

# UNSER BOULEVARD WIDENING PHASE II-B

PUBLIC MEETING  
OCTOBER 2, 2024



# 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**



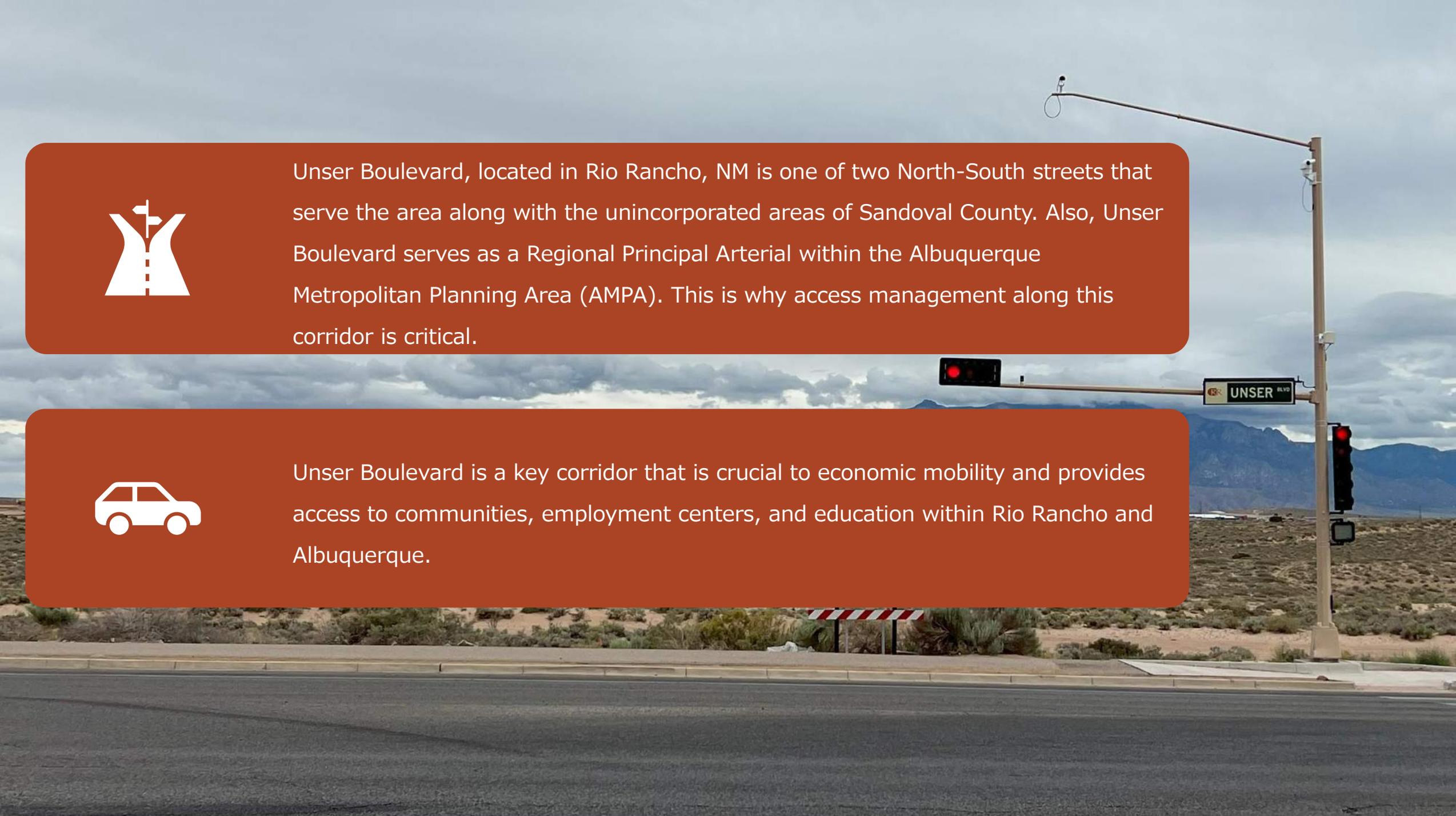
# PROJECT BACKGROUND



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 was completed as part of a process outlined in the NMDOT *Location Study Procedures*.

*The Location Study Procedure* is a guidebook that outlines 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 completed for the Unser Blvd Widening Project.



After the 2004 studies were conducted, in 2005 the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) determined 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.

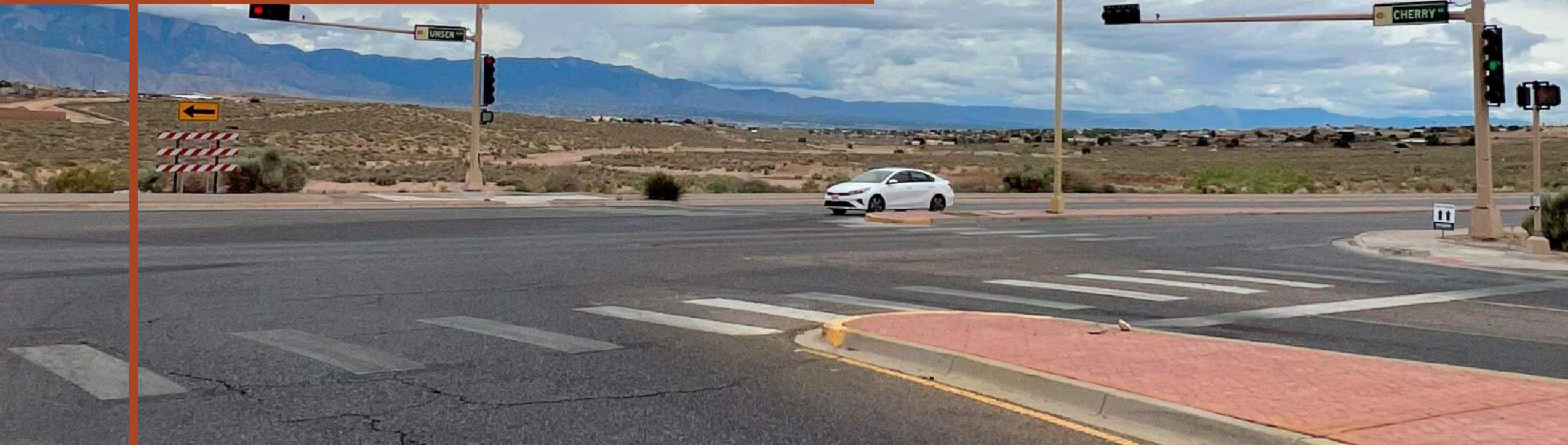
# In summary...

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 Blvd

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.



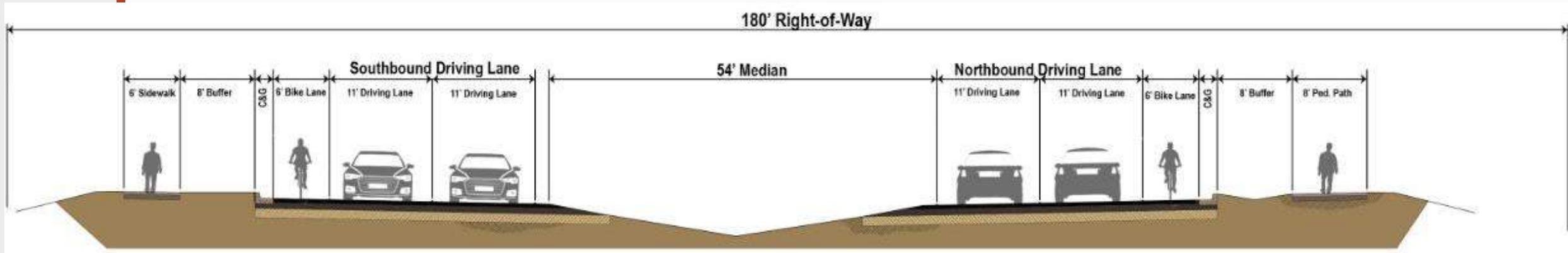
# CURRENT PHASE



# What to expect in Phase IIB



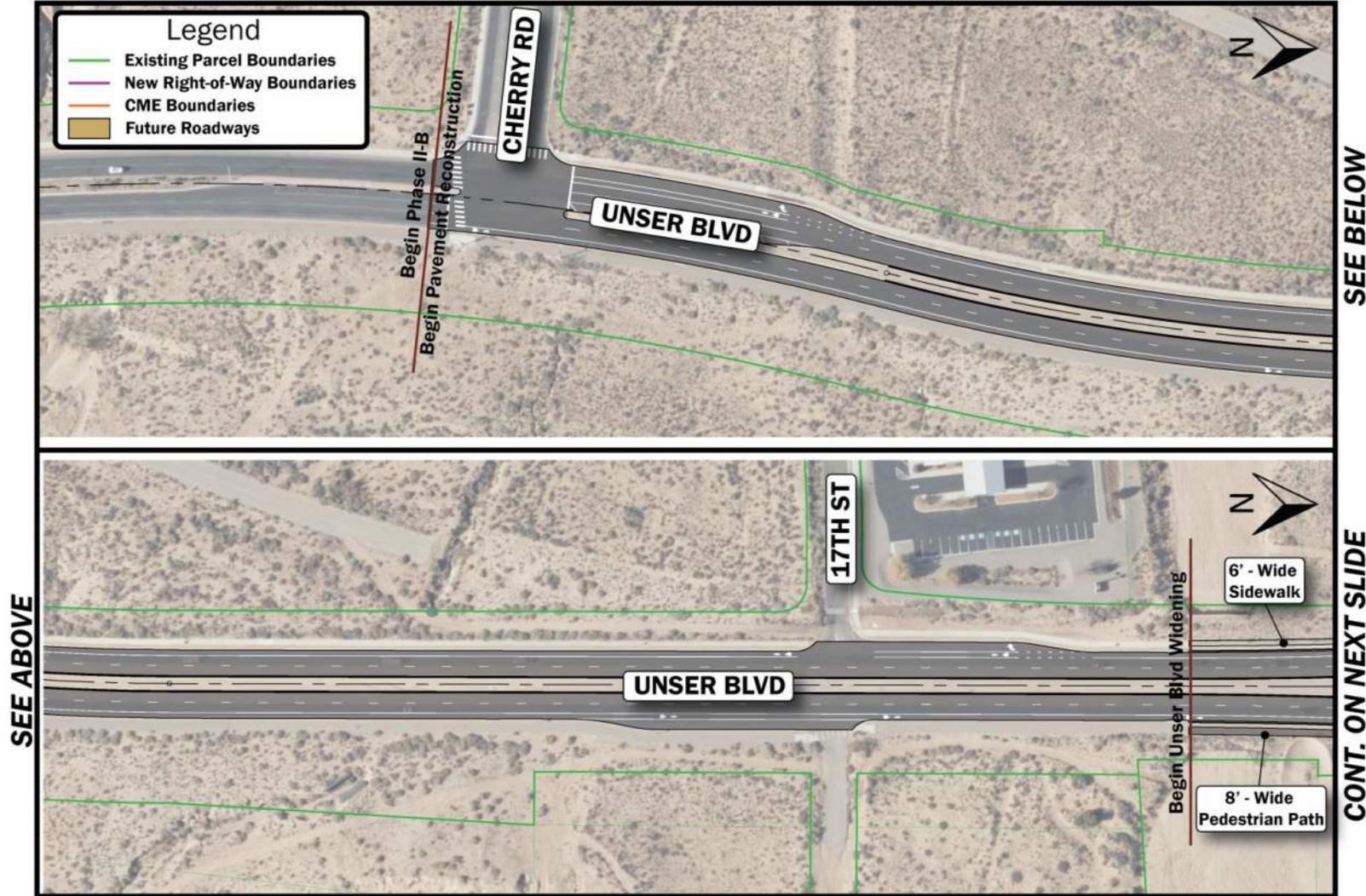
- In the next few slides, we will review what changes to expect with the upcoming Phase IIB.
- We have broken down the phase for easier understanding of what changes are coming!
- Remember, Phase IIB is only from Cherry Road to Paseo del Volcan!



# Roadway Expansion View

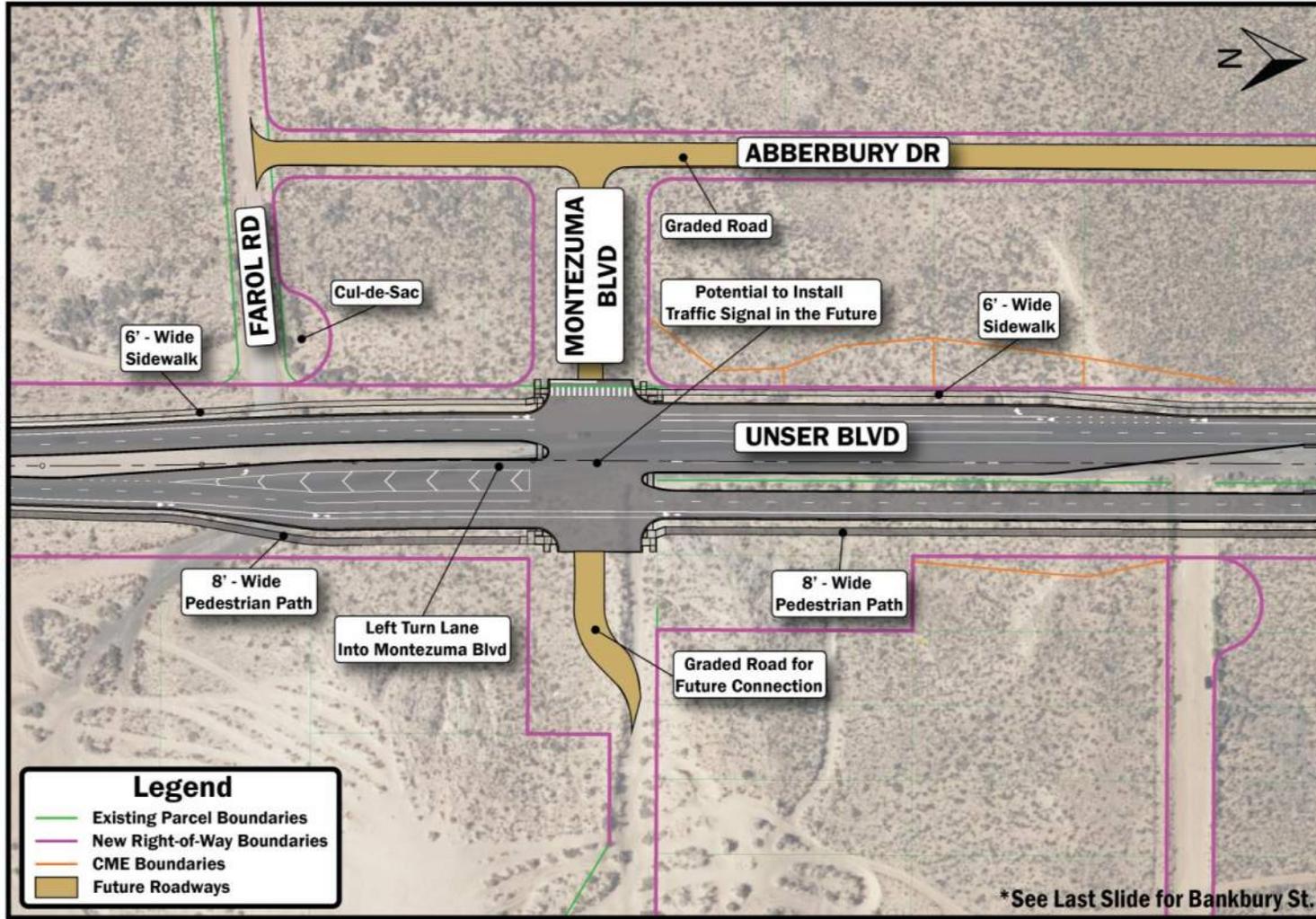
- Two lanes in each direction
- 54' Median separating each direction
- 6' Bike lane in each direction
- Extension of existing pedestrian path (from Phase IIA)
- Extension of existing sidewalk (from Phase IIA)

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

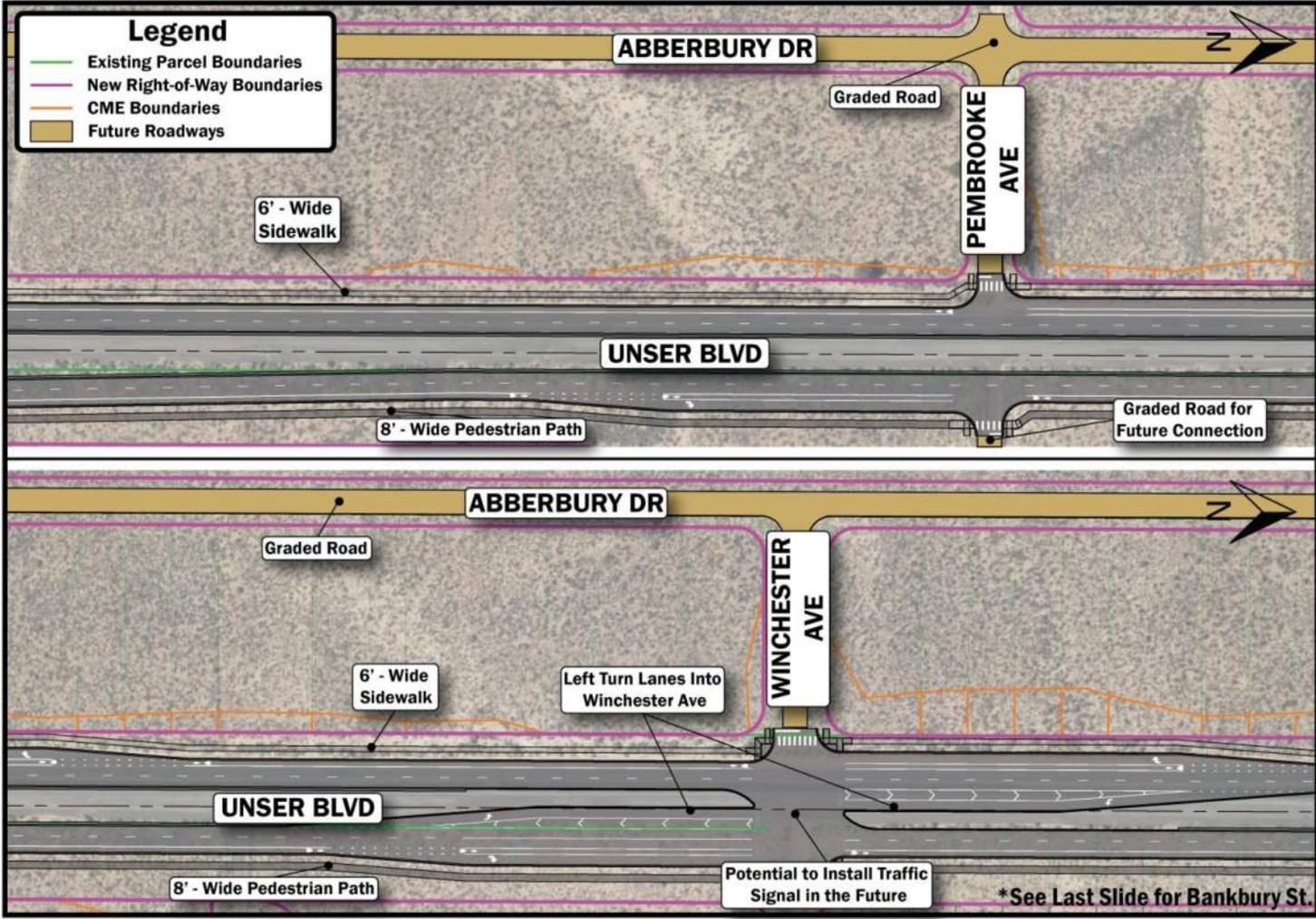
New pedestrian path

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

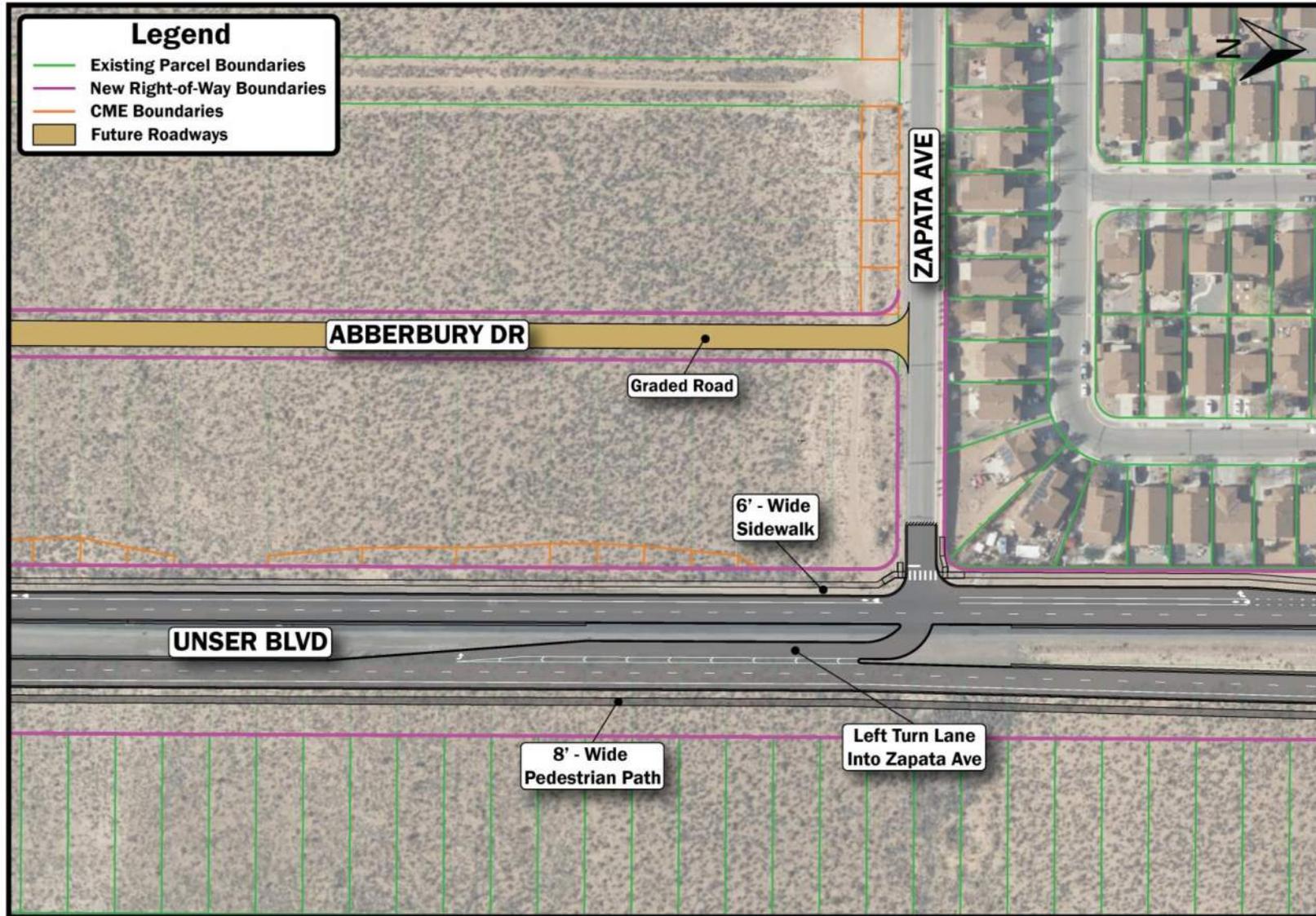
New sidewalk

New pedestrian path

New bike lanes

New landscaping

CONT. ON PREVIOUS SLIDE



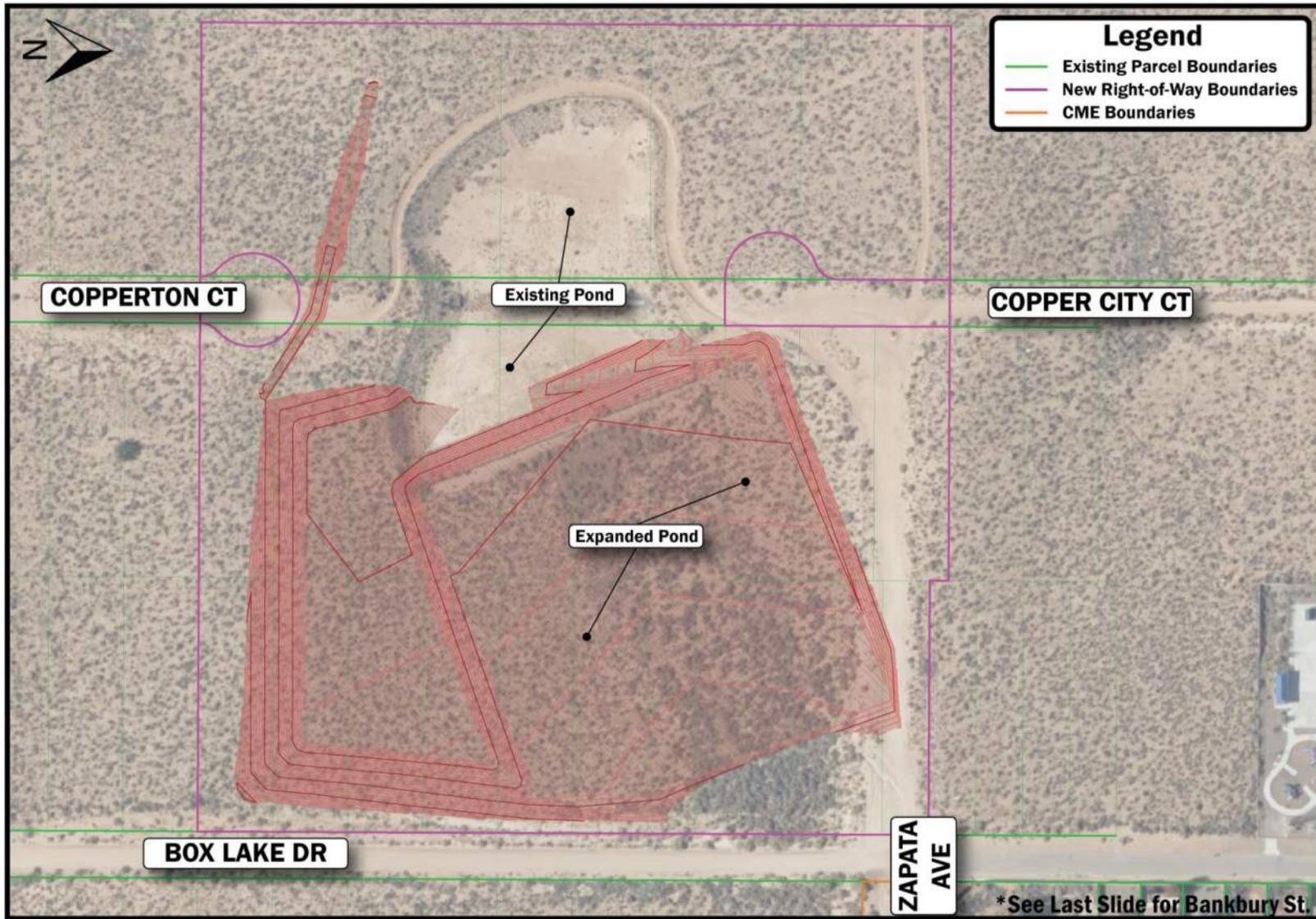
CONT. ON NEXT SLIDE

- 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

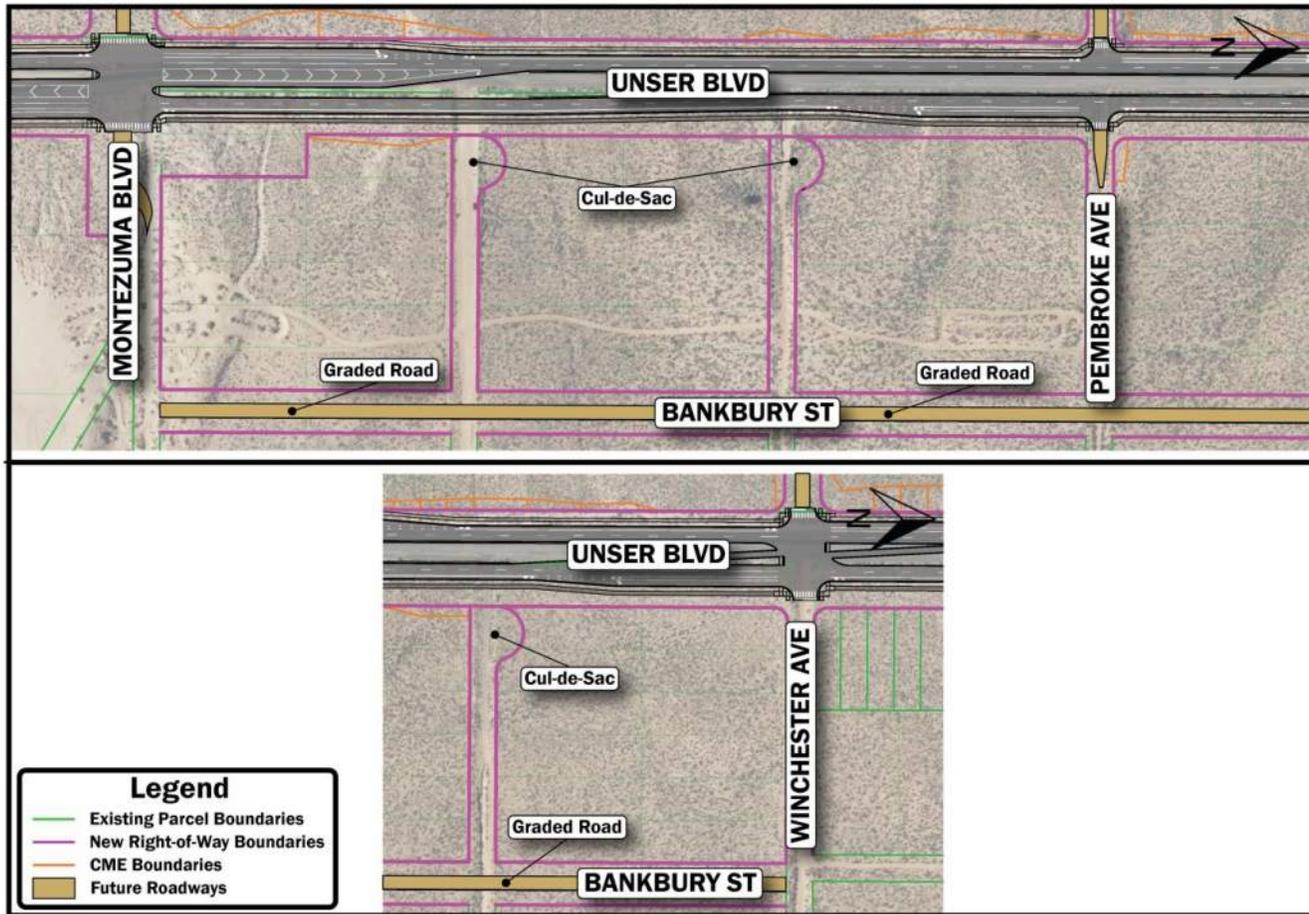
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- Connects to Phase II-A
- Widened to four lanes
- Roadway lighting with LED lights
- New sidewalk
- New pedestrian path
- New bike lanes
- New landscaping



- Expanded pond at Copperton Court
- Copperton Court and Copper City Court cul-de-sacs
- Opportunity for future recreational fields



- Bankbury Street will be dirt access road
- Access Management

# Project Schedule

## Design Phase

- Present – Winter 2024



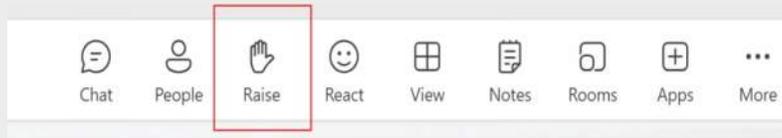
## Construction Phase

- To be determined  
City currently seeking  
construction funds.

***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 NOV. 1, 2024**

- Today during our Q& A Session
- Email our Project Manager, Arnell Friedt, at [afriedt@rrnm.gov](mailto: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 Friedt**

**3200 Civic Center Circle NE**

**Rio Rancho, NM 87144**

# THANK YOU!

Be sure to check our website  
[www.rrnm.gov/unsr](http://www.rrnm.gov/unsr) for updates as we  
progress with the project!

