

TAOS, NEW MEXICO >  
MUNICIPAL SMARTCODE CALIBRATION

**Services Delivered**  
 Planning  
 Coding  
 Implementation  
 Market Analysis  
 Transportation Planning  
 Outreach Communications

**Timeframe**  
 2007

**Client Contact**  
 Matthew Foster  
 575.751.2037

With three diverse cultural traditions and over 400 years of built history, the Town of Taos, New Mexico, is home to some of the most distinctive architectural and planning patterns in the United States. The historic district remains a 16th century Spanish village to this day. So, when it became apparent that the blunt force of their conventional zoning ordinance was undermining their historic form, the Town turned to PlaceMakers to customize the form-based SmartCode and accompanying land use master development plan.

The challenge was a good fit and provided an ideal scenario for PlaceMakers' preferred model, the charrette, inclusive of our full array of municipal service offerings: [Planning](#), [Coding](#), [Implementation Advisory](#) and [Outreach Marketing](#).

The Town Council tasked PlaceMakers with ensuring the multi-cultural community was fully engaged. To assure such citizen involvement, PlaceMakers began the process by providing promotional materials, reaching out to the media, and establishing an iCharrette web site: [www.taossmartcode.com](http://www.taossmartcode.com). The web site provided daily stories and updates during the charrette as well as providing a repository for online citizen input. After the completion of the charrette, it served as the location of drafts of the code and plan, as well as the final presentation.



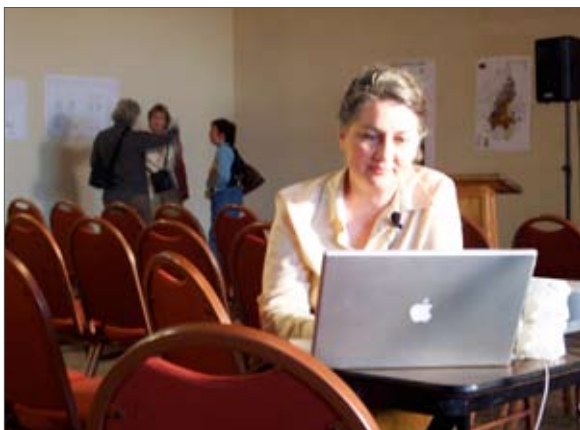
The process involved consultants in transportation engineering, to design new streetscapes, bike paths and routes; market analysis, to provide the necessary direction for retail development; architecture, to ensure the preservation of historic character; and illustration, to show the evolutionary effects of a form-based code over time.

This fascinating process of calibrating a national, model form-based code to a place as unique as Taos, is the first example of its kind in the United States. Calibrations included an entire new series of private frontage types, including the first declension of fencing along the rural to urban transect.



iCharrette Website

Promotional Materials



---

**Our vision is helping you fulfill yours. Let's talk.**

Hazel Borys  
Managing Partner

800 268 8696  
hazel@placemakers.com