



February 10, 2012

# UNM/CNM/Sunport Transit Project

Mid-Region Council of Governments | 809 Copper NW | Albuquerque, NM 87102 | (505) 247-1750 | www.mrcog-nm.gov

## Why study the University of New Mexico / Central New Mexico Community College / International Sunport Area?

- It is the largest activity center in the region with a university, a community college, UNM Hospital and Health Sciences Center, and the Albuquerque International Sunport — the state's largest commercial airport.
- The UNM/CNM area attracts approximately 74,000 employees and students a day, with an additional one million annual healthcare patient visits.
- The area is home to a range of large employers and small businesses, and a diverse set of well-established neighborhoods.
- A large amount of development is underway or planned in the area — including off-campus housing, expansion of the Health Sciences Center, and potential mixed use and commercial development.
- The area is already served by the very successful Rapid Ride bus lines and many people commute by walking, carpooling, and bicycling.

## Background

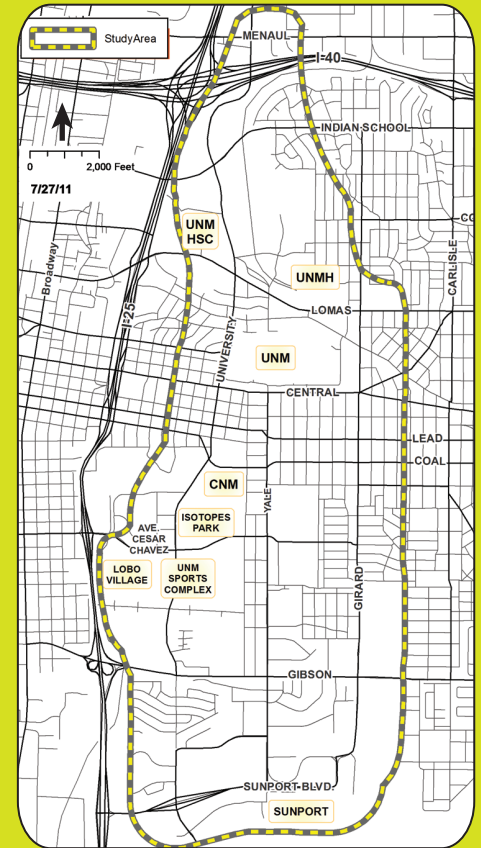
In 2010, a project team composed of representatives from the City of Albuquerque (including City Councilor Isaac Benton), Bernalillo County (including County Commissioner Maggie Hart Stebbins), UNM, CNM, and the International Sunport was assembled to address transportation issues in the area.

A Scoping Report authored by the project team identified significant opportunities for developing transit services in the area to improve mobility in the area while advancing the interests of neighborhoods, businesses, and institutions — simply by building on the area's existing strengths.

Goals of the UNM/CNM/Sunport Transit Project include improving accessibility to study area destinations, improving mobility within the area, coordinating new and future transportation services, and mitigating future congestion levels and transportation impacts on area neighborhoods. In this context, the project will also identify features of land use, parking, housing, and business activities that can support both the transit system and the interests of all parties involved.

## Current Efforts

- The project team is analyzing existing transit services in the area, and looking into potential strategies to reaching the project's goals, such as increasing and modifying existing transit service, making roadway improvements, marketing alternative modes, pursuing parking pricing and related policies, and developing park and ride facilities.
- MRCOG Public Involvement staff are going out into the community to gather comments from the public regarding the project.
- Technical staff from the project team partners are working on using Geographic Information Systems and other data sources to identify features of land use, parking, housing, and business activities that can support both the transit system and the interests of the residents, institutions, businesses, and visitors to the area.



## Project Team

- City of Albuquerque
  - Bernalillo County
  - University of New Mexico
  - Central NM Community College
  - International Sunport
- MRCOG is managing the effort.

## Project Goals

Reduce congestion, improve accessibility and mobility, identify convenient and affordable transit options, connect diverse populations to educational institutions, healthcare jobs and services, businesses, and neighborhoods.

## Project Funding

\$850 thousand from two federal grants and local matching funds

## Project Timeline

18 – 24 months to complete

## More Information

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