

Paseo del Norte High Capacity Transit Study Goal

The goal of the PDN HCTS is **to identify a high capacity transit system using the Paseo del Norte River crossing to link the northwestern Albuquerque’s metropolitan area with the Journal Center and other activity centers east of the Rio Grande.** The improvements (transit service, capital projects, etc) identified by the study would represent an initial effort in the Albuquerque Metropolitan Planning Area to implement a high capacity transportation system consistent with the principles and strategies outlined in the 2035 MTP. The objectives of the study are listed below. The objectives for the “Locally Preferred Alternative” (the transit system identified by the study as best meeting the project purpose and need) follow.

PDN HCTS Objectives

The objectives specific to the study include:

- ◆ Conduct an Alternatives Analysis (AA) consistent with Federal Transit Administration funding requirements to identify the appropriate transit service within the Paseo del Norte (PDN) corridor and/or adjacent areas.
- ◆ Develop a phased implementation plan for the transportation improvements to address short-term and long-term transportation needs.
- ◆ Identify a flexible system that allows for capital improvements and service to be added or adjusted over time.
- ◆ Solicit input from the public, agencies, and stakeholders throughout the study and build consensus for the project.
- ◆ Identify the policies needed to guide future development activities to support and facilitate HCT in the project area.
- ◆ Define the functional requirements of the PDN HCT system components and develop an alternative that achieves these.
- ◆ Identify engineering, environmental and land use issues that may inhibit or encourage development of the PDN HCT system and identify how the issues will be addressed.
- ◆ Create a fiscal plan for the development, implementation and operations of the premium transit service.
- ◆ Coordinate with other relevant transit, transportation and land use planning activities in the AMPA, notably the Central Avenue BRT Alternatives Analysis and UNM/CNM/Sunport Transit study.

Objectives of the Proposed Improvements

1. Provide transit service connecting the northwestern Albuquerque metropolitan area to the North I-25 Corridor and other activity centers.
 - a. Improve connectivity between housing and employment in north Albuquerque.
 - b. Improve transportation choice for residents in northwest Albuquerque and Southern Sandoval County.

2. Increase mobility options for all populations in the project area.
3. Develop a transportation option or alternative to single-occupancy vehicle travel.
4. Provide transit services and improvements that integrate with existing and planned transit service and facilities in the region to enhance the performance of the overall transit system.
5. Enhance transportation capacity across the Rio Grande by providing a flexible system than can be phased in over time to provide enhanced capacity to address increased demand and respond to potential funding availability.
6. The proposed transit improvements should be consistent with applicable policies for the PDN corridor and other roadways.
7. Develop a cost effective plan for improvements, implementation and operations.
8. Encourage transit supportive land uses and development styles along the transportation system to help manage future travel demand.
 - a. Support livable communities by improving air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with single-occupancy vehicle travel.
 - b. Ensure good connectivity through bicycle and pedestrian access to transit stations.
9. Promote economic development by catalyzing development in station areas.
 - a. Encourage opportunities for development adjacent to transit stations.
 - b. Stimulate economic activity in the study area through the creation of new transportation options.
10. Identify and provide bicycle and pedestrian connections to HCT facilities.