



September 23, 2012

To Whom it May Concern:

This is an early comment for the city's meeting on the roundabout at Rio Grande and Candelaria from the prospective of a State Senator, a member of the Rio Grande Blvd. Neighborhood Association and an citizen who has been involved with Rio Grande Blvd. since 1987. I understand a community meeting will be held Sept. 27 from 5-8 at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. I urge everyone to attend.

I support the Roundabout as a solution to speeding problems on Rio Grande and to pedestrian fatalities and accidents at that intersection. I also support the six-year process used by the City and our City Councilor to come up with a rational solution to this problem. Over the years, I have received many constituent calls about the speed and safety of that stretch of road. I have attended many neighborhood meetings on this problem in Duranes and at the Los Griegos Center. I have spoken with Police. I have watched computer simulations of the intersection under various scenarios. I have participated in audience polls and surveys. The conclusion, and the consensus has been clear: a roundabout will reduce speed and serious accidents on Rio Grande. It is the best alternative to which many solutions have been attempted—and failed.

Doyle Kimbrough, a neighborhood activist wrote an excellent article on the new "controversy" in Saturday's Albuquerque Journal. I've posted a version of it on my blog at <http://senatorfeldman.typepad.com>. I hope you'll read it and realize that while change is hard—it is sometimes for safety's sake.

On another note, I am happy each day I drive around the new roundabout on Indian School near my home. It eases traffic around the dangerous spot where roads have collided for year with cars coming from the Allsup's, the Jobs Corps and Lowe's. And it slows traffic picking up speed as it heads west toward Rio Grande Blvd.

In sum, I urge the City to proceed with construction of the roundabout on Rio Grande in a timely fashion.