

RAIL TRAIL

“The Trail Of Enchantment”



The Story of Us

The Rail Trail will be an iconic and artistic pedestrian parkway that reflects Albuquerque’s vibrant history and cultural diversity. This 7-mile bike and walking loop will be our "Trail of Enchantment." It will not only connect Downtown, Old Town, and the Rail Yards, it will tell the story of this place our families call home. The overall vision for the trail is to literally tell “our” story, of who we are as a people, of this land we love and our history through time. Walking the trail will entertain users with a rich tapestry of our life in “the city at the crossroads” over the centuries through art and design.

The Vision

The City enlisted the help of one of the world's top architects and Albuquerque resident, Antoine Predock, to create the artistic vision for the trail. Predock identified distinct stations along the trail that represent different eras in Albuquerque. Each station will tell the stories of that period and our people through images embedded in the trail’s surface, recordings you hear as you pass by, and sculptural elements that memorialize our past.



Albuquerque is the largest urban center for 1,000 square miles, a place where people come for the promise of a better life for their families. From the first indigenous trade routes, through the colonial era, from the bustle of Route 66, to the modern era, Albuquerque has always been a city at the crossroads. That story transcends space and time, and will be honored through the Rail Trail. This project will bring visitors downtown, to the heart of Albuquerque.

The Stations

- Rio: The Rio Grande sustains life in Albuquerque and draws people for agriculture, recreation, and ritual. The Rail Trail loop connects to the Bosque Trail, taking people to river.
- Origins / Albuquerque: Old Town is the historic heart of Spanish Colonial Albuquerque and a destination for locals and tourist.
- Tiguex: The Tiguex people originally inhabited this land. This zone honors the first people to live here and recognizes that their descendants are still here and contribute to the vibrancy of our present and future.
- Sawmill: The lumber yards were an important industry in our city. Neighborhoods grew around the sawmills to sustain the people who worked there.
- Enchantment / Enchantment Plaza: From this zone, you can see the Sandias to the east, volcanos to west, and the enchantment of the sky and land everywhere you look. It is a celebration of the landscape that inspires all who see it.
- Industry: Factories and warehouses clustered along this area for ease of shipping dry goods and heavy materials. Family run businesses still fuel commerce in the zone.
- 66: The Mother Road brought people to and through Albuquerque in the automobile. Albuquerque continued to be a crossroads for travel and commerce with Route 66.
- Iron Horse: The arrival of the rail and trains transformed Albuquerque. The Rail Yards were once an economic powerhouse during industrialization. This area continues to be the hub for moving people and goods by train through the city.

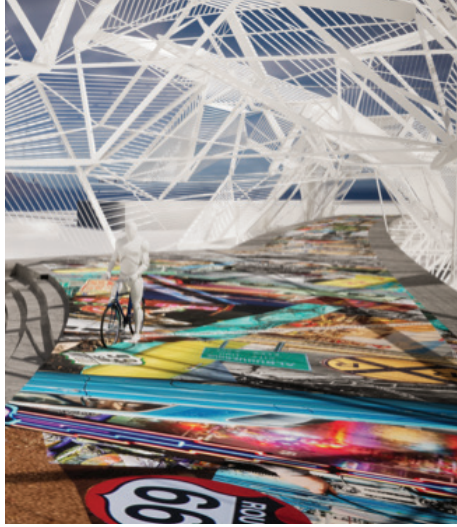
- Barelás: Barelás is one of the oldest neighborhoods that grew as a result of the railroad coming to Albuquerque. Barelás maintains many traditional ways and fortitude of the families that built this community.
- Umbral: Umbral is the Spanish word for threshold. This place is the original crossing of the Rio Grande and the entry point for the Camino Real.



THE METROPOLITAN REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (MRA)

Albuquerque Rail Trail

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\$40M Secured in funding

Storefront Improvement Grant Program

Round two of the program available for businesses or non-profits that occupy and rehabilitate ground-floor commercial space within the designated Downtown Albuquerque boundary.

Revamp Route 66: Sign Improvement Program

Launched in August 2023, the Revamp Route 66 Sign Improvement Program strives to preserve an important era of Albuquerque's development through the restoration or renovation of Route 66 neon signs.

Senate Bill 251

At the 2023 State legislative session, MRA successfully worked to pass changes to the statute governing the MRA to expand our ability to complete work in designated Redevelopment Areas across New Mexico.

Under these changes, the MRA will be able to expand its ability to create grant and loan programs for MRAs across the city.

Burque Live

In its second year, Burque Live showcases local talent and provides entertainment for folks of all ages and musical interests. The series aims to activate the downtown core and create opportunities for local musicians.



Palladium Townhomes

Project Completion

16 homeownership townhomes in Downtown (1/3 affordable housing).



Imperial Inn

Project Completion

52 guest rooms, 16 residential suites, and approximately 4,410 rentable sq. ft. of commercial space in East Downtown.



Learn More



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REDEVELOPMENT TAX ABATEMENT (RTA): AWARDED PROJECTS

The Redevelopment Tax Abatement (RTA) is a seven-year property tax abatement on the incremental property taxes for all taxing districts. The purpose of the Redevelopment Tax Abatement program is to attract private investment and revitalize divested areas.

The Downtowner

Location: 1st and Silver
207 new units of housing, 11 additional live-work units, and a neighborhood cafe.



El Parador

Location: 201 Yale Blvd. SE
Three-story, 20-unit multifamily project.



Villa Agave *Broke Ground

Location: 705 Copper Ave NW
15 new housing units and improved streetscapes.



Silver/Jefferson Townhomes

Location: 140 Jefferson St. SE
20-unit multi-family townhome project.



The Pearl

Location: 1623 and 1701 Central
34 new housing units and 1,700 sq. ft. of retail and commercial space.



ADOPTED METROPOLITAN REDEVELOPMENT AREA PLANS

University MRA Plan

The University MRA district, a corridor near UNM and CNM, demonstrates significant opportunity to become a vibrant destination for students, residents, and visitors.

Menaul MRA Plan

The Menaul MRA, just west of the North Diversion Channel and between Interstate 40 and 25, holds enormous potential to catalyze into a truly mixed-use district with multi-family housing and additional commercial uses.

Learn More



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