

Written by gallupsun
Monday, 02 August 2021 11:56

[illegible]

1. Installing two, single-lane roundabouts which eliminates the two traffic lights,
1. Signal light coordination improvements to smooth the flow of traffic along U.S. Highway 491, and
1. To widen a small portion of U.S. Highway 491, extending a third southbound driving lane where Westbound I-40 traffic exits to US 491.

Other issues addressed include improve roadway and drainage improvements, enhanced local and regional connectivity and interchange aesthetic improvements.

Taking steps toward better traffic flow

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The design will also incorporate improvements that take into consideration safe passage for bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

The plan was to eliminate at least one of the signals on the north side of the interchange, because the lights are so close together at Maloney and the eastbound onramp. Meier called it the main point of congestion and crashes in that area. He said the plan eliminated both signals there.

Electronic comments will be accepted until Aug. 4.

Meier estimated that the cost of the construction to improve the I-40/U.S. 491 interchange is would come to roughly \$16 million in 2023 dollars

For more information on the project background and previous presentations, please visit the NMDOT projects website:

<https://dot.state.nm.us/content/nmdot/en/ProjectD6.html#6101390>

Mike Daly contributed to this story.