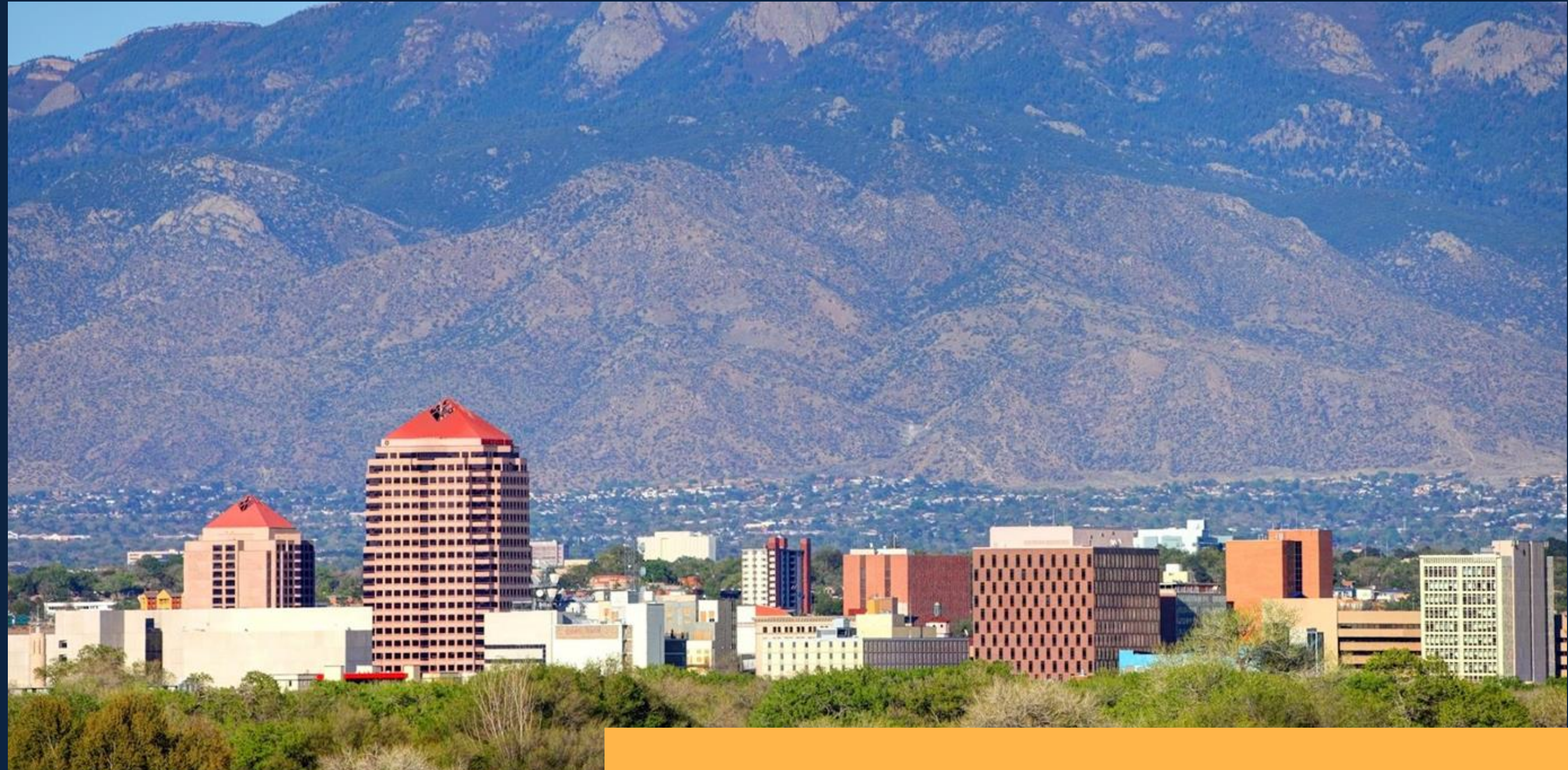


AN INTRODUCTION TO OUR MISSION, WORK, AND VISION



www.strongtownsabq.org

STRONG TOWNS ABQ



WHO WE ARE



STRONG TOWNS ABQ IS AN ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO CREATING A THRIVING, CONNECTED, & RESILIENT ALBUQUERQUE.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Strong Towns ABQ advocates for equitable services, housing, transportation, and safety through inclusive, fiscally responsible means, promoting better communities in Albuquerque with sustainable changes and community collaboration.

How we Started & the vision for a Better Burque



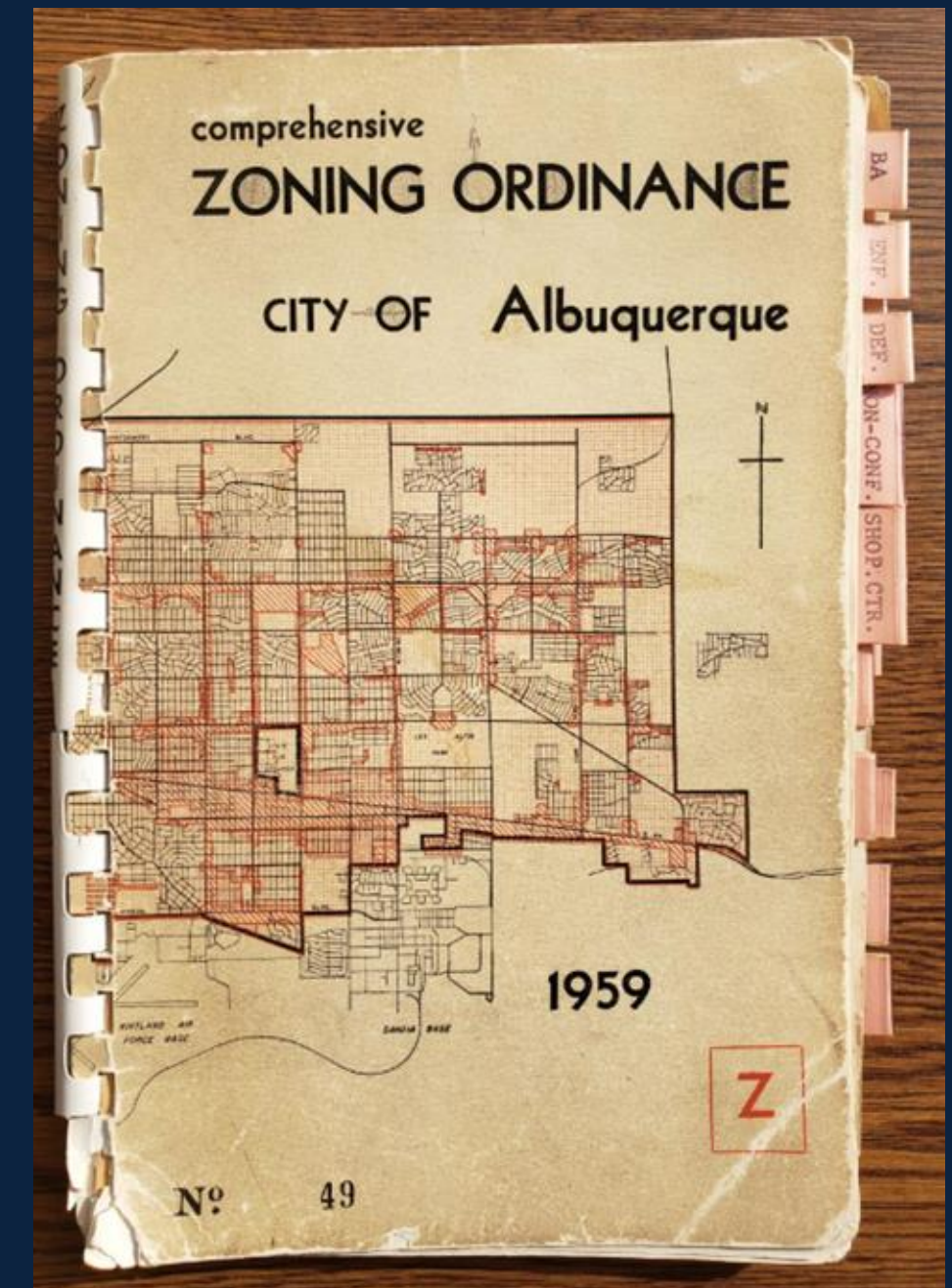
What if there is a solution to loneliness? What if our built environment can help us create community and take care of each other?

Brandi Thompson was asking herself questions like these while dealing with illness. When she reached out about forming a group in Albuquerque, she found there were a lot of us asking the same questions, too.

What might a Better Burque look like & how do we get there?

What Brandi and that group at High & Dry found was that many of the issues we face are policy decisions and we can choose to make better ones

What if land use codes, road design, business permitting, and transparency led to neighborhoods where we bumped into friends, let our kids or parents live in a casita behind our house, and to streets where kids and the elderly could get where they wanted to go without fear? That would be a Better Burque.

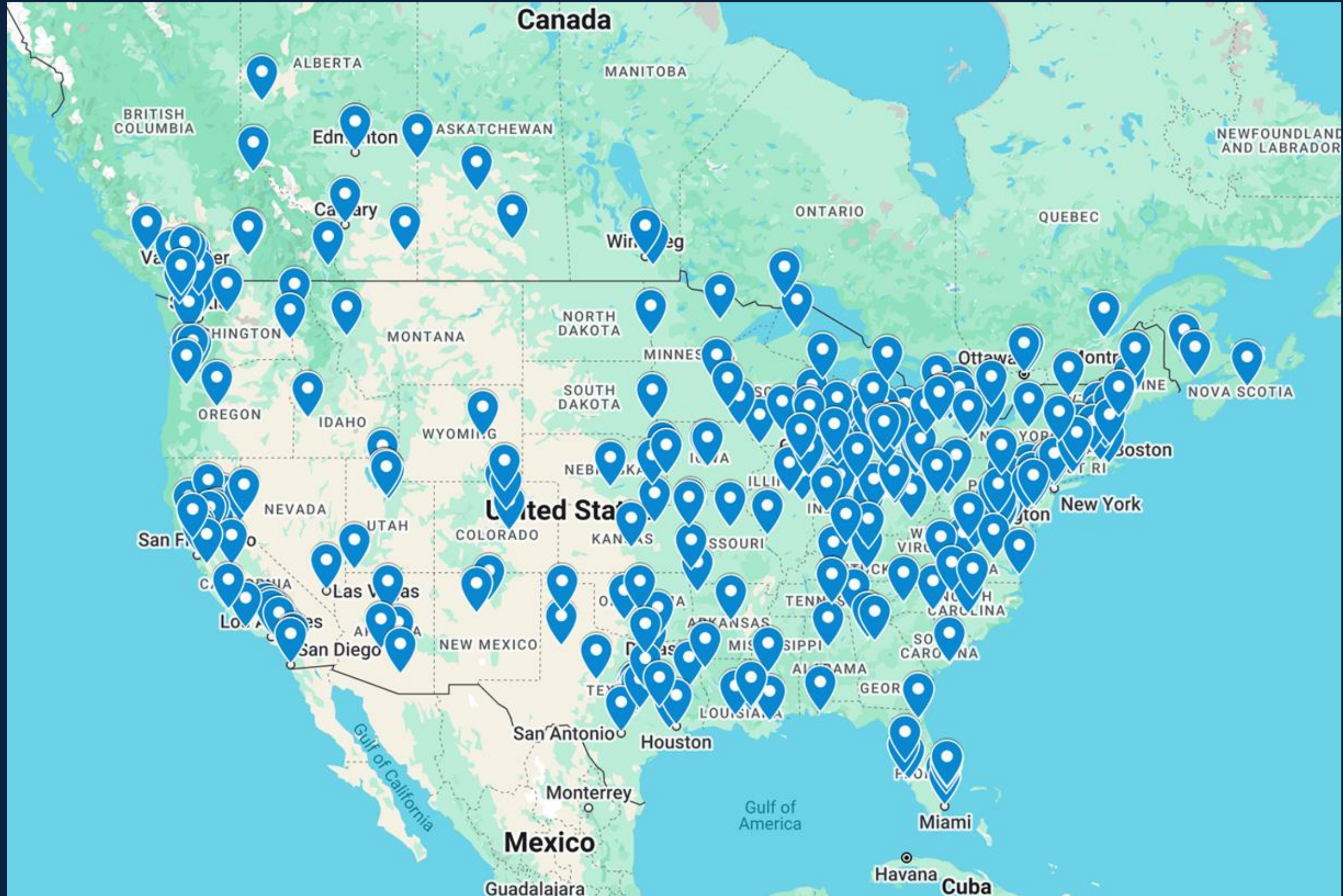


WHAT IS STRONG TOWNS?

**WE NEED LESS
PLACES LIKE THIS**



**AND MORE
PLACES LIKE THIS**



WHAT WE DO



Advocating for
abundant &
affordable
housing



Improving
transportation, street
safety, & ending
highway expansion



Promoting fiscal
responsibility in
city planning



Building
transparent &
accountable
governance

OUR FIVE CAMPAIGNS

Building a Resilient Albuquerque: Our Five Pillars for Change



1

Campaign to End
Highway Expansion



2

Campaign to End
Parking Mandates



3

Campaign for Safe and
Productive Streets



4

Campaign for
Incremental Housing &
Zoning Reforms



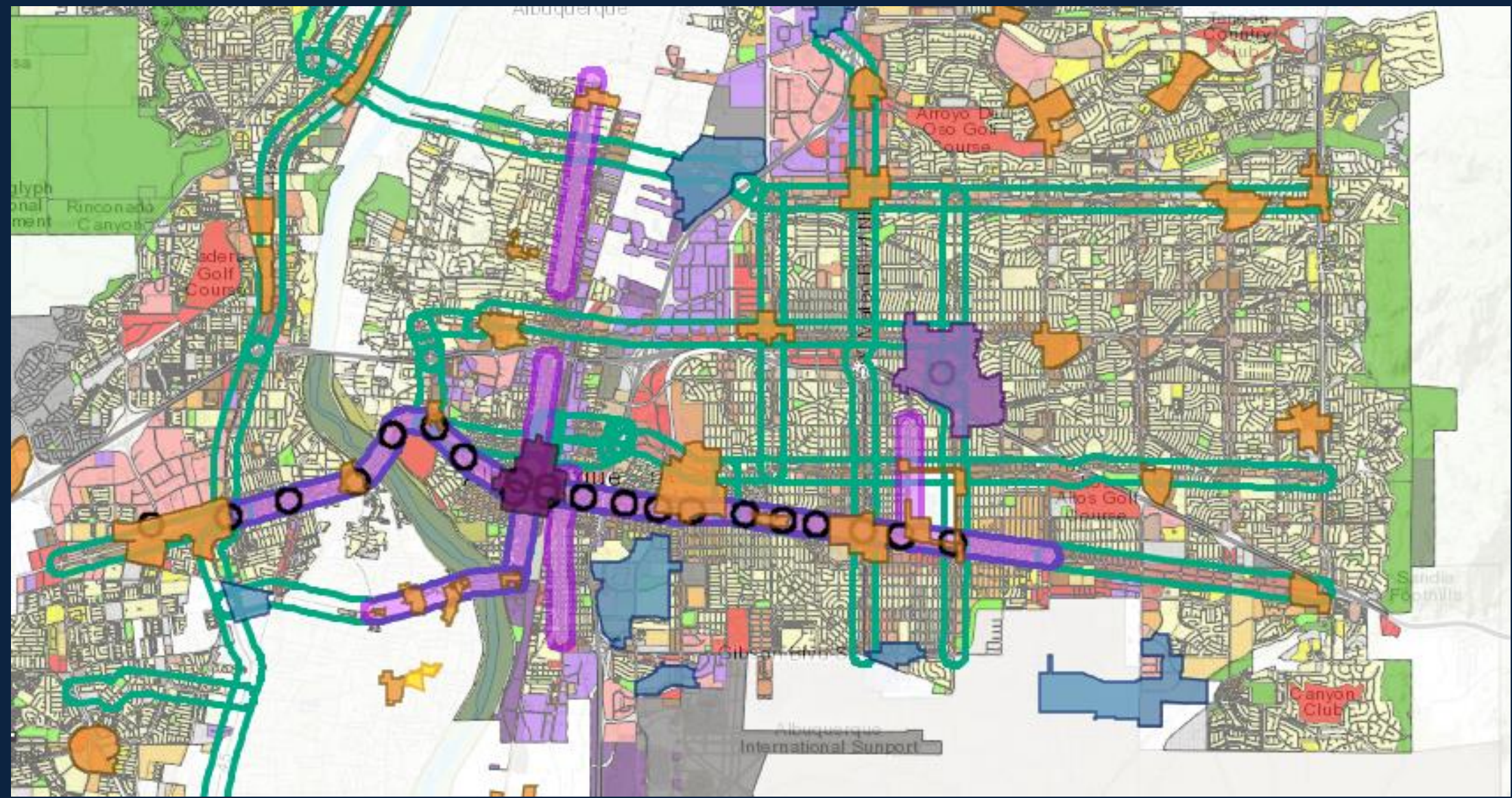
5

Campaign for
Transparent Local
Accounting

New Mexico Highway Expansion



Expanding & Improving Transit



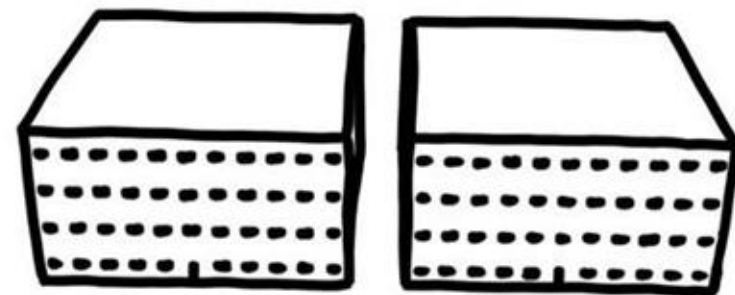
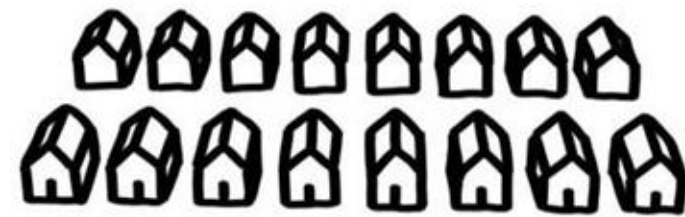
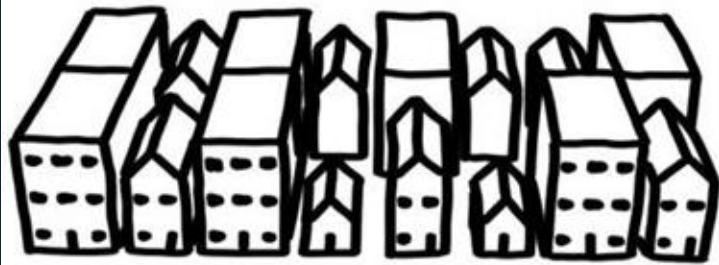
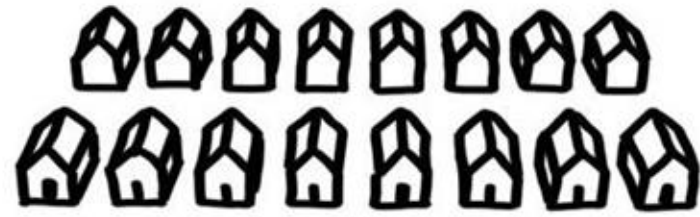
Safe Streets & Road Diets



Incremental
Intensification

vs

Sudden
Intensification



INCREMENTAL DENSITY

CREATES AFFORDABLE, DIVERSE
HOUSING OPTIONS, REVITALIZES
NEIGHBORHOODS, AND BUILDS
STRONGER, MORE RESILIENT
COMMUNITIES BY ALLOWING
MORE PEOPLE TO LIVE CLOSER TO
WORK, SERVICES, AND TRANSIT.

FOCUSING HIGHER INTENSITY HOUSING NEAR CORRIDORS & CENTERS



WHY HERE?

Established corridors already have transit, businesses, and infrastructure.

Directing growth here reduces traffic congestion, strengthens small businesses, and improves walkability.



TRANSIT-ORIENTED

Housing + Shops + Offices = More vibrant, walkable communities Supports affordable living by reducing the need for car ownership Builds stronger local economies by keeping more people near businesses

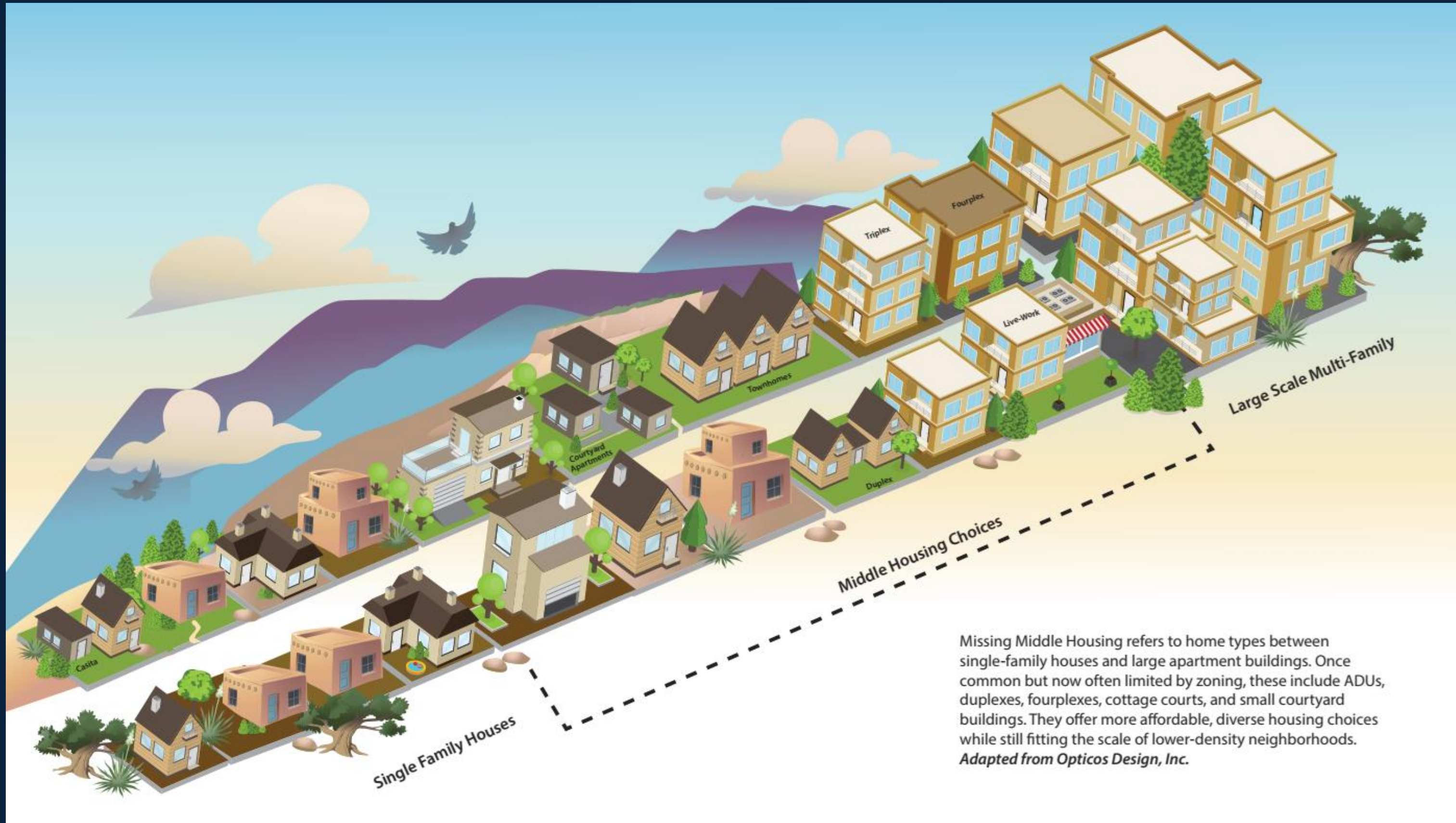


LEVERAGES

INVESTMENTS

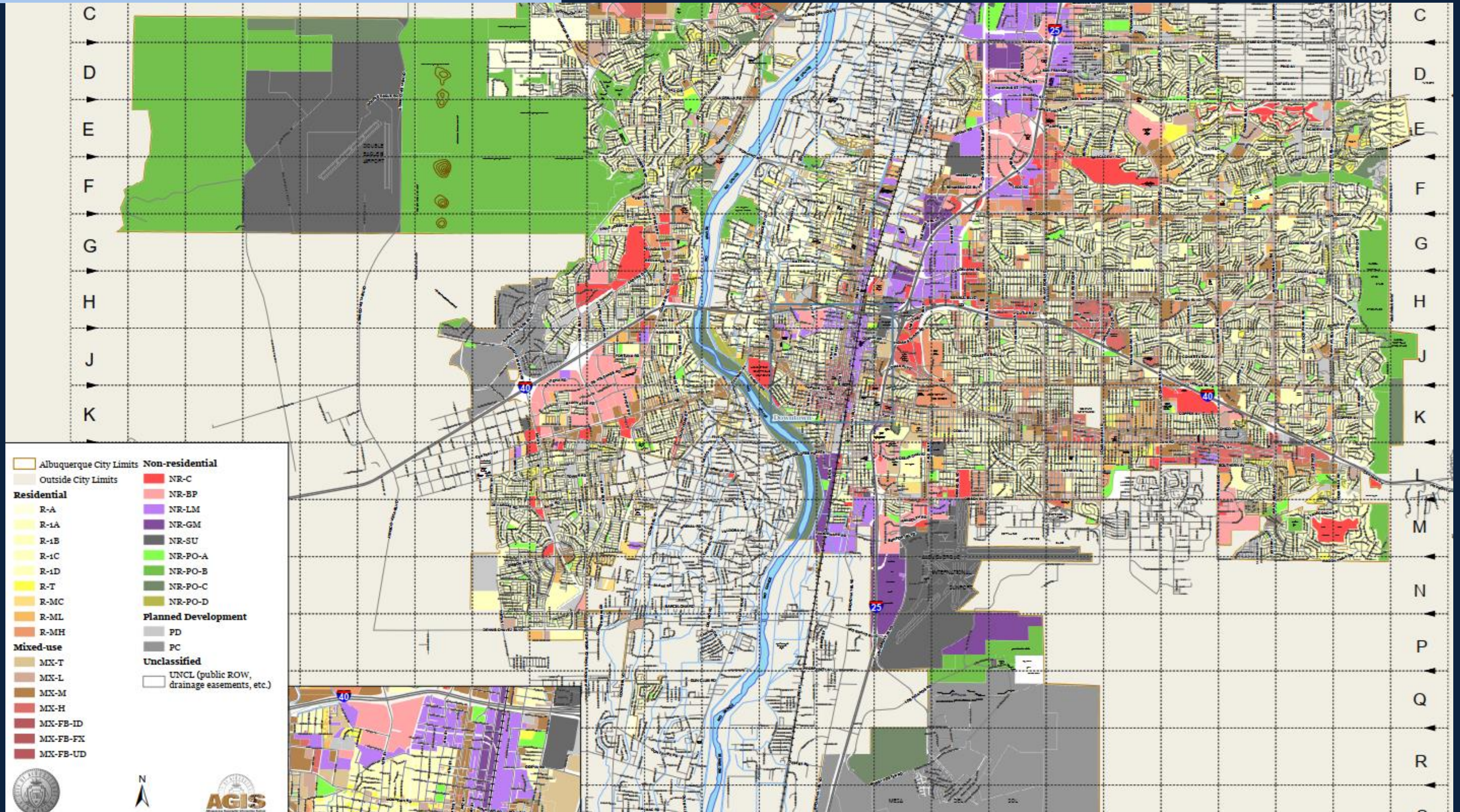
Prevents Sprawl and protects the city's finances by leveraging important infrastructure like ART, transit, and existing roadways

INCREMENTAL (MIDDLE) HOUSING



Missing Middle Housing refers to home types between single-family houses and large apartment buildings. Once common but now often limited by zoning, these include ADUs, duplexes, fourplexes, cottage courts, and small courtyard buildings. They offer more affordable, diverse housing choices while still fitting the scale of lower-density neighborhoods.
Adapted from Opticos Design, Inc.

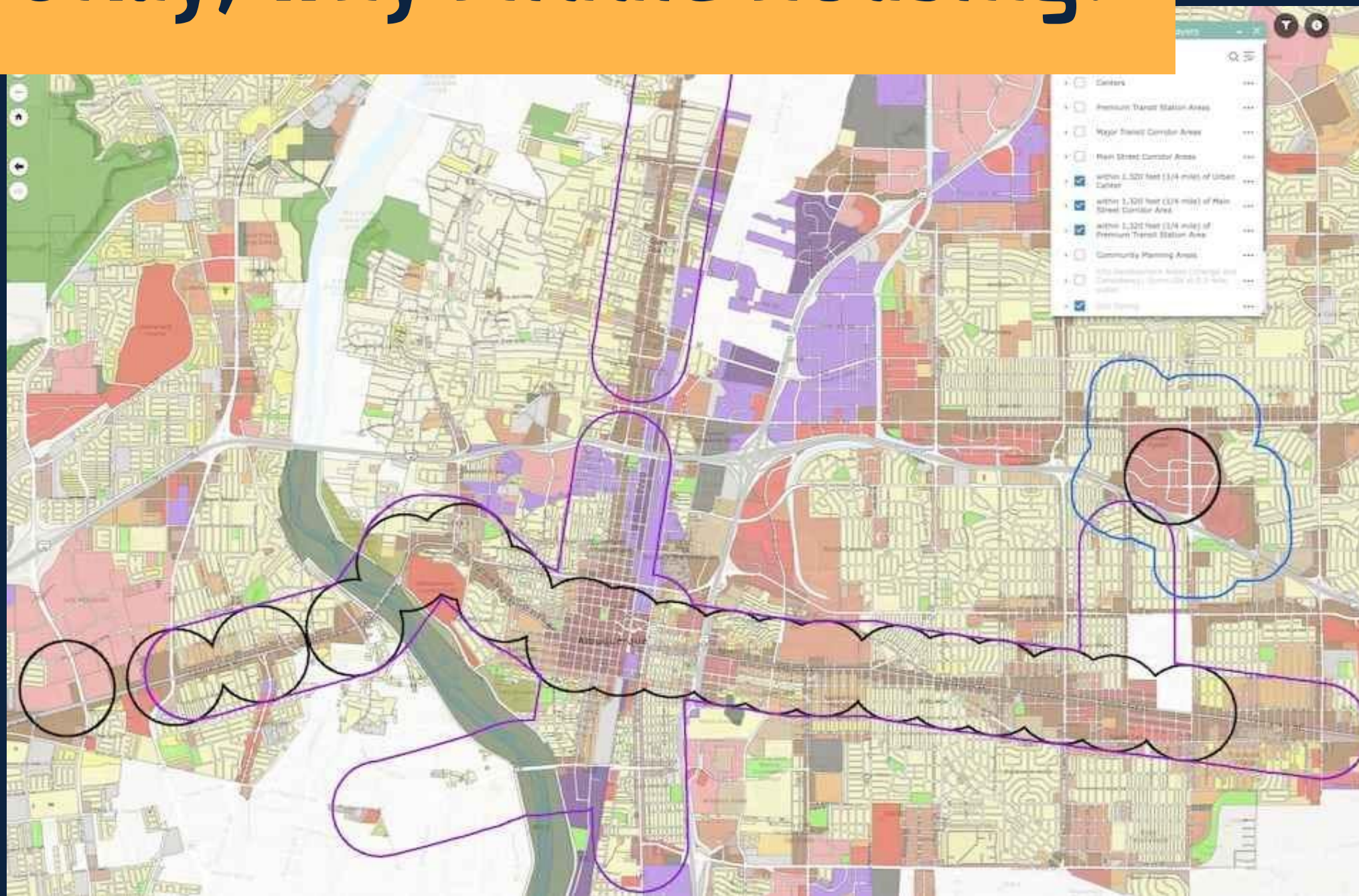
BARRIER TO MIDDLE HOUSING



ABQ Financial Sustainability



Okay, why Middle Housing?



You might hear that thanks to legislation that has legalized many forms of multi-family homes near transit corridors, the “zoning capacity” of the city has been resolved.

This may be true in raw numbers and this is a great improvement. But it leaves out an aspect on home ownership, economic development, and choice.

What happens when we say no?



Albuquerque isn't the only city facing these questions. In 2021, Portland, OR moved beyond single-family zoning and legalized multiplexes and townhomes city-wide

In the time since, Portland has slowly expanded permissions, and home prices have come down. For my friends David and Diana, Portland made homeownership possible in a neighborhood they liked. Townhomes in Albuquerque were more expensive and lacked walkability and bikeability as those in Portland

Detached: Denser & ready for ABQ

One victory in the 2026 IDO Amendment Process was a cottage court legalization provision that passed.

What is a cottage court?

Sometimes called a “pocket neighborhood,” they offer homes, sometimes of different sizes, in detached or semi-detached arrangements. In Albuquerque, a lot of 10,000sq feet is now eligible for cottage courts, about 6-8 homes per average 10,000 sq foot lot.



And ABQ IS Ready



The Rembes were able to pilot cottage courts in New Mexico with their development at Griegos Farms

As they have watched this development become homes, they have noted several things:

- Most required parking is not being used
- Residents fall into two primary categories: Downsizers and young professionals
- Residents wanted these options

Overlap with GAAR

1 Supporting a Vital Economy

3 Housing Choice, Access, & the American Dream

2 Quality Neighborhoods

4 Preserving New Mexico

CAMPAIGN FOR HOUSING REFORM

WHY IT MATTERS

Albuquerque faces a housing crisis, and zoning reform is critical to creating affordable, diverse housing options.

OUR ADVOCACY

We advocate for accessory dwelling units (ADUs), “plexes,” and other missing middle housing to address housing shortages and increase affordability.

EXAMPLES

In cities that have legalized gentle density city-wide, prices fell, targeted displacement was less pronounced, and homelessness decreased.

WHAT DOES BY-RIGHT INCREMENTAL DENSITY LOOK LIKE?

THE IDEA

The next increment of development should be allowed by right in every neighborhood. By-right means no costly hearings or rezoning battles—just predictable, clear rules. This allows housing to grow naturally, without radical shifts or sudden upzoning shocks.

EXAMPLES

A single-family home → can add casitas

A house → can be converted into a duplex or fourplex

A small apartment building → can be built on an underutilized lot

Townhomes → more ownership opportunities

WHY IT WORKS

Prevents radical change while allowing cities to evolve naturally

Encourages local builders and homeowners to add housing, rather than just large developers

Makes housing more affordable by gently increasing supply

WHY IT MATTERS

HOUSING CRISIS

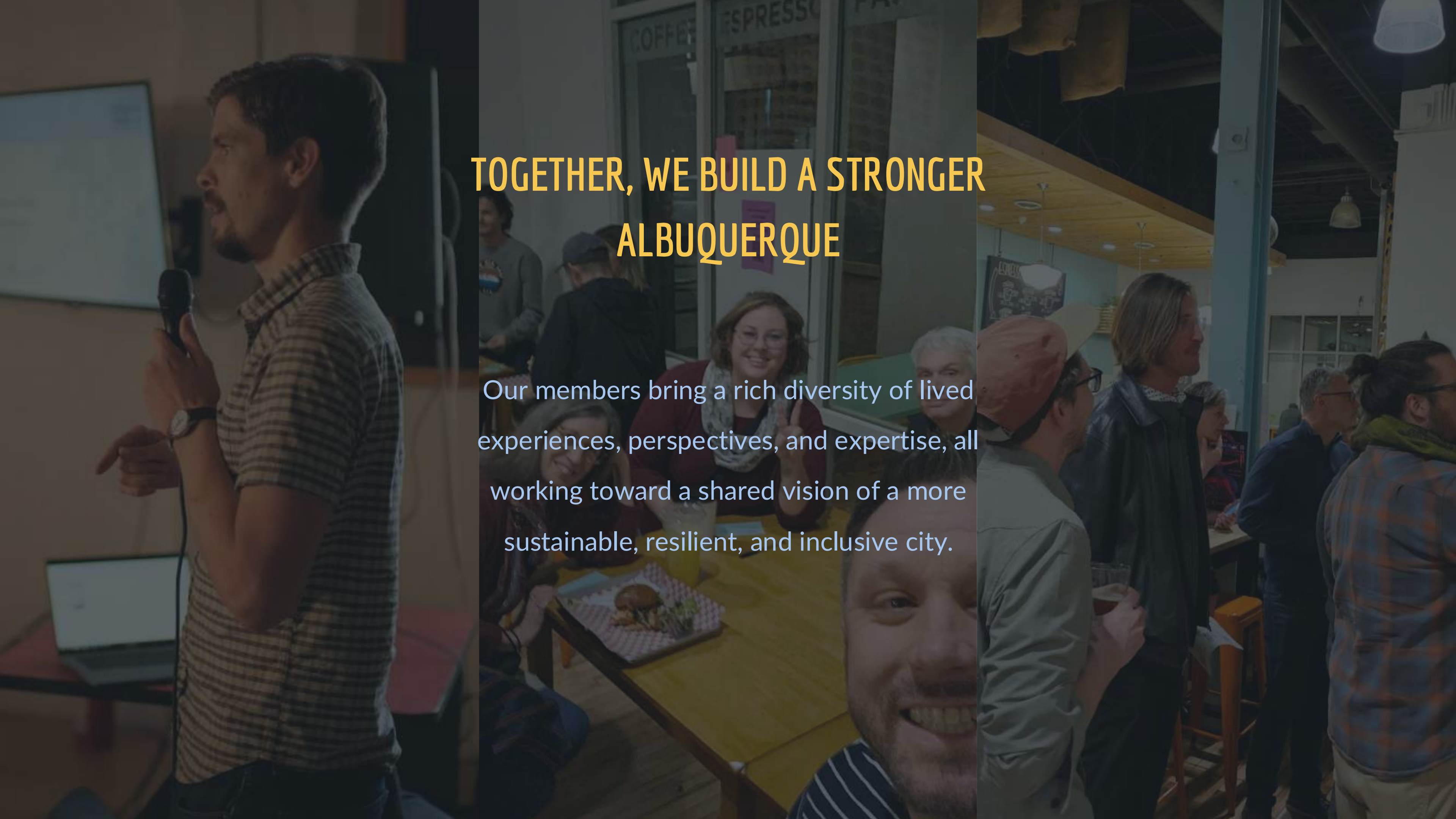
According to the recent Albuquerque Region Housing Needs Assessment, we need 55,000+ new housing units between now and 2045 - and the need is urgent

DEADLY STREETS

Both our city and our state rank among the most deadly in the nation with high rates of injuries and fatalities on our roads. We can do better - and we can build better!

SUSTAINABILITY

Economic strain from inefficient building patterns is beginning to show. Neighborhoods suffer from disinvestment and we can break this cycle together

The image is a horizontal collage of three photographs. The leftmost photo shows a man in profile, wearing a striped polo shirt, holding a microphone and speaking. The middle photo shows a group of people sitting at a wooden table in a casual setting, with a woman in the center smiling and giving a thumbs up. The rightmost photo shows a group of people standing in a room with a wooden ceiling and industrial-style lighting, engaged in conversation.

TOGETHER, WE BUILD A STRONGER ALBUQUERQUE

Our members bring a rich diversity of lived experiences, perspectives, and expertise, all working toward a shared vision of a more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive city.

SUCCESS STORIES



LEGISLATION

We have successfully activated our membership to show up in force in favor of big legislative wins for our city



ENGAGEMENT

With teams in Housing, Highway Expansion prevention, Tactical Urbanism, and suburban community building, we are growing the movement!



COLLABORATION

Collaborating with local organizations such as BikeABQ has widened our reach and helped us achieve our goals while also helping others achieve theirs

OUR MODEL

1

EDUCATION

Members share their experiences and we collectively learn. It is an all-teach, all-learn model where we are always improving, from the bottom up!

2

OUTREACH

We actively engage with community members, stakeholders, and organizations by building relationships rooted in collaboration and shared values

3

ADVOCACY

Advocating for policies like housing reform, safer streets, and efficient transit that align with Strong Towns principles. Using data, lived experiences, and success stories from other communities to make a compelling case for change.

4

COLLABORATION

Seeking opportunities to unite around shared priorities, such as housing, transportation, and sustainability. Emphasizing respectful conversations and inclusive spaces to bridge divides and spark meaningful change.

SMALL BETS, BIG REWARDS

1

OBSERVE

Humbly observe where people in the community are struggling.

2

BE CURIOUS

Ask the question: “What is the next, smallest thing we can do right now to address that struggle?”

3

ACT

Do that thing. Do it right now.

4

REPEAT

Know that this is an iterative process without an ending. Building a Strong Town means being comfortable with the discomfort of change.

What about....? Or, 4 reasonable concerns about adding homes

1

Gentrification & Displacement

“Won’t new development push people out?”

People with more money will compete for the neighborhoods they want to live in whether we build for them or not. When we don't make room for newcomers, they compete for the homes that already exist.

Making room for newcomers can help take pressure off existing homes and residents.

2

NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER

“What if existing neighborhoods don’t want to change?”

Neighborhoods are already changing. Families get smaller, residents age, children move away, housing costs change, and longtime businesses come and go. Trying to freeze the buildings doesn't freeze the community.

Allowing neighborhoods to adapt can help them remain places where people can actually stay, return, and put down roots.

What about....? Or, 4 reasonable concerns about adding homes

3

PROPERTY VALUES

“Will this hurt my home's value?”

A successful housing market shouldn't require every home to become less affordable every year. Middle housing can create more rungs on the housing ladder: a condo, casita, townhome, duplex unit, small house, and detached house don't need to serve the same buyer.

Is the value of a neighborhood only the resale price of its houses?

4

DENSITY

“Won't this make neighborhoods too dense?”

What if “density” just looked like Huning Highland, with casitas, duplexes, and courtyard apartments all mixed together? At roughly 12–30 homes per acre on individual blocks, it doesn't feel like Manhattan. But those extra households do a lot of work!

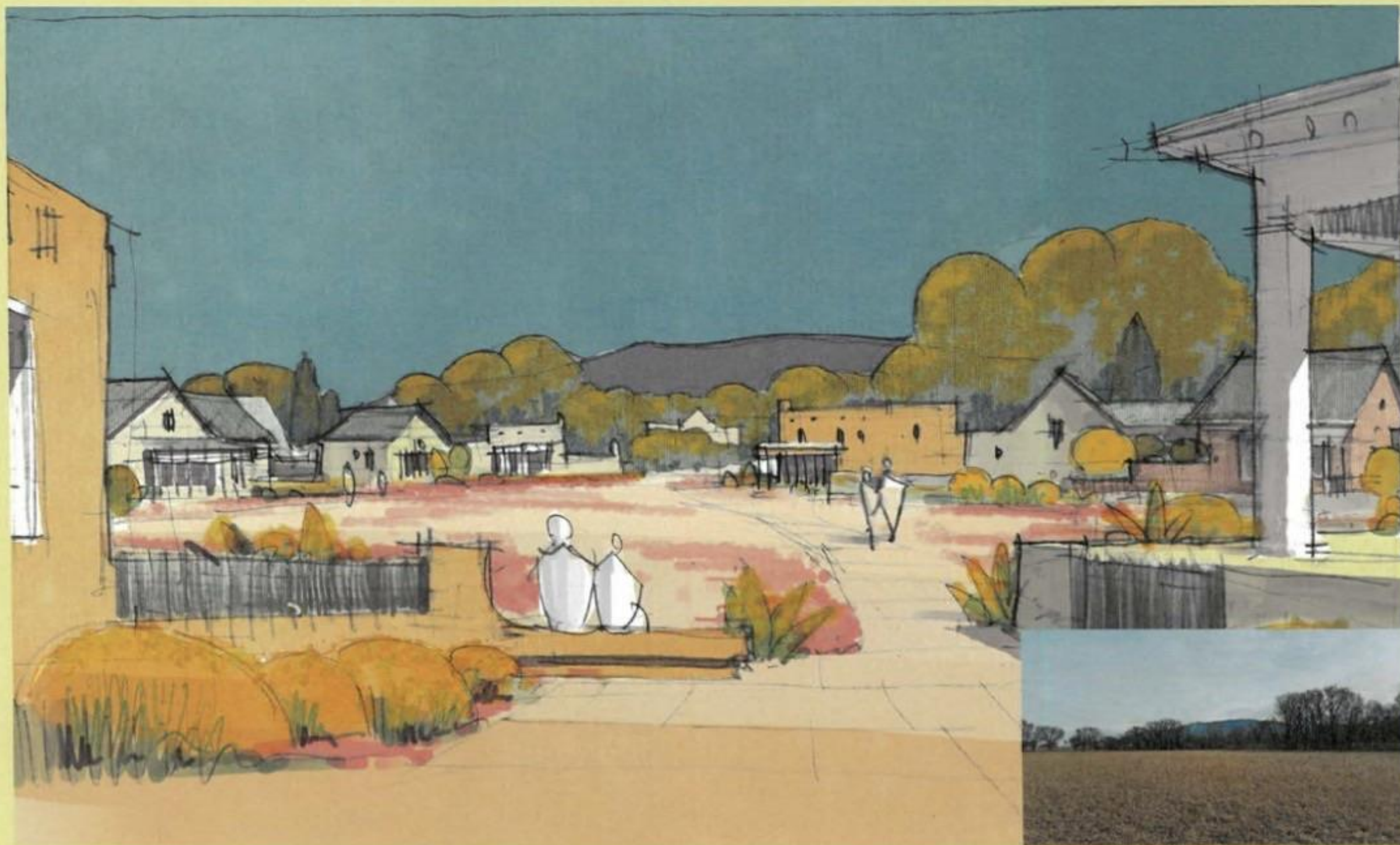
A few more neighbors can help support schools, transit, local businesses, infrastructure, and public services.



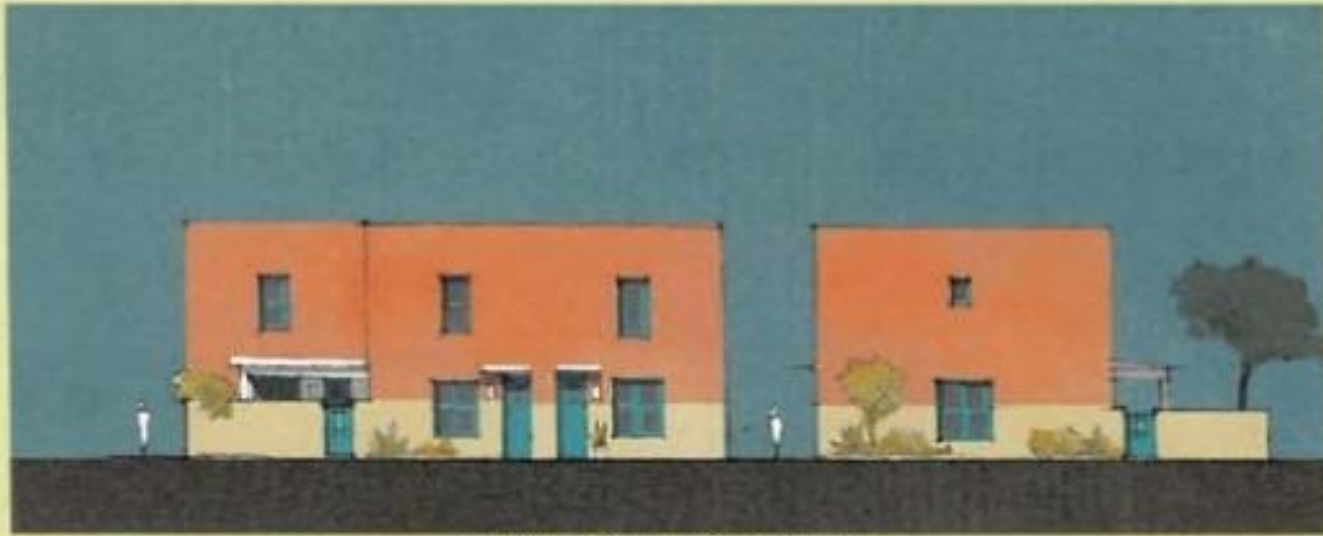




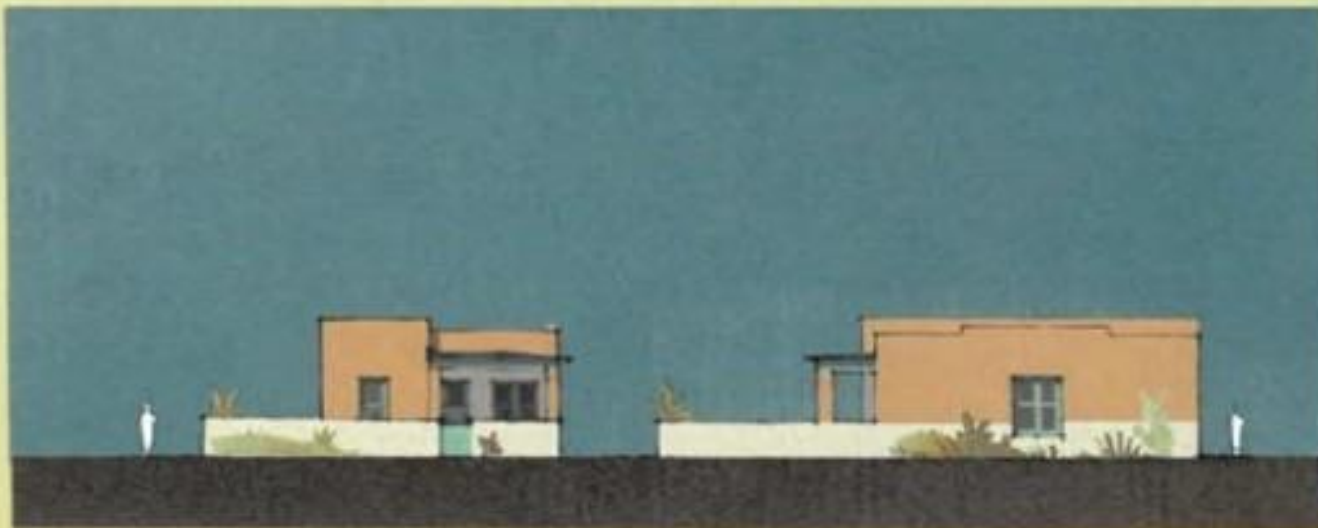




MEADOW ILLUSTRATION



THE TOMASA: 2 STORY | 2 BEDROOM | 2 BATH



THE BLEDSOE: 1 STORY | 1 BEDROOM | 1 BATH



THE DIETZ: 2 STORY | 1 BEDROOM | 1 BATH



THE DERRAMADERA: 2 STORY | 3 BEDROOM | 2 BATH | GARAGE



THE YRISARRI: 1 STORY | 2 BEDROOM | 2 BATH | GARAGE

ELEVATIONS



Site Plan



Scale: 1"=50'





Let's Talk

Questions?

LET'S TALK: WHAT ARE YOU SEEING?

As Albuquerque works to make room for more housing, we'd love your perspective:

- What kinds of homes are buyers looking for that we aren't building enough of?
- Where does financing get difficult?
 - a. ADUs? Duplexes? Small multifamily? Condos? Mixed-use?
- What rules or processes make otherwise viable projects harder to build, buy, or sell?
- What are you seeing with appraisals, insurance, lending, or comparable sales for less conventional housing?
- Where do you see opportunities for incremental development in existing neighborhoods?
- How could Strong Towns ABQ and Albuquerque's real estate community work together?

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

There are many opportunities to learn about the movement and join us!



MONTHLY MEETINGS!

Every third Wednesday of the month! Includes updates, socializing, education, and advocacy.

Task Forces & Campaigns

We have several teams that work on specific issues. If one (or more) excite you, feel free to join!

Social Hours & Hang

Informal, monthly events where you can chat with members of the leadership team.

SUBSCRIBE

Subscribe to our newsletters for updates on events, campaigns, and chances to participate!

CONTACT INFO

Social Hour

Join us at a monthly, informal social hours to chat and learn more

EMAIL ADDRESS

strongtownsabq@gmail.com

WEBSITE

www.strongtownsabq.org

@strongtownsabq



RESOURCES TO LEARN MORE

www.strongtowns.org

Start Strengthening your town with Incremental Development (Article)

<https://www.strongtowns.org/journal/2024/5/6/how-to-start-strengthening-your-town-with-incremental-development>

www.strongtownsabo.org

BOOKS:

“Escaping the Housing Trap” - Charles Marohn

“Confessions of a Recovering Engineer” - Charles Marohn

“The High Cost of Free Parking” - Donald Shoup

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



DISCORD

Chat, organize, and learn on
Discord



FACEBOOK

Follow our Facebook Group



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