

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS ASSOCIATION

105 Stanford, SE
Albuquerque, NM 87106



March 16, 2015

Mayor Richard Berry
Wilfred Gallegos, Director, Department of Municipal Development
City of Albuquerque
PO Box 1293
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Dear Mayor Berry and Mr. Gallegos:

The University Heights Association (UHA) asks the City to evaluate and rectify safety problems along Lead and Coal Avenues through our neighborhood. This urgent request to you is prompted in part by the January collision at Coal and Girard, which caused a City bus to crash into a home on that corner. You will recall that residents near that intersection reported a history of multiple accidents there.

The accident at Coal and Girard was horrific: it was a miracle that no one died. But the safety problem at Coal and Girard is not unique. Since Lead and Coal redesign was completed more than two years ago, there have been multiple collisions on those streets in our neighborhood, even though safety was a primary reason for the project.

We are concerned that the City's response to the collision at Coal and Girard and to underlying safety problems along Lead and Coal is not adequate.

Those problems include:

- 1) Speeding on Lead and Coal;
- 2) Speeding on 200, 300, and 400 blocks of north-south streets crossing Lead and Coal, particularly approaching signalized intersections;
- 3) Reckless driving (drag racing);
- 4) Resultant multiple collisions including collisions impacting residential properties; and
- 5) Collisions and out of control vehicles at signalized intersections putting pedestrians, bicyclists, and residents at risk of harm.

We ask that:

- 1) You provide us with accident data for Lead and Coal between Yale and Girard for several years before and since redesign completion.
- 2) You provide us with reports of speed enforcement and any other monitoring of speed since redesign completion.
- 3) APD implement a program for regular speed enforcement in our neighborhood.

- 4) Radar speed monitor units be placed in our neighborhood.
- 5) Special, increased speeding fines be considered for our neighborhood.
- 6) You evaluate the feasibility of red light cameras at signalized intersections in our neighborhood.
- 7) You implement measures to slow traffic on 200, 300, and 400 blocks of north south streets, especially where they meet signalized intersections.
- 8) You appoint a staff person to lead a comprehensive review of safety along Lead and Coal after redesign and that a citizen's task force be created to participate in that review.
- 9) We meet with you to further discuss a plan of action.

We are appreciative of the successes of Lead and Coal redesign: we are enjoying the great sidewalks and the beautiful landscaping. However, regarding safety, the key neighborhood concern, the Lead and Coal redesign has not succeeded.

Finally, regarding the City's plan for a BRT system on Central Ave, please be aware that we have expressed our opposition to ABQ Ride's proposal so far, because of concern about negative effects on neighborhood streets generally. As much as we support mass transit, we know that no one wants a BRT system that makes safety on Lead, Coal, or any other street, worse.

Members of our group worked for years to improve Lead and Coal. We did so out of concern for our neighborhoods and with regard for the good of the City at large. In that same spirit we look forward to working with you to address the serious problems that remain.

Sincerely,



Joe Gallegos, President



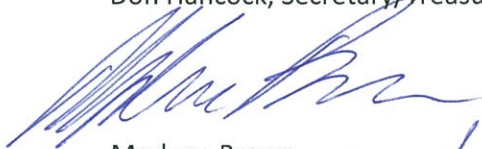
Julie Kidder, Vice President



Don Hancock, Secretary/Treasurer



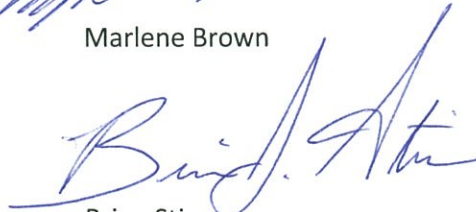
Joseph Aguirre



Marlene Brown



Sherry Smith



Brian Stinar



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cc: Mr. Bruce Rizzieri, Director, Transit Department; Councilor Rey Garduño