



Infrastructure Report



City of Raton
New Mexico

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Raton, New Mexico 87740

OVERVIEW

Raton, New Mexico is an historic community of about 7,200 people in the northeastern corner of the state, located on Interstate 25 just south of the Colorado state line. Raton's destiny was initially tied to its strategic location at the mouth of a transportation corridor through the rugged southern Rocky Mountains.

The arrival of the Santa Fe railroad in the NM Territory ended the Santa Fe Trail and ushered in a new period of industrial boomtown growth. As a result the City grew outwardly from the railyard and the Raton Depot developing the City rapidly along a north-south commercial spine formed initially by First Street (fronting the rail yards). The infrastructure, including the transmission of water and power, used the lay of the land to create an integral system still functioning today as the hub for utilities and transportation.

In the past 5-years Raton has embraced planning efforts in each and every department. Efforts have been made to determine how to best enhance traffic, both in the air and on the ground, to ensure our historic downtown is embraced as Raton prepares to grow south and east. While most of the arid southwest is desperately looking to stabilize their daily water demands, lake water from Maloya and Eagle Nest position Raton for positive growth. Our parks, historic and well positioned, also include innovative reclaim water initiatives and state of the art athletic facilities. Electric generation in Raton has been reduced but Raton is prepared to meet the demands of our expected growth with concentrated improvement efforts being completed on the distribution system. Emergency Services are recognized throughout the region as a model of successful planning for Northeast New Mexico.

All this is not to say we are without our challenges. In these trying economic times, Raton is well aware of our infrastructure needs. Detailed planning identifies our roadway and street repairs approaching nearly \$28 million. Drainage improvements focused on the Post-Depression WPA system cap at nearly \$13.5 million. Water and sewer planning to insure rigid EPA standards are secure for years to come have driven system improvement needs to nearly \$1.5 million. Park access and public health concerns have demanded City leaders focus on our community's recreational needs for the past decade. While Raton is currently building the first phase of the Recreation and Wellness Center, a dedicated effort to continue this progress is included in the planning efforts.

• Parks and Planning	\$ 2,950,000.00
• Airport	\$ 10,500,000.00
• Emergency Services	\$ 3,195,000.00
• Public Works	\$ 41,226,000.00
• Water and Sewer	\$ 17,750,000.00
• Electric	\$ 10,500,000.00
• Transportation Planning	\$ 25,500,000.00
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Total Infrastructure Request	\$ 111,621,000.00

Raton's outward growth, unique inventory of public buildings, historic downtown master plan along with the demand for emergency services capture our hope for our community's prosperity. Centered around transportation, Raton will rely heavily on federal agency participation as well as the State of New Mexico to stabilize and properly oversee our infrastructure needs. By embracing planning, the City of Raton has not only accurately foreshadowed our costs for growth but has focused our knowledge on how this growth should occur.

Raton is positioned in each department with "construction-ready" projects based on our years of dedication to the planning efforts of the City leaders. While our requests are costly, we are confident they reflect an accurate picture of our needs to position Raton as a hub for the northeastern portion of New Mexico and to the 5-State Region that connects the Rocky Mountains to the Great Plains like no other community in the area.

City of Raton, New Mexico
Parks and Planning Department
Capital Improvement Projects 2009

The Parks Department and Planning Department projects are community wide projects serving citizens of Raton as well as surrounding areas. Projects are considered high priority projects and economic development incentives.

- **WOMEN'S SOFTBALL FIELD**

This \$750,000 project is designed and partially completed. Remaining items to be completed upon funding include ADA compliant dugouts, announcer's booth, bleachers, fencing, restrooms, concession stand, playground area/equipment and lights. The softball program in the last three years has been the fastest growing organized sports program in the City of Raton. The project is ready for an immediate start date.

- **PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

The City of Raton is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of 7 parks throughout town totaling more than 300 acres of land. The Parks program is a critical community asset and a considerable economic incentive for future business recruitment and community growth. The City of Raton is requesting an annual amount of \$200,000.00 to be used as grounds maintenance, equipment improvement and safety and vegetation pruning, trimming, removal and replacement. The project is on-going and is ready for an immediate start date.

- **DOWNTOWN PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT FOR PRIVATE INVESTMENT STREET PROJECT**

The Downtown Public Improvement for Private Investment Street Project has a first phase estimate of \$2 million. The project is a joint effort between the City of Raton and the Raton MainStreet Organization. In an effort to promote private investment in the form of building façade improvement, business expansion and retention and recruitment, the City has identified three areas within the historic downtown business district which have the greatest potential for return on public investment. These three areas were chosen after several public hearings and committee and staff meetings. The master plan will be completed in early 2009 and the project will have a start date of July 2009.

City of Raton, New Mexico
Raton/Crews Field Municipal Airport
Capital Improvement Projects 2009

The Raton/Crews Field Municipal Airport is in the process of developing three projects at the local General Aviation airport. All three of these projects are considered high priority projects due to the recent increase in large business jet traffic. Business jet traffic is now expected to increase sharply with the approval of the Raton race track and casino. When this facility opens, these projects will need to be completed to accommodate this increased traffic.

- **GAME FENCE**

This \$1.5 million project will include the installation of a wild game fence around the airport perimeter. This fence will be designed to keep deer and elk off of the airport's runways. The project will be ready to advertise for bids in March, 2009.

- **RUNWAY 2-20 STRENGTHENING**

The existing runway is somewhat old and deteriorating. It is desired that a reconditioning, overlay, and strengthening of the pavement be completed. This will enable the airport to handle a larger volume of business jet traffic, and to handle the largest of the business jets, such as a Global Express. The project is estimated at \$3 million and is on schedule to advertise for construction bids in May, 2009.

- **RUNWAY 2-20 LENGTHENING**

In order to accommodate even the current fleet mix of business jet traffic at the airport, Runway 2-20 is in need of a 1,100 foot extension. Warm temperatures and high altitude mean that longer runway lengths are needed. Currently, business jets leave Raton at less than desired payload and fuel loads in order to use the current runway. The extension means that business jets can leave the airport at full.

This project is estimated at \$6 million and the design is complete. It could be constructed beginning in May, 2009, however the project is on funding hold until the previous two projects are completed. However, with proper funding, all three projects could commence at the same time.

City of Raton, New Mexico
Raton Police Department
Capital Improvement Projects 2009

As the providers of emergency services within the City of Raton the Raton Police Department projects are considered high priority.

- **CENTRAL DISPATCH CENTER**

The Raton Police Department is in critical need of a new facility to house the Central Dispatch Center and the Raton Police Department. The current building is experiencing severe structural problems of which the cost to construct and furnish a new facility outweigh the costs to repair the damage. This \$3 million project will house police services, records, evidence rooms, briefing and training rooms, administrative offices and an area for impounded vehicles. The project has an anticipated start date of July 2009.

- **POLICE VEHICLES**

The Raton Police Department is immediately upgrading its aging fleet of patrol cars. This \$125,000.00 project will purchase four (4) SUV's to replace existing police vehicles with a combined total mileage of over 420,000 miles.

- **EQUIPMENT**

In an effort to provide our citizens and our police officers with most up to date security equipment available, the Raton Police Department is anticipating the installation of in car cameras (audio-video) for all police patrol vehicles. The video system technology has proven to be helpful in court trials, policy and procedure making decisions, arrests and officer and citizen safety. This \$70,000 project has an immediate start date.

City of Raton, New Mexico
Public Works Department
Capital Improvement Projects 2009

- **STREETS**

Street infrastructure has severely deteriorated in recent years due to age. A majority of the streets are over fifty years old. Residents have expressed to the City their concerns regarding the overall poor condition of the streets and the flooding and ponding of water that occurs in the roadway. Residents have indicated that these poor conditions present safety hazards for vehicular traffic and also serve as a deterrent to pedestrian and bicycle users.

To address these concerns the City has solicited a street assessment and inventory of pavement conditions to aid in prioritization of street capital improvements. The entire system includes over 53 miles of roadway ranging from good to very poor conditions, as well as seven miles of unpaved roadway. Approximately three-quarters of the roadway segments are rated between fair and poor (76%) and 12.3% in the categories of very poor and unpaved. Those streets rated above fair as good/fair or good only represent 11.7% of the local street blocks in the City of Raton.

The current street infrastructure improvement needs are approximately \$28 million. The City currently has a street improvement project in design that includes the rehabilitation and surface treatment to approximately 10500 lineal feet of streets worth \$1.26 million. Construction is anticipated in Spring 2009.

- **DRAINAGE SYSTEMS**

Drainage in Raton flows in a generally southeast direction. Runoff from the mountainous area northwest of the city enters a series of creeks that carry flow through the city and eventually to the Canadian River.

During high flows, inlets along Clayton Rd (US 64/87) around the Middle Creek crossing cannot drain due to the high water surface elevations in the creek, causing significant flooding along the road and surrounding properties. One possible solution is construction of detention ponds to decrease the peak flows in the creek. Additional improvements are needed east of I-25 on South Cedar St. due to undersized culverts and conveyances in the area. This project has an estimated construction cost of approximately \$1,573,000 and will have a \$858,000 portion constructed in 2009.

The Country Club area on the west side of Raton drains to Brilliant Creek. The major drainage problem in this area is flooding caused by an undersized culvert under Country Club Dr. Additional flooding and channel deterioration is occurring at the intersection of Snead St. and Tiger Dr. These areas will require upgraded crossing structures and some

channel stabilization. This project has an estimated construction cost of approximately \$1,000,000 and will be constructed in 2010.

A series of sandstone-lined ditches were built within Raton as part of a Works Progress Administration (WPA) effort in the 1930s. The total length of these ditches is approximately 39,000 feet. These ditches fill to capacity multiple times per year and are in need of repair, as well as modifications to increase capacity. This project has an estimated construction cost of approximately \$8,365,000 and will have a \$836,500 portion constructed in 2009.

The Brilliant St. area south of Tiger Dr. also experiences flooding. This area could benefit from a storm drain to collect runoff and a detention pond to reduce peak flows before out letting to a natural drainage system. This project has an estimated construction cost of approximately \$1,430,000 and will be constructed when funds are available.

A portion of the South Creek area near an existing Kmart development experiences some drainage problems. Potential solutions for this area include maintenance / rehabilitation of existing drainage infrastructure in the area as well as increase detention ponding. This project has an estimated construction cost of approximately \$858,000 and will be constructed when funds are available.

City of Raton, New Mexico
Raton Water Works
Capital Improvement Projects 2009

The City of Raton has multiple water/wastewater system infrastructure project requirements to comply with regulatory requirements and potential growth expectations for the community.

- **LAKE MALOYA DAM MODIFICATIONS**

This 10 million-dollar project consists of expansion of the emergency spillway for compliance with Dam Safety Regulations and replacement of 60-year-old diversion piping and valves. Lake Maloya is Raton's primary drinking water reservoir and critical to the community's growth and development.

- **RATON DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

Portions of the City's drinking water distribution are starting to have problems due to their age. This 1 million-dollar project will consist of replacement of water mains in three areas of the community. The replacement will include and upgrade in pipe size and additional looping to increase fire flow and improve water quality.

- **LAKE DOROTHY SPILLWAY REHABILITATION**

The project would consist of a complete concrete replacement of the Lake Dorothy Dam spillway. This \$250,000 project would comply with Dam Safety Requirements and stabilize one of the City's secondary drinking water reservoirs.

- **CITY OF RATON CIMARRON RIVER DRINKING WATER TREATMENT FACILITY**

The construction of this facility would increase Raton's drinking water capacity by 50%. The 5 million-dollar project would improve water quantity and quality for Raton into the long-term future. This project has been planned for over 10 years and current projected growth has made it a priority.

- **IRRIGATION STORAGE LAKE AT GOLF COURSE**

The reclaim water irrigation system is one of Raton's best conservation measures. The majority of municipal irrigation is done utilizing this system and saving valuable drinking water resources. This 1.5 million-dollar project would provide additional storage capacity as the community grows.

City of Raton, New Mexico
Raton Public Service Company
Capital Improvement Projects 2009

- **CIRCUIT CONVERSIONS**

This \$4 million dollar project would convert the existing 4.160 kilovolt (KV) overhead distribution circuits to 13.8 KV. This conversion would improve system reliability and reduce energy losses.

- **FEEDER EXPANSION/RECONDUCTORING**

This project would increase the load carrying capacity of the existing 13.8 KV distribution circuits by upgrading the conductor size and also allow for the extension of key circuits. Estimated cost: \$2.5 million.

- **SUBSTATION EXPANSION**

This \$3.5 million project would provide for the addition of a 69/13.8 KV power transformer and associated feeder bays within an existing substation to accommodate system growth and allow redundancy.

- **HOXIE SUBSTATION REDUNDANCY**

The Hoxie Substation provides critical electrical service to two (2) raw water pump stations that transfer water from the Cimarron River to the City of Raton. Currently, the existing substation has a single 1,000 kVA transformer and three (3) voltage regulators to provide the necessary electrical service. A failure of these units could leave the City with inadequate water for citizens and emergency services. This project would expand the existing substation and add redundant equipment to allow continued operation in the case of a failure. Estimated cost: \$500,000.

City of Raton, New Mexico
Transportation Planning
NMDOT and FHWA
Capital Improvement Projects 2009

- **RATON DEPOT**

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) appropriations totaling over \$1.2 million in authorized funding are available to the City of Raton for conversion of the Santa Fe Railyard Depot to a multimodal transportation center. This project has long been identified as an economic stimulus for the Historic Downtown Business District and would bring rail, bus and vehicular traffic to the heart of Raton. The project is estimated at \$2.5 million and has an immediate start date after acquisition of the structure.

- **INTERSTATE 25 IMPROVEMENTS**

Raton's Exit 452 interchange serves as the highest volume east/west corridor into the Interstate 25 route between Albuquerque and Denver with US 64/87 entering Raton from the East. The Exit 452 interchange was left out of the GRIP 64/87 4-lane development and is in need of bridge, safety and geometric improvements. Traffic volumes see an increase of nearly 50% on I-25 northbound from the intersection of these major arterials. Improvement costs are estimated at \$15 million and could begin immediately.

Raton's south interchange, Exit 451, has become a focus of recent development activities on the southeastern portion of Raton. The original interchange design is in need of geometric improvements and safety updates to accommodate expected community growth along the I-25 corridor south of Raton. This area of Raton is well positioned for water, electric and sewer infrastructure demands and is seen as well suited for both a residential and commercial expansion. Improvement costs are estimated at \$8 million.

- **NEW MEXICO HIGHWAY 555**

Leaving Raton and concluding in the heart of Vermejo Park Ranch, NM Highway 555 has been more than a "road to the ranch" for Raton. Once serving over 500 miners, NM 555 now carries coal bed methane traffic along with logging, thinning and other forms of heavy vehicle traffic. Raton's economy and northeastern NM have long been affected by the continued performance of this highway for regional economic stability. While not on the federal aid system, maintenance of this corridor is critical to the region.

- **SCENIC BYWAYS**

The Santa Fe Trail and the Dry Cimarron Scenic Byways are integral parts of the transportation planning near Raton.