

## Greeting Neighbors

As with all things, including communities, the march of time eventually requires rejuvenation. Such is true for San Pedro between Bellamah and Lomas. As you are aware San Pedro presents some major challenges for the area.

Through the efforts of merchants, neighborhood residents, and landlords the area is making its way back as a junction where different cultures and lifestyles generate the energy that creates eclectic urban communities. It is my desire to further these efforts by enriching both residential and business neighborhoods.

The four lane configuration along San Pedro currently makes it difficult for vehicles to turn left into businesses along the corridor and rear-end collisions are frequent. The four lanes of fast-moving traffic and lack of a center refuge or median make pedestrian crossings difficult for neighborhood residents, students at nearby Mark Twain Elementary and other pedestrians. Moreover, adopted City policies call for San Pedro to provide bike lanes for its entire length but the segment between Menaul and the State Fairgrounds remains a critical missing link. Though the area boasts several long-time destinations like ABC Cakes, Mike's Gym, Christie Mae's Restaurant, Fair Plaza and Helen's Bakery, I have observed increasing business vacancies along the corridor.

I requested that the Department of Municipal Development conduct a traffic assessment to determine the pros and cons of reconfiguring San Pedro between Marble and Haines to one through travel lane in each direction, to create a center left-turn lane for patrons accessing local businesses and, where appropriate, pedestrian and bicycle refuges for crossing the street. The assessment shows that traffic counts on San Pedro are well within the thresholds to make a lane reduction possible without substantially changing traffic numbers. The City has seen positive results with a similar project that reduced the number of traffic lanes on Central Ave. between 8th Street and San Pasquale, west of Downtown. On this corridor traffic counts have stayed relatively the same and businesses are thriving, new development is occurring, and more pedestrians are present.

Local residents and businesses along San Pedro are working with the City on a number of initiatives to establish a district that builds on the eclectic collection of businesses along this corridor. This District will be branded the Mile-Hi Corridor for its location on the mile high contour line that straddles the North East Heights. One major effort under-away is the creation of a bike hub, that facilitates this area as New Mexico first bike-in shopping district.

This will include striping bike lanes on San Pedro as part of the bike lane system that connects the Bear Arroyo/Mountain to Bosque trail and to the VA Hospital/Kirtland Air Force Base employment area. These bike lanes will also intersect with the Constitution bike lanes that cross through the center of the Mile-Hi District. These lanes on Constitution connect Uptown to the rapidly expanding UNM Medical School.

The Silver Avenue Bike Boulevard will be extended from the Nob Hill/UNM/CNM Area through the Mile-Hi District via Mountain Road to Uptown. This will create a combined bike boulevard and multi-use trail system that connects the Sandia Foot Hills, Uptown, the Mile-Hi District, Nob Hill, the UNM/CNM District, the Presbyterian and Lovelace hospitals campuses, Downtown, Old Town, the Bio Park, the Rio Grande Bosque and the Petroglyph National Monument, and last but not least, along Alvarado, two blocks west of San Pedro. The City will soon build the first section of the north leg of the 50 Mile Bike Loop.

Other efforts to enhance the corridor will be installing enhanced street lighting that covers both the street and the sidewalk. The City hopes to identify locations along the right of way where landscaping can be installed either through building medians where left turn capacity is not required or along the sidewalk.

I hope you will want to learn more about the project. Please join me on August 20, 2014 at Mark Twain Elementary School from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. An additional afternoon meeting will be scheduled in early September. If you would prefer a small meeting, please call me and we will arrange it. Also, a web page providing the history of the area and additional details will be available on the District 7 web page by the beginning of September.

I very much hope to meet with you soon.

Sincerely,

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