



Socorro residents rally to save homes from looming infrastructure project

by Ariana ParraThu, September 14th 2023, 6:28 AM CDT

SOCORRO, Texas (KFOX14) — There are about 100 people in the city of Socorro who could be without a home if a major infrastructure project goes according to plan.

The city of Socorro, in collaboration with the Texas Department of Transportation, has proposed a route under its Arterial Project 1.

The project would build a four-lane road that would require the homes to be demolished.

A group of residents got together Wednesday for a press conference in an attempt to save their neighborhood, a place where some of them have lived for over 30 years.

One resident says he is not upset with TXDOT, instead, he puts the blame on the city of Socorro for not being transparent with the community.

"They apparently picked this area probably because they thought the community wasn't going to speak out. And if you'll notice, most of these people behind myself cannot come and talk to you in a language that is English so they're not going to stand up and defend themselves," Carlos Garay said.

However, TXDOT told KFOX14 the decisions that were being made about this project were made but the city of Socorro and that TXDOT is only overseeing the project because it federal funding will be used.

One local community leader, Lorena Silvestre Tobias, said she believes people who live in the area are at a disadvantage due to their age, a language barrier and a lack of reliable internet service.

“We have a community that is primarily Spanish speaking, we have a lot of elders,” Silvestre Tobias said. “The way the residents have been notified hasn't been the most effective for the needs of the community.”

She also said the group is not against the project, but wished they were better informed about it.

"We understand that the city has grown, Silvestre Tobias said. “We want more thorough studies about the project and primarily the residents that will be affected.”

The City Council for Socorro is scheduled to meet and is expected to make a final decision on the project.