Universe Boulevard Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Study

Virtual Public Meeting #1
City of Albuquerque
• Council President Cynthia D. Borrego
• Susan Vigil – Council District 5 Policy Analyst
• Tom Menicucci – Council Assoc. Director if Capital and Community Projects
• Tim Brown, PE, PTOE – Traffic Engineering Manager
Wilson & Company
• Audra Gallegos, PE
• Ben Bachwirtz
• Lorenzo Cornejo, EI
Study Limits

- Study Limits: Universe Boulevard from McMahon Boulevard to Rainbow Boulevard
- Length: 3 miles
- Posted Speed Limit: 35 mph
- Roadway Classification: Minor Arterial
Project Purpose and Need

- Roadway safety
- Pedestrian safety
- Speeding concerns
- Intersection improvements
Purpose of Tonight's Meeting

- Introduce project
- Introduce potential alternatives
- Public input – we want to hear from you!
Schedule

• Public Meeting #1 – Tonight’s meeting
• Existing Conditions Report – Winter 2021
• Identification of Improvements – Spring 2022
• Public Meeting #2 – Spring 2022
• Recommendations and Final Report – Spring 2022
Existing Conditions
Typical Sections

Universe Blvd
North of Paseo del Norte

5’ Sidewalk  Buffer  11’ Driving lane  11’ Driving lane  18’ Median  11’ Driving lane  11’ Driving lane  Buffer  10’ Sidewalk  10’ Landscaping
Typical Sections

Universe Blvd
South of Paseo del Norte

*No sidewalk and curb and gutter South of Woodmont Avenue
Existing Conditions Photos

Universe Boulevard Traffic and Pedestrian Study
Existing Conditions Photos

Universe Boulevard Traffic and Pedestrian Study
• 2019 Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG) traffic volumes
• Average annual weekday traffic (AAWDT) in vehicles per day (vpd)
• Universe Boulevard AAWDT
  • 7,800 vpd to 16,600 vpd
Potential Alternatives
**Roundabouts**

**Benefits**
- Improves safety
- Lower vehicle speeds
- Reduce conflict points
- Improve intersection operations

**Cons**
- Expensive
- May require additional right-of-way
Analyze the following Universe Boulevard intersections:

- McMahon Boulevard
- Irving Boulevard
- Ventana Road-Country Knoll Court
• Protected or protected-permissive left-turn
• Follow Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) guidelines

• Paradise Boulevard is an example of a protected-permissive left-turn:
Analyze the following Universe Boulevard intersections:
  • Irving Boulevard
  • Ventana Village Road
  • Rainbow Boulevard
Analyze the following Universe Boulevard intersections:
  • Ventana Road-Country Knoll Court

All-Way stop was removed when Irving Boulevard signal was installed

Follow FHWA guidelines
  • Volumes
  • Crashes

Council District 5 recently funded the installation of flashing intersection warning beacons ($34,053.98)
• Determine if right- and left-turn lanes are needed
• Analyze the following Universe Boulevard intersections:
  • Tree Line Avenue
  • Woodmont Avenue
• Woodmont currently has northbound left-turn lane
Road Diet

- Would reduce a lane in each direction and use space for other modes of travel such as bike lanes.
- Analyze from Paseo del Norte Boulevard to McMahon Boulevard
  - Considers traffic volumes
- Follows FHWA guidelines
- Example:
Other Analyses

- Sight distance issues
- ADA compliance
- Pedestrian connectivity
- Crash analysis (latest 5-years)
- Speed study
Next Steps

• Data collection
  • Intersection turning movement counts (traffic volumes)
  • Tube counts (volume, speed, classification)
  • Crash data
Public Input
Questions/Comments

- Provide comments tonight
- Email comments to audra.gallegos@wilsonco.com
  - Reports, materials, and updates will be posted
- Deadline for comments December 7, 2021
Thank you!