

# City of Albuquerque Bikeway and Trail Facilities Plan Update

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Greater Albuquerque  
Active Transportation Committee  
February 13, 2023

**T'OOLE**  
DESIGN

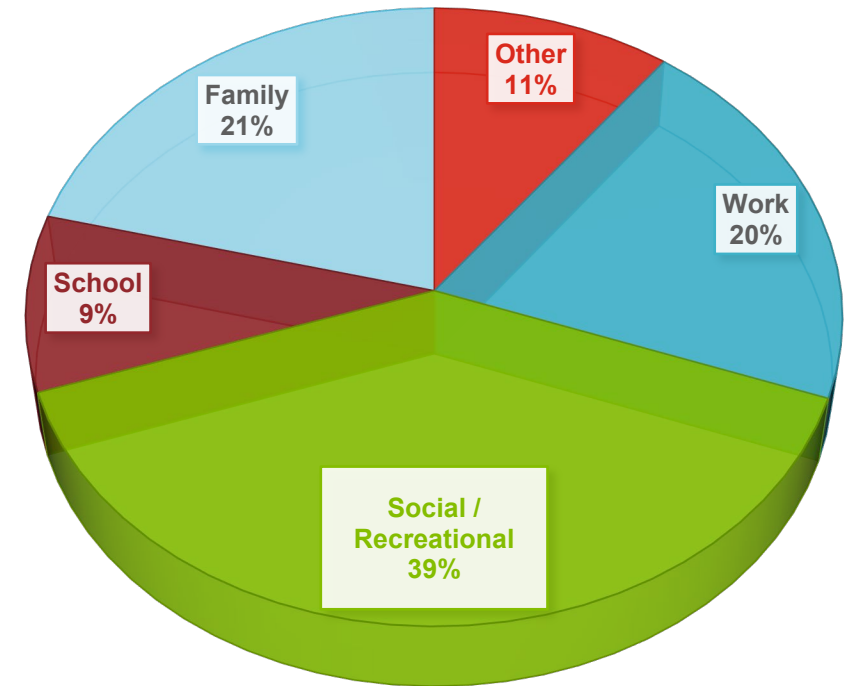


# Trends in Bicycle Planning

# Nationwide Bicycling Trends

- Rates of overall bicycling have held steady in recent years (1% of all trips)
- The share of biking trips made by women has been increasing
- Bicycle commute rates have been decreasing since 2014, but recreational trips have increased (trend supported by MRCOG survey data)

The most common reason that people ride their bicycle is to **socialize** or **recreate**



# Cities Recognize the Benefits of Investing in Bikeways

- Quality of life and economic competitiveness
- People are healthier in states with more biking and walking (about 70% of Americans are overweight or obese)
- Increasing transportation options; opportunities to reduce GHG emissions



# Nationwide Planning Trends

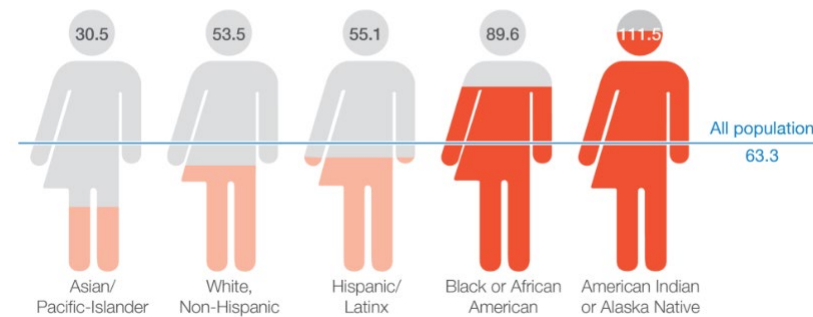
- Rethinking streets through Vision Zero safety programs
- Building connected, low-stress bicycle networks to increase mode share
- Embedding equity into processes and outcomes

## Safe Systems = Safe Mobility



## The burden is not shared equally

Relative pedestrian danger by race and ethnicity  
(2010-2019)



*Dangerous by Design, 2021*

# Comfort Increases with Separation

## Interested but Concerned

**51%-56%** of the total population

Often not comfortable with bike lanes, may bike on sidewalks even if bike lanes are provided; prefer off-street or separated bicycle facilities or quiet or traffic-calmed residential roads. May not bike at all if bicycle facilities do not meet needs for perceived comfort.

## Somewhat Confident

**5-9%** of the total population

Generally prefer more separated facilities, but are comfortable riding in bicycle lanes or on paved shoulders if need be.

## Highly Confident

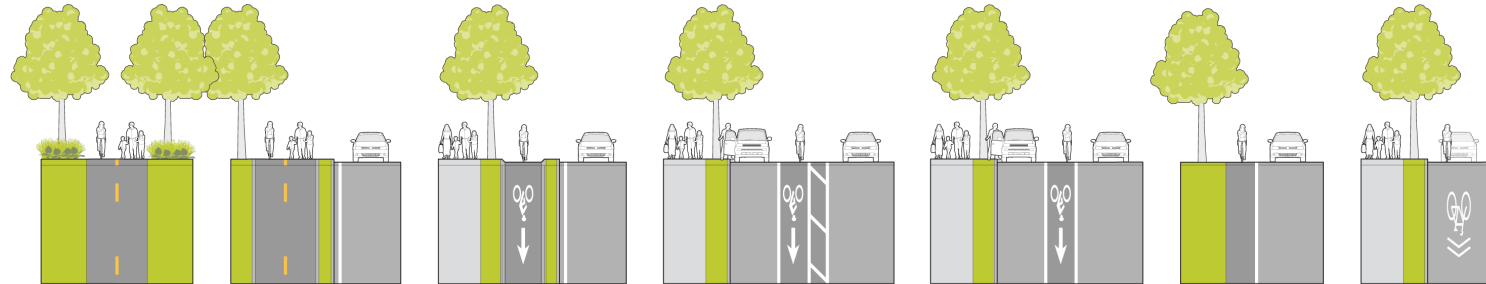
**4-7%** of the total population

Comfortable riding with traffic; will use roads without bike lanes.



LOW STRESS TOLERANCE

HIGH STRESS TOLERANCE



Shared-Use Path

Side Path

Separated Bike Lane

Buffered Bike Lane

Bike Lane

Shoulder

Shared Lane



SEPARATION FROM TRAFFIC





Consider a Wide Range of Bicyclist Types

# Plan Purpose and Objectives

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- **Meet the needs of bicyclists of all ages and abilities**
  - Critical review of existing conditions
  - Identify opportunities for enhancements to existing facilities and locations where new bikeways are needed
  - Consider what kinds of facilities would allow most Albuquerque residents to feel comfortable biking to their destinations



# Plan Purpose and Objectives

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- **Focus on implementation**
  - Build upon existing bicycle planning tools and programs
  - Identify bikeway network deficiencies and develop priority project lists
  - Strike a balance between ambitious/best practices and practical/implementable
  - Opportunities for street reconfiguration to further develop on-street bikeway and trail networks

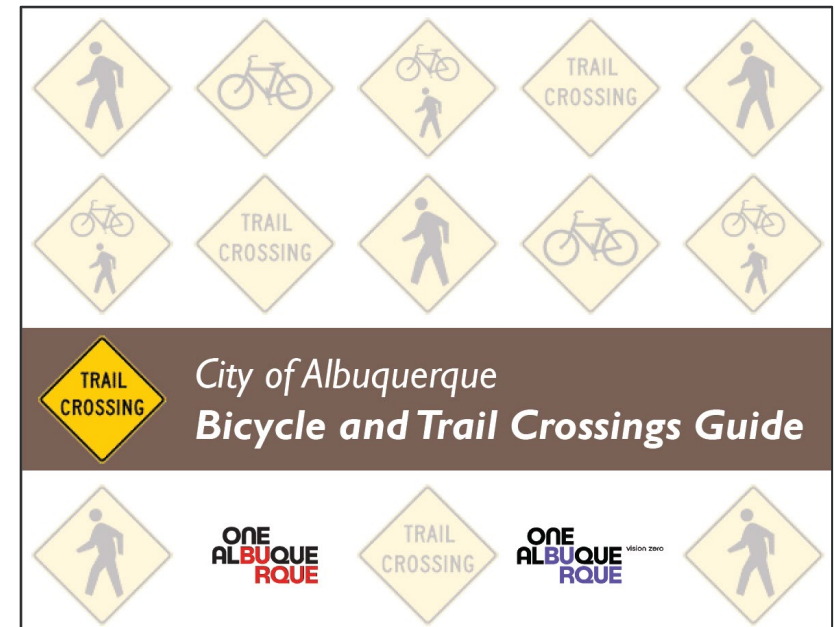
**Numerous building  
blocks in place...**

# Existing Facilities



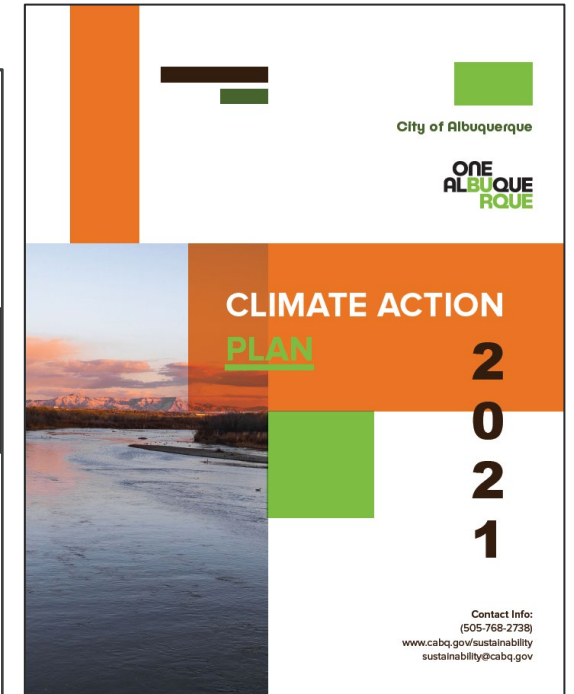
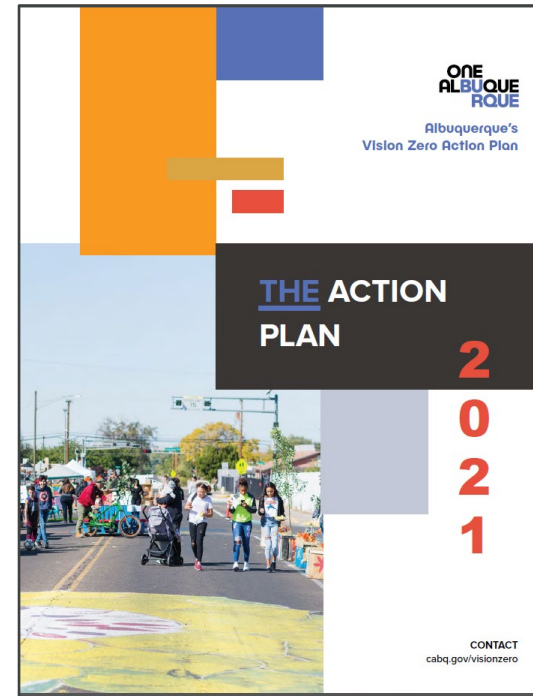
# Previous Bicycle Planning Efforts

- Project Development
  - Bikeways and Trails Facilities Plan (2015)
  - Long Range Bikeway System (MRCOG)
  - Bikeway Evaluation Process
- Design Guidance
  - Development Process Manual
  - Bicycle & Trail Crossings Guide



# Existing Initiatives: Recent and Ongoing Plans and Initiatives

- Complete Streets Ordinance
- Vision Zero Action Plan / Year in Review Report
- Climate Action Plan
- ABQ RIDE Forward Network Plan



# Existing Initiatives: Complete Streets Annual Maintenance Program

- Application of Complete Streets design principles during annual repaving and restriping efforts
- 10.7 miles of new or enhanced bikeways in 2022
- 2.7 miles of widened bike lanes in 2022



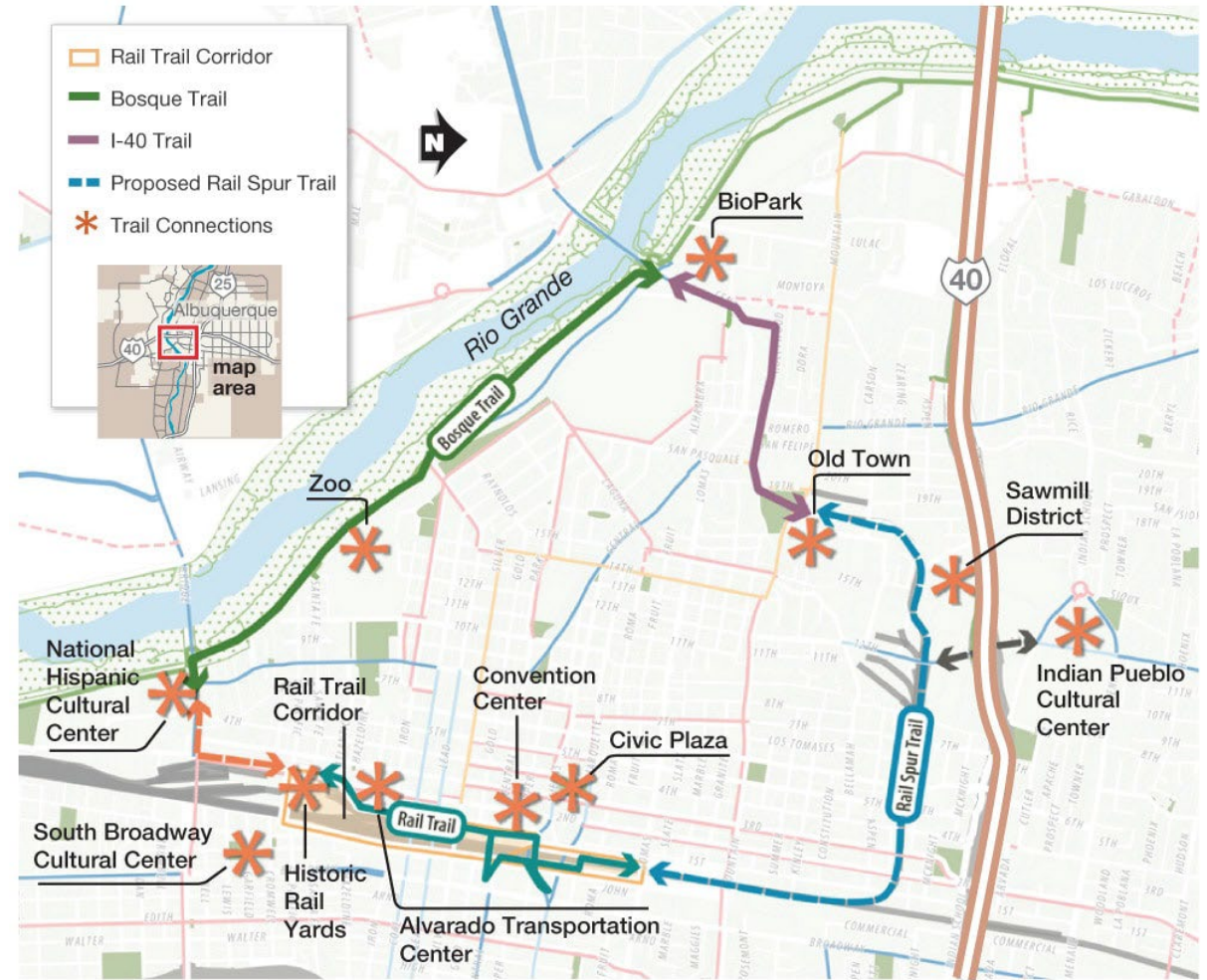
# Major Projects and Opportunities

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- Bridge Blvd/Dolores Huerta/Cesar Chavez Improvements
  - Complete Streets improvements west of the river
  - Proposed bicycle-pedestrian bridge over river
  - City-led corridor study from Rio Grande to Yale Blvd; major ROW challenges
- Bike boulevard projects
  - Silver Ave – UNM to Downtown / Old Town to Bosque Trail
  - Claremont Ave – Richmond Dr to Moon St
- Louisiana Blvd bike lanes
- West Central Ave multi-use trail
- Bike gap closure projects
  - Alexander Blvd road diet/bike lanes
  - San Pedro Dr Study
  - Osuna Rd Study
- NW area roadway widening projects with bikeways and trails

# Major Projects and Opportunities: ABQ Rail Trail

- 7-mile loop, including portions of Bosque Trail
- Connect Railyards, NHCC, Downtown, Sawmill, Old Town
- Combination of local, state, and federal funds



SOURCE: City of Albuquerque



# Existing Initiatives: Bike Thru Burque

- Encouragement events
  - Bike Thru Burque Week
  - Bike to Whenever Day
  - CiQlovia
- Surveys indicate the events have been successful at engaging new and less experienced bicyclists



In partnership with







**Where do we go from  
here?**

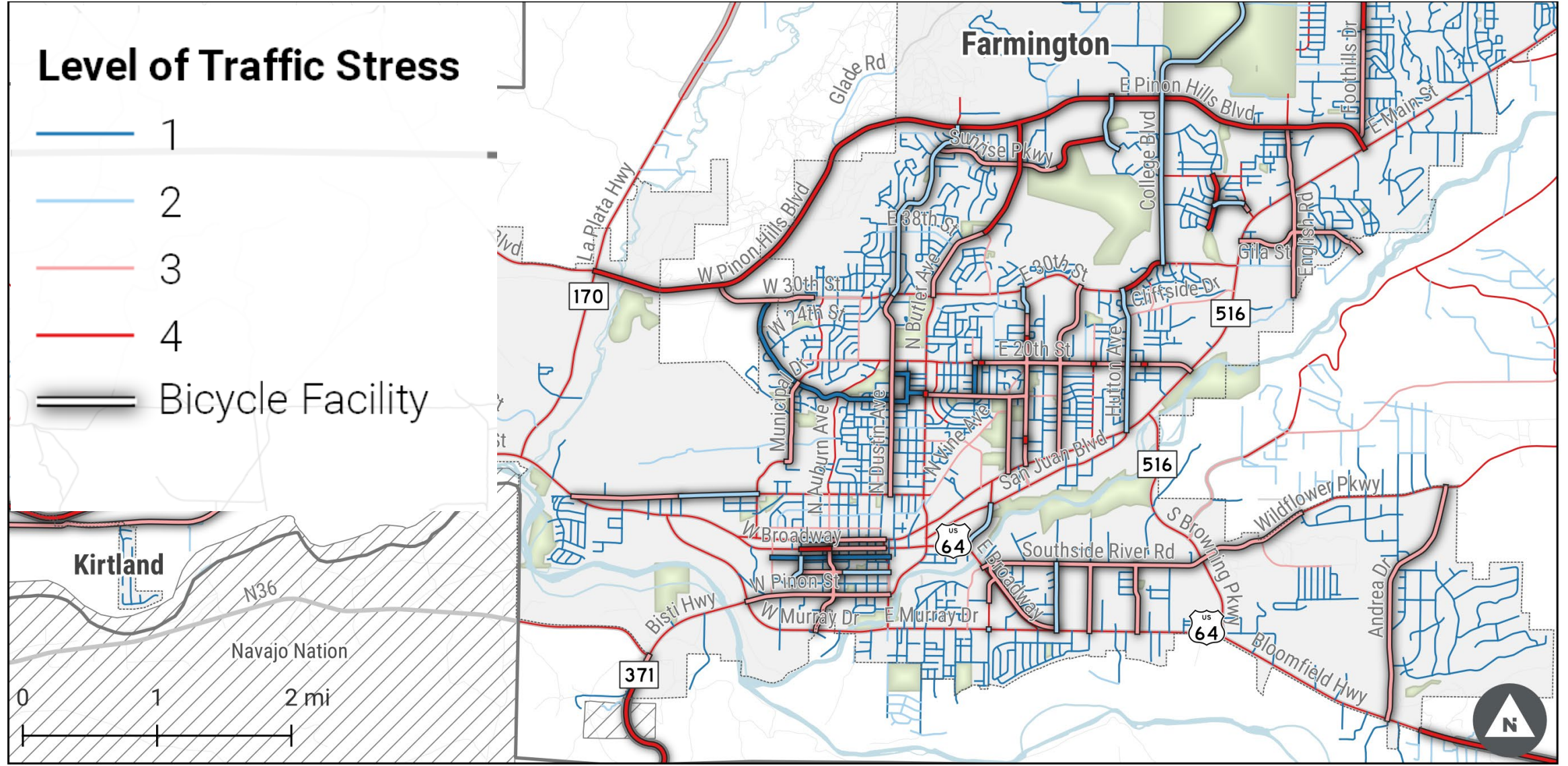
# Assessing the Existing Network

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- How comfortable are existing bikeways?
- Can people access a range of destinations by bike?
- Which streets connect people to the most destinations?
- Where are short trips (which could be made by bike) most common?
- Which communities are historically underserved in terms of investments in bikeways and trails?

# Level of Traffic Stress

-  1
-  2
-  3
-  4
-  Bicycle Facility



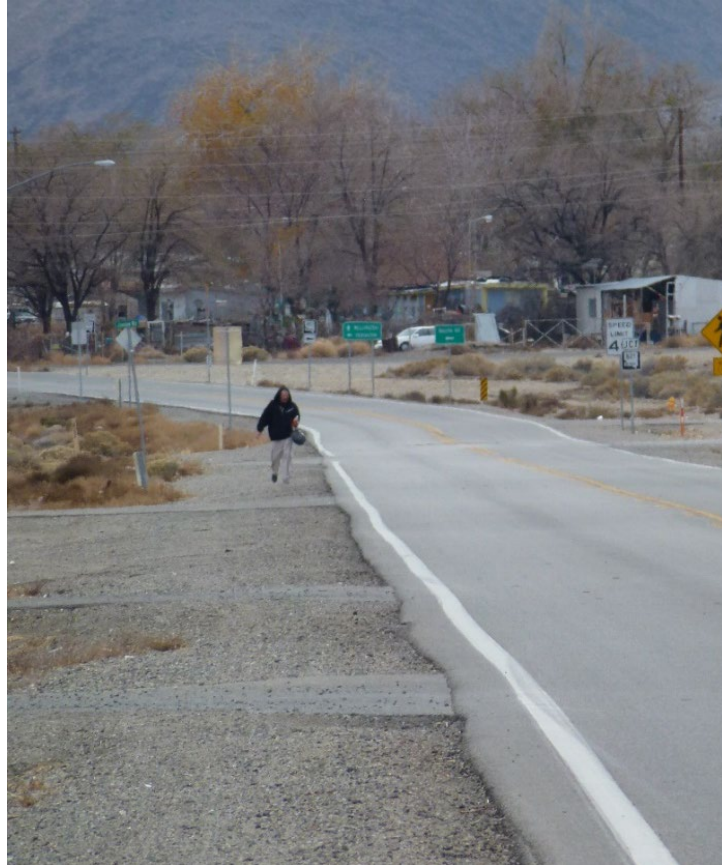
# Updating the Proposed Network

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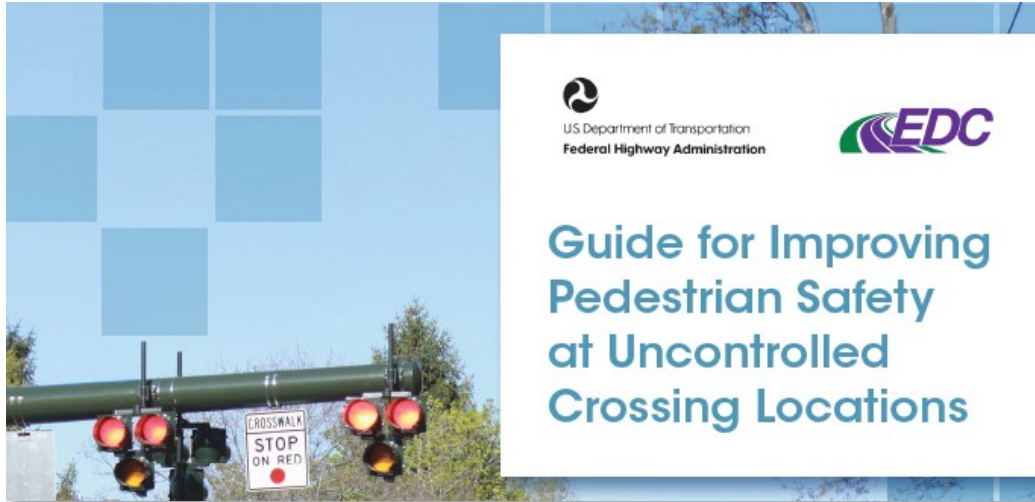
- What types of bikeways are appropriate on different streets?
- Do facilities meet the needs of riders of all ages and abilities?
- What types of crossings treatments are needed?
- What types of bikeways are feasible on different streets?
- Can the City implement improvements by reconfiguring streets?

# Reconfiguring Streets

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# Evaluating Major Street Crossings



# Deliverables

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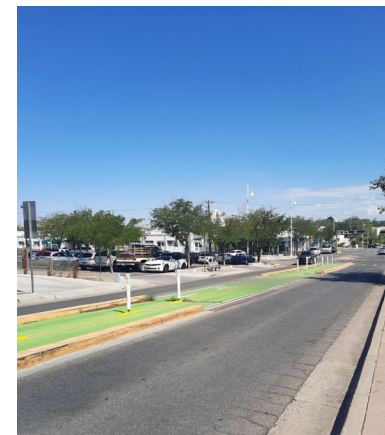
- Analysis of existing bikeways and trails network
- Updated proposed bikeways and trails network
- Prioritized infrastructure recommendations
- Policy recommendations to streamline implementation
- Initial project scoping for priority projects
- Cohesive, user-friendly plan utilizing Story Maps



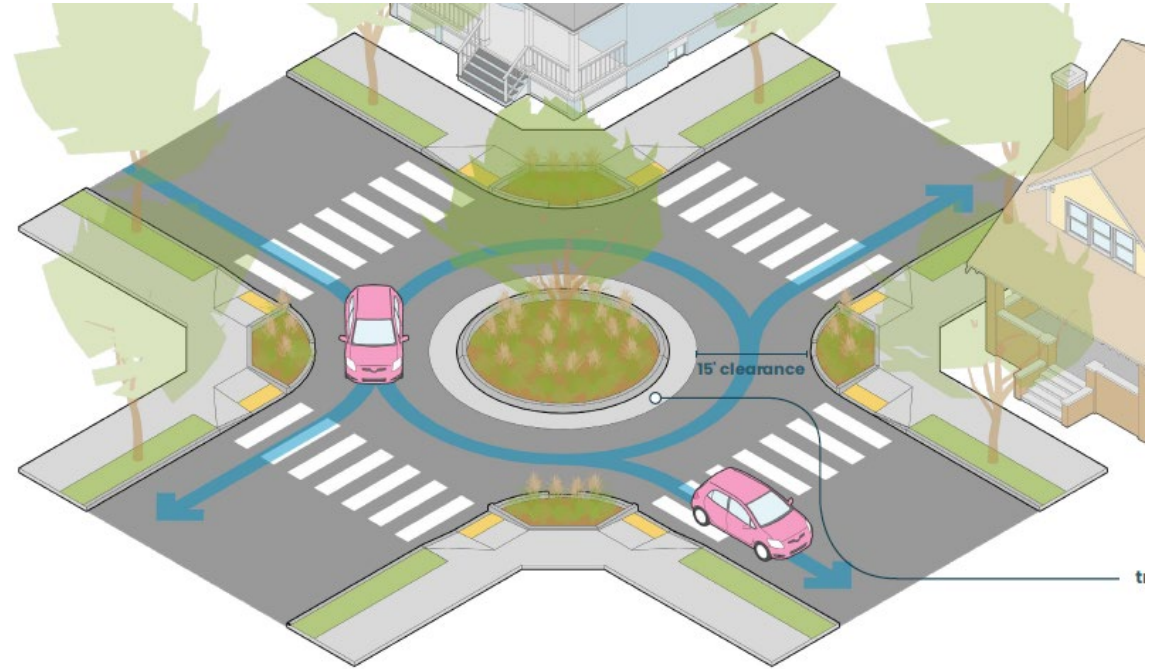
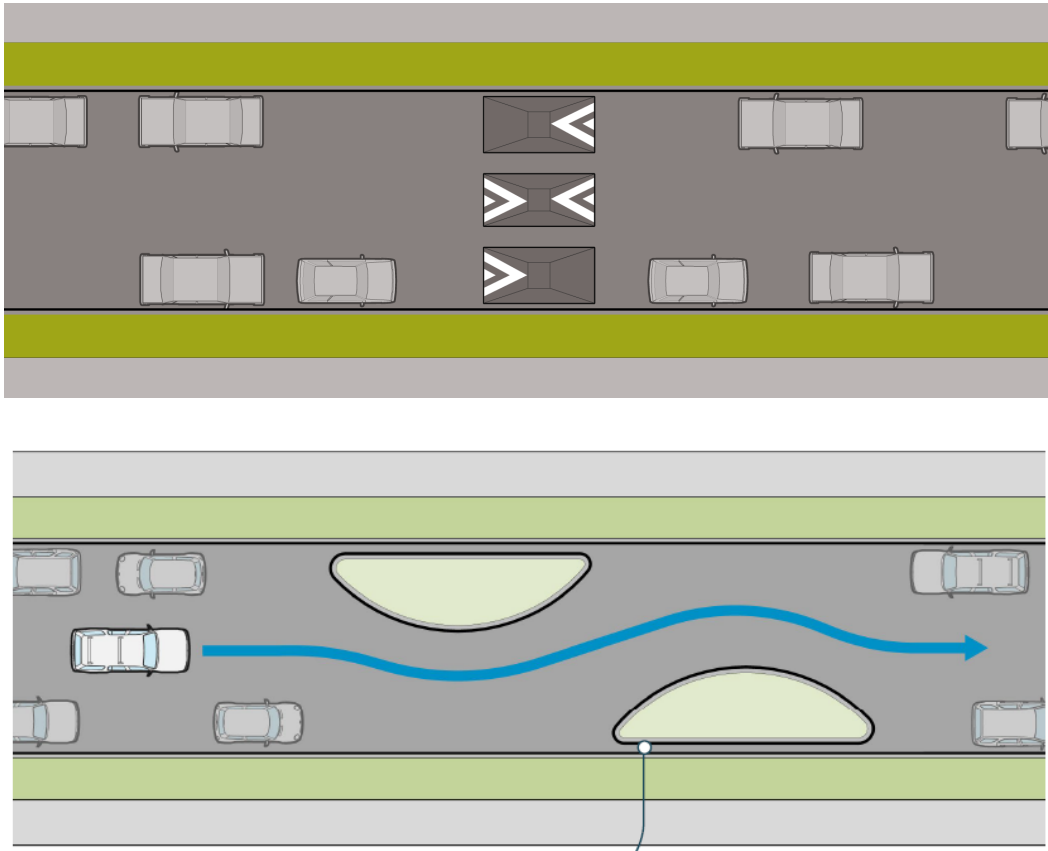
# Bike Boulevard Toolkit

# Toolkit Purpose and Benefits

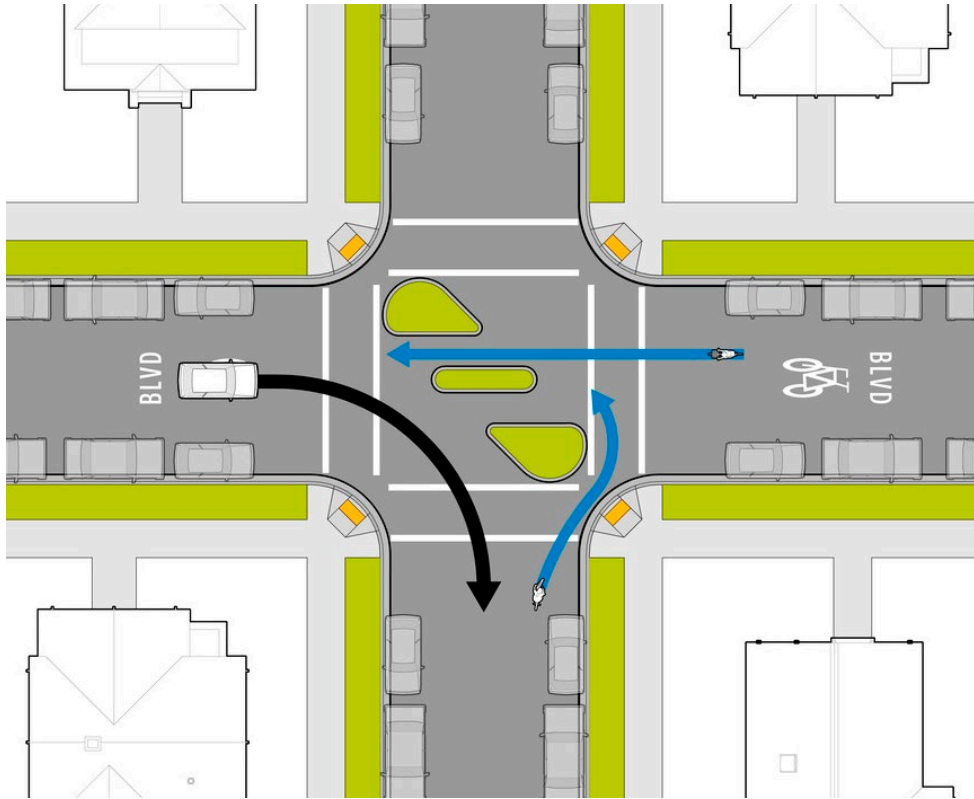
- Inform ongoing improvements on Silver Avenue and Claremont Avenue
- Capture emerging set of techniques and best practices
- Provide framework for reviewing existing and proposed facilities
- Establish clear guidance about appropriate candidates and critical design components



# Managing Vehicle Speeds



# Managing Vehicle Volumes



# Providing Safe Crossings

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# Next Steps

# Outreach Efforts

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- Bike Thru Burque Pop-up Events
  - Bike to Whenever Day
  - Bike Thru Burque Week
- Virtual community meetings
- Online survey/input map
- Project website
- Technical Working Group
  - City/partner agency staff
- Stakeholder Advisory Group
  - External stakeholders and community members
  - Representatives from GAATC, GARTC, TAB, advocacy groups

# Plan Development Schedule

	Winter 2023	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter 2023/24
Background & Plan Goals	█				
Existing Conditions Analysis	█	█			
Proposed Networks		█			
Policy Recommendations			█		
Cost Estimates & Priority Projects				█	
Final Plan/Approval					█



# Questions



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# Discussion Questions

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- 1. What are the existing physical barriers to biking?
- 2. Where in Albuquerque do you currently like to bike?
- 3. Where would you like to be able to bike to in the future?
- 4. What are the greatest opportunities for expanding bikeways across the city?