

Comments, Questions, and Responses
Southern Boulevard Open House
January 29, 2014

(Project team responses are in italics.)

You are planning for 20 years. Are you studying current and future traffic?

- *We will work with the Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG) for those traffic volumes.*

Do you have some data so far?

- *Some initial data has been obtained. Southern has some increased traffic along the corridor.*

What sort of feedback have you received from businesses?

- *We have talked with existing businesses. They have talked about the potential of the corridor.*

Is there a natural consequence of what the corridor will attract? You may have potential businesses involved.

- *We have talked to owners of vacant properties. We are meeting with current business owners and property owners. We want to make sure that the process is open and clear. We have something exciting going on here. That is one of the main goals.*

What are your plans? What are you going to do?

- *We are not there yet. We are in the beginning phases. We want to get your input first.*

What are you most likely to do?

- *A roadway with four lanes or six lanes. Bicycle lanes are probably in there.*

Every time I turn onto Southern from NM 528, I notice need to fix that area before 2018. Why has the city not fixed Southern going west?

- *Right in front of the Walgreens, we are looking at it. We agree.*
- *We will fix the pavement. The pavement is no good.*

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Beautify - so what?

- *Landscaping is planned, but the pavement will be first thing in that area.*

Will the road have a consistent speed?

- *That is something we are looking at, a consistent design speed for the corridor.*

The businesses and access to them – are you looking to improve that?

- *We are looking to improve that. We are asking property owners what are their issues. Combining accesses – we are looking at everything. We are looking at the corridor and flow of traffic as well.*

Are you looking at access entrance where it goes off of Southern?

- *Like a right-turn bay – that is something we will be looking at. It may be a right -turn lane off of the main line.*

Have you talked about adding street lights? Have you looked at where?

- *It is something we are looking at for the corridor.*

There are an awful lot of poles sticking up in the air. What possibilities are there for reducing or at least not increasing the number of poles?

- *We will talk with PNM. It is a huge expense to put the power line underground.*

I hope you will get sufficient lighting. There are extremely dark areas on Meadowlark. It is a real safety hazard.

- *We will definitely look at pedestrian lighting.*

Have you identified bottlenecks as you project traffic volume increases?

- *That is our next step. We will be looking at level of service for the design year at the intersections.*

The aesthetics – will this be a coordinated effort to do the water mains, so you don't have to dig up street again?

- *We will look at everything to make sure we take care of the underground work as well as the roadway.*

Do you have funding constraints?

- *We will work on an estimate. We will look at developing a project that meets community needs and makes the budget.*

Do you have a target figure?

- *We are early in the process.*

Going west on Southern and left on Veranda, there is a school there, and there is no room to turn. Cars back up.

- *We will look at that intersection, possibly a realignment. We noted that there were some issues out there when we did our traffic counts.*

There is a divider in the middle.

- *We looked at that.*

What about the time schedule? Starting in 2018, does it mean the first phase will start that year and how long will it take?

- *It would start then and take about 9 to 12 months.*

The next phase will depend on money?

- *That is correct.*

What about the following year, will there be more funding.

- *We will receive money from MRCOG. They allocate money every two years. We try to get budgets financed through MRCOG. That is what we did with this project.*

One or two years could go by before the next phase is started.

- *Correct.*

Who does the matching (funds)?

- *The city does matching. We will have to identify matching for future funding.*

What about securing property for the totality of the project – purchasing acquisitions?

- *We will have to look at acquiring properties, mostly at intersections. Also swaps with SSCAFCA. Our goal is to work mostly in the existing ROW. There is possibility of slivers (of property) here and there.*

A couple of years the city had an aesthetics task force, and they had drawings for Southern Boulevard.

- *We will look at that.*

As upgrades are looked at, is there a movement to look at green technologies since we have so much sun to drive the costs down for utilities.

- *We will look at solar; also LED lighting.*

Is that commonplace or experimental?

- *That depends because the technology is changing so much. PNM is working on a LED standard. LED is cheaper, and hopefully, we will do this on the corridor.*

Have you looked at financial impacts on businesses? We are talking about access. How long will you block entrances?

- *We will look at constructing the project with least amount of pain. We will keep access to businesses open. We don't want to be a detriment. We have been talking with the businesses.*

He is talking about subsidies. Does a federal grant suggest subsidies to businesses?

- *We will check into that.*