

## Taos: What's the plan?

Staff report

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Taosenos are no strangers to plans for the future of their town. About every decade, stretching back to at least 1963, town officials attempt to solicit ideas, suggestions and a wish list from town residents.

Often, people living in the communities ringing Taos El Prado, Las Colonias, Ranchos, Talpa and more - also weigh in. And people in and around Taos are nothing if not opinionated, often passionately, about what should happen to their communities.

Town and county officials are often at a loss as to how to move forward with any projects. They are likely to upset someone, no matter what they do.

Currently, a pretty even split seems to exist between those who want absolutely nothing to change in Taos and those who believe change is inevitable. Officials end up caught in the middle, trying to address Taos' problems and move the community into the future while protecting its past.

Some of the challenges Taos faces haven't changed in 30 years. Yet progress has been made: Taos has a college campus, an expanded wastewater treatment plant, a family recreation center worthy of larger towns and recently an effort to improve bike lanes and sidewalks along the major corridors.

Much remains to be done, but it won't happen in a vacuum. It takes using all those plans.

This week's edition of *The Taos News* is devoted to planning. It contains stories about people involved in planning efforts 30 years ago, those contributing to the current Strong at Heart effort to define the future of historic downtown Taos, and those managing Taos County general and area-specific plans that impact the town. (See story Page A6.) We hope you'll spend some time with these stories and give us feedback in letters, emails, phone calls and social media.



**Negative Number 011469 View of Taos Plaza, New Mexico, c. 1915  
Courtesy of Palace of the Governors Photo Archives (NMHM/DCA)**



**Taos Plaza, April 2018.  
Morgan Timms**

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