

TOWN OF TAOS

Public Forum On Downtown Improvements And Activities **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 6-8 PM**

TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CIVIC PLAZA DRIVE

The Town of Taos is holding a meeting for downtown businesses, residents and property owners regarding the following important issues:

DOWNTOWN FALL PAVING PROJECTS

The Town has allocated nearly \$1,000,000 for the resurfacing and correction of utility and drainage problems on the Plaza, all Plaza entry roads, all of Civic Plaza Drive, all of Bent Street and the southern half of Camino de la Placita from Town Hall Drive to Paseo. The Town will provide information on this work and is seeking input from businesses on the establishing the timing and timetable for this work, expected to take place in the second half of October.

DOWNTOWN WINTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

The Town is exploring ideas for improving and coordinating winter downtown holiday events during December 2015, including working with "Lighting of Ledoux," "Bonfires on Bent Street," the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, Dunn Shoppes and other businesses to create a more festive holiday experience for residents, attract increased tourism and increase sales of downtown merchants during the holiday season. The ideas include a winter holiday market, a downtown lighting/decorating contest, increased public lighting and banners and special events. The Town is looking to meet, coordinate and work with merchants and the coordinators/sponsors of both historical annual or planned events, as well as is seeking ideas from the public.

HISTORIC DISTRICT SIGNAGE & LIGHTING

The Town is revisiting both its current lighting and signage ordinances, as well as their enforcement, and is seeking input on changes that may need to be made to make the District more "business friendly", while preserving the historic character of the downtown. The Town will also announce the beginning of a fall enforcement campaign against signage or lighting that violates the code and is either illegally on the public right-of-way, creates a hazard and/or public safety issue, has not received required Town approval, or which is clearly not permitted in any area without prior approval (such as advertising vinyl banners). The Town is seeking public input from merchants and Historic District residents/property owners on such issues as neon or digital "open" signs, "sandwich board" or "A-frame" sidewalk signs, public sidewalk "sculpture" and other popular but not permitted forms of advertising before beginning enforcement and recommending any code changes.

If you are unable to attend, comments and questions may be forwarded by mail, email, hand delivered or made by phone. The meeting may also be carried live by UNM Channel 22 on cable and streaming live on the internet.



For further information, please contact Rick Bellis, Town Manager, at (575) 751-2002, or rbellis@taosgov.com.