# Bridge Boulevard Reconstruction

## Coors Boulevard to 8th Street

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

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# Meeting Agenda

- 5:30 – Open House
- 5:45 – Welcome and Introductions
  - Meeting agenda
  - Presentation
  - Comments

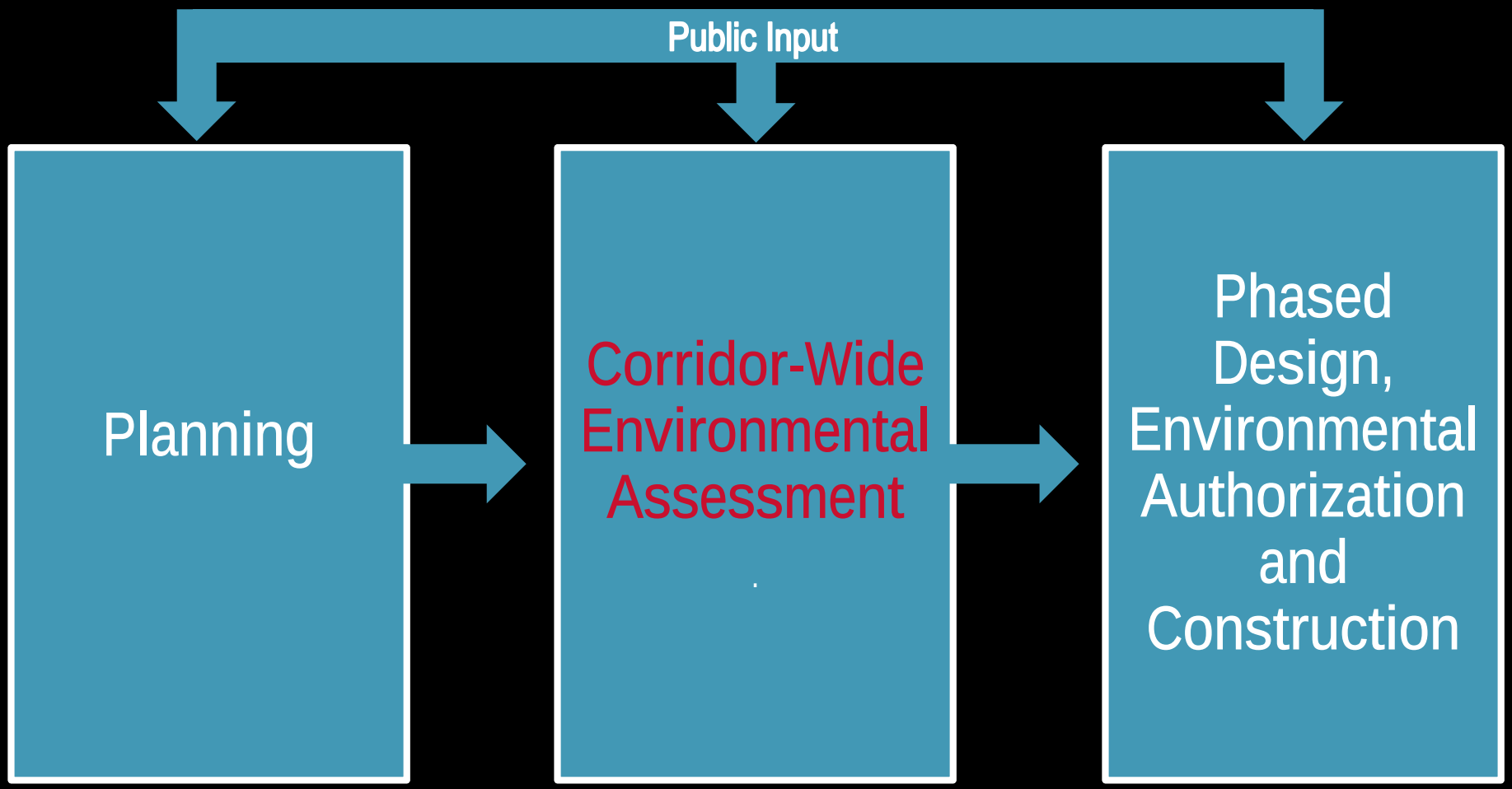
# Welcome and Introductions

- Commissioner Art De La Cruz
- Project Team
  - Nolan Bennett, Construction Manager, Bernalillo County Public Works Division
  - Diane Sholtis, Project Manager, Bernalillo County Public Works Division
  - Cathy Lopez, Public Information Officer, Bernalillo County Public Works Division
  - Dolores Hernandez, Commissioner Art De La Cruz
  - Ed Potthoff, Jr., Project Manager, HDR Engineering, Inc.
  - Paul Molina, HDR Engineering, Inc.
  - Kelly Sims, HDR Engineering, Inc.
- Facilitator
  - Tim Karpoff, Karpoff & Associates
  - Spanish interpretation available

# Purpose of Hearing

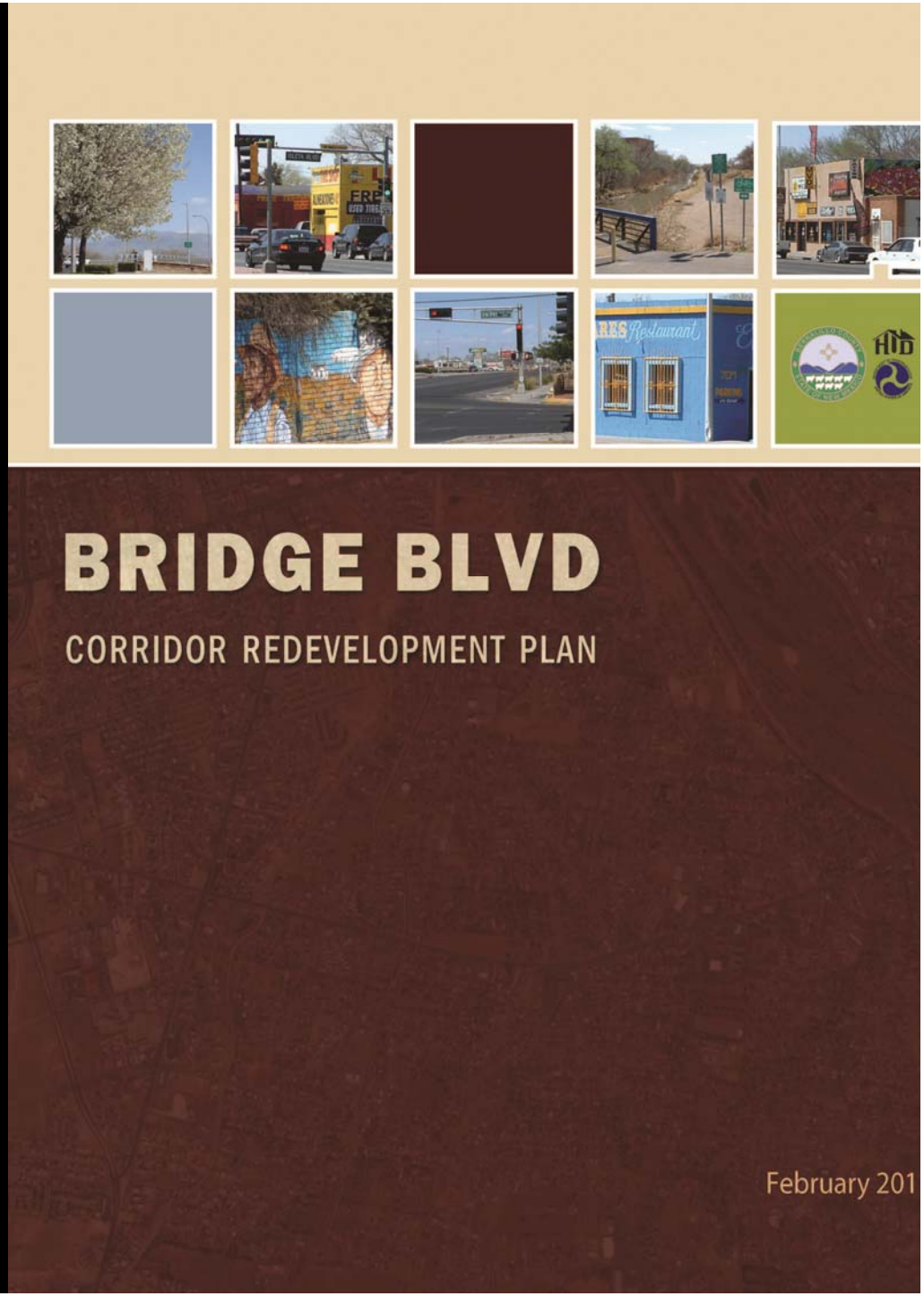
- Presentation of Environmental Assessment findings and process for design phases
- Provide the opportunity to comment on the proposed Bridge Boulevard Reconstruction Project

# Project Development Process



# Planning

- Integrated Plan
- Development of conceptual roadway plans
- Corridor-wide Environmental Assessment is for design of roadway improvements.



# Corridor-Wide Environmental Assessment

- Public and Agency Scoping (May 2015)
- Data collection and Development of EA (May 2015)
  - Review of all public input
  - Purpose and need refined
  - High-level review of existing conditions within project limits, based on conceptual plans
  - Areas of possible adverse effects were identified for further evaluation and study
  - Phased approach identified
- Public review of EA (December 2015 – January 2016)
- Public Hearing (Present)

Environmental Assessment

Bridge Boulevard Reconstruction

Coors Boulevard to 8th Street

*Bernalillo County, New Mexico*

October 2015

# Design Process

- To be completed in four phases
- Phases to be determined
- Conceptual plans developed further with detailed alternatives
- Detailed engineering and environmental analyses and screening of alternatives
- Selection of preferred alternative
- Environmental re-evaluation and project authorization
- Final design
- Construction

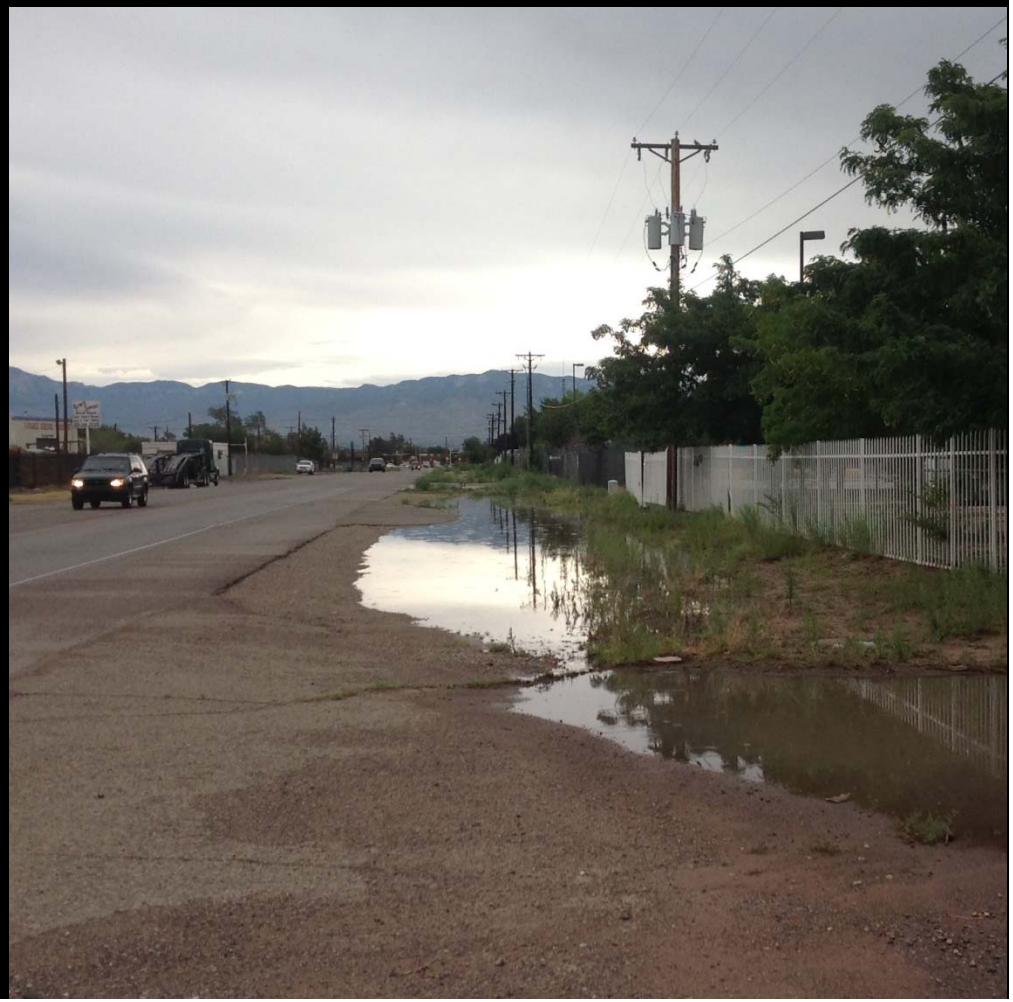
# Why are the improvements proposed?

- Purpose of the project is to:
  - Help to maintain acceptable traffic flow
  - Increase safety
  - Enhance mobility for all modes of transportation
  - Support sustainable development

- Project is needed because Bridge Boulevard:
  - Is the third most congested roadway in metropolitan area
  - Is expected to exceed capacity by 2035
  - Has crash rates above regional average
  - Lacks features like landscaping, visible crosswalks, continuous sidewalks, and gateways

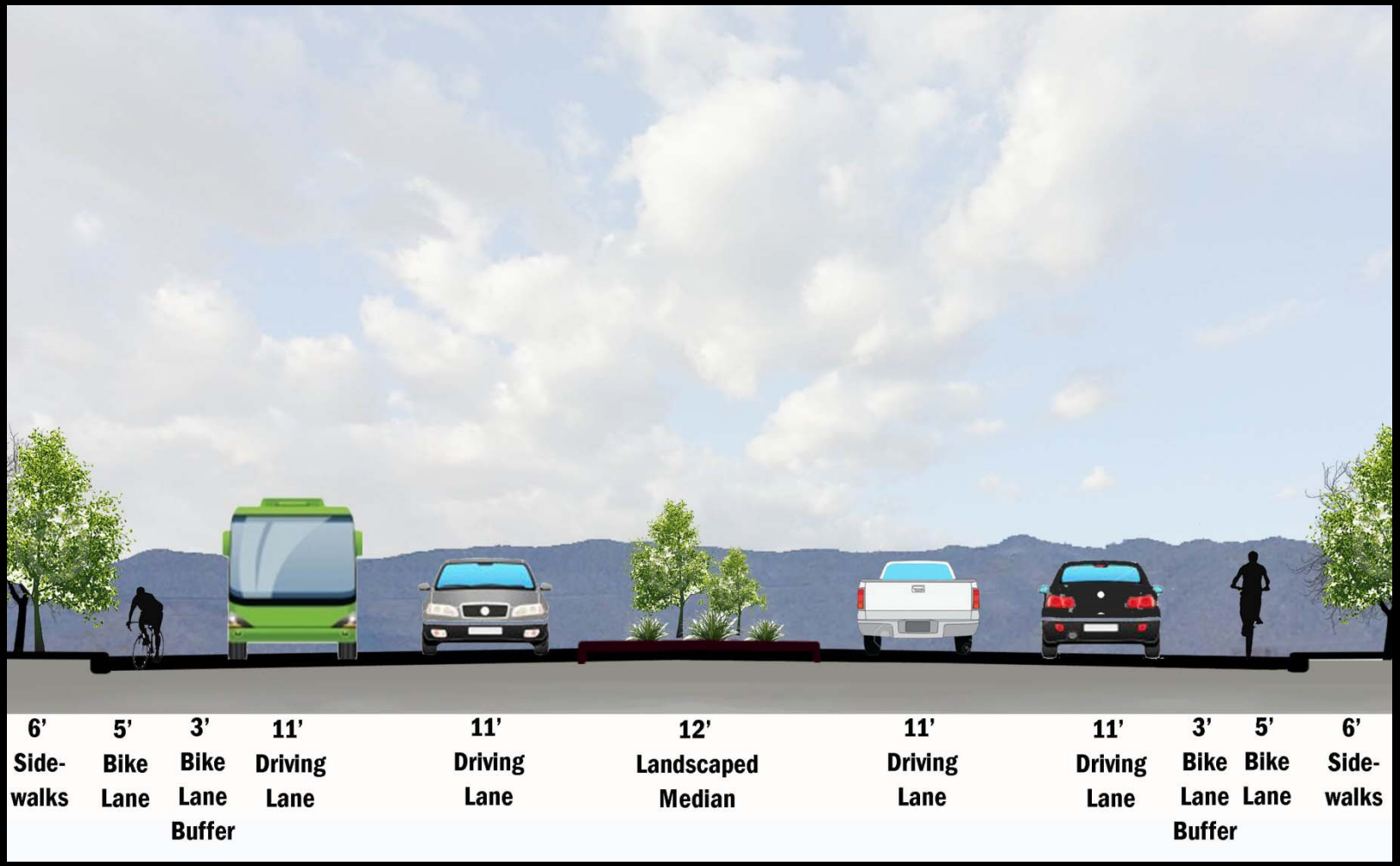
# Alternatives Considered in EA

- No Build
  - Must always be considered
  - Congestion would be at unacceptable levels
  - Safety concerns would remain
  - Pedestrian facilities would not meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Proposed Right of Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) guidelines
  - No streetscape upgrades
  - No drainage improvements
  - Does not meet the planning needs for maintaining acceptable levels of traffic flow or improving the transportation system within the region.



# Alternatives Considered in EA

- Build Alternative
  - Mainstreet Alternative



# Environmental Impacts

Traffic Operations

- Congestion would remain at an operationally acceptable level, even with population growth

Bikes and Pedestrians

- Bike lanes with 3’ buffers
- Upgraded 6’ sidewalks with obstacles (utilities, poles) removed
- ADA-compliant push buttons and ramps
- Enhanced pedestrian crossings

# Environmental Impacts

Surface Water

- All ground disturbance will be outside footprints of acequias and Rio Grande
- Best management practices will be implemented during construction to avoid runoff

Farmland

- No prime and unique farmland present
- Existing alfalfa fields will not be disturbed

# Environmental Impacts

Wildlife and Threatened and Endangered Species

- Project area mainly within disturbed urban environment
- Common birds noted during windshield survey. Construction-related clearing and grading for all phases may occur outside of wildlife nesting season; if not feasible, pre-construction nesting surveys will be conducted.
- Wildlife and habitat for T&E species present in Phase 4 segment - biological surveys to be conducted and mitigation measures will be developed to avoid any impacts to wildlife within the bosque or along the Barelas Bridge
- Noxious weeds present in Phase 1 and 4 segments. Construction measures to avoid spread of noxious weeds will be implemented.

Parks and Wildlife Refuges

- No impact

# Environmental Impacts

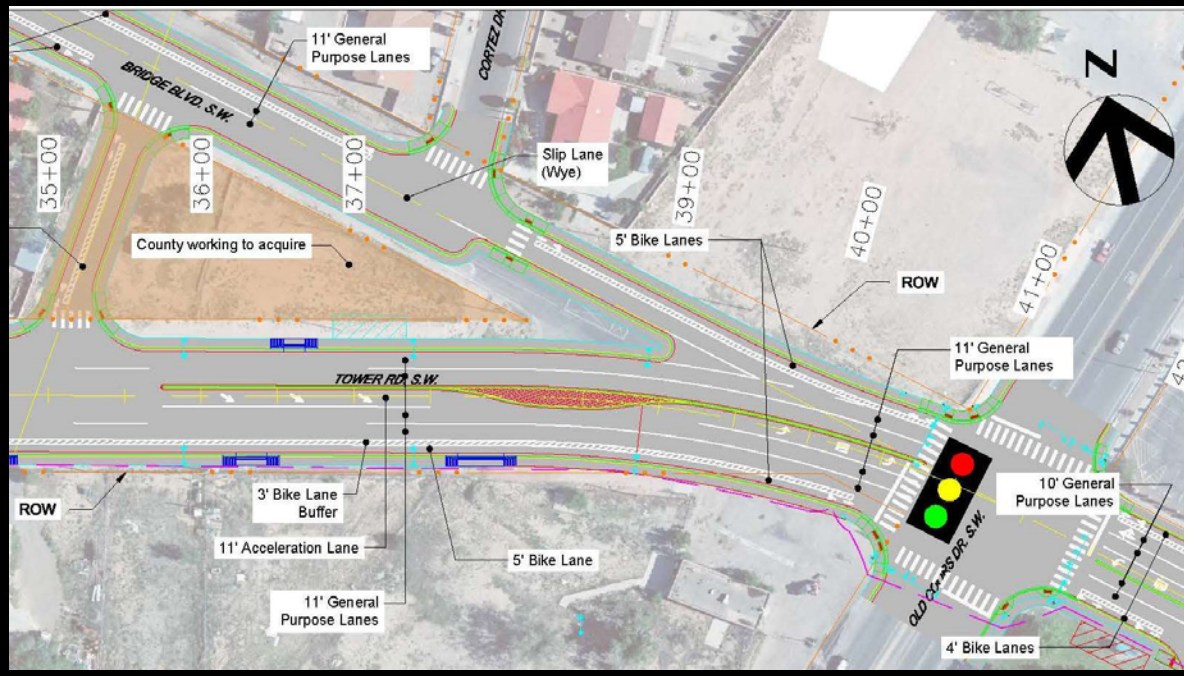
Historic Properties

- Properties 42 years old or older and are located within a 100-foot buffer of the project alignment will be evaluated for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Properties and potential impacts
  - Phase 1 – 55 properties
  - Phase 2 – 65 properties
  - Phase 3 – 13 properties
  - Phase 4 – 7 properties

# Environmental Impacts

Right-of-Way

- Alignment intended to be within existing right-of-way
- No displacements anticipated
- Some right-of-way may be required at:
  - Intersection of Coors Boulevard and Tower Road
  - Tower Road at Bridge Boulevard for connection
  - Intersection of Sunset Road/Five Points Road and Bridge Boulevard
  - Intersection of Isleta Boulevard and Bridge Boulevard



# Environmental Impacts

Utilities

- Water, sewer, electrical, telecommunications cable, and gas utilities present
- Coordination with utility providers will be conducted in each design phase

Environmental Justice and Community Cohesion

- No disproportionate impacts - increased mobility and safety for all populations
- Improved pedestrian and bicycle facilities to promote safe, active transportation and improve connectivity between neighborhoods, recreational facilities, and schools.

# Environmental Impacts

Noise

- Existing noise levels in the project area are typical of urban and semi-rural environments
- No added capacity on Bridge Blvd; however, added capacity on Tower Road – noise analysis completed for Phase 1
- Some temporary increase in ambient noise levels during construction mitigated by limited construction hours

Air Quality

- Project is not expected to induce travel demand
- Adverse impacts to air quality are not anticipated
- Contractors will be required to obtain all applicable air quality permits during construction

# Environmental Impacts

Hazardous Materials

- Twenty-four potential sites with contamination issues were identified in the project corridor
- Sites to be tested during design phases
  - Phase 1 – 7 sites
  - Phase 2 – 7 sites
  - Phase 3 – 5 sites
  - Phase 4 - 5 sites

Visual Resources

- Landscaped medians within the corridor.
- New street lighting will comply with the New Mexico Night Sky Protection Act

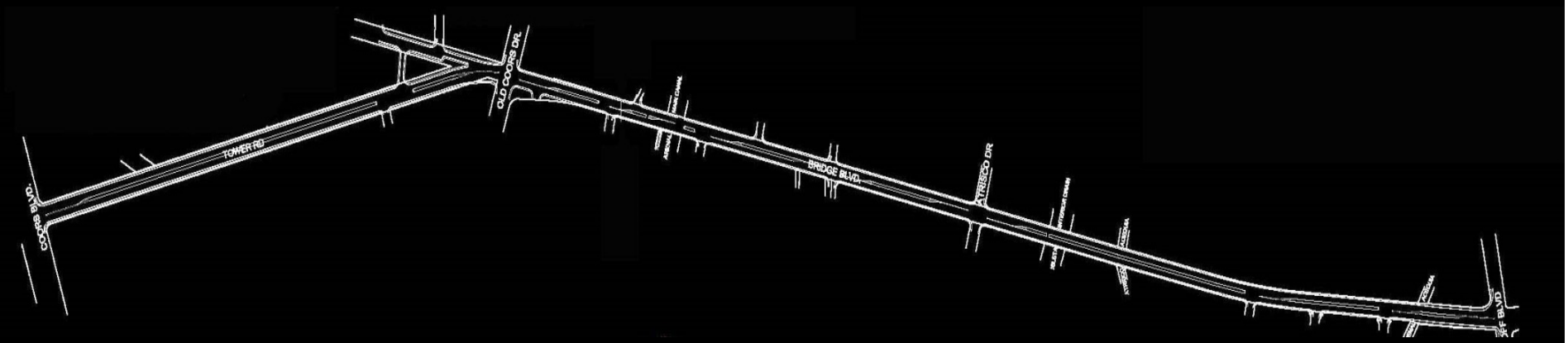
# Environmental Impacts

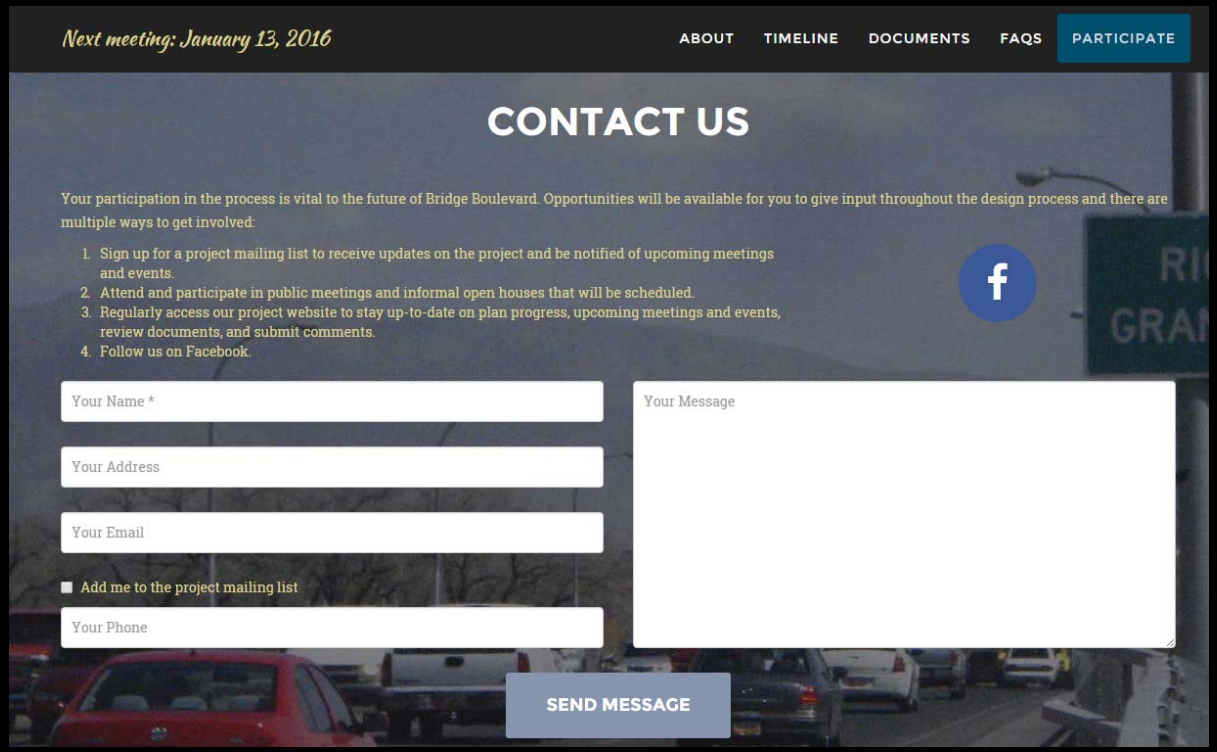
Construction

- Temporary work permits
- Hours limited to work days
- Communications to minimize disruption
  - Detailed traffic control plans
  - Regular communication between contractors and area businesses and residents
  - Maintenance of access
  - Lane closures to be communicated to public, police, fire, and rescue departments
  - Access signage for businesses

# Phase 1 Design

- Design underway
- Previous comments regarding Tower Alignment and Bridge Boulevard have been considered for design
- Design completion scheduled for June 2016
- Construction scheduled for Winter 2016



# How to Comment

- During formal comment session:
  - State name and address
  - Two minutes
  - Will be recorded by court reporter
- Complete a written comment form and turn in tonight or mail
- Submit comments via email to: info@bridgeboulevard.com
- Submit comments via website: www.bridgboulevard.com
- Comments due by January 22, 2016