



Tim Keller, Mayor

# Greater Albuquerque Active Transportation Committee (GAATC) – AGENDA

May 13, 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**

Welcome, Alex!

[ ] Ryan Mast (Vice Chair)  
NE Quadrant

[ ] Dr. Naomi George  
SE Quadrant

[ ] Alex Applegate  
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 May 13, 2024 Meeting Agenda**

- **Approval of April 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 May 13, 2024**) OR use the virtual raise hand feature during the meeting. In the meeting, please wait until recognized to begin comments.

- **Discussion / Action Items**

1. **Discussion:** Review Bernalillo County letter of support for an active transportation planning grant for preliminary engineering design of Isleta Drain Trail Phase 1 (see attached draft letter), Richard Meadows, Bernalillo County
  - **Action:** Vote to approve GAATC letter of support

**Next Meeting: Monday, June 10, 2024**



Tim Keller, Mayor

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

May 13, 2024 | 4:00 – 6:00 PM



- **Presentations**

- 1. **I-25 S-Curve Area Study and I-25 Gibson Interchange Reconstruction Project Updates**, New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), Horrocks

- **Staff Reports**

- Municipal Development (DMD)
  - Traffic Engineering
  - Transportation Engineering/Vision Zero (please see attached staff report)
- 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:** June 10, 2024, 4 – 6 pm
- **Adjourn**

**Next Meeting: Monday, June 10, 2024**

# Greater Albuquerque Active Transportation Committee (GAATC) Meeting Minutes



Tim Keller, Mayor

May 13, 2024 | 4:00 – 6:00 PM



## **Committee Members Present**

Aaron Hill (Chair)

Alex Applegate

Josiah Hooten

Lanny Tanning

## **Committee Members Absent**

Ryan Mast (Vice Chair)

Dr Naomi George

## **Staff Members Present**

Tim Brown (DMD)

Adrianna Day (Horrocks)

Omega Delgado (Council Services)

Sofia Gomez-Legarreta (Horrocks)

Summer Herrera (NMDOT)

Albert Lee (Sustainability)

Julie Luna (BernCo)

Richard Meadows (BernCo)

Robert Messenger (CABQ Planning)

Cheyenne Poynor (Horrocks)

Jenae Robertson (TYLin)

Mike Worrall (Horrocks)

## **Visitors Present**

David C'De Baca, Teaming with Bike ABQ & Strong Towns ABQ, Documentary on Bike Plans

Dianne Cress, Bike ABQ

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

Peter Rice, Downtown ABQ News

# Greater Albuquerque Active Transportation Committee (GAATC) Meeting Minutes



Tim Keller, Mayor

May 13, 2024 | 4:00 – 6:00 PM



**Aaron Hill (Chair) called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.**

- **Approval of May 13, 2024, Meeting Agenda**

Alex Applegate (motion); Josiah Hooten (second)

Yes: Aaron Hill, Alex Applegate, Josiah Hooten, Lanny Tanning

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

Lanny Tanning (motion); Alex Applegate (second)

Yes: Aaron Hill, Alex Applegate, Josiah Hooten, Lanny Tanning

- **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 May 13, 2024**) OR use the virtual raise hand feature during the meeting.
- No emailed comments.
- No public comments.

- **Discussion / Action Items**

1. **Discussion:** Review Bernalillo County letter of support for Active Transportation Planning Grant *for Preliminary Engineering Design, Isleta Drain Trail Phase 1*, Richard Meadows, Bernalillo County

- **Overview:** *Requesting another letter of support to attach to the Grant application.*

Bernalillo County is working on a Grant application for Active Transportation (ATIIE) for Isleta Drain. Previously presented Isleta Drain Trail master plan and was adopted/approved a couple of years back.

**Currently:** Planning design and construction. The application will cover the first 2 phases, from Central Ave to Blake Road, with the [paved multi-use trail] reaching from Central Ave to I-25. With a total of 5 phases needed to complete everything, that is similar to the work on the Alameda Drain Trail. Gateways, and nodes will be in certain locations with amenities

**Features:**

- Will include gateways/nodes at certain locations with various amenities.
- Green stormwater infrastructure features to assist in cleaning the run-off into the drainage system.
- Landscaping
- Connecting to many facilities, for example, schools parks, open spaces, recreation facilities, and retail centers on some corridors to assist in using trail over roadways.

# Greater Albuquerque Active Transportation Committee (GAATC) Meeting Minutes



Tim Keller, Mayor

May 13, 2024 | 4:00 – 6:00 PM



- Aside of the Rio Grande River, it will be the 1<sup>st</sup> multi-use long distance trail project on the West Side of the River/South Valley area.
- **Q&A, Comments for Discussion Item #1- Isleta Drain Letter of Support for Active Transportation:**
  - Alex Applegate: I am in support. How much are we asking for?
    - Richard Meadows: Right now, primarily the design phase so, \$1.5 million to design 3 miles of trail. Construction is not being requested at the time, as we are out of bonds. However, a bond election will be held in Fall 2024 and anticipating to have more funding in a year from now to build a match or local cost sharing requirements. The master plan includes \$15-20 million to construct the entire thing, therefore, we will need to divide it into phases.
  - David C'De Baca: Is there going to be any crossing treatments, such as, raised crossings, signal treatments, etc. that will improve upon this?
    - Richard Meadows: Yes, it crosses a few major arterials and smaller collector roads. It will have different treatments depending on the type of road. There has been a HAWK signal installed on Bridge Boulevard where the trail will cross at the drain. Other locations will have raised crosswalks or median refuges. There is also a proposal for Rio Bravo, as it is a high-volume roadway- for a pedestrian bridge to be installed, however, it would be \$10s of millions of dollars. But there will be a signal crossing until we can do the bridge.
    - David C'De Baca: Right. It may not be the preferred method for bicyclists either as it is not at grade.
  - Steve Pilon: I do want to express Bike ABQ's support for this program. If haven't already, Richard Meadows from Bernalillo County should be receiving a letter soon as the letter has been generated in support of this.
  - Aaron Hill: I am in support of this. Checking with the committee, has everyone had a chance to read over the draft letter of support that was on the agenda?
    - Alex Applegate: I have read it and I support it.
    - -no other comments on this question-
  - **Action:** Vote to approve GAATC letter of support  
Alex Applegate (motion); Aaron Hill (second)  
Yes: Aaron Hill, Alex Applegate, Josiah Hooten, Lanny Toning
- **Presentations**
  - **I-25 S-Curve Area Study and I-25 Gibson Interchange Reconstruction Project Updates**, New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), Horrocks
    - **Overview:** There will 3 different discussions in this presentation, including:
      - 1) the I-25 S-Curve Area Study
      - 2) I-25 Gibson Interchange
      - 3) Commanche and Montgomery I-25 Improvements
    - **Part 1, I-25 S-Curve Area Study:**

# Greater Albuquerque Active Transportation Committee (GAATC) Meeting Minutes



Tim Keller, Mayor

May 13, 2024 | 4:00 – 6:00 PM



- Section of I-25 that the department is reopening a study from 2016
- The recommended preferred alternative did not meet safety needs
- Expands from Avenida Cesar Chavez to Lomas, along I-25
- The study team is working to identify solutions/alternatives to accommodate non-motorized transportation, bicyclists, and pedestrians
- *Three main focused questions for next steps:*
  - *How do potential walking/biking improvements tie into existing or planned facilities?*
  - *Where are there hotspots for crashes involving pedestrians and cyclists?*
  - *What facilities get the most pedestrian activity?*
- *Submitting public comments:*
  - A recent public meeting was held April 25, 2024 & still in “public comment period”
  - Visit: [i25scurve.com](https://i25scurve.com) to fill out survey/comment along with more information
  - Email us: [study@i25scurve.com](mailto:study@i25scurve.com)
  - Call: (505)600-2232
  - Mail us a comment form using address: *I-25 S-Curve Area Study, c/o Horrocks, 6001 Indian School Road NE, Ste 250, Albuquerque, NM 87110*
- **Part 2, I-25 Gibson Interchange:**
  - Just south of the I-25 S-Curve Study Area; north of Sunport to south of Avenida Cesar Chavez
  - Update was given in Fall 2023
  - Department is implementing preferred alternatives from previous planning efforts
  - Currently being developed as a design-build project
  - Working with NMDOT in early stages to prepare for implementation:
    - Conducting NEPA (environmental) studies
    - In-depth traffic engineering to acquire right-of-way, once an approved environmental document
  - Work on Gibson Boulevard for active transportation include:
    - Barrier-separated shared-use path at interchange due to heavy vehicular traffic- 14 foot wide on north and south side, tying back into the facility at Gibson
    - Buffered bike lane with adjacent sidewalk east and west of interchange
  - *Contact and more information:*
    - Visit [i25gibson.com](https://i25gibson.com)
    - Call (505)535-4442
    - Email us at [info@i25gibson.com](mailto:info@i25gibson.com)

# Greater Albuquerque Active Transportation Committee (GAATC) Meeting Minutes



Tim Keller, Mayor

May 13, 2024 | 4:00 – 6:00 PM



- *Upcoming:*
  - Next public meeting is August 2024
  - Construction anticipated for 2027
- **Part 3, Commanche and Montgomery I-25 Improvements**
  - Construction to start in August 2024
  - Construction will last about 3 years, completion anticipated date is April 1, 2027
  - Project was shared with committee roughly 2-3 years ago
  - Recommendations were made to barrier-separate active transportation mode from vehicular traffic, now being implemented
  - NMDOT has entered into a contract for design-build, currently in the middle of design in early stages of project
- *Montgomery Blvd and Commanche Interchange proposals include:*
  - Construct a new and wider bridge over I-25, adding additional turning and through lanes
  - Construct advanced U-turn lanes (“Texas turnarounds”)
  - Reconfigure on and off ramps
  - Improve facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians
  - Adjust access to some businesses
  - Both interchanges include barrier-separated pathways on north and south side
- *Contact and more information:*
  - You can sign up for emails and text updates with the information below!
  - Visit: [i25improved.com](http://i25improved.com)
  - Call: (505)785-ROAD (7623)
  - Email us at: [info@i25improved.com](mailto:info@i25improved.com)
- **Q&A, Comments for Presentation- I-25 S-Curve Area Study and I-25 Gibson Interchange Reconstruction Project Updates:**
  - Aaron Hill: Early-on in the first project of the S-Curve Study, there were many possibilities available on how the streetscape could be laid out. Are there any forms that your team are currently leaning toward?
    - Mike Worrall: Input from this committee has been taken seriously. For example; preferences through interstate corridors and interchange systems should have non-motorized transportation modes be barrier-separated from traffic. This is something that we will look to apply. Other than that, the things that will be implemented will be location specific using recommendations that speak to the circumstances, issues, and needs of the surface streets.
  - Steve Pilon: Thank you for incorporating the barrier-separation for the active transportation at these crossings. With this, reinforce the support of bicycle and pedestrian bridges between Sunport and Gibson, and Cesar Chavez and Lead and Coal. The previous meeting I attended, mentioned was the



# Greater Albuquerque Active Transportation Committee (GAATC) Meeting Minutes



Tim Keller, Mayor

May 13, 2024 | 4:00 – 6:00 PM



discussion of modifying the on and off ramp as I-25 goes through downtown. We may need to be thoughtful on how this is engineered to minimize danger to crossers. Also, is the active transportation ledge going to be through the Texas turnaround and through-traffic?

- Mike Worrall: Correct. There will be a barrier on both sides.
- Aaron Hill: For the philosophy of Lead, Coal, and Central Avenue, is the intention to funnel cyclists and other active transit users into one corridor, or have them spread out the infrastructure?
  - Mike Worrall: No. The City's non-motorized transportation plan includes bike routes on each of the cross streets. There is no intent to limit the facilities, but instead to meet the needs and not narrow it down.

## • Staff Reports

### • Municipal Development (DMD)

#### ○ Traffic Engineering, Tim Brown:

- Leading pedestrian intervals were implemented at two intersections:
  - Central Avenue and San Mateo
  - Central Avenue and Louisiana

This gives the pedestrian an 8 second head-start, getting the walk signal before the green comes on. The purpose is to give the pedestrians more time to cross while making it safer. It is installed in all directions (east, west, south, north bound). The majority of those struck by drivers are *not* in the crosswalk, typically between 50-200 feet from the intersection. By making the crosswalks more appealing, we are hopeful that people will start using them rather than crossing outside of the crosswalks.

#### ○ Transportation Engineering/Vision Zero, Valerie Hermanson (absent. staff report provided in advance attached to the agenda and below):

- Bike to Wherever Day. The City's Annual Bike to Wherever Day is Friday, May 17. We will have pop-up tables throughout the city where folks can pick up free biking swag, safety goodies, and the updated bike and trail map. Learn more and commit to ride at [www.bikethruburque.com](http://www.bikethruburque.com) or follow us on Facebook and Instagram
  - If you're interested in volunteering to table at one of the pop-up tables, there may be some volunteer slots open. You can sign up here:

[https://www.oneabqvolunteers.com/agency/detail/?agency\\_id=136373](https://www.oneabqvolunteers.com/agency/detail/?agency_id=136373)

- 2024 Bikeway and Trail Facilities Plan. Since November 2022, the City of Albuquerque has been working to update the 2015 Bikeway and Trail Facilities Plan to reflect Albuquerque's growth as a city, recent investments in bikeways and paved multi-use trails, and national best



# Greater Albuquerque Active Transportation Committee (GAATC) Meeting Minutes



Tim Keller, Mayor

May 13, 2024 | 4:00 – 6:00 PM



practices in network planning and bikeway design. The 2024 Plan recommends and prioritizes bikeways and paved multi-use trail projects across the city to make biking a safer, more comfortable, and appealing transportation and recreation option for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. Staff presented on this plan update to GAATC at three different GAATC meetings throughout the plan development.

- The City released the draft 2024 Bikeway and Trail Facilities Plan for public review through May 31, 2024
- Please visit the project website (<https://www.abqbikeplan.com/>) to review the draft 2024 Plan and provide feedback through a brief survey with key questions that would be most helpful for the project team. You can also access summary story maps with key highlights from the plan, including the proposed bikeway and trail networks.
- The project team will also host an informational public meeting on Tuesday, May 14, from 6 – 7 pm where you can learn more. Join the public meeting here: <https://cabq.zoom.us/j/84984761204>
- We expect to bring the plan to EPC in July. I'd also like to request a letter of support from GAATC for EPC. I will have more information for the next GAATC meeting.
- GAATC staff vacancies – please refer to the meeting notes for the April meeting. I provided a staff response/update to the discussion about vacancies. We've been working to fill them but ran into challenges described in the notes. I'm working with EPC staff to fill the vacant EPC/GAATC representative.
- Council Services, Omega Delgado:
  - No Updates
- Parks and Recreation, Cheryl Somerfeldt & Whitney Phelan(absent):
  - No Updates
- Planning, Robert Messenger:
  - No Updates
- ABQ RIDE (Vacant)
  - No Updates
- Sustainability, Albert Lee:
  - The Sustainability department has submitted the Grant application for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG), in April 2024. We are now at the beginning of starting community outreach for the Regional Comprehensive Climate Action Plan. This will serve as an update to the City's current Action Plan, released in 2021.
  - We are currently looking for applicants to serve on a community task force to represent and understand the LIDAC community, communities of color, low-income communities, and disadvantaged communities in the region.

# Greater Albuquerque Active Transportation Committee (GAATC) Meeting Minutes



Tim Keller, Mayor

May 13, 2024 | 4:00 – 6:00 PM



Link to application: [cabq.gov/sustainability](https://cabq.gov/sustainability) with a link on the left menu under “Regional Planning Efforts”

- A community visioning survey is also available on the website for input on where you would like to see from a climate perspective in the future.
- Link to application: [cabq.gov/sustainability](https://cabq.gov/sustainability) with a link on the left menu under “Regional Planning Efforts”, as chat has been disabled.
  
- Bernalillo County, Julie Luna:
  - We are wrapping up final public comments for Pedestrian Bicyclists Safety Action Plan. These comments along with information on equity and safety, will be used for proposed projects.
  - The funding for Alameda Drain Trail project, phase 5 and 6, has been secured. One is currently under design, as the second is just beginning design, that will go from Alameda Drain to just before 4<sup>th</sup> Street.
  
- MRCOG, Terra Cok (absent):
  - No Updates
- NMDOT District 3 (Vacant)
  - No Updates
- **Public Comments** (Public comment is limited to two (2) minutes per audience member)
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    - Steve Pilon: I would like to propose that the chat be opened for everyone. Thank you.
  
- **Next Meeting:** June 10, 2024, 4 – 6 pm
  
- **Adjourn 4:49pm**



Tim Keller, Mayor

## Greater Albuquerque Active Transportation Committee (GAATC)



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

May 13, 2024

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Bernalillo County is requesting Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program planning funds for the preliminary design of the Isleta Drain Trail, phase 1. The multi-use trail will provide an 11-mile-long spine connecting Albuquerque with several historic unincorporated communities in the South Valley. It will be the first multi-use trail to be constructed in the South Valley on the west side of the Rio Grande. The trail master plan, adopted in 2022, breaks the trail up into five segments, starting at Central Avenue in the north to Malpais Road in the south. The first phase will include the Atrisco and Arenal communities, about a 3.6-mile segment.

The Isleta Drain Trail will provide pedestrian and bicycle access within half a mile to dozens of key destinations including schools, parks and open space, community centers, health centers, retail and restaurants, and cultural sites. Trail access to adjoining transit routes can extend connections to major employment centers such as Downtown Albuquerque and the University of New Mexico. The trail project will provide substantial safety, health equity, sustainability, and economic benefits to disadvantaged South Valley communities.

GAATC supports Bernalillo County's efforts to design and construct a multi-use trail to increase active transportation in the South Valley.

Sincerely,

Aaron Hill, Chair  
Greater Albuquerque Active Transportation Committee

Valerie Hermanson, City of ABQ, DMD Engineering/Vision Zero staff report for May 13 meeting

Hi Greater Albuquerque Active Transportation Committee members, below please find my staff report.

- **Bike to Wherever Day.** The City's Annual Bike to Wherever Day is Friday, May 17. We will have pop-up tables throughout the city where folks can pick up free biking swag, safety goodies, and the updated bike and trail map. Learn more and commit to ride at [www.bikethruburque.com](http://www.bikethruburque.com) or follow us on Facebook and Instagram
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- **2024 Bikeway and Trail Facilities Plan.** Since November 2022, the City of Albuquerque has been working to update the [2015 Bikeway and Trail Facilities Plan](#) to reflect Albuquerque's growth as a city, recent investments in bikeways and paved multi-use trails, and national best practices in network planning and bikeway design. The 2024 Plan recommends and prioritizes bikeways and paved multi-use trail projects across the city to make biking a safer, more comfortable, and appealing transportation and recreation option for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. Staff presented on this plan update to GAATC at three different GAATC meetings throughout the plan development.
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