

## PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF *DE MINIMIS* SECTION 4(f) DETERMINATION

for

### Lincoln Avenue Extension from NM 347/Paseo del Volcan to Adams Road

The City of Rio Rancho, in cooperation with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), is proposing to extend Lincoln Avenue from Adams Road to connect to NM 347 (Paseo del Volcan). The purpose of the Lincoln Avenue Extension Project is to provide connectivity between Paseo del Volcan and Enchanted Hills and improved access to the Rio Rancho SportsPlex North from two directions. The project would also provide bicycle and pedestrian connectivity and access roads for parcels that currently front Lincoln Avenue and would have access restricted following construction of the minor arterial.

Section 4(f) of the Department Of Transportation Act of 1966 (Section 4[f]) stipulates that the FHWA cannot approve the use of land from publicly owned parks, recreational areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, or public and private historical sites to incorporate into a transportation facility unless the following conditions apply:

- There is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of land.
- The action includes all possible planning to minimize harm to the property resulting from use.

OR

- The project has only a *de minimis* (minimal) impact on lands subject to Section 4(f). Once the FHWA determines that a transportation use of Section 4(f) property results in a *de minimis* (minimal) impact and the official with jurisdiction over the Section 4(f) property agrees, analysis of avoidance alternatives are not required and the Section 4(f) evaluation process is complete.

The Rio Rancho SportsPlex North (SportsPlex), located on Lincoln Avenue, is a publicly-owned facility with two baseball fields that are heavily programmed for little league from March through December. While its use is programmed for the majority of the time, the SportsPlex is open to the public, and thus, is a Section 4(f) property.

Within the SportsPlex property boundaries, a linear swath up to 12 feet wide along approximately 1,340 feet of the property's southern boundary (north side of Lincoln Avenue) would be permanently incorporated into the transportation right-of-way for construction of a multi-use trail and roadside drainage. The SportsPlex is 46.92 acres and the total area of permanent easement required from the SportsPlex is 0.20 acres. There would also be a temporary use of approximately 0.21 acres for cut and fill tie slopes along Lincoln Avenue. Figure 1 illustrates the temporary and permanent impacts to the SportsPlex property.

Both the temporary use and permanent easements are located outside the existing SportsPlex fence line and landscaped areas, would not impact the function or features of the SportsPlex as a publicly-owned recreational area, and would improve bicycle and pedestrian access to the SportsPlex. The SportsPlex would remain open during construction and access to parking areas would be maintained.

The City of Rio Rancho is the official with jurisdiction over this Section 4(f) property. As the official with jurisdiction, Section 4(f) requires that the City Manager concur in writing that the Lincoln Avenue Extension Section 4(f) use of the SportsPlex property will result in a *de minimis* (minimal) impact because the impact will not adversely affect the features, attributes, or activities that qualify these properties for protection under Section 4(f).

Section 4(f) requires that the FHWA issue a public notice and provide an opportunity for public review and comment concerning the effects on the protected activities, features, or attributes of the Section 4(f) properties. This public notice intends to serve that purpose. If you have any comments, questions, or need any additional information, please contact Kelly Sims at 505-830-8845 or by e-mail at: [kelly.sims@hdrinc.com](mailto:kelly.sims@hdrinc.com). Please provide comments by June 6, 2019.



City of Rio Rancho  
Lincoln Avenue Extension – Paseo Del Volcan to Adams Lane  
CN A301141

Figure 1: Section 4(f) Impacts

