



Tim Keller, Mayor

Greater Albuquerque Active Transportation Committee (GAATC) – AGENDA

April 8, 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**

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ryan Mast (Vice Chair)
NE Quadrant | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Naomi George
SE Quadrant | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant
NW Quadrant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant
SW Quadrant | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant
Pedestrians + Transit
Users | <input type="checkbox"/> Josiah Hooten
Bicyclists |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant
Represent individuals
w/a Disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Aaron Hill (Chair)
Youth (Under 24) | <input type="checkbox"/> Lanny Toning
Older Adults (over 60) |

- **Staff introductions**

- **Members of the public introductions**

- **Approval of April 8, 2024 Meeting Agenda**
- **Approval of March 11, 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) before the meeting (**must be received by 4 pm on April 8, 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, May 13, 2024



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- **Discussion / Action Items**

No action items.

1. **Discussion:** GAATC Zoom meeting format to allow for more robust public participation in meetings
2. **City of Albuquerque E-Bike Policy Update**, Whitney Phelan, Parks and Recreation Department, City of Albuquerque
3. **Discussion:** Creation of a strategic plan for GAATC/identify subcommittee members (Naomi George)

- **Presentations**

No presentations.

- **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)
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- **Next Meeting:** May 13, 2024, 4 – 6 pm

- **Adjourn**

Next Meeting: Monday, May 13, 2024

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Committee Members Present

Aaron Hill (Chair)

Ryan Mast

Naomi George

Lanny Toning

Committee Members Absent

Josiah Hooten

Staff Members Present

Tim Brown (DMD)

Tara Cok (MRCOG)

Albert Lee (Sustainability)

Robert Messenger (CABQ Planning)

Jennifer Morrow (DMD)

Chloe Simion (TYLin)

Cheryl Somerfeldt (Parks and Rec)

Visitors Present

Alex Applegate (Transportation and Housing working group for the Environmental Justice Caucus)

Ben Garland (UNM Center for Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety)

Steve Pilon (Vice Chair of the Transit Advisory Board, Board Member of Bike ABQ)

Peter Rice (Downtown ABQ News)

Omar Villezcas (Together For Brothers)

Aaron Hill (Chair) called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm.

- **Approval of April 8, 2024, Meeting Agenda**

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Tim Keller, Mayor Ryan Mast (motion); Lanny Tanning (second)

Yes: Aaron Hill, Ryan Mast, Naomi George, Lanny Tanning

- **Approval of March 11, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

Ryan Mast (motion); Aaron Hill (second)

Yes: Aaron Hill, Ryan Mast, Naomi George, Lanny Tanning

- **Public Comments** (Public comment is limited to two (2) minutes per audience member)

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 - No written comments received.
 - Omar Villezcas: I just wanted to talk about a few things, including my work with Together for Brothers. I work with the outdoor equity cohort where we take young men of color throughout different communities to go on bike rides in the Bosque and Downtown area. We also take young men of color to the Bike-In Cafe. We are also planning an Earth Day ride on Saturday the 20th from 12 pm to 2 pm. Another thing that I want to mention is more support in terms of translating postcards and meetings into different languages. We've had people who have tried to join the GAATC before, but it's not translated into their own language, like Spanish. I just really wanted to uplift that. Thank you.
 - Steve Pilon: I would like to thank the board for discussing the format of this virtual meeting. I want to make sure that the board members appreciate how alienating and unsettling the current format is. We can't see ourselves. We can't see the other participants. We can't comment via chat. I don't know if the board members you know even understand the fact that what we see and what you are seeing, are two different things. And it's very disconcerting, especially for someone who would be trying to come to this meeting. We can't see how we appear to everybody else. So, given the social distancing, I would hope that the board would hear that this is discouraging public participation in this committee and that they would vote to re-establish the standard, Google meet or Zoom format, so we can all see each other, and to encourage public participation in this very important committee. Thank you very much.
 - Alex Applegate: Hello, I just wanted to thank the community for their 4th Street letter, it was great and hopeful. I want to commend Together for

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Brothers and Omar for their organization across the community, making the city a better place. And finally, I completely agree with Steve, it would be great if we can at least see who the other participants are in the meeting, besides the board members, and people who are visible. It would be a great way to help extend the community to a wider group of people. And I hope that you will take that into account when you look at this format. Thank you very much.

- **Discussion / Action Items**

No action items.

1. **Discussion:** GAATC Zoom meeting format to allow for more robust public participation in meetings

- *Overview:* If there are salient points from other board members, input will be taken to see what makes the most sense to move forward.

Discussion Comments:

- Lanny Toning: I had no idea about this format. If it's an open meeting, it ought to be an open meeting. I didn't know it was different from what we had going on. But listening to the comments. I think the format needs to be more open than what I'm hearing.
- Aaron Hill: I agree. As an advisory committee representing the public here in the greater Albuquerque area on active transit, we have to be able to listen to the constituents who are representing. And if we have a meeting format that is effectively hostile to that intense, it's our responsibility to adjust it to make it more friendly and easier for members of the public to engage with.
- Ryan Mast: A couple of comments. No objections to opening the meeting to be visible more so that it's not a separate panelist versus attendee. For the chat function, it might be disabled. It's been discouraged for boards or commissions to utilize that. I believe the reason was because of irrelevant side conversations. As far as the public comment period at the beginning and end, and official or not, after major presentations, allowing for public comment following committee member's questions on presentations, as well. I think that is a good practice, just so folks are not obligated to wait until the end of the meeting if they have something to say. So, those are just my comments on this piece. I'm happy to accommodate modifications if anyone has any suggestions. Thank you.
- Naomi George: If the chat is only discouraged, I'd like to make a case for allowing it. We're able to moderate it if we want to. I think it's an important area for accessibility. It allows people with differences in abilities for speaking or hearing to participate more robustly. Obviously, if the city has a rule, we can't violate that it's a committee. But if they don't, it may be worth imagining what a moderated chat would look like. So if we are getting off track, there's a way to bring us on track, including

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that function. With public comments at the beginning and end, and after presentations, I'd encourage this to not prevent us from moving forward. I would be in favor of opening the meeting.

- Lanny Tonning: The concerns about the Open Meeting Act had been cited in our discussions over the years that I've been involved. Maybe we should have somebody from the City attorney's office visit us because we are an advisory committee. We don't legislate. We don't interpret. We don't make rules. I don't know how those things apply to us. And I don't want to have our discussions tamped down by fear of saying something and violating an act that doesn't apply to a committee that has no judicial, quasi-judicial, or legislative authority.
- Aaron Hill: I think that's a reasonable concern. When I've heard discussions against the idea of opening the chat. Often the argument here is that if you're at an in-person public meeting, people wouldn't be able to sit there and talk to each other during the meeting, the idea that it's somehow violating the format of a public meeting to allow people to talk to each other. And I must wholeheartedly disagree with that. This is a different format. And with that in mind, if we have the capacity to let members of the community chat amongst themselves in a monitored in a way that isn't disruptive, I think that's an advantage, not something we're doing wrong.

There are a few major things we're considering transitioning to a more open meeting format: in which members of the public can see each other, a format where there is a moderated chat, and then the prospect of formalizing having questions after major presentations.

- Ryan Mast: I don't think we need to take major action, next meeting we can just start doing them. And if there is an outstanding question on the chat, maybe we just put it on hold and talk about it the next time, unless there are objections? I don't think any formal action is required.
- Aaron Hill: Unless any other members of the committee oppose it, I think we should conclude to do that next meeting.

2. Discussion for City of Albuquerque E-Bike Policy Update, Whitney Phelan, Parks and Recreation Department, City of Albuquerque

- **Absent**

3. Discussion: Creation of a strategic plan for GAATC/identify subcommittee members (Naomi George)

- *Overview:* Looking at the 4th Street document, we want to discuss what information we want to see, how we want to put it into action, and how to

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work through issues as they relate to GAATC's mission. Should we start with a mission statement and go from there? Or start with a strategic plan? How can we divide the work best to be more productive as a committee?

Discussion Comments:

- Ryan Mast: I would agree with the sentiment that a formal strategic plan might be a little robust for an advisory committee. Then of course, who will do it, monitor it, track it, update it, etc? Rather, I am very interested in having the ability to set forth a series of topics and/or concerns that we could filter in. And perhaps divide that up to work with staff to find good presentations or topics around that. In the short time I've been here, I haven't seen a lot, but I'd love to have more robust conversations. For example, how we are marketing around bike lanes and economic development incentives along bike paths, walking paths, etc.? How are we incorporating that into our planning and design for this? Then, third is design standards. I feel like a lot of times we get projects earlier, around the 30% design standards, but stuff has already been incorporated into this, so we provide comments. But the response back is that "we're just designing to the standard". But how can we influence and/or provide advice on changing design standards that we see as flawed? And where are those leverage points, in which we can provide that support long term? So we can change and/or modify design standards so that they are more active transportation friendly and address critical issues that we see. That would be my initial thoughts on the idea.
- Aaron Hill: I find myself completely agreeing with that sentiment. Some areas I would be interested in is if we can become more involved with, including public outreach for certain projects. If we see projects that are important for providing safe active transit opportunities, I think it would be it would behoove us to get involved in contacting the public about it. In a similar realm, support for Grants. We have written letters of support before for Grants for the County and the City of Albuquerque. And I think that is a lever that we can pull that we really could help.
- Naomi George: I want to reflect on your first comment, Ryan, which I think is important. Think in 2 to 3 weeks in advance of what we want to see and generate a community discussion and offer advice. This would be a nice chain of events. If they were curious about pedestrian safety or design standards, we'll bring these things in, educate ourselves, learn about why or why not the public might support it- all the ins and outs Then create some opinion in a document that could help when the projects come up. Lastly, I would say to limit the scope of our interests to 2, 3, maybe 4 things. With 1 or 2 at a time, with 4 total, would make the most sense, because we're not a committee that's even fully staffed. I think we have to be mindful of our limitations.
- Aaron Hill: It is a careful balance between being ambitious enough to make improvements and being humble enough to know our limits. With that in mind, it may be a good idea for us to prepare a draft mission

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statement for the next meeting to discuss and identify in the mission statement, 2 to 4 key priorities we want to focus on and actively reach out to staff about. Then, we as a committee will have subcommittees for the each of those topics.

- Ryan Mast: We already have a direction as a committee, do we need to make a formal mission statement? To me, it sounds like it comes down to what we want to focus on. Like, an annual plan, putting patchworking things together, and what we can do that calendar year. If we need to do it immediately, which I think might be my recommendation, we do this on the fiscal calendar, which aligns with the City of Albuquerque, if you're doing any grant work. Maybe at the meeting in June, we have a topic on the agenda where we talk about these certain topics as a committee, getting input from the public as well. From there, pick the top 3 to 4 we want to hit on for that fiscal year. This doesn't then preclude any other agenda items, of course. But this lets us know what we need to do.
- Lanny Tanning: I tend to agree. I've often found myself wondering exactly what it is we try to accomplish and whether or not we do. I know we make some things happen and we have interesting discussions. We also learn a lot from the people who are doing the infrastructure. I would like to see our work, help the City of Albuquerque involve itself more with the citizenry that we serve through the bicycling community. With that said, I'm all for defining exactly what we think we are doing. I don't know if it requires a mission statement.
- Aaron Hill: I'm not very dedicated to the idea of having a mission statement. But I like the idea here that we have a set of goals every fiscal year of things we want to actively pursue to get the city more involved in. Would we like to draft up a list of potential goals or focuses that we can discuss next meeting to start using them for the next fiscal year?
- Lanny Tanning: How about each of us writes a couple of notes of things we think about, send them in, and put them on the agenda? And we can decide.
- Naomi George: I think it would make sense to have a full committee. We should think about it in May, prepare to have a plan, and rolling forward to June is a great idea. I would add that I think we have to hold the feet to the fire for the City of Albuquerque of people who have signed up and have not been put on the board. I think we'll be a lot more successful carrying out tasks on your annual plan if there's not a quorum 50% of the time, but rather having nine folks people are theoretically invested. So I'd like to see that issue move forward so that we can be successful in this endeavor.
- Aaron Hill: By the time we start, we have this discussion in May or June, we have all the committee members here.
- Naomi George: Let's try to figure out why we can't get one appointed, and if they don't have applicants, figure out what's an acceptable, acceptable sort of recruitment process.
- Ryan Mast: On all the agendas, it points to which vacancies are available.

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We regularly ask for updates from the Mayor's office on the status of applications. Hopefully, we'll get that for the next meeting.

- Naomi George: Do we know how we can best convey the position to be filled? Because it hasn't moved anywhere. So I wonder how we let the Mayor's office know in a different way.
- Aaron Hill: I'm not sure how that has been conveyed. As you said, we need to hold their feet to the fire.
- Chloe Simion: Val has more information on this. And next month, she will be hosting. And she can answer questions from now until then about how to fill those open positions so that we have a full committee. Thank you.
- Naomi George: Can we as a committee send an email to the Mayor's office and convey that we'd like these positions filled?
- Aaron Hill: I don't think there's a rule against that.
- Ryan Mast: I have no objections to that.

Public Comments:

- Steve Pilon: I would like to thank the board for this discussion to try to appoint people onto the board. I know at least 3 individuals who have been trying to get on the board for quite some time and have not been able to, including Alex Applegate. He's up in the northwest quadrant and qualifies to be on the board, but for unclear reasons, he's not been able to get on. Another thing I really appreciate is the board figuring out a strategic plan. When it was GABAC, Dan Majewski, as Chair, put together a list of bicycle project priorities, then looked at the funding, which is a really important step in the process as well. If chat had been enabled, I would be able to share Dan's list of bicycle projects with you. But there is a list of these projects that had been identified and that they had been following over a period of years. So, I think that's one area that this board can really have a positive impact, is identifying and then pursuing funding for these bicycle projects on a prioritize basis. Thank you.
 - Aaron Hill: As you mentioned that list, if you do have a copy, please feel free to submit it as written comment, I'd be very appreciative.
- Alex Applegate: I just wanted to talk about my application for the board. I applied well over a year ago and didn't hear back. I repeatedly asked about it after 11 months, and I was told that I would hear again in 6 months, in March, whether they accepted my application or not. So getting it filled quick, for some reason, is not something that happens. I think some things that you might want to look out for are capital outlays. The City of Albuquerque can request capital outlays and groups can do it with City backing. I deal with people in the legislature all the time, they're always telling me they have more money than they can spend. And it would be great if you guys and us in a community could help guide some of those towards transportation projects. Thank you.

Informal Decision Based on Discussion:

- Each member to draft potential goals/focuses

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- Discussion will start at the next meeting or fiscal year
- Planning on submitting one topic at a time, totaling [no more than] 4 main topics we want to see put into action by the City of Albuquerque
- Gather information on what spots are vacant for the GAATC committee
 - Look to fill spots to complete a full quorum for future decision-making
 - If no applicants for a certain position, find what would be an acceptable recruitment process in order to fill
- Possibly reach out to the Mayor's office by email [after running by Valerie Hermanson] to see how we can better convey a message to fill vacant position for GAATC committee members

City Staff Response: While GAATC members are appointed by the Mayor with consent by Council, the City Clerk's Office is now managing all 57 Boards and Committees, including GAATC. I do not recommend sending a letter. They are aware of vacancies and working to fill them.

DMD staff has done outreach to Together for Brothers, ABQ CiQlovía organizers, and other groups to encourage applying to serve on the committee and to encourage diverse representation and representation from more vulnerable communities. DMD staff also included a recommendation in the 2024 Bikeway and Trail Facilities Plan to pay GAATC (and GARTC) members a stipend for their time at each meeting, which if implemented, might encourage/enable more diverse representation.

GAATC members can also do outreach to encourage people to apply to serve on GAATC. However, if people apply for seats that are not vacant, they will not be able to move forward in the process until the seat they're applying for or another seat becomes vacant.

Earlier in the year, staff were working with the City Clerk's Office to fill vacancies and a few were being moved forward in the process, however, it turned out one was a non-City resident living far outside the City of Albuquerque. Another applicant who applied to serve on GAATC was moving through the process until City Clerk staff found out they had also applied to serve on another board and were already moving forward in the other board's process. Per the ordinance for boards, commissions, and committees, people can only serve on one board at a time.

As of early March 2024, my understanding is that two GAATC applicants were moving forward in the process, which takes time and includes things such as an interview and a background check. Once selected to move forward by the Mayor, they must be on City Council's consent agenda for concurrence and approval. After final approval, City Clerk/Mayor's Office staff will reach out to the representative to connect them to the appropriate City staff committee liaison and provide further direction. Representatives going through the process are encouraged to not contact City GAATC staff liaison and please wait until the official email notice is sent.

As of 4/19/2024 in providing this staff update, Mr. Alex Applegate was confirmed at Council's 4/15/2024 meeting to serve as the NW representative. The other person on the agenda moving

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through the process was removed from the agenda by the Administration. Staff are not sure why. Additionally, per GAATC's Ordinance, one member must be from the Environmental Planning Commission (EPC), which recently filled the EPC vacancies. Due to these vacancies, there has been a delay in filling this vacant GAATC role. DMD staff are working with EPC staff to fill this vacancy.

- **Presentations**
No presentations.

- **Staff Reports**

- Municipal Development (DMD)

- Traffic Engineering, Tim Brown
 - No reports
- Transportation Engineering/Vision Zero, Valerie Hermanson (absent)
 - No reports

- Council Services, Matthew Cox (absent)

- No reports

- Parks and Recreation, Cheryl Somerfeldt & Whitney Phelan (absent)

- No reports

- Planning, Robert Messenger

- No reports

- ABQ RIDE (absent)

- No reports

- Sustainability, Albert Lee:

- Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRT) application submitted the end of March 2024, containing several projects for a wide range of climate actions that may be of interest to GAATC:
 - Rail Trail project- active transportation related that got into our final application, hopeful that it will be funded
- Community outreach will be held for Comprehensive Climate Action Plan submittal for 2025
 - New consultants have been hired on to help with in-depth community outreach
 - Will be looking forward to gain knowledge and experience from GAATC for outreach as well"

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- Bernalillo County, Julie Luna (absent)
 - No reports

- MRCOG, Tara Cok (absent)
 - No reports

- NMDOT District 3 (absent)
 - No reports

- **Public Comments** (Public comment is limited to two (2) minutes per audience member)
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 - Steve Pilon: Just like to say thank you. And I'd like to that an important function of the chat is people being able to post documents that people can download and view later. This is one reason I'd like to see chat enabled for everybody, because I think it's important to be able to share documents via chat. Thank you very much.

 - Alex Applegate: I would like to mention that if we don't have chat, although I would love chat, just the transparency of being able to see who's on the call would be a boon. I would appreciate that very much. Thank you.

- **Next Meeting:** May 13, 2024, 4 – 6 pm
- **Adjourn 4:55pm**