



Connecting People and Places with Transit

Welcome!

- Introduction -

Tonight’s meeting provides an overview of the UNM CNM Sunport Transit Study and an introduction to the project team. This is an opportunity to answer questions and gather thoughts and feedback about travel experiences within the area.

The goal of this study is to identify a north – south transit system that will improve accessibility to and mobility within the area and that best meets current and future travel needs.

This study will also consider land use, parking, housing, and business activities that can support both the transit system and the interests of area residents, institutions, businesses, and visitors.



Who is conducting the study?

The UNM–CNM–Sunport area hosts a broad mix of activities. To represent the variety of interests and jurisdictions served by this area, the project team consists of members from:

- Mid-Region Council of Governments
- City of Albuquerque
- ABQ Ride
- Bernalillo County
- UNM
- CNM
- Albuquerque International Sunport
- Rio Metro Regional Transit District
- Consultants:
 - Parsons Brinckerhoff
 - Better Foundations





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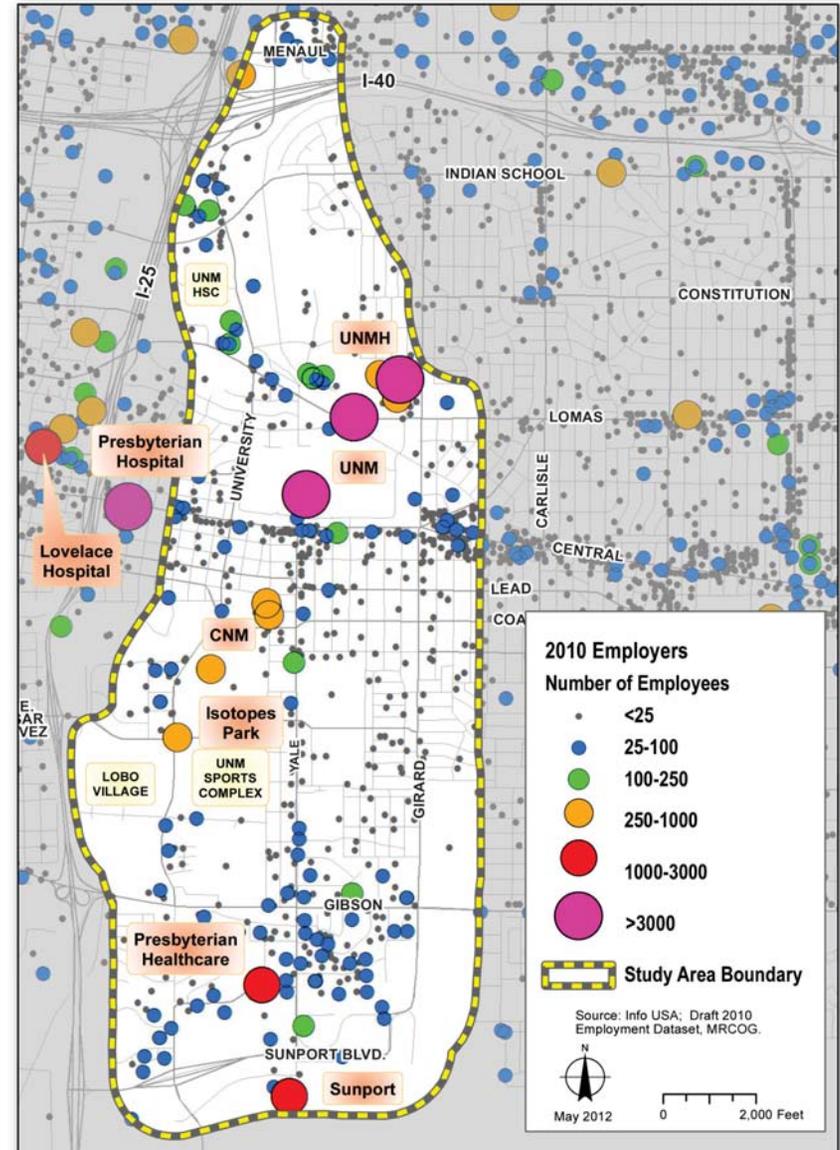
- Background and Timeline -

Why study the UNM – CNM – Sunport Area?

In 2010, representatives from the Mid-Region Council of Governments, City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, UNM, and CNM assembled to identify transportation issues in the area. The team completed a scoping report that identified opportunities for transit services and improved mobility. The report concluded that the study area:

- Is the largest activity center in Albuquerque;
- Contains some of the region’s largest employers;
- Serves 74,000 employees and students per day, with an additional one million annual healthcare visits;
- Has very high biking, walking, and transit rates – approximately 43% in 2010;
- Has a significant amount of planned development, including new UNM dorms, off-campus housing, the UNMH expansion, CNM renovations, and potential mixed use and commercial development; and
- Has very strong east-west transit connections, but is lacking north-south service.

This study will build on the 2010 report and identify specific transit modes and routes to improve north-south mobility. The project will include extensive data analysis, site visits, interagency coordination, and public outreach. It is funded by \$850,000 in federal grants and local funds, and the project is expected to last 18-24 months, starting in June 2012.





Connecting People and Places with Transit

– Goals, Objectives and Outcomes –

Project Goal

To identify and implement a transit, parking, and land use strategy that serves the transportation needs of the institutions, residents, businesses, and other stakeholders within the study area.

Objectives

The study will identify a preferred transit system, supported by the surrounding built environment, and address the following objectives:

1. Increase access to transit by biking and walking
2. Address automobile congestion and parking
3. Evaluate the impact of current and new housing development
4. Evaluate opportunities for more commercial and mixed use services
5. Improve safety for all modes of travel

Project Outcomes

Alternatives Analysis: This will identify specific transit type(s) and alignments, service design, operations, public support, and funding.

Travel Demand Management Strategies: These recommendations will identify ways to increase transit use and reduce the strain on the area's roads, including advertising alternative transportation, revising parking policies, and developing park and ride facilities.

Built Environment Report: This report will evaluate and recommend multi-modal networks, land use, economic development, and housing opportunities that will support transit.

The UNM – CNM – Sunport area is the largest activity center in the region encompassing two institutions of higher learning, the UNM Hospital and Health Sciences Center, and the Albuquerque International Sunport.



The UNM/CNM area attracts approximately 74,000 employees and students a day, with an additional 1 million annual healthcare patient visits. The area is also home to a range of large employers and small businesses and a diverse set of well-established neighborhoods.





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- Possible Examples -

This study could result in any number of recommendations, ranging from small-scale changes such as adjustments to existing ABQ Ride routes and schedules, to larger solutions such as a new premium transit service, and anything in between. The final recommendations will be based on an evaluation of the existing land use and transit services, as well as public feedback.

What is premium transit service?

Premium transit is designed to handle a larger number and wider variety of riders. These systems may include some or all of the following elements:

- Unique branding & logos;
- Dedicated transit lanes to avoid traffic congestion;
- Stations with shelters & electronic arrival time signs;
- Traffic signal prioritization to reduce transit delays;
- Short waiting times;
- Off-board fare payment to speed boarding;
- Fewer stops to reduce travel times;
- Elevated station platforms to allow easy boarding for wheelchairs & strollers.

The existing Rapid Ride buses have some of these characteristics, and several corridors in the city (right) are also being studied for possible premium transit.



Eugene, OR: EmX

- Bus Rapid Transit system runs in its own lanes to avoid traffic congestion.
- Riders get on and off at designated stations in the middle of the street.
- Connects to U. of Oregon and other destinations.
- Runs every 10-20 minutes.



San Diego: SuperLoop

- Two-way bus loop connects UC-San Diego & hospitals to housing and businesses.
- Buses operate in traffic but have traffic signal prioritization to reduce delays.
- Uses low-emission and low-noise buses.
- Runs every 10-15 minutes.



Flagstaff: Mountain Link

- Serves Northern Arizona University & Downtown Flagstaff
- Runs every 10-15 minutes
- Has its own dedicated transit lane on campus
- Replaced some NAU shuttles

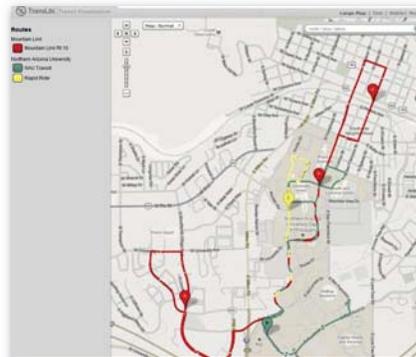


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- Case Study: Flagstaff, AZ -

“Mountain Link” Bus Route

- Connects Northern Arizona University to downtown and nearby residential and commercial areas. Service began August 2011 and replaced some (but not all) NAU shuttle routes.
- Runs through the middle of NAU’s campus on a dedicated pedestrian/bike/busway. In other areas the bus shares the road with cars.
- Carries up to 3,700 riders/day, far more than any other route in Flagstaff.
- Ridership consists primarily of students and fluctuates depending on whether school is in session.
- Operates every 10-15 minutes on weekdays, every 40 minutes on weekends. Schedule remains the same even during academic breaks.
- Jointly funded by NAU and regional transit provider.
- NAU parking costs \$390 to \$520 per year, but students, staff, and faculty ride the bus for free, providing a strong incentive.
- Real-time data lets riders see exactly where the buses are at any time.



MOUNTAIN LINK [CLICK TO VIEW COMPLETE SCHEDULE...](#)
[CLICK TO VIEW HOME PAGE...](#)

Downtown → NAU → Woodlands Village

Mountain Link Hours:
 Monday – Friday: Every 10-15 Minutes 6:30 AM to 8:30 PM Weekends: Every 40 Minutes 6:30 AM to 8:30 PM

Mountain Link Route 10
 Transit Stops
 Route Direction
 Pedestrian Walkway
 Downtown Transfer Center
 5-minute Walk
 Wheelchair Accessible
 Bike Rack Equipped

Fares:
 Regular:\$1.25
 Youth (7-17):\$0.60
 Senior (60+):\$0.60
 Disabled/Medicare:\$0.60

NAU Students, faculty and staff ride Mountain Link/Route 10 FREE with their JackCard ID. When transferring to other Mountain Line routes, appropriate fare is required.

When will the next bus arrive?
 Scan this QR Code to track Mountain Link LIVE!

For more information:
 Call (928) 779-6624

NAU Students Ride Mountain Link FARE-FREE With ID



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- Public Engagement -

Public Engagement

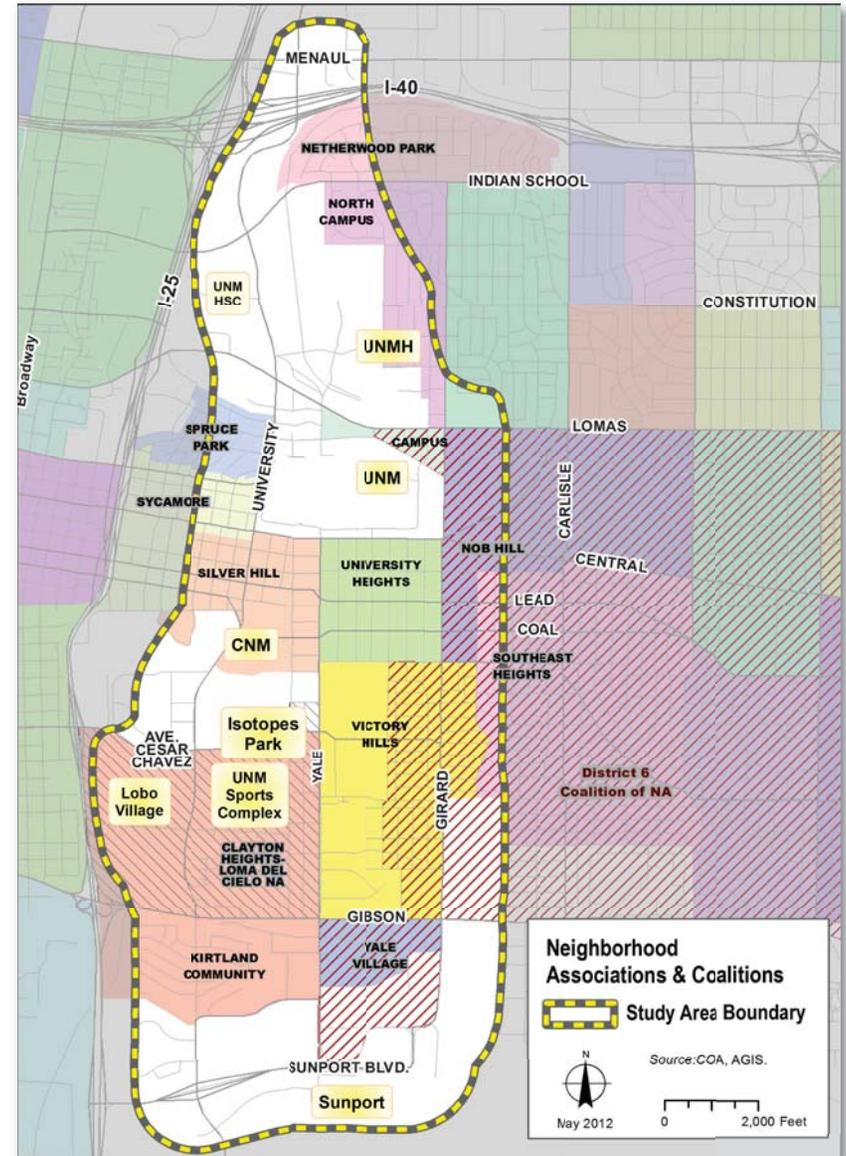
We aim to provide a flexible, open, and interactive public process that relies on a variety of techniques and balances local and regional needs.

Public Engagement Activities

We will conduct public outreach throughout the study and at critical decision points, including:

- Public meetings
- Close communication with neighborhood associations
- Focus groups with businesses, students, and other groups
- Paper and online surveys
- Email updates
- Social media such as Facebook
- Presentations to civic and professional organizations

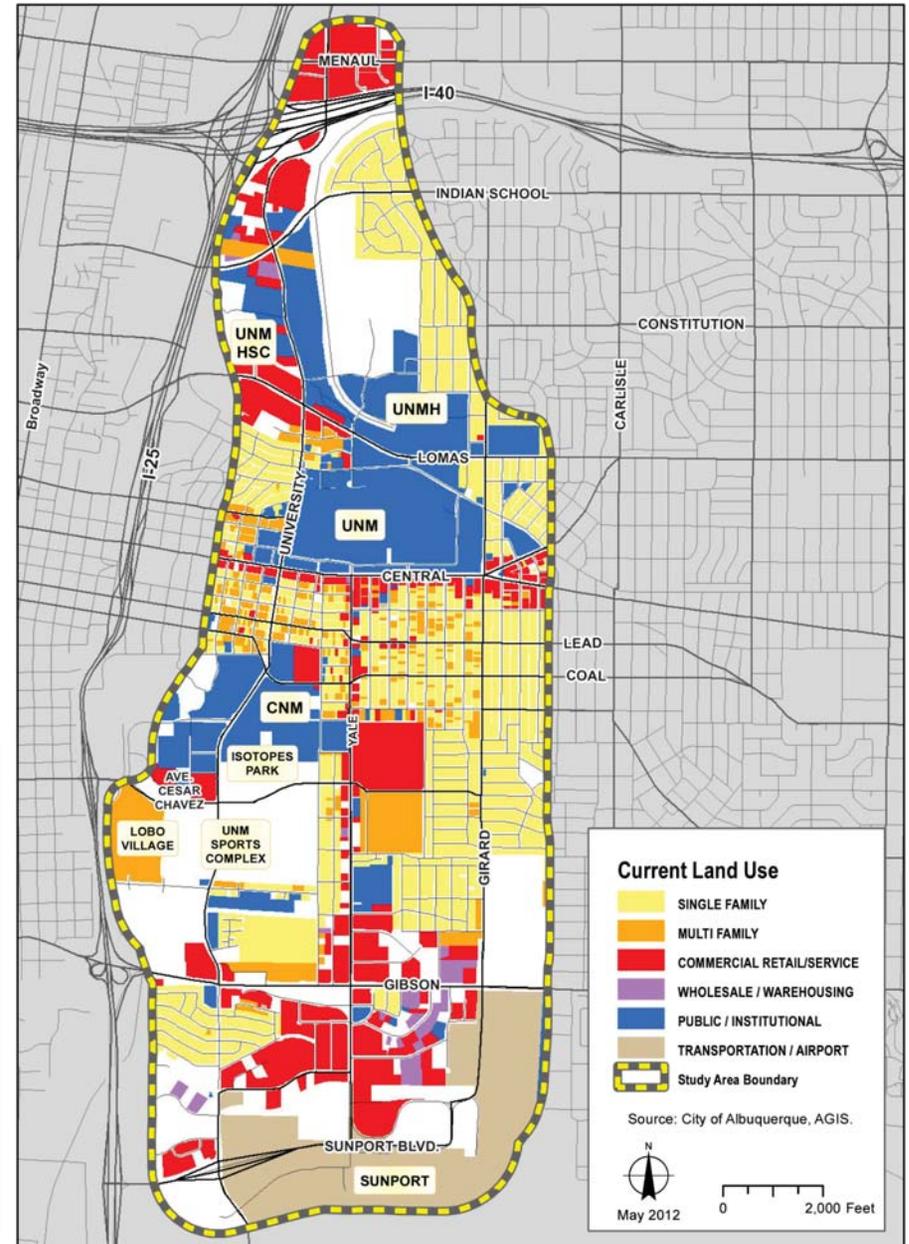
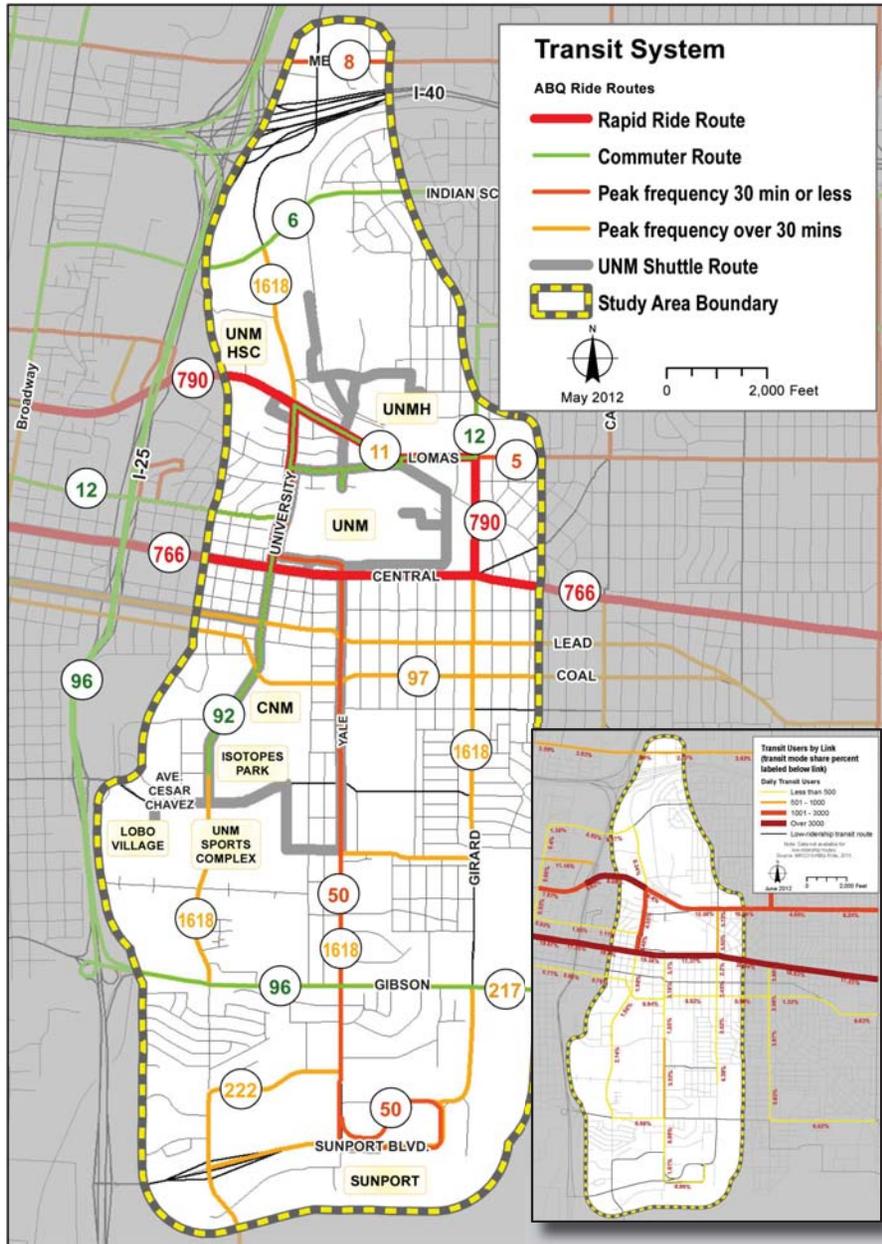
Other possible activities include “Photovoice,” a stakeholder / public photo-journal; walking and bus audits; and outreach at local events.





Study Area Existing Conditions

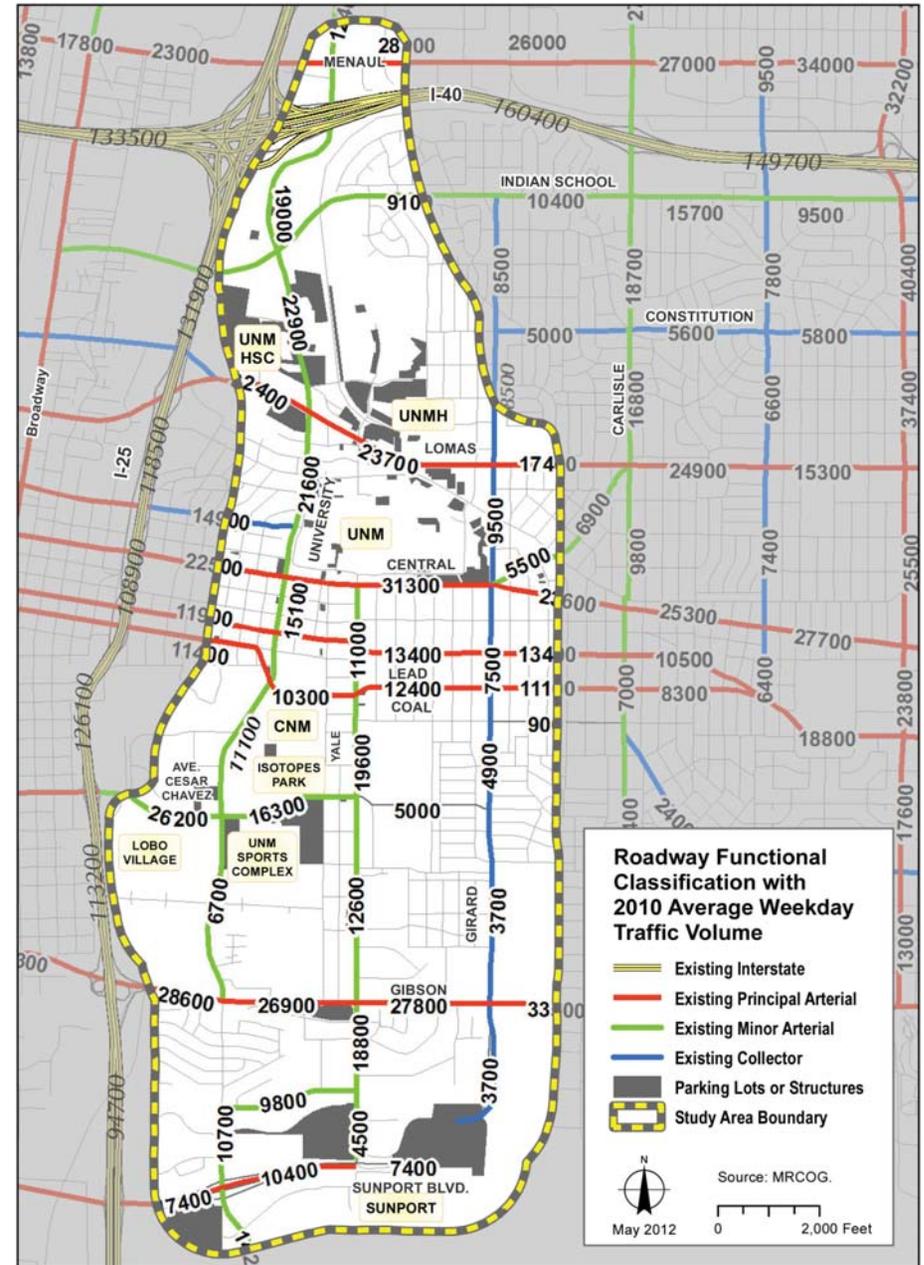
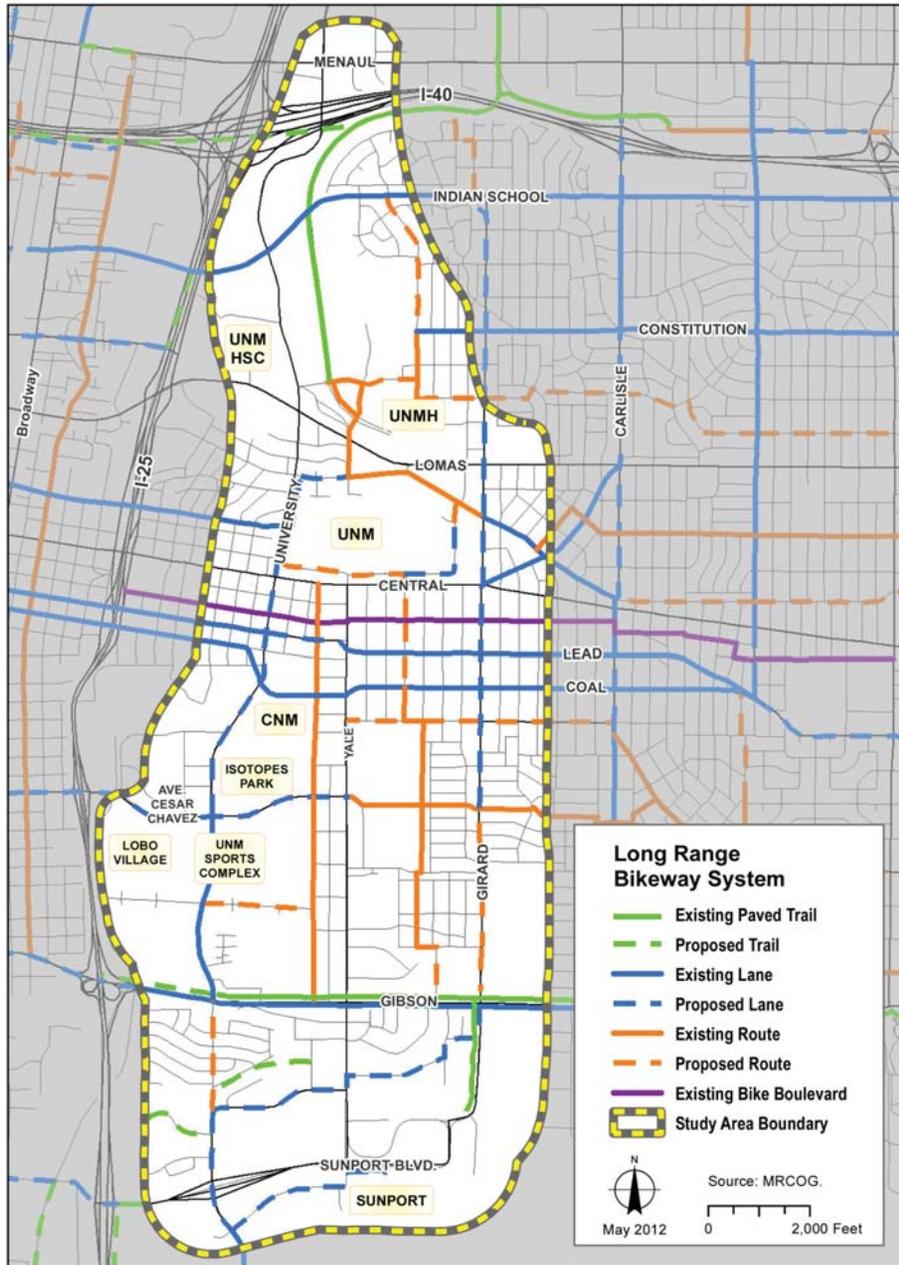
- Transit and Land Use -





Study Area Existing Conditions

- Bikeways and Roadways -





Connecting People and Places with Transit

- Get Involved in the Study! -

In order to identify a transit system that will be supported by the built environment, we need feedback from residents and visitors about your experiences traveling in the area. We'd like to get the conversation started...

Tell us how you travel in the area!

Traveling to and from work, school, or the grocery store requires a safe and convenient transportation network. How do you travel from where you live to where you work, learn, and spend your free time? Is it a safe and convenient drive, walk, bike or transit ride? Do you encounter any barriers?

Do you live nearby?

This area is of diverse socio-demographic make up and therefore requires a diverse housing stock. What kind of residential area do you live in? What sort of housing is needed in the area?

Do you work in the area?

A variety of large employers are located in this area. They are an integral part of making this a thriving economic area of unique character, while also generating traffic and parking issues. Do you work in the area?

Do you go to school or work at UNM or CNM?

Our learning institutions are vital to educating the next workforce and providing an environment for research and technological advancement. Are you a student or staff member that travels to these institutions?

What do you do for fun in the area?

This area provides great parks, open space, and community centers, but it also provides a variety of things to do such as attending an Isotopes game, going to the movies, visiting an art gallery, or just spending time at your favorite café. How do you spend your free time in the area?



Live Learn

TRAVEL

Play Work



There are lots of ways to get involved and support this project:

- Visit our website at www.mrcog-nm.gov. There you can find more information, including the 2010 study and other background data.
- Take our survey by July 6, also available through our website.
- Invite us to speak with your neighborhood association, employer, student group, or other organization.
- Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/transitstudy.
- Tell your friends!