



CITY OF SANTA FE

City, State Working Together to Move Critical Projects Forward

SANTA FE, January 23, 2024 – Yesterday, Mayor Alan Webber and other city leaders met with Governor Lujan Grisham and Senate Majority Leader Peter Wirth to strategize over ways in which the city and state can work together to move several city priorities forward, with a focus on identifying and clearing away bureaucratic and financial obstacles hampering progress.

In a display of collaboration and commitment to the community, Governor Lujan Grisham and Mayor Webber identified four critical beautification projects within the city that can move forward, despite funding challenges stemming from the city's late audits. Recognizing the urgency of these matters, the leaders have pledged to expedite the funding process to ensure swift commencement of the much-needed work. The four projects include:

- Community-selected improvements to SWAN Park, including hiker/biker trailheads, water play element, dog park, and multi-sport recreation fields;
- Extending the Tierra Contenta Trail from Buffalo Grass to South Meadows to provide safe routes to Sweeney Elementary School and the Ortiz Middle School;
- Sidewalk and lighting improvements along Harrison Road to improve quality of life and safety for residents;
- Median Beautification to provide sustainable and beautiful designs on gateway medians throughout the City of Santa Fe.

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Mayor Webber also announced plans for city crews to launch a graffiti clean-up effort. "Assuming the weather allows for it, the City this week will begin first round painting over graffiti along Alameda in the downtown area."

In addition to the beautification projects, the leaders turned their attention to the Santa Fe Municipal Airport, recognizing the need for essential upgrades to meet the growing demands of travelers and ensure the airport's continued role as a vital gateway to the region. The airport is nearing completion of major upgrades to the terminal and parking facilities. A second phase to further expand the terminal, add more gates, and enhance customer experience is in the works pending additional funding, as is improved access to the airport via an extension of Jaguar Drive. The leaders pledged to expedite identification of funding for these projects as well, to fully complete the overall airport experience.

Acknowledging the pressing need for action, Governor Lujan Grisham stated, "As leaders, we understand the urgency of these projects and the positive impact they will have on our capital city. By expediting the release of state funds, we are signaling our commitment to making Santa Fe the clean, vibrant and accessible city our residents expect and deserve."

Mayor Webber added, "Our collaboration with Governor Lujan Grisham and legislative leaders marks a milestone for Santa Fe. By working together, we can leverage resources more efficiently and address urgent priorities that will enhance the lives of our residents and help make our wonderful city the destination it is known to be."

Senator Wirth echoed this sentiment, stating, "Investing in the beautification of Santa Fe and upgrading our municipal airport are crucial steps towards ensuring a prosperous and thriving future for our city. Working together, with the support of our community, we will turn these visions into reality."

Santa Fe, renowned for its rich cultural heritage and vibrant arts scene, is set to undergo transformative changes that will enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.