

Paseo del Norte High Capacity Transit Study

WHAT WE ARE DOING — HOW YOU CAN HELP

Paseo del Norte is a critical river crossing facility, yet it is currently under-served by transit. Implementing successful service requires detailed analysis and the project team has identified a number of challenges associated with the project study area. In particular, the Westside residential areas being targeted for service are auto-oriented with few transportation options and poor street connectivity (especially a deterrent to pedestrians and bicyclists). For transit to succeed in this part of the metropolitan area it must be reliable and guarantee travel times that are competitive with private vehicles.

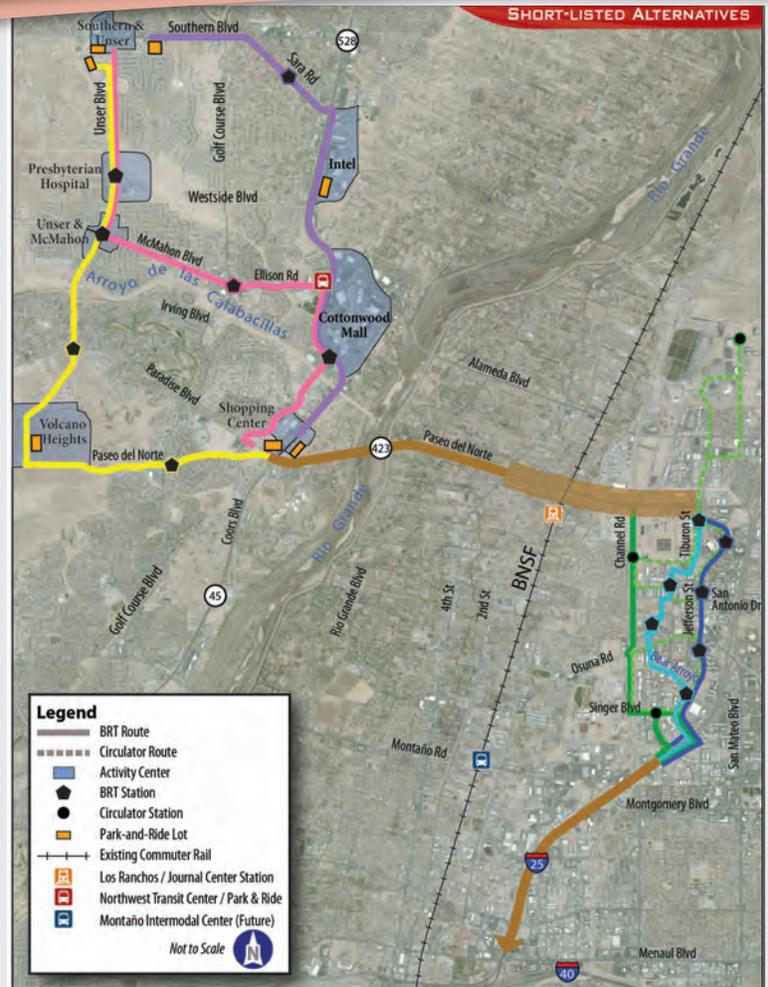
Since peak-period congestion is a real problem and is only expected to worsen, identifying an optimal route, a detailed operations plan, and appropriate locations for dedicated infrastructure are crucial.

Finally, the route must connect key destinations on both sides of the river to create successful all-day service that improves mobility across the region. Ultimately the study will produce a “locally preferred alternative” that will be considered by local transit providers for implementation. The project team has narrowed its focus and is now seeking public input on preferred alignments and operating plans.

CURRENT EFFORTS

- Following an initial screening, the project team identified three potential alignments on each side of the Rio Grande. These alternatives have been developed in more detail to assess their potential to provide effective service between the Westside and the Journal Center/Jefferson Corridor and UNM.
- The operational challenges of each alternative are being considered, along with costs and potential impacts to the surrounding communities and the environment. Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) can travel in an exclusive space in the roadway or in mixed flow with other traffic. Both options are being evaluated.
- The project team is considering the potential impacts to existing users of changes to the transit system and determining which connections are the most important (e.g., the Rail Runner, access to Downtown Albuquerque). New BRT service should add, not eliminate, transit options in the northwest portion of the metropolitan area.
- Current analysis includes estimates of opening day and future ridership, as well as travel times associated with each route.
- Potential station locations are identified in the accompanying map. Additional steps include determining how users would access the facilities and the potential for transit-supportive development to ensure vibrant and successful station areas.

Rio Metro seeks public input on which of the choices is most likely to be successful and what issues each alternative is likely to encounter. If you would like more information, or if you would like to schedule a presentation on the project for a neighborhood association or community group, you may contact Tony Sylvester, Special Projects Manager for Rio Metro RTD, at tsylvester@mrcog-nm.gov or 505-247-1750.



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