



# CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

## City Council

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September 7, 2012

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Councilor Lewis Leads on Paseo del Norte and I-25 Interchange Project from Day One**

Following Wednesday night's City Council meeting, Councilor Dan Lewis would like to set the record straight about his vote to withdraw Council bill O-12-29, the Paseo del Norte/I-25 bond bill, and about his leadership on and support for the project as a whole.

"Since my first day in office I have been the strongest supporter and greatest advocate for the Paseo del Norte/I-25 project." said Councilor Lewis. "My decision Wednesday night to withdraw O-12-29 was not political gamesmanship, as some have charged, but rather a decision based on principle and on my belief that the best thing that we supporters can do right now is to stop arguing and start educating the public about the project."

"All nine City Councilors are on the record, with 6 voting to appropriate \$50 million, and 3 dissenting. The three dissenting Councilors were not going to change their minds, so it was entirely appropriate to move forward with promoting the project at the polls. I'm confident that the citizens of Albuquerque will vote in favor of the project in November." said Councilor Dan Lewis.

### **Planning and Legislative Action by Councilor Dan Lewis:**

- At the City Council meeting on September 5, 2012, Councilor Lewis, after sponsoring a clarifying amendment, then supported **O-12-33** to comply with state election laws to satisfy the Attorney General and clear the way for a clean ballot question on the November 6th election.
- When it looked like the City was not going to be able to put the question on the November 6th ballot due to an opinion written by the State Attorney General office, Councilor Lewis co-sponsored **O-12-29** which would have mirrored the efforts of **O-12-17** and would have appropriated the \$50 million outright, without going to the voters. The

City then determined that they were still able to legally put the question on the November 6th ballot. This second resolution was withdrawn because none of the 3 dissenting Councilors had changed their vote, and all of them were already on the record against the bill by voting against the identical bill **O-12-17**.

- On May 21, 2012 Councilor Lewis co-sponsored **R-12-45** which was a bill that passed unanimously to put the funding proposal for Paseo / I-25 on the ballot.
- On March 26, 2012 Councilor Lewis co-sponsored **O-12-17** which would have appropriated \$50 million outright to Paseo del Norte and I-25. It required 7 votes to pass and lost on a 6-3 vote.
- During the 2012 State Legislative Session Councilor Lewis worked with the State Legislature and Governor Martinez to appropriate \$29 million in the 2012 Capital Outlay towards this project.
- Councilor Lewis worked with Albuquerque area State Representatives and State Senators including Representative Tim Lewis who sponsored and unanimously passed a House Memorial that identified the project as a statewide priority and called for all municipalities to work together to fund the construction.
- On October 17, 2011 Councilor Lewis co-sponsored **R-11-296** which reserved \$3,000,000 within the sales tax refunding debt service fund to provide bonding capacity for the City's cash match for Paseo Del Norte/I-25 interchange improvements.
- On August 1, 2011, when bill **R-11-253** was introduced with a list of projects identified as a priority for the Mayor's ABQ ThePlan, Councilor Lewis expressed great concern that Paseo and I-25 was not listed as one of the projects to be included in the \$50 million appropriations. Councilor Lewis fought to make sure the project was included.
- While on the MTB, Councilor Lewis created a task force through **R-11-11 MTB** where elected officials from all levels of government worked to prioritize Federal, State, County and City funding for the Paseo / I-25 project and investigate potential funding sources.
- Councilor Lewis has served on the Metropolitan Transportation Board (MTB) since the beginning of his term on City Council. This board, within the Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG), sets policy for transportation issues in the urban area.
- On August 16, 2010 Councilor Lewis sponsored an amendment to **R-10-87** which put any Transportation Infrastructure Tax dollars above and beyond the projected revenue towards Paseo del Norte and I-25 interchange project. This bill also made this interchange a #1 priority for the City.

September 7, 2012

Page 3

- Councilor Lewis expressed great concern and argued **against R-10-86** on June 7, 2010 that took \$20 million away from the Paseo Del Norte / I-25 interchange project. The bill passed and Mayor Berry signed it.
- Throughout 2010, Councilor Lewis scheduled various meetings with elected officials and department leaders at the Mid-Region Council of Governments, New Mexico Department of Transportation, Bernalillo County, and the City of Albuquerque to discuss this project and bring it to the forefront of every discussion.
- In 2009 Councilor Lewis ran for the District 5 City Council seat on hearing the concerns of frustrated commuters and west side residents. He committed to come up with a plan to prioritize, fund and build the Paseo Del Norte and I-25 interchange.

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