

Key updates

The Prewitt-Milan Transportation Master Plan progressed in two key areas over the summer of 2021. First, the Project Leads met with two focus groups, each directly involved in the planning and implementation of the Prewitt and Milan industrial parks, which are the major drivers of this effort to understand transportation needs in the corridor. Second, the consultant team has progressed on its preliminary analysis of the study area. The team has examined the traffic that may be generated by the industrial parks and the resulting infrastructure needs to meet this future traffic. The team has also studied the current state of Interstate 40 infrastructure to understand any needs on that important route.

Main takeaways so far

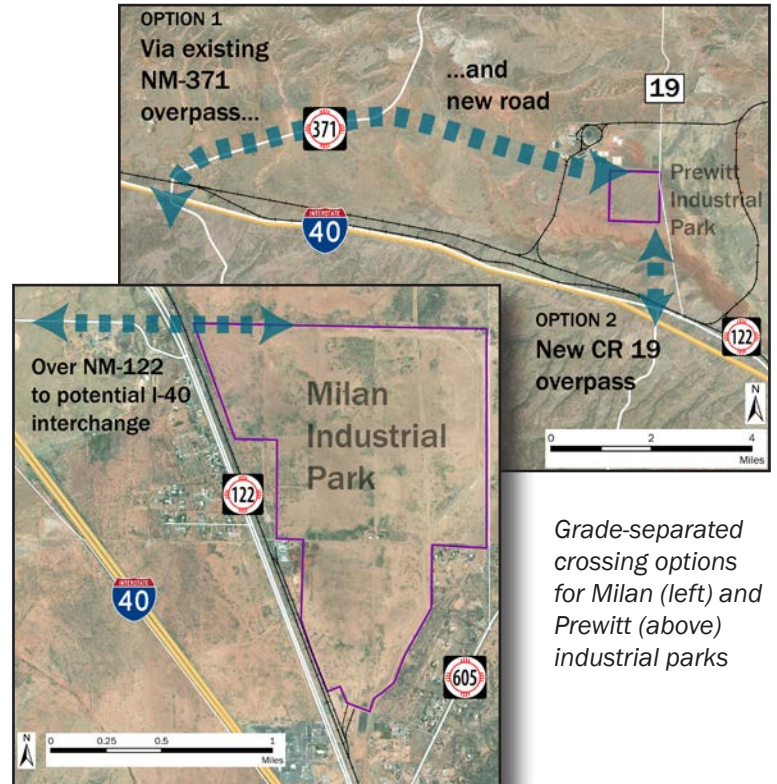
1. Traffic At full buildout, the industrial parks will generate significant road traffic volumes. In the short term, this is likely to require minor road improvements; in the longer-term, more intensive improvements may be needed.

2. Grade Separation One of main long-term needs for industrial park access will be grade-separated railroad crossings. Today, the road routes to the Prewitt and Milan industrial park sites cross the busy BNSF mainline tracks. As the parks develop and traffic generated by them grows, constructing grade-separated crossings of the tracks will be important to safely accommodate this traffic. The main options for a grade-separated crossings at each industrial park site are as follow (also see maps at right):

- Milan site: a crossing at Sawmill Road, that could connect to a potential new I-40 interchange to the west;
- Prewitt site: 1) a new overpass near County Road 19 in Prewitt; or 2) a route via the existing NM 371 overpass at Thoreau, then via a new road from NM 371 east to the industrial park site

3. I-40 Interchanges No deficiencies have been identified at the Interstate 40 interchanges in the study area, though analysis continues.

4. Milan rail loading/unloading Identifying a short-term option for loading rail cars at the Milan industrial park would be valuable, before the park’s planned rail layout is fully built out.



Grade-separated crossing options for Milan (left) and Prewitt (above) industrial parks

Project next steps

The PMTMP process will last until early 2022. In the meantime, here are some of the key upcoming next steps for the project.

Technical memo #2 (summary of current & future conditions and preliminary recommendations)	Through October 2021
Public meeting #1	TBD

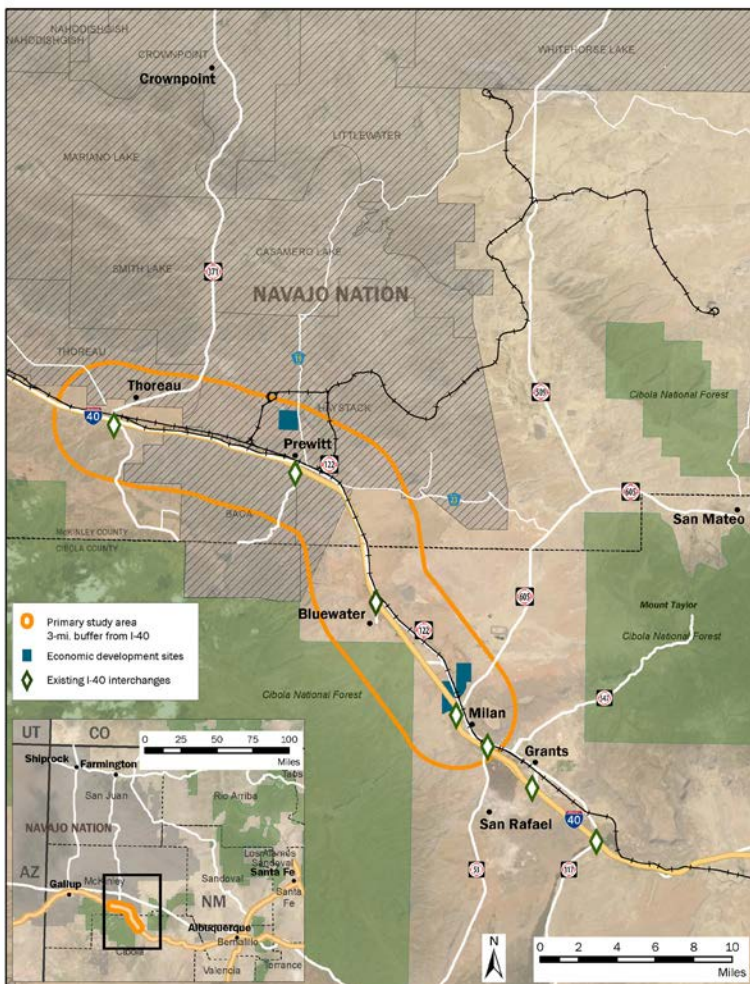


About the Master Plan

The Prewitt-Milan Transportation Master Plan (PMTMP) will coordinate the planning and delivery of projects to improve access to the Prewitt and Milan industrial parks and to other projects in nearby communities. The PMTMP will analyze the multimodal transportation system to support improved safety and to support industrial and economic development needs between Prewitt and Milan and in communities such as Bluewater and Thoreau. The purpose of the PMTMP is to plan and identify next-step design needs and opportunities, and outline funding in order to construct the infrastructure needed to serve an emerging economic boom in Northwest New Mexico.

GOALS of the PLAN

- Evaluate transportation planning issues
- Gather existing data on land use, economics, environmental
- Consider future transportation conditions/Evaluate impacts of growth
- Develop prioritized recommendations for transportation needs
- Build consensus and support for PMTMP projects



PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

McKinley County
Cibola County
Village of Milan
Bluewater Village
Electric Generating Facility Economic Development District

STATE AGENCIES

NM Department of Transportation
NM Economic Development Dept.
State Land Office

NAVAJO NATION

Navajo Nation Division of Transportation
Navajo Tribal Utility Association
Eastern Agency Regional Business Development Organization
Baca/Prewitt Chapter
Thoreau Chapter
Casamero Lake Chapter

AFFILIATES

BNSF Railway
Cibola Communities Economic Development Foundation
Greater Gallup Economic Development
Continental Divide Electric Coop.
Solid Waste Authority

STUDY AREA The study will identify transportation projects in the Interstate 40 corridor generally between the Prewitt and Milan industrial park sites. Where applicable, this may include transportation projects beyond the Primary Study Area.

Learn more & add your vision to the interactive map at

www.nwnmcog.com/prewitt-milan-transportation-plan

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