



Tim Keller, Mayor

# Greater Albuquerque Active Transportation Committee (GAATC) – AGENDA

February 12, 2024 | 4:00 – 6:00 PM



Meeting will be held virtually.  
Zoom meetings will be recorded for notetaking purposes.  
\*6 mute/unmute | \*9 raise/lower hand

Join by Zoom: <https://cabq.zoom.us/j/86730137590>

Join by Phone: +1 346 248 7799

ID: 867 3013 7590

- **GAATC member introductions**

[ ] Ryan Mast (Vice Chair)  
NE Quadrant

[ ] Dr. Naomi George  
SE Quadrant

[ ] Vacant  
NW Quadrant

[ ] Vacant  
SW Quadrant

[ ] Vacant  
Pedestrians + Transit  
Users

[ ] Josiah Hooten  
Bicyclists

[ ] Vacant  
Represent individuals  
w/a Disability

[ ] Aaron Hill (Chair)  
Youth (Under 24)

[ ] Lanny Toning  
Older Adults (over 60)

- **Staff introductions**

- **Members of the public introductions**

- **Approval of February 12, 2024 Meeting Agenda**

- **Approval of January 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

- **Public Comments** (Public comment is limited to two (2) minutes per audience member)
  - Please email comments to Valerie Hermanson ([vhermanson@cabq.gov](mailto:vhermanson@cabq.gov)) before the meeting (**must be received by 4 pm on February 12, 2024**) OR use the virtual raise hand feature during the meeting.
  - Participants will be an “Attendee” in the Zoom Webinar until the public comment period begins. The Zoom moderator will move you into the meeting room as a “Panelist” when it’s your turn to provide public comments. Please accept the Promotion to “Panelist.” You will be able to turn on your video and microphone to provide public comments. After completing public comment, an attendee will be returned to an “Attendee” of the Zoom Webinar where they can continue to observe the meeting.

**Next Meeting: Monday, March 11, 2024**



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## Greater Albuquerque Active Transportation Committee (GAATC) – AGENDA

February 12, 2024 | 4:00 – 6:00 PM



- **Discussion / Action Items**
  - **Brief overview of Bernalillo County’s RAISE grant application for Bridge Blvd. Phase 3**, Richard Meadows, AICP, Bernalillo County
    - **Action Item:** Review and approve letter of support from GAATC (draft letter attached)
  - **GAATC committee members discuss and edit the draft GAATC memo to City Council with recommendations for 4<sup>th</sup> Street from Menaul to Candelaria**
    - **Action Item:** Approve memo to City Council with GAATC recommendations for 4<sup>th</sup> Street from Menaul to Candelaria (draft memo attached)
- **Presentations**
  - **City of Albuquerque Bikeway and Trail Facilities Plan Update**, Valerie Hermanson, AICP, City of Albuquerque, Department of Municipal Development, and Aaron Sussman, AICP, Toole Design Group
  - **Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG) Regional Transportation Safety Action Plan**, Willy Simon, MRCOG, and Caeri Thomas, Map It Consulting
- **Staff Reports**
  - Municipal Development (DMD)
    - Traffic Engineering
    - Transportation Engineering/Vision Zero
  - Council Services
  - Parks and Recreation
  - Planning
  - ABQ RIDE
  - Sustainability
  - Bernalillo County
  - MRCOG
  - NMDOT District 3
- **Public Comments** (Public comment is limited to two (2) minutes per audience member)
  - Please use the virtual raise hand feature during the meeting. In the meeting, please wait until recognized to begin comments.
- **Next Meeting:** March 11, 2024, 4 – 6 pm
- **Adjourn**

**Next Meeting: Monday, March 11, 2024**



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## Greater Albuquerque Active Transportation Committee (GAATC)



**TO:** Honorable Secretary Pete Buttigieg  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington DC, 20590

**February 12, 2024**

**RE:** 2024 RAISE Grant GAATC Letter of Support

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Bernalillo County is requesting RAISE funding to reconstruct Bridge Boulevard Phase 3. The project includes protected bike lanes, ADA-compliant sidewalks, enhanced transit stops, raised landscaped medians, pedestrian lighting, adaptive signals, intersection improvements to address air quality, safety and mobility for all users, and roadway preservation. Bridge Boulevard improvements are identified in the Bridge Boulevard Corridor Redevelopment Plan which also calls for revitalization through land use changes and community-based economic development.

The corridor connects historically disadvantaged communities on both sides of the Rio Grande. It accesses nearby recreational and cultural trails and amenities such as the Biopark, Tingley Beach, National Hispanic Cultural Center, Railyards, Downtown, and Old Town Museums.

As the Committee that advises the City on the needs of people who walk, bike, use mobility devices, use other people-powered transportation options, and use public transit in our community, we are happy to support Bernalillo County's efforts to revitalize the Bridge Boulevard corridor with safe, multimodal transportation options for the South Valley.

Sincerely,

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Chair or Vice Chair, Greater Albuquerque Active Transportation Committee (GAATC)

# Draft Memo

To: City of Albuquerque City Council

From: Greater Albuquerque Active Transportation Committee

Re: Street Planning for 4<sup>th</sup> Street between Menaul and Candelaria

The Greater Albuquerque Active Transportation Committee (GAATC) advises the City on the promotion of equitable, safe, and accessible active transportation for Albuquerque. The City of Albuquerque has made notable progress in this area, including the creation of an extensive system of pedestrian and cycling trails including hundreds of miles of bikeways, bike paths, walking trails, bike lanes, and bike boulevards.

However, as the largest city in a state with the highest per-capita pedestrian fatality rate in the United States for the past 7 years [1], remaining focused on safety is critical. This horrifying statistic is just the tip of the iceberg: much of our city remains unsafe and thus underutilized by pedestrians and cyclists. When citizens can clearly see, or worse, personally experience the dangers of walking, using the sidewalks or cycling in Albuquerque, it leads to underutilization of our active transportation. In other words, were bicycles and pedestrians using the streets in greater numbers in the city, crash statistics would be far worse.

The lack of safety on our streets has other important ramifications in terms of equity, economic development, environmental degradation, and the 'livability' of Albuquerque. For too long false beliefs and assumptions about traffic management have perpetuated the building and maintenance of streets that are too wide, too fast, and frankly, too empty. For Albuquerque to be an economically viable, desirable place to live, for businesses to flourish, and for people to be safe, the city needs to reexamine its priorities and crucially, shift its focus to prioritizing increased safety and access for pedestrians, bicycles, and other active modes of transportation in all improvements, while slowing car traffic, and reducing land allocated to parking and other vehicle infrastructure. **This focus must be applied to every new road infrastructure project.**

Troublingly, a recent proposal for striping improvements for 4th street suggests transitioning an important thoroughfare that is currently 5 lanes wide all of which are dedicated to motorized vehicles, into a street with 5 lanes...all dedicated to cars. Shifting 2 of 5 lanes to car parking does nothing to improve bikeability. Thus, although this plan may slow traffic somewhat, which is laudable, but does little to increase access. The plan's other main accomplishment, besides slowing traffic, is to increase parking. Increased parking is not a goal to which Albuquerque should aspire. Parking is not synonymous with increased economic development, in fact, it often works against it, and the area already has ample area dedicated to parking (nearly 50% of the land!). Increasing parking excludes safe passage for bicycles, decreases foot traffic (yes, those two are related), and reduces the neighborhood's economic viability and desirability.

To ensure this and future projects meet the goals of GAATC and of the citizens, we help to represent, GAATC strongly recommends revisiting and revising the 4<sup>th</sup> Street plan between Menaul and Candelaria to provide safe bike lanes for cyclists in both directions.

*Closing ....*

[1] <https://www-fars.nhtsa.dot.gov/States/StatesPedestrians.aspx>

DRAFT