



## EAST DOWNTOWN

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### State of the Neighborhood 2015

1. EDo, and our fellow neighborhood association Huning Highlands, continue our efforts to become Albuquerque's most pedestrian and bike friendly neighborhood. Our goal is to have both historic and new housing for a broad range of residents, and most of life's daily needs within walking distance. It's an ambitious goal, we have made progress toward it, but much remains to be done.

2. Innovate ABQ, which owns the former First Baptist Church site at Central & Broadway, has chosen a development team to build out their 4 city block site. We are hopeful that the neighborhood will see construction activity there in 2016.

3. Jeff Speck's recommendations for a truly pedestrian and bike friendly Downtown and EDo were passed by the City Council and approved by the Mayor. Now comes the hard part - getting them done. City Councilor Isaac Benton continues to press the Mayor's staff to start re-striping the streets and converting a number of traffic signals to four-way stops. He is also working with us to reconfigure the Tijeras-Broadway-MLK intersection to make it safer and more business and resident friendly, as Jeff Speck recommended.

4. The Mayor's Bus Rapid Transit project has applied for \$80 million in Federal funds to help construct the 10 mile line, which goes through our neighborhood on Central. EDo and Huning Highlands had tremendous concerns about the initial design. After a number of meetings with our transit agency, they sought the advice of Jeff Speck, who has outlined an approach that converts Central from a 5 lane to a 3 lane street, giving the BRT a dedicated lane in the middle and a stop at Walter. If built, we believe this new Central will be slower, more attractive, easier to cross, and a better street for new apartments and new residents. All of this we believe makes this a better and stronger neighborhood.

5. With construction at Innovate ABQ, and the bus rapid transit funding approved and construction started, we believe the development of a number of vacant sites along Central and Broadway will be in the works.

6. Our existing EDo businesses continue to operate successfully, and to win awards from the satisfaction of their customers. We appreciate and congratulate them all! And thank you all for supporting them.