



## Summary of Comments, Questions, and Responses for the June 25, 2015 Public Open House

### Introduction

The City of Albuquerque held the third public meeting for the 12th Street and Menaul Great Streets Improvements project on Thursday, June 25, 2015. The meeting was an Open House to review the 60% design information for the proposed improvements and was held from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the Chaco Room of the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. Project team members were available to answer questions and address comments about the proposed design in one-on-one conversations. Indian Pueblos Marketing, Inc. provided design boards for the master plan development located on the Albuquerque Indian School property. Representatives from Morrow, Reardon, Wilkinson, and Miller Landscape Architects set up an information table to present the preliminary landscaping design plan to the public. In addition, members of the Near North Valley Neighborhood Association were available to sign up new members. *The Open House exhibits were posted to the project website after the meeting.*

The public was notified of the meeting via several methods including email list serv, a notice on the project webpage ([www.12thandmenaul.org](http://www.12thandmenaul.org)), newspaper advertisement in the Albuquerque Journal, and a notice on two electronic variable message boards in the project area. A total of 47 people signed in at the meeting. Public participants were invited to speak directly with the project team members and to provide their comments on flip charts.

In addition to the flip chart comments, a comment form was provided to attendees to allow for written comments to be submitted at or following the meeting. A total of 8 comment forms were submitted by the close of the meeting. Participants were instructed to submit their comment forms by July 16, 2015. All comment forms and other written comments/questions received through July 16, 2015 are included in this summary.



### Comments and Questions from Comment Forms Returned at the Meeting

A total of 8 comment forms were returned at the meeting. The comments received are listed below.

- I am a resident of [the area]. I like the plans, development and road. I hate that the road is not ready to accommodate the increased traffic. The McDonalds has already pulled in much more traffic and no turn lanes going south have made for some dangerous driving. Please prioritize the widening of 12<sup>th</sup> Street with the planned turn lanes!! Please don't let it take as long as the Menaul resurfacing has taken!



- Put a video public service announcement on the web and present it at future presentations.
- I think the news (media) should inform and warn all old and young drivers to be cautious, drive slow, be courteous while maneuvering through the roundabouts. Have demos on TV. What about pedestrian safety?
- The design is great! The roundabout will really slow down traffic. The landscaping will be wonderful for the neighborhood. I really appreciate the buffer between the bike lane and roadway. I'm pleased to see the turn lane to the gas station, northbound on 12<sup>th</sup> Street. The traffic has been backing up. This project in combination with the IPCC development on the east side of 12<sup>th</sup> will really enhance this neighborhood. I'm excited to see it all develop. Thank you for your hard work and continuing to involve the community. Thank you very much!!
- Both roundabouts are great for those of us that walk and bike through the neighborhood. One major problem that we have is the lack of bus service on the weekend. The #8 Menaul bus runs all week along 12<sup>th</sup> to/from downtown. On the weekend, the #8 shifts to 6<sup>th</sup> Street. This strands the people who live in the neighborhood every weekend. Albuquerque transit needs to seriously consider keeping service all 7 days of the week along the 12<sup>th</sup> Street route. The students at the Job Corp, and the residents in the area including Valley Apartments and St. Anthony Apartments would all benefit. The business Walgreens and Lowes could also be accessed by people up and down the route. And of course, visitors staying downtown could catch a bus to the Pueblo Cultural Center.
- Try and locate funding (neighborhood associations, garden clubs, etc.) to put some kind of landscaping in the median in front of Lowes on 12<sup>th</sup> Street and I-40. Try and find a way to protect the new landscaping from vandals and thieves. Thanks for the great opportunity to comment; also the cookies were good!
- 12<sup>th</sup> Street north of Menaul needs repaving to Matthew and 12<sup>th</sup> Street. It and the curbs are in terrible condition. Is it true the inventor of a roundabout/traffic circle was killed on one? That is what my teacher told us back in the 1960's.
- I'm concerned about the traffic/pedestrian management between the Indian School roundabout and Rio Grande. I'd like to know what project is handling the development to management traffic with the growing commerce and industry in the area. Assume increased traffic from Rio Grande and I-40 to Indian Cultural Center, turning signals at McDonalds. Spoke to Counselor Benton about traffic concerns on Indian School. Need a traffic study on Indian School between the Indian School roundabout and Rio Grande. Near North Valley Neighborhood Association. Los Duranes Neighborhood Association.



## Written Comments Transcribed from Flip Charts at the Meeting

A total of 6 comments were written on the flip charts available during the Open House. The comments received are listed below.

- Yay!
- Consider connecting the Foraker ditch into the storm sewer system it overtops now.
- As AISD is built out, especially with another federal office building, reconsider the opening at Indian School and 9<sup>th</sup> Street.
- This part of 12<sup>th</sup> needs rehab and paving [referring to the area above].
- 12<sup>th</sup> Street between Matthew and Menaul needs repaving. The existing pavement is very bad.
- Be sure to add safety features for bicycle commuters. We're traffic too!

## Additional Written Comments Received

Comments received up to July 16, 2015 are included herein. One written comment was received after the public meeting and is transcribed below.

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Date: 6/25/14

Please accept these comments on the 12 & Menaul open house held today, 6/25.

1. Overall I think you balanced all of the concerns for traffic capacity, safety, bikes, walking, appearance, water, and urban character very well. In particular the road-to-sidewalk routes for bikes is a nice feature, and the number and position of trees will greatly enhance the area.
2. I don't think the location of all poles, fire hydrants, and other sidewalk obstacles was shown, at least not on the poster sized drawings.  
While this may seem obvious, at the 2nd & Menaul project, some of the sidewalks were removed and re-poured only to leave the same obstacles in place, so it is no more accessible than before. That's why I'd want to make sure that those things are all accounted for and are not in the actual sidewalk in this project.
3. There should be a safety zone in the median in the crosswalk in front of the Cultural Center, since it crosses 5 lanes in total.
4. There should probably be a marked crosswalk from the 10th & Menaul westbound bus stop to the IS property, again with a median safety zone.
5. The center of the roundabout should be raised to make driving straight through impossible (probably standard practice, but sometimes stating the obvious is helpful!).
6. The new traffic light should be smart enough to remain on the N-S position indefinitely if there is no traffic exiting the IS property.  
Although there will be more traffic in the future, there is hardly any today.
7. Because this is one of the first multi-lane roundabouts in the area, it would help to have more signage than is required by national standards. In particular the yield sign is not enough. Most drivers



did not learn about roundabouts from their Drivers Ed classes, and they don't all "agree" with the rules. A sign on each approach could read "Traffic in circle has right of way".

8. The water level in the Foraker lateral is at the road level at the bottom, and maybe 18-24 inches higher when full. Therefore a significant retaining wall will be necessary. Since flowing water tends to undercut sidewalks and other concrete, the south bank of the ditch might be much more durable, and take up less space, if it was replaced with a built-up steep bank consisting of broken concrete pieces. (Those pieces could come from the sidewalk on the other side of the street.)

9. The city use of the car wash parcel is a concern because the city is more likely than a private developer to use it for some maintenance activity or other closed-to-the public facility, and this could be a limitation on how nicely the whole area looks. A retail spot that extends the adjacent retail property on 12th St. would be nicer, so it should be examined whether it can be sold to and combined with that property.