

Road to Northern Placitas <=> Loop Rd: I-25 to I-40

Crossing the Buffalo Strip



BACKGROUND:

The Road to Northern Placitas is a highway pre-cursor found in the Sandoval County Annual Development Report of 2007. This was found yet again in their current 5 year plan (2013-2018).

Sandoval County requested the BLM for a right-of-way (ROW) in 2008, specifically for a highway precursor and WHOA gained proof of this. However, the BLM illegally denied receiving this request in 2009, only to later admit that yes, the request was made in a “confidential comment” by the Sandoval County Development Director Michael Springfield. WHOA later gained proof that the BLM had received this “confidential” comment which contained the right-of-way (ROW) request for a road to northern Placitas, a highway precursor.

Sandoval County has now illegally denied further open record requests. They state that the “DEVELOPER”, whom they refuse to name, and who was working on all the COUNTY DOCUMENTS which WHOA had requested, went out of business. The County wrote a non-binding resolution against the highway, but refused to include the highway pre-cursor in the resolution. They also refused to provide documentation requested on the “closed” meeting for eminent domain planning (private land takings). Michael Springfield stated in 2008 that the County was given right-of-way through the Baca/WAYCOR Mining property at the Algodones I-25 exit. While Placitans were sleeping, the WAYCOR MINING operation on the Baca Lands had already completely flattened the ridges there, making the BLM easily accessible from I-25. Sandoval County may or may not be actually against mining, but they are FOR a highway.

TIMELINE: I-40 Bypass thru Placitas (Loop Rd)

(A Road to Northern Placitas => Highway Precursor)

2001 NM Dept. of Transportation (NMDOT) Plans 20,000 trips/day thru the Placitas BLM.

2008 March—WHOA discovers Sandoval County (SC) 2007 Loop Rd Plans & blows whistle.

2008 SC writes formal request for a Right-of-Way (ROW) thru BLM for Loop Rd Precursor.
WHOA blows the whistle, BLM denies receipt, states that SC Development Director Michael Springfield comment is “confidential”. WHOA then gains this comment and proof of BLM’s receipt of the Sandoval County ROW request.

2008 WHOA discovers Sandoval County obtained a Right-of-Way from Mr. Baca for the Loop Rd from I-25, at the Algodones Exit, to BLM per SC Development Director Michael Springfield.

2009 Sandoval County Placitas Area Plan (page 65) states that “virtually all participants” are overwhelmingly in opposition to a opposed to a Loop Rd through Placitas” .. However SC “cannot forever close the opportunity . . .based on future needs . . . in other parts of the county”

2010 Under constant pressure from WHOA, Sandoval County published a Non-Binding LOOK Good Resolution, feigning to be against the Loop Rd. SC however refused to include a resolution against the planned highway pre-cursor, which they had specifically asked of the BLM in their Right-of-Way request. SC moved WHOA to the end of Commission meeting, so that Placitans would not hear this and other related issues.

2014 WHOA donor sponsored Independent Poll of Placitans showed 87% of Placitans are Opposed to the Highway, also known as the Loop Rd, or I40 bypass.

2015 WHOA obtains Sandoval County 2013-2018 FIVE YEAR PLAN after SC denied WHOA open record request—SC CAUGHT! Loop Road Planning AGAIN!

2015 Sandoval County denies yet another open records request. But, very quickly admits that a Developer had been working on the Loop Rd COUNTY Documents which WHOA specifically requested. SC refuses to name the Developer and “states” that the Developer now went out of business. Will ANY excuse do? SC also denied the request for the closed meeting agenda required for eminent domain planning.

2016 The Right-of-Way (ROW) from I-25 to the BLM has been made road ready. It has been cleared of ridges and canyons by WAYCOR’s mining operation there. The owner of this property and the man who granted this section of ROW to SC is ALSO on the Coronado Soil and Water Conservation District.

2016 Buffalo Strip is Highway-READY for Out-of-State DEVELOPERS !!

Placitas remains OVERWHELMINGLY UNITED for the horses at 85.7% and against this highway at 87%, as proven by an independent poll commissioned by WHOA and paid for by Placitans in 2014.

However, one of the OUT-OF-STATE DEVELOPERS, who has already subdivided their property and is in close proximity to the BLM, has “discreetly” worked the back rooms to divide wild horse advocates. Standard moves, easily seen & exposed.

Teams that “represent Placitans” ignore this issue.

NO NEED FOR ROAD TO NORTHERN PLACITAS: FIRECHIEF BUD BRINKERHOFF Letter: Excerpt July 23rd 2008

“I am currently the Fire Chief for the Placitas Volunteer Fire Brigade. I have held this position for over 3 years and have been an officer for the Brigade for several years prior to that. . . .

Our Fire Department provides fire and rescue operations for the greater Placitas area. We also provide primary response to the Sandia Pueblo and mutual aid to Bernalillo, Algodones and surrounding areas. . .

As the Placitas region grows it is conceivable that the traffic flow requirements of Hwy. 165 may necessitate the widening of that road to a 4 lane, similar to that on Hwy. 550.

The Fire Department has NOT identified the need for another road system either to the north or east of Placitas Village to be necessary for us to provide adequate fire and rescue service to the Placitas region.”

Chief Bud Brinkerhoff
Placitas Volunteer Fire Brigade

All TILES in this edition are snapshots from the beautiful Community Mosaic Mural, “Protect Our Wildlife Corridors”, designed by Laura Robbins & Cirrelda Snider-Brian at Foothill Studio. Hundreds of Placitans participated in their creation. The amazing murals are located at the entrance of Placitas along NM165, on the walls of the recycling center.

