

UNSER BOULEVARD WIDENING PHASE II-B

PUBLIC MEETING
JULY 24, 2024

AT/LPA Project CN A301323



Agenda

Introductions

Project Background

Project Phasing

Current Phase

Schedule

Q & A Session

INTRODUCTIONS



Presenters



Thaddeus Yazzie, PE
Project Manager/Engineer
Wilson & Co.



Arnell Friedt, PE
Project Manager
City of Rio Rancho



Francine Pacheco
Senior Planner/Facilitator
Wilson & Co.

City of Rio Rancho

- BJ Gottlieb, PE – Public Works Director/City Engineer
- Jamie Marrufo – Deputy Director, Public Works
- Jaley Turpen, Communications Specialist

NMDOT

- Miguel Archuleta – T/LPA Region Coordinator
- Emily Dossett – Environmental T/LPA Coordinator

Wilson & Company

- Benson Long – Engineer in Training

Project Team



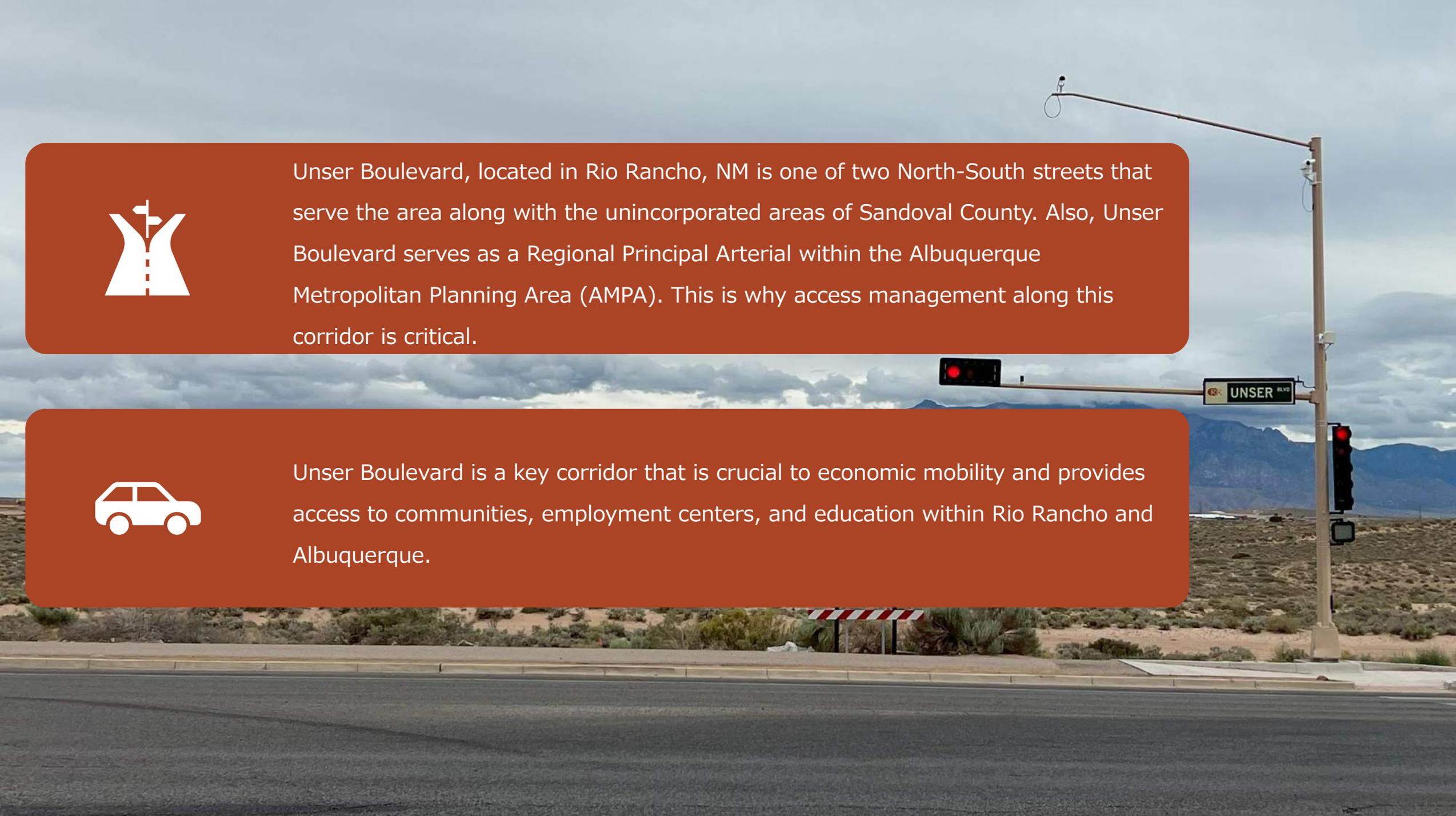
PROJECT BACKGROUND



Unser Boulevard, located in Rio Rancho, NM is one of two North-South streets that serve the area along with the unincorporated areas of Sandoval County. Also, Unser Boulevard serves as a Regional Principal Arterial within the Albuquerque Metropolitan Planning Area (AMPA). This is why access management along this corridor is critical.



Unser Boulevard is a key corridor that is crucial to economic mobility and provides access to communities, employment centers, and education within Rio Rancho and Albuquerque.





In 2004, an alignment study which is part of a larger NMDOT process called the *Location Study Procedure* was conducted.

The Location Study Procedure is a systematic and comprehensive process that identifies transportation needs and issues along with identifying potential solutions

In conjunction with the *2025 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)* and the alignment study, the Unser Boulevard Widening Phase II Project was initiated.



In 2004, an Alignment Study and environmental assessment (EA) were conducted along Unser Boulevard.



After the 2004 studies were conducted, in 2005 the project team formalized a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) allowing the project to move forward with no delays.



Moving forward, the project team completed a Design Analysis Report (DAR) to provide a basis for the Phase II design in 2008.



In 2009, a re-evaluation of the Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed to ensure no significant impacts were being made to the area.

In summary...

The purpose and need served to address several factors contributing to the need for improvements for Unser Boulevard. These include population and employment growth projected for Rio Rancho, increased traffic volumes resulting from the greater numbers of persons traveling in the project area, and the lack of continuous major street network within Rio Rancho.



Ultimately it was determined that there is a need to **improve traffic flow** and **accommodate a growing population**.



Improvements also include expanding the two-lane corridor into four lanes; two-lanes in each direction and accommodates future growth to six lanes.

PROJECT PHASES



The Unser Widening Phase II Project is distributed into three phases. The three phases are as follows:

- Phase IIA – Paseo del Volcan to King Boulevard
- Phase IIB – Cherry Road to Paseo del Volcan
- Phase IIC – King Boulevard to Progress Road

Phase IIA was successfully completed in 2012, with Phase IIC to be scheduled at a later date.

It is important to note, Phase II was distributed into three phases based upon construction funding and the Right-of-Way process.

Project Phases

Where are we now?

- Here you can see the different phases and their boundaries.
- As mentioned previously, we are currently in Phase IIB as indicated by the yellow arrow.



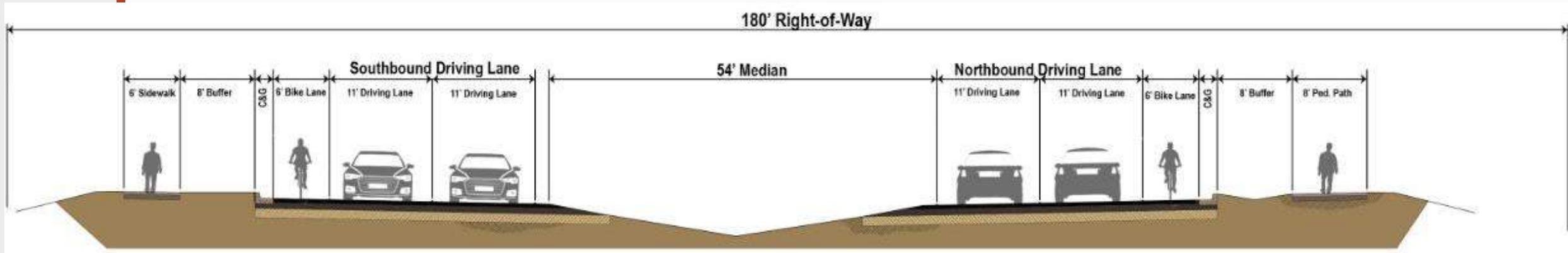
CURRENT PHASE



What to expect in Phase IIB



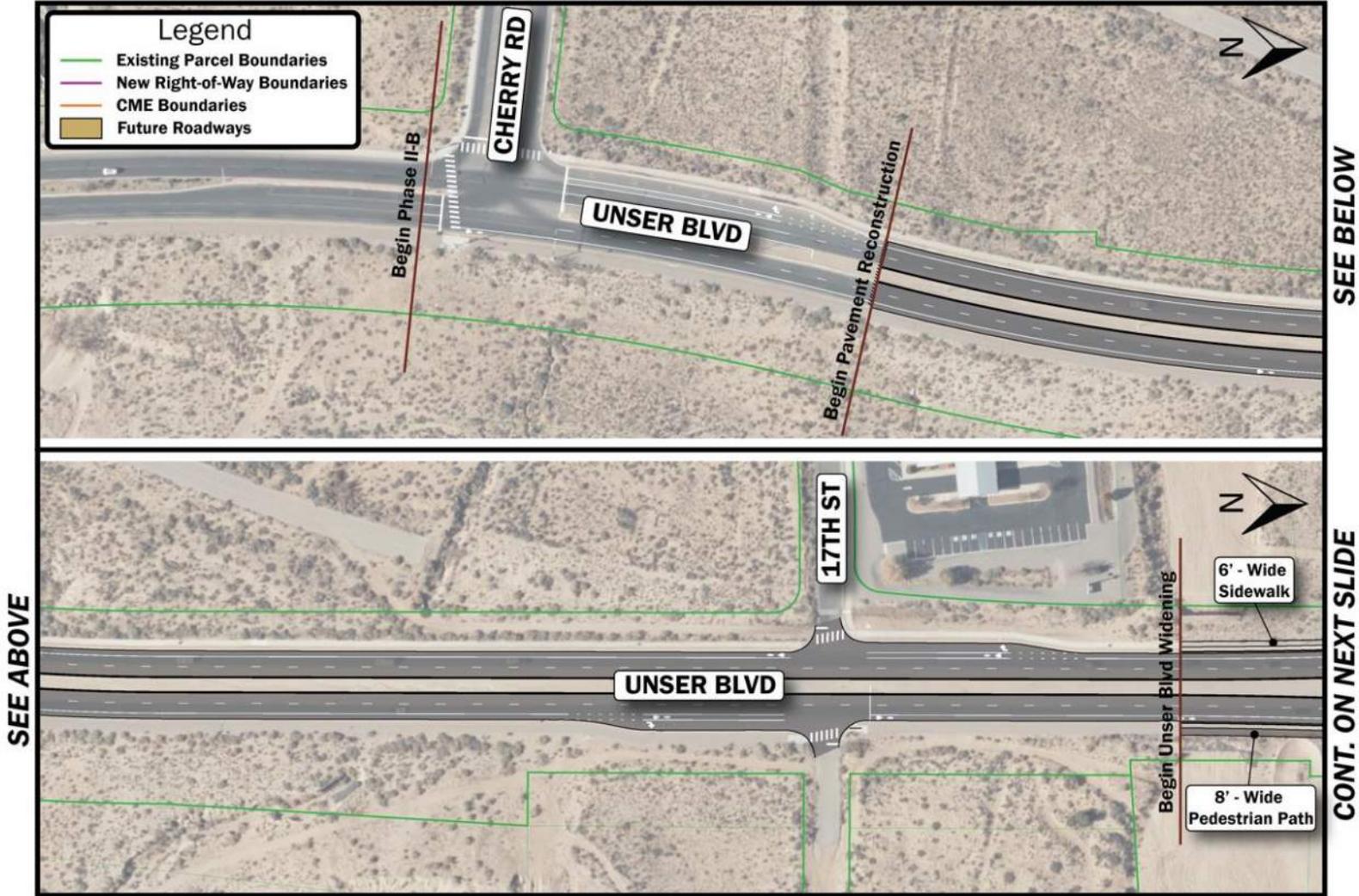
- In the next few slides, we will review what changes to expect with the upcoming Phase IIB.
- We have broken down the phase for easier understanding of what changes are coming!
- Remember, Phase IIB is only from Cherry Road to Paseo del Volcan!



Roadway Expansion View

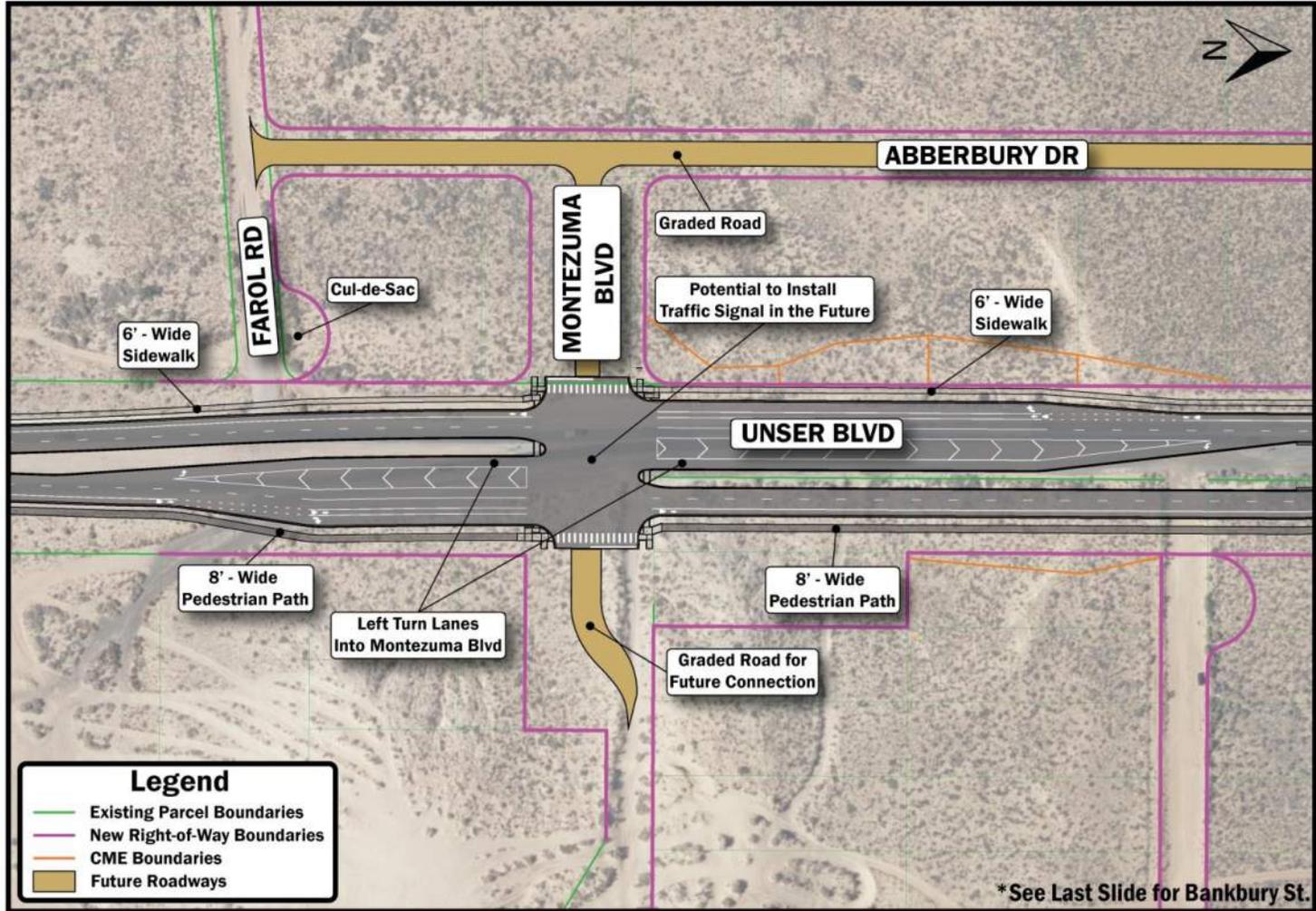
- Two lanes in each direction
- 54' Median separating each direction
- 6' Bike lane in each direction
- Extension of existing pedestrian path (from Phase IIA)
- Extension of existing sidewalk (from Phase IIA)

Note: This design will remain consistent throughout the entire Phase IIB



- Pavement reconstruction
- Widened to four lanes from two (two-lanes each direction)
- Roadway lighting with LED lights
- New landscaping

CONT. ON PREVIOUS SLIDE



CONT. ON NEXT SLIDE

Widened to four lanes

Access management

Improved connections for future roads

Roadway lighting with LED lights

Installation of storm drain

New sidewalk

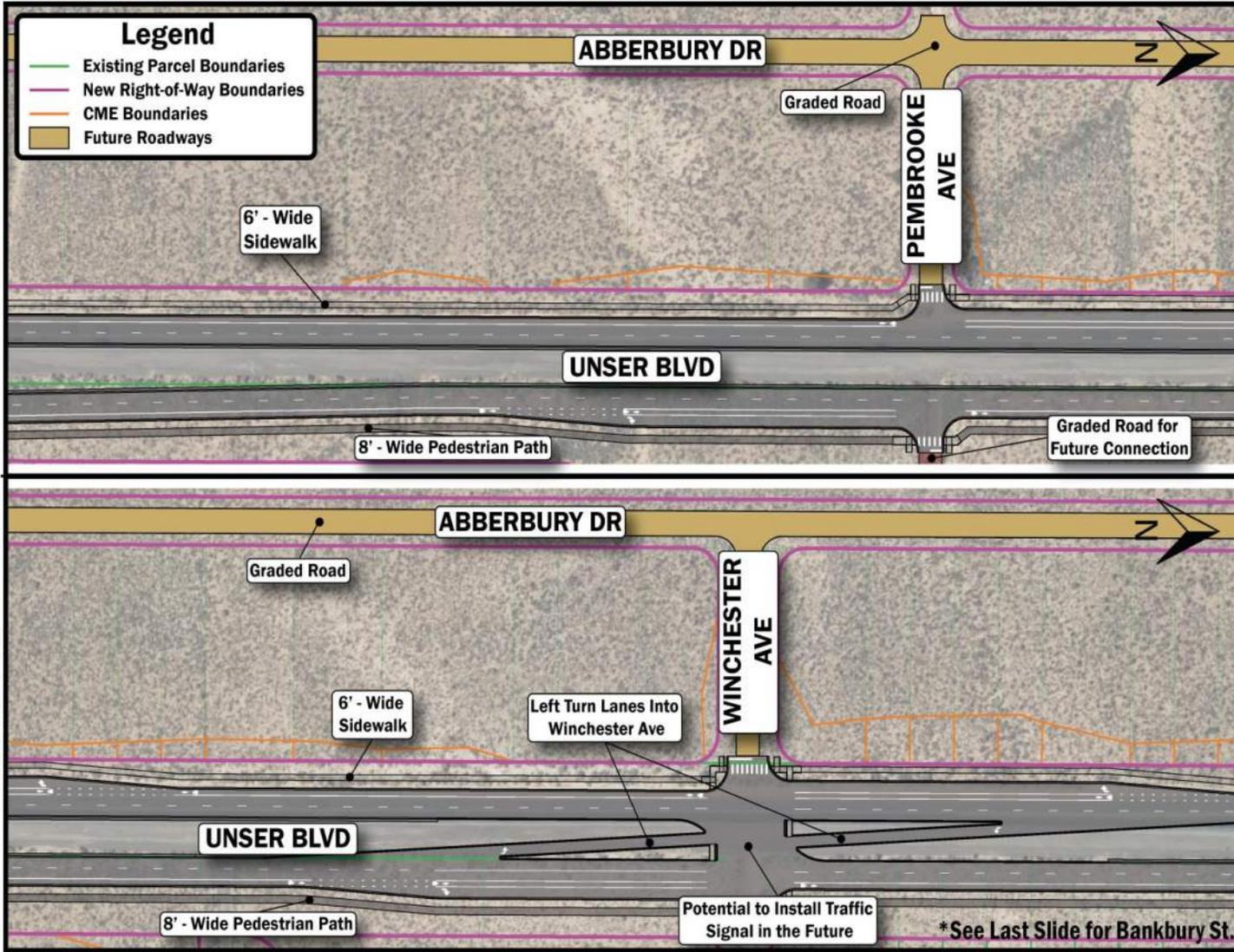
New pedestrian path

New bike lanes

New landscaping

CONT. ON PREVIOUS SLIDE

SEE ABOVE



SEE BELOW

CONT. ON NEXT SLIDE

Widened to four lanes

Access management

Improved connections for future roads

Roadway lighting with LED lights

Installation of storm drain

New sidewalk

New pedestrian path

New bike lanes

New landscaping

CONT. ON PREVIOUS SLIDE



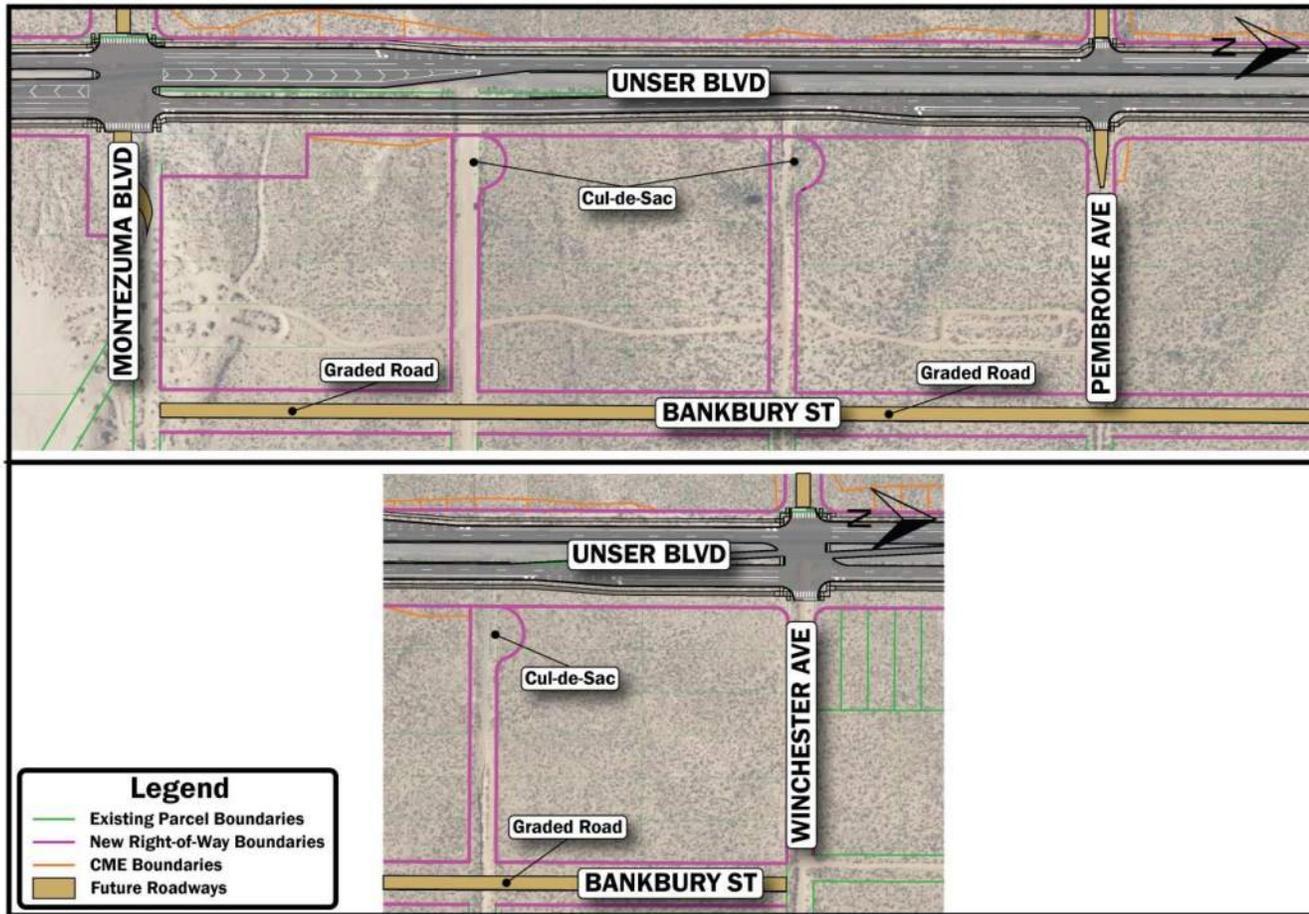
CONT. ON NEXT SLIDE

- Widened to four lanes.
- Access management
- Improved connections for future roads
- Roadway lighting with LED lights
- Installation of storm drain
- New sidewalk
- New pedestrian path
- New bike lanes
- New landscaping

CONT. ON PREVIOUS SLIDE



- Connects to Phase II-A
- Widened to four lanes
- Roadway lighting with LED lights
- New sidewalk
- New pedestrian path
- New bike lanes
- New landscaping



- Bankbury Street will be dirt access road
- Access Management

Project Schedule

Design Phase

- Present – Winter 2024



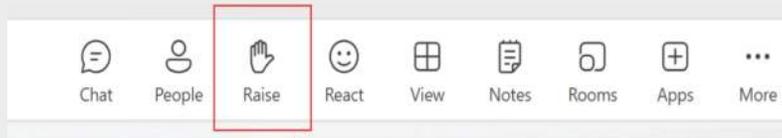
Construction Phase

- Begins Spring 2025

Please note that this schedule is subject to change.

Q & A SESSION

- Please remain muted.
- If you have a question, please raise your hand via the Teams tool



- A team member will then call on you to unmute and ask your question.



PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

HOW TO SUBMIT A PUBLIC COMMENT

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
ENDS AUG. 31, 2024**

- Today during our Q& A Session
- Email our Project Manager, Arnell Friedt, at afriedt@rrnm.gov
- Call Arnell Friedt at (505) 896-8242
- Send us a letter! You can mail it to:

City of Rio Rancho

c/o Arnell Freidt

3200 Civic Center Circle NE

Rio Rancho, NM 87144

THANK YOU!

Be sure to check our website
www.rrnm.gov/unsr for updates as we
progress with the project!

