

APPENDIX D

COMMUNITY MEETING RESULTS

Possibility statements are descriptions of desired future conditions for El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT, and have formed the basis of the alternatives. These statements were developed during community meetings in 2001, and could be implemented through community action and partnerships.

Possibility statements from El Paso, Texas - October 15, 2001

- Interpretation, preservation, restoration.
- It is essential that the route, including hiking and interpretive trails, follow the original historic route. To facilitate the project, the natural environment (riparian and desert) should be preserved and restored; then, there should be recognition of where historic events took place; and finally, there needs to be a unifying theme especially in signage.
- I live in a community, where we should develop El Camino Real as a backbone uniting local and regional historic, cultural, and community resources in an interpretive way.
- More and enhanced parks and trails, to foster outdoor recreational opportunities and appreciation of natural and cultural community.
- Regional coordination, promotion, preservation, and interpretation of the Camino Real.
- Education, access, preservation, economic development.
- We live in a community where fragmentation has been eliminated. A central point of responsibility involving all the

communities on the Río Grande, including bi-national politicians and educators, together have developed a cohesive plan to foster a bi-national understanding of El Camino Real.

- A long-trail theme, which ties local communities together and allows events on the trail; incorporates existing and new features to be used for the protection of natural resources; and benefits and ensures safety of the people, which promotes knowledge and understanding of the trail.

Possibility statements from Socorro, New Mexico - October 16, 2001

- Develop a range of recreational opportunities that contribute to the economic benefit of communities and Socorro and Sierra Counties, including birding, fishing, hot springs, horseback riding, National Radio Astronomy Observatory, radio, Battle of Valverde re-enactment, and other special events.
- Keep our culture alive.
- An El Camino Trail Passport. Each community to have been facilitated with educational and economic advantages to encourage participation in multifaceted visitation, including ecotourism, education, and agritourism. Each facility to have individual stamps. Revenue will be generated from visitors to each site. Money (funding) flowing in by the wheelbarrow loads.
- Cultural and transportation corridor. Overall cultural immersion. Connections with Mexico and Spain with physical artifacts/demonstrations. Education

including, history, archeology, high points, and cultural portrait. Preservation/protection of trails; use previously impacted areas.

Possibility statements from Albuquerque, New Mexico - October 17, 2001

- Make the trail into a living experience that is accessible to people with disabilities, bicycles, horseback, and walkers – no motor vehicles.
- A comprehensive plan, focusing on preservation, and multiple stories/perspectives, providing public interpretation for *all* people in English and Spanish through a variety of educational methods.
- Quality El Camino Real history and heritage is told by New Mexico people who know the history and resources. Interpretation is offered all along El Camino Real to both visitors and local people/communities, and inspires people to protect resources. The international nature of the trail is emphasized: past, present, and future.
- Link communities and community centers along the trail, with emphasis on education, historic site identification, and Spanish emphasis and contribution of the trail, in both U.S. and Mexico.

- Trail offers opportunity to go on an interactive adventure to learn about the [history and culture of New Mexico trade and travel] evolution of the trail consisting of the trade, travel, culture, and recreation.

Possibility statements from Española, New Mexico - October 20, 2001

- Each community being able to tell their own story through visitor centers/interpretive centers/cultural centers along the trail, with centers highlighting the significance of history, traditions, and way of life. Centers will serve to promote, preserve, and protect history and resources pertaining to that community, including living exhibits, oral histories, and promoting local crafts involving youth and peoples of the communities.
- Interpretive centers with educational programs on El Camino Real communities.
- Make the trail a living experience for residents and visitors through awareness of cultural heritage.
- Information, communication, and outreach by awareness through maps and signs and interdisciplinary studies preserving multi- cultural history.