

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 7/22/2026

TO: Eric Peterson, Open Space Specialist

FROM: Ciaran Lithgow, AICP & Tyler Smith, PE

SUBJECT: Mesa Trail Rehabilitation Parks & Recreation Board Presentation Summary

COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSION SUMMARY

On July 9th, 2026 at 5:30pm, Los Alamos County hosted a Parks & Recreation Board Meeting. The meeting was offered hybrid in-person (at the Los Alamos County Municipal Building) and online (Zoom). Eric Peterson, Open Space Specialist at the County, and Ciaran Lithgow, Planner from Bohannon Huston, presented the Mesa Trail Rehabilitation project to the Board in-person, and answered Board member questions, with support from BHI Engineer Tyler Smith (online).

The presentation provided a comprehensive overview of the project to date, including input received during the previous two Listening Sessions held in March 2026 and June 2026. After an overview of the project scope and community feedback received, the study team presented the detailed project information, including switchback alignment; fencing/guardrail selection; surfacing selection; and anticipated timelines for design completion, bidding, and construction. At the end of the presentation, Board members asked questions and made comments. The general question and responses from the design team are summarized below:

- **Tie-ins to adjacent trails.** Board members wanted to understand whether non-paved trail connections would be preserved.
 - BHI noted that the connections to adjacent trails would be preserved but no wayfinding is anticipated as a part of the project.
- **Location of Guardrails.** Board members were interested in understanding the placement of guardrails and whether it would be along the entire length of the trail, or in specific spots.
 - BHI noted that the guardrail will replace existing wooden fencing. Additional guardrail will be added to a few additional spots along the canyon where steep drop-offs present a safety concern. Fencing will not be along the entire length of the trail.
- **Surfacing feedback.** Board members sought to better understand the specific concerns that community members had about surfacing, especially about the decision to move away from crusher-fine and how the asphalt decision was received at the second meeting.
 - BHI noted that the attendee who was particularly vocal about crusher-fine gravel surfacing in the first Listening Session did not attend the second Listening Session, but that a new attendee at the Second Listening Session noted she liked asphalt for running.
- **ADA Accessibility.** Board members expressed support for improved accessibility, especially given its adjacency to an Assisted Living Facility.

The presentation is included as Appendix A.

APPENDIX A – PRESENTATION

The full presentation is included as a PDF on the following pages.