

# CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

## TWENTY-SIXTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. O-24-3

ENACTMENT NO. D-2024-001

SPONSORED BY: Joaquín Baca and Klarissa J. Peña, by request

1

### ORDINANCE

2 DESIGNATION OF THE CENTRAL AVENUE BRIDGE CROSSING SITE AS A  
3 CITY LANDMARK.

4 WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 3-22-3 NMSA 1978 of the Historic District  
5 and Landmark Act the City Council, the governing body of the City of  
6 Albuquerque, has the authority to adopt zoning districts designating certain  
7 areas as historical areas and to adopt and enforce regulations and restrictions  
8 within such districts relating to the erection, alterations and destruction of  
9 those exterior features of buildings and other structures subject to public view  
10 from any public street, way or other public place; and

11 WHEREAS, the authority conferred by the Historic District and Landmark  
12 Act is consistent with the authority of the City Council to amend the zone map  
13 for the physical development of the areas within the planning and platting  
14 jurisdiction of the City as authorized by Section 3-19-5 NMSA 1978, and by the  
15 City of Albuquerque's home rule powers; and

16 WHEREAS, the protection, reuse, and enhancement of significant  
17 buildings, districts, and sites is a goal of the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County  
18 Comprehensive Plan; and

19 WHEREAS, the property owner, consents to the designation of the property  
20 as a City of Albuquerque Landmark; and

21 WHEREAS, the Central Avenue Bridge over the flood-prone Rio Grade was  
22 essential for transcontinental highway traffic to travel through New Mexico  
23 with every vehicle that went through Albuquerque on Route 66 from 1937 to  
24 1983 traveling over two versions of the Central Avenue Bridge; and

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[Bracketed/Strikethrough Material] - Deletion

1 WHEREAS, the Landmarks Commission, in its advisory role on historic  
2 preservation matters has recommended City Council approval of the landmark  
3 designation; and

4 WHEREAS, the Integrated Development Ordinance (IDO) Subsection 14-16-  
5 6-7(C) provides for designation of landmark sites and structures; and

6 WHEREAS, the Landmarks Commission, on April 12, 2023, recommended  
7 that the City Council approve a designation of City Landmark Site on Central  
8 Avenue between Tingley Drive and Sunset Road; and

9 WHEREAS, the construction and implementation of the bridge in 1930 was  
10 the final event that helped federal officials accept the Santa Rosa-Laguna  
11 shortcut in New Mexico and realign Route 66 east-west through Albuquerque;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the construction of the Central Avenue Bridge in 1930 was the  
14 final state funded structure that motivated federal officials to reroute Route 66  
15 and save 107 miles of travel.

16 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF  
17 ALBUQUERQUE:

18 SECTION 1: That the Central Avenue Bridge Site be designated a City  
19 Landmark, as shown in Exhibit A.

20       **SECTION 2: SEVERABILITY CLAUSE.** If any section, paragraph, sentence,  
21 clause, word or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or  
22 unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not  
23 affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this ordinance. The Council  
24 hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance and each section,  
25 paragraph, sentence, clause, word or phrase thereof irrespective of any  
26 provision being declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid.

27 SECTION 3: OFFICIAL ZONING MAP. The City Planning Department shall  
28 update the official Zoning Map to reflect the adopted City Landmark  
29 designation for the Central Avenue Bridge Crossing Site over the Rio Grande  
30 River.

31       **SECTION 4: EFFECTIVE DATE.** This ordinance shall take effect five days  
32 after publication by title and general summary.

1 PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 3<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF April, 2024  
2 BY A VOTE OF: 9 FOR 0 AGAINST.

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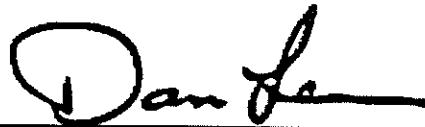
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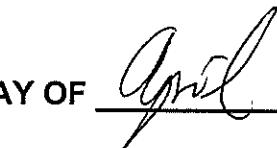
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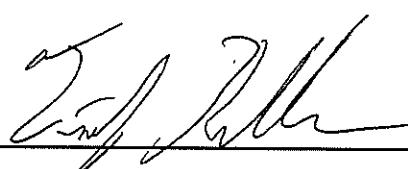


10  
11 Dan Lewis, President  
12 City Council  
13

14  
15 APPROVED THIS 12 DAY OF April, 2024  
16



17  
18  
19 Bill No. O-24-3  
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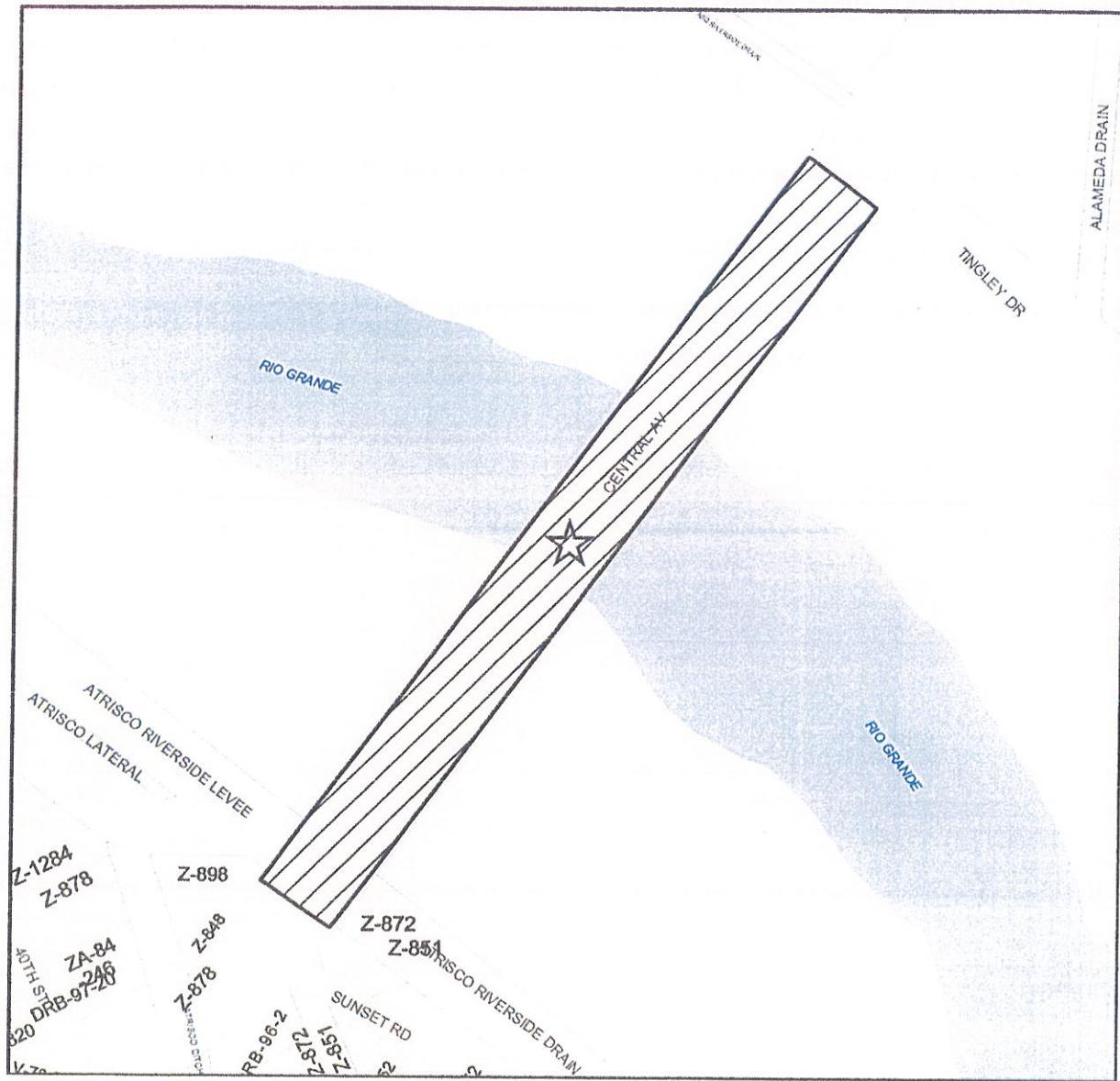
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23 Timothy M. Keller, Mayor  
24 City of Albuquerque  
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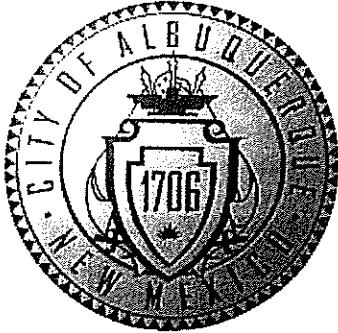
28 ATTEST:  
29  
30



31 Ethan Watson, City Clerk  
32  
33

## **Exhibit A: Central Avenue Bridge crossing site location.**





**CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE**  
**Albuquerque, New Mexico**  
**Office of the Mayor**

Mayor Timothy M. Keller

**INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

January 16, 2024

**TO:** Dan Lewis, President, City Council  
**FROM:** Timothy M. Keller, Mayor *T.M.K.*

**SUBJECT:** Designation of the Central Avenue Bridge Crossing Site as a City Landmark

The Landmarks Commission is requesting approval of Designation of the Central Avenue Bridge Crossing Site as a City Landmark.

The application for Adoption or Amendment of Historic Designation requests a recommendation by the Landmarks Commission for City Landmark designation of the Central Avenue Bridge located on Central Avenue between Tingley Drive and Sunset Road. The Central Avenue Bridge is arguably one of the community's most historically significant structures as it became a key part of Route 66 history and became its most important feature.

During the early years of the federal highway system, engineers realigned highways to create efficient and safer roadways. Although many realignments tended to be minor, but a few involved major rerouting of roads. For example, in 1926, Route 66, as it passed through New Mexico, was 507 miles long and was reduced to 399 miles in 1937. Due to the realignment of Route 66, the Central Avenue Bridge was necessary for the largest rerouting project (Laguna Cut-Off). The completion of this bridge by the State of New Mexico was the final hurdle that led the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads to recognize the Santa Rosa-Laguna Shortcut as the future alignment of Route 66.

In February of 2022, an application was submitted to those reviewing potential nominations for a listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) so that a formal nomination could be made. As the current bridge structure was built in 1983, it does not meet the 50-year criterion and, though significant, is not considered eligible for national nomination. Bridges on state highway systems meeting eligibility requirements of the National Register of Historic Places are entitled to a review process before being destroyed. Generally, the rules make demolition possible, providing there is mitigation, often in the form of photographs or other documentation. However, the proposal to designate the Central Avenue Bridge as a City Landmark is an effort to mark the bridge's significance and the realignment of Route 66 to the growth of Albuquerque.

Designation of the Central Avenue Bridge Crossing Site as a City Landmark

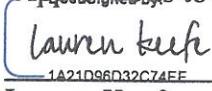
Approved:

  
Dr. Samantha Sengel

Date

Chief Administrative Officer

Approved as to Legal Form:

  
Lauren Keefe

1/31/2024 | 1:49 PM MST

1A21D96D32C74EE  
Lauren Keefe  
City Attorney

Date

Recommended:

DocuSigned by:

  
Alan Varela

947D88B6EF4C443  
1/29/2024 | 11:29 AM MST

Alan Varela

Date

Planning Director

**Cover Analysis**  
**Landmarking Central Ave. Bridge Site**

**1. What is it?**

This is an ordinance to designate the Central Avenue-Rio Grande Bridge crossing as a City Landmark site.

**2. What will this piece of legislation do?**

This legislation will recognize the historic significance of the Central Avenue bridge crossing to the growth and character of the City of Albuquerque. It will also ensure the continuance of a river crossing at this location.

**3. Why is this project needed?**

Landmarking of the site is important to acknowledge the importance of the and its impact on the alignment of US Route 66 which will be celebrating 100 years in the near future.

**4. How much will it cost and what is the funding source?**

No cost is involved.

**5. Is there a revenue source associated with this Plan? If so, what level of income is projected?**

No revenue source is associated with the action.

## **FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS**

**TITLE:**

R: O:  
FUND:

## Designation of the Central Avenue Bridge Crossing Site as a City Landmark

DEPT: Planning

No measurable fiscal impact is anticipated, i.e., no impact on fund balance over and above existing appropriations.

(If Applicable) The estimated fiscal impact (defined as impact over and above existing appropriations) of this legislation is as follows:

	Fiscal Years		
	2024	2025	2026
	\$	\$	\$
Base Salary/Wages	-	-	-
Fringe Benefits at	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal Personnel</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Operating Expenses	-	-	-
Property	-	-	-
Indirect Costs	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
[ ] Estimated revenues not affected			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Estimated revenue impact			
Revenue from program			
Amount of Grant			
City Cash Match			
City Inkind Match			
City IDOH			
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

These estimates do not include any adjustment for inflation.

\* Range if not easily quantifiable.

### Number of Positions created

**COMMENTS:** This is a request for a Designation of the Central Avenue Bridge Crossing Site as a City Landmark, which is located on Central Avenue between Tingley Drive SW and Sunset Road SW. The City Landmark designation would not have any fiscal impacts to the City.

**COMMENTS ON NON-MONETARY IMPACTS TO COMMUNITY/CITY GOVERNMENT:**

PREPARED BY:

Debbie Danbrowski 1/29/2024 | 8:58 AM MST  
2EC32E5883704D3  
FISCAL ANALYST

APPROVED:

Document signed by:  
Alan Vauta 1/29/2024 | 11:29 AM MST  
047B98866CF46443  
DIRECTOR (date)

**REVIEWED BY:**

Dec 2004 by:  
Evelyn Torres 31/202  
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EXECUTIVE BUDGET ANALYST

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12 Lawrence Davis /2024 |  
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BUDGET OFFICER (data)

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CITY ECONOMIST