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TO: Curtis Cherne, P.E.
Senior Engineer, City of Albuquerque

FROM: Jami L. Milanovich, P.E.

COPY: Julie Luna, Bernalillo County
Margaret Haynes, P.E., NMDOT

RE: Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Traffic Impact Analysis (G06D001)
Response to City of Albuquerque Comments

DATE: September 10, 2024

The purpose of this memorandum is to respond to the City of Albuquerque's comments dated August 26, 2024 regarding the Traffic Impact Analysis for the proposed Veterans Affairs National Cemetery (dated May 21, 2024). Each comment is provided below along with our response.

Comment 1: Informational comment; Atrisco Vista Blvd and Shooting Range Rd are under the jurisdiction of the City of Albuquerque.

Response 1: Noted.

Comment 2: I could not locate a map showing the location of future Las Estancias Parkway. Please provide.

Response 2: Please see attached graphic, which shows the proposed roadway. Note that on Figure 2-1 of the TIA, the site plan shows the proposed centerline of the future Las Estancias Parkway on the east side of Atrisco Vista Boulevard.

Comment 3: How far is the proposed main driveway from the end of the acceleration lane south of Shooting Range Rd?

Response 3: The centerline of the proposed driveway is approximately 1,805 feet south of the end of the southbound acceleration lane south of Shooting Range Road.

Comment 4: The Conceptual Site plan shows the gate on Atrisco Vista Blvd in the ROW. It should be moved back to the property line or further, in case the City needs to widen the roadway.

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Response 4: No gates are proposed within the right-of-way. They will be located on cemetery property.

Comment 5: The city concurs with the 300-foot left turn lane on northbound Atrisco Vista Blvd at the main entrance, however, per the DPM the transition is a 150-foot reverse curve.

Response 5: Noted. The left turn lane will be designed with a 150-foot reverse curve transition.

Comment 6: To minimize conflict points, it is preferable to only have one driveway on Shooting Range Road. It appears the location of “Service Entrance” on the Conceptual Site Map is directly across the road from Aerospace Pkwy, which is an acceptable location.

Response 6: The secondary service road on Shooting Range Road is critically important to the long-term and short-term operation of the cemetery for the following reasons:

- The cemetery construction will start with an initial smaller phase to allow the cemetery to open in time to avoid depletion of available burial types to veterans in the greater Albuquerque/Sante Fe region. This first phase will include construction of the paved primary service entrance on Shooting Range Road and installation of temporary trailers to allow the cemetery to begin operations quickly and serve the public and veteran families. The main entrance on Atrisco Vista Road will not be completed prior to this initial phase. Therefore, in order to keep cemetery visitors and staff separate from the on-going construction traffic, the western entrance on Shooting Range will function as the construction entrance.
- After the full cemetery construction is complete and all entrances open, the cemetery needs to maintain the secondary service entrance on Shooting Range Road to keep future construction material deliveries off of the paved cemetery visitor roads to avoid damaging the roadways and to maintain the shrine standards that all national cemeteries strive to achieve and maintain.
- The cemetery operations require outside contractors who are not able to access the VA maintenance yard. The secondary service entrance would provide access for those outside contractors when normal cemetery operations are closed and other entrances are locked.
- The cemetery will expand every 10 to 15 years for the next 100 years. The secondary service entrance on Shooting Range Road will serve as the future construction access to ensure that construction vehicles do not disrupt the cemetery operations when future expansions occur.

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There is flexibility to shift the secondary service entrance on Shooting Range Road to the east or the west, if desired; however, for the reasons cited above the access is critical for the operation and on-going development and expansion of the cemetery.

I trust that the preceding responses adequately address the review comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me at jlmilanovich@wellsandassociates.com or (202) 556-1113 with any questions.

