

## New Mexico Route 18/North Dal Paso Street Reconstruction Project Categorical Exclusion

Hobbs, New Mexico

### Client

City of Hobbs

### Highlights

- ◆ Federally funded project
- ◆ FHWA and NMDOT regulatory compliant
- ◆ Completed supplemental ISA and PSI
- ◆ Conducted public meeting

The City of Hobbs chose DBS&A to prepare a categorical exclusion (CE) checklist per the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate roadway and drainage improvements along NM18/North Dal Paso Street. Deteriorating road conditions and ponding and other drainage deficiencies due to flooding required improvements to the drainage infrastructure

within the corridor. In accordance with federal funding application requirements for roadway improvements, DBS&A prepared the CE according to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) guidelines. DBS&A's completion of the CE helped ensure that the project was developed to meet the intent of FHWA and NMDOT regulatory and legal requirements. DBS&A was also responsible for conducting an Initial Site Assessment (ISA) and a Preliminary Site Investigation (PSI) to investigate hazardous materials issues and incorporated the results into the CE.

Due to the relatively high cost of the project (\$2.8 million) and the demographics of the corridor, including adjacent residential and small businesses, an emphasis was placed on public outreach. In cooperation with the City, DBS&A conducted a public meeting to inform area residents and businesses of the project and to allow for questions and comments from citizens.

DBS&A met the requirements of the NMDOT in an efficient and timely manner to complete the CE for the NMDOT and FHWA to sign on schedule. The supplemental hazardous materials studies that DBS&A performed in-house aided in the efficient, cost-effective, and timely completion of the work. DBS&A's specialized knowledge and previous experience in the area helped to quickly identify issues and avoid potential delays. DBS&A maintained open communication with the City and the NMDOT to develop environmental commitments to successfully qualify the project as a categorical exclusion.



DBS&A organized a public meeting to involve area residents and businesses.

