

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTIETH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-12-119 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Dan Lewis

1 RESOLUTION

2 STATING THE REGIONAL IMPORTANCE OF DEVELOPING THE PASEO DEL
3 VOLCAN CORRIDOR AND ESTABLISHING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
4 PASEO DEL VOLCAN CORRIDOR AS A HIGH PRIORITY PROJECT IN FUTURE
5 ALLOCATIONS AND REQUESTS FOR LOCAL, STATE OR FEDERAL FUNDING.

6 WHEREAS, constructing Paseo del Volcan as a limited access arterial, and
7 eventually a limited access highway, would encourage additional economic
8 development along the corridor, and thereby reduce congestion on the west
9 side of Albuquerque and the Rio Grande bridge crossings, and improve the
10 jobs to housing balance between the west and east sides of the Rio Grande;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, constructing Paseo del Volcan will create the economic activity
13 necessary to generate revenue to fund the construction of the public
14 infrastructure that is lacking for the City's neighborhoods west of the Rio
15 Grande; and

16 WHEREAS, the 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan reports that by 2035
17 the region can expect significant increases in congestion at the river
18 crossings and on the entire transportation system west of the Rio Grande; and

19 WHEREAS, the ongoing pattern of residents locating west of the Rio
20 Grande while major job concentrations locate east of the river will continue to
21 increase rush hour traffic congestion at the river crossings; and

22 WHEREAS, the 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan reports that by 2035
23 the projected level of population growth west of the Rio Grande, combined
24 with an increasing imbalance between housing and jobs, will double vehicle
25 miles traveled per day from 16 million to 32 million and generate one million
26 daily trips across the Rio Grande; and

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1 WHEREAS, the 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan reports these growth
2 trends will increase annual vehicle hours of delay from 400,000 to 1,500,000;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, the resulting severe congestion at the river crossings will
5 reduce the geographical area of the labor markets conveniently accessible to
6 key employment centers, will compromise the community's quality of life (a
7 key factor for employers when choosing where to locate a business) and will
8 drive up transportation costs which depress housing prices west of the Rio
9 Grande resulting in expensive speculative housing prices for the fixed number
10 of homes in the built out neighborhoods east of the River; and

11 WHEREAS, the high number of rooftops, the limited number of bridge
12 crossings, and the concentration of jobs on opposite sides of the river has
13 created a dire need to significantly improve the jobs/housing balance by
14 developing a major employment area west of the river that is equivalent in
15 labor capacity to Kirtland Air Force Base (KAFB) or the University of New
16 Mexico/Central New Mexico College (UNM/CNM) complex; and

17 WHEREAS, the Paseo del Volcan corridor and adjacent properties are the
18 only area with adequate land west of the Rio Grande for a large employer or
19 group of employers; and

20 WHEREAS, constructing Paseo del Volcan will open up land use options
21 for development of private and public research parks and institutions of
22 higher education required to support the high skilled jobs that will dominate
23 the future economy of North America, and still provide land to house those
24 who work in these facilities; and

25 WHEREAS, the 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan identified over
26 \$2,000,000,000 in transportation infrastructure needs west of Rio Grande,
27 including completing Unser Boulevard and Paseo Del Norte, extending Atrisco
28 Vista Boulevard north to Southern Avenue in Rio Rancho, and adding high
29 capacity transit to Coors Boulevard and the Montano and Paseo del Norte
30 river crossings in addition to numerous other improvements needed for the
31 arterial and collector street system west of the river; and

32 WHEREAS, the property and gross receipt taxes created by developing a
33 new economic generator equivalent to KAFB or UNM/CNM could provide a

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1 significant portion of the funding to construct the needed infrastructure west
2 of the Rio Grande; and

3 WHEREAS, New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) has filed
4 an environmental impact statement with the Federal Highway Administration
5 that states; “if implemented, Paseo del Volcan would create a major
6 transportation corridor with efficient access to the developing properties on
7 Albuquerque's west side and in Rio Rancho. Paseo del Volcan will facilitate
8 and provide for orderly development in a rapidly growing area of Bernalillo
9 and Sandoval Counties; and improve the roadway network’s linkages and add
10 additional roadway capacity to other existing and planned transportation
11 facilities within the northwest subarea.”; and

12 WHEREAS, the NMDOT has constructed the segment of Paseo del Volcan
13 as a limited access highway from United States Highway 550 south to the Rio
14 Rancho Town Center. The Department is currently acquiring right of way for
15 the roadway from the Town Center to the Bernalillo/Sandoval County Line; and

16 WHEREAS, acting now to designate Paseo del Volcan as a regional priority
17 before the lands adjoining it are developed will reduce right-of-way costs and
18 avoid disrupting existing neighborhoods and businesses (even condemning
19 sound buildings in stable neighborhoods).

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
21 ALBUQUERQUE:

22 Section 1. That the City of Albuquerque considers the development of
23 Paseo del Volcan a priority project for the 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021
24 Capital Improvement Programs and for any reauthorization of the Quarter Cent
25 Transportation Infrastructure Tax. However, it is not the intent of the City of
26 Albuquerque to assume a disproportionate responsibility for the material
27 construction of the roadway and interchanges.

28 Section 2. The City requests the New Mexico State Legislature designate
29 the development of Paseo del Volcan as a State priority for the funding cycles
30 from Fiscal Year 2014 through Fiscal Year 2024.

31 Section 3. The City requests that the Metropolitan Transportation Board of
32 the Albuquerque Metropolitan Planning Area establish the development of

1 Paseo del Volcan as a regional priority for the Transportation Improvement
2 Programs in 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020 and 2022.

3 Section 4. The City requests that the County of Bernalillo, the County of
4 Sandoval and the City of Rio Rancho designate development of Paseo del
5 Volcan as a priority and assist in the project's funding.

6 Section 5. The City requests that the owners of property in the corridor
7 voluntarily participate in the Development of Paseo Del Volcan by donating
8 right of way and providing other assistance as is needed.

9 Section 6. The City requests that the New Mexico Congressional Delegation
10 work to secure federal funds for building Paseo del Volcan and assist in
11 accessing federal programs for developing an employment center in the
12 Paseo del Volcan Corridor.

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