



City of Albuquerque

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Office of the Mayor

Mayor Martin J. Chávez

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

April 2, 2009

TO: Isaac Benton, President, City Council

FROM: Martin J. Chávez, Mayor

SUBJECT: Ordinance Imposing a Tax for Transportation Infrastructure Improvements

This Ordinance imposes a quarter-cent Transportation Infrastructure Tax to be effective July 1, 2010 and is dependent upon a favorable outcome of a mandatory election to be held on a date to be set by the Council. The tax shall be dedicated to road rehabilitation, road deficiencies, road maintenance, trails and bikeways and transit at the percentages set forth in the ordinance and will expire ten years after the effective date.

The citizens of Albuquerque have benefited greatly from the existing Quarter-Cent Transportation Infrastructure Tax. These monies have been used to rehabilitate approximately 2,600 lanes miles of roadway. The level of maintenance performed on our streets has increased significantly and these efforts have extended the service life of our roadways. Based on the Surface Defect Index, since 1999 the percentage of streets in excellent or good condition has increased from 32% to 70%. The Quarter-Cent Transportation Infrastructure Tax represents more than 80% of our efforts in maintaining our streets.

Many road deficiencies have been addressed with the existing Tax. To date 44 new lane miles have been constructed and an additional 53 lane miles have been reconstructed utilizing this Program. The City has been able to successfully leverage these monies to obtain additional federal and state funds to construct many of these projects including the construction of Golf Course Road, Wyoming Boulevard, and Unser Boulevard.

In addition, approximately 50 miles of trails and bikeways have been constructed or rehabilitated with these funds. Some examples of these projects include the North Diversion Channel under Paseo del Norte and I-40 Trail between Coors and Unser.

The existing Tax has allowed the Transit Department to significantly expand fixed route and Sun Van service. Service and ridership have increased substantially during evenings and weekends, in addition to major system improvements such as the addition of the Red and Blue Rapid Ride lines. Overall hours of fixed route service have increased by about 30%, and ridership has increased by about 75%.

The significant benefits and progress that have been realized with this Tax will be lost if the proposed Ordinance is not approved by the voters.

This Ordinance is forwarded to City Council for its favorable consideration and action.