The Downtown 2010 Sector Development Plan was jointly developed by the City of Albuquerque, Planning Department and the Downtown Action Team (DAT). A special thanks goes to the many volunteers (individuals and committees) who gave countless hours of their professional time and service in conceptualizing and developing the Plan. We also acknowledge the technical and design support of Moule & Polyzoides, Architects and financial support at Fannie Mae, Selena R. Paulsen, Free Lance Urban Planner for Policy Development and Editing, Jesse Garves, Graphic Artist and Ramona Gabaldon, Administrative Secretary in the production of the Downtown 2010 Plan.
Dear Albuquerque Citizen:

It gives me great satisfaction to present the City of Albuquerque, and the entire Central New Mexico region with the Downtown 2010 Sector Development Plan. This Plan, which replaces two previous plans for the Downtown area, is the culmination of a tremendous effort on the part of Downtown business owners, neighborhood leaders, City staff, and others throughout our community. With the passage of this Plan we have set a new precedent for private - public partnership in the planning process, and have established a community-wide commitment to the revitalization of Downtown.

The greatest cities in our nation all share one common characteristic, a vital, diverse urban center - the downtown. As New Mexico’s largest city, we here in Albuquerque have a responsibility to provide such an urban center, not only for ourselves, but for others throughout the state. When businesses look to a city to relocate, they focus their attention on the economic vitality of that city and its quality-of-life. The Downtown 2010 Plan will help ensure that we can offer such companies a community with an economically thriving Downtown, and an array of activities and events that showcase our rich quality-of-life.

The vitality and marketability of Downtown is also a key component of my overall growth and development strategy. My commitment to controlled, quality growth in the greater metropolitan region necessitates the infill and revitalization of our older, urban areas. This Plan provides Downtown with a streamlined development process, easily understood design standards, and funding commitments from the City for basic infrastructure - three essential elements to promote infill projects in the Downtown and adjacent areas.

I thank the City Council, the Downtown Action Team, and the many other groups and individuals who created this great Plan, that will benefit Albuquerque and New Mexico residents for generations.

Sincerely,

Jim Baca
Mayor
RESOLUTION


WHEREAS, the Council, the Governing body of the City of Albuquerque, has the authority to adopt and amend plans for the physical development of areas within the planning and platting jurisdiction of the City authorized by statute, Section 3-19-3 NMSA 1978, and by its home rule powers; and

WHEREAS, the Council recognizes the need for sector development plans to guide the City of Albuquerque and other agencies and individuals to ensure orderly redevelopment and effective utilization of funds; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown Core, as shown on the map and described in the attached text, is designated as an urban center in the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the DOWNTOWN PLAN was originally adopted in 1975 with subsequent amendments (Resolution No. 189-1976, 102-1977 and 58-1988), and the Downtown Core Revitalization Strategy and Rank III Sector Development Plan was adopted in 1989 (Resolution 34-1989) with an amendment (Resolution 44-1990) and Design Standards & Guidelines for Downtown Central Avenue were
WHEREAS, the Downtown 2010 Sector Development Plan was jointly developed by the City of Albuquerque and the Downtown Action Team with assistance from area property owners, business people, residents, institutions and neighborhood representatives; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown is a key element in the City’s overall economic program and as an important part its efforts to promote and market Albuquerque to new investments; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Planning Commission, in its advisory role on all matters relating to Planning, Zoning and Environmental Protection, has approved and recommended adoption of the Downtown 2010 Sector Development Plan; which includes amending the Downtown core boundary; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque originally adopted the Downtown Neighborhood Area Sector Development Plan in 1976 through action on Council Resolution 158-1976 and subsequently adopted additional amendments; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown 2010 Sector Development Plan addresses protecting surrounding neighborhoods from intrusion of commercial and office land uses; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown 2010 Sector Development Plan proposes expanding the Downtown core boundary and controlling development in the western area of Downtown to residential uses only; and

WHEREAS, the expanded Downtown core boundary will help stabilize and conserve the Downtown Neighborhood Area (DNA); and

WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque adopted the Huning Castle and Reynolds Addition Neighborhood Sector Development Plan through Council Resolution 22-1981; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque McClellan Park Sector Development Plan through Council Enactment 10-1984, and amended that plan through Council Resolution R-230; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown 2010 Sector Plan contains goals and objectives encouraging new neighborhood oriented commercial development; and
WHEREAS, the Downtown 2010 Sector Development Plan addresses protecting surrounding neighborhoods while providing mixed used developments; and

WHEREAS, the expanded Downtown core boundary will encourage residential development, neighborhood serving retail and ancillary office activity.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE:

SECTION 1. The Downtown 2010 Sector Development Plan attached hereto and made a part hereof; is hereby adopted, serving as a guide to partial implementation of the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Comprehensive Plan and the investment of public and private funds.


SECTION 3. The Downtown Neighborhood Area (DNA) Sector Development Plan boundaries are amended as per the attached map.

SECTION 4. The Huning Castle and Raynolds Addition Neighborhood Sector Development Plan boundaries are amended as per the attached map.

SECTION 5. The McClellan Park Sector Development Plan boundaries are amended as per the attached map.

SECTION 6. The boundaries, districts, and design standards as proposed by the Downtown 2010 Sector Development Plan are more advantageous to the community than the existing boundaries and uses, and will encourage the development of the sector plan area as an urban center, consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

SECTION 7. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, word or phrase of this resolution is for any reason held to be invalid or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this resolution. The Council hereby declares that it would have passed this resolution and each section, paragraph, sentence, clause, word or phrase thereof irrespective of any provisions being declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid.
SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE AND PUBLICATION. This resolution shall become effective five or more days after publication in full when a copy of the resolution is filed in the office of the County Clerk.
PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 1st DAY OF MAY, 2000

BY A VOTE OF: 8 FOR 1 AGAINST.

Yes: 8
No: Yntema

Michael Brasher
Michael Brasher, President
City Council

APPROVED THIS 22nd DAY OF May, 2000

Jim Bau
Jim Bau, Mayor
City of Albuquerque

ATTEST:

City Clerk
INTRODUCTION

DOWNTOWN: The Center of Albuquerque's Historic District

THE COMMUNITY COMMITMENT: Become the best mid-sized downtown in the USA

DOWNTOWN 2010's POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS:

- Transportation and Parking
- Land Use and Design
- Healthy Neighborhoods
- Urban Housing
- Urban Retailing
- Employment
- Education
- Arts and Entertainment
- Tourism and Hospitality
- Parks and Open Space
- Minimizing the Impact of Homelessness
- Managing and Marketing Downtown

CIVIC INFRASTRUCTURE: “park once” and “pedestrian-first” programs

CATALYTIC PROJECTS

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AND BUILDING PROCESS: The step-by-step approach to building Downtown

- Step 1. Districts Map
- Step 2. District Uses Matrix
- Step 3. Building Types
- Step 4. Building Standards
- Site Development Plan Approval Process

APPENDIX A: Park Once - Pedestrian First
APPENDIX B: Education
APPENDIX C: Minimizing the Impact of Homelessness
Downtown 2010 (The Plan) is a 10 year policy and implementation plan for Downtown created jointly by the City of Albuquerque and the Downtown Action Team (DAT). The Plan provides a vision and framework for Downtown’s future, and answers three fundamental questions:

1. What should Downtown Albuquerque look like in 10 years?
2. What commitments will the community make to ensure Downtown investment?
3. How should people get to Downtown and move around in Downtown?

The Plan is a general document providing the framework to guide public and private decision-making regarding land use, transportation, development regulations and public investment. The Plan also lays out specific steps required of both the public and private sector to make this vision a reality. The impetus for The Plan was the action-based Downtown Albuquerque Strategic and Implementation Plan created in October 1998 by a cross-section of private, public, and civic leaders under the sponsorship of the Downtown Action Team (DAT). The Plan should provide direction and stability for public and private land use and investment decisions in the future.

The Downtown Core, the subject of The Plan lies within the “Historic District” (The District). The District encompasses about 5 ½ square miles, or approximately 3,550 acres, and is bounded by I-25, I-40, Avenida Cesar Chavez, and the Rio Grande. The District includes the Downtown Core, Old Town, and surrounding neighborhoods of Huning Highland, South Martineztown, Martineztown/Santa Barbara, Sawmill, Wells Park, Downtown Neighborhoods, Huning Castle, Eighth and Forrester, Raynold’s Addition, West Old Town, South Broadway and Barelas.

Although The Plan focuses on the Downtown Core, recommendations of The Plan are coordinated with the plans for adjacent neighborhoods within the Historic District. The Downtown 2010 Plan does not supercede any Rank III sector development plan for surrounding neighborhoods.

Downtown 2010 provides goals, commitments, policies, and implementation actions for land use, transportation and urban design relative to Downtown. The goals set forth represent the results that the City and community expect to realize over time. The commitments, policies and implementation actions contained in The Plan are general principles, and specific regulations and actions to guide Downtown Development and capital improvement projects. The Plan contains maps that designate five districts Downtown. While the use designated for each district, such as civic/financial, warehouse, and arts & entertainment, is considered to be a description of the primary function of each district, other compatible uses are envisioned. A matrix has been developed to illustrate this concept. The Plan also contains many illustrative drawings that serve to communicate ideas and explain commitments, policies and implementation actions.

Note: The following policies, commitments and regulations serve as the Rank III Sector Development Plan for the Downtown Core. The Downtown 2010 Plan replaces the Center City Revitalization Strategy Downtown Core Plan and the “Design Standards and Guidelines for Downtown Central Avenue.”
The Historic District, located in the heart of Albuquerque, has traditionally been the center of community civic, commercial and cultural activity. Downtown, Old Town, and the many varied neighborhoods which surround them make up this historic core of our community. From its founding in “Old Town” in 1706, to the emergence of “New Town” with the coming of the railroad in the late 1800’s, to the development of Albuquerque as a modern city, this historic area along the Rio Grande has long been a gathering place for a diverse mix of cultures.
The District, bounded by I-25, I-40, Avenida Cesar Chavez and the Rio Grande, is home to an impressive array of attractions and activities: Old Town’s quaint shops, galleries, historic restaurants, and museums; our “Quality of Life” facilities found along the river (the aquarium, botanic gardens, zoo, and Tingley recreation area); the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center and the new Hispanic Cultural Center; and Downtown’s theaters, convention facilities, and many entertainment venues.

This area is also home to some of the most interesting, vital, and historically significant neighborhoods in our community. With neighborhoods such as Martineztown/Santa Barbara, Huning Highland, South Broadway, Huning Castle/Raynold’s Addition, Barelas, South Martineztown, the Downtown Neighborhoods, Wells Park, South Broadway and Old Town, the widest range of residential choices imaginable is available - historic homes, suburban ranch houses, warehouse apartments, artist studios, town houses, and live/work spaces.

Over the next decade, we plan to link this diverse mix of historical, cultural and entertainment venues, attractions and activities together with the commercial centers of Old Town and Downtown and the historic neighborhoods which surround them by providing convenient, interesting frequent transportation; consistent signage and lighting; and pedestrian-friendly streetscapes and urban trails.

Downtown 2010 will be the catalyst for returning Downtown to its former prominence as the community’s premier gathering place and as the center of Albuquerque’s Historic District. Downtown Albuquerque is a microcosm of the Historic District as a whole. While each of the individual areas within the District have their own unique character, Downtown is the heart and center of the District - the place where “variety” and “excitement” are the rule, and where people of all races, ages, religions, and economic backgrounds come to work, live, and play together.

“Come on down to the District!”
The Downtown Core is generally bounded by Marble/ Slate/ Lomas Boulevard on the north, the AT &SF railroad tracks/ Broadway Boulevard on the east, Coal Avenue on the south, and Tenth/ Ninth/ Seventh streets on the west.

The Downtown Core encompasses approximately 321 acres (.5 square miles)
As a result of the Downtown Action Team’s *October 1998 Strategic and Implementation Plan*, a number of teams comprised of hundreds of community volunteers, were formed to carry out strategic initiatives. The products of those teams follow, and when adopted they will become *The Downtown 2010 Policies and Implementation Actions* for:

- Transportation and Parking
- Land Use/Design
- Healthy Neighborhoods
- Urban Housing
- Urban Retailing
- Employment
- Education*
- Arts and Entertainment
- Tourism and Hospitality
- Parks and Open Space
- Minimizing the Impact of Homelessness*; and
- Managing and Marketing Downtown

Each category contains specific actions to be undertaken by the public sector and/or the private sector to meet our community goal of,

“becoming the best mid-sized downtown in the USA.”

*The Plan* shall not alter or change zoning or land use policies outside the area defined as the Downtown Core, nor shall *The Plan* mandate or encourage any future changes in existing zoning or land use policies outside the area defined as the Downtown Core.

A complete analysis and disclosure to the City Council and the public will be required for all public funds expended or committed by this *Plan*. Specific appropriations to support these policies and implementation actions will require future action of the City Council.

The terms ‘Downtown’ and ‘Downtown Core’ are used interchangeably throughout the *Downtown 2010 Plan*. When used, these terms refer to the area included within the boundaries of the *Downtown 2010 Plan*, as reflected on the ‘Downtown Core’ map on page 4, and the ‘Districts Map’ on page 29.

* Additional goals relating to education and minimizing the impact of homelessness are attached to the Plan as Appendix B and Appendix C.

Notes: The Plan policies are identified on the following pages as “we will” statements and the implementation actions as “by” statements. The City of Albuquerque Planning Department shall provide the City Council, by July 31, 2000 a comprehensive fiscal impact analysis.
We will:

Make Downtown a “pedestrian-first,” “park-once” place with excellent pedestrian, transit and bicycle facilities.

By:

1. Modifying Downtown streets and sidewalks to serve the needs of pedestrians, transit, bicyclists, and cars, with the focus on serving pedestrians first.

   **Actions:**
   - “Pedestrian priority” signage shall be installed throughout Downtown. (Public)
   - May fund and operate a Downtown “circulator” within the Downtown Core. The circulator may operate in two directions, be free, operate on 5 minute headways, and be fun. (Public/Private)
   - Amenities (such as lighting, signage, street furniture, plantings, etc.) shall be provided in the public right-of-way to support and encourage pedestrian activity. (Public/private)
   - Bicycle racks and other bicycle-friendly facilities shall be provided throughout Downtown, and the Historic District. (Public/Private)

2. Developing, managing, and operating parking as an essential civic infrastructure, and reducing overall parking ratios over time to a Park Once environment.

   **Actions:**
   - All parking requirements for Downtown development shall be removed. (Public)
   - A Downtown “Park-Once Strategy” shall be developed and instituted which includes a “shared use” parking program for both public and private structures/lots, and which investigates the most effective way to manage parking facilities throughout Downtown. (Public/Private)
   - On-street parking shall be maximized throughout Downtown. (Public)
   - Long term parking structures may be located at strategic entrances to Downtown, and short term parking may be strategically located throughout the arts/entertainment/retail district. (Public/Private)
   - Include some form of commercial activity on the ground floor of all parking structures facing the sidewalk. (Public/Private)
   - Prohibit new commercial surface parking lots in the Downtown Core. (Public)
   - Pave, landscape (15% minimum) light, and maintain existing commercial surface parking lots. (Public/Private)

3. Changing Downtown to make it more understandable to infrequent users, and providing easy access to other parts of the Historic District.

   **Actions:**
   - The entire one-way street system may be converted to two-way operations. (Public)
   - Express “shuttles” between Downtown and Old Town/Biopark and between Downtown and UNM/Nob Hill may be funded and operated. The Old Town “shuttles” may operate on 30 minute headways, and the UNM/Nob Hill “shuttle” may operate on 7 minute headways. (Public)
   - When the Hispanic Cultural Center is completed, fund and operate a shuttle on Fourth Street connecting the Center to Downtown. (Public)
   - An informational and directional (way finding) signage program for the Downtown shall be developed. (Public/Private)
   - The Central Avenue/Railroad Underpass may be improved to be pedestrian friendly. (Public/Private)
We will:

Make Downtown New Mexico’s premier pedestrian-oriented “urban place”.

By:

1. Focusing on preservation and quality building development.
   
   **Actions:**
   
   - *The Plan* adopts building types and standards which encourage high quality urban buildings, promote street level pedestrian-friendly building designs, and requires that buildings respect their urban context. (Public)
   - Historic sites in and around Downtown shall be preserved, restored and reused. (Public/Private)

2. Declaring the Downtown 2010 Sector Plan Area a Metropolitan Redevelopment Area.
   
   **Actions:**
   
   - A Redevelopment Plan for Downtown shall be adopted which makes the Downtown Core a tax increment financing district. (Public/Private)
   - The City may use tax increment financing to fund programs, infrastructure, and facilities. (Public)
   - The City will use redevelopment powers to support and encourage residential development in and around Downtown. (Public)

3. Safeguarding the pedestrian character of the public realm (streets, sidewalks, plazas, etc.) and the adjacent building edges.
   
   **Actions:**
   
   - *This Plan* promotes and requires retail and other uses at street level and provides improvements to the public right-of-way that support pedestrian activity. (Public)
   - Encourage sidewalk retail and dining activity in the public right-of-way to strengthen pedestrian activity. (public/private)
   - Consistent lighting, signage, and streetscape improvements throughout Downtown shall be provided, concentrating initially on the Arts and Entertainment District and 4th Street as the link between the Arts and Entertainment District and the Lomas Employment Corridor. (Public)
   - Conserve and reintroduce the traditional street grid of 300’x300’ blocks; Fruit Avenue from Third Street to the railroad tracks may be rebuilt. Where the traditional street grid is broken, pedestrian connections may be established. (Public)
   - Prohibit the vacation or closure of alleyways and streets in the Arts and Entertainment District and strongly discourage vacations and closures elsewhere in the Downtown Core. Applicants must prove that the requested vacation or closure will enhance the pedestrian character of Downtown and that the proposed development could not be built without the vacation or closure.
We will:

Preserve and enhance the character of the neighborhoods which surround Downtown.

By:

1. Protecting surrounding neighborhoods from incompatible land uses and minimizing the impacts of Downtown revitalization.

**Actions:**
- *The Plan* makes the boundary between the Downtown Core and its adjacent neighborhoods a hard line in order to protect adjacent neighborhoods from encroachment of commercial activity outside of the core. Variances, zone changes and other administrative actions which would allow commercial activity to creep across the boundary from the Downtown Core into the adjacent neighborhoods should only occur in the most exceptional of cases. (Public)
- Commercial surface parking lots in neighborhoods adjacent to Downtown are prohibited. (Public)
- Permit parking shall be provided for neighborhoods adjacent to Downtown. (Public)
- Urban conservation overlay zones shall be developed to protect historic structures in existing neighborhoods which surround Downtown. (Public)

2. Promoting high density urban housing within the Downtown Core.

**Actions:**
- *The Plan* designates an urban Housing District within the Downtown Core which encourages high density urban living mixed with neighborhood support sources compatible with urban living (see Urban Housing Policies and Implementation Actions). (Public/Private)
- Buffer the Barelas, Reynolds and Downtown neighborhoods from intense commercial activity by using the urban Housing District; buffer the Wells Park, Santa Barbara/Martineztown, Huning Highlands, and South Martineztown neighborhoods from intense commercial activity by using the Warehouse District. (Public/Private)

3. Encouraging residential infill development in neighborhoods adjacent to Downtown and/or located within the Historic District.

**Actions:**
- Tax increment financing shall be utilized to fund future civic infrastructure improvements in the Downtown, particularly for parking structures in the core and urban trails connecting Downtown and its adjacent neighborhoods. (Public)
- Redevelopment powers shall be utilized, where possible, to assist in assemblage of infill residential building sites in Historic District neighborhoods. (Public/Private)
We will:

Have at least 20,000 people living within one mile of the Downtown Core, and 5,000 living within the Downtown Core by 2010.

By:

1. Creating a plan for assembling and developing building sites of adequate size within reasonable time frames, in order to build market rate and affordable urban housing.
   **Actions:**
   - *The Plan* identifies the district and sites that are best suited for new housing development within the Downtown Core. (Private/public)
   - Redevelopment powers shall be utilized to assist in assemblage of building sites, when a super majority of property owners request such public assistance. Land assemblage must be simple and efficient to stimulate private sector development. (Public)
   - Private sector urban housing initiatives may be supported by providing parking and by minimizing off-site infrastructure deficiencies. (Public)

2. Developing a variety of housing types throughout Downtown (townhouses, urban apartments, lofts, condominiums, live/work etc.)
   **Actions:**
   - High density housing (50 du’s/acre or more) is encouraged within the Downtown core. (Public)
   - Locate UNM student housing Downtown. (Public/Private)
   - Redevelop existing commercial and industrial buildings into loft housing and artist live/work space. (Private)
   - Work with churches to create senior housing Downtown. (Private)

3. Protecting the character of the existing urban neighborhoods adjacent to Downtown and/or within the Historic District.
   **Actions:**
   - Commercial parking lots in neighborhoods adjacent to Downtown shall be prohibited and “permit parking programs” shall be made available to neighborhood residents. (Public)
   - Neighborhood commercial businesses shall be attracted to locate Downtown. (Private)
We will:
Create Downtown as an exciting “urban retail destination”.

By:

1. Creating an inventory of existing buildings and land within the Downtown Core for urban retailing.
   **Action:**
   - Survey all Downtown buildings and land; develop a database including square footage, rental rates, vacancy rates, etc. on all commercial properties within the Downtown Core. (Private)

2. Providing a variety of retail goods and services in Downtown to serve a broad range of residents, employees and visitors.
   **Actions:**
   - Recruit basic and specialty goods and services into Downtown, including art-based retail, restaurants, and “high fashion” retail. (Private)
   - Recruit a full service urban grocery store and drug store in Downtown. (Private)
   - Recruit a multiplex movie theater in Downtown. (Private)
   - Recruit retail “anchor” stores Downtown. (Private)
   - Recruit convenience services (dry cleaners, shoe repair, etc.) close to office buildings and housing. (Private)
   - May build a municipal mercado in Downtown. (Private)

3. Maintaining a compact specialty retail core by concentrating those facilities within the arts and entertainment district, and on the Fourth Street Mall.
   **Actions:**
   - Encourage sidewalk retail and dining activity in the public right-of-way. (Public/Private)
   - Reinforce the image of a “main street” shopping experience with visually interesting street level design of buildings. (Private)
   - Encourage retailing of art and associated art products in Downtown, concentrating on the contemporary art market. (Private)
   - Develop “continuous” retail building frontage on Central, Gold and Copper Avenues. “Fill in the missing teeth” (Private)
   - Require retail uses to utilize on-street, off-alley and “park-once” structures in lieu of off-street surface parking lots - both within the specialty retail core and throughout Downtown. (Public/Private)
We will:

Maintain Downtown as New Mexico’s largest employment center and the Region’s Center of Economic Activity.

By:

1. Attracting 5000 new jobs to Downtown by 2010.
   Actions:
   • Aggressively recruit federal agencies to relocate Downtown. (Public/Private)
   • Encourage more UNM/TVI activities to locate Downtown, particularly in the areas of continuing education, fine arts, and planning/architecture. (Public)
   • Recruit information technology industries (multi-media, software, internet services, etc.) to locate Downtown. (Private)
   • Recruit professional service firms and financial institutions which have left Downtown to return to the core. (Private)

2. Encouraging small businesses to locate and stay Downtown.
   Actions:
   • May establish a low income loan pool to encourage small business investment in Downtown. (Public/Private)
We will:

Make Downtown Albuquerque a vibrant, urban 24 hour destination for arts, culture and entertainment.

By:

1. Designating the area along Central/Gold/Copper Avenues between First and Eighth streets as the Arts and Entertainment District.

   **Actions:**
   - Locate urban specialty retail, restaurants, clubs, entertainment venues, cultural facilities, and art related activities in the Arts and Entertainment District. (Public/Private)
   - The region’s one-of-a-kind facilities (i.e. arena, ballpark, museums, performance center, etc.) may be located to the greatest extent possible Downtown in or near the Arts and Entertainment District in order to create an ever-changing urban experience/community gathering place. (Public/Private)
   - Major festivals and community events may be held Downtown - during such festivals/events, outdoor sales of food and drinks may be held on public rights-of-way and in public parks to create a festive environment. (Public/Private)
   - Outdoor dining and retailing on sidewalks are encouraged in the Arts and Entertainment District and along the Fourth Street Mall. (Public/Private)
   - Permanent and changing street performance venues shall be permitted in the Arts and Entertainment District; promote the Arts and Entertainment District as a street performance opportunity. (Private/Public)
   - “Route 66 Neon District” may be created on Central Avenue as a 1% for the Arts Program (Public)

2. Promoting existing and new arts, entertainment, and cultural facilities (Kimo Theatre, Kiva Auditorium, Civic Plaza, Library Auditorium, South Broadway Cultural Center, etc.) as Albuquerque’s “horizontal performing arts center” (APAC).*

   **Actions:**
   - Investigate ways that the artistic, promotional and programming functions of these public facilities can be consolidated and better managed. (Public/Private)
   - Encourage joint promotions/schedule coordination of all public and private venues within the Arts and Entertainment District. (Private/Public)
   - Any privatization of public arts, entertainment or cultural facilities may be considered only if the City adopts a public and competitive process to award such contracts. Any privatization of public facilities suggested or recommended by the Plan shall be applicable only to venues located in the area defined as the Downtown Core.

3. Making Downtown the “Contemporary Arts Center” of the Southwest.

   **Actions:**
   - Develop live/work spaces for artists, work only spaces and galleries Downtown. (Private)
   - May develop a contemporary arts museum in the Arts and Entertainment District. (Public/Private)
   - Encourage major art festivals (i.e. Site Santa Fe, Magnifico, Southwest Arts Festival, NM Arts and Crafts Fair, etc.) to locate in Downtown. (Private)
   - Concentrate the “fine print” industry in the Arts and Entertainment District. (Private)

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*Note: The Albuquerque Performing Arts Center (APAC) would consist of several Arts venues located within walking distance of one another. The venues would coordinate programming and management.
We will:

Make Downtown and the Historic District a “Tourist Destination.”

By:

1. Making it easy for tourists to visit and enjoy the District attractions, and by promoting the District as a “tourist destination.”
   
   **Actions:**
   - Promote Downtown and The Historic District at the airport and car rental outlets (Public/Private).
   - A trolley service may be operated throughout The District connecting attractions (Downtown, Old Town, Natural History Museum, Albuquerque Museum, Explora, Aquarium, Botanic Gardens, Tingley Beach, Zoo, the Cultural Centers, etc.). (Public)
   - Consider starting a lowrider taxi service in Downtown. (Private)
   - “District” directional/informational signage shall be installed throughout The District (Public/Private)
   - A pedestrian urban trail may be built throughout The District. (Public)
   - Operate bicycle rentals for visitors to experience The District. (Private)

2. Thinking of the Historic District as a “theme park” with highly organized experiences.
   
   **Actions:**
   - Provide programmed event packages and retailing discounts in Downtown and Old Town to visitors/tourists. (Public/Private)
   - The Albuquerque Convention & Visitor’s Bureau (ACVB) shall develop a promotion package highlighting District attractions. (Public/Private)
   - May build a Multi-purpose Arena Downtown to expand Convention Center and hospitality services for residents and visitors alike. (Public/Private)
   - Develop a single pass to area attractions such as the Albuquerque Museum, the Natural History Museum, the Zoo, Explora, etc. (Public)

3. Planning and promoting year-round festivals and “markets” in the District. These festivals and markets shall be targeted to District visitors, residents, and employees.
   
   **Actions:**
   - Program many festivals, celebrations, and parades Downtown. (Public/Private)
   - Recruit event promoters to sponsor annual Downtown Events (i.e. Taste of Albuquerque, Fall Crawl, Cinco de Mayo, etc.). (Private)
   - Expand the Farmers Market; may develop a municipal market/mercado. (Public/Private)
   - Hang banners promoting upcoming events along Central Avenue and along the Fourth Street Mall. (Public/Private)
We will:

Create new parks, open space and plazas that are easily accessible to downtown residents, workers, students and visitors.

By:

1. Developing new parks and open spaces in the Downtown.
   **Actions:**
   - A park may be built on the western edge of the Downtown Core to serve Lew Wallace Elementary, St. Mary's and the surrounding neighborhood. (Public)
   - A park may be built south of Central to serve the office and residential population in that area. (Public)
   - May create a series of triangular parks along Central Avenue from Downtown to Old Town, to strengthen the pedestrian connection. (Public)
   - May create a plaza in front of the bus/train depot as an element of the Alvarado Metropolitan Redevelopment area. (Public/Private)
   - *The Plan* adopts building standards which encourage courtyard spaces within new development (Public)

2. Creating Albuquerque's "Central Park."
   **Actions:**
   - A regional park adjacent to the Rio Grande may be established, connecting the Biopark, Tingley Beach, Zoo, and Hispanic Cultural Center. (Public/Private)
   - The attractions in the region may be connected to the Downtown Core by train, shuttle, or some other interesting means of transportation. (Public)

3. Enhancing the Fourth Street Mall as a safe, attractive and lively pedestrian link between the Civic Plaza and Central Avenue.
   **Actions:**
   - Landscaping and street furniture along the Mall will be provided and maintained. (Private)
   - Additional security and maintenance through the Mall area will be provided. (Private)
   - Programmed activities, food vendors and retailing on the Mall will be provided. (Private)

4. Enhancing existing streets as linear paths connecting destinations throughout the District.
   **Action:**
   - "Gateways" may be created at each end of Central Avenue as entrances into Downtown from both the East and the West. (Public)
   - An Urban Pedestrian Trail will be built to interconnect the series of parks and open spaces in The District. (Public)
   - Pedestrian walking connections between District attractions will be enhanced. (Old Town, Bio Park, Zoo, Museums, etc.) (Public/Private)
We will:
Develop, maintain, and market Downtown as if it were a single mixed-use project.

By:
1. Developing a comprehensive marketing strategy for Downtown, with an emphasis on livability and accessibility.
   Actions:
   • The DAT and the Albuquerque Convention and Visitors Bureau (ACVB) shall develop a Downtown promotions package, coordinate publicity, and develop a District advertising budget. (Private)
   • The “user-friendliness” of the District should be continuously evaluated by developing and administering surveys to be given out at conventions, hotels, etc., to visitors, residents, and employees. (Private)

2. Privately developing, maintaining, and programming the Fourth Street Mall.
   Actions:
   • The City and DAT have entered into a long term lease to develop, maintain and program the Fourth Street Mall. (Public/Private)
As this Plan has already indicated, a pedestrian-friendly environment is integral to the revitalization of Downtown. The preceding policies and actions are all concretely linked to the Park Once - Pedestrian First program. Without achieving a Park Once - Pedestrian First environment, the policies and actions developed in The Plan will be ineffective. In order to ensure that Downtown becomes a Park Once - Pedestrian First environment, specific civic infrastructure improvements will be developed over the next five years.

The Park Once - Pedestrian First program shifts the priority for using Downtown’s street. For several decades, moving cars had the highest claim on the use of Downtown streets. The need to move so many cars developed out of conditions at the time. In the pre-Interstate days, Downtown Albuquerque streets carried major interstate highway traffic, most notably the famous Route 66. Off-street parking was scarce, and therefore, the demand for on-street parking (for example, diagonal on-street parking on Central Avenue) claimed much of the street space. This loss of street space resulted in other measures (one-way streets) being utilized to compensate for the lost traffic capacity.

In downtowns throughout the nation, there is a renewed quest for “balance” in the use of streets and sidewalks. In order to compete with suburban shopping malls and office parks, downtowns must reactivate their prime asset - the welcoming, walkable, human-scale which prevailed a hundred years ago. No where else in cities can people experience a Park Once - Pedestrian First environment, and it is essential to Downtown’s success that we promote, enhance, and renew that pedestrian friendly environment wherever possible.

The Park Once - Pedestrian First pattern of travel is fundamentally different in every respect from the conventional suburban pattern. In the Park Once - Pedestrian First pattern, motorists are encouraged to drive as little as possible, by being invited into the first available parking. This parking is clearly “public” in operation, conveying a clear message to the driver that all destinations within Downtown can be reached by walking from this parking. The traveler then walks or uses transit to multiple destinations within the Park Once - Pedestrian First district.

**Elements of the Park Once - Pedestrian First Area**

Parking is the first activity that the incoming visitor encounters in a Park Once - Pedestrian First environment. Parking must be located throughout the Downtown, so that drivers are greeted by parking regardless of their route of arrival. The visibility of multiple parking structures scattered throughout Downtown further adds to the reassurance that parking is available and plentiful.

In the Park Once - Pedestrian First area, it is essential that the parking feel public in nature, regardless of its ownership by either public agency or private entity. The parking is a unified system that presents drivers with highly predictable fees, availability, and hours of operation.
In today’s Downtown, the presence of parking must be advertised strongly, but without the visual blight of large areas of parked cars. This advertising is accomplished through:

1. on-street parking, which informs drivers that parking is an expected and permitted part of Downtown and
2. prominent identification of parking structure entrances.

A critical element of the park once environment is the concealment of parking (other than on-street parking) from the view of the street. This is accomplished by locating parking in the interior of blocks, by fronting parking structures with a veneer of retail floor space, and by designing the exterior of the parking structures to disguise their interior use.

Once the visitor is out of their parked vehicle, the next important element of the Park Once - Pedestrian First environment is the landing of the pedestrian into a public space. Typically, this is accomplished by providing ramps, stairs, elevators, escalators, etc. which lead to public spaces such as sidewalks, arcades, or public building lobbies. Privatized pedestrian spaces, such as skywalks to private buildings, upper floors of private buildings, direct connection into a single retail store, etc., are detrimental to the Park Once - Pedestrian First atmosphere. It is also critical that parking spaces serve multiple users. As a result, it is important that parking spaces not be dedicated to a single building or use but rather shared between nearby uses (such as office, restaurant, retail, and entertainment).

How Many Parking Spaces are Enough?
Over the next eleven year period (1999 - 2010), we estimate the need for around 3,000 more parking spaces Downtown. At present, there are 14,400 parking spaces in Downtown Albuquerque.

Our estimate of future parking demand is based on the following assumptions:

- A 20% growth in parking demand over the eleven year period 1999 - 2010 from the current peak demand of 9800 vehicles.
- A loss of 1,800 parking spaces in surface lots over the eleven year period 1999 - 2010.
- An increase in parking garage occupancy from the existing 68% to a projected occupancy of 76% by the year 2010.

Computing the above factors we project for some 3,000 spaces of new parking by the year 2010.

Location of New Parking Facilities
A ten-year program of adding 3,000 spaces to Downtown Albuquerque’s parking supply can be accommodated through a series of 7 - 10 new garages over the next decade. Several of these can be precisely located at the present time, and the remainder can be placed with a lesser degree of precision. (See Parking Structures Map)

In their projected order of priority, the new parking structures would be:

Garage 1 - The Alvarado Redevelopment Area.
This garage will serve the new multi-screen cinema, transportation terminals, retail, and office development already committed for this area. This garage also serves an area of Downtown that is currently not served at all (within 500 feet walking distance of a parking structure). It is located on Gold Avenue between First and Second Streets.
Garage 2 - PNM/South Federal Area. This garage serves commercial activity in the southern part of Downtown. It will serve PNM and Federal Office expansion. It is located on Silver between Fifth and Sixth Streets.

Garage 3 - located south of Lomas Blvd. to the West of Fourth Street. The demand for this garage will come predominately from the new courthouses. Garage 3A is an alternate privately funded facility located north of Lomas.

Garage 4 - located at the Old Albuquerque High School Reuse Site. This small garage serves not only the uses in the recycled high school, but also walk-in visitors to Downtown Albuquerque.

Garage 5 - located at Copper Avenue between Sixth and Seventh Streets. This garage will anchor the revised commercial activity in the west end of Downtown including a possible supermarket. Its location one block north of Central Avenue will help fill out a matrix of parking decks along either side of Central Avenue. Garage 5A is an alternate site for garage #5 activity.

Garage 6 - This garage is a counterpart to garage #5 and will anchor the southwest sector of the central business district. Its demand will derive from revitalized retail along Central Avenue. Similar to garage #5, it flanks Gold Avenue from Seventh to Eleventh Streets, creating multiple options for visitors to Central Avenue and the streets crossing it.

Garage 7 - located along Copper Avenue to the east of Third Street. This garage will serve the new Duque Hotel, an expansion of La Posada Hotel, as well as increased retail activity in the eastern part of Downtown.

Garage 8 - north of Central Avenue to the east of First Street. This large garage would serve a new arena and increased activity at the Convention Center.

Garage 9 - located on First Street between Lead and Coal Avenues. This garage serves future commercial growth within the southeastern sector of Downtown.

Garage 10 - located in the northeast sector of Downtown. Three options are suggested to serve future commercial growth in the northeastern sector of Downtown.

Transit Circulator Service
In order to facilitate further The Park Once concept, a transit circulator system for Downtown is needed. The circulator would be used by residents, visitors, and Downtown employees. For employees in particular, a Downtown shuttle service would greatly reduce the hindrance to midday travel between the employment and retail centers in Downtown and maximize parking facilities throughout Downtown.

Non-daily visitors to Downtown are generally on a more flexible schedule than daily Downtown workers, and are likely to visit other Downtown destinations beyond their primary destination. Tourists visiting Downtown are a predictable source of ridership for the Old Town/Biopark express shuttle. Typically, tourist visitors to a downtown area prefer to leave their automobile parked for an extended duration (several hours), and prefer to visit multiple destinations either by walking or with the assistance of a circulator shuttle. Similarly, a link between Downtown and the University will serve students, residents, and visitors alike and create a predictable ridership for a UNM/Nob Hill express shuttle.
Three routes are proposed for Albuquerque:

A. Downtown Circulator Loop
This 1.8 mile loop connects the employment area along Lomas Blvd. with the commercial and retail area to the south of Central Avenue. This loop is important for mid-day travel by employees in the Lomas Blvd. area. This loop is also an important factor in increasing the use of available parking to the south of Central Avenue. It should operate on five to seven minute headways to be effective.

B. Express Shuttle between Downtown and Old Town/Bio Park
This is an express route, making three stops outside Downtown: Laguna, Old Town, and Bio Park. Primarily users are tourists and non-daily visitors to Downtown. A thirty-minute headway is proposed for this route.

C. Express Shuttle to the University between Downtown and UNM/Nob Hill
This route would operate along Central Avenue, making stops at the University of New Mexico and Nob Hill. Primary source of ridership is University students, employees and visitors to Downtown. A seven-minute headway is proposed for this service.

Pedestrian-First Zones
In support of the Park Once - Pedestrian First concept, we recommend that two zones within Downtown be designated for high priority sidewalk and streetscape treatment:

- The first priority streetscape zone is the retail center of Downtown bounded by Copper and Gold Avenues to the north and south and by Robinson Park and First Street to the east and west. Part of the streetscape treatment for some of the north/south streets will include a change in pavement width, with a corresponding increase in sidewalk size.

- The second priority should be improving the Fourth Street sidewalks and streetscape to connect the Central Avenue retail and entertainment district to the emerging judicial office zone along Lomas Blvd. in the north part of Downtown.

- The employment district along Lomas Blvd. between Fifth and First Streets should receive streetscape improvements as the third priority.

The pedestrian first treatments also include major public spaces at the Courthouse Square and at the Civic Plaza on Fourth Street.

Conversion of the One Way Streets
Conversion of the one way to two way traffic encourages pedestrian activity by calming traffic and providing additional very visible on-street parking. The conversions of the one way couplets should be completed as soon as possible. In addition, bicycle corridors and facilities will be designed and implemented with the conversion of one way streets to two way operations in the Downtown Core.

Bicycle Amenities and Routes
At least one North/South and at least one East/West bike route into Downtown will be established. These routes must be striped and signed for bicycles everywhere but the arts and entertainment section. Bike lockers, facilities, and showers should be encouraged in new Downtown
buildings and secure bike facilities should be provided in highly visible locations at ground level at each parking facility with a minimum of 1.2% of the spaces devoted to bicycle parking.

The combined efforts of the public and private sectors are an essential element of The Plan. The civic infrastructure improvements discussed here are the key public component which will create an environment in which private sector businesses and entertainment establishments can thrive and which invites substantial private investment. Downtown’s Park Once - Pedestrian First environment is what will enable it to be special and unique, offering something which no suburban mall or factory outlet center can. By giving people the ability to get out of their cars once, and have a multitude of safe, enjoyable experiences, we will make Downtown Albuquerque an urban center we can be proud of.
Catalytic Projects are critical Downtown projects which, when initiated, will drive (catalyze) other spin-off development activity. The projects are prioritized to indicate which projects will have the most impact initially, and then phased over the next 5-10 years. All of the projects are important and should proceed as funding is available.

Priority 1

a. West End Neighborhood Infill Housing

A podium apartment building located between Silver - Gold, and 7th - 8th would bring significant housing close to office and retail while making a transition to the neighborhoods with three story buildings, and parking below.

b. Grocery Store

A 50,000 sf grocery store lined with smaller neighborhood shops together with a parking structure and housing should anchor the west end of Central across from Robinson Park, between Park and Ninth. An alternative location would be on Central between 6th and 7th.

c. Downtown Arena/Stadium

Located adjacent to the Convention Center and across Central from the new theaters and Transportation Center a multi-purpose arena, hotel and shops would help anchor the Arts and Entertainment district and support Convention Center activity at the east end of Central.

d. Park-Once Parking Garage

This typical Park-Once structure shows the liner shops and offices around the garage, and housing above. It would be located south of Lomas between First and Second.

e. Roma Neighborhood Infill Housing

Courtyard housing is a type that can exist compatibly with single family housing by presenting a house-width face to the street, separated by a courtyard. The illustration is shown on Roma near 7th.

f. UNM Student Housing

Graduate Student housing or senior housing would be a positive addition to the Downtown. Service oriented shops and offices would serve the neighborhood. Shown at Central and Broadway.

Priority 2

a. Albuquerque Performing Arts Center (horizontal performing arts)

Rather than a vast mega-building for the Performing Arts, all of Downtown should be treated as a venue for the Arts. This is the concept of "retailing" the Arts, increasing participation and interacting with other uses by adapting existing spaces.

b. Silver Parking Structure

Existing parking structures should be adapted to allow retail on the ground floor. The structure on Silver between Third and Fourth could have apartments facing Silver, creating a lively and attractive compliment to the adjacent church.

c. Fourth Street Mall

From Central to Tijeras, the pedestrian mall must be opened up to allows for restaurants and retail to flourish. Removing planters, widening walkways, building a small performance stage and providing more movable tables and chairs will help create this environment.

d. Warehouse Infill

Build 1-2 story structures that complete the feeling of the warehouse district that can be used for office, gallery, and nightclub activities. Locate parking at center of blocks.

e. Detoxification Center

A central facility for drug and alcoholic dependent transients, as well as the mentally ill is badly needed. Combine the center with job training programs and other social services.

f. Sixth & Marquette Park/Plaground

Develop a shared park/playground for St. Mary's and Lew Wallace schools. This site could also be framed with senior housing, daycare and park services overlooking the park/playground.

Priority 3

a. Saks & Gizmo

Attract a small upscale department store, such as Saks Fifth Avenue, to the Gizmo Building on Central to announce the return of fashion retailing to Downtown.

b. Magnet High School Campus

The old Post Office Building on Gold between Fourth and Fifth could serve as an exemplary civic anchor for the Downtown, emphasizing the commitment of the City to education in the center of the region.

c. Rail Yards Re-use

This cathedral of transportation is vast enough for many activities, including the Wheels Museum, office & retailing. Other possible uses on the site are a regional park, a Tivoli Gardens type amusement park, workshops and artist's foundries.

d. District Transportation Link

Further development of the transportation center to include light rail or fixed rail trolleys, as well as a rental car area, taxi stands, bike and roller blade rental, and carriage rides.

e. Management, Design & Programming of Public Spaces

Establish a "Fun Czar" to furnish the public realm with the excitement and unpredictable happenstanes of a vital city.

f. Third & Gold Park

Create a new park on the site of the current drive-through bank. This park could be lined with one-story shops and cafes and could have controlled access at night. This park would highlight the extraordinary Occidental Building across Gold as well as providing much needed green space in the southern part of Downtown.
The Downtown 2010 Plan introduces a new, innovative approach to Downtown development. This Plan creates an easy four-step approach to building in Downtown.

**STEP 1. DISTRICTS MAP** - locate your property and the Downtown district it’s in. (Color Coded)

**STEP 2. DISTRICT USES MATRIX** - identify which uses are permitted, regulated or prohibited in your district. (Color Coded)

**STEP 3. BUILDING TYPES** - identify the building types authorized for your district. (Color Coded)

**STEP 4. BUILDING STANDARDS** - apply the building standards applicable to your project.

Once you have gone through these four steps, you are ready to begin the expedited site development plan approval process.

The Districts Map shall be used to guide Downtown development. The Districts Map identifies and locates five (5) distinct Downtown districts, each with unique land uses and development characteristics. The District Map is color-coded to correspond to the District Uses Matrix and Building Types chart. By using this color-coding system, you are able to conveniently follow steps 1, 2, and 3.

The Districts Map strategically locates and concentrates complementary land uses within each district. The title designated for each district (Housing, Arts & Entertainment, Government, Financial & Hospitality, Warehouse, Mixed-Use) is intended to be descriptive of the primary function(s) of each district. Other compatible uses are envisioned and encouraged. The District Uses Matrix clearly spells out permitted, regulated and prohibited uses in each district. Regulated uses must go through the Environmental Planning Commission (EPC) process, which includes neighborhood notification.

The color-coded Building Types chart outlines the types of buildings to be built in each Downtown district. It is intended to provide predictability on how Downtown will develop as far as types, layout and scale of buildings. A key component of the Downtown Plan is to build quality urban pedestrian-friendly buildings that will stand the test of time and the multiple uses of buildings over time.
The Building Standards consolidates the more than 70 current standards and guidelines required for Downtown development into 21 simple building standards. The new standards are intended to be far more user-friendly and to remove much of the subjectivity in the prior standards/guidelines. Each standard is graphically illustrated and reduced to the most basic form.

The Site Development Plan Approval Process has been streamlined to accommodate Downtown development. For quality Downtown projects, approval will be “short on the process and long on the results.”

The Downtown Development and Building Process is adopted to ensure that building development is predictable and real estate values are stable. This process puts the pedestrian first in all new projects and ensures that developments are compatible with each other and with the existing urban fabric. The Building Types and Building Standards set forth in this Plan are mandatory, however, the Planning Director, and/or the Director’s designee, may approve minor changes or deviations from the Building Types and/or Building Standards pursuant to regulations and procedures to be adopted by the City.

Notes: a) The Downtown Districts Map represents the Downtown Core. Surrounding neighborhoods boundaries are amended to correspond with the Downtown Core.

b) The Building Types and Building Standards are adopted to facilitate and encourage Downtown developments. Adherence to the types and standards within each district are required to obtain a building permit.
Following is a general description of each of the Downtown districts and the uses envisioned in each district:

**Housing District**
Residential development is allowed and encouraged in all districts of Downtown. Residential is the primary use within the Housing District. The Housing District should be medium to high density with a range of housing types: 3-4 story townhouses, 4-6 story urban apartments, housing above retail or office, housing integrated into mixed use office structures, loft apartments converted from older mercantile buildings. Other neighborhood serving retail and ancillary office activity are allowed to provide diversity but must be compatible with the residential focus of this district.

**Arts and Entertainment District**
The Arts & Entertainment District is the primary center for arts, entertainment, cultural, and specialty retail shopping experiences. The Arts & Entertainment District will serve as Downtown’s Main Street and host a variety of activities and experiences. The ground floor of all buildings will have exciting street level arts, entertainment and retail presence in this district. Compatible office, hotel institutional, commercial and residential uses are encouraged above the street level. The street level design of buildings should be visually interesting and reinforce the image of a premier urban shopping district and entertainment district. The street level environment will be active, visually exciting and accommodating to the pedestrian. The Arts & Entertainment District is a logical location for a new arena, multi-plex theater, restaurants, clubs, and assorted visual and performing arts venues. It is the logical location for community festivals and celebrations.

**Government/Financial/Hospitality District**
Downtown will maintain its position as the government, financial, and hospitality center of the metropolitan region. Downtown is the seat of government for the City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, and regional Federal Government facilities. These and other State departments and agencies will be located Downtown. It is also the center of the federal, state and local judicial complex. Concentrate new government and private office development in this District. Locate high and medium density office development in the district. Convention and hospitality facilities are strongly encouraged to locate in this district as well. Street level retail is required in the district to provide services and street level vitality.

**Warehouse District**
The Warehouse District is a lasting remembrance of Downtown’s early commercial district along the railroad. Therefore, it is important to protect its historic character by preserving the existing stock of older buildings, while promoting compatible infill development. Within the Warehouse District the reuse and rehabilitation of existing older commercial buildings is strongly encouraged. A broad range and diverse mix of uses are allowed and encouraged in the Warehouse District. These uses include: commercial, office, retail, residential, transportation and sports facilities. Types of development envisioned for this district include mixed use buildings which combine
residents with workplaces, small office blocks, outdoor sports facilities, and product showrooms. The Warehouse District offers several logical locations of an outdoor ballpark. It is an ideal location for live/work artist studios and “funky” off-beat retail and restaurant venues.

**Mixed Use Corridors District**
Mixed use developments are allowed and strongly encouraged for all of Downtown. No predominant or primary uses are prescribed for the Mixed Use Corridors District. This district is located on the transit corridors through Downtown (Lomas Blvd.-Central Avenue-Fourth Street). Compatible office, institutional, residential, retail, commercial, educational and other uses are encouraged along this district. These developments should be concentrated and of a density to encourage transit use along these principal corridors.
The Downtown Core is zoned SU-3 Special Center, with uses allowed in the R-3 and C-2 zones of the Comprehensive City Zoning Code as further governed by this Sector Development Plan. All uses are encouraged in the Downtown, however the principal uses are: residential, arts, entertainment, office, cultural, hospitality, and specialty retail. The Plan strongly encourages a mixture of compatible land uses (office/residential, retail/office, arts/entertainment). Residential development is allowed and encouraged throughout all districts of Downtown.

All types of land uses are encouraged Downtown, however certain uses are not appropriate in some districts. To assure that uses most conducive to achieving The Plan's objectives are developed in the appropriate districts, it is important to permit, prohibit, or regulate uses by district. There are no parking requirements in the SU-3 Special Center Zone.

The SU-3 zone creates a clear and defined (hard) boundary between the Downtown Core and surrounding neighborhoods. The Plan and zoning intent is to protect, retain and enhance the integrity of neighborhoods surrounding the Downtown Core. Commercial and office intrusion into the surrounding neighborhoods is strongly discouraged.

Following is a general color-coded District/Use Matrix to guide in determining if a use is appropriate in a District:

<table>
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<th></th>
<th>HOUSING</th>
<th>GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL/HOSPITALITY</th>
<th>WAREHOUSE</th>
<th>MIXED USE</th>
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P = Permitted   R = Review Required   X = Prohibited

1. Housing district area between Central Avenue and Lomas Boulevard is restricted to residential development only to buffer the Downtown Neighborhood Association (DNA). The remaining housing district areas are controlled by the Uses Matrix.
2. Home occupations are allowed as regulated by the R-1 zone.
3. The purpose of The Plan is to encourage neighborhood serving retail.
4. The purpose of The Plan is to allow ancillary office activity in the Housing District.
5. The purpose of The Plan is to allow manufacturing as regulated by the M-1 zone.
Additional Notes:

- Emergency Shelters proposed in the Downtown Core shall be Review Required.
- Any arena or any sports stadium, whether indoor or outdoor, shall be Review Required.
- Proposed developments in areas of the Downtown Core covered by a historic overlay zone shall be reviewed and approved by the Landmarks and Urban Conservation Commission.
Prohibited Uses

Some uses are clearly prohibited or regulated in all Downtown districts. Following is a list of those uses:

• Drive-in/drive-through facilities are not allowed, except that unenclosed outdoor seating is permitted. Existing drive-in/drive-through uses shall be legal, non-conforming uses.

• Adult amusement establishments, adult bookstores, adult photo studios, and adult theaters are allowed in all Downtown districts, except the Housing District, provided:
  a) the use is located at least 1,000 feet from any other adult amusement establishment, adult bookstore, adult photo studio, or adult theater, and
  b) the use is located at least 500 feet from the nearest residential zone (surrounding neighborhoods), surrounding sector plan boundaries, or from any church, pre-elementary, elementary, middle or secondary school.

• Commercial surface parking lots are not allowed. Existing commercial surface parking lots shall be legal, non-conforming uses and must meet the landscaping, lighting, buffering and paving requirements identified in the building standards section of The Plan.

• Alcoholic drink sales for consumption off-premises are allowed, provided however:
  a) there shall be no dispensing (sales) of any miniatures;
  b) there shall be no dispensing (sales) of any fortified wines by volume of alcohol no more than twelve percent; and
  c) there shall be no dispensing (sales) of any alcoholic beverages in broken packages (singles).

*Existing establishments engaged in the sale of alcoholic drink sales for consumption off-premises shall be required to meet the above restrictions within ninety (90) days of The Plan adoption.*

d) Alcoholic drink sales within 500 feet of the boundary of a residential zone in an adjacent neighborhood or within 500 feet of the boundary of any adjacent sector development plan shall be Review Required, except this provision shall not apply to a full service grocery store.

• Jails or correctional institutions are not allowed, but temporary detention facilities shall be allowed to accommodate police investigative activities and related activities.
• Off-premise free-standing signs are not permitted.
• Existing uses within the Housing district area between Central Avenue and Lomas Boulevard that are inconsistent with the District/Use Matrix are nonconforming and the City’s nonconformance regulations shall apply.
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Urban Regulations

Placement:
1. Lot Width: 50' minimum

Parking:
1. Rear yard garages
2. Access: through alley

Height and Profile:
1. Height: 2 stories maximum

Examples:
1. Residential and Professional Office; Studio Apartments; Guest Cottages

Type Description
Free Standing, single unit housing with rear yard garages and studio apartment.

Examples
URBAN REGULATIONS

PLACEMENT:
1. Lot Width: 50’ minimum

PARKING:
1. Rear yard garages
2. Access: through alley

HEIGHT AND PROFILE:
1. Height: 2 stories maximum

EXAMPLES:
1. Residential and Professional Office, Studio Apartments, Guest Cottages; Worshops above Garages

TYPE DESCRIPTION

Free Standing, duplex unit housing with rear yard garages and studio apartments.
URBAN REGULATIONS

PLACEMENT:
1. Lot Width: 20-50'

PARKING:
1. Rear yard garages
2. Access: through alley

HEIGHT AND PROFILE:
1. Height: 3 stories maximum

EXAMPLES:
1. Residential and Professional Office; Studio Apartments, Guest Cottages, Worshops above Garages

TYPE DESCRIPTION
"Zero" lot line townhouses with rear yard garages and studio apartments.

Examples
URBAN REGULATIONS

PLACEMENT:
1. Lot Width: 65'-75'

PARKING:
1. Half-level underground and surface
2. Access: through alley

HEIGHT AND PROFILE:
1. Height: 3 stories maximum with setback beginning at second story

EXAMPLES:
1. Residential flats over two-story Townhouses

TYPE DESCRIPTION
Flats above two-story townhouses facing sideyard courts.

Examples
Sample Block Plan

Sample Block Plan

Bird's Eye View

Type Description

Flats above two-story townhouses facing interior courts.

Examples
URBAN REGULATIONS

PLACEMENT:
1. Lot Width: 100'

PARKING:
1. Half-level underground for residential flats and garages on grade for townhouses
2. Access through alley

HEIGHT AND PROFILE:
1. Height: 4 stories maximum with setback beginning at third story

EXAMPLES:
1. Two-story residential flats over two-story townhouses

TYPE DESCRIPTION
Two-story flats over two-story townhouses over partially submerged parking garages.
**URBAN REGULATIONS**

**PLACEMENT:**
1. Lot Width: 300'
2. Lot Depth: 142' maximum

**PARKING:**
1. Half-level underground garage podium
2. Access: through alley

**HEIGHT AND PROFILE:**
1. Height: 8 stories maximum at corners and 4 stories maximum at mid-block, both cases setback begins at third story

**EXAMPLES:**
1. Commercial or Retail on principal street frontage with double-loaded residential apartments above

**TYPE DESCRIPTION**
Apartments on double-loaded corridors over storefront lofts over partially submersed parking garage.
URBAN REGULATIONS

WRAPPER BUILDING:

PLACEMENT:
1. Lot Width: 300’
2. Street Frontage: 90% minimum articulated at 25’, 50’, or 75’ increments
3. Lot Depth: 142’ to alley at mid-block
4. Building Depth: 20’ minimum, 40’ preferred
5. Recessed corners shall not exceed 10% of street frontage

PARKING:
1. Types: Interior surface lot, interior garage, or “park-once” garage
2. Access: through alley

HEIGHT AND PROFILE:
1. Street Frontage: Height: 3 stories at block centers and 5 stories at street corners
2. Setback: 0’

EXAMPLES:
1. Commercial or Retail on street frontage with mixed-use housing or office lofts above

INTERIOR BUILDING:

HEIGHT AND PROFILE:
1. Height: No restrictions
2. Setback: 20’ minimum with 40’ preferred

EXAMPLES:
1. Parking: Cinema; “Big-Box” Retail, Office, Hotel; Residential

Sample Block Plan

TYPE DESCRIPTION
Large floor plate structure surrounded by low-scale “wrapper” or “liner” buildings at street frontage located on a full block.

Bird’s Eye View

M-1 FULL BLOCK LOW-RISE

M-2 FULL BLOCK MID-RISE
(FRANCISCAN HOTEL TYPE)

M-3 FULL BLOCK HIGH-RISE
(INNAT HOTEL TYPE)
URBAN REGULATIONS

WRAPPER BUILDING:

PLACEMENT:
1. Lot Width: 300'
2. Street Frontage: 90% minimum articulated at 25', 50', or 75' increments
3. Lot Depth: 142' to alley at mid-block
4. Building Depth: 20' minimum, 40' preferred
5. Recessed cornes shall not exceed 10% of street frontage

PARKING:
1. Types: Interior surface lot, interior garage, or "park-once" garage
2. Access: through alley

HEIGHT AND PROFILE:
1. Street Frontage Height: 3 stories at block centers and 5 stories at street corners
2. Setback: 0'

EXAMPLES:
1. Commercial or Retail on street frontage with mixed-use housing or office lofts above

INTERIOR BUILDING:

HEIGHT AND PROFILE:
1. Height: No restrictions
2. Setback: 20' minimum with 40' preferred

EXAMPLES:
1. Parking, Cinema, "Big-Box" Retail, Office, Hotel, Residential

Sample Block Plan

Bird's Eye View

TYPE DESCRIPTION

Large floor plate structure surrounded by low-scale "wrapper" or "liner" buildings at street frontage located on a half-block.
URBAN REGULATIONS

WRAPPER BUILDING:

PLACEMENT:
1. Lot Width: 150'
2. Street Frontage: 90% minimum articulated at 25', 50', or 75' increments
3. Lot Depth: 142' to alley at mid-block
4. Building Depth: 20' minimum, 40' preferred
5. Recessed corners shall not exceed 10% of street frontage

PARKING:
1. Types: Interior surface lot, interior garage, or “park-once” garage
2. Access: through alley

HEIGHT AND PROFILE:
1. Street Frontage Height: 3 stories at block centers and 5 stories at street corners
2. Setback: 0'

EXAMPLES:
1. Commercial or Retail on street frontage with mixed-use housing or office lofts above

INTERIORS BUILDING:

HEIGHT AND PROFILE:
1. Height: No restrictions
2. Setback: 20' minimum with 40' preferred

EXAMPLES:
1. Parking; Cinema; “Big-Box” Retail; Office; Hotel; Residential

TYPE DESCRIPTION

Large floor plate structure surrounded by low-scale “wrapper” or “liner” buildings at street frontage located on a quarter-block.
URBAN
REGULATIONS:

PLACEMENT:
1. Lot Width: 25’, 30’, or 75’
2. Street Frontage: 90% minimum
3. Lot Depth: 142’ maximum

PARKING:
1. Convenience and service parking alley also required at “Park-Once” garages
2. Access: through alley

HEIGHT AND PROFILE:
1. Street Frontage Height: 3 stories maximum and 5 stories
2. Setback: 0’, 20’ at 3rd Level and up

EXAMPLES:
1. Commercial and Retail on street frontage with mixed-use housing or office lofts above

Examples

Infill buildings located on mid-blocks.
URBAN REGULATIONS

PLACEMENT:
1. Lot Width: 50', 75' or 100'
2. Street Frontage: 90% minimum
3. Lot Depth: 142' maximum

PARKING:
1. Convenience and service parking at alley
2. Access: through alley

HEIGHT AND PROFILE:
1. Street Frontage Height: 5 stories maximum
2. Setback: 0'

EXAMPLES:
1. Commercial or Retail on street frontage with mixed-use housing or office lofts above

TYPE DESCRIPTION
Infill buildings located on street corner lots.
The Downtown should serve as Albuquerque’s urban main street experience. Street level designs of buildings should be visually interesting and reinforce the image of downtown as a premier urban district. All buildings shall have street level windows, window boxes, entrances, and architectural details.

A. Building and Street Relationships
   - Standard 1: Access
   - Standard 2: Building Entrances

B. Pedestrian Orientation and Parking
   - Standard 1: Blank Walls
   - Standard 2: Architectural Details
   - Standard 3: Sidewalks
   - Standard 4: Street Trees
   - Standard 5: Surface Parking
   - Standard 6: Parking Garages
   - Standard 7: Combined Blocks

C. Plazas and Courtyards
   - Standard 1: Street-Level Orientation
   - Standard 2: Security and Lighting

D. Building Facades
   - Standard 1: Open Building Frontage
   - Standard 2: Setbacks
   - Standard 3: Building Alignment on Central Avenue
   - Standard 4: Corner Buildings
   - Standard 5: Texture and Pattern on Building Facades on Central Avenue

E. Lighting and Signage
   - Standard 1: Exterior Lighting Plan
   - Standard 2: Neon Lighting for Buildings on Central Avenue
   - Standard 3: Safety and Visibility
   - Standard 4: Marquee

F. Historic Preservation
   - Standard 1: Preserving Facades
A. Building and Street Relationship
Standard 1: Access

INTENT

Provide unobstructed access from sidewalks to buildings used by the general public.

Example 1 Commercial Not Permitted  
Example 2 Residential  
Example 3 Commercial

STANDARD

Public Access to commercial and governmental buildings shall be provided at sidewalk grade. The primary floor of, and access to, residential structures may be elevated.

PLAN DIAGRAM

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

ELEVATION
INTENT

Provide safe and easy passage from the public realm into individual buildings.

Example 1  Not Permitted  Example 2  Example 3

STANDARD

The front doors of all buildings shall be visible from the street. If located more than 10 feet from the front building line, their location must be reinforced with additional graphics, lighting, marqueses or canopies.
B. Pedestrian Orientation and Parking

Standard 1: Blank Walls

INTENT

Provide interest for the pedestrian at the ground level of buildings by limiting unembellished solid walls.

Example 1: Not Permitted

Example 2

Example 3

STANDARD

Blank walls in excess of 25% or 10 continuous feet of the frontage of the property shall not be used at the street level. Blank walls must contain architectural relief such as expressive details, blind windows, murals, etc.
B: Pedestrian Orientation and Parking
Standard 2: Architectural Details

INTENT

Provide interest for the pedestrian at the ground level of buildings through detailing at close view.

Example 1
Not Permitted

Example 2

Example 3

STANDARD

All buildings shall provide scale-defining architectural elements or details at the first two floor levels minimum, such as windows, spandrels, awnings, porticos, pediments, cornices, pilasters, columns and balconies.
B. Pedestrian Orientation and Parking

INTENT

Allow sufficient room for pedestrian passage and additional use of sidewalk such as cafe tables.

Example 1  
Example 2  
Example 3

STANDARD

Width of sidewalks shall be maximized within the available right-of-way. A minimum of 48" of the sidewalk must be clear of any obstruction for the entire length of the property.
INTENT

Create shaded sidewalks and vertical landscape throughout the downtown.

Example 1

Not Permitted

Example 2

Example 3

STANDARD

Street trees must be provided to the extent that the sidewalk width permits. Selection shall be from the approved list of Downtown street trees and shall be consistent with the established landscape palette.
INTENT

Streets and sidewalks lined with buildings rather than parking lots.

Example 1 Not Permitted  Example 2  Example 3

STANDARD

A. On Central Avenue (between 1st Street and 8th Street) surface parking must be located behind buildings.

B. Elsewhere in the Downtown, surface parking can not be between the building and the front property line. Parking between the building and the side lot line must be screened from the street by a solid fence or wall at a minimum height of 48".

C. Shared parking is strongly encouraged.

D. There is no minimum requirement for parking downtown.

E. At least 15% of the ground area of parking lots (including driveways) shall be devoted to landscaping along the street right-of-way.
B. Pedestrian Orientation and Parking

Standard 6: Parking Garages

INTENT

Parking garages that contribute to pedestrian life through ground level use, scale and detail.

Example 1
Not Permitted
Example 2
Example 3

STANDARD

Parking garages must have a minimum of 50% of their sidewalk frontage along the street (excluding the ingress and egress) designed as retail, commercial or office space. The entire first floor, floor to ceiling height, shall be designed to accommodate future retail, commercial or office uses. There is no minimum depth required for retail, commercial or office uses. Interim uses could include news stands, flower shops, ATM's, display windows, telephone booths, payment boxes, etc.
B. Pedestrian Orientation and Parking
Standard 7: Combined Blocks

INTENT
To keep the traditional Downtown grid of streets and alleys intact, for maximum pedestrian choice and activity.

Example 1 Not Permitted Example 2 Example 3

STANDARD
If the traditional street grid is broken for development, pedestrian connections shall be established to replace those vacated. These connections shall be a continuation of the existing grid and allow for service access.
INTENT

To make a seamless connection between the sidewalks at the street and courtyards and plazas towards the interior of the block.

STANDARD

Plazas designed to be accessible to the public shall be constructed at sidewalk grade. Access to these plazas shall be highly visible, well developed and connected to the street system or to other planned or developed public spaces.
INTENT

Provide a safe and welcoming connection between the sidewalks at the street and courtyards and plazas toward the interior of the block.

STANDARD

Plaza and courtyard spaces, shall provide pedestrian connections to streets and other planned or developed plazas and courtyards. These connections shall be safe secure through the use of adequate pedestrian lighting. This lighting should accent the ground plane and the building facades.
INTENT

To visually extend the pedestrian's realm and provide interest along the sidewalk, as well as allowing people inside opportunity to observe the passing street scene.

STANDARD

A minimum of 75% of commercial building frontage on the first floor level shall be transparent.

"Open Frontage" includes window display areas, or other transparent material.

"Transparent" is defined as the material that permits easy viewing into the building from the sidewalk. The material shall be transparent from a minimum distance of 3 feet. Reflective glass shall not be used at the first floor level.
INTENT

The creation of a continuous street wall without significant breaks that defines the public space of the street.

Example 1

Example 2

Example 3

STANDARD

The street facade of buildings may be setback a maximum of 15 feet from the front lot line, except those buildings facing Central Avenue between Eight Street and First Street, which shall meet Standard 3. In general, it is preferred to keep the street facade built to the property line, in alignment with adjacent buildings.
DOWNTOWN 2010

D. Building Facades
Standard 3: Building Alignment on Central

INTENT

The establishment of a continuous street wall, with variety provided in building width and height.

Example 1  Not Permitted  Example 2  Example 3

STANDARD

For buildings on Central Avenue between 8th and the railroad tracks: A minimum of one facade element shall align horizontally with adjacent buildings. Facade elements include, but are not limited to, roof tops, cornices, signs, storefront windows, windows above the first floor and awnings. Awnings are encouraged on the north side of Central Avenue. There should be a balance between variety and harmony of building facades. Maintain the similarity in the building width. New or larger buildings on parcels wider than 40’ (maximum 100’) shall incorporate architectural elements which reflect the width of adjacent buildings. Successful methods for achieving this include, but are not limited to, window pattern and detail placement.

PLAN DIAGRAM  BIRD’S EYE VIEW  ELEVATION
INTENT

Corner buildings shall relate to the activities of the intersection and encourage activity through their design.

STANDARD

Appropriate design of the corner shall include one of the following successful patterns:

1. Opening the space at ground level for people to walk around the corner with the building mass above redefining the corner.
2. A recessed entry at the corner such as the familiar angled wall with an entry door.
3. A corner window with an important view into the building.
INTENT

Create pedestrian interest by using materials that relate to the traditional context of Downtown.

STANDARD

For buildings on Central Avenue between 8th Street and the railroad tracks: Building facades shall incorporate patterned and textured elements that add visual interest to the surface. These elements should be based on materials and patterns that relate to the traditions of Downtown buildings.
INTENT

Provide a safe and appealing nighttime environment for the Downtown.

STANDARD

The design for a proposed facade must consider the appearance of the building in the evening and develop an exterior lighting plan that includes display window lighting, building lighting, and pedestrian-scaled lighting for both buildings and pedestrian areas within the site. Lighting shall be warm in color, with control of glare for the pedestrian.
INTENT

Provide an exciting nighttime environment for the Downtown.

STANDARD

For buildings on Central Avenue between 8th Street and the railroad tracks: the use of neon and fiber optic lighting should be considered since it can contribute to the tradition of strong decorative lighting on Central Avenue. Signage on marquees, blade signs, sign bands, outline of significant architectural details, and in window are all encouraged.
E. Lighting and Signage
Standard 3: Safety and Visibility

INTENT

Provide sufficient lighting for safe pedestrian passage in Downtown.

Example 1
Not Permitted

Example 2

Example 3

STANDARD

Adequate lighting must be provided for safety and visibility at night.
Project plans must include illumination levels and color rendition of exterior building lighting adjacent to sidewalks.

PLAN DIAGRAM

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

SECTION
E. Lighting and Signage
Standard 4: Signs

INTENT

Create identity for individual stores and buildings through projecting signs.

Example 1  Not Permitted  Example 2  Example 3

STANDARD

Signs may project into the right of way a maximum of half the adjacent sidewalk width, and the bottom of the sign shall be a minimum of 12 feet above the sidewalk, except along Central Avenue from the railroad tracks to the 8th Street where the sign may project three-quarters of the sidewalk width.

(In addition to these standards, all zoning code regulations regarding signage will apply.)
INTENT

Maintain the existing fabric of historic building facades.

STANDARD

Buildings shall incorporate elements of the original facade into the renovation scheme:

1. Do not cover existing original facade details by covering them with panels, signs, or by painting them out.

2. Do not alter the shape of existing original openings. If a window must be blocked, maintain its original shape.

3. Restore, where possible, the original facade by removing later additions of materials.
By adhering to the District’s Plan and Uses, and the Building Types and Standards, as well as preparing complete project documents, a proposed Downtown development will be reviewed and approved within 21 - 24 working days. Following is a chart which outlines the process to obtain a building permit. It is mandatory that applicants present and discuss their project, in its entirety, with the appropriate departments at a Pre-Application meeting. It is also critical for the applicant to understand if their proposed project is a permitted, review required, or prohibited use prior to starting the approval process. Permitted uses will go through either a renovation or a new construction process. “Review Required” uses must go through the Environmental Planning Commission (EPC) process and make a case as to why and how the proposed use fits into the Downtown Plan. The applicant for the proposed use must demonstrate that the use will be compatible with surrounding uses in the district and that it would not be injurious to surrounding properties, adjacent neighborhoods or the community. The EPC may approve or disapprove the proposed use. The EPC’s decision is appealable to the City Council in accordance with Section 14-16-4-4 of the Zoning Code.

**Required Pre-Application Meeting**
(Planning / Public Works / Other Departments)

- Review Required
  - Environmental Planning Commission

- Permitted Use
  - Renovation
    1. Remodeling or rehabilitation of an existing structure, including addition(s) of lesser volume than the existing.
    2. Certified historic rehabilitation as defined and administered by the State Historic Preservation Division and National Park Service (only applies to historic structures).
  - New Construction
    1. All new, freestanding structures.
    2. Addition(s) to an existing structure that encloses more volume than the existing.

- Building Permit
  - Project Review
    Planning Director / Review Team
    Development Review Application
    Downtown Requirements Checklist
  - 1 - 12* Working Days
  - 10 - 12* Working Days

* Estimated Review Process Time = Actual City review time in working days.