

John Avila
Village Administrator
Village of Taos Ski Valley Council
Monthly Briefing
January 25, 2022



*** Ongoing & Past Projects ***

COVID -19 - Pandemic Emergency:

In Taos County:

Do what you can to ease the strain on our hospitals by following and encouraging others to follow COVID safe practices. Mobility data indicates we have returned to pre-pandemic habits and in December, New Mexico was 3rd in the nation for case rate despite our high vaccination rates.

December was headed for the second highest for Covid-19 admissions at Holy Cross Medical Center. The record month for HCMC admissions was November 2020, when HCMC admitted 52 Covid-19 patients and case counts were over thirty per day in Taos County. The staff at HCMC continue to do our community proud but need us to know how challenging the situation is there, and adjust our behavior with this in mind.

The Taos Covid Medical Taskforce is working with the Town of Taos to get the message out to the community that we need to protect our medical staff and resources by using rapid testing before large gatherings to prevent transmission. Also, getting vaccinated and boosted to protect against severe illness, breakthrough, and Omicron. Another source of concern is the rapid spread of the Omicron variant throughout the United States

Cases appear to have just peaked nationally, meantime they continue to increase in Taos County and New Mexico. LANL is **forecasting cases to peak in New Mexico around January 30 at 7.5K per day**. This would be consistent with the timeline of the Omicron wave in other states which have seen a four week surge to peak.

Hospitalizations are increasing in New Mexico, but more slowly than cases. LANL is forecasting concurrent **hospitalizations to peak on February 6** at around 1,200. That's about 33% higher than the November/December 2020 peak.

If you are interested in LANL's Covid modeling for New Mexico, you can view the most recent report here: https://cvmodeling.nmhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2022/01/LANL-COVID_ModelingResults_1.18.2022Final.pdf

Summary of Town of Taos Update:

- Nationally, cases were up 1% in the last week, 75% in New Mexico, and 62% in Taos County.
- The 7-day average daily case count in New Mexico increased to 5,557 cases per day from 3,168 last week. The highest of the pandemic to date.
- Current hospitalizations in NM increased 11%, the 7-day average is 597. The record stands at 932 on Dec 7, 2020.
- Average deaths per day in NM decreased to 19 per day from 21 per day the prior week.
- There were a record 415 new cases in Taos County last week, up from 256 the prior week bringing the total to 4,054.

- There were no additional deaths reported among Taos County residents last week. The total remains at 75.
- Testing in Taos County increased to a 7-day average of 323 tests per day, up from 223 last week.
- Taos County's crude positivity rate is 17.5% (14-day avg). The crude daily case count is 45 cases per day (14-day avg), above the old gating target of 3.28.
- Taos County's adult fully vaccinated rate is 88%. 39% of New Mexican adults have received a booster shot.

On January 13, 2022, the United States Supreme Court granted emergency relief to the petitions of numerous states, businesses, and non-governmental organizations by staying the implementation and enforcement of the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration's ("OSHA") COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard ("ETS"). Under the original ETS, private employers with 100 or more employees were required to implement a mandatory vaccination or weekly testing/face covering policy, which constituted a drastic change in policy for many employers and contradicted many state requirements

Some businesses in the Village require testing of employees, or proof of vaccination. They plan to reinstate daily employee screening but will not be tracking employee locations when working away from the Ski Valley. On site testing availability for employees is a cost that is expected to have a higher benefit for employees. Employers and staff are encouraged to get weekly testing Tuesdays in the Taos Tent. Sign in the Curative profile ahead of time.

Symptomatic employees Should be directed to Mogul Medical for Rapid Ag testing for employees WITH Covid symptoms. Rapid testing is not appropriate for asymptomatic people - it is best to get a Rapid test after 24 hours and up to 5 days of symptoms. Call Mogul at (575)776-8421 to let them know you need testing. Walk-ins will be taken, but urgent care cases have priority.

Village Offices are following the NM Department of Health Order and are still OPEN for visitors and operations 9AM -4PM M-F under mask and hygiene restrictions. These are to be evaluated with each DOH amendment. Office staff can still request Work at Home, with a work accountability requirement.

WWTP

To meet the needs for system expansion the Waste Water Treatment Plant is designed to process additional peak flows protecting the water conditions of the area. In order to increase capacity needed within limited space and funding, a mechanical system was selected by Village for the Waste Water System RFP. This system is designed to be more productive but requires more technical care. The continued corrections to the plant are required of the manufacturer, Ovivo. The design engineer must review and comment on outstanding issues with Ovivo before final plant completion can be accepted. The ongoing work for the Waste Water Treatment Plant included corrections for optimized efficiency of the Ovivo System. The Integrated Water Systems engineers and technicians are in contact to address system operations issues including monitoring programs, ceramic performance, improving the ultraviolet treatment and plumbing corrections. A letter addressing issues including monitoring programs, ceramic performance, improving the ultraviolet treatment and plumbing corrections was delivered to Ovivo to address bond requirements and we met with them, they said they would cooperate and conduct the tests required by their contract then did not. Testing had to proceed during the Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year periods and will require further testing through the season. This lack of cooperation and performance requires that we notify Ovivo that we will be enforcing the bond for correction of the issues. A temporary plant supports the system until corrected.

Kachina Water Booster Station

Until the permanent Water Booster Station is built, the temporary pump station upgrades allow for remote automatic operation between the pumps and tank equipment. The temporary pump station is operational and can receive remote commands through the fiber installation. The temporary pump station has a limited useful life but will suffice until the permanent Kachina Water Booster Station is constructed for service of the Kachina Water Tank. Water Distribution lines from the Kachina Tank will also need to be constructed and are a priority project. Recent funding documents were received signed from the Secretary to proceed with NOA.

Ensuring that the water delivery is optimum, Public Works has reviewed the onsite status of operating systems for the Kachin Tank including water delivery. The project will not be accepted as final until conditions to correct segregation valves are met. Because of recent product lead times and season demands, the correction is unlikely before next spring.

Village Complex

The office assignment of the Police Department replaced the 20year assignment to a construction trailer with unfortunate air conditioning in the winter. The Village Offices at the "Taos Mountain Lodge" location are housed in separate units. A double driveway is needed to improve traffic flow and parking at the site. The Building Inspector, Police and Fire Administration Offices are currently housed in Village units. The use of the units as office space and EMS bunking has reduced the average cost per unit of sewage pumping and utility use.

Housing the Fire Administrative Office on site allows the Main Fire Station to have overnight bunking near the equipment for other emergency staff. Application for a grant for an Administration Office is approved by the Office of the State Fire Marshal and awarded starting Fiscal Year 2022. The state office agrees that the advantages of having an Office for Fire/EMS Administration located on site are value for the firefighting effort.

The Village is required to man the Administration office with at least two part time paid staff. Although having other duties the staff must gain certification as a Fire Investigator and a Fire Inspector.

Beyond being able to inspect buildings for compliance and investigate fire emergencies the increased staff are available to respond to fires and other emergency calls.

There is increased interest among employees for housing at the Village Complex but the operation is an enterprise fund and must produce enough revenue to cover expenses.

Preparation for an indoor option for mail boxes was recently completed in the Old Office Building for consideration by the USPS but was not accepted.

Plan of Finance

The Village Financial Advisor, Stiffel created a Plan of Finance model. The rescheduled Work Study for review of the POF was held January 10, 2022 and the final report will include Q&A from the public. At the project meeting with Stiffel in August, TSVI was invited to review the information to date and share data. Stiffel and TSVI met and TSVI information about capital expenditure, property tax, GRT allotment and expected growth trends.

The model should allow for different assumptions to be input for testing by allowing changes in financial information and project plans. In order to plan our financing of needed projects we should be confident in resources for the public facilities and infrastructure to provide the expected level of service. Some questions are still unanswered regarding possible sources of funds and unexamined costs. New revenues from cannabis sales, predictable development fees and charges for accessing public facilities are not formalized but assumptions are included for a basis of analysis.

The Impact/Development Fee process is statutorily created to help fund expansion of systems and facilities and the burden is not transferred solely to the tax/rate payer. Knowing the level of development fee support will assist in the creation of the POF. **AGENDA ITEM**

In order to get the best picture, the POF should take into account all variables. Audit of the Village financial status is important to assumptions for POF. The Village water and sewer enterprise funds are increasingly subsidized by the General Fund. When using general fund dollars in an enterprise fund, it is advisable that the transaction be a loan with a prescribed repayment schedule.

The **Capital Improvement Plan** is a statutory requirement for creating Development Impact Fees and includes the Critical Infrastructure Facilities that are needed for increased service level to support the investment of Property Developers. The Impact Fee/Development Fee is the charge all Developers pay for that portion of the cost for those facilities that reflects their fair share of the increased impact of development.

The **Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan** is the list of projects that all public entities in New Mexico are required to submit to the State system in order to be considered eligible for funding managed by the State. Projects that are on the CIP may also be listed on the ICIP so that if a grant is obtained the overall cost of projects and the cost to the Developers is reduced. That entry is due mid-September.

Legislative Priorities are asked for in the legislative process to focus on providing legislative capital outlay for a focused selection of projects throughout the state. Municipalities are asked to pass a resolution before the calendar year end identifying their top legislative priority. The request for project funding includes not only priorities but also other infrastructure projects. Some Village projects are included in the "Green Corridor" Clean Energy Transportation and Recreation Corridor request.

TIDD –

Entry Road development by Taos Ski Valley Inc. has been presented to the Village at the Council Work Shop 4/13 and questions and comments are provided to TSVI for their application to US Forest Service permit. The Village gave support to the US Forest Service Master Development Plan submission resolution.

Construction is completed and landscaping along the project for Thunderbird/Ernie Blake Roads projects is ongoing. Public Safety signage is pending construction of signs.

Compiling detailed financial documents for Strawberry Hill projects assists inspection for dedication being reviewed. Assignment of costs without, contract and invoice backup, requires more time for review. Contemporaneous review and documentation of the projects within the Village was lacking and now requires the development and review of project documentation for the record of assets and fiduciary responsibility of the TIDD. Questions have come up that the TIDD Board can review and rule upon, or ask the Developer for more specific back up.

The Tax Increment Development District is the mechanism that certain economic development investments by the designated developer (TSVI) are to be funded by tax revenues from the Village, County and the State. The tax is charged in most areas of the Village for project funding and correction for the misdirected payments is now addressed immediately. TIDD is a separate political subdivision of the state responsible for the Tax Increment Funds Bond and oversight of those taxpayer dollars.

Items

- **USPS**

Status of TSV Post Office; After learning of the evolving status of the TSV PO a Village Work Study was held on 10/12/21, Mayor Brownell sent a request to USPS Regional Manger, Ross Pfaff for continuation of a Contract Postal Unit. We have heard that the request was not considered and installation of Community Mail Boxes are to be installed. Notice of the termination to PO Box delivery was sent to Taos Ski Valley Box Holders on December 6 2021.

The Chamber is temporarily opening a visitor center 1/14/22 in the existing post office location with the goal for hours to be 10am-2pm Monday-Friday. Bear with the Chamber as they step up to staff these hours

The Chamber is awaiting a contract from USPS to TSVI to take over insurance, indemnity and fiscal responsibility for the minimized post office duties of a VPO (Village Post Office) while the Chamber will staff the visitor center and sell stamps.

The USPS holds the contract with Tony Vigil to continue mail service. TSV Chamber will not have access to PO Boxes nor any responsibility for mail boxes, keys, sorting, or collecting mail.

Once a contract is final, the Chamber can inform us better on what the Chamber will be allowed to service. Right now, all mailboxes are staying in place and all mail to be delivered daily by Tony, same as usual. With the locks changed by the USPS the Chamber hopes to move in and give you access to your mail M-F 10am-2pm.

- **NCRTD Service**

The Town of Taos and the County have indicated that they will keep their contribution to the NCRTD budget for next season. Village received notice from NCRTD that the termination of the Winter Service agreement. The Village had asked if delay in the decision is possible but the NCRTD has been unable to staff the service.

- **Facility Undergrounding**

The joint trench installation of underground electricity with gas line expansion from Coyote – Phoenix is delayed by shortages in qualified operators. Initial coordination of the VTSV, KCEC and NM Gas allowed a plan for a joint trench installation for both electricity and gas lines on Coyote, Chipmunk and 500 ft. of Phoenix. This project will eventually allow for several sections of overhead electrical line to be installed to underground as well as bring the NM gas facilities near properties along the route. Joint trenching can be used to install NM Gas along Twinning with customers paying as connections are made.

Kit Carson Electric Cooperative is awaiting an answer after again submitting application with NMDOT for access on the south side of the highway. We don't have a report of progress with NMDOT. KCEC The work to obtain permission to underground in some locations due to US Forest Service property continues for the north side of NM 150.

Once the underground service is available near a property, the steps to connecting underground are:
The Owner to engage a contract electrician for work on their property,
Then together contact Kit Carson Electrical Cooperative with the meter number and request an *upgrade to an underground service*, **KCEC** and the electrician will contact the Village for underground permitting and start credit request for public Right of Way work,
Proceed with underground work and connect to the underground service,
Make the credit application for the portion of work done in the public ROW. If the property is undeveloped, the request is for a new service.

Additional underground installation is being accomplished with the TIDD Entryway projects in the parking lot, near Thunderbird Road and Firehouse Lane. These are predicted to allow removal of some overhead poles on Twinning Road. An underground connection for the Vehicle Maintenance Facility along with the Waste Water Treatment plant will allow removal of more overhead lines on NM150.

CLEAN ENERGY TRANSPORTATION / RECREATION CORRIDOR

Draft - January 20, 2022

Project Name	Owner / Operator	COSTS (in \$ Millions) *					TIMELINE					
		Private Funding	Special Funding Source	Special Funding	State ARPA Funding	State Capital Outlay	Total Project Costs	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Clean Energy Transportation												
EV Buses	NCRTD	\$2.0	RTD	\$0.0	N/A	\$10.0	\$0.0	Start	Finish			
EV Gondola	TSVI	\$5.0	TSVI / TIDD	\$0.0	N/A	\$10.0	\$0.0	Start	Finish			
Village Transit Drop-off	TSVI	\$2.5	TSVI / TIDD	\$0.0	N/A	\$5.0	\$0.0	Start	Finish			
EV Charging Stations	KCEC	\$1.0	KCEC	\$0.0	N/A	\$4.0	\$0.0	Start	Finish			
Electric Grid Battery Storage	KCEC	\$2.0	KCEC / TSVI	\$2.0	TBD	\$8.0	\$0.0	Start	Finish			
Outdoor Equity												
Bike Path - Town to OBL	Enchanted	\$0.0	TBD	\$0.5	TBD	\$4.0	\$0.5	Start	Finish			
Bike Path - OBL to Arroyo Seco	Enchanted	\$0.0	TBD	\$0.5	TBD	\$4.0	\$0.5	Start	Finish			
Bike Lane - Arroyo Seco to Village	DOT	\$0.0	TBD	\$0.0	TBD	\$5.0	\$0.0	Start	Finish			
Campgrounds	USFS	\$0.4	TSVI	\$0.6	TBD	\$3.0	\$0.0	Start	Finish			
Trailheads	USFS	\$0.4	TSVI	\$0.6	TBD	\$3.0	\$0.0	Start	Finish			
Village trail network	VTSV	\$0.4	TSVI	\$0.6	VTSV	\$3.0	\$0.0	Start	Finish			
Watershed Management												
Outstanding Waters designation	EDD	\$0.0	TBD	\$0.5	TBD	\$0.5	\$0.0	Start	Finish			
Valdez erosion control	County	\$0.0	TBD	\$0.0	County	\$1.0	\$0.0	Start	Finish			
5MG Water tank	TSVI	\$2.0	TSVI	\$0.0	TBD	\$4.0	\$0.0	Start	Finish			
Rocky Mountain Youth Corp	RMVC	\$1.3	RMVC	\$0.0	TBD	\$0.5	\$0.0	Start	Finish			
Rio Grande Water Fund wildfire risk mngmnt	TNC / USFS	\$1.0	TSVI	\$1.0	TNC	\$3.0	\$0.0	Start	Finish			
Rio Lucero Watershed Management	Taos Pueblo	\$0.0	TBD	\$1.0	TBD	\$3.0	\$0.0	Start	Finish			
Amizette water / sewer line	VTSV	\$0.0	TBD	\$1.0	VTSV	\$7.0	\$8.0	Start	Finish			
Village stormwater management	VTSV	\$0.0	TBD	\$1.0	VTSV	\$4.0	\$0.0	Start	Finish			
Village water line repair	VTSV	\$0.0	TBD	\$1.0	VTSV	\$4.0	\$0.0	Start	Finish			
Trout Unlimited fish barriers	State	\$0.0	TBD	\$0.5	TU	\$1.0	\$0.0	Start	Finish			
Corridor Roads												
Twining to OE Pattison	VTSV	\$0.0	TBD	\$1.0	VTSV	\$3.0	\$0.0	Start	Finish			
Route 64 - Town to OBL	DOT	\$0.0	TBD	\$0.0	DOT	\$6.0	\$4.0	Start	Finish			
Route 150 - OBL to Arroyo Seco	DOT	\$0.0	TBD	\$0.0	DOT	\$6.0	\$4.0	Start	Finish			
150 Canyon Scenic byway	DOT	\$0.0	TBD	\$0.0	DOT	\$8.0	\$6.0	Start	Finish			
Total Costs		\$18.0		\$11.8		\$110.0	\$15.0					\$154.8

* All costs are preliminary estimates



December 14, 2021

7 Firehouse Road
Post Office Box 100
Taos Ski Valley
New Mexico 87525

(575) 776-8220
(575) 776-1145 Fax

E-mail: vtsv@vtsv.org
Web Site: vtsv.org

MAYOR:
Christof Brownell

COUNCIL:
Jeff Kern
Neal King
J. Christopher Staggs
Thomas P. Wittman

**VILLAGE
ADMINISTRATOR:**
John Avila

CLERK:
Ann M. Wooldridge

Village of Taos Ski Valley 2021 Letter of Endorsement

Dear Senator Gonzales and Representative Ortez,

The purpose of this letter is to communicate support for the public private partnership proposal of the Taos Region Clean Energy Transportation and Recreation Corridor.

There is a tremendous opportunity for Taos Ski Valley and the greater regional area to create economic diversity for a community that currently relies heavily on tourism. Historically, Taos County and Taos Ski Valley have attracted many business leaders and entrepreneurs to the region who enjoy its unique, rich culture and numerous recreational opportunities. With this in mind, we are confident that positioning the Taos area to provide a Taos Region Clean Energy Transportation and Recreation Corridor to support existing business development, attract new business development, and provide an improved quality of life for our residents, will open the door to many long-term benefits for the regional community and economy.

It is this type of state and local investment including public private partnerships that will provide critical infrastructure resulting in job creation that will allow northern New Mexico to remain viable and competitive with other regional, national, and international destinations.

We appreciate that we continue to have strong support in our State Legislature. The Village Legislative Priorities are in line with the projects recommended in the Taos Regional effort and your support for funding the Village projects is appreciated. The Village responsibility for many of tourism services in the Taos regional area is dependent on external financial support for our small government.

Sincerely,

Christof Brownell,
Mayor, Village of Taos Ski Valley