RECREATION DIVISION



Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department



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COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA – APRIL 11

WEBEX VIDEO CONFERENCING OPTION:

Link to join the meeting on-line: <https://nmemnrd.webex.com/nmemnrd/j.php?MTID=m2188b4c99e4494641293df8a64734f1c>

Meeting number (access code): 2492 818 4356

Meeting password: FMpiuMMf775 (36748663 when dialing from a video system)

CALL IN OPTION:

If you would like to join the meeting by telephone, please call:

1-844-992-4726 Toll Free. When prompted, dial event number: 2492 818 4356

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

During the meeting, please mute yourself unless you would like to speak. This will minimize background noise.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Open Meetings Act Resolution
5. Approval of Minutes
6. Public Comment
7. New Business
 - a. Commission member introductions
 - b. **Keynote Speaker:** Teresa Martinez - *Executive Director, Continental Divide Trail Coalition*
 - i. **Topic:** *The Role of Non-Profits in Interstate Trail Management: A Perspective from the Continental Divide Trail*
 - c. Updates From the Chair
 - i. *W-9's*
 - ii. *Tribal Engagement*
 - iii. *2026 Legislative Proposal Development*
 1. *Amending the Rio Grande Trail Commission Act to release liability for special districts for public usage of trail hosted on their land.*
 2. *Recreational Use Statute*
 - d. Presentations
 - i. *Carl Colonius, Program Manager, ORD*
 1. *Roles and Responsibilities of the Commission, ORD, Pland and other partners*
2. *Regional Outdoor Recreation Council*
 - ii. *Pland Collaborative (Contractor, ORD)*
 1. *Introduction of Rio Grande Trail (RGT)*
 2. *Trail Designation Process*
 3. *Committees*
 - e. *Developing Sub-Committees / Work Groups*
8. **Action Items**
 - i. *Approval of Designation of the Following Trail Segments:*
 1. *City of Albuquerque & Bernalillo County: Paseo del Bosque Trail, Riverside Trail, Chris Chavez Trail, Valle de Oro Trail. Total Mileage: 22.4 miles*
 2. *Taos County: Cebolla Mesa Trail Segment: TS-01-D Total Mileage: 1.26*
 3. *Turtleback Ave (A005), Truth or Consequences, Sierra County Trail Segment: SR-05-B Total Mileage: 3.79*
 - a. *Funding allocation for RGT administration*
9. **Discussion**
 - a. *Gateway community designation*
10. **Announcement of Next Meeting**
11. **Public Comment**
12. **Adjournment**



SPEAKER BIOS



CARL COLONIUS, *Program Manager, Outdoor Recreation Division*

Carl Colonius is a long-time resident of northern New Mexico. In 1995, he co-founded Rocky Mountain Youth Corps in Taos and was the Executive Director until transitioning out of the organization after 20 years. He then launched Colonius Consulting to focus on rural community sustainability. Projects included national service expansion in New Mexico, assisting in the development of the Enchanted Circle Trails Plan, then fronting Enchanted Circle Trails Association, and supporting strategic partnerships and organizational capacity with a multitude of local governments. In 2022, New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division invited Carl to join their team as an Outdoor Recreation Planner. Carl lives in Arroyo Hondo north of Taos, has been married to Romy for 25 years, and has three children, all graduates of Taos High School. Carl skis, bikes, kayaks, backpacks, gardens, assigns chores, is a parciante on the Acequia Madre del Llano, and can be found tooling around the west in an old airstream.



TERESA MARTINEZ, *Executive Director and Co-Founder of the Continental Divide Trail Coalition*

For over 30 years, Teresa has worked professionally to increase awareness, engagement, access, and stewardship of our entire National Trails System. A graduate of Virginia Tech, Teresa holds a B.S. and M.S from the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife in the College of Natural Resources. Teresa is a life long outdoor recreationist and from 1987-2007 she worked for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, from 2007 to 2012 she worked for the Continental Divide Trail Alliance and since 2012 she has been the Executive Director (and co-founder) of the Continental Divide Trail Coalition. She serves on the Trail Leadership Council of the Partnership for the National Trails System and has served as the Chair of the Federal Advisory Committee to aid the USFS in the development of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail. Teresa is actively involved in the creation of equitable spaces for all people in the outdoors and currently serves as the acting chair of the Board for the Next100 Coalition. In 2019, Teresa was honored by the Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources as the recipient of the Gerald Cross Alumni Leadership Award. When not working on behalf of one of our National Trails, Teresa may be found exploring trails in and around Santa Fe, NM, by bike, horse, and foot and is always up for a discada with friends in cool outdoor places!



SPEAKER BIOS

Pland Collaborative



KATRINA ARNDT

Katrina has over a decade of experience in community planning throughout New Mexico. As a principal at Pland, she has developed and led the firm's planning group, focusing on community and recreation planning with an emphasis on resilience, accessibility, and community engagement. Her global experience brings a fresh perspective and dynamic energy to every project. Katrina serves as Vice-Chair of the American Planning Association's New Mexico Chapter and is the Policy Chair and a board member of the ULI New Mexico Chapter. She is passionate about working closely with stakeholders to identify practical, forward-thinking solutions for recreation and trail plans, community framework plans, technical standards, or zoning code updates. While her planning career began in the Land of Enchantment, Katrina's vision for stronger, more connected communities continues to make an impact far beyond New Mexico.



DAN MAJEWSKI

Senior Planner Dan Majewski strives for a legacy of leaving places and organizations better than he found them. In his previous role as Executive Director for the Urban Land Institute, he doubled the revenue and membership of the nonprofit. As a WWOOFer (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms) he developed an irrigation plan for a vegetable farm in rural Pennsylvania, all while living in a barn. A gardener since childhood, he's turned his yard into an oasis of giant sunflowers. Wherever he goes, he nurtures the soil, literally and figuratively. His most recent extra-curricular activity is serving on a regional commission focused on consolidating County and City efforts to build affordable housing. A systems thinker, map lover, and transportation advocate, it follows suit that Dan loves to travel and ride bikes! In recent years he toured Mexico, Peru, Colombia, and Spain. On two wheels, his greatest accomplishment is completing the 100-mile Enchanted Circle Bicycle Tour.



JACK BRANCATELLI

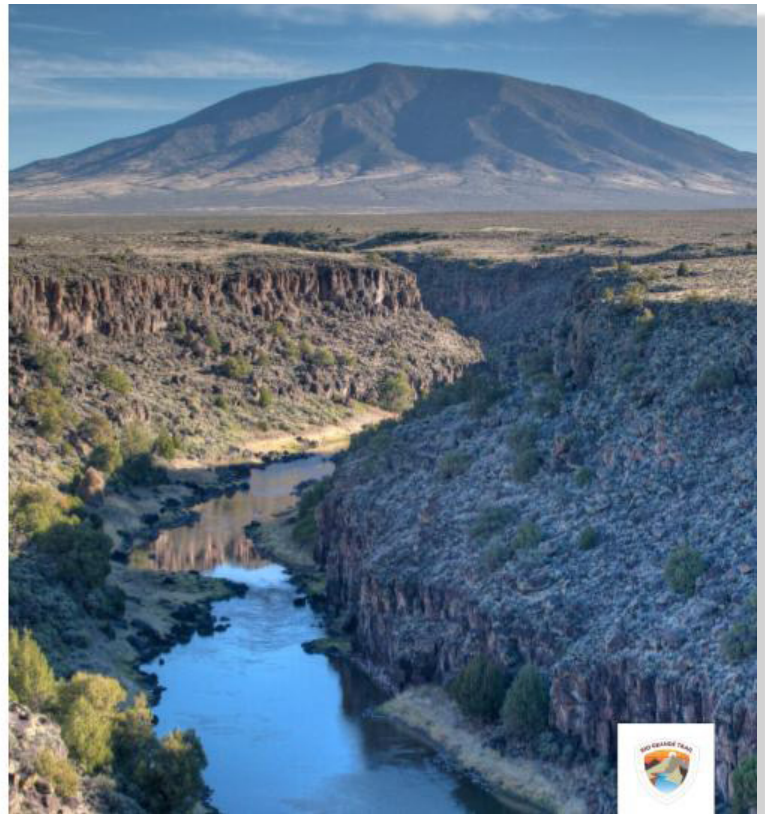
Hailing from Cleveland, Jack is a firm believer in a fundamental goal of planning: to transform every place into a successful and vibrant community. Exploration has become an important piece of Jack's process whether it's through community engagement or physical discovery (think exploring on foot, on a bike, or using local public transportation) illustrating the necessary curiosity and resourcefulness of a skilled urban planner. While Jack's time growing up near the Great Lakes may occasionally inspire daydreams of time on the water, our desert southwest offers plenty of opportunities for the kind of exploration Jack appreciates be it for planning or personal enjoyment.



PRESENTATION SLIDES

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

1. Rio Grande Trail (RGT) Background
2. RGT Planning Timeline
3. Project Scope
4. Vision & Goals
5. Trail Segments
6. Trail Segment Designation Process
7. Trail Segments Status
8. Other Planning Actions



RIO GRANDE TRAIL
PROJECT UPDATE FY25

Team Introduction

Pland Collaborative (formerly Morrow Reardon Wilkinson Miller Landscape Architects) has a 50-year track record of working in New Mexico on outdoor recreation projects, primarily serving public sector clients.

Headquartered in Albuquerque, New Mexico, with an additional office in Lubbock, Texas, Pland specializes in parks, trails, open space facilities, playgrounds, community development, revitalization, and economic development projects across the state.

With a strong focus on rural and tribal communities, Pland is dedicated to enhancing the overall quality of life through recreational improvements.

Project Team



Katrina Arndt, AICP
Principal in Charge



Dan Majewski,
Project Manager



Jack Brancatelli,
Project Planner

RIO GRANDE TRAIL
PROJECT UPDATE FY25



PRESENTATION SLIDES

VISION

"The Rio Grande Trail is New Mexico's cross-state, recreational trail for hiking, biking, and horseback riding along the Rio Grande. Trail users explore, learn about, and connect with a tapestry of diverse natural habitats, rich history, striking landscapes, and vibrant communities. The trail contributes to cultural and environmental awareness, healthy lifestyles, spiritual growth, and economic prosperity for New Mexico and its visitors."

Trail corridor spans approximately 500 miles and includes three national wildlife refuges, six national monuments, one national heritage area, and six state parks, touching nearly 10 counties and more than 22 cities or towns.

The trail travels through land owned and/or managed by the **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**, **US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service (FS)**, **Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)**, **National Park Service (NPS)**, **EMNRD State Parks Division**, **Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)**, **New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT)**, **Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD)**, and **International Boundary Water Commission (IBWC)**



Planning Principles

Planning principles were established in the state law [HB 563](#):

- Ensure a voluntary process
- Use existing trails along the Rio Grande corridor
- Minimize environmental impacts
- Preserve sensitive habitats
- Prioritize non-motorized use

Master Plan Goals

- Leverage prior and current trail planning efforts
- Establish a shared understanding of the Rio Grande Trail's character, appearance, and management strategies across jurisdictions.
- Seek consensus on the Rio Grande Trail alignment to support partnerships, implementation, signage, branding, funding, and progress tracking.
- Create a common master document.
- Elevate excitement.



The Rio Grande Trail corridor includes three national wildlife refuges, three national monuments, one national heritage area, and six state parks, touching nearly 10 counties and more than 22 cities or towns.

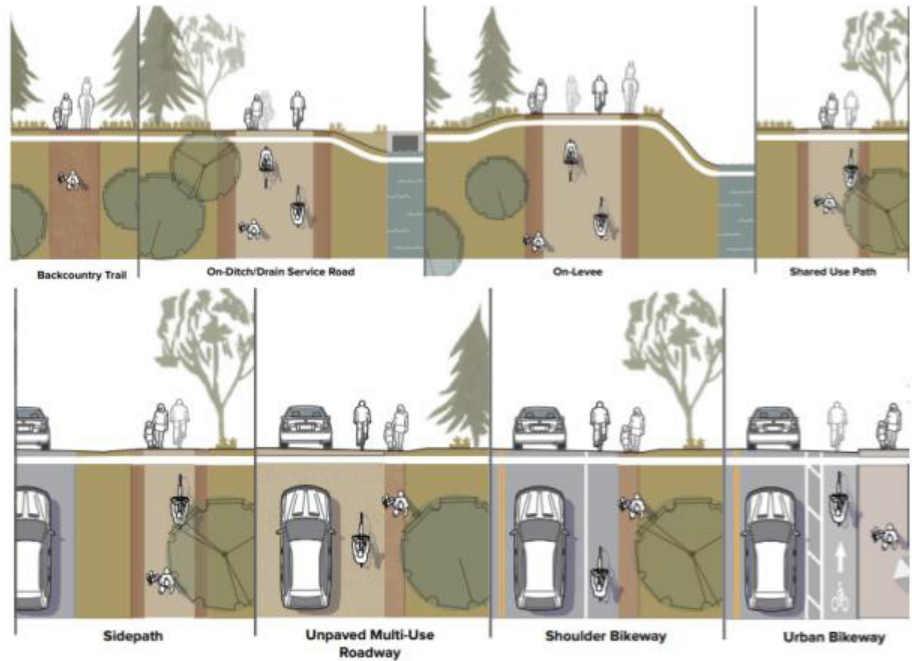
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PRESENTATION SLIDES

Desired Physical Trail Conditions

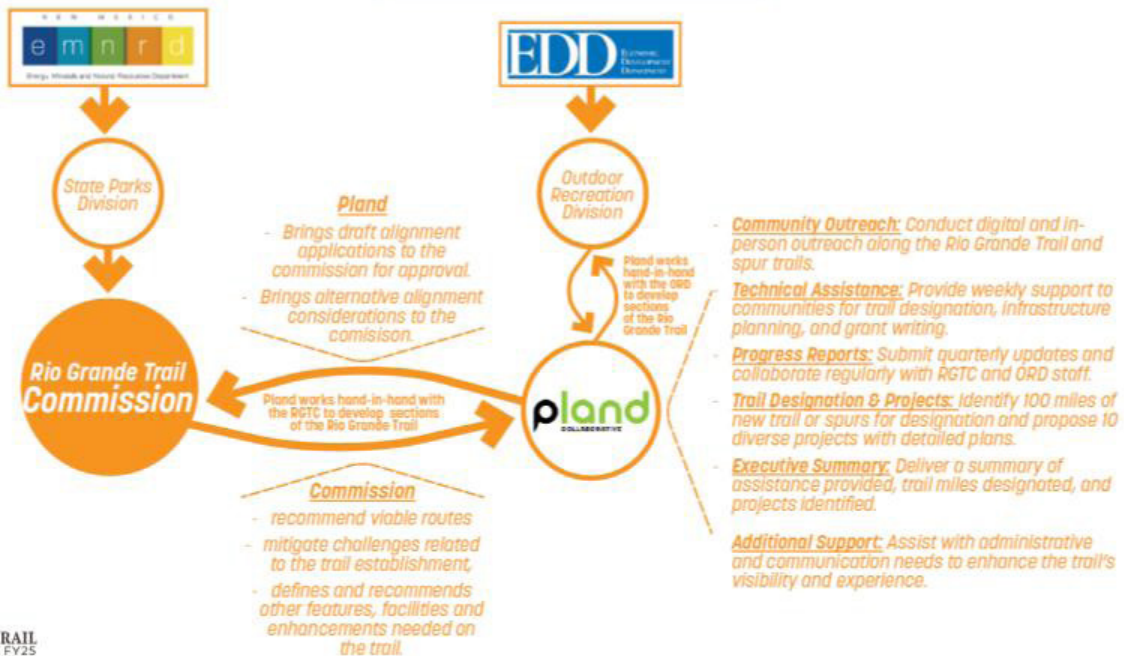
- Trail will be suitable for hiking, biking, and horseback riding.
- Non-motorized.
- The Trail will be designed for hikers, cyclists, and equestrians, though not all users will have access on all segments of the trail.



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PROJECT PARTNERS



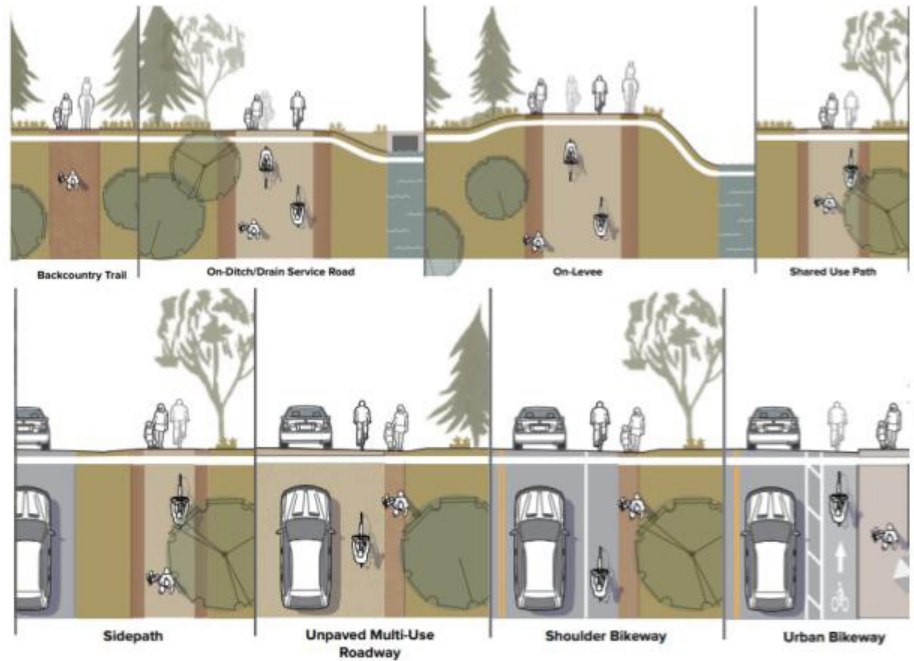
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PRESENTATION SLIDES

Desired Physical Trail Conditions

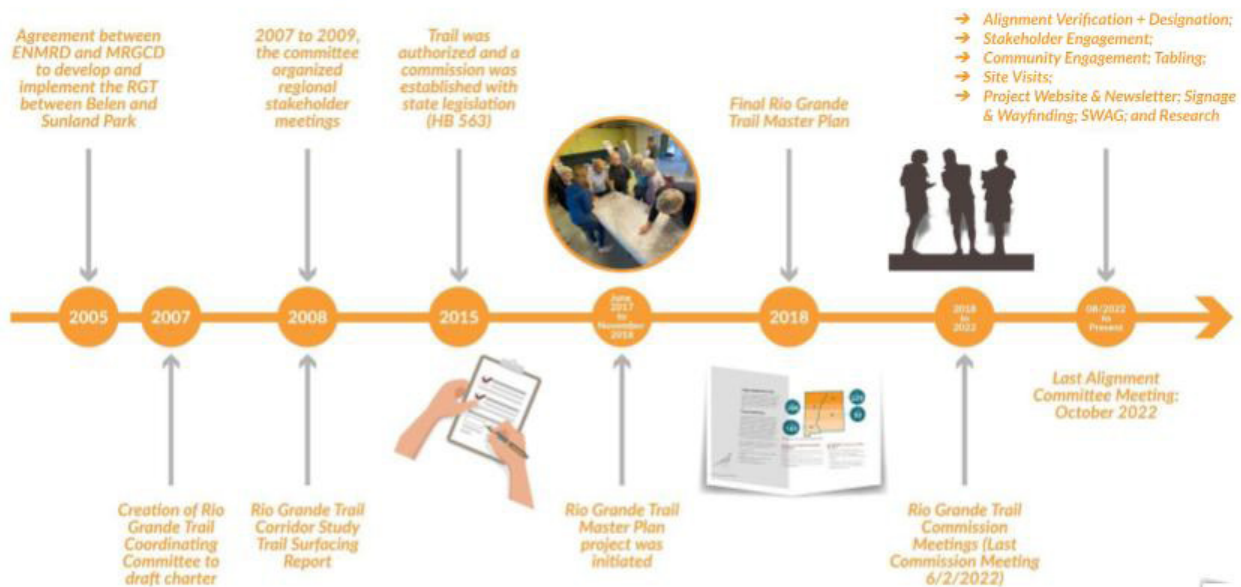
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PLANNING TIMELINE



RIO GRANDE TRAIL
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PRESENTATION SLIDES

TRAIL SEGMENTS STATUS

→ Total Trail Mileage

576.4

→ Designated Trail Mileage

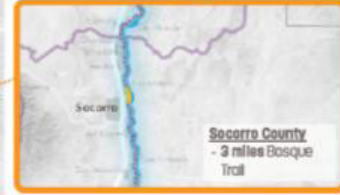
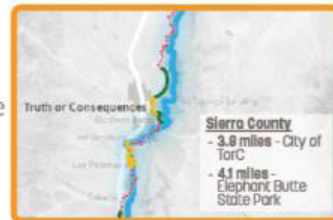
86.65

→ Trail Mileage in Process to be Designated

~92

→ Applications in queue

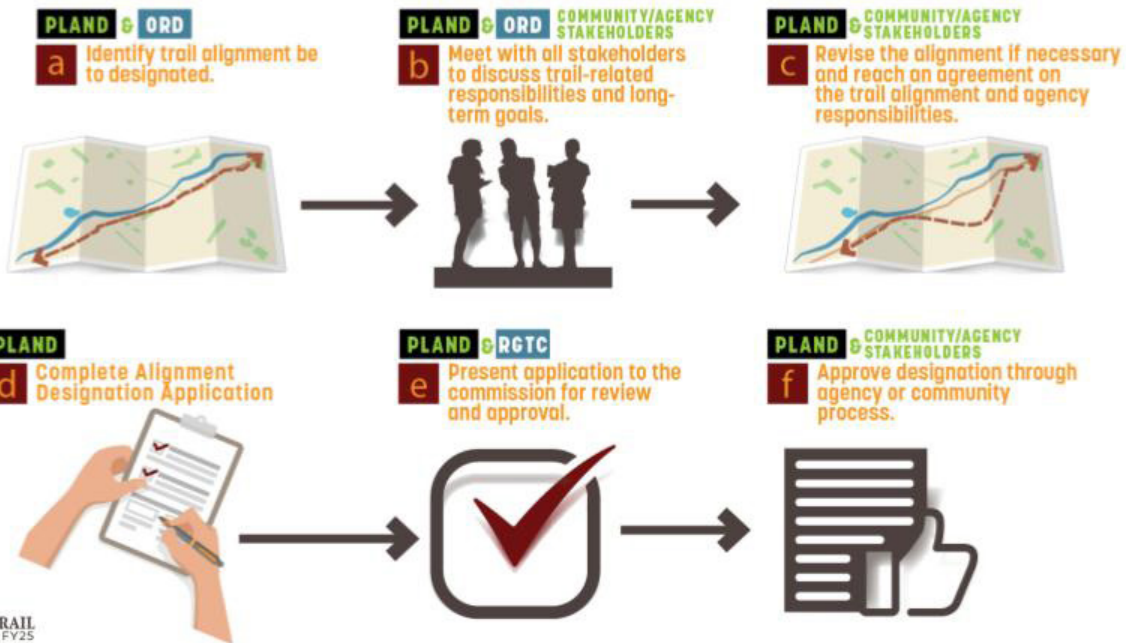
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Project Designation Application Process



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PRESENTATION SLIDES

TRAIL SEGMENT DESIGNATION APPLICATION

TRAIL SEGMENT DESIGNATION PROCESS & APPLICATION
 GRT Segments: 09-01, 09-02, 09-03, 09-04, 09-05, 09-06, 09-07, and portions of 09-08

Applicant Information:
 Name/Title: Michael Meadows, Technical Planning Manager, Bernalillo County
 Name/Title: Dave Simons, Director of Parks and Recreation, Bernalillo County

Designation Type:
 Interim Full Designation (Check which applies)

NOT Segment for Designation (for future identification purposes)

County	Subdivision	Segments	Existing Facility	Existing Facility Name	Miles	Application Type
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-01	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque	3.2	Designation
Bernalillo County	City of Albuquerque	09-02	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque	2.4	Designation
Bernalillo County	City of Albuquerque	09-04	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque	1.5	Designation
Bernalillo County	City of Albuquerque	09-05	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	City of Albuquerque/Bernalillo County	09-06	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-07	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-08-1	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-08-2	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-08-3	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-08-4	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-08-5	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-08-6	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-08-7	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-08-8	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-08-9	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-08-10	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-08-11	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-08-12	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-08-13	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-08-14	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-08-15	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-08-16	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-08-17	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-08-18	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-08-19	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-08-20	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-08-21	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-08-22	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-08-23	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-08-24	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-08-25	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-08-26	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-08-27	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-08-28	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-08-29	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-08-30	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	09-08-31	Existing Shared Use Path	Patino del Bosque		Designation

RIO GRANDE TRAIL PROJECT UPDATE FY25



TRAIL ALIGNMENT

Planned Rio Grande Trail Alignment:

Trail alignment recommended in the master plan, no trail existing.

Existing Trails Alignment:

An existing, publicly accessible path already managed as a trail facility.

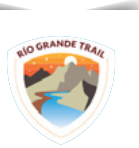
Designated:

Alignment segment formally adopted as Rio Grande Trail by the Rio Grande Trail Commission

Rio Grande Trail Segment Designation

Link to Rio Grande Trail Map:
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=da9ca29a58a143e18af5e8b9abf46a2c>

RIO GRANDE TRAIL PROJECT UPDATE FY25



PRESENTATION SLIDES

Questions

Progress

- How often would the commission like to be updated on our progress?
- Would commissioners be interested in participating in our recurring meetings?
- Pland is maintaining the RGT website and a newsletter – would the Commission like to review content/updates?

Commission Discussion / Action Items

- Approve Alignment Designation Applications
- Approve/Evaluate Alternative Alignment Proposals that are suggested adjustments to the 2018 Master Plan:
- Address Key Topics for the Commission to consider, maybe in committee structure:
 - ◆ *Liability and RUS, Tribal engagement, RGT signage and branding, Development of a non-profit organization akin to the CDTC, MOU with IBWC, Strategies to encourage agencies to prioritize designation and development of the RGT*

Meeting Coordination

- Date / location for the next Commission meeting?
- Date / location commission coordination?
- Date / frequency of Commission updates from Pland?
- Development of Commission infrastructure / resources?
- Date / location Commission Sub-Committee Meetings?



WHAT IS THE RIO GRANDE TRAIL?

PLANNING HISTORY

The development of the Rio Grande Trail has been a collaborative and evolving effort spanning nearly two decades. From initial planning studies to legislative support and community engagement, the trail's progress reflects a commitment to enhancing outdoor recreation opportunities, promoting regional connectivity, and preserving New Mexico's natural and cultural resources. The following timeline highlights key milestones that have shaped the planning and implementation of the Rio Grande Trail, demonstrating the dedication of local governments, state agencies, and organizations to bringing this vision to life:

2006 - *Rio Grande Trail Extension Bernalillo to Belen (MRCOG)*

2008 - *Blazing a Trail: The Benefits of a Rio Grande Trail in New Mexico (Environment New Mexico Research & Policy Center)*

2008 - *Rio Grande Trail Corridor Alignments and Constraints Analysis (Anasazi Trails Inc)*

2014 - *Rio Grande Water Fund: Comprehensive Plan for Wildfire and Water Source Protection (The Nature Conservancy in New Mexico)*

2015 - *New Mexico Legislature House Bill 563 (State of New Mexico) establishing the Rio Grande Trail Commission and designating funding for trail planning and development.*

2015 - *Viva New Mexico: A Statewide Plan for Outdoor Adventure Strategic Plan 2016-2020.*

2016 - *Resolution No. 17-036 - A Resolution to Support the Designation of 4.5 Miles of La Llorona Trail as part of the New Mexico Rio Grande Trail (Las Cruces City Council)*

2017-2018 - *The Rio Grande Trail Master Plan was developed.*

2018-2022 - *Rio Grande Trail Commission and sub-committees met regularly on trail related topics.*

2022 - *Pland Collaborative was contracted to facilitate trail related planning.*

RIO GRANDE TRAIL MAP



RIO GRANDE TRAIL VISION

The Rio Grande Trail is New Mexico's cross-state, recreational trail for **hiking, biking, and horseback riding** along the Rio Grande River. Trail users explore, learn about, and connect with a tapestry of diverse natural habitats, rich history, striking landscapes, and vibrant communities. The trail contributes to cultural and environmental awareness, healthy lifestyles, spiritual growth, and economic prosperity for New Mexico and its visitors.

STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

Landowner and land manager **participation in the Rio Grande Trail project is voluntary**. The Rio Grande Trail will only cross land that is authorized by the landowner and eminent domain shall not be used to establish the trail or features.

RIO GRANDE TRAIL CORRIDOR

The trail corridor **spans approximately 500 miles** and includes three national wildlife refuges, six national monuments, one national heritage area, and six state parks, touching nearly 10 counties and more than 22 cities or towns.

The trail travels through land owned and/or managed by: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service (FS), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Park Service (NPS), EMNRD State Parks Division, Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD), and US International Boundary Water Commission (USIBWC)

MASTER PLAN PRINCIPLES

1. Planning principles were established in the state law HB 563:
2. Ensure a voluntary process
3. Use existing trails along the Rio Grande corridor
4. Minimize environmental impacts
5. Preserve sensitive habitats
6. Prioritize non-motorized use

DESIGNATION OVERVIEW

86.21 miles designated
24.86 miles in process
538.63 miles remain to be designated

DESIGNATION SNAPSHOT BY COUNTY

Taos County

Cebolla Mesa Trail, USFS,
1.26 miles *(Under Review)*

Bernalillo County

Bosque Trail, Bernalillo County/
Albuquerque,
22.4 miles *(Approved)*

Socorro County

Rio Grande River Walk, City of Socorro,
3 miles *(Under Review)*

Sierra County

Turtleback Avenue, Truth or
Consequences,
3.78 miles *(Under Review)*

Doña Ana County

River Levee Rd, Mesilla,
94 miles *(Under Review)*

LINKS

RGT Website: riograndetrailnm.org

ORD Website, Trail+: <https://nmoutside.com/grants/trails-plus/>

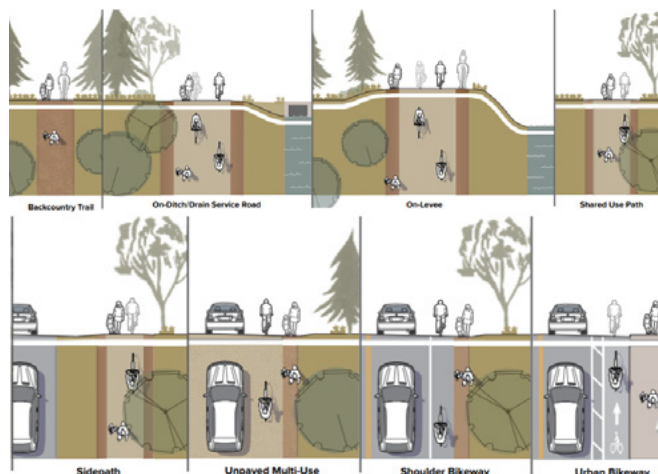
Draft Signage Guidance: <https://rb.gy/msh1vo>

Rio Grande Trail Master Plan Document:

<https://rb.gy/okmibe>

Enabling Legislation (2015): <https://rb.gy/hg4yfp>

PROPOSED TRAIL DEVELOPMENT FORM



ESTABLISHING A NON-PROFIT

Establishing a non-profit for the Rio Grande Trail is essential to its long-term success. In the event of reduced state legislative support, a non-profit could sustain momentum by serving as the trail's advocacy, fundraising, and community engagement arm. Meanwhile, the Rio Grande Trail Commission could maintain its role in providing political influence, oversight, and coordination across state and federal agencies. To support the non-profit's launch, the Commission could consider offering seed funding or limited contractual financial support during its initial phase.

THE BENEFITS OF A RIO GRANDE TRAIL NON-PROFIT INCLUDE:

- **Fundraising:** Serve as 501c3 fundraising arm to raise money to fill the gaps in public funding.
- **Collaboration:** Trail non-profits are positioned to collaborate with the groups who are interested in the trail: local communities, city and state officials, tribes, government agencies, and tourists.
- **Accountability:** Particularly when multiple agencies manage the land, trail non-profits are a mission driven outside force, dedicated to moving the project forward.
- **Advocacy and Education:** Trail organizations recruit and work with volunteers, build momentum for the trail, and raise money, public awareness, and community support.
- **Inclusive:** Trail non-profits provide an inclusive approach to trail governance. Anyone who is passionate about the mission is encouraged to get involved in a variety of ways.

RIO GRANDE TRAIL NON-PROFIT ROLE

- Serve as 501c3 fundraising arm to raise money to fill the gaps in public funding.
- Advocate for public funding.
- Work with the New Mexico Department of Tourism to create a promotional program for the trail.
- Lead volunteer recruitment and management.
- Develop & lead programming, like a "Gateway Community" program, & larger community events.
- Coordinate with landowners and land management agencies, from Federal agencies to small private land owners, through an overarching mandate to fund, build, and manage the trail.
- Work with the Rio Grande Trail Commission to recommend the designation of trail segments and collaborate with land managers to incorporate new segments into the trail system.
- Serve as a one-stop shop for businesses and other groups seeking to hold events on the trail.

RIO GRANDE TRAIL NON-PROFIT STRUCTURE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Rio Grande Trail non-profit will need a Board of Directors, as required for all 501c3 non-profits. The Board should represent a diverse group of stakeholder and interests. The Board could include a member or members from the Rio Grande Trail Commission.

STAFF

Paid staff are essential for the success of the Rio Grande Trail non-profit. At minimum, staff positions should include an Executive Director and Coordinators to manage communication, advocacy, fundraising, trail building, volunteer recruitment, and event planning.

FISCAL NOTE:

The early development of the non-profit could be ignited by partnering with a fiscal sponsor.



ESTABLISHING A NON-PROFIT

ARIZONA TRAILS ASSOCIATION



The Arizona Trail Association (ATA) was founded in 1994 to advocate for the development of the Arizona trail, similar to the RGT in that it runs the length of the state from Utah to Mexico. In addition, the ATA provides route info, organizes volunteers, identifies water and resupply points, and raises money to fund trail related activities. The Arizona Trail is governed by a partnership between the ATA and government bureaus, led by the USDA Forest Service. At the beginning of the work to build the trail, the government agencies held the majority of the responsibility, but over time much has been transferred to the ATA. The partnership between nonprofit, state, and federal agencies is strategic and powerful.¹ The ATA now controls the state trail funding and manages the Trail Steward, who leads the development of the trail. The ATA has the lead role in managing, maintaining, and funding the trail, as the mission has shifted from construction to maintenance and promotion.

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL COALITION



The Continental Divide Trail Coalition (CDTC) has evolved through many iterations since its inception in 1978, alongside its scenic trail status in the same year. In the early years, their primary role was to advocate for a unified continuous trail alongside the continental divide, or as close to it as possible. They helped hikers navigate the developing trail, which at the time was unmarked trails linked by cross country travel or on-road travel. Through the original iteration of the Coalition, guidebooks, coordinating volunteers for maintenance, and local community work were developed and further needed. In 1995 and 2020, MOUs between the CDTC and Federal Government declared them the leading NGO for the trail. The CDTC's work continues today into leading the management, branding, promotion, and protection of the trail.

ALMETTO TRAIL CONSERVATION FOUNDATION



Palmetto Trail Conservation Foundation (PCF) spearheads the planning, development, branding, and communications of the Palmetto Trail, South Carolina's cross state trail. The trail is developed largely through publicly owned lands, on public rights-of-way, and through easements for recreational use, including rail-trail conversions and access to protected lands. Where that is not possible, PCF relies on Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) as a way to reach agreement with a private property owner for trail access. Major trail management partners include the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, and the USDA Forest Service. Most maintenance is undertaken by the local entity that owns or operates the trail segment. PCF plays a major role in tracking maintenance needs and in organizing and leading volunteer maintenance efforts. This includes ongoing partnerships with AmeriCorps and the establishment of the Palmetto Conservation Corps, a trail-based state AmeriCorps program.



TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

As of March 2025, no segments of the Rio Grande Trail have been designated or proposed through tribal property.

CONTEXT FROM THE ENABLING LEGISLATION

The enabling legislation for the RGT emphasizes the importance of tribal engagement and respect for tribal sovereignty. It contains several references highlighting the role of Indian nations, tribes, and pueblos in the trail's development:

(Excerpt from the Legislation)

E. The commission shall:

Define and recommend viable path routes of the Rio Grande Trail that shall be contiguous where possible and include only land that is expressly authorized by the owner, including Indian nations, tribes, or pueblos, for inclusion in the Rio Grande Trail and not to be acquired by eminent domain.

Consult with representatives of Indian nations, tribes, or pueblos adjoining the Rio Grande regarding issues within their jurisdiction in the development of the Rio Grande Trail.

A key aspect of this language is the commitment to using only land that has been expressly authorized by its owners, including tribal entities, and prohibiting the use of eminent domain. Moving forward, any tribal engagement should be approached with this foundational value in mind, ensuring that conversations are framed around respect for tribal authority and collaborative decision-making.

CONTEXT FROM THE MASTER PLAN

The 2018 Rio Grande Trail Master Plan reinforces the language from its enabling legislation, emphasizing a voluntary and consensual approach to using land for the trail, as highlighted on page 8. Page 18 provides background on tribal engagement, noting that while most Pueblos have expressed no interest in designating trail alignments on their land, the Rio Grande Trail Commission remains committed to seeking feedback, particularly regarding the protection of cultural resources within the trail corridor.

TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

In 2022 and 2023, the team concentrated on engaging internal stakeholders, community members, and agency partners. During this period, the Pland team focused on informing stakeholders about the project, identifying partners for trail designation, and building capacity by sharing trail-related information. Tribal meetings were facilitated, both as dedicated sessions for tribal partners and as inclusive meetings where tribal representatives were invited to participate alongside other stakeholders.

In 2024, our efforts shifted toward public engagement with communities located along the trail that are involved in trail-related projects. The primary goals were to raise awareness, build excitement, and establish

a network of interested individuals to serve as a foundational pool for the future non-profit.

Feedback received from the tribal meetings indicated strong opposition to trail-related activities. Specific concerns included:

- 1. Increased Traffic and Trespassing:*** *Tribal Communities expressed concerns about the potential rise in visitors, leading to increased trespassing and disturbances to cultural sites.*
- 2. Lack of Inclusion in the Master Plan Process:*** *Many Tribal representatives felt that their voices were not adequately included during the initial planning process for the master plan, and their concerns were not addressed.*



3. Trail Proximity to Cultural Sites: Some Tribal Communities highlighted that the trail was planned through areas of cultural significance, including a Traditional Cultural Property along Highway 165 in Sandoval County.

proposing a meeting to discuss the situation and explore how to proceed with the trail development in light of the feedback received. The team is currently awaiting a response to schedule this meeting.

In response to these concerns, Pland Collaborative crafted a memo to the Sandia Ranger District Ranger

To strengthen ongoing efforts, the team also developed an engagement plan to facilitate more frequent and meaningful dialogue with Tribal Communities.

NEED FOR A RENEWED FOCUS

While these initial meetings were a step in the right direction, it is evident that a renewed focus on tribal engagement is necessary. Establishing consistent, respectful, and transparent communication channels will be essential to address tribal concerns, incorporate their perspectives into future planning, and build trust.

DEFINING ANNUAL PRIORITIES

The RGT corridor spans a vast region with numerous projects and stakeholders. Without clear priorities, it is easy to become unfocused and diverted into unrelated tasks. The RGT Commission must determine its focus for each year to ensure meaningful progress.

PREVIOUS YEAR'S FOCUS:

4. Conducted public engagement in each county to raise awareness.
5. Designated easily achievable trail segments ("low-hanging fruit").

MOVING FORWARD:

To maintain momentum, the Commission should set targeted goals, balancing public outreach, stakeholder collaboration, and project development. By selecting annual priorities, the Commission can ensure resources are used effectively and avoid losing direction or pursuing unrelated initiatives. Establishing this focus will also enhance transparency and accountability, leading to a more successful and inclusive trail development process.

EXCERPT FROM THE 2024 TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Within this project, it is essential to engage Tribal Communities and indigenous organizations. Our team has identified and categorized these key stakeholders into tiers for the engagement process and strategies. Tier 1 consists of Tribal Governance organizations, Tier 2 includes individual Tribal Governments directly adjacent to the trail, and Tier 3 encompasses individual Tribal Governments in close proximity to the trail that hold significant cultural interests related to the areas traversed by the trail.

Tier #1 - Tribal Umbrella Organizations

- New Mexico Department of Indian Affairs
- All Pueblo Council of Governors Five Sandoval Indian Pueblos
- Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council
- Ten Southern Pueblo Governor's Council
- Indian Pueblo Cultural Center
- Pueblo Action Alliance

Tier #2 - Pueblos located along Rio Grande Trail

- Pueblo de Cochiti
- Pueblo of Isleta
- Ohkay Owingeh
- Pueblo of San Felipe
- Pueblo de San Ildefonso
- Pueblo of Sandia
- Pueblo of Santa Ana
- Pueblo of Santa Clara
- Pueblo of Santo Domingo (Kewa)
- Pueblo of Taos
- Federally Unrecognized tribe: Tortugas Pueblo

- Federally Unrecognized tribe: Piro-Manso-Tiwa
- (PMT) Tribe

Tier #3 - Pueblos located away from Rio Grande Trail

- Pueblo of Acoma
- Pueblo of Jemez
- Pueblo of Laguna
- Pueblo of Nambé
- Pueblo of Picuris
- Pueblo of Pojoaque
- Pueblo of Tesuque
- Pueblo of Zia
- Pueblo of Zuni



TRAILS+ NEW MEXICO

OUTDOOR RECREATION DIVISION

The New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division (ORD) annually provides the Trails+ Grant program that is dedicated to planning and building recreational infrastructure. Trails+ Grants stimulate regional economic development, improve the quality of life for residents and visitors, promote community health through supporting an active lifestyle, and increases access to the beautiful places that make New Mexico unique.

Trails+ Grants can be used for:

- *Designing, surveying, and engineering plans (including planning for projects on Federal land)*
- *Building structures and other infrastructure that enhance public nature-based outdoor recreation*
- *Materials and equipment associated with the projects*
- *Maintenance and improvement to existing outdoor infrastructure*
- *Billed labor and project management costs specific to the project*

In the last few years, Trails+ Grants have supported the construction of new mountain bike optimized trails near Albuquerque and Santa Fe. McKinley and San Juan Counties are using grant funds to complete county-wide master trail plans. Bernalillo County was recently awarded funds to install a non-motorized bridge to connect the Albuquerque Bosque Trail along the Rio Grande to the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge. The New Mexico Off Highway Vehicle Association received a Trails+ Grant to replace gates in national forest fence lines with cattle guards to keep permittees cattle in assigned pastures while providing full access to motorized recreationalists. Recent Trails+ Grant awards can range from \$25,000 - \$1,000,000, based upon the scale of the project and number of collaborating entities.

Please visit our website www.nmoutside.com to see a comprehensive list of our funded projects and take a moment to review the Trails+ Grant Guide to answer more questions.

Eligible applicants include Tribes, Pueblos, and Nations; Municipalities; Counties; Nonprofits; Public preschools/schools/districts; Colleges/Universities; Soil and water conservation districts; Acequia and land grant associations.

Funding is available annually and we invite you to learn more about this exciting and impactful opportunity by downloading the Trails+ Grant Program Guide.

Want to learn more? Please contact Carl Colonius, NM Outdoor Recreation Program Manager, (505) 570-7846, carl.colonius@edd.nm.gov



TRAIL SEGMENT DESIGNATION: PROCESS & APPLICATIONS

The Rio Grande Trail Commission previously developed a process for approving trail segments through the Trail Segment Designation Process & Application form. This form is designed to clarify the roles and responsibilities of land managers, owners, and agencies involved in a specific trail alignment.

CONFIRMATION OF ALIGNMENT

The process begins with meetings involving stakeholders associated with the proposed alignment. This includes landowners, land managers, agencies with right-of-way, and any partners with responsibilities related to the trail. During these discussions, the trail alignment identified in the master plan is assessed and either confirmed or revised.

Revisions may be necessary if the master plan alignment does not align with existing trails or long-term trail development and connectivity goals. If adjustments are made, they must be recorded, approved by the Commission, and reflected in the updated master plan alignment.

PARTNER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Once the alignment is confirmed, the next steps depend on the trail development stage:

For Existing Trails:

1. The land manager or owner confirms support for the trail's designation as part of the RGT.
2. They address the criteria outlined in the Trail Segment Designation Application.

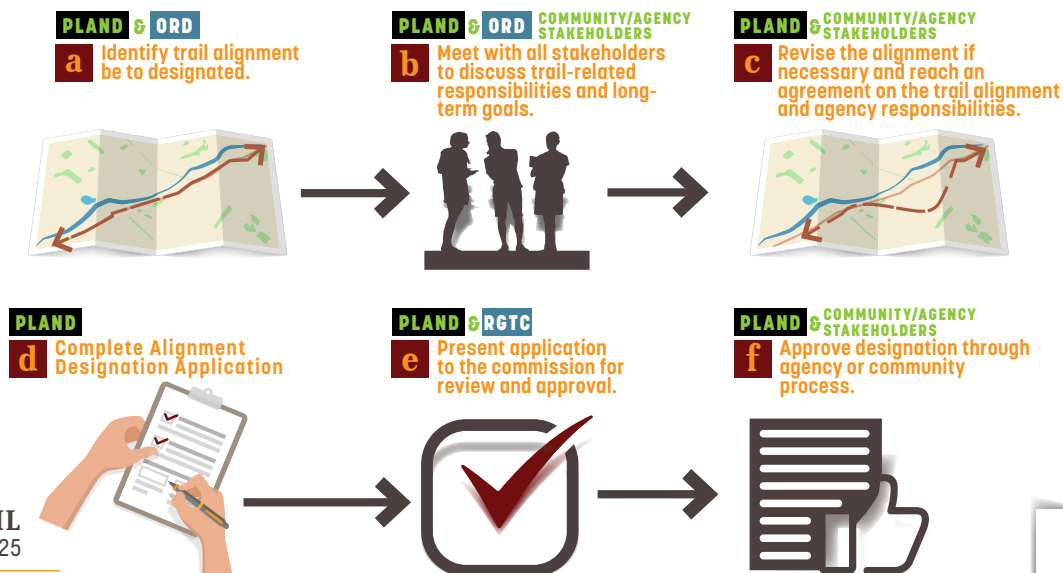
For Roads or Levees:

1. If the proposed alignment follows a road or levee, relevant partners responsible for maintaining or using these facilities are engaged.
2. Roles and responsibilities are identified and documented in the application.

3. Once all parties agree, the application can be submitted to the Commission.

For New Trail Development:

1. If no existing trail or facility is present, the land manager or owner and other stakeholders collaborate to develop strategies for planning, constructing, and maintaining the new trail.
2. Responsibilities, funding sources, and maintenance plans are outlined and added to the application.
3. After these details are addressed, the application can be submitted to the Commission for an interim designation as a planned trail.



TRAIL SEGMENT DESIGNATION: PROCESS & APPLICATIONS

APPROVAL PROCESS

All applications approved by the Commission must also receive approval from the respective landowner, manager, or agency through their specific approval processes.

CURRENT APPROACH

To date, Pland has facilitated the application process by meeting with the necessary partners, confirming alignments, and completing the required applications. Throughout this process, partners ensure that all roles and responsibilities are appropriately identified and documented.

Since the Commission was not active, approved segments have initially gone through the relevant landowner, manager, or agency approval processes. Now that the Commission is active, these applications are being formally submitted for Commission approval.

In the years since the Commission last met applications have been started or completed. Below are some examples for the Commission to discuss:

TAOS COUNTY

Trail Name: Cebolla Mesa Trail

Location: USFS

Length: 1.26 miles

Status: *Under Review*

**Trail Name: BLM Rio Grande Del Norte
John Dunn Bridge**

Location: Taos

Length: 0.83 miles

Status: *Planning Phase*

**Trail Name: BLM Rio Grande Del Norte
Bridge to Bridge Trail**

Location: Taos

Length: 6.01 miles

Status: *Planning Phase*

BERNALILLO COUNTY

Trail Name: Bosque Trail

Location: Bernalillo County/
Albuquerque

Length: 22.4 miles

Status: *Approved*

Trail Name: NM 165 Placitas Trail

Location: Placitas

Length: 8.24 miles

Status: *Planning Phase*

Trail Name: NA

Location: Placitas Highway 165

Length: 12.18 miles

Status: *Planning Phase*

Trail Name: East Alignment

Location: ABQ Metro

Length: 18.45 miles

Status: *Planning Phase*

SOCORRO COUNTY

Trail Name: Rio Grande River Walk

Location: City of Socorro

Length: 3 miles

Status: *Under Review*

SIERRA COUNTY

Trail Name: Turtleback Avenue

Location: Truth or Consequences

Length: 3.78 miles

Status: *Under Review*

Trail Name: Connector (BOR)

Location: Elephant Butte State Park

Length: 2.76 miles

Status: *Planning Phase*

Trail Name: Turtleback Trails

Location: Truth or Consequences

Length: 2.64 miles

Status: *Planning Phase*

DONA ANA COUNTY

Trail Name: Levee Road

Location: County-wide

Length: 22 miles

Status: *Planning Phase*

LEGEND

Approved: The partner has completed their approval process, and the application has been formally approved by their governing body.

Under Review: The application is currently being reviewed by the relevant landowner, manager, or agency partner.

Planning Phase: Discussions are ongoing to confirm the alignment, identify roles and responsibilities, and establish a timeline for designation.



TRAIL SEGMENT DESIGNATION 1: BOSQUE TRAIL, BERNALILLO COUNTY





TRAIL SEGMENT DESIGNATION PROCESS & APPLICATION

GRT Segments: BN-02, BN-03, BN-04, BN-05, BN-06, BN-07, and portions of BN-08

Date of Submittal: XX
Submittal to: XX

Approval Date (RGT Commission):

Applicant Information

Name/Title: Richard Meadows, Technical Planning Manager, Bernalillo County

Name/Title: Dave Simon, Director of Parks and Recreation, Bernalillo County

Email:

Land owner / Land Manager (Check which applies)

If additional applicants:

Name/Title: Dave Simon, Director, Parks & Recreation Department, City of Albuquerque

Email:

Land Owner / Land Manager (Check which applies)

Designation Type

Interim/ Full Designation (Check which applies)

(Note: Interim Designation is for proposed future trail segments; Full Designation is for existing/constructed trail segments.)

RGT Segment for Designation (for future identification purposes)

County	Jurisdiction	Segments	Existing Facility	Existing Facility Name	Miles	Application Type
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	BN-01	Existing Shared Use Path	Paseo del Bosque Recreacional	1.3	Primary Trail Segment



TRAIL SEGMENT DESIGNATION PROCESS & APPLICATION

GRT Segments: BN-02, BN-03, BN-04, BN-05, BN-06, BN-07, and portions of BN-08

County	Jurisdiction	Segments	Existing Facility	Existing Facility Name	Miles	Application Type
				Trail		Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	BN-02	Existing Shared Use Path	Paseo del Bosque Recreacional Trail	3.1	Primary Trail Segment Designation
Bernalillo County	City of Albuquerque/	BN-03	Existing Shared Use Path	Paseo del Bosque Recreacional Trail	3.4	Primary Trail Segment Designation
Bernalillo County	City of Albuquerque/	BN-04	Existing Shared Use Path	Paseo del Bosque Recreacional Trail	1.3	Primary Trail Segment Designation
Bernalillo County	City of Albuquerque/	BN-05	Existing Shared Use Path	Paseo del Bosque Recreacional Trail	1.9	Primary Trail Segment Designation
Bernalillo County	City of Albuquerque/Bernalillo County	BN-06	Existing Shared Use Path	Paseo del Bosque Recreacional Trail/ Riverside Trail	3.2	Primary Trail Segment Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	BN-07	Existing Shared Use Path	Riverside Trail	1.4	Primary Trail Segment Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	BN-08-A	Existing Shared Use Path	Chris Chavez Trail	0.54	Primary Trail Segment Designation
Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County	BN-08-B	Existing Shared Use Path	Valle de Oro Trail	0.08	Primary Trail Segment Designation
Bernalillo	Valley de Oro/	BN-08-C	Existing/Proposed	Valle de Oro	3.3	Primary



TRAIL SEGMENT DESIGNATION PROCESS & APPLICATION

GRT Segments: BN-02, BN-03, BN-04, BN-05, BN-06, BN-07, and portions of BN-08

County	Jurisdiction	Segments	Existing Facility	Existing Facility Name	Miles	Application Type
County			Shared Use Path	Trail		Trail Segment Designation
Bernalillo County		BN-08-D	Proposed Shared Use Path	NA	0.3	Primary Trail Segment Designation
Bernalillo County		BN-08-E	Proposed Shared Use Path	NA	2.6	Primary Trail Segment Designation
				Total	22.4	

Location/Description

Please describe the boundaries, extent, and relative location of the trail segment and how it relates to the Rio Grande Trail Corridor.

The Rio Grande Trail alignment slated for designation through Bernalillo County and the City of Albuquerque includes the trail segments traveling along the river; see **Attachment A**. Not included in this designation application are the RGT spur segments that head east along the I40 corridor and the segment BN-8-F.

The segments slated for designation all follow the alignment identified in the RGT Master Plan (2018). The only exceptions are parts of the BN-08 segment; see **Attachment B** for details on the revised alignment. All RGT trail segments slated for designation follow existing trails or trails that are in development.

The adjusted alignment is located in the southern portion of the Bernalillo County RGT corridor. Bernalillo County requested to adjust this alignment because the original alignment traveled along Broadway Blvd. and was not seen as a suitable corridor for pedestrians and cyclists. Instead, the County wanted to connect the trail with the Valley de Oro Nature Preserve and take advantage of a proposed trail located lopping the preserve. The trail is proposed to run



TRAIL SEGMENT DESIGNATION PROCESS & APPLICATION

GRT Segments: BN-02, BN-03, BN-04, BN-05, BN-06, BN-07, and portions of BN-08

along the edges of the preserve. The loop trail is currently in the design phase and is slated to be constructed soon. Through this loop, the GRT can connect back to the river and to the location of a proposed river crossing. The BN-8-F segment of the trail will be designated at a later phase to determine use agreements with MRGCD.

The connection to Isleta Pueblo is currently not feasible. Suppose at a future date, the trail is permitted to cross through Isleta lands. In that case, the trail could either continue along the Los Padilla Feeder or connect to Isleta to cross under I25. Under the MRCOG Long-Range Bikeway System, the Los Padilla Feeder is identified as having a future paved trail, and Isleta Blvd is identified as having a future bike lane. Therefore, if that option opens, both facilities are potential connectors to the Isleta Pueblo.

RGT Vision

How does this segment support the vision of the Rio Grande Trail?

The Bernalillo County RGT alignment slated for designation supports the vision of the Rio Grande Trail. The alignment utilizes over 15 miles of existing trail located adjacent to the river. These 15 miles are already a beloved community asset where the community explores and learns about the unique functions the river provides. It contributes to cultural and environmental awareness, healthy lifestyles, spiritual growth by providing access to the river and bosque, while managing access and use.

Ownership

Is the segment in public ownership, or are necessary easements or agreements in place? If not, describe the plan for obtaining and/or managing trail right-of-way.

Segments BN-01 through BN-07 are on existing trails and are managed by the City of Albuquerque Parks and Recreation Department. Segment BN-08 is split into six sub-segments, see **Attachment C** for details. Segment BN-08-A is located on an existing trail and managed by Bernalillo County, Segment BN-08-B is a proposed trail managed by the County, Segment BN-08-C is a proposed trail that follows a trail in the design phase developed by Valle De Oro, Segment BN-08-E is a proposed trail segment managed by the County, and BN-08-D is a proposed trail segment managed by the County. All existing trail segments that are managed by the County and City have existing use agreements in place with the owner of each facility.

The portion of the trail proposed on the Atrisco Riverside Drain will be part of a future phase. Drainage and water conveyance facilities are managed by MRGCD, 2nd Street is owned and managed by Bernalillo



TRAIL SEGMENT DESIGNATION PROCESS & APPLICATION

GRT Segments: BN-02, BN-03, BN-04, BN-05, BN-06, BN-07, and portions of BN-08

County, and the Valle De Oro Nature Preserve is managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. All partners have been involved in the planning process during which the alignment was determined.

Public Support

Please indicate whether there has been any public outreach, and whether there are any groups, organizations, or individuals that have demonstrated support for this trail segment.

During the planning process the project team hosted a number of public meetings and other options to participate in the planning process. During the open house hosted for the Central Region attracted 258 participants. According to the Rio Grande Master Plan “Participants envision a Rio Grande Trail that fosters geographic connections between the natural environment and communities, provides outdoor recreational opportunities, and highlights the exhilarating natural beauty of the state. The alignment through Bernalillo County will facilitate this vision.

Connectivity

Describe how this trail segment would provide continuity and/or connectivity within the overall Rio Grande Trail system.

The Bernalillo County trail alignment will provide important connections to existing trails within and beyond county boundaries. It connects to the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT. It also intersects with the City of Albuquerque 50-Mile Loop and will connect to the proposed City of Albuquerque Rail Trail. The future east spur alignment will connect to the Grant Enchantment Trail. In addition to the important trail alignment, the Rio Grande Trail will connect communities east and west of the river and north and south in the county.

Accessibility

What level of access/accessibility is anticipated for the general public and different user groups?

Most of the proposed RGT alignment is located along an existing multi-use trail that is designed for pedestrians and cyclists only. The existing trails have convenient neighborhood access at multiple locations and designated parking areas. Most of the multi-use trail is ADA accessible. Road crossings are also addressed with appropriate crossing treatments, separating trail traffic from vehicular traffic.

The portion of the trail that is not developed yet is, for the most part, proposed to have a multi-use trail facility. The trail portion that travels along the proposed Valle De Oro will be a multi-use, ADA accessible



TRAIL SEGMENT DESIGNATION PROCESS & APPLICATION

GRT Segments: BN-02, BN-03, BN-04, BN-05, BN-06, BN-07, and portions of BN-08

trail. The trail can be accessed via 2nd Street and there will be a parking lot that accommodates ADA requirements. In addition, the future river crossing and proposed connecting trail along the Atrisco Riverside Drain will also be designed as multi-use trails. The only portion of the trail that will not be located on a separate multi-use trail facility is the portion of the trail traveling along 2nd Street. 2nd Street in this location is a 2-lane road, one lane in each direction. This stretch is identified as a potential bike facility. The road's character is very rural, with very little traffic (average annual weekday traffic count of 1400 vehicular trips (MRCOG, 2021)).

Impact Studies

Have environmental impact studies and/or cultural surveys been conducted to understand the potential negative impacts of trail designation? How will impacts be addressed or mitigated? (Required for full designation, optional for interim designation)

For segments BN-01 through BN-07 the trail will travel along existing trail facilities. Therefore, this requirement is not applicable. For future trail facilities, all required impact statements will be completed as required by the various land owners/land managers during the design and development phase.

Capacity to Maintain

How will trail segment be maintained, and by whom?

Trail maintenance is provided by the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County depending on the location of the trail.

Public Safety

Indicate how public safety concerns will be addressed.

The City of Albuquerque is policing the Paseo del Bosque Recreational Trail located within the city jurisdictions. In the County, the Paseo del Bosque Recreational Trail is called the Riverside Trail. Here the trail is policed by Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office. The existing portion of the Valle de Oro Trail located in the County is also policed by Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office

1. Additional Documentation

Please provide any supporting documentation that would help the Commission evaluate your request as



TRAIL SEGMENT DESIGNATION PROCESS & APPLICATION

GRT Segments: BN-02, BN-03, BN-04, BN-05, BN-06, BN-07, and portions of BN-08

a separate attachment.

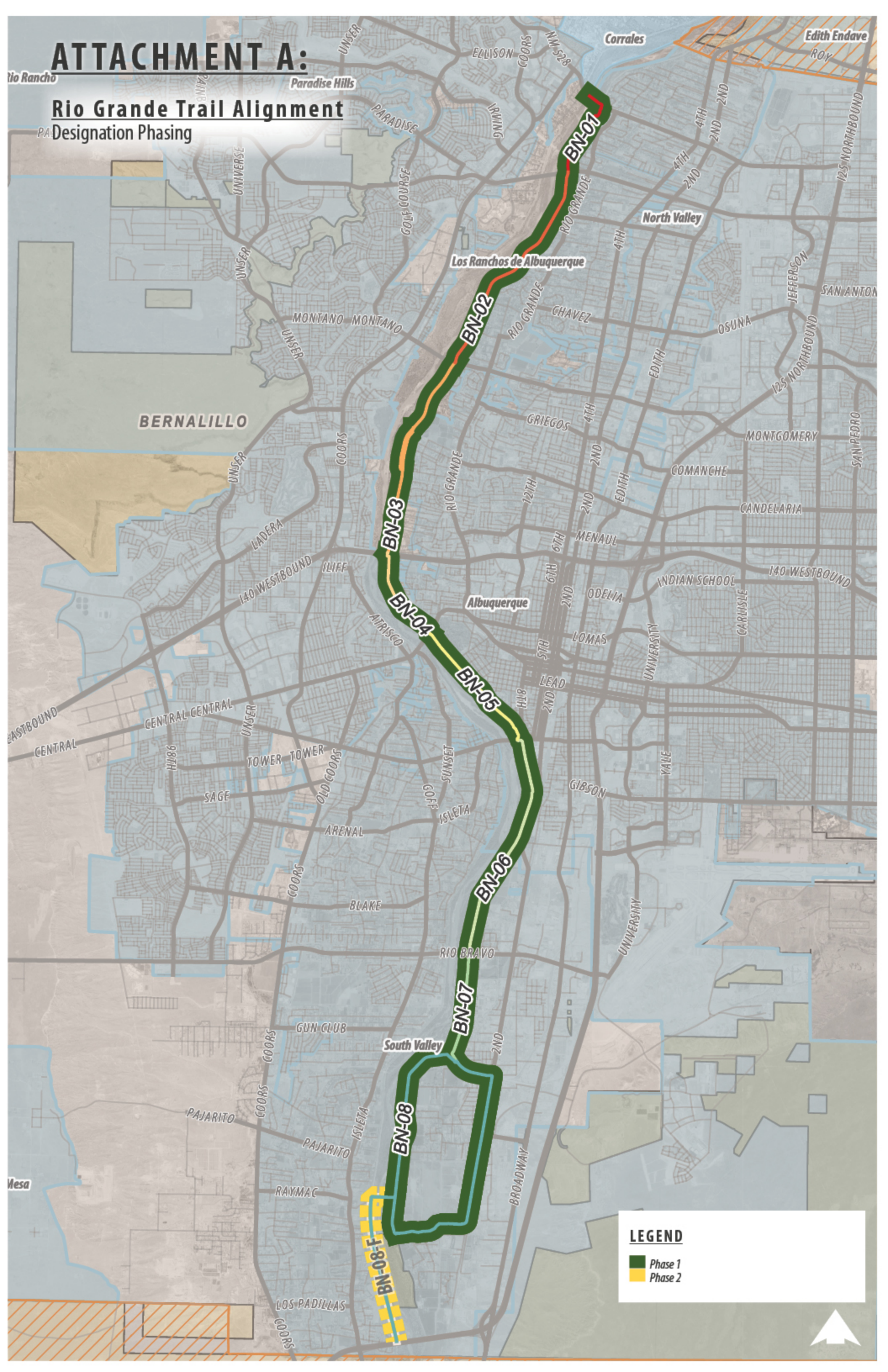
None

DRAFT

ATTACHMENT A:

Rio Grande Trail Alignment

PA Designation Phasing



LEGEND

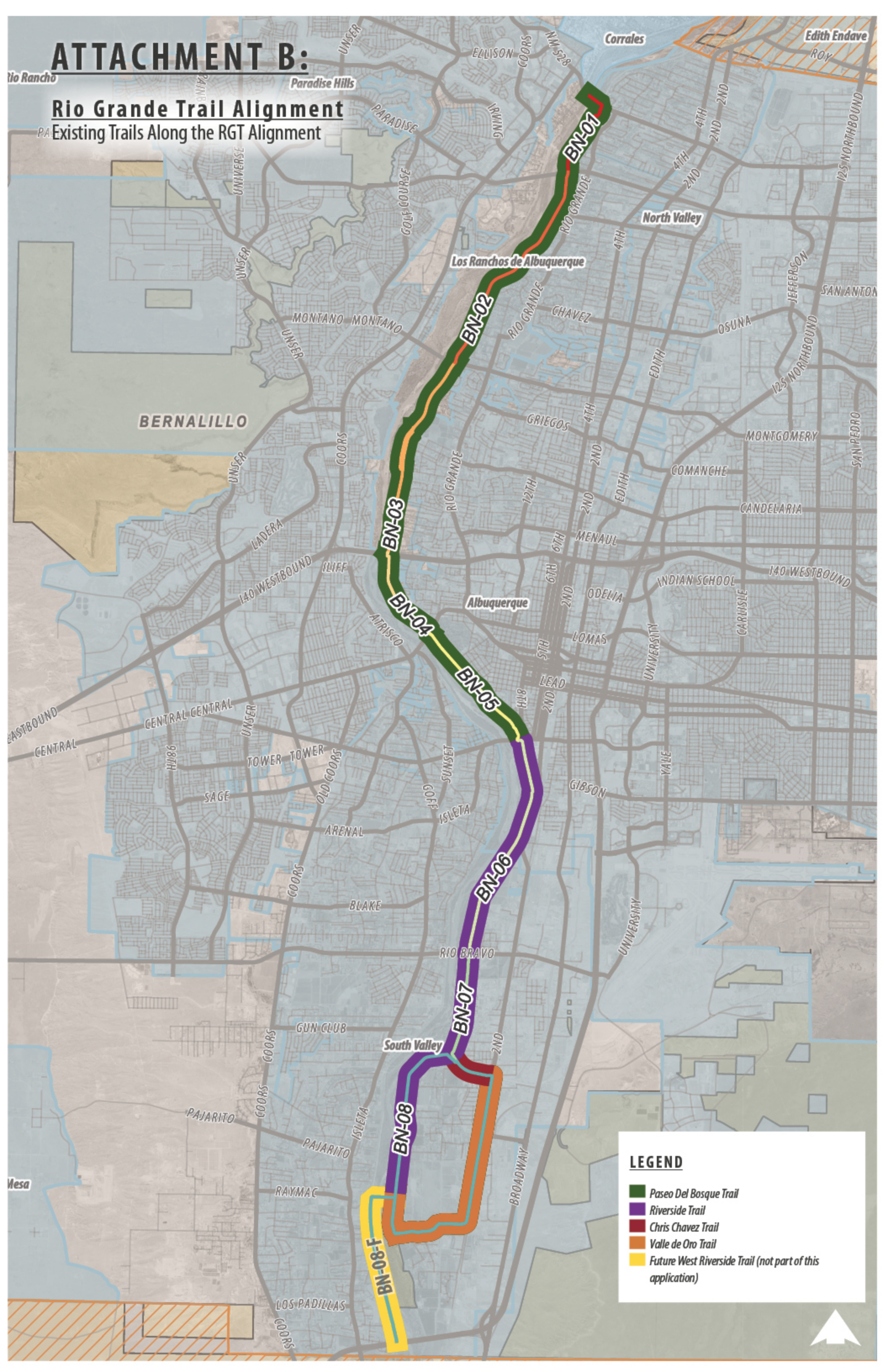
- Phase 1
- Phase 2



ATTACHMENT B:

Rio Grande Trail Alignment

Existing Trails Along the RGT Alignment

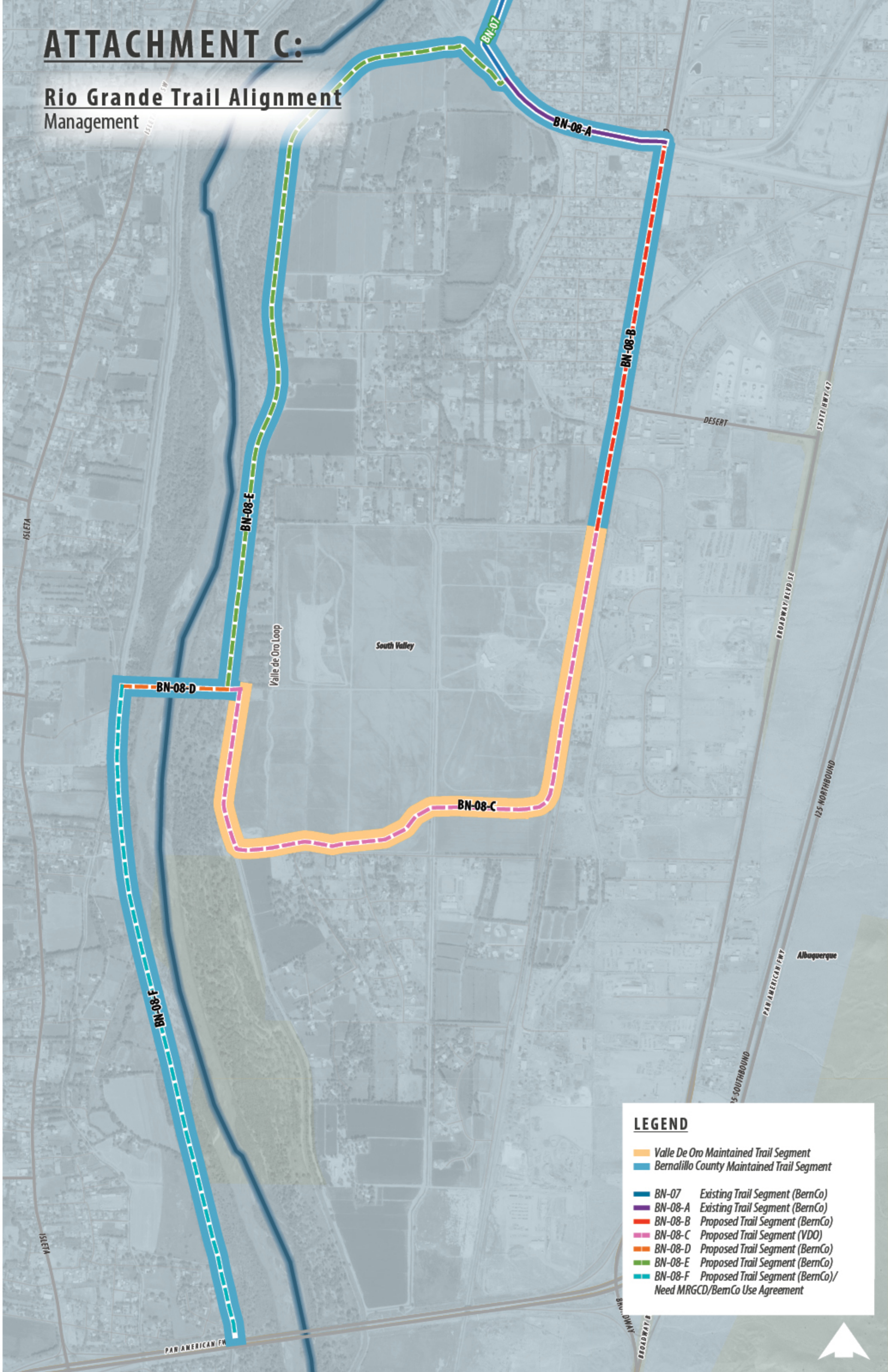


LEGEND

- █ Paseo Del Bosque Trail
- █ Riverside Trail
- █ Chris Chavez Trail
- █ Valle de Oro Trail
- █ Future West Riverside Trail (not part of this application)

ATTACHMENT C:

Rio Grande Trail Alignment Management



LEGEND

- Valle De Oro Maintained Trail Segment
- Bernalillo County Maintained Trail Segment
- BN-07 Existing Trail Segment (BernCo)
- BN-08-A Existing Trail Segment (BernCo)
- BN-08-B Proposed Trail Segment (BernCo)
- BN-08-C Proposed Trail Segment (VDO)
- BN-08-D Proposed Trail Segment (BernCo)
- BN-08-E Proposed Trail Segment (BernCo)
- BN-08-F Proposed Trail Segment (BernCo)/
Need MRGCD/BernCo Use Agreement



BERNALILLO COUNTY

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION NO. 2023 35

1 **CERTIFYING RIO GRANDE TRAIL BERNALILLO COUNTY ALIGNMENT**

2 **WHEREAS**, in 2018 the Rio Grande Trail (RGT) Commission approved the Rio Grande
3 State Trail Master Plan. The master plan identifies 500 miles of recreational trail alignment
4 following the Rio Grande from Colorado to Texas (NMSA 1978 § 9-5C-1).

5 **WHEREAS**, the RGT Commission has authority to officially designate trail segments; it
6 is up to each County to certify the alignment through their respective jurisdictions.

7 **WHEREAS**, recreational trails contribute to tourism, health, and quality of life in our
8 local communities.

9 **WHEREAS**, within Bernalillo County, the RGT alignment follows existing trail
10 facilities such as the Paseo del Bosque through City of Albuquerque and the Riverside Trail
11 through the unincorporated county. It also follows the Valle de Oro Trail along Second Street
12 SW and around the perimeter of the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge. A planned new
13 segment of the trail alignment will extend the Riverside Trail south and eventually cross the river
14 at the refuge and continue south along the west side riverside drain (see Attachment A).

15 **WHEREAS**, the RGT master plan also recommends a trail spur alignment that follows
16 Historic Route 66 (NM 333) through Tijeras Canyon and along NM 14 in the East Mountains.
17 The trail spur alignment will be designated in a separate action.

18 **NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners, the
19 governing body of the County of Bernalillo, to certify the Rio Grande Trail alignment through
20 Bernalillo County.

DONE, this 14th day of March, 2023

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Barbara Baca
Barbara Baca, Chair

A Barboa
Adriann Barboa, Vice-Chair

Steven Michael Quezada
Steven Michael Quezada, Member

Walt Benson
Walt Benson, Member

Eric C. Olivas
Eric C. Olivas, Member



APPROVED AS TO FORM:

W. Ken Martinez
W. Ken Martinez, County Attorney

ATTEST:

Linda Stover
Linda Stover, County Clerk

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TRAIL SEGMENT DESIGNATION 2: BOSQUE TRAIL, CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE



CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY SIXTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-24-18 ENACTMENT NO. R-2024-021

SPONSORED BY: Joaquín Baca, by request

1 RESOLUTION
2 APPROVING CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE ALIGNMENT OF THE RIO GRANDE
3 TRAIL.
4 WHEREAS, in 2018 the Rio Grande Trail (RGT) Commission approved the Rio
5 Grande State Trail Master Plan; and
6 WHEREAS, the master plan identifies 500 miles of recreational trail alignment
7 following the Rio Grande from Colorado to Texas (NMSA 1978, § 9-5C-1); and
8 WHEREAS, the Rio Grande Trail network is intended to include a continuous
9 primary alignment that follows the Rio Grande river as closely as possible; and
10 WHEREAS, the RGT Commission has authority to officially designate trail
11 segments and it is up to each land manager to approve the alignment through their
12 respective jurisdictions; and
13 WHEREAS, recreational trails contribute to tourism, health, and quality of life in
14 our local communities; and
15 WHEREAS, the Rio Grande Trail corridor includes four national wildlife refuges,
16 six national monuments, one national heritage area, and six state parks, touching
17 nearly 10 counties and more than 22 cities and towns; and
18 WHEREAS, within the City of Albuquerque, the preferred RGT alignment on
19 land follows the Paseo del Bosque Trail, an existing 16-mile multi-use trail facility
20 along the Rio Grande bosque in close proximity to the river; and
21 WHEREAS, the Paseo del Bosque Trail is uninterrupted by roadways and
22 traverses the Rio Grande Valley State Park, which is managed as Major Public
23 Open Space by the City Parks and Recreation Department; and
24 WHEREAS, the Paseo del Bosque trail has multiple parking and access points,
25 and provides easy access to major attractions such as Rio Grande Valley State
26 Park, Rio Grande Nature Center State Park, Candelaria Nature Preserve, the City

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1 of Albuquerque BioPark, Central Avenue/Route 66, the National Hispanic Cultural
2 Center, and Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge; and

3 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque plans to connect the Paseo del Bosque
4 Trail to the Rail Trail, which will include a nine-mile loop through downtown
5 Albuquerque; and

6 WHEREAS, Albuquerque has an outstanding multi-use trail system that serves
7 the community and is a destination that attracts trail users; and

8 WHEREAS, the designation and certification of the Rio Grande Trail alignment
9 through the City of Albuquerque will promote the visibility of the RGT and help
10 attract trail users and visitors to the RGT, and to the City and to the State of New
11 Mexico; and

12 WHEREAS, the Rio Grande Trail Commission, the State of New Mexico, and
13 the City of Albuquerque are collaborating on signage and other efforts that will
14 educate the public about the Rio Grande Trail.

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE
16 CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE:

17 Section 1. That the Paseo del Bosque Trail is perfectly suited to have an
18 overlay designation as the Rio Grande Trail segment through the City of
19 Albuquerque.

20 Section 2. The City Council hereby certifies the Rio Grande Trail alignment
21 along the Paseo del Bosque Trail through the incorporated City of Albuquerque,
22 within Bernalillo County, New Mexico.

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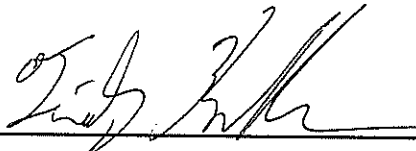
1 PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 3rd DAY OF April, 2024
2 BY A VOTE OF: 9 FOR 0 AGAINST.

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9 _____
10 Dan Lewis, President
11 City Council
12

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15 APPROVED THIS 12 DAY OF April, 2024
16

17
18 Bill No. R-24-18

19
20 

21 _____
22 Timothy M. Keller, Mayor
23 City of Albuquerque
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26 ATTEST:

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28 _____
29 Ethan Watson, City Clerk
30

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[-Bracketed/Strikethrough Material-] - Deletion

TRAIL SEGMENT DESIGNATION 3: CEBOLLA MESA, TAOS COUNTY





TRAIL SEGMENT DESIGNATION PROCESS & APPLICATION

RGT Segments: TS-01-D, Cebolla Mesa Trail

Date of Submittal: XX
Submittal to: XX

Approval Date (RGT Commission):

Applicant Information

Name/Title: Tami Torres, Recreation Program Manager at Carson National Forest

Email: tami.torres@usda.gov

Land owner / Land Manager (Check which applies)

If additional applicants:

Name/Title:

Land Owner / Land Manager (Check which applies)

Designation Type

Interim/ Full Designation (Check which applies)

(Note: Interim Designation is for proposed future trail segments; Full Designation is for existing/constructed trail segments.)

RGT Segment for Designation (for future identification purposes)

County	Jurisdiction	Segments	Existing Facility	Existing Facility Name	Miles	Application Type
Taos County	Carson National Forest	TS-01-D	Existing Shared Use Path	Cebolla Mesa Trail	1.26	Primary Trail Segment Designation

Location/Description

Please describe the boundaries, extent, and relative location of the trail segment and how it relates to



TRAIL SEGMENT DESIGNATION PROCESS & APPLICATION

RGT Segments: TS-01-D, Cebolla Mesa Trail

the Rio Grande Trail Corridor.

This Rio Grande Trail (RGT) Segment, (TS-01-D) slated for designation through Carson National Forest, is a winding multi use path with switchbacks traveling along the western slope of Cebolla Mesa connecting the Cebolla Mesa campground to Red River. This stretch of trail stops just before crossing the Red River into the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument, where a bridge connects this segment to more trails north; see **Attachment A**. This trail segment is located fully within the perimeter of Carson National Forest and within the corridor of the Rio Grande National Wild and Scenic River.

The trails connected to the north of this segment, beginning at segment TS-01-C in the Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument, are currently designated as Rio Grande Trail (RGT) Segments all the way to the Colorado border. Therefore, designating this segment (TS-01-D) would further lengthen the most continuous stretch of the RGT.

To the south of this trail segment is a proposed trail segment TS-01-E connecting through Carson National Forest to the Horsethief Mesa trail in the Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument. Ground-truthing is still necessary to identify a precise alignment for the segment TS-01-E.

This segment TS-01-D follows the alignment identified in the 2018 Rio Grande Trail Master Plan, the existing Cebolla Mesa trail, without exception.

RGT Vision

How does this segment support the vision of the Rio Grande Trail?

The Carson National Forest's Cebolla Mesa segment proposed for designation supports the vision of the Rio Grande Trail. The segment utilizes an existing trail that guides users through magnificent views from atop Cebolla Mesa down to an up-close hiking experience along the Rio Grande and Red River. This portion of the trail brings users to where the Red River and Rio Grande meet, contributing significantly to the environmental connection goals of the RGT.

Ownership



TRAIL SEGMENT DESIGNATION PROCESS & APPLICATION

RGT Segments: TS-01-D, Cebolla Mesa Trail

Is the segment in public ownership, or are necessary easements or agreements in place? If not, describe the plan for obtaining and/or managing trail right-of-way.

This segment TS-01-D is fully on existing trails managed by the Carson National Forest.

Public Support

Please indicate whether there has been any public outreach, and whether there are any groups, organizations, or individuals that have demonstrated support for this trail segment.

During the master planning process, the project team hosted multiple public meetings and provided other options to participate in the planning process. According to the mission of the Rio Grande Master Plan: *“Participants envision a Rio Grande Trail that fosters geographic connections between the natural environment and communities, provides outdoor recreational opportunities, and highlights the exhilarating natural beauty of the state.* The alignment through Cebolla Mesa will facilitate this mission.

This trail segment is an existing and popular trail. Recreational users consider this an excellent opportunity for viewing the Rio Grande and its adjacent wildlife, as well as opportunities for fly fishing and taking in breathtaking views.

Connectivity

Describe how this trail segment would provide continuity and/or connectivity within the overall Rio Grande Trail system.

The Cebolla Mesa trail segment is an important connection for guiding users across the Red River. The segment connects to the La Junta trail on the north side of Red River, travels briefly along the riverbank, and quickly brings users to the top of Cebolla Mesa. From the top of Cebolla Mesa, this segment then connects users to the proposed TS-01-E trail running further south on the East Rim, before connecting back to the West Rim by the John Dunn Bridge.

Accessibility

What level of access/accessibility is anticipated for the general public and different user groups?

This Cebolla Mesa Trail segment (TS-01-D) is located along an existing multi-use trail that is primarily for



TRAIL SEGMENT DESIGNATION PROCESS & APPLICATION

RGT Segments: TS-01-D, Cebolla Mesa Trail

hikers. Due to some obstacles in the path, steep slopes, and tight switchbacks, the segment is not ADA accessible.

Impact Studies

Have environmental impact studies and/or cultural surveys been conducted to understand the potential negative impacts of trail designation? How will impacts be addressed or mitigated? (Required for full designation, optional for interim designation)

As this Cebolla Mesa Trail segment (TS-01-D) is an existing trail managed by the Carson National Forest, all relevant environmental and cultural surveys have been conducted and managed by the Carson National Forest's office.

Capacity to Maintain

How will trail segment be maintained, and by whom?

Trail maintenance is provided by the existing maintenance work of Carson National Forest.

Public Safety

Indicate how public safety concerns will be addressed.

As this segment of trail (TS-01-D) is existing and under the jurisdiction of the National Forest Service (NFS), public safety is addressed through the agency's rules, orders, and regulations, as well as law enforcement- all integral parts of the overall management work conducted by the NFS. This portion of the Carson National Forest is overseen by the Questa Ranger District.

1. Additional Documentation

Please provide any supporting documentation that would help the Commission evaluate your request as a separate attachment.

- **Attachment A: Overview map.**

Attachment A: Rio Grande Trail Alignment Cebolla Mesa



TS-01-C

Rio Grande

TS-01-D

Cebolla Mesa
Campground

TS-01-E

CONTEXT MAP



LEGEND

- Rio Grande Trail Alignment
 - Designated
 - Undesignated
 - Proposed
- Surface Ownership
 - BLM
 - FS



**TRAIL SEGMENT DESIGNATION 4:
TURTLEBACK AVE (A005), TRUTH OR
CONSEQUENCES, SIERRA COUNTY**





TRAIL SEGMENT DESIGNATION PROCESS & APPLICATION

RGT Segment: SR-05-B

Date of Submittal: XX
Submittal to: XX

Approval Date (RGT Commission):

Applicant Information

Name/Title: OJ Hechler, Community Services Director
Name/Title:

Email:

Land owner / Land Manager (Check which applies)

If additional applicants:

Name/Title:

Email:

Land Owner / Land Manager (Check which applies)

Designation Type

Interim/ Full Designation (Check which applies)

(Note: Interim Designation is for proposed future trail segments; Full Designation is for existing/constructed trail segments.)

RGT Segment for Designation (for future identification purposes)

County	Jurisdiction	Segments	Existing Facility	Existing Facility Name	Miles	Application Type
Sierra	Sierra County	SR-05-B	Unpaved multi-use roadway.	Turtleback Ave	3.79	Primary Trail Segment Designation



TRAIL SEGMENT DESIGNATION PROCESS & APPLICATION

RGT Segment: SR-05-B

Location/Description

Please describe the boundaries, extent, and relative location of the trail segment and how it relates to the Rio Grande Trail Corridor.

The Rio Grande Trail alignment slated for designation through Sierra County includes this segment SR-05-B, which is 3.79 miles of Turtleback Avenue (Sierra County Road A005) opposite the main streets of Truth or Consequences, on the eastern side of the river; see Attachment A. This Turtleback Ave segment is already an asset to the outdoor recreation community in the area. Turtleback Ave is the access road for several informal but locally popular hiking trails that venture into the Caballo Mountains.

This segment slated for designation follows the alignment identified in the RGT Master Plan (2018) and the Turtleback Trails Network Concept Plan (2023).

RGT Vision

How does this segment support the vision of the Rio Grande Trail?

This Sierra County RGT segment slated for designation supports the vision of the Rio Grande Trail. The alignment uses existing infrastructure adjacent to the river. This segment, as its own hiking experience and as access to other opportunities, contributes to environmental awareness, healthy lifestyles, and spiritual growth.

Ownership

Is the segment in public ownership, or are necessary easements or agreements in place? If not, describe the plan for obtaining and/or managing trail right-of-way.

Segment SR-05-B is on an existing right of way managed by Sierra County.

Public Support

Please indicate whether there has been any public outreach, and whether there are any groups, organizations, or individuals that have demonstrated support for this trail segment.

During the RGT master planning process, the project team hosted several public meetings and other



TRAIL SEGMENT DESIGNATION PROCESS & APPLICATION

RGT Segment: SR-05-B

options to participate in the planning process. Two open houses in Southern New Mexico attracted 165 participants during the RGT Planning Process. According to the Rio Grande Master Plan, “Participants envision a Rio Grande Trail that fosters geographic connections between the natural environment and communities, provides outdoor recreational opportunities, and highlights the exhilarating natural beauty of the state.” The alignment through Sierra County will facilitate this vision.

Public support for this alignment was further expressed during the development of the Turtleback Trails Network Concept Plan. While COVID-19 limited opportunities to interact with the public, the Turtleback Trails Steering Committee engaged in non-contact interactions with the public, collecting written input from over 350 citizens.

Connectivity

Describe how this trail segment would provide continuity and/or connectivity within the overall Rio Grande Trail system.

The Sierra County trail alignment will connect Elephant Butte Lake State Park and the Truth or Consequences / Williamsburg area. It connects proposed trails on the southern end of Elephant Butte Lake State Park to the Turtleback Trail Network closer to the City. Further development of the Turtleback Trail Network Plan will build new bridges that add options for trail users from the West side of the river to access these trail segments on the East.

Accessibility

What level of access/accessibility is anticipated for the general public and different user groups?

Given the unpaved nature of this road, the loose materials do not provide sufficient surface integrity for many user groups.

Impact Studies

Have environmental impact studies and/or cultural surveys been conducted to understand the potential negative impacts of trail designation? How will impacts be addressed or mitigated? (Required for full designation, optional for interim designation)

For segment SR-05-B, the trail will travel along existing road facilities, so this requirement is not applicable. For future trail facilities, all required impact statements will be completed as required by the various land owners/managers during the design and development phase.



TRAIL SEGMENT DESIGNATION PROCESS & APPLICATION

RGT Segment: SR-05-B

Capacity to Maintain

How will trail segment be maintained, and by whom?

The Sierra County Road Department is responsible for maintaining 500 miles of designated roads within the county. This segment, which runs along Turtleback Ave (A005), has annually scheduled maintenance, according to the Sierra County Government Road Maintenance Schedule.

Public Safety

Indicate how public safety concerns will be addressed.

The City of Truth or Consequences is policing Turtleback Avenue within the city jurisdictions. For the segment of Turtleback Avenue east of City limits, within Elephant Butte Lake State Park, New Mexico State Parks rangers, New Mexico sheriffs, and New Mexico State Police officers have full authority to enforce laws and regulations.

1. Additional Documentation

Please provide any supporting documentation that would help the Commission evaluate your request as a separate attachment.

None