

Old Town Meeting 3.1.16

Question:	Answer:
Project Schedule	
When will the actual construction take place in the Old Town area?	We are still finalizing the schedule based on feedback we're receiving from our public meetings.
Parking and Driving Routes	
How will you manage rush hour traffic to and from downtown? Will you create new means to leave downtown that avoid going onto Lomas and Central?	One lane of traffic will be open in each direction during construction. Our traffic studies indicate that adjacent streets can easily handle any overflow traffic.
Besides Unser, where will there be other Park and Rides?	We are getting suggestions for additional park and ride options from our public meetings and are continuing to investigate possibilities.
How does traffic from side streets merge into high volume areas without tying up traffic further (where there is only one traffic lane)?	Traffic lights will create some gaps in traffic which allow for traffic from side streets to turn onto Central.
I live at San Pasquale NW (one-way street entering Central/Lomas at Wendy's). Will the city make sure this street will not ever be shut down during construction? It is our only outlet.	That intersection is one of our best challenges, we are currently evaluating construction options . Please visit this link for a map of what the intersection will look like after construction: http://abqbrt.blob.core.windows.net/resources/Stations/AlignmentNYAve-15thSt.pdf
I live at San Pasquale NW (one-way street entering Central/Lomas at Wendy's). Will we still have a traffic light - allowing us to turn left onto Lomas and right onto Lomas/Central?	No, you will have a right out on to Central. Please see http://abqbrt.blob.core.windows.net/resources/Stations/AlignmentNYAve-15thSt.pdf
Will there be park and rides in Old Town?	The City is investigating additional park and rides through out the corridor..

Will limiting left turns and u-turns delay traffic?

All vehicular turns and crossings of Central Avenue will be at signalized intersections with signalized left turn/U-turns. These signals will be provided every ¼ mile, on average. These changes are estimated to cause drivers a 30-90 second delay in travel time to accomplish the safe U-turns. According to studies conducted by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), signalized left turns/U-turns are safer for vehicles and pedestrians than uncontrolled left turns in and out of driveways and neighborhood streets. They improve visibility and reduce distractions to make travel safer for pedestrians and drivers. Additionally, the calming of traffic will allow drivers and riders alike to take in Route 66 more safely thus allowing visitors to check out the businesses in the corridor.

Will ART add to congestion?

A traffic-impact analysis was performed as part of the environmental evaluation. The impact to each signalized intersection on Central Avenue between Unser Boulevard and Louisiana Boulevard was assessed using actual traffic counts from morning and afternoon rush hours. The results of the analysis found that all of the intersections would continue to operate in accordance with City of Albuquerque standards. In addition to the intersection-level analysis prepared for the project, the Mid Region Council of Governments (MRCOG) analyzed potential impacts to parallel routes and found that while some through-traffic shifts to parallel routes, those routes have available capacity to handle the additional traffic and meet the City's standards. Nationally, studies have also found that focusing development in major transit corridors like Central Avenue makes a significant dent in future congestion because it enables more people to use transit or other modes of transportation, including walking.

Rio Grande/Lomas - How do residents get in and out of traffic? What about pedestrians?

At that particular intersection there will be signalized left turns and U turns, with signalized pedestrian crossing. Lomas merging to Central will look very similar to how it currently looks. For a map please click here:
<http://abqbrt.blob.core.windows.net/resources/Stations/AlignmentNYAve-15thSt.pdf>

Is there an opportunity to move buses to Gold/Copper around Solano (where it goes to one

City Council instructed ABQ RIDE in 2002 (R-02-66) to pursue a major federal transit investment on Central Avenue, and in 2003 Council voted to make Central a "Major Transit Corridor" (suitable for dedicated transit lanes) in the City/County Comprehensive Plan.

Lead/Coal and Lomas backup?

According to our traffic study the impact will be about 5 more cars per minute during rush hour on the parallel streets (Lead, Coal, and Lomas) north and south of Central Avenue. In addition, City Traffic Operations continuously monitors the traffic signal timings on Lead and Coal. The signals are designed for steady flow at 30 mph. Which, if adhered to by drivers should allow for safe crossing as well as safe opportunities for pedestrians to cross at designated cross walks. If you notice the timing being off, please contact Traffic Operations using the City's 311 system.

What are the hours of operation? How many buses will there be?

For now, the hours of service for ART will match the current hours of service for the Rapid Rides down Central; from approximately 5:30 a.m. to 9:45 p.m. The hours for ART could also be expanded later during summer, much as Route #66 operates 66 Late Night during the summer.

How long will the ride be between each stop?

The ride between each stop is anticipated at about 7 to 10 minutes from stop to stop.

One lane of traffic on Central between I-25 and University is going to create more congestion.

For Nob Hill remove on-street parking and use this space for wider sidewalks. Relocate parking to the side street and use angled parking.

On-street parking is very important to the businesses along Central Ave., therefore, we'd like to maintain as much of it as possible.

Marketing and Business Development

Are there subsidies for businesses available during and after the construction phase?

An organization has been established - Small Business Resource Collaborative - a group of business assistance organizations that will provide free business and marketing consulting, low interest loans and potentially forgivable loans.

Advertising and promotional opportunities - Can businesses get a 5-year free?

We will be running advertising and promotions during the 18-month construction

What's the economic development? Cleveland spent \$250 million - that's the only location where development occurred.

Rapid Transit projects like ART have a proven record of stimulating development and redevelopment of neighborhoods in other cities. For instance, an article in Albuquerque Business First said during the first year that Fort Collins, CO operated its rapid transit system, it attracted \$150 million in associated development along its transit corridor. A Forbes magazine article said Cleveland's \$250 million investment in putting its HealthLine down a main corridor has generated \$5.8 billion in development since opening in 2008. That's \$114 for each transit dollar invested.

Communication

Residents need to be informed as to construction start and progress. Is there an ART program for that?

Please answer to question 14.

What is the residential notification plan?

Please see answer 26.

Project and Design

Is the maintenance budget established/planned for?

ART met the FTA requirement that maintenance costs will not exceed 5%. \$1.9M increase is the annual budget to maintain ART, which will provide security for the buses, crews up and down to clean stations 2x per day, and maintain landscaping. Dayna Crawford, City of Albuquerque, Deputy Director.

Copy of design plans?

Renderings, station maps, lighting designs and more are available on brtabq.com

Are there plans for diverted traffic during construction?

We will have clear signage indicating any detours we suggest, however, Central will always have a lane open either way during construction.

How will ART replace the blue line service?

The Blue line service will not change. If you currently transfer on Central at the Police substation you will transfer at the ART station to continue downtown.

On 12/2/15, Mark Sanchez, Executive Director for ABCWUA, wrote to this board that it might cost as much as \$30 million to replace water utilities. How will that cost - whatever it is - be covered?

The Water Authority currently has money in their operating funds to cover the work needed as part of this project.

It is my understanding that a significant number of mature trees will be cut down (sacrificed) as a result of this project. Given global warming concerns, this seems anti-environmental; and it will make pedestrians lose shade for walking.

While we'd love to be able to keep all the trees and landscaping, in order to improve the corridor, we will may have to remove many of them. Our commitment, however is to replace every tree/shrub plant for plant. We are currently estimating a net gain of trees on the coridor.

It is my understanding that this project will require eliminating bike lanes on some segments (e.g. Laguna NW to 15th NW) Where would the bicyclists in these segments ride?

We are actually adding bike lanes from Unser across the river to to New York with directions to the paraell bike route and then adding bike lanethrough Edo. We are looking into the possibliltiy of making the connection from Edo under I-25 connecting to the Silver Bike Blvd aswell.

Since, as you stated in the meeting, you are going to be buying new buses for Central, a) will these buses be energy efficient? How? B) Are you considering buying a variety of sizes of buses, so you can use mega buses at rush hours, mini buses at off times?

There is an RFP out now for the buses. Both electric and diesel buses are allowed to bid. Viable option for electric buses. Michael Riordan, City of Albuquerque Chief Operations Officer

Are there security cameras and security call boxes?

We will be adding security officers to buses as part of this project. In addition, the stops have been designed to adhere with national standards for safety. This includes no dark corners or areas that are hidden away from the general public.

What's the demand for this?

This answer is two fold, there is a need to improve the timely nature of service down Central Avenue, ABQ RIDE's most-used corridor (roughly 42% of all ridership on ABQ RIDE is concentrated on Central). Secondly, the city wants to take advantage of the opportunities for development that occur when a transportation system goes into a main corridor. As has happened with so many other cities, business development occurs along areas where many people are concentrated around transit lines.

What is the maintenance budget going forward, including landscaping?

ART met the FTA requirement that maintenance costs will not exceed 5%. \$1.9M increase is the annual budget to maintain ART, which will provide security for the buses, crews up and down to clean stations 2x per day, maintain landscaping. Dayna Crawford, City of Albuquerque, Deputy Director Transit

Wider sidewalks? How much wider are the sidewalks, 2 feet, 4 feet? Where are the sidewalks wider? The diagrams on the project website are not real informative. For Nob Hill remove on-street parking and use this space for wider sidewalks. Relocate parking to the side street and use angled parking.

Sidewalks will vary in width through the corriodor depending on how much right of way there is. We are not planning to move on-street parking in Nob Hill as many of the businesses have expressed that this is very important to them for us to maintain. The design of the road will lead to traffic calming corridor wide.

Narrow the traffic lanes in order to slow down traffic.

What is the radius for left turn and U turn at the median openings? Can a UPS or Fed Express truck make these turns?

Yes, as part of the traffice modeling the ability for trucks to make the u-turns were studied.

Why isn't there an ART station in the International District (3 comments)? One of the comments came from the Fair Heights N.A., they are feeling left out of the project. We are investigating the possibility of adding a station at San Pedro.

Place solar collection units in the median landscaping areas to help power or pay for some of the electrical cost of the stations. The City is investigating the possibility of this.

Will there be a temporary ART stop at San Pedro during the State Fair and other major events at the Fair? We are investigating the possibility of adding a station at San Pedro.

Miscellaneous

If you are so proud of the system, why are the buses covered with advertisements? You may not have noticed, but the new busses currently in use do not have "bus wrap" advertising. The intention is to phase it out completely. We are looking at the possibility of on board monitors running advertising to help supplement the Transit Department budget.

How many people rode the bus to this meeting? We did not poll meeting attendees.

Why not upgrade the buses, keep to the side, install ticket kiosks, etc.? The middle lane construction is not needed. Won't have to do the rest. The FTA Small Starts grant money was made possible by the center running BRT design.

Christmas tree lighting. Anything Old Town. Can City provide free parking at Mountain? The City is investigating the possibility of this.

Is ART part of a much more grand scheme for improving the bus transportation? What other routes or stations are being planned? The ART system down Central will act as the spine for a larger system. Ultimately, ART will connect to another system, already being planned, down University Boulevard to the Airport.

What are you doing to clean up downtown? The sidewalks are always dirty; the storefront windows and below the window are always dirty. You want to make it more walkable--it needs to be cleaned up. Thank you for the suggestion.

Mayor Berry - Where are the jobs? This puts the cart before the horse. You've failed to bring good paying jobs to Albuquerque. Haven't you heard we are losing population? We see this project as an opportunity to keep our young people in Albuquerque, building their careers and starting families.

How do you control (penalize) people who abuse the designated lane and drive in it? We lack for traffic control now (red light runners). We are discussing this and other safety issues with APD and AFD.

Why do you want me to be run over by texting tourists who will NOT be watching?

What's the current level of ridership, compared to the capacity? I see empty buses on Central. Central makes up 42% of the overall ridership of the transit system.

Will it suck up all transit planning funding so no other projects can be done? The FTA grant is specifically designated for ART as such it cannot be used on any other projects. Water authority has operating funds allocated for projects like ART and general system improvements. Rates are not anticipated to increase due to the ART project

Will sewer/water add to cost - \$30 million or more? See Answer 52.

How much will it cost water authority (taxpayers) for improvements? Please see the traffic study on the ART website <http://www.brtaq.com/resources/smallstarts> under the Small Starts application - Travel Forecasting.

If all areas will go to D-level or be at least D-level, what are traffic grades in segments currently - A, B, C, D, F? One of the goals of ART is to better connect the WestSide with other areas of town. The service will be available to Unser. Each stop will be a one roughly a 1/4 to 1/2 mile apart. Other buses servicing the area will work with ART to provide well rounded service.

Live at Central and Atrisco - concern about gentrification and service on the west side is not enough - what about the distance between the stops? And what about living and frequency of the local buses? We have passed along the growing concerns for Mayor Berry's attendance at these meeting.

Why isn't Mayor Berry attending these meetings? This is something that will need to be asked of the Albuquerque Police Department public information officer.

What is the crime rate along Central Avenue? The FTA grant has specific guidelines for how construction will happen. We have conducted studies, please go to <http://www.brtaq.com/Resources?filter=Technical%20Report> to see other studies

Comments

Support project - will be helpful to the city

Nob Hill: will mess up neighborhood (Carlisle between Lomas and Central) - concerned too much traffic will be on Carlisle

Need better communication of park and rides and services to tourists.

Concern: Central and Laguna - there is a long wait at Laguna

Stop the project/listen to the people

Increasing public transit now doesn't make sense until further growth occurs

encourage many to actually use it...people like myself. Hopeful that it will increase density as well.

I support the ART project. Please be sure station areas are landscaped and attractive.

No transit opportunities for me who lives 1 mile south of Central. While it looks cool, not really useful, except if you're going to ride up and down Central. Vans to feed to buses.

8 percent down ridership

The big problem is that the north-south feeder lines, and east-west routes at the northern and southern edges of the city are disfunctional. This should be addressed before putting into ART.

We need security at these meetings

Covered windows block view of backside of bus. Concerned about what I will find onboard and security.

There is demand for this project. I can use it, and it opens up my ability to get to destinations on Central. (Senior citizen with eyesight issues)

No ART

Not fair East vs West (a lot of money on the east)

Run later - especially on weekends

The only people for this cause are the people that are benefiting from it financially.

You build for the future! The money will not be guaranteed forever. Do ART now!

You will rape Central Ave--Rt 66--The Mother Road. For what? For whom?

Residents won't use it unless it goes to residential streets, creating a comprehensive transportation system.

<end>