

Turquoise Trail Corridor Management Plan Version 1.0

3.0 Public Participation Plan



Stakeholders at work at a Scenic Byway Advisory Council Meeting

From the beginning of the scenic byway projects, the Turquoise Trail Association (TTA), a NM nonprofit corporation with a 501(c)(6) exemption, has been interested and concerned about gaining input from the public and grassroots organizations about the Turquoise Trail Scenic Byway. Even though the TTA does not have power or authority to regulate or enforce public participation, it has made many attempts to provide the public with information about the corridor management planning process, and opportunities for people to give their input. The biggest obstacle the Association has tried to overcome is resident apathy. Following is a list of implemented activities aimed at increasing public participation:

- Monthly public SBAC meetings;
 - Developed two questionnaires, one long, one short;
 - Attended several events where Turquoise Trail scenic byway stakeholders were in attendance to get questionnaires completed;
 - Mailed short questionnaires with scenic byway newsletter;
 - Personally administered long questionnaires with byway stakeholders;
 - Mailed long questionnaires to presidents of critical stakeholder groups;
 - Paid for advertising in local newspapers announcing meetings;
 - Built web site for public input; and
 - Placed questionnaire on web site.
- Copies of questionnaires are located in Appendix B.

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The Turquoise Trail Scenic Byway is one of several scenic byway projects in the state of New Mexico that are administered by a private organization. We expect that more public interest will occur when there are actual visible projects implemented. Typically, until the public “sees” what is happening their awareness and consciousness are not raised.

The TTA understands that local government officials need to recognize that this group has the credibility of representing the public’s viewpoints. The groups listed below represent some of the stakeholders of the byway.

3.1 EXISTING PARTICIPATION

The Turquoise Trail Association has taken the lead in planning and implementing scenic byway projects, but has made concerted efforts to develop partnerships with the following organizations:

- United States Forest Service - Cibola National Forest, Sandia Ranger District
- East Mountain Chamber of Commerce
- East Mountain Legal Defense Fund
- Sierra Vista Homeowner’s Association
- East Mountain Historic Society
- Madrid Historic Society
- Madrid Landowners Association
- Sandia Peak Ski Area and Tramway
- Archeology Conservancy District
- Bernalillo County
- Sandoval County
- Santa Fe County
- Village of Tijeras

Several individuals and organizations have taken the opportunity to give the scenic byway advisory council input through questionnaires. The council reviewed all questionnaires and included comments and suggestions in the plan where appropriate. There are approximately 10,000 people living on or near the byway.

3.2 ONGOING PARTICIPATION

The SBAC will continue to ask for public comment and update the corridor management plan accordingly, as it is a living document.

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3.3 PROJECT APPROVAL POLICY

- Any group interested in the Turquoise Trail Scenic Byway may submit a project to the Council for approval.
- All projects must be reviewed and approved by the TT Scenic Byway Advisory Council. This can be accomplished at a regular or special meeting, in person or by any other oral or written means of communication. Decision must be recorded in Council minutes.
- The SBAC should review projects to see whether they comply with the corridor management plan.
- The SBAC shall rank and prioritize projects.
- Project must be approved by a quorum of the Council which is five members.

This policy was formally approved at the SBAC meeting October 20, 1999.

3.4 PARTICIPATION GOALS

- A. Ensure that public officials believe that the TTA SBAC represents beliefs and opinions of the stakeholders of the Turquoise Trail Scenic Byway.
- B. Acquire greater diversity and expertise in the SBAC.

3.5 PARTICIPATION OBJECTIVES

- A. Continue to increase awareness of the Turquoise Trail Scenic Byway by one new group or organization each month.
- B. Develop a list of needed expertise and diversity and update as required.

3.6 PARTICIPATION OBJECTIVES

- A1. Continue to meet one on one with stakeholders.
- A2. Continue to develop and publish press releases.
- A3. Involve local government staff in byway activities. Invite them to all meetings, and include them on mailing lists.
- B1. SBAC should discuss expertise and diversity at monthly meetings.
- B2. SBAC members can provide names and contact information for people who should be invited to participate.
- B3. Staff or SBAC members should make individual contacts with these people to invite them to participate.