



# City of Albuquerque

## Department of Municipal Development



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

Jennifer Turner, Director

## Greater Albuquerque Active Transportation Committee (GAATC) Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 12, 2025 | 4:00 – 6:00 PM

- **Call to order**
  - The Greater Albuquerque Active Transportation Committee Meeting of May 12, 2025 was called to order by Alex Applegate at 4:01 pm.
- **Introductions**
  - **Committee Members Present**
    - Alex Applegate (Chair)
    - Luciana Roça (Vice Chair)
    - Adrian Carver
    - Frank Horine
    - Leila Murrieta
  - **Committee Members Absent**
    - Dr. Naomi George
  - **Staff Members Present**
    - Debbie Bauman (DMD)
    - Tim Brown (DMD)
    - Howard Cake (TYLin)
    - Tara Cok (MRCOG)
    - Sarah Gale
    - Bridgette Garrett (DMD)
    - Valerie Hermanson (DMD)
    - Eli Kosko (Parks and Rec)
    - Albert Lee (Sustainability)
    - Julie Luna (Bernalillo County)
    - Robert Messenger (Planning)
    - Eric Michalski (DMD)
    - Paul Olson (DMD)
    - Jenae Robertson (TYLin)
    - Cheryl Somerfeldt (Parks and Rec)
    - Agnes Vallejos (Department of Senior Affairs)
    - Debbie Wolfe (Bernalillo County)
  - **Visitors Present**
    - Dianne Cress (Bike ABQ)
    - Theresa Dunn (Bike ABQ)



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- Ben Garland
- Peter Rice (Downtown ABQ News)
- **Review and Approval of May 12, 2025 Meeting Agenda**
  - Chair Applegate then asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Member Roça moved to approve the agenda. Member Carver seconded. Motion approved 5-0  
Yes: 5  
No: 0
- **Review and Approval of March 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes**
  - Chair Applegate then asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Member Carver moved to approve the agenda. Member Roça seconded. Motion approved 3-0-2  
Yes: 3  
No: 0  
Abstain: 2
- **Public Comments**
  - Ben Garland: I have a question for Tim Brown, being that he is going to talk about Monte Vista & Campus, four-way stop getting converted back to a traffic signal. I wanted to know if he could address one of the warrants for the traffic stop. And how is it safer to have traffic moving in one direction or another, as opposed to traffic having to stop? It seems like it would be safer if everyone has to stop rather than going 30-35 MPH all the time. Also, there are cross guards there at a 4-way stop and it seems like it would make more sense for the crossing guards to give student time to safely cross the street, rather than having the limited time that the signal gives them to cross. I'm looking forward to that discussion from Tim.
- **Discussion / Action Items**
  - Discussion: **Feedback on Monte Vista & Campus Signals Running as All-way Stop Due to Project Damage**, Tim Brown, Department of Municipal Development, City of Albuquerque
    - Background: Utility damage occurred, the signal and conduit are outdated and/or rusted and old wires are not working; causing the signal to fail to work. The school principal in the district of this area held a PTA meeting with staff and parents and the majority preferred a signal as opposed to an all-way stop.
    - Purpose: Due to heavy traffic volume and a large number of kids crossing, a signal is preferred. Although a 4-way stop is safer, a signal is more reliable to make cars stop.
    - Next Steps: Detection will be added to Monte Vista and replaced with a new signal that is not outdated.



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- Discussion: **USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant**, Debbie Bauman from COA
  - Summary: DMD's federal funding expert, Debbie Bauman, joined this discussion to provide information about the state of federal funding. Sub allocations for federal funding come to the Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG) area every 4 years that member agencies can apply for and this is a better option for the City to pursue federal funding because the match is lower (14.56% vs SS4A is 20%). Also, applying for federal funding through MRCOG means the City is competing regionally rather than nationally like through SS4A. It is important to note there are many changes we're seeing with the new Administration and new requirements in federal grant agreements. If the City were to apply for one of these discretionary grants, it might be better to apply next year so there is adequate time to prepare and to see new requirements/expectations from the new Administration. The City uses adopted or approved plans like the Vision Zero Plan or the Bikeway and Trail Facilities Plan to identify potential projects to pursue federal funding for implementation. For example, the City prioritizes safety projects based on the High Fatal and Injury Network (HFIN). The City does apply for and receive a lot of federal funding through other grant opportunities. For example, the City applied for and received federal funding through MRCOG that is programmed for 2026 and 2027. The City also applies for federal funds administered through the New Mexico Department of Transportation. For example, Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). The City applied for and received construction funding for the Louisiana Blvd. Mid-Block Crossings project in the International District. HSIP has a 10% match.
  - Information on City Projects: There is no one location where the community can find all the City's transportation projects that are in design or construction. However, the public can look at MRCOG's TIP to see which projects the City has federal funding for and which years they are programmed.
- **Presentations**
  - **North Diversion Channel (NDC) Trail Project improvements**, Cheryl Somerfeldt, Parks and Recreation Department, City of Albuquerque and Howard Cake, TYLin
    - Background: Area from Tucker to I-40, next to North Diversion Channel Trail evaluation report was completed in July 2017.
    - Purpose: Anticipation to make trail safer by removing and replacing trail pavement with wider shoulders, added lighting and gravel, and replacing signage. Explanation of detours and road closures during construction were presented.



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- Next Steps: Improvement project needs to be updated by June and finalized by August of 2025. Construction is anticipated to start in 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2025. There are 2 phases, each phase should take about 2 months to complete.
- **Buena Vista Bike Boulevard**, Bridgette Garrett and Sarah Gale, Department of Municipal Development, City of Albuquerque
  - Background: Buena Vista project goes from Gibson Boulevard to Central Avenue. Project and crossing improvements identified as a high priority in the City's Bikeway and Trail Facilities Plan. The project is currently in a conceptual design phase, with final design anticipated by the end of the year.
  - Purpose: Looking to improve multimodal safety, connectivity, and access at major crossings and improve bicycle network connectivity. Construction funding has not been identified yet. Design a low stress bikeway by including traffic calming measures, reducing the speed limit to 15 mph, and enhancing mid-block crossings at Gibson, Avenida Cesar Chavez, and Central Ave. The midblock crossings will include a median refuge island with a pedestrian hybrid beacon (PHB), which benefits people bicycling and walking. Next Steps: Incorporate public comments into the design and move toward 60% design. City staff anticipate having another public open house to share and accept public comments on the 60% design plans in early July. More information coming soon.
- **Staff Reports**
  - Municipal Development (DMD)
    - Engineering Division, Paul Olson:
      - Sebastian Bentley has been appointed to serve as the Youth Seat in GAATC Committee; to begin in June 2025
      - There is also a candidate for the pedestrians & transit users seat moving through the approval process.
      - If GAATC members have ideas for agenda items, please let the Chair know and the Chair communicate with City staff
      - May is National Bike Month
        - Bike Month started on May 1 and Bike to Work Day is on Friday, May 16. DMD in partnership with other City departments, businesses, and community stakeholders will have pop-up cycle stops throughout the city where people can visit on their way to work to take a survey and pick up free bike safety gear. Visit



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<https://www.cabq.gov/bike> and head to “May is National Bike Month” header to learn more about activities throughout the month and to find a pop-up cycle stop near you.

- Council Services
  - No staff present
- Parks and Recreation, Cherly Somerfeldt
  - The Skyline Trail project is complete
  - Alameda Open Space Trailhead project is now available for bicyclists to use adjacent to the ditch. Painting, striping, and signage is being worked on. Solar panels are to be installed over the parking lot
  - Tom Bullitt Trail Phase 2 has just been funded to add lighting through the corridor
- Planning, Robert Messenger:
  - Working with transit for parking requirements in single-home family areas
- ABQ RIDE
  - No staff present
- Sustainability, Albert Lee:
  - The Transportation Strategy Workshop was held last week. Copy of the slides and recording will be posted in the next week or so, on the website
  - More information about the Comprehensive Regional Climate Action Plan is posted on [resilientfuturesnm.org](http://resilientfuturesnm.org)
  - NMED is holding a similar project for statewide initiatives. The meeting will be held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May. Website to RSVP to public meeting is: [www.climateaction.nm.gov/cap](http://www.climateaction.nm.gov/cap)
- Bernalillo County, Julie Luna:
  - Full street closure of Rio Bravo Boulevard will be on June 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> for a new railroad crossing
  - Rerouting status updates will be at next meeting
- MRCOG, Tara Cok
  - The Metropolitan Transportation Board approved the Long-Range Regional Transportation Plan in April
  - More information will be posted on MRCOG’s website
- NMDOT District 3
  - No staff present



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- **Next Meeting:** June 9, 2025, 4 – 6 pm
- **Adjourn** 5:29 pm

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