

# REVIEW OF THE SILVER AVE BIKE BLVD

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Transportation Engineers

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# PROJECT CONTEXT

- Bike Blvd network identified and designated in 2009
  - Silver Ave
  - 14<sup>th</sup> St
  - Mountain Rd
- Study provides opportunity to create additional low-stress facilities and connect Old Town, Downtown, EDo, Presbyterian Hospital, and UNM

# RECENT IMPROVEMENTS

- City of Albuquerque projects on existing Bike Blvds:
  - Silver Ave through UNM and Nob Hill
  - Fair Heights neighborhood



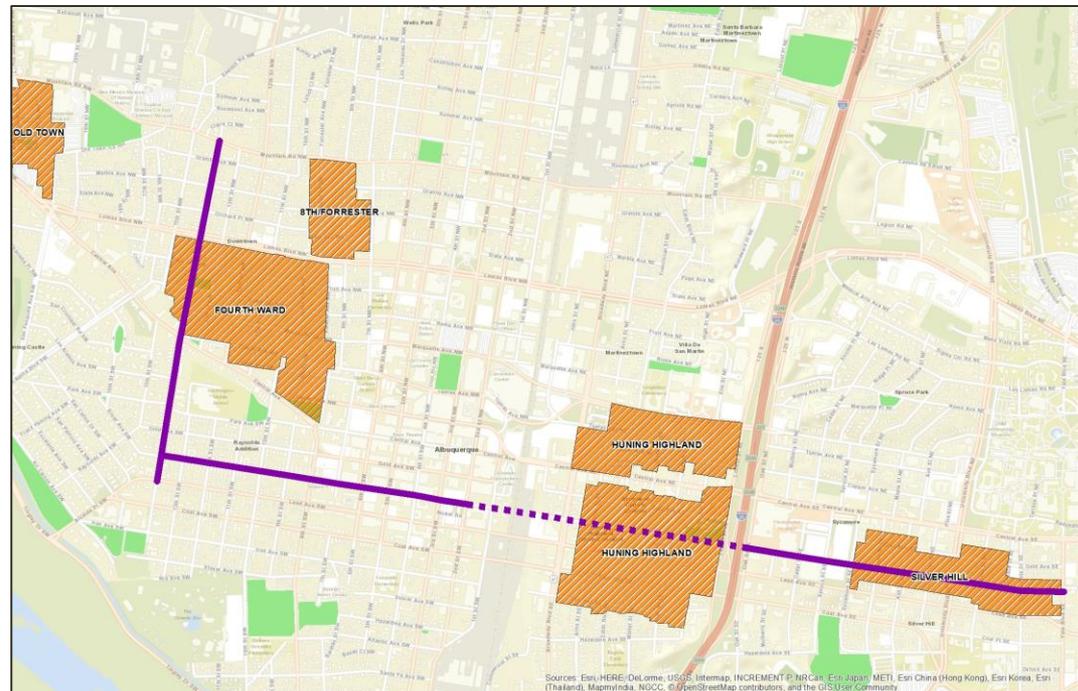
# BIKE BLVD CHARACTERISTICS

- Infrastructure that appeals to “Interested but Concerned” bicyclists
- Shared-use facility
- Neighborhood streets (designated as Local)
- Low speed (posted and observed)
- Low traffic volumes
- Signing and pavement markings
- Wayfinding



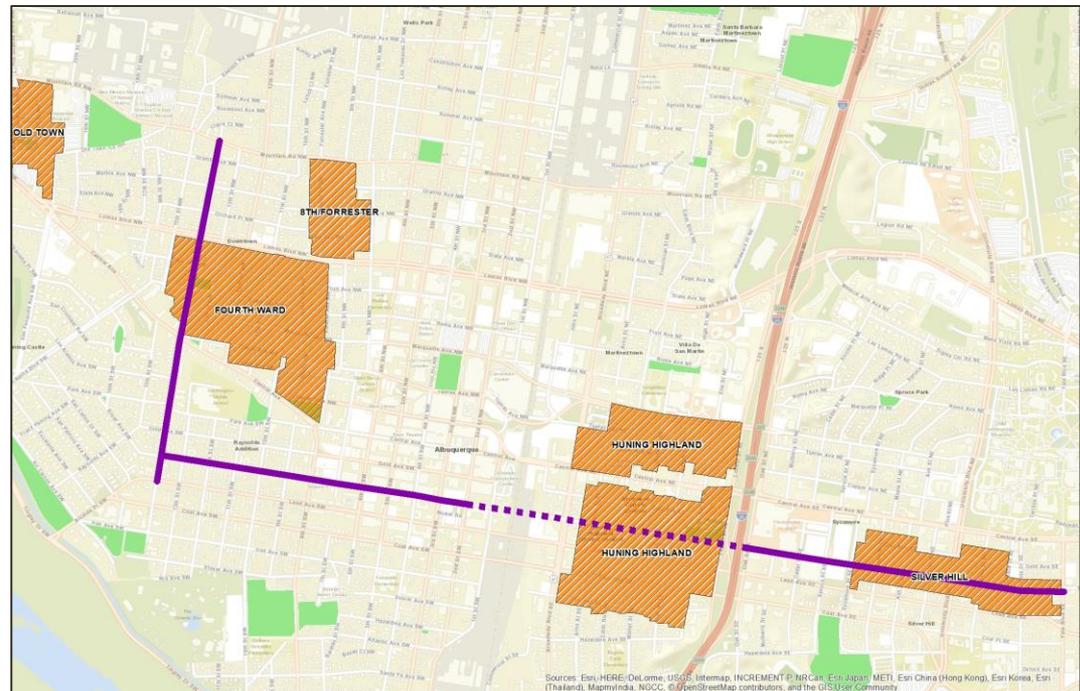
# SCOPE & STUDY AREA CHARACTERISTICS

- Review and consider portions of the **Silver Ave Bike Blvd** from Yale Blvd to 14<sup>th</sup> St and the **14<sup>th</sup> St Bike Blvd** from Silver Ave to Mountain Rd for improvements
- Apply techniques that have been developed along other Bike Blvd segments
- Qualitative evaluation of Mountain Rd as a Bike Blvd



# SCOPE & STUDY AREA CHARACTERISTICS

- Historic neighborhoods
- Residential areas
- Downtown
- Create bicycling alternative to Lead Ave and Coal Ave
- Broadway to I-25
  - Proposed on Long Range Bicycle System as a Bike Blvd but not currently developed
  - Limited access due to Railroad and I-25 crossings



# GENERAL APPROACH & DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

- Apply Bike Blvd design techniques (“Branding”)
  - Traffic calming
  - Pavement markings
  - Signing
  - Wayfinding/Connectivity
  - Delineated on-street parking
- Review stop sign alignment
- Consider major design interventions (where necessary)

# SITE VISIT OBSERVATIONS

- Signing/wayfinding is inconsistent
- Pavement markings are infrequent compared to other Bike Blvd segments
- On-street parking is not delineated along most of the corridor
- Stop sign orientation should be reviewed
- Opportunities for traffic calming
- Challenges crossing major streets (Lead Ave/Coal Ave) and obstacles (RR and I-25)



# SITE VISIT OBSERVATIONS – LOCUST ST

- Address access to Silver Ave to the west of I-25
- Logical connection between Silver Ave and Lead Ave/Coal Ave (utilize existing signalized intersections)
- Street currently dead-ends – improved connection needed

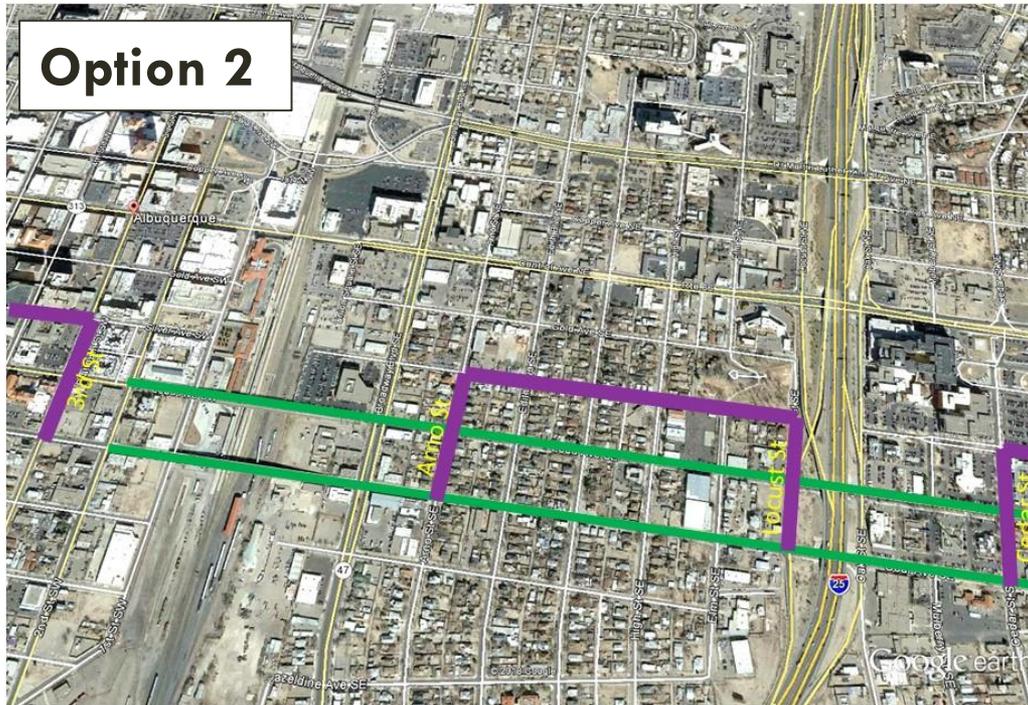


# MAJOR DESIGN CHALLENGES – RAILROAD CROSSING

- Railroad Crossing from 2<sup>nd</sup> St to Broadway Blvd
- Question: How do we access the Bike Blvd?
- Option: Utilize existing street network to access Lead Ave and Coal Ave
- Other ideas?

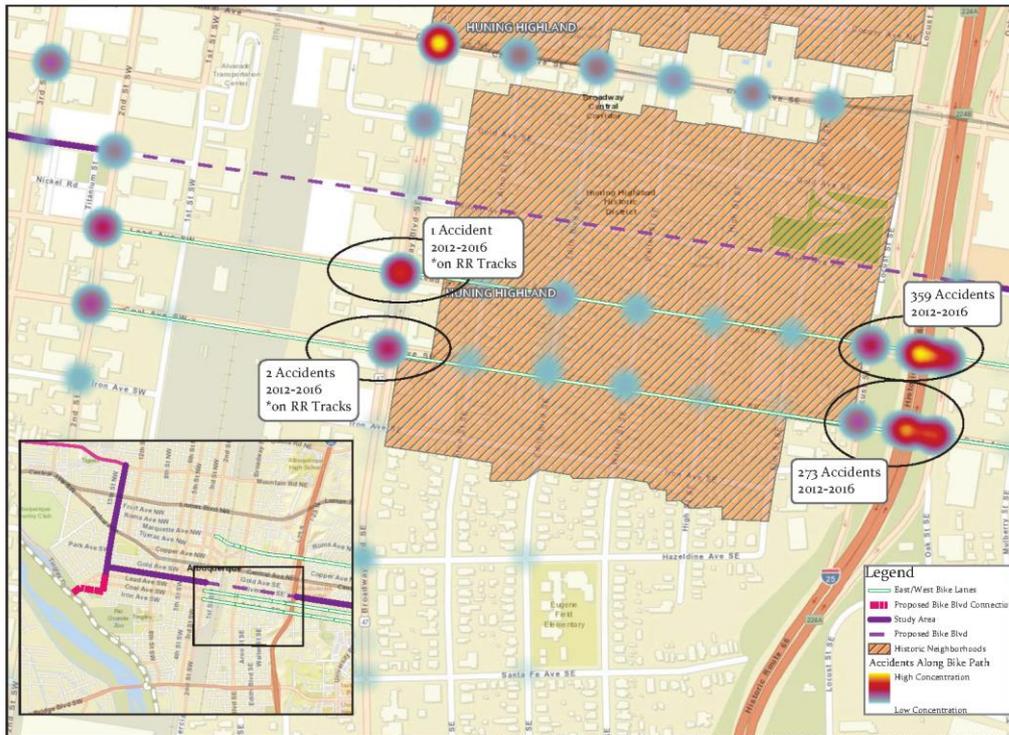


# MAJOR DESIGN CHALLENGES – I-25 UNDERPASS



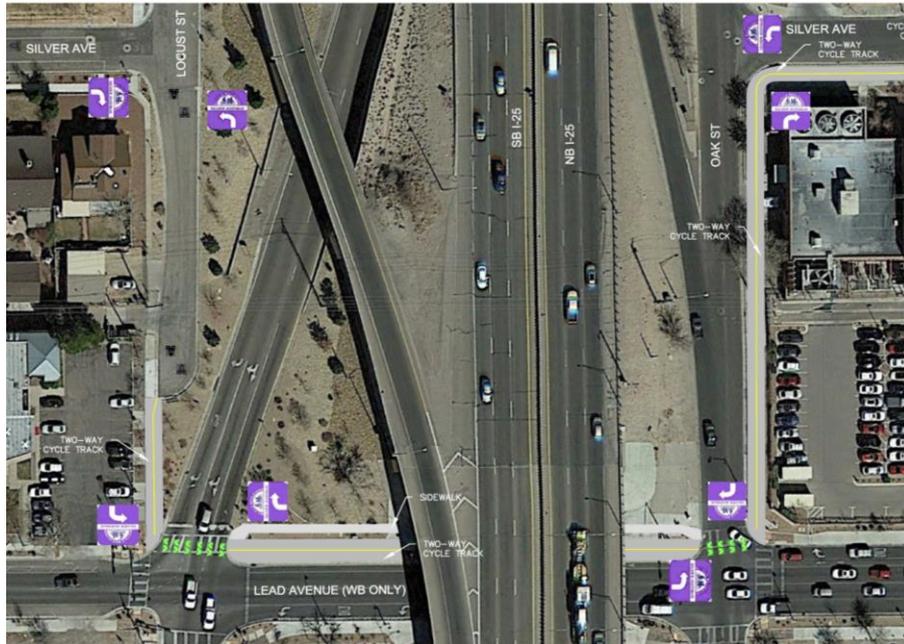
- Option 1: **No improvements** – rely on Lead Ave and Coal Ave
- Option 2: Utilize **existing street network** (e.g. Locust St and Cedar St)
- Option 3: **Off-street cycle track** along Lead Ave

# MAJOR DESIGN CHALLENGES – I-25 UNDERPASS SAFETY CONCERNS



- High numbers of vehicle-related crashes at I-25 intersections
- 4 bicycle-related crashes from 2012-2016 at Lead/I-25
- Additional safety measures would be beneficial

# MAJOR DESIGN CHALLENGES – I-25 UNDERPASS



Oak St Sidewalk

- Cycle track along Lead Ave
- North-south on Oak St
- East-west on Silver Ave



# INITIAL IDEAS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Application of Bike Blvd techniques
- Connection to Bosque Trail from 14<sup>th</sup> St & Silver Ave
- Develop Silver Ave as a Bike Blvd from Arno St to Locust St
- Benefit in retaining Silver Ave as Bike Blvd through Downtown
- Wayfinding is critical along Silver Ave Bike Blvd
  - Access to numerous destinations
  - Historic neighborhoods
  - Distance to destinations



# NEXT STEPS

- Information gathering
  - Traffic counts and bike counts
  - Review of plans and studies
  - Locations for design improvements
- Preliminary conceptual design
  - Public meeting in January
  - Full design at a later stage
- Integrate Silver Ave Bike Blvd with ongoing studies and improvements
  - South Broadway Study
  - Lead/Coal Ave improvements through Downtown
  - Downtown Safe Zone

# Questions?

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