

Hello neighbors,

I would like to share some news regarding the Lead / Coal Ave arterial one-ways. The University Heights Neighborhood Association (UHA) and other concerned neighbors along the Lead/Coal corridor from Broadway to San Mateo would like to reach out to the affected communities and start a dialogue, hopefully building renewed support for an effort to make Lead and Coal into two-way residential streets.

Why do we want two-way residential streets instead of one-way arterials?

1) Safety. The one-way configuration encourages drivers to speed thus increases the chances of car collisions with other cars, pedestrians, houses, businesses and landscaping (See [here](#) for a one-way conversion study conducted in Louisville, KY). Lead/Coal have become a popular dragway for amateur racers and competitors. (See [Greater Central Avenue](#) third-party report and [recommendation](#) on Lead and Coal).

2) Noise pollution and hearing loss. Medically damaging noise decibel levels are often exceeded daily on Lead and Coal. Having Lead and Coal as arterial streets means more traffic through our neighborhoods bringing more noise. (See [Unser Noise Study](#) for a similar comparison of noise problems for other Albuquerque residents.)

3) Walkability. The City is making concerted efforts in the Nobhill, UNM, EDO, and Downtown areas to create more pedestrian-friendly crossings. Though the June, 2012 [lane reduction](#) improved ped crossings safety, Lead and Coal as they currently exist still do not go far enough considering the high volumes of people walking North and South. No matter who is crossing these streets It should not be a gamble of high stakes.

4) Bicyclist safety. According to the [Wall Street Journal](#), Albuquerque is the worst rated major US city for bicyclist safety in regards to fatality.

5) [Property damage](#) and devaluation of home values.

6) One-way roads are associated with [criminal activity](#).

7) More support for converting Lead and Coal to two-way residential streets can be found [here](#).

In order to inform decision-making about Lead and Coal, UHA has asked our City Councilor (District 6) Pat Davis to help direct the City to perform baseline measures of

health and safety impacts of traffic on those streets, and measurements of those impacts into the future as ART diverts Central Avenue traffic to residential streets (see [*letter to Councilor Davis*](#)). We expect those measurements to form part of the justification for future mitigation strategies, including but not limited to the conversion of Lead and Coal back to two-way streets.

Thank you,

University Heights Neighborhood Association and Concerned Neighbors