



CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE



Constructive Conversations Report

Summary of Community Discussions with City Leaders
on the Future of the Built Environment

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2024

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Above: Councilor Brook Bassan and DMD Director Jennifer Turner discuss City project priorities. **Top:** Participants had the opportunity to connect with constituent affairs representatives to get their questions answered. **Left:** Mayor Tim Keller listens attentively to a participant’s concern.

From the Mayor

A quick message from Mayor Tim Keller.

Dear Albuquerque,

During our recent “Constructive Conversations” sessions, we came together to discuss the future of our city’s built environment, and the strongest common theme across every district was our shared passion for this city we call home.

Through these discussions, we learned some of what matters most to you, whether it’s improving roads and lighting, preserving green spaces, or enhancing cultural landmarks. Your input is crucial as we shape Albuquerque’s growth.

These sessions not only help us plan for the future, but also gave us a chance to address ongoing projects in your district and throughout the city.

We look forward to taking a deeper dive into what these discussions have brought to light, and using what we learn to guide us as we continue making Albuquerque the best place for families and residents.

Sincerely,

TIMOTHY M. KELLER, MAYOR,
CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE



Above: Mayor and Councilor Grout.
Left: Councilor Dan Champine visits with District 8 constituents. **Right:** Councilor Nichole Rogers and Albuquerque resident visit about District 6.

From the City Council

A quick message from the from City Council.

The Constructive Conversations held this spring offered valuable insight for Albuquerque residents and leaders about capital outlay projects in each of the City Council Districts. The Conversations emphasized community input and direct engagement, helping City leaders to improve public safety, enhance the quality of life, and promote economic development in all parts of Albuquerque. City-wide projects are underway to achieve our constituents' stated priorities.

This report provides insightful summaries of the data collected and vital constituent feedback that helps us as City Councilors, along with Department Directors and project managers, develop action plans to address community expressed needs. Residents across the City have consistently emphasized their desire for improved road safety, effective crime reduction, additional housing options and essential

infrastructure improvements. The Conversations show that our residents welcome the opportunity to express those needs, learn more about the projects in their community, and become more involved in the process.

Volunteers are integral to the implementation of community-based solutions. Volunteer service on the City's Boards and Commissions gives residents the opportunity for direct involvement in the formation of policy and helps guide the priorities for City leaders and Departments. The active involvement of residents in forming policy instills confidence, increases accountability, and ensures a connection to the diverse communities we all represent.

Sincerely,

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE
CITY COUNCIL





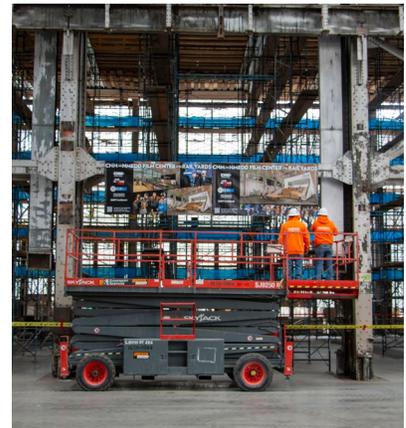
About Constructive Conversations

In late spring of 2024, Mayor Tim Keller, City of Albuquerque leaders along with City Councilors introduced “Constructive Conversations,” a series of community meetings designed to facilitate discussions aimed at shaping the future build of Albuquerque. These sessions were intended to bridge the gap between community objectives and funding realities, focusing on investments to enhance the city’s infrastructure, placemaking, and overall quality of life. The series included nine sessions, each focusing on planned development in each one of Albuquerque’s City Council districts. Discussions covered a range of projects in each neighborhood, including infrastructure enhancements, transportation improvements, green space initiatives, and cultural landmarks. Additionally, discussions addressed high-priority citywide projects, providing participants with the opportunity to voice their opinions. Residents were encouraged to interact, ask questions, and engage in “Constructive Conversations” with city leaders, including directors and executive leadership. These conversations provided them with opportunities to share their ideas and input, influencing public development projects in Albuquerque. The interactions served as a successful example of community engagement and collaboration in shaping the future of our city.

Above: Public Affairs Director Doug Small and District 9 residents discuss public safety with APD officers.

Facing Page (from left to right):
First Row Left: A community artist presents Councilor Nichole Rogers with a self-portrait honoring her work for District 6. *First Row Right Top:* Councilor Joaquín Baca visits with participant about District 2. *First Row Right Bottom:* Councilor Tammy Fiebelkorn quizzes District 7 participants about community hidden gems. *Second Row Left Top:* Councilor Dan Lewis listens attentively to feedback about District 5. *Second Row Left Bottom:* Councilor Brook Bassan visited with participants at North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center. *Second Row Right Top:* Participants weighed in on projects using the Dotmocracy voting system.





The Projects

Albuquerque has secured over \$190 million in state capital outlay across the past two legislative sessions. This funding, distributed by the Governor, Senate, and House, is competitive and must be spent within 2-4 years.

The Capital Implementation Program (CIP), housed within the Department of Municipal Development (DMD), ensures accountable use of these funds.

CIP facilitates the acquisition and administration of federal, state, and local capital funds for priority projects, adhering strictly to public procurement rules. It manages construction projects from start to finish, oversees daily operations, and handles payments and grant reimbursements for audit compliance.

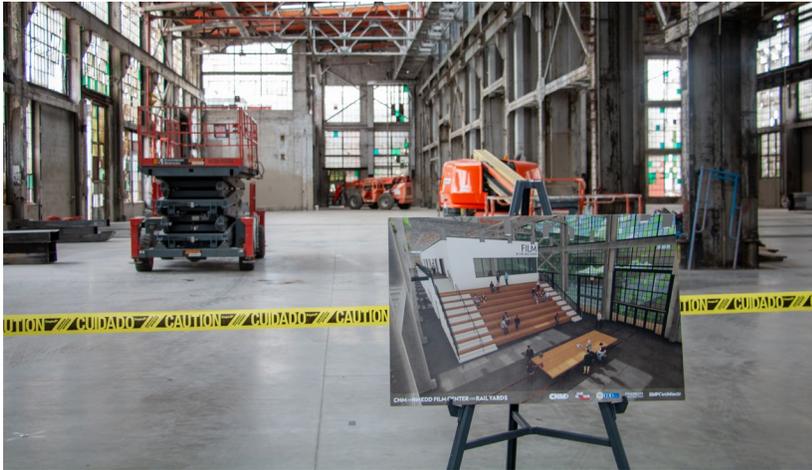
At “Constructive Conversations,” several notable capital-funded projects were highlighted. DMD drew attention for its significant role in street maintenance, emphasizing the importance of road upkeep in Albuquerque.

Upgrading to energy-efficient street lights resonated with the community’s desire for safer, sustainable infrastructure. Enhancing medians to enhance aesthetics and pedestrian safety also garnered strong support.

Above: Participants learned information about the new Media Arts Academy project at the historic Railyards. **Top:** Fire Chief Emily Jaramillo answers questions from Constructive Conversation participants. **Left:** Constructive Conversation participants were excited about the new Albuquerque Community Safety Headquarters.

Additionally, citywide initiatives presented included plans for continued construction of the Gateway Center Health Hub and Albuquerque Community Safety (ACS) headquarters, underscoring the city’s commitment to public health and safety.

Discussions also featured a media arts academy at the historic Railyards boosting educational opportunities and support for the growth in our local film industry.



Above: Mayor Tim Keller and Councilor Baca kick off the Central Crossing upgrade in District 2. **Top:** Media Arts Academy @ the Railyards was presented as one of the Citywide Projects at Constructive Conversations. **Left:** Constructive Conversations highlighted the growth and opportunities emerging in Albuquerque.

The Rail Trail project, envisioned as a 7-mile urban multi-use trail connecting downtown Albuquerque with historic neighborhoods, aimed to showcase over three centuries of local history for residents and visitors.

Renovations at the Sunport will improve travel experiences and accommodate future growth, while upgrades at the BioPark, including new attractions like cool blue penguins, will enrich one of the city's most visited facilities.

Citywide enhancements to dog parks and upgrades at Balloon Fiesta Park, including improved infrastructure, reflect Albuquerque's commitment

to pet-friendly amenities and premier event venues.

Other community-driven projects discussed included support for a new aquatics center in District 4 and ongoing efforts to expand affordable housing options citywide. These initiatives underscore Albuquerque's diverse and forward-thinking approach to development, aiming to enhance the overall quality of life for its residents.

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

HIGHLIGHTS FROM CONSTRUCTIVE CONVERSATIONS

Constructive Conversations was much more than just a slide presentation about capital outlay projects. It provided an opportunity to engage with the community directly, allowing residents to voice their opinions to city leaders who are actively working to improve the quality of life for families in Albuquerque. Here are some of the positive, negative, and critical comments from Albuquerque residents across all nine districts:

We asked: What do you love about your neighborhood?

- "I love how quiet and safe my new neighborhood is." -District 4

- "Books in different languages available at the International Library." -District 6

- "New pickleball courts" - District 9

- "Walkability." - District 2

We asked: What projects need more attention?

- "High traffic roads could use larger turn bays." -District 5

- "More trees and benches along bike paths." -District 1

- "Affordable housing." -District 3

- "Public restrooms for the unhoused." -District 7

BY THE NUMBERS

1,114

Total Registered Participants

1,234

Total Votes for “Would-Like In My Area” City-Wide Projects

567

Total Votes for City-Wide Projects Participants

MOST POPULAR VOTES BY PARTICIPANTS

1st

Participants would like to see more housing developments

2nd

Participants would like to see more traffic calming measures

3rd

Participants excited about the Gateway Center

4th

Participants excited about the Rail Trail project



The Dotmocracy Data

Dotmocracy: Our take on Inclusive Community Decision-Making

Dotmocracy, also known as dot-voting, is a method where participants use dot stickers or marks to vote on projects and ideas presented to them. It’s a way to gather feedback or prioritize choices collectively.

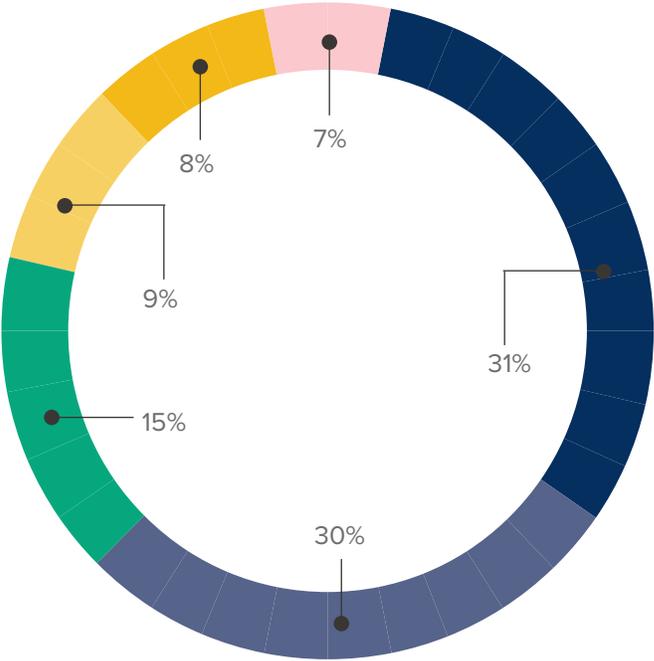
During “Constructive Conversations,” dotmocracy was used to engage residents in decision-making about projects discussed. Participants would place dots on options they supported, helping visualize community preferences and priorities.

This method fosters collaboration and ensures that community voices shape the outcomes of these conversations effectively, making the decision-making process more inclusive and representative of community needs.



Above: Participants assessed their own community priorities while providing feedback.

CHART 01
CAPITAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM (CIP)



GRAPH KEY
 ■ Local/GO ■ Enterprise ■ Transportation Infrastructure ■ Federal ■ State ■ Misc.

CHART 02
TOP 10 DOTMOCRACY VOTES, PROJECTS SUPPORTED

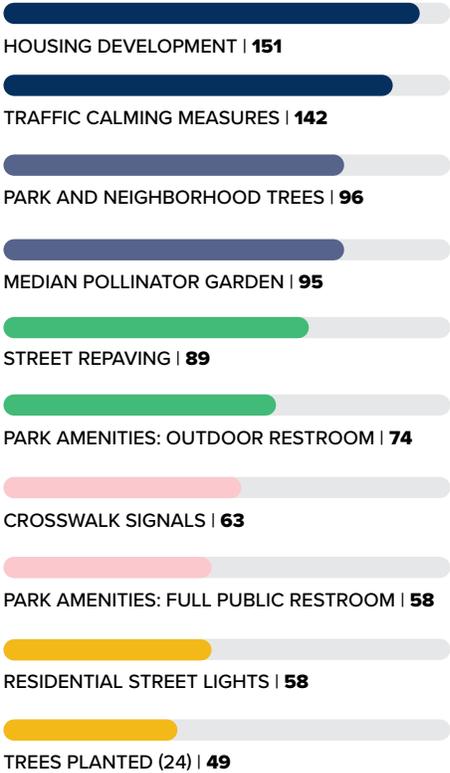
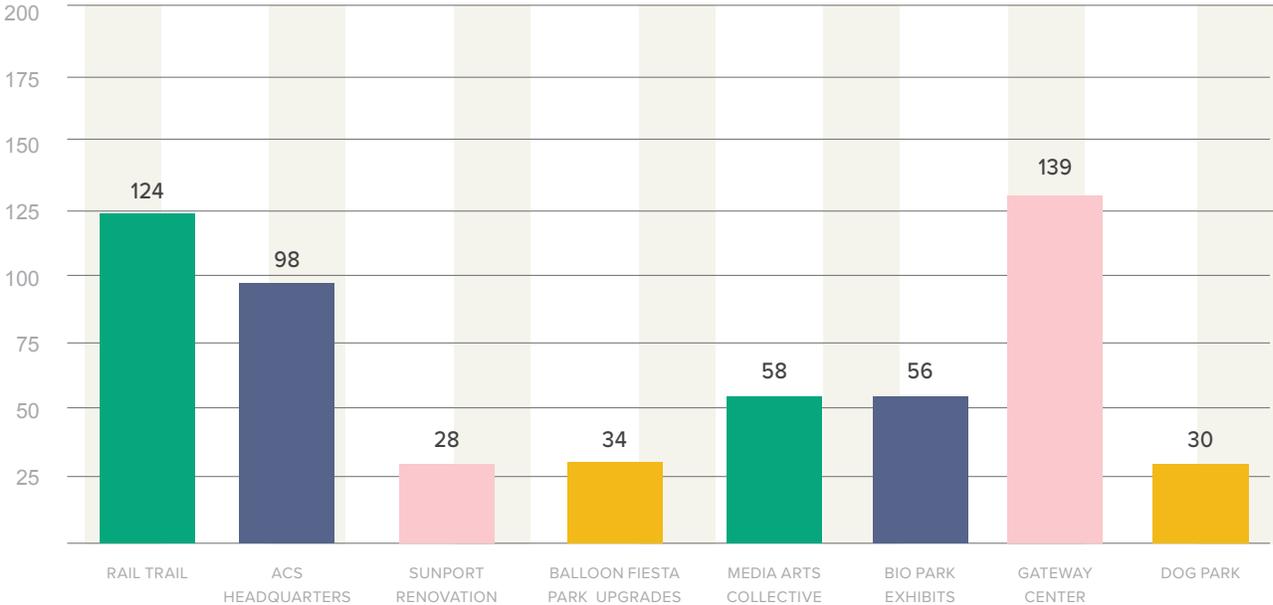


CHART 03
CITY-WIDE SPECIFIC PROJECTS SUPPORTED

(Participants were in favor of the below projects)





Above: Planning Director Alan Varela discusses processes in the Planning Department. **Top:** City leaders collaborate to turn new projects into reality. **Left:** Mayor Keller at Community Conversations. **Facing Page:** Participants share and assess feedback about their neighborhoods.

The Feedback

The Constructive Conversations gathered valuable feedback from all nine diverse districts, seeing significant attendance and active participation from over 1,100 registered community members.

Mayor Keller, City Councilors, and leaders from various City Departments, including Planning, Parks and Recreation, Municipal Development, and Community Safety, were actively involved. This feedback has been instrumental in helping us determine city residents' priorities, needs, and the improvements they want to see in their areas. Participants from each district voiced unique challenges and celebrated different aspects of their communities, showcasing the pride and love residents have for their neighborhoods.

While this final report provides a detailed summary of the key facts and feedback gathered during these conversations, it also highlights the community's hopes and needs. For those who attended and want a recap, or those who missed it but are

curious about what these sessions accomplished, we have replicated the [breakout session Post-it notes board](#) showcasing the feedback as it was provided and created a comprehensive [Constructive Conversations slideshow](#) in PDF format.

Additionally, with the help of One Albuquerque Media, we documented a [recap video](#) to illustrate how interactive these sessions were, truly becoming constructive conversations for the community.



Conversation Highlights

Throughout the “Constructive Conversations” sessions, several recurring themes and priorities were discussed with Albuquerque residents and city leaders. These conversations highlighted a shared vision for the city’s future, focusing on essential infrastructure improvements, public safety, and preserving the unique character of what makes Albuquerque the best place to raise a family.

The need for better road maintenance, improved street lighting, and traffic calming measures were consistently brought up across all districts. Residents emphasized the importance of sustainable infrastructure, such as energy-efficient streetlights and improved pedestrian pathways, to ensure safer and more accessible neighborhoods. Enhancing public safety was a major concern, with many participants advocating for increased police presence, better street lighting, and more speed enforcement efforts. Districts 1, 2, and 6 particularly stressed the need for measures to improve road safety and reduce crime. The preservation and enhancement of parks, green spaces, and neighborhood trees were highly valued by residents. There was significant support for planting more native trees, developing new parks, and ensuring existing green spaces are well-maintained.

Many discussions highlighted the community’s enthusiasm for cultural landmarks and recreational facilities. Projects such as the Rail Trail and the Gateway Center received positive attention, underscoring Albuquerque’s dedication to enhancing quality of life and public health resources for those in need. Affordable housing emerged as a critical issue with participants calling for more housing developments and rent control measures to ensure all residents have access to safe and affordable living options.

ENHANCING COMMUNITY LIFE

THROUGH CONSTRUCTIVE CONVERSATIONS

Constructive Conversations has been a new strategy for residents and city leaders to voice and address neighborhood concerns. These dialogues have led to many improvements in our communities, and a few of them are highlighted below. These were suggestions brought forth by community members to staff that were either in progress or quickly and easily done by City crews.

Notable action items include:

- Upgraded exercise equipment at Cesar Chavez Community Center, coming in fall 2024
- A new speed enforcement camera on Broadway Blvd., went live in July
- A Solar Radar system on the west side, scheduled for fall 2024
- The Cibola Loop Dog Park, set to be completed by fall 2024
- Landscaping upgrade project at Arroyo del Oso completed

As a result of these meetings, more action items are being sent to department directors. Their teams of experts are being mobilized to continue making Albuquerque the best place to live and to enhance the overall quality of life for its residents.





Building the City Together

The success of the “Constructive Conversations” initiative lies in its ability to bring together city leaders and residents to collaboratively shape the future of Albuquerque. This collective effort is crucial for ensuring that development projects align with community needs and aspirations.

By actively involving residents in the decision-making process, the city fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility among its citizens. The use of dotmocracy during sessions allowed for a democratic and transparent way of prioritizing projects, ensuring that community voices are heard and respected.

The city’s commitment to transparency is evident in the open discussions about project funding, timelines, and expected outcomes. Keeping residents informed about project progress and updates will continue to build trust and support for city initiatives.

Building the city together means embracing diverse perspectives and working towards inclusive solutions.

The feedback from different districts highlights the unique needs and priorities of

Left: Councilor Klarissa Peña celebrates public art installation in District 3.

Facing Page (from left to right):

First Row Left: Breakout sessions provided an easy and interactive way for everyone to give feedback. *First Row Right Top:* Continued growth and enhanced quality of life were key topics of conversation across all districts. *First Row Right Bottom:* Participants had the opportunity to meet and connect with APD and public safety officers. *Second Row Left Top:* Councilor Klarissa Peña and Councilor Louie Sanchez serve the Southwest and Westside districts of Albuquerque. *Second Row Left Bottom:* A decent sized crowd at the District 6 Community Conversations. *Second Row Right:* With 320 charging stations already in Albuquerque, feedback included requests for even more EV charging stations throughout the city.

each community, guiding city leaders in creating tailored approaches that aim to benefit the majority of Albuquerque residents.

Emphasizing sustainability in infrastructure and community projects is key to Albuquerque’s future growth.

Projects like the Rail Trail and energy-efficient street lighting not only enhance the city’s infrastructure but also contribute to environmental conservation.

By continuing to engage in constructive conversations, Albuquerque can ensure that its development is not only forward-thinking but also deeply rooted in the values and needs of its community. This collaborative approach will pave the way for a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable future for all residents.

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