



Incorporated County of Los Alamos
Public Works Department
Capital Projects & Facilities Division

Public Information and Involvement Plan
(PIIP)

Planning and public outreach for a shade structure at Los Alamos Ice Rink

Date: 11/01/2024

PIIP Revision #: 1

Project Manager: Miguel Jimenez

County Engineer: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Department Director: Juan Rael, Public Works Director

PIO Assigned: Louise Romero

PIIP Phase: Conceptual Design Construction

1. Project Purpose and Scope:

The ultimate objective of this project is to build a shade structure at the Los Alamos Ice Rink. This shade structure will serve the following purposes: 1) Protect the ice sheet from the solar radiation that deteriorates the quality of skating, 2) Protect users from the intense solar radiation prevailing during the spring and summer seasons. Another potential benefit of building a shade structure is the possible reduction in the amount of electric energy consumed to make and maintain ice at the ice rink.

The scope of the planning a public outreach phase of this project is to research, prepare, and evaluate alternatives (including no build option) for ice rink shade structures to engage the public, Parks and Recreation Board, and County Council for selection of a preferred option and funding consideration.

2. Does this project support any of the Council's Strategic Goals? If so, which goal(s) apply?

Yes, this project support the five (5) Strategic Goals adopted by Council on February 7, 2023. The priorities specifically supported by this project are listed below.

- Quality of life: Maintain and improve open spaces, recreation facilities, and amenities. Improve access to physical health and social amenities.
- Environmental Stewardship: Greenhouse Gas Reduction, and Water Conservation
- Economic vitality: Enhance amenities to support the local business economy.
- Quality governance: Inform, educate, and engage community on County projects. Promote a culture of open communication, collaboration, and foster exceptional customer service.
- Operational excellence: Maintain and protect County's assets.

3. Is this an approved CIP?

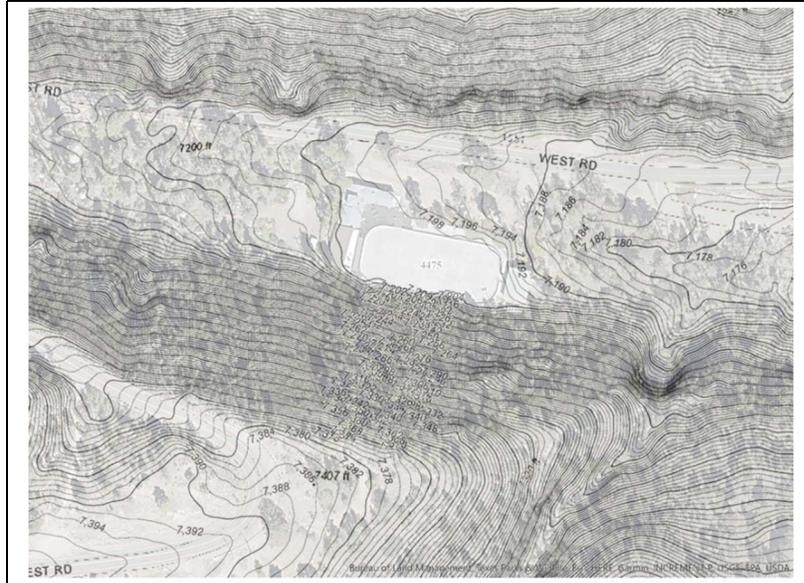
Yes. CP7021 Ice Rink Flooring and Shade Structure (Chiller)

4. What is the project location? Describe or supply a map.

Los Alamos Ice Rink, 4475 W Rd, Los Alamos, NM 87544.

The Los Alamos ice rink is a high altitude uncovered outdoor ice rink located at the bottom of Los Alamos Canyon on 4475 West Rd on a 2.36-acre parcel. The location coordinates are 35° 52' 48" N and 106° 19' 33" W at an elevation of 7200 ft. As shown in the aerial views below, West Rd. is on the North side of the ice rink. The main building and the locker room buildings are located on the West end of the ice rink. The mechanical room and Zamboni storage are located inside the building on the East end of the ice rink. The elevation contours show that the canyon wall adjacent to the South side of the ice rink has a rapid altitude gain of 184 feet.





5. Who is your audience – who are you talking to?

1) Los Alamos Hockey Association, 2) Roller Derby Community, 3) County residents, 4) Open space advocates, 5) Adult Hockey users, 6) Parks and Recreation Board, 7) Other ice rink users, 8) LANL Utilities and Infrastructure.

6. Explain the steps for accomplishing the project and provide estimated timeframes for each step.

- November 2024 to February 2025: Planning and Public Outreach phase.
- February to March 2025: Shade structure options and estimated construction costs presented to Council for selection of a preferred option and funding consideration.
- April 2025: Approval of project budget during County Budget Hearings.
- May to August 2025: Advertisement of public solicitation and evaluation proposals. Alternatively, design development, preparation of bid documents, evaluation of bids.
- September 2025 to January 2026: Contracting for construction of floor replacement and shade structure.
- Beginning of construction. This time depends on the schedules proposed in the contractor bids or proposals.

7. Does this project relate to projects in progress or in the future?

Yes, this project is related to two other aimed to replace the aging ice making systems. Namely, 1) The County is currently under contract to replace the chiller system, scheduled to arrive on site on April 2025, and to start making ice by October 2025. 2) The programmed replacement of the refrigerated ice rink floor in 2026 and commencement of design in 2025. In addition to these projects, the County has programmed a project to improve the parking lot located on the west side of the Ice Rink parcel in 2026.

8. Project start and completion dates:

Tentative start for the Planning and Public Outreach phase is late November 2024.

9. Project cost and funding source:

This is a CIP project with a budget of \$2,735,717.30 as indicated in the adopted budget for FY 2025. One of the objectives of the Planning and Public Outreach phase is to establish shade structure options, preliminary cost estimates, and additional budget required.

10. Is the intent to inform , educate , and/or involve ?

All three, inform, educate and engage the public in the shade structure selection process.

11. Describe the issues the public may have regarding the project:

- a. **Design team credentials:** The perception that the design team and County staff do not have the credentials to take on this project.
- b. **Environmental impact:** Concerns related to the impact of construction on local wildlife habitats, and overall environmental degradation.
- c. **Aesthetic concerns:** Residents might have concerns with the design and appearance of the shade structure, fearing it will not harmonize with the ice rink surroundings.
- d. **Loss of open space:** The perception that access to open spaces will be reduced or lost to make space for the shade structure.
- e. **Loss of skating season:** The perception that construction timeline will interfere with the activities of the user groups.
- f. **Cost and budget impact:** The cost of construction and perceived impact on County budget, especially if the public believes that there are more pressing needs to address at the County.
- g. **Noise and traffic:** Loud noise from construction affecting neighboring households and the possibility of traffic disruptions for drivers using West Rd on a regular basis.

12. Constraints on the project (regarding public information), such as critical timeframes, other.

The County has programmed the replacement of the aging refrigerated ice rink floor in 2026 with commencement of design in 2025. This programming offers a timely opportunity to re-assess the possibility of adding a shade structure designed to seamlessly integrate with the ice rink floor. Programming for the design and construction of a shade structure in 2025 and 2026 requires that the planning and public outreach phase of this project is completed by the end of February 2025. In this manner, staff can present shade structure options and cost estimates for Council consideration before the FY26 budget hearings.

13. Will you be holding a public meeting/open house to solicit input or inform the public of a project?

Yes. The planning and public outreach of this project has included at least 3 public meetings.

	Meeting scope	Meeting type	Audience	Consultant role
1	Listening session	In person	LA Hockey Assn. LA Roller Derby Public in general	Lead the meeting Collect input from the public
2	Informative session	In person	Parks and Recreation Board	Present results from the Listening sessions and shade structure alternatives.
3	Informative session	In-person	County Council	Present results from listening sessions, shade structure alternatives, and survey results

The dates and times for this meeting will be scheduled in coordination with the County Public Relations Office, the Community Services Department, and the Design Professional assisting the planning and public outreach phase.

14. Is public comment limited to this meeting? Will you allow the public to provide written comments for a period after the meeting? What will you do with the comments?

In addition to Public meetings, staff will open an online survey during the Listening session (first public meeting). This survey will remain open until the day after the Informative session (second public meeting). Comments addressed to the Project Manager via email will also be welcome during the duration of the survey period.

15. Estimated PIIP Budget? \$3,000.00

16. What is the detailed plan for the PIIP?

See Item 13 for public meetings information.

In addition to the public meetings, the following communications will be utilized as part of the PIIP:

- A press release will be issued to announce the time and location for the public meetings.
- An add on the LA Dily Post announcing the time and location of the public meetings.
- A project page on the Public Works website informing on project progress.
- Flyers with information about public meetings will be distributed at the ice rink front desk to skaters.