



TIMOTHY M. KELLER, MAYOR

**CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE**  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR/ CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

---

---

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** TIMOTHY M. KELLER, MAYOR

**SUBJECT:** AMENDING THE ADOPTED CAPITAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM OF THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE BY APPROVING NEW PROJECTS, SUPPLEMENTING CURRENT APPROPRIATIONS AND CHANGING THE SCOPE OF EXISTING PROJECTS

**DATE:** FEBRUARY 20, 2025

---

As authorized by the City Charter, section XI(4), I am exercising my authority to line-item veto R-25-112.

The following line item is hereby vetoed:

1. Page 2, line 17  
*"line 17, Ken Sanchez Indoor Sports Complex GRT Interest 1,000,000"*

I oppose the decision made by the City Council to redirect half a million dollars from the Rail Trail to another project. I do not support pitting projects and communities against each other, rather we should uphold the promise of One Albuquerque.

The Rail Trail is an innovative project that will provide safe pedestrian and bike friendly routes to get around the city, tell the story of us through its design, and is already under construction at the Central crossing and in the Sawmill district. Cutting funding now means stalled work sites and no visible progress on a project important to the development of our city. In general, and in this case, I do not support taking any funding from a project already under construction.

An amendment of this significance should have been proposed and discussed at the Finance and Government Operations Committee meeting. Waiting until full City Council to propose cutting half a million dollars meant for the Rail Trail lacks transparency and excludes members of the community from participating in the process.

I want to make it clear that I fully support the Ken Sanchez West Side Sports Complex, a project I have championed since the beginning. This is why we have a \$5 million dollar capital outlay request this legislative session (LCS # 4209), to ensure we fully fund phase one of the project.

After hearing from members of our community opposing diverting these funds from the Rail Trail, it is clear we need more discussion on better ways to fund these projects, including how to utilize any of the nearly \$20 million in unspent city council neighborhood set aside, instead of using an uncertain “wait and see” approach to patch the funding gap created by the amendment. Projects need funds in-hand when we start construction.

I am encouraged that initial discussions with council show a desire to work together on alternatives to better fund these projects. This is why I am including with this veto message an alternative resolution that identifies funding to complete both of these projects.

For these reasons, I am exercising my line-item veto authority for R-25-112.