

To: Mayor R.J. Berry, City of Albuquerque
Councilor Debbie O'Malley
Director Michael Riordan, Department of Municipal Development

From: Board of Directors, Rio Grande Boulevard Neighborhood Association
Jack Taylor, President; Susan Johnson, Vice-president; Doyle Kimbrough, Treasurer;
Patricia Stelzner, Secretary, Shirley Salvi, Bob Johns, Steve Ewing

Date: September 13, 2012

Re: Roundabout at Rio Grande Boulevard and Candelaria Road NW

The boundaries of the Rio Grande Boulevard Neighborhood Association border the Boulevard from Indian School to Montano. (Our east boundary is the Griegos Drain, our west boundary is the Duranes Lateral). The membership of the Neighborhood Association has elected us as a board. At its scheduled meeting on September 11, 2012, the board *unanimously* endorsed the City's proposed safety improvements to the intersection at Rio Grande Boulevard and Candelaria Road.

We have been aware for several years now that transportation engineers saw a roundabout as the preferred alternative for handling the high speed, red-light-running and driver-inattention safety issues that have plagued this intersection. We were extremely pleased to learn, in April of 2010, that Federal Highway Safety Funds had been awarded to the City to build a roundabout at Candelaria and Rio Grande Boulevard. It was also gratifying to see, during that same month, that the 150+ participants in a well-advertised collaborative public planning process for an update to the Rio Grande Boulevard Corridor Plan were overwhelmingly supportive of a roundabout at this location. (Many of the participants, in fact, proposed that *all* of the intersections on Rio Grande Boulevard between Indian School and Montano be made roundabouts.)

We have not taken a formal board vote on the roundabout project until now because we believed that the City had found a solution for the intersection, the solution had been recognized as highly appropriate and had been funded by a combination of Federal and local resources, that final construction design had been completed and that construction would begin in September. We have had presentations by the City on this project at every RGBNA membership meeting since November 2009. In addition there have been four Public Meetings and a fifth is scheduled for September 27, 2012.

In light of the opposition expressed by some attendees at the fourth Public Meeting, and in consideration of the choice that seemed to be represented as "my convenience (in having a four lane travel route with long green lights) vs. your safety concerns", the board of the Rio Grande Boulevard Neighborhood Association wishes to come down firmly on the side of our residents' safety concerns. Further, we are aware that many people in our Association have worked for years on this safety solution and we wish to support them.

Those of us who live here travel through the intersection daily – and not just in cars. We cross it to catch the bus, we cross it to walk on the ditches, we bicycle through it to catch the Bosque Trail. It is part of our lives, and it is dangerous and it is loud and it has an engineered solution and the solution is funded. We are deeply grateful to the City and to our elected representatives (both City and State) for your recognition of our problem and your efforts to solve it. Thank you.