Lead/Coal Road Safety Audit Kickoff Meeting

Lead by the Mid-Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MRMPO) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

June 8, 2022

Agenda for Today's Meeting

- 9:05-9:20 Welcome and Intros
- 9:20-9:45 RSA Process for Corridor
- 9:45-10:00 Existing Conditions
- 10:00-10:10 Sticky Note Exercise
- 10:10-10:50 General Discussion
- 10:55-11:00 Discussion Wrap-Up, Announcements

Housekeeping Items Before We Get Started

- Thank you for being here! This meeting is being recorded for note taking purposes.
- If attending virtually, please sign in on the chat with your first and last name and email address. If you'd rather, you can also email that to wsimon@mrcog-nm.gov.
- To help this meeting run smoothly, **please raise your hand if you'd like to speak** and wait to be called on to speak (if attending virtually, please use the raise hand function).
- Restrooms are located on the main floor of the building on the east side by the front door.

Goals for the RSA Process:

- Gain a Technical Understanding of Safety Issues Along Lead/Coal
- Bring in National Expertise and Perspectives
- Gather Input from Local Stakeholders
- Bring a multi-disciplinary team and approach to the corridor
- Build internal capacity at MRCOG in conducting future RSAs

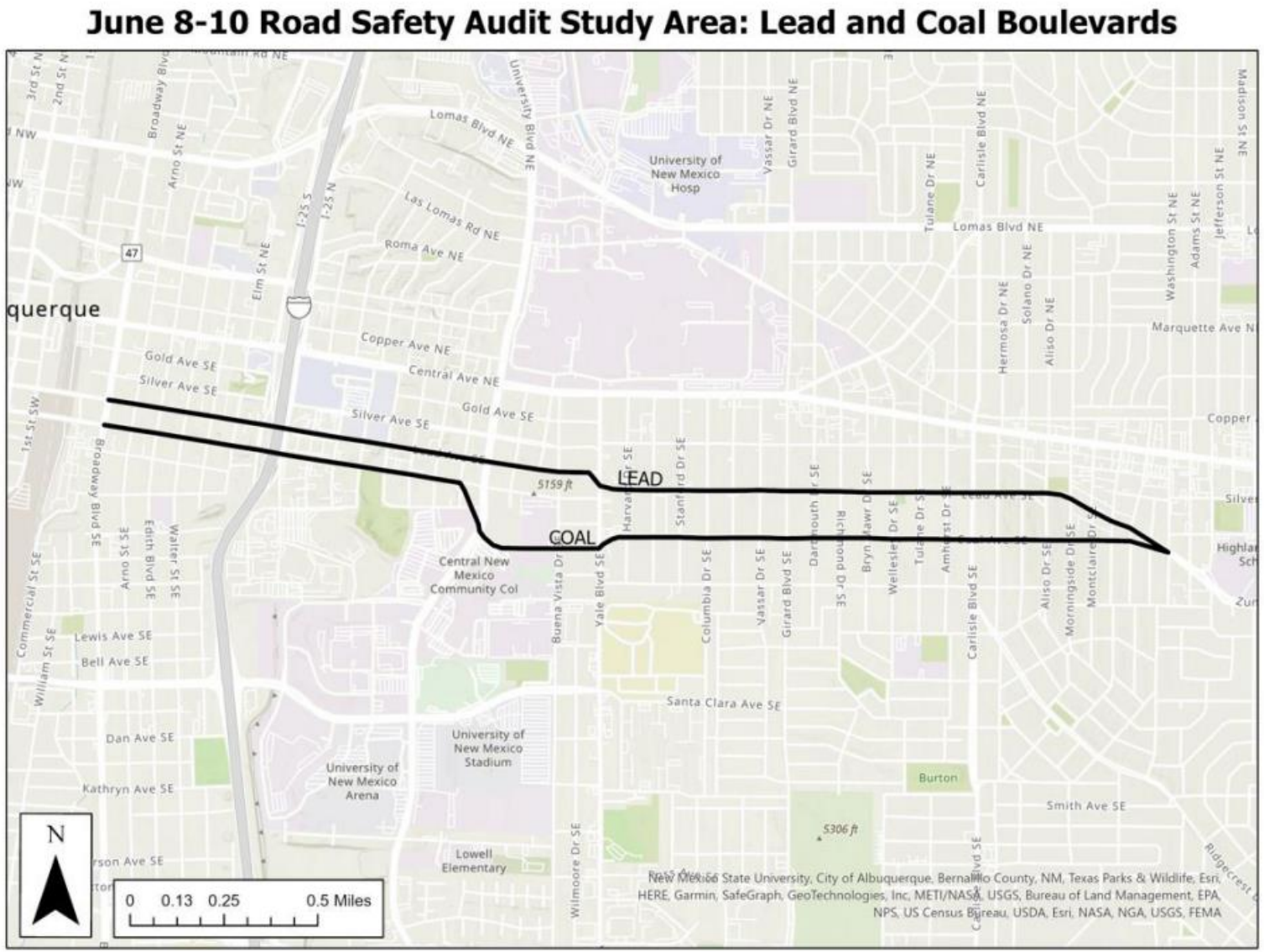
Lead/Coal RSA Roles and Responsibilities

- MRCOG - **Facilitate the RSA**; provide data and maps
- FHWA – Provide technical assistance and expertise in safe road design and **national best practices**
- City of Albuquerque – Roadway owner; **decision-making**; project funding; and potential project implementation responsibilities

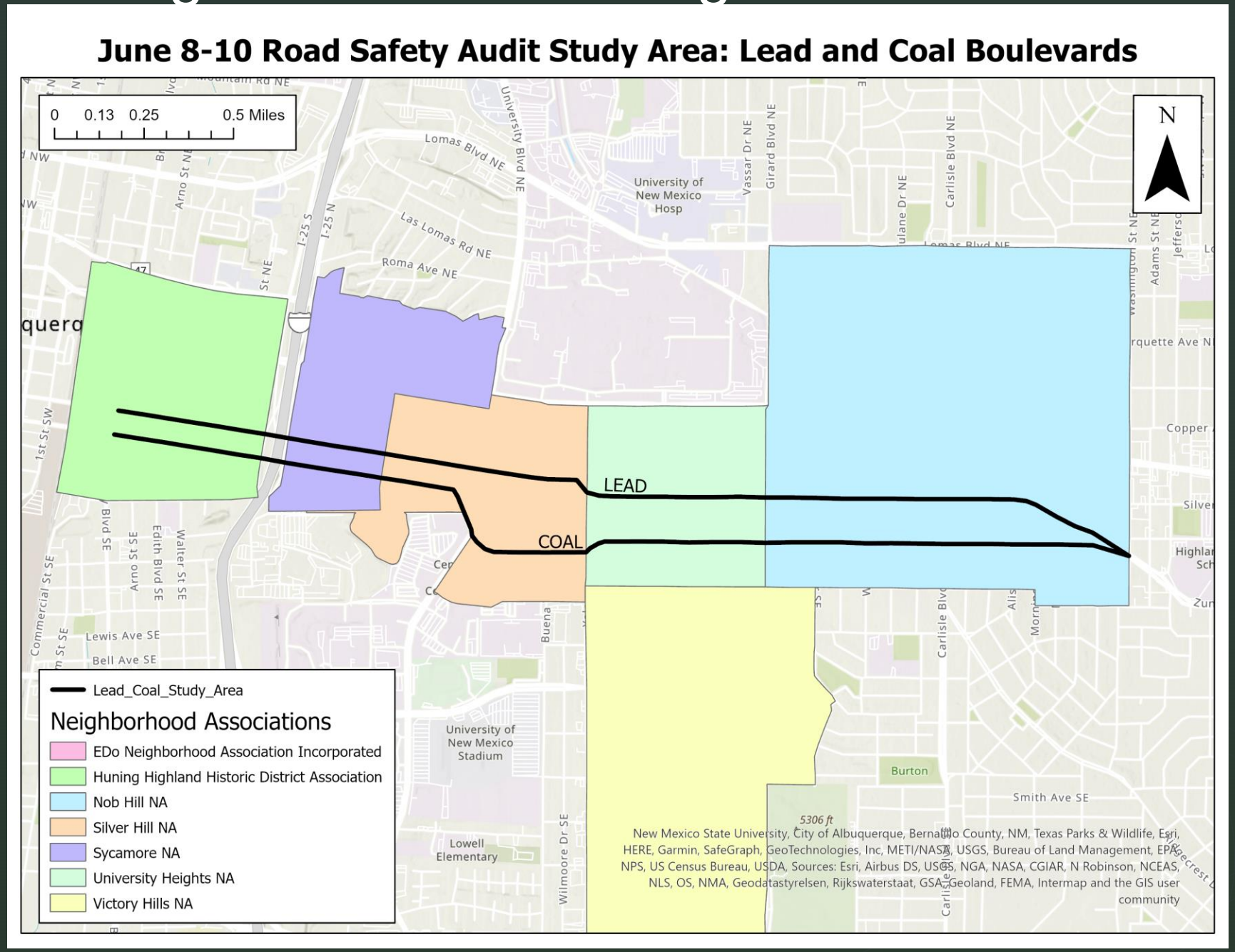
The Lead/Coal Road Safety Audit Process

- Presented by Michael J. Cynecki, PE, PTOE and Peter Eun
  FHWA

Existing Conditions – Study Area

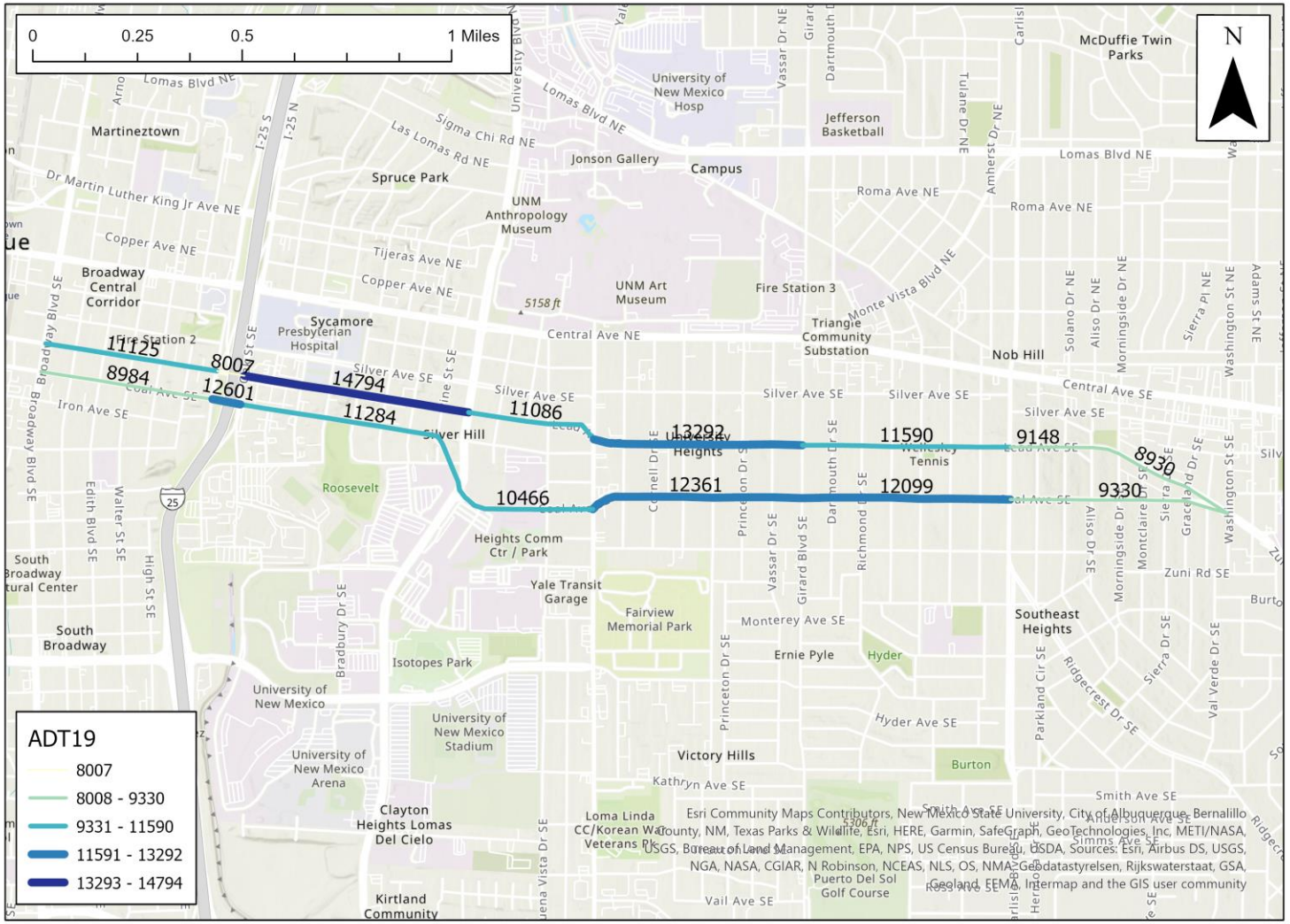


Existing Conditions – Neighborhood Associations



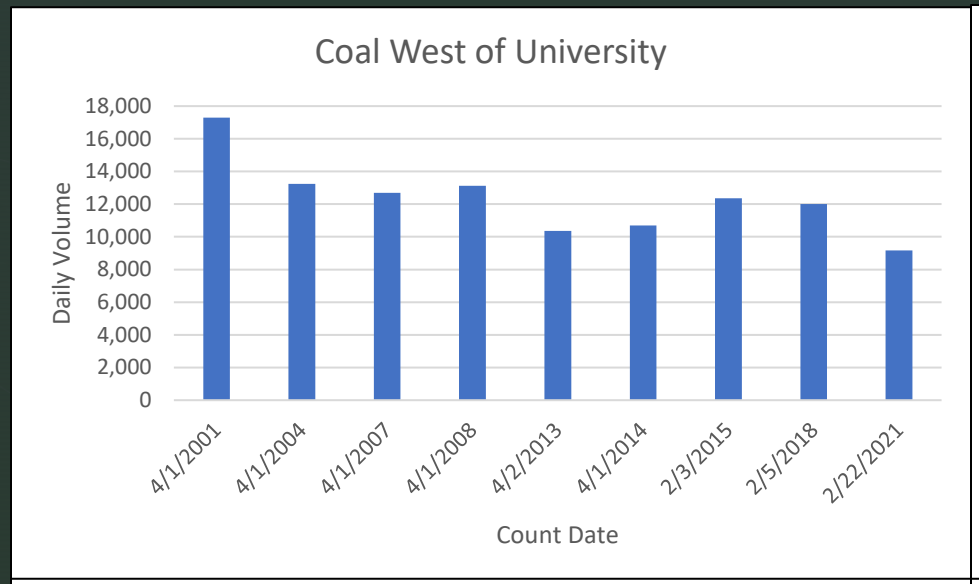
Existing Conditions – Traffic Volumes

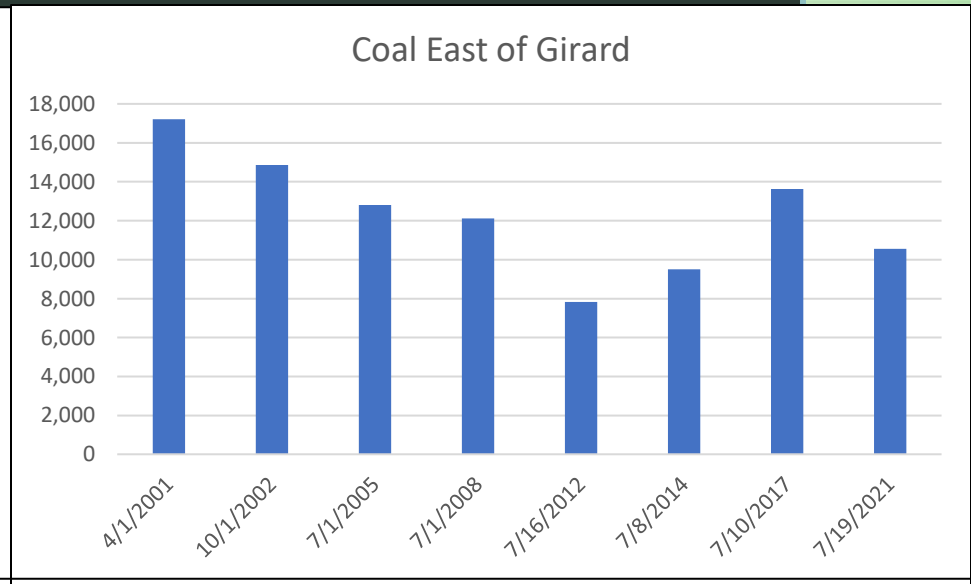
- In 2019, Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) ranged from 8,007 to 14,794

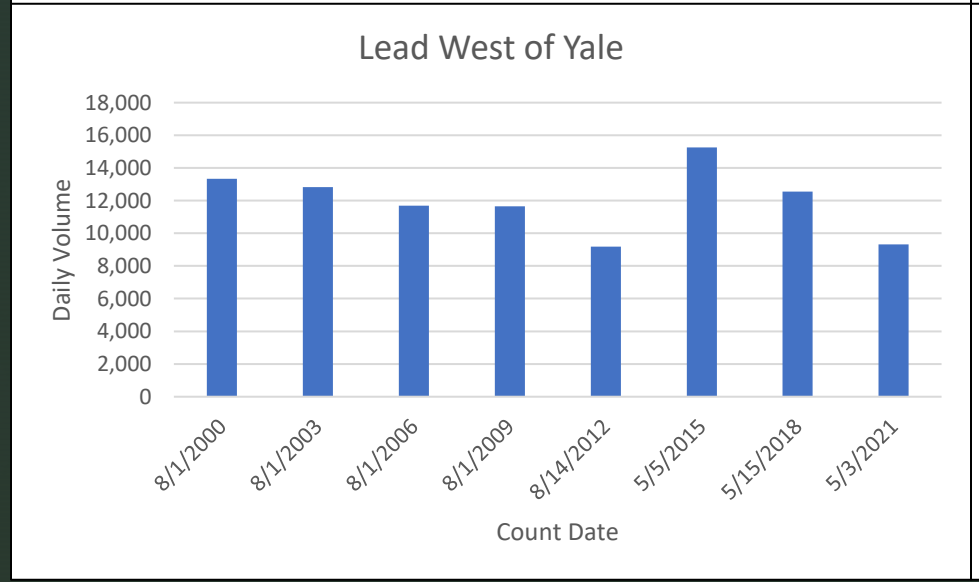


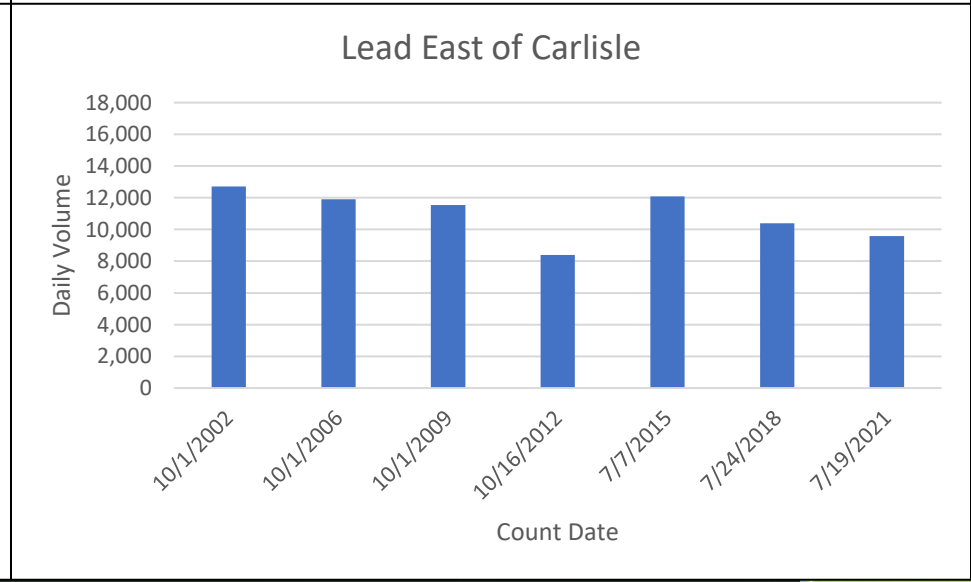
Existing Conditions – Traffic Volumes

- Post pandemic counts are still down along Lead/ Coal









Existing Conditions – Interactive Map

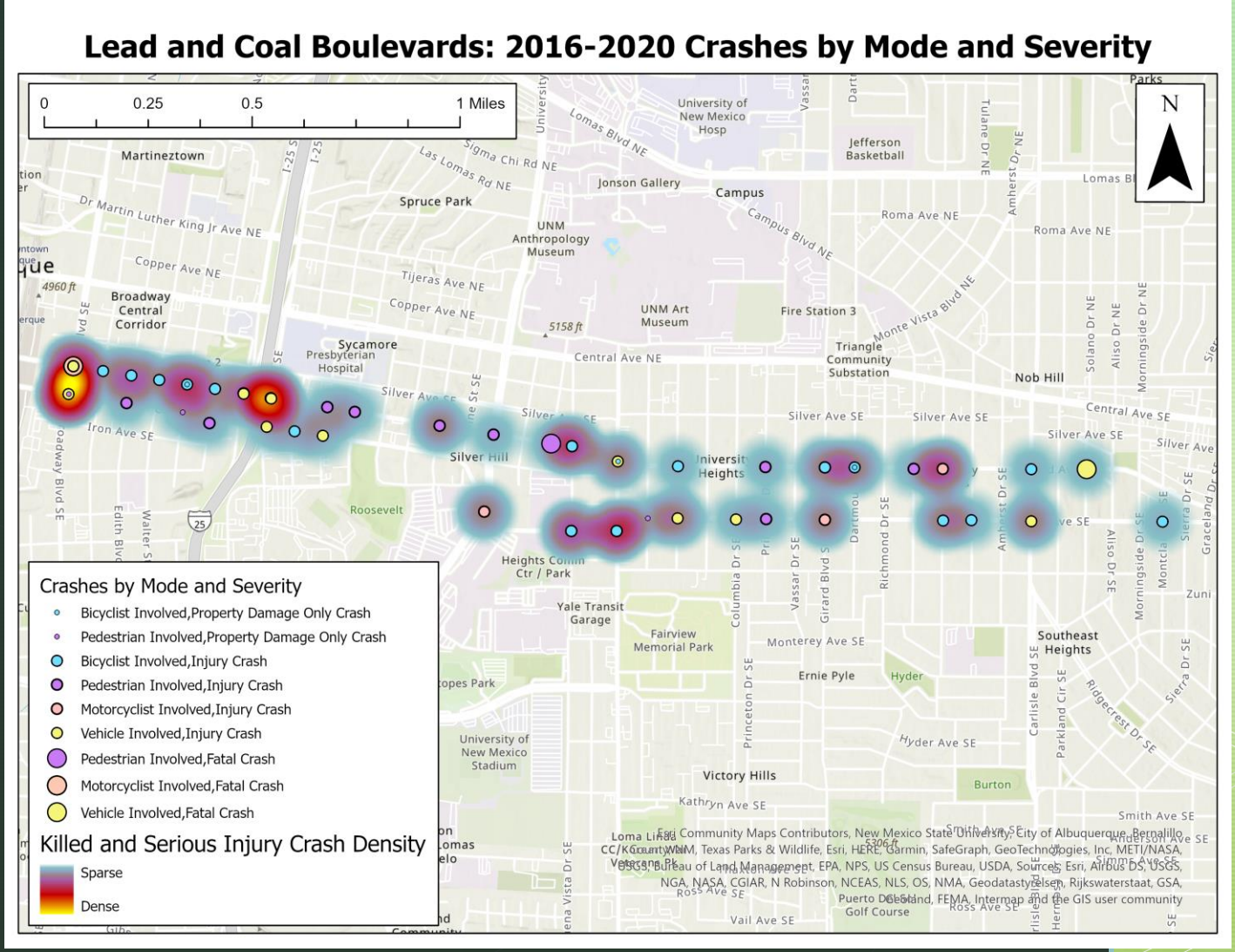
- https://mrmpo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b0c41ecdf3df425c92bcd669acd4d402

Existing Conditions – History of Changes along the Corridor and Known Planned Changes

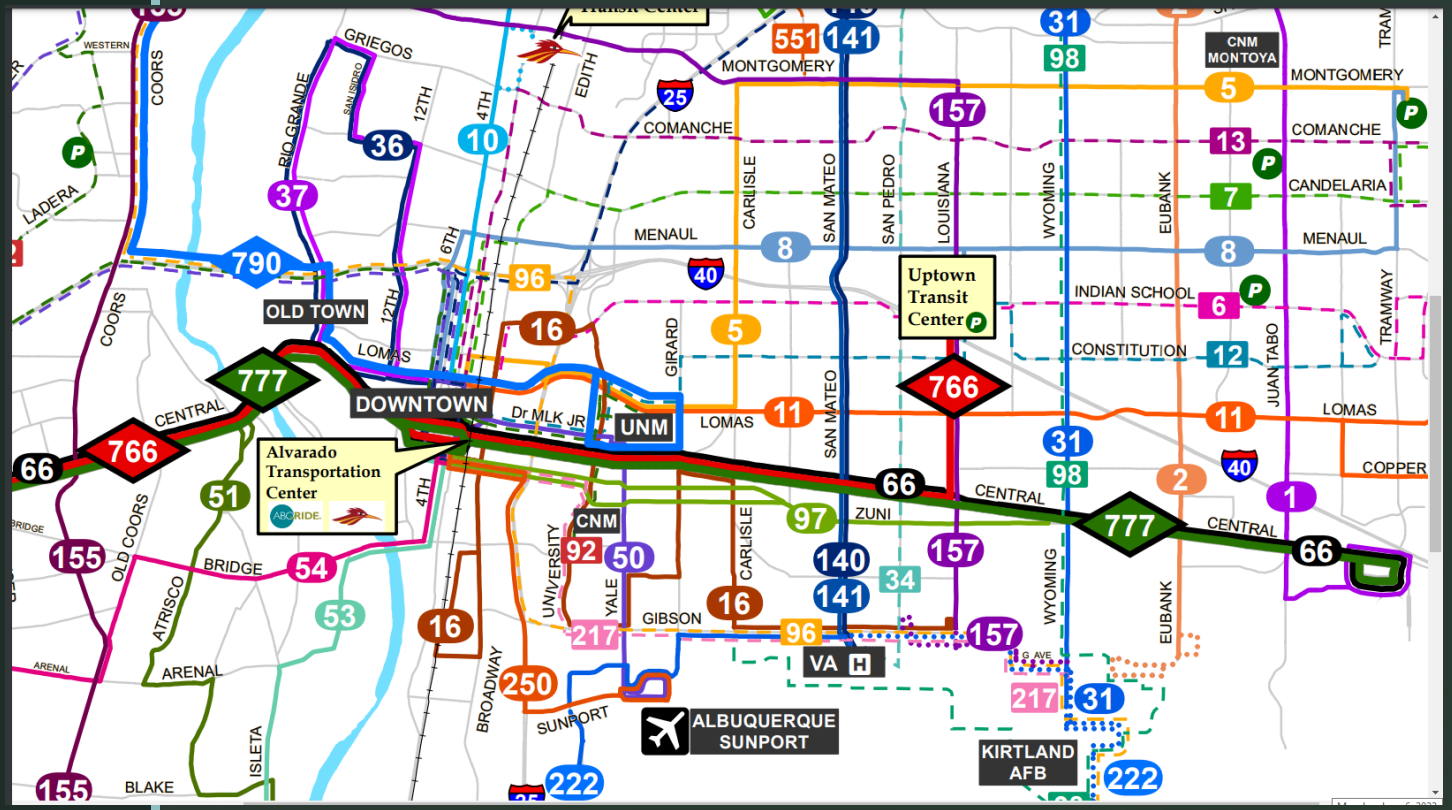
- Tim Brown, CABQ DMD

Existing Conditions – Collision History

- Between 2016 and 2020 there were **1,657** crashes in study area
  - **774** injuries and **3** fatalities
- Map depicts fatalities and Serious injuries along with all bike and pedestrian crashes
- Cyclists make up 3.6% of all injuries in the study area compared to 1.9% in the region as a whole
- We understand there have been several pedestrian fatalities in 2021
  - Coal and Tulane (December 2021)
  - Lead and Montclaire (November 2021)

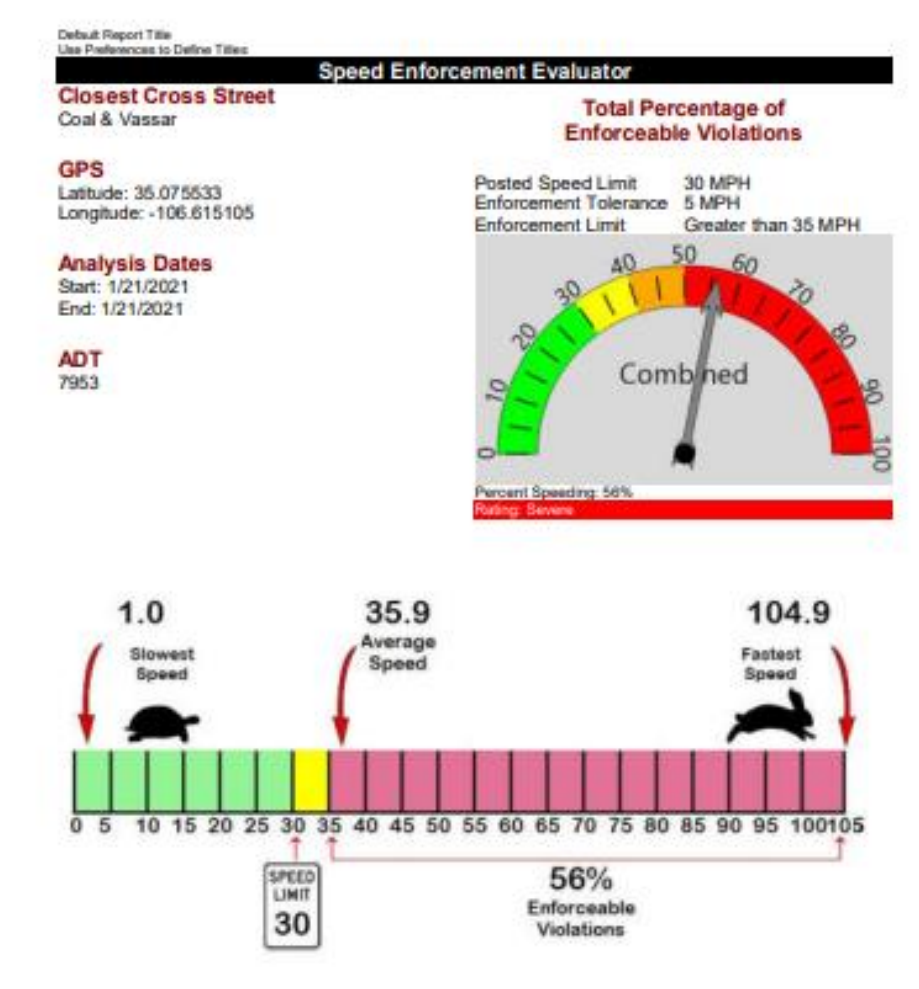


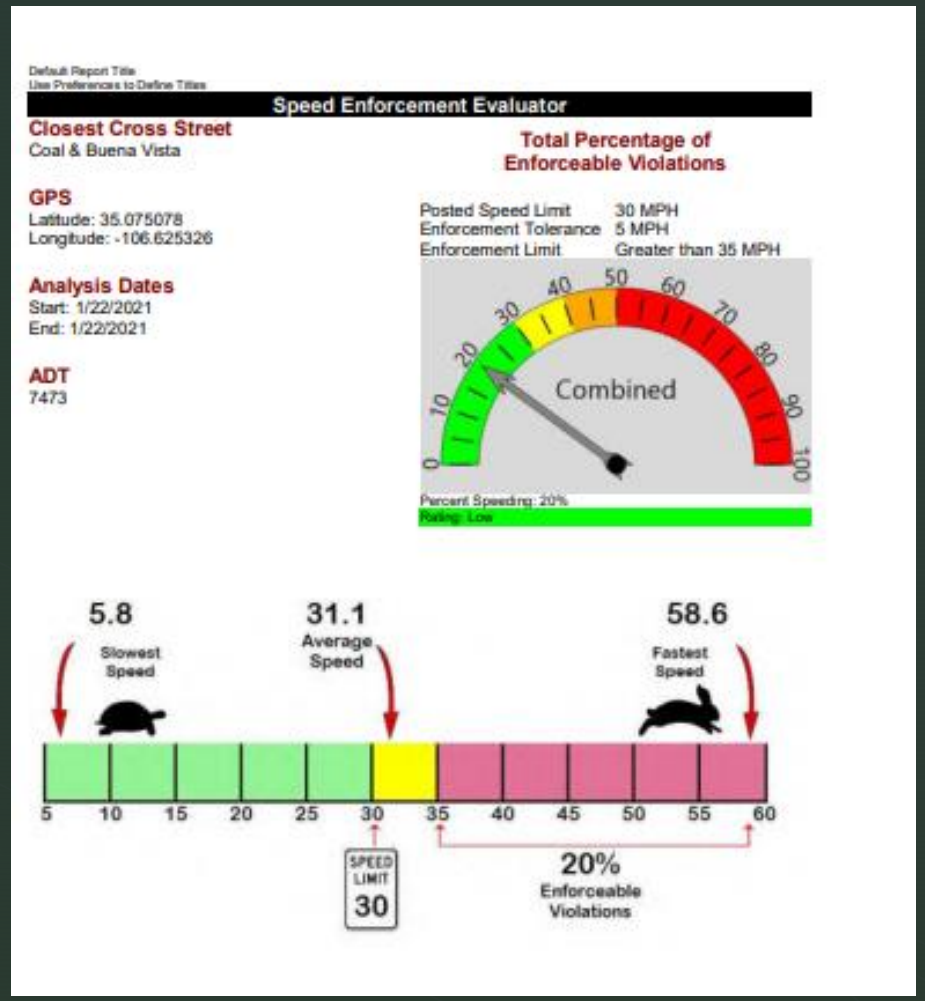
Existing Conditions – Transit Facilities and Routes Serving the Corridor



- **ABQ RIDE Route 97 is the primary transit line serving the corridor (regular route, all day local service on weekdays, 1 hour headways from 6am-7pm). Connects downtown and Rail Runner to Central and Wyoming. There are 8 stops in the study area.**
- Route 217 runs from downtown too Kirtland Air Force Base (limited M-F with 45 min peak frequency). There are no stops on Lead/Coal; the first stop after ATC is on University.
- ABQ RIDE/Rio Metro Route 250 connects downtown and the Rail Runner to the airport with no stops in between. Regular route, all day local service on weekends and weekdays. 30 minute to one hour headways.

Existing Conditions – Speeds





Source: Lead Avenue and Coal Avenue Rest-in-Red Feasibility – CABQ and Lee Engineering, 2021

Existing Conditions - Bicycle and Pedestrian Travel

Pedestrian and Bicycle Trips Recorded on Lead and Buena Vista, May 4, 2022 from 7AM-7PM						
Pedestrians Traveling on Lead	Pedestrians Crossing Lead (traveling on Buena Vista)	**Total Pedestrians Traveling on Lead and Crossing Lead**	Bicyclists Traveling on Lead Bicycle Lane	Bicyclists on Traveling on Sidewalks on Lead	Bicyclists Crossing Lead on Buena Vista	**Total Bicyclists Traveling on Lead and Crossing Lead**
67	91	**158**	44	9	51	**104**

Existing Conditions – Concerns Received

- We have received a lot of feedback from residents
  - Many concerns voiced focusing on speed and the issue of cars leaving the roadway in crashes and hitting homes

I have lived on Lead and Solano for nearly 50 years now and have seen the personal injuries, and in one case death to an individual due to accidents caused by excess speed. Over the years there have been roll overs on the east side of my home, a car landed on the front porch and in October, 2021, a drugged driver's car jumped the curb, hit my tree, skidded on the sidewalk and crashed into city bushes and a tree. If I had been outside gardening, I may have been seriously injured or killed.

Imagine an ordinary day in which you want to go for a walk, with or without your dog, and you get to your street corner to cross, and you are afraid to even get close enough to the corner to see the traffic on that street. Imagine that just the day before there was a rollover on that same corner resulting in a fatality that you could see from your window. A fatality so graphic that you had to make sure your child did not see it. Imagine that you are still picking up automotive glass and shrapnel from your front yard days after the cleaning crews have left.

Near my house is the very attractive city owned Morningside Park. Multiple neighbors have mentioned that they would like to use the park more frequently but the Lead Ave racetrack is the primary reason they do not. There is a constant fear that a reckless driver speeding around the corner will leave the road and injure or kill their child playing in the park.

Sticky Note Exercise Questions

1. What are your overall safety concerns for the study corridor?
2. What are opportunities for improving safety in the study corridor?

General Discussion Rules

- We will first give a representative from each neighborhood association the chance to speak.
- Please wait until you are called on to speak.
- Please limit your comments to 2 minutes or less.
- Please be respectful of others.