



Tim Keller, Mayor

Greater Albuquerque Active Transportation Committee (GAATC) – AGENDA

August 12, 2024 | 4:00 – 6:00 PM



Meeting will be held virtually.
Zoom meetings will be recorded for notetaking purposes.
*6 mute/unmute | *9 raise/lower hand

Join by Zoom: <https://cabq.zoom.us/j/86730137590>
Join by Phone: +1 346 248 7799
ID: 867 3013 7590

Notice: If you are a person with a disability and require assistance to participate in this meeting, please call 505-768-2680, 72 hours prior to the meeting. TTY users may access this number via NM Relay at 1-800-659-8331.

- **GAATC member introductions**

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ryan Mast (Vice Chair)
NE Quadrant | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Naomi George
SE Quadrant | <input type="checkbox"/> Alex Applegate
NW Quadrant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant
SW Quadrant | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant
Pedestrians + Transit
Users | <input type="checkbox"/> Josiah Hooten
Bicyclists |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant
Represent individuals
w/a Disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant
Youth (Under 24) | <input type="checkbox"/> Lanny Toning
Older Adults (over 60) |

- **Staff introductions**

- **Members of the public introductions**

- **Approval of August 12, 2024 Meeting Agenda**

- **Approval of June 10, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

- **Public Comments** (Public comment is limited to two (2) minutes per audience member)
 - Please email comments to Valerie Hermanson (vhermanson@cabq.gov) before the meeting (**must be received by 4 pm on August 12, 2024**) OR use the virtual raise hand feature during the meeting. In the meeting, please wait until recognized to begin comments.

- **Discussion / Action Items**

1. **Discussion/GAATC follow up questions: New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) I-25 Comanche to Montgomery Project, NMDOT, Horrocks**

Next Meeting: Monday, September 9, 2024



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2. Discussion: E-Bike Ordinance Update (approved at City Council's August 5 meeting), Whitney Phelan, Parks and Recreation Department, City of Albuquerque

- **Presentations**

None.

- **Staff Reports**

- Municipal Development (DMD)
 - Traffic Engineering
 - Transportation Engineering/Vision Zero
- Council Services
- Parks and Recreation
- Planning
- ABQ RIDE
- Sustainability
- Bernalillo County
- MRCOG
- NMDOT District 3

- **Public Comments** (Public comment is limited to two (2) minutes per audience member)
 - Please use the virtual raise hand feature during the meeting. In the meeting, please wait until recognized to begin comments.

- **Next Meeting:** September 9, 2024, 4 – 6 pm

- **Adjourn**

Next Meeting: Monday, September 9, 2024

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Committee Members Present

Alex Applegate

Josiah Hooten

Committee Members Absent

Ryan Mast (Vice Chair)

Dr. Naomi George

Lanny Topping

Staff Members Present

Tim Brown (DMD)

Tara Cok (MRCOG)

Adrianna Day (Horrocks)

Valerie Hermanson (DMD)

Albert Lee (Sustainability)

Julie Luna (BernCo)

Alice Main (Sustainability)

Tom Menicucci (Council Services)

Robert Messenger (CABQ Planning)

Jennifer Morrow (Deputy Director DMD)

Whitney Phelan (Parks and Rec)

Jenae Robertson (TYLin)

Gabriel Sanchez-Ramos (NMDOT)

Patrick Shaw (AUI)

Luke Smith (NMDOT)

Courtney Bovee Winans (Horrocks)

Mike Worrall (Horrocks)

Visitors Present

Ben Garland, UNM Center for Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety

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Steve Pilon, Vice Chair of the Transit Advisory Board, Board Member of Bike ABQ

Peter Rice, Downtown ABQ News

Luciana Roca

Valerie Hermanson called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm.

- **Approval of August 12, 2024, Meeting Agenda**
No Quorum
- **Approval of June 10, 2024, Meeting Minutes**
No Quorum
- **Public Comments** (Public comment is limited to two (2) minutes per audience member)
 - Please email comments to Valerie Hermanson (vhermanson@cabq.gov) before the meeting (**must be received by 4 pm on August 12, 2024**) OR use the virtual raise hand feature during the meeting.
 - Emailed Comments
 - Scot Key: Good afternoon, GAATC members. My name is Scot Key, resident of the great South Valley and someone who rides throughout the area while staring at the sidewalks, or lack thereof. I want to bring up four quick things today:



1. The I-40 ped/bike bridge at/near Jefferson. This infamous span has vexed us all ever since it was built and today looks like the attached (Jefferson bridge 1.jpg). I know we're all almost too embarrassed about this bridge to think about it, but c'mon...let's repave this thing and try to do it right this time.

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2. The I-40 ped/bike bridge at Winrock/Jerry Cline Park project. Having ridden through this construction a few times since the barricades went up, I'm flummoxed as to exactly what the project is and what the City expects walkers and rollers to do. There's zero signage/explanation at the site, I can't find anything online about it, and a few weeks in now a few barricades are still up as seen on the attached (40detour1) but work is either complete (i.e., no bridge repaving) or in some unexplained limbo. We can do better.

3. ADA compliance issues. Checking out sidewalks while cycling isn't for everyone but is quite interesting. Having done so reminds me to remind you GAATC members of the need to focus on walkers/rollers before cyclists. For instance, when somebody presents a project such as today's I-40 Montgomery/Comanche presentation, look first at the proposed sidewalks and expected path taken by walkers/rollers. Remember, there are more walkers/rollers than cyclists. We (and I) tend to forget that.



4. And closing on a specific sidewalk situation, here's the southeast corner of Trumbull and Cagua at the San Pedro Library (trumbull library II.jpg). There's no curb ramp/cut, as ADA-required of course, and we are talking not only a public entity but a library here. I reported this to the City's ADA Coordinator and it's apparently going on the DMD list of sidewalks in need of repair. Perhaps GAATC could take a more aggressive approach for walkers/rollers by joining in the reporting of such deficiencies and holding DMD's metaphorical feet to the fire through follow-up on its expediency and

thoroughness in addressing this work. Ideally, the City's Complete Streets Review Committee would include review of this DMD list and progress.

Thank you!

Public Comments

- Steve Pilon: Hi everyone, two things:
1. Last time I looked at the GAATC website, there was only one vacancy listed, but in the agenda that one was adopted. Now there's four listed, I was wondering if we could clarify

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the discrepancy there.

2. I guess the new bike maps have been published. Bike ABQ and myself in particular, took the lead on was distributing the bike maps two years ago, when the last edition was put out before this one. I made a couple attempts to contact the city by email, and for some reason, it looked like my email was blocked. Then, I sent a third email that apparently went through, but I never got any response. And I get about two calls a week from various outlets like bike shops and libraries, asking about the maps. I was wondering if GAATC could look into what's going on with the new edition of the bike map. Thank you very much.

- Alex Applegate: There were two studies released this past month. The first stated that the State of NM has the worst drivers in the nation, most of them here in Albuquerque. Also, the US Department of Transportation released a study to Congress to show that despite all of our actions, auto emissions are expected to rise by 24% by year 2050, when they need to be at zero. So the city and state are failing and I'm wondering why we are not progressing any faster than we currently are. Thank you.
 - Worst drivers in the nation: [It's Official: Data Shows New Mexico Has the Worst Drivers in the Nation](#)
 - Emissions growing by over 20% by 2050
<https://usa.streetsblog.org/2024/07/29/feds-warns-congress-that-americans-need-to-drive-less-to-survive-climate-change>

- **Discussion / Action Items**

1. **Discussion/GAATC follow-up questions: New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) I-25 Comanche to Montgomery Project, NMDOT, Horrocks**
 - Plan of discussion: Begin with overview and go over questions. Patrick Shaw is the AUI project manager/lead design builder on this project. The initial question about this project was (specific to Comanche and Montgomery interchange), "Why is it that we cannot extend the protected shared-use path beyond the intersections on both sides?"
 - Overview: (*Beginning with Mike Worrall and Luke Smith*) Basic configurations and proposed presence of the advanced U-turns (Texas turnarounds) were discussed when coordinating began with GAATC, roughly 3 years ago. When discussing with GAATC about non-motorized travel, through both interchange areas, we were looking to find input on basic and cross-sectional configurations. Both pedestrians and bicyclists were bounded by vehicular traffic on both sides. Therefore, we developed a few alternative sections and gathered input on this. From there, a recommendation from GAATC was made to develop a combined pathway, one in each direction through the interchange area, separated with a concrete wall barrier. The question that was risen was, "why was the treatment *not* extended farther?". Reasons were:

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- Outside of the interchange becomes bounded by right-of-way constraints
- The additional width of the interchange got to the point of trading off dramatic effects to adjacent properties
- The signalized intersections provide the clearest transition from the most standard cross-section of COA streets
- Where concrete wall-barrier is placed, it adds complications and design implications (ex: it comes with “impact insinuator”, steel compressible sections that serve to attenuate the impact if they are struck by a vehicle)
 - Driveways and businesses are impacted
 - Ongoing maintenance is required (significant cost)
- When adding a trail, considerations need to be considered:
 - How will people get on/off the trail?
 - Ex: going in line with traffic in underpass; the only place to cross the street *against* traffic
 - If they went all the way through, it would be unsafe, especially if going into the counter-flow
 - Trails are stopped at signalized intersections to make a safe crossing
- Turn on red:
 - There are no “free” rights on red, all movements that are approached red lights
 - When they stop on red, they are free to proceed if they don’t have anything impeding their process
 - Double right turn lanes would be where there would be “no turn on red”
 - **Changes:**
 - Designating right turns to the right of the bike lane
 - No blind right turns will be present
- There will be pedestrian crosswalks at the intersections that accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists
- **Q&A/Comments** for NMDOT I-25, Comanche to Montgomery project:
 - Alex Applegate: I think it’s important to protect both sides of the intersection, not just under the bridge. It doesn’t have to go all the way up the block, it could just be at the intersection. Nothing you’ve done would have prevented the bicycle death there at the NE corner of Comanche. Also, there is plenty of space just at the corner to reduce the width of the median, take the space there and not any land from anybody. Just put up a few concrete barriers and stop the rounding of the corner and straighten it out. It shouldn’t be that hard of a design change to add some protection on both sides.
 - Courtney Bovee Winans: I know, Alex, you brought up

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the rounded corners and that was another question you guys sent in. I think Mike took a look at that one, if you can address the reasoning behind that.

- Mike Worrall: The design tries to do that to the fullest extent that it can. They are at their limit as far as the smallness of the radius and allow trucks to make that turn without getting hung up through the corner. I believe we squared those off to the limit without creating a problem for large trucks.
- Alex Applegate: It was a large truck that killed the cyclist at that corner. We don't care about being impeded; we care about people dying. You need to fix that intersection. You can't just wave it away, it's got to be fixed, and this is not fixed.
- Alex Applegate: No right turn reds reduce accidents by 10%. I think it should be mandatory for all intersections, period.
- Ben Garland: I understand where you are coming from with the multi-user pathways. Could we solve this problem with bicyclists by putting signs on each entrance of the pathways saying, "bicycles only can go with the flow of traffic in the same direction" and the other end saying, "bicycles not allowed, please cross to the other side". Then it's one way for bikes and opens up more options on what can be done.
 - Luke Smith: This is a fair question, and we did discuss this last week. I checked out MUTCD and ASHTO guide for bike facilities. It doesn't really have provisions for this type of things, but we do want to accommodate anyone who is traveling both ways. I understand where you're coming from but maybe not the best answer.
- Alex Applegate: This is personal to me. I used to ride this 5 days a week, twice a day going to work. It was very dangerous and almost got hit by a car and almost run off the road. I've had a brick thrown at me at this intersection, it is a nasty thing for cyclists to do. Anything you can do to make it safer, which you are not doing except under the bridge is desperately needed. I ended up needing to take an alternate route and added 5 miles to my ride. So I'd appreciate to be able to take this route again.
 - Luke Smith: I also ride, including to work but I do not ride Comanche, it is not safe. I understand where you're coming from. We will talk some more about the team about detectors or positive protection at the intersection. No promises, but this is a conversation that we are having internally.

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2. Discussion: E-Bike Ordinance Update (approved at City Council's August 5 meeting), Whitney Phelan, Parks and Recreation Department, City of Albuquerque

- Alex Applegate: I support E-bikes on trails, before two years ago they were allowed. I helped push through the roundhouse that became an issue. I'm getting a lot of pushbacks from a lot of people and who is determining which trails E-bikes are going to be allowed on/not and how do they get input.
 - Whitney Phelan: The way that the ordinance passed allows all classes of E-bikes on paved multi-use trails within the city. And prohibited on trails that are co-managed/trail is on a different property owner without permission. The MRGCD own the levy in the Paseo De la Bosque Trail and the dutchbank where we have our new Alameda Drain Trail. These won't be open to E-bikes because MRGCD see them as motorized vehicles. They are willing to re-evaluate but once the ordinance going into effect and becomes laws; we will need to request two paved trails have to be opened and will require a process. Feedback is welcome and appreciated. The other thing the bill does is allow E-bikes in open space, but Parks and Rec can close them. So, many trails in the foothills meet up with Forest Service Land where E-bikes are prohibited. A lot of these will likely be closed due to planning efforts being done with the Forest Service in the next year. We are looking at Paseo de la Mesa Trail to be open. New westside trails have developed that are a good width and good line of sight. If we chose to close trails, it would be based on staff evaluations of technicalities, line of sight issues. There are also recommendations from mountain bike riders that we look at, doing looped trails to minimize bi-directional traffic and collisions. The ordinance, as it stands, opens everything except those jurisdiction trails.

- **Presentations – No Presentations**

- **Staff Reports**

- Municipal Development (DMD)
 - Traffic Engineering, Tim Brown:
 - No Updates
 - Transportation Engineering/Vision Zero, Valerie Hermanson:
 - MRCOG was supposed to be here to present about the Transportation Improvement program and project prioritization process, but they ran into

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some timing issues. I will work with them to reschedule.

- GAATC Committee Updates:
 - Working with City Clerk's office to fill GAATC vacancies. We identified an Environmental Planning Commission (EPC) representative to fill the SW quadrant seat.
 - They also identified representatives for pedestrian and transit users seat.
 - Dr. Naomi George offered to switch to representatives to the people with disabilities seat. Once approved for this position, the SE seat will open up. And we identified an applicant for that seat who is also going through the process.
 - A representative applied for the Older Adult seat. Lanny's term ended in April and he is allowed to continue to serve until this seat is officially approved.
 - Once applications are approved at City Council, the City Clerk's Office and Mayor's Office will put them in touch with me.
 - After all these seats are approved, the only vacancy will be the "Youth" seat.
 - I'm unsure of the timing for these approvals. My understanding was that they would be City Council's August 5 agenda for approval, but unfortunately, they were not on the agenda. I hope they will be on the Council's August 19 agenda. Please note I do not have control over this timing for these being on City Council's agenda for action.
- First Vision Zero project- Louisiana Boulevard Vision Zero Improvement project:
 - Includes road diet, bike lanes, separated bike lanes and fiber
 - Has been in construction since late June.
 - A ribbon cutting celebration will be held:
 - Saturday, September 21, 2024 @ 11:30 a.m. at the Veteran's Memorial Park
 - Coffee and Donuts will be provided
- Bikeway and Trail Facilities Plan:
 - Public hearing was held at the EPC on July 18, 2024
 - EPC unanimously recommended to City Council to approve the plan
 - The Planning Department is putting together the City Council transmittal where the plan will be heard at the City Council and have final approval of the plan.
 - Time and date: TBD
- Addressing the bike maps public comment:
 - Due to a lack of staffing capacity, we haven't been able to widely distribute the maps outside of the City of ABQ departments. This

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summer, we've been focusing first on distributing them to City Departments.

- Once we've finished those distributions, we will reach out to bike shops.

- Council Services, Tom Menicucci:

- No Updates

- Parks and Recreation, Whitney Phelan:

- Able to squeeze in a trail rehab project which relates to Scot's public comment. Bridge over I-40 and Jerry Kline Park has been closed due to:
 - Trail that runs through Pennsylvania through the parking lot at Winrock and crosses over to Jerry Kline park
 - The asphalt has been rehabbed from Pennsylvania up to the bridge
 - Winrock just completed their park
 - Winrock will also be adding a par course, apartments and multi-family housing units
 - Parks and Rec will also be looking to expand tennis operations at Jerry Kline, including a potential dog park and the triangle piece next to the pedestrian bridge
 - Work will be done in Jerry Kline tunnel: reflectors, improved lighting and camera installations (that have been completed) to make it safer and increase activity
 - Final inspection on trail will be on Tuesday, August 13, 2024
- Paseo de la Mesa Trail (from Atrisco Vista south/east to 81st Street)
 - 4.5 miles, built over 20 years ago and sustained lots of cracking
 - Parks and rec has attempted to fill cracks and seal coats but the cost was increased too much
 - Extensive survey was done with over 300 responses of who prefers asphalt surfacing versus crusher fine or other type of stone
 - Funds are still pending, anticipating to have them in the next year and a half to pulverize and repave the trail with hot asphalt
- Presentations coming:
 - BHI is working with us to do way-finding and mile-marking plan for city trails
 - Complete signage overhaul to help people to safely get to places
 - Technical documents and designs will be shared with the group
- Alameda Drain Trail Phase 5:
 - 90% design completed
 - Extended from 4th Street to Matthew and extend to cross Indian School, down I40 to Rio Grande
- Alameda Drain Trail Phase 3:
 - Almost at full close out

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- Anticipated completion roughly 2 months or so
- Planning, Robert Messenger:
 - No Updates
- ABQ RIDE:
 - Absent
- Sustainability, Albert Lee:
 - In the upcoming months, Sustainability will be rolling out a more comprehensive outreach strategy for the Metro Statistical Area, as Grant was received from US EPA (Environmental Protection Agency)
- Bernalillo County, Julie Luna:
 - Under Construction:
 - Rio Bravo Boulevard, from South Diversion Channel to 2nd Street – Approximate Completion January 30, 2025
 - Constructing sidewalk on the north side of the road
 - Reconstructing the multi-use path on south side of the road
 - Reconstructing the road itself
 - Bridge Boulevard, from Riverside Drain to Young Ave – Approximate Completion Fall 2025
 - Under design:
 - Bridge Boulevard Phase 3, Includes the Fives Points Intersection, from Lura Pl to Young Ave W
 - Final project on Bridge Boulevard
 - Website: bridginglosvecinos.com
 - Provides information on project, construction and finalized alternatives
 - Alameda Drain Trail Phase 5, from Paseo del Norte to Alameda Blvd
 - Multi-use trail
 - Alameda Drain Trail Phase 6, from Alameda Blvd to 4th St
 - Isleta Blvd Phase 1, Malpais to Luchetti Rd
 - Reconstructing Isleta Boulevard at the southern point, including buffered bike lanes and sidewalks
 - Coors Blvd SW Safety Improvements, Gun Club Rd to Blake Rd
 - Safe Routes for All Grant received
 - Multi-modal accommodation, medians, corridor lighting
 - 4th St Road Diet – Ortega Road to Alameda Blvd
 - Sidewalks, bicycle lanes, center turn lane
 - 2 projects on Sunset Road, Yakima to Sloan
 - 1 – redoing something already completed
 - 2 - extending project to include sidewalks on Sunset
 - Redesign of some traffic calming features
- MRCOG, Tara Cok:
 - Regional Transportation Safety Action Plan

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- Plan for improving safety in the region for all modes of transportation, especially vulnerable users
- Going to board for adoption on August 16, 2024
- Open to the public at 10 a.m. on Zoom or in person at MRCOG
- Looking for feedback or participation
- Long Range Transportation Plan/Transitions 45 MTP
 - Currently working on update
 - Second survey is out for this plan, this summer
 - Asking to public about spending priorities, desired projects and strategies while interactive
 - Link:
<https://live.metroquestsurvey.com/?u=p3h3g#!/?p=web&pm=dynamic&s=1>
 - Open until August 30, 2024
 - First survey occurred last winter
- NMDOT District 3 (Vacant)
 - No Updates
- **Public Comments** (Public comment is limited to two (2) minutes per audience member)
 - Please use the virtual raise hand feature during the meeting. In the meeting, please wait until recognized to begin comments.
 - Ben Garland: I just wanted to give a shout out to Parks and Rec and APD. On July 26, 2024, they did a little community meeting for people that were concerned about safety on the bike path. It was nice to see Parks and Rec out there cleaning up the tunnel under Louisiana and partnering with APD to increase the safety of our trail. I'm looking forward to those future improvements. I know it's a big ask for them to be out there at 7 a.m. on a Friday, so to Whitney and everyone else, I just want to say thank you.
- **Next Meeting:** September 9, 2024, 4 – 6 pm
- **Adjourn 4:58 pm**