

JANUARY 2025

*RIO ARRIBA COUNTY 2025
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE: DRAFT
GOALS & STRATEGIES*



RAC 2025 Comprehensive Plan Goals and Strategies

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Introduction

Rio Arriba County is committed to fostering a thriving, equitable, and sustainable future for all residents. This draft document outlines proposed goals and strategies for the updated 2025 Comprehensive Plan that will guide the County's efforts over the coming years. These strategies are organized into two key categories: County-Led Strategies and County-Supported Strategies.

County-Led Strategies are initiatives where the County takes responsibility for leading efforts, allocating resources, and ensuring successful implementation. These strategies reflect the County's leadership role in addressing critical needs, from developing infrastructure to implementing programs.

County-Supported Strategies are initiatives led by external organizations, community groups, or other governmental entities, where the County plays a supporting role. In these efforts, the County may provide resources, advocacy, or technical assistance to help achieve shared objectives, while leadership and execution are carried out by partner entities.

We invite the public to review this draft and provide feedback to ensure it reflects the priorities, needs, and aspirations of our communities. Your input will help shape a final plan that balances collaboration and accountability while addressing the unique challenges and opportunities in Rio Arriba County.

Thank you for participating in this important process. Together, we can build a brighter future for our County.

Please note: No draft goals or strategies for Hazard Mitigation are included in this Goals and Strategies document. This is because Rio Arriba County's Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), originally adopted in 2014, is currently being updated through a separate process. Once completed, the updated HMP goals and strategies will be integrated into the Comprehensive Plan, likely after its initial adoption. This approach prevents conflicts in data or goals between the two documents and allows for the most accurate and cohesive representation of the County's mitigation efforts.

Natural Resources

Goal 1: Protect, Maintain, and Strengthen Relationships with Land and Water

County-Led Strategies:

- Acquire water rights within the County and apply them to beneficial uses in the watershed of origin.
- Utilize the Rio Arriba Natural Resource Advisory Board to gather data, assess policies, and develop recommendations for sustainable resource management.
- Introduce legislation to encourage return-flow credits for agricultural activities, promote acequia banking, and reform the "use it or lose it" water policy.
- Provide incentives for sustainable agricultural measures, such as drip irrigation and laser leveling, in partnership with USDA, County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and NMSU Cooperative Extension Service.
- Work with watershed groups to identify and prioritize uses, such as agricultural storage, ranching, recreation, and municipal supplies.
- Advocate for riparian restoration and re-vegetation to enhance water recharge capacity and protect water quality.
- Create a Rio Arriba County Food Council to collaborate with agencies, analyze data, and recommend natural resource policies to benefit the County's communities.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Partner with community organizations like the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area and the New Mexico Acequia Association to develop preservation strategies for agrarian, historical, and cultural resources.
- Support conservation easements and programs through collaborations with land trusts and encourage charitable donations to reduce tax burdens for landowners.
- Work with the Office of the State Engineer (OSE) and New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) to protect water resources and ensure safe, effective delivery systems.

Supporting Traditional Water and Land Practices in Rio Arriba County:

Rio Arriba County recognizes the importance of preserving traditional water and land practices while supporting the cultural heritage of its communities. While the County will not take direct action, it fully supports several initiatives aligned with these values.

The County encourages and supports the adjudication of water rights for all acequias, recognizing their historic uses, customs, and practices as protected under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Acequia associations are encouraged to adopt water rights transfer bylaws, uphold transfer authority, and ensure water rights remain within their original watersheds to sustain traditional agricultural practices.

Additionally, the County advocates for productive uses of land and water to protect and enhance the viability of agricultural lands within Rio Arriba. Recognizing the significance of cultural patrimony, the County supports the use, restoration, or preference for traditional place names in its operations and

regional promotion, while ensuring updated place names are maintained for emergency services when necessary.

These efforts reflect Rio Arriba County's commitment to honoring and preserving its rich cultural and agricultural heritage.

Goal 2: Inventory and Map Natural Resources

County-Led Strategies:

- Continuously update maps of irrigated agricultural parcels, acequias, and water rights at risk of loss.
- Acquire and maintain inventories of critical natural resources, including aquifers, wildlife corridors, scenic views, and recreation sites.
- Develop and implement an escarpment protection ordinance based on slope data to discourage development on steep areas.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Collaborate with federal and state agencies, universities, and environmental organizations to monitor natural resource conditions.
 - Identify and map state, federal, and tribal lands suitable for community development and potential land swaps.
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Goal 3: Protect Critical Management Areas

County-Led Strategies:

- Designate and protect Critical Management Areas for wildlife reproduction and habitat conservation.
- Collaborate with the Department of Game and Fish to establish conditions minimizing the cumulative impact of development on wildlife.
- Promote sustainable land management practices, including reclamation of disturbed lands.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Work with federal and state agencies to fund and implement riparian restoration and fencing projects in sensitive areas.
 - Advocate for invasive species management and support watershed groups in developing restoration action strategies.
-

Goal 4: Protect and Manage Water Resources

County-Led Strategies:

- Coordinate ground and surface water planning with the Rio Arriba County Regional Water Plan, the New Mexico State Water Plan, and relevant federal and state agency plans.
- Pursue funding from the Water Trust Board, NM Legislature, and NM Finance Authority for groundwater studies, watershed protection, and restoration projects.
- Update County flood maps in collaboration with FEMA to address unstudied areas.
- Collaborate with the Office of the State Engineer to complete Rio Arriba County's 40-year water plan to strengthen water rights protection.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Advocate for state legislation to manage invasive species and protect watersheds.
- Support the establishment of local watershed restoration groups and promote their access to funding sources like EPA 319 grants.
- Support high-elevation snow retention through watershed management practices like thinning and limiting development.:

Support for Sustainable Land and Water Management

Rio Arriba County supports efforts to restore and protect its natural resources, emphasizing sustainable practices and collaborative approaches. While the County will not take direct action, it fully supports several initiatives aligned with these values.

The County encourages property owners to reclaim disturbed or degraded lands, such as unused roads, to restore their natural functions. It also advocates for the designation of critical water management areas, working closely with upstream municipalities like Chama to reduce pollution and safeguard watersheds. Additionally, the County supports holding more water rights locally, limiting transfers and sales to promote sustainable water management. Finally, the County promotes watershed and forest restoration initiatives to improve water retention and build resilience against climate change impacts.

Goal 5: Promote Sustainable Grazing and Habitat Restoration

County-Led Strategies:

- Encourage managed grazing practices and habitat restoration through partnerships with ranchers and conservationists.
- Work with property owners to return disturbed lands to their natural function.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Collaborate with the NM Game and Fish Department to manage elk and cattle populations through adaptive programs and controlled hunting.

- Advocate for federal and state management of wild horse populations to protect traditional grazing areas.
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Goal 6: Enhance Community Engagement and Stewardship

County-Led Strategies:

- Sponsor community clean-up events and road corridor improvement programs.
- Host a County fair focused on natural resource stewardship and sustainable practices.
- Pursue funding to mitigate urban wildland fire risks and improve fire response infrastructure.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Partner with schools, 4-H, and nonprofits to integrate environmental education into local communities.
 - Support programs that engage youth and seniors in natural resource conservation and emergency preparedness.
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Goal 7: Improve Infrastructure and Public Safety for Natural Resources

County-Led Strategies:

- Collaborate with state and federal agencies to trim trees near power lines and reduce fire hazards.
- Enhance infrastructure for water and wastewater systems with funding from state and federal sources.
- Explore whether the County should serve as a backstop or establish a rescue fund to support mutual domestic water systems.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Advocate for local control of natural resources by working with federal and state agencies.

Land Use

Goal 1: Foster Compact, Sustainable, and Culturally Compatible Development

County-Led Strategies:

- Incentivize small commercial, mixed-use, and light industrial developments within community nodes through updates to the development code.
- Promote infill development by incentivizing the reuse of existing buildings and infrastructure.
- Develop plans for community nodes to secure water, wastewater, and energy infrastructure.
- Establish community districts within identified nodes to align future development with local culture and traditions.
- Require the use of compatible architectural styles in new developments to reflect existing community character.
- Amend the development code to incentivize clustered, walkable, and sustainable developments, incorporating water conservation measures.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Encourage partnerships to provide resources and expertise for water and wastewater infrastructure development in community nodes.
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Goal 2: Optimize the Use of Existing Infrastructure and Resources

County-Led Strategies:

- Create incentives for new developments to utilize existing facilities, buildings, and infrastructure.
- Conduct and maintain an inventory of existing infrastructure, buildings, and dilapidated structures, identifying opportunities for retrofitting or demolition.
- Provide comprehensive mapping resources for businesses interested in relocating to Rio Arriba County.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Support initiatives that repurpose unused water rights and agricultural land for purposes such as wineries, small breweries, and local food industries.
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Goal 3: Promote Green Building and Energy Efficiency

County-Led Strategies:

- Ensure all new County buildings meet energy efficiency standards and conduct energy audits on older facilities.
- Incentivize the use of green building materials and energy-efficient designs in private developments through updates to the development code.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Advocate for state legislation providing tax credits for green building practices and energy-saving technologies.
-

Goal 4: Protect Critical Management Areas and Sensitive Lands

County-Led Strategies:

- Amend ordinances to require large-scale developments in critical management areas to assess cumulative environmental impacts and mitigate habitat fragmentation, erosion, and water quality issues.
- Establish large-lot zoning districts to protect farms, ranches, and forests from fragmentation.
- Require new developments in critical areas to cluster infrastructure, minimizing road and surface disturbance.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Collaborate with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish to map and protect wildlife migration corridors and habitats.
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Goal 5: Promote Responsible and Sustainable Development

County-Led Strategies:

- Amend subdivision regulations to require site-specific information on soil suitability, wastewater systems, and drainage for proposed developments.
- Develop ordinances requiring adequate environmental liability insurance for heavy industrial uses.
- Require resource extraction developments to provide detailed reclamation plans, phase their activities, and include water monitoring systems.
- Update the Oil and Gas Ordinance to require Frontier District applicants to provide a hydrographic survey assessing water resources and potential contamination before field development.
- Require new oil and gas developments to map potential contaminant pathways and provide plans to prevent contamination, including remediation if needed.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Advocate for the expansion of renewable energy initiatives, including wind and solar, through incentives and partnerships.
 - Support collaborations among community water and wastewater systems for cost-sharing and efficient maintenance.
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Goal 6: Encourage Accessible and Affordable Housing

County-Led Strategies:

- Regulate short-term rentals to prevent displacement of long-term residents and mitigate rising housing costs.
- Incentivize renovations of vacant housing to increase affordable housing options.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Partner with Los Alamos National Laboratory to develop workforce housing for lab employees in Rio Arriba County.
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Goal 7: Preserve the County's Rural and Historical Character

County-Led Strategies:

- Conduct an analysis of the County parcel map to identify areas suitable for development while preserving rural character.
- Prioritize growth in traditional communities by focusing on housing restoration and infrastructure improvement.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Collaborate with state and federal programs to support the Rio Grande Trail and other recreational developments along waterways.
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Goal 8: Enhance Community Infrastructure and Accountability

County-Led Strategies:

- Develop impact fees to ensure large-scale developments contribute to public infrastructure maintenance and upgrades.
- Require developers to commit to ongoing infrastructure maintenance through enforceable agreements.
- Amend development codes to incentivize the donation of land for community facilities, such as fire stations and parks.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Support development projects that incorporate public service components, such as training or education, into their operations.
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Goal 9: Consolidate County Code Enforcement

County-Led Strategies:

- Consolidate all County code enforcement activities, including animal abuse, into a single County division.
- Ensure the consolidated County Code Enforcement division has adequate staffing.

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Economic Development

Goal 1: Support and Strengthen Local Arts, Culture, and Creative Economies

County-Led Strategies:

- Incentivize the use of existing community facilities for programs focusing on local food, fiber, and cultural customs.
- Promote local studio tours and farm tours through County-supported marketing and coordination.
- Designate a County Film Liaison to streamline permitting processes and maintain a directory of local talent and resources for film productions.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Collaborate with the Regional Development Corporation (RDC) and other organizations to identify the needs of arts and culture businesses and assist with funding opportunities.
- Work with the New Mexico Arts Council to support performing and visual arts initiatives.
- Partner with local organizations to develop artisan-based economic projects.

Goal 2: Enhance and Sustain Agricultural Economies

County-Led Strategies:

- Collaborate with the Food Hub Initiative and the Rio Arriba Food and Agriculture Policy Council to assess the County's agricultural economy.
- Support the creation of Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) organizations and promote their use by schools, hospitals, and senior centers.
- Develop and expand farmers' markets, cold storage infrastructure, and processing facilities.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Work with NMSU Cooperative Extension Service and USDA to provide technical assistance and resources for sustainable agricultural practices.
- Partner with food hubs and councils to develop policies encouraging value-added products and niche markets like organic foods, cannabis, and aquaculture.
- Advocate for expanded access to federal grazing leases to preserve traditional ranching practices.
- Support the Food Hub Initiative and the County Food and Agriculture Policy Council in assessing the County's agricultural economy, including producers and consumers at both individual and institutional levels.
- Support the establishment of Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) organizations in collaboration with the Sustainable Agriculture Center in Alcalde.
- Support local organizations, including schools, hospitals, and senior centers, in utilizing CSAs.

Goal 3: Expand Workforce and Professional Development Opportunities

County-Led Strategies:

- Partner with Northern New Mexico College (NNMC) and LANL to create tailored workforce training programs for local industries.
- Improve broadband infrastructure to enable remote work opportunities, especially in rural areas.
- Implement youth summer employment programs and job initiatives for seniors.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Support scholarships, internships, and apprenticeships in collaboration with regional employers.
- Work with regional agencies to align professional development programs with local industry needs.
- Launch initiatives to retain local talent and prevent workforce migration.
- Collaborate with regional agencies, including LANL, SCORE, the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions, and other economic development organizations, to inventory and offer professional development opportunities in the County, including both degree and non-degree courses.

Goal 4: Improve Healthcare Workforce and Services

County-Led Strategies:

- Develop County Capacity to provide and bill for Medicaid and Medicare services, as well as explore other innovative funding sources.
- Continue to utilizing the RACHC Health Profile as a freestanding health planning tool.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Partner with Española Presbyterian Hospital to meet the needs of an aging population and increase Medicare market share.
 - Collaborate with the Rio Arriba Community Health Council to develop a long-term healthcare strategy.
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Goal 5: Promote Local Goods and Small Business Development

County-Led Strategies:

- Create and maintain a "Rio Arriba First" directory of local businesses and integrate it into community and County websites.
- Advocate for buy-local campaigns and procurement reforms to prioritize local goods and services.
- Develop business incubators in key community nodes to support start-ups and home-based businesses.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Partner with chambers of commerce and non-profits to provide training and certification for small enterprises.
 - Encourage the development of home-based enterprises through partnerships with local and federal agencies.
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Goal 6: Develop a Comprehensive Tourism Program

County-Led Strategies:

- Create a County-wide tourism plan with strategies promoting outdoor recreation, cultural heritage, and agri-tourism.
- Oversee the development of hiking, biking, and equestrian trails, and create a comprehensive recreation map.
- Implement policies to regulate short-term rentals, balancing tourism with local housing needs.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Collaborate with the New Mexico Tourism Department and regional organizations to promote cultural and historical tourism.
 - Work with local tribes to enhance tourism infrastructure and create authentic visitor experiences.
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Goal 7: Strengthen Infrastructure to Support Economic Development

County-Led Strategies:

- Enhance broadband and wireless connectivity, particularly in rural areas.
- Establish tax districts to fund historic preservation and redevelopment projects.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Advocate for state and federal funding to support infrastructure projects that align with economic growth goals.

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Housing

Goal 1: Expand Affordable Housing Options for Low-Income Families and Workforce

County-Led Strategies:

- Develop partnerships with public and private entities to construct affordable housing units that also generate local employment opportunities.
- Incentivize the construction of affordable rental housing, focusing on areas affected by LANL's workforce expansion.
- Adopt and implement an Affordable Housing Plan to guide funding and development priorities.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Partner with organizations like the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority and Habitat for Humanity to educate first-time homebuyers on budgeting, maintenance, and homeownership preparation.
- Collaborate with local businesses and institutions to create workforce housing solutions for employees.

Goal 2: Promote Clustered, Higher-Density, and Infill Developments

County-Led Strategies:

- Develop incentives such as density bonuses and reduced fees to encourage clustered and infill developments in areas with adequate infrastructure.
- Support the rehabilitation of existing housing stock as part of infill development efforts.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Advocate for infrastructure improvements in targeted development areas to support higher-density housing.

Goal 3: Support Housing Diversity and Affordable Homeownership

County-Led Strategies:

- Conduct a County-wide housing assessment to evaluate availability, affordability, and needs for various housing types, including workforce, senior, low-income, multi-family, and special needs housing.
- Permit alternative housing options, such as tiny homes, to diversify housing availability.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Support advocacy organizations lobbying for legislation to make home buying and rehabilitation more affordable.
 - Collaborate with regional housing authorities to develop new affordable housing projects.
 - Establish a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) and/or Community Land Trusts to expand affordable housing options.
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Goal 4: Protect and Restore Traditional Housing**County-Led Strategies:**

- Promote the restoration of existing homes for use as rentals or family-owned residences to preserve the County's architectural heritage.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Provide technical assistance and incentives to support restoration efforts over demolition.
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Goal 5: Increase Housing Options for Seniors and the Elderly**County-Led Strategies:**

- Support the development of independent living facilities tailored for seniors capable of managing daily activities.
- Encourage mixed-use developments that integrate senior housing with essential services like healthcare, recreation, and shopping.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Collaborate with local healthcare providers to ensure these developments include access to medical services.
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Goal 6: Address Homelessness Through Shelter and Transitional Housing Initiatives**County-Led Strategies:**

- Develop transitional housing programs with case management services to support homeless individuals in achieving long-term stability.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Partner with organizations to establish sober-living facilities and treatment centers.
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Goal 7: Mitigate the Impact of Short-Term Rentals on Housing Availability

County-Led Strategies:

- Implement regulations for short-term rental properties to balance tourism demands with local housing needs.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Monitor the effects of short-term rentals on housing affordability and availability, adjusting policies as needed.
-

Goal 8: Support Sustainable Housing Development Practices

County-Led Strategies:

- Promote the use of green building practices and energy-efficient manufactured homes in new housing developments.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Advocate for state and federal incentives that encourage environmentally friendly housing construction.
-

Goal 9: Engage Stakeholders in Workforce Housing Development

County-Led Strategies:

- Build stronger partnerships with LANL and other stakeholders to align housing initiatives with growing workforce demands.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Explore opportunities for LANL to support affordable housing infrastructure and investments.

Community Facilities & Infrastructure

Goal 1: Improve Energy Distribution and Promote Renewable Energy

County-Led Strategies:

- Identify incentives for renewable energy manufacturers to establish facilities in Rio Arriba County.
- Collaborate with property owners and land grants to provide sites for renewable energy infrastructure.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Partner with federal agencies and local utilities to increase renewable energy transmission capacity.
 - Support the use of biomass through partnerships focused on thinning and timber harvesting in high-fuel areas.
 - Advocate for natural gas expansion to rural communities.
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Goal 2: Minimize Water Usage and Promote Conservation in New Developments

County-Led Strategies:

- Support the use of water harvesting, gray-water treatment systems, and drought-tolerant landscaping in residential and commercial construction.
- Promote wastewater systems that return water to the ground and support surface improvements like vegetation and habitat restoration.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Collaborate with developers and state agencies to integrate water-conserving features in new developments.
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Goal 3: Expand and Enhance Community Facilities and Recreational Spaces

County-Led Strategies:

- Develop policies to ensure County facilities are fully utilized and accessible to the public year-round.
- Perform energy audits on all County buildings and retrofit them for energy efficiency.
- Assess the need for and develop new facilities for fairs, community events, and youth programs.
- Expand walking and biking paths in open spaces to improve safety and accessibility.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Partner with Northern New Mexico College, school districts, and local municipalities to establish joint-use agreements for community facilities.
 - Support and advocate for state and federal funding to construct a regional recreational facility.
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Goal 4: Strengthen Emergency Services and Public Safety Infrastructure

County-Led Strategies:

- Transition fire department personnel to a salaried structure while maintaining a robust volunteer base.
- Establish certification programs for landowners to handle fires on their properties in coordination with fire departments.
- Collaborate with telecommunication providers to maintain and enhance the E-911 system's accuracy.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Partner with regional entities to ensure comprehensive law enforcement and emergency response coverage.
 - Pursue funding to offer competitive salaries for firefighters and EMS personnel.
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Goal 5: Improve Waste Management and Recycling Access

County-Led Strategies:

- Develop a County-wide facility for solid waste disposal and recycling.
- Introduce more recycling bins and designated disposal points throughout the County to reduce illegal dumping.
- Create accessible waste collection schedules and facilities in rural areas.
- Require fair billing and service standards from waste management providers.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Collaborate with the North Central Solid Waste Authority to improve service quality and expand rural pick-up or transfer stations.
 - Partner with regional recycling programs to expand home recycling pick-up services and increase economies of scale.
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Goal 6: Expand Healthcare Facilities and Services

County-Led Strategies:

- Develop a comprehensive health plan to guide the improvement of healthcare services in the County.
- Pursue state and federal funding for primary care and treatment facilities in and near the Health Commons.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Support partnerships with medical organizations to expand access to healthcare services for underserved populations.
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Goal 7: Address Homelessness and Provide Disaster Shelters

County-Led Strategies:

- Develop and maintain community shelters for use during emergencies or natural disasters.
- Support facilities that provide essential services for the homeless population.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Advocate for regional partnerships to enhance the availability of transitional and emergency housing.
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Goal 8: Advance Climate Resilience and Water Resource Management

County-Led Strategies:

- Identify and mitigate the impacts of climate change on County infrastructure.
- Support the development of a water model to assess watershed impacts and guide decision-making.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Partner with the New Mexico Rural Water Association and regional entities to align with state water priorities and address infrastructure gaps.

Transportation

Goal 1: Maintain and Upgrade County Roads

County-Led Strategies:

- Develop and implement a Road Management and Maintenance Program to evaluate the overall roadway system, prioritize maintenance needs, and establish standards for road upgrades and new road adoption.
- Resurface deteriorating roads to meet safety specifications and prevent vehicle damage.
- Install traffic-calming measures, such as speed bumps, that comply with engineering standards to reduce reckless driving.
- Use alternative surfacing materials like Poly-pavement or X-zyme for dust and erosion control on dirt roads, reducing maintenance costs.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Partner with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), private landowners, and community members to improve road quality and safety for public and private roads.
 - Advocate for funding and support from state agencies to maintain access to public lands through existing County roads.
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Goal 2: Develop Safe and Accessible Multi-Modal Transportation Systems

County-Led Strategies:

- Prepare a County Multi-Modal Transportation Master Plan to evaluate and integrate road, bike, and pedestrian systems, including future traffic projections.
- Design and maintain walking trails, bike lanes, and pedestrian paths to promote alternative transportation modes.
- Expand and maintain trails for hiking, biking, and equestrian activities as part of a comprehensive trail and open space plan.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Collaborate with New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) and local municipalities to identify roads for bike lanes and pedestrian facilities in new roadway projects.
 - Partner with the Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) to secure funding for trail development, signage, and maintenance.
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Goal 3: Enhance Public Transportation Accessibility

County-Led Strategies:

- Identify and prioritize public transportation routes and stops in collaboration with the North Central Regional Transit District (NCRTD).
- Improve safety and accessibility at public transit stops by providing adequate lighting, shelters, and seating.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Support NCRTD in identifying additional bus routes and stops that align with community needs.
 - Advocate for expanded public transportation options to serve rural and underserved areas.
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Goal 4: Improve Road Safety and Traffic Management

County-Led Strategies:

- Assess state and County routes for safety improvements, including reducing speeding and implementing traffic-calming measures.
- Support the engineering of roads for lower designed speeds through communities to enhance safety and walkability.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Collaborate with NMDOT and other entities to explore the feasibility of a bypass around Española to alleviate traffic congestion.
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Goal 5: Develop and Maintain Recreational Trails and Outdoor Routes

County-Led Strategies:

- Expand and maintain a comprehensive system of recreational trails, including biking and hiking routes, to enhance outdoor accessibility and tourism.
- Promote recreational events to boost community health and attract visitors.

County-Supported Strategies:

- Partner with federal and state agencies to ensure sustainable trail development and maintenance.
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Goal 6: Digitize and Optimize Road Infrastructure Planning

County-Led Strategies:

- Digitize data collection on road conditions, including materials, widths, and utilities, to optimize maintenance planning and resource allocation.
- Establish a long-term infrastructure maintenance plan addressing bridges, culverts, paving, and tree removal.

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Hazard Mitigation

Place holder for Goals and Strategies from updated Hazard Mitigation Plan that will be completed in 2025.

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