RESOLUTION

DECLARING THE CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE’S COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPING A STRONG “TOWN-GOWN” RELATIONSHIP AND ENGAGING IN AN ONGOING, COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LARGEST HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN ALBUQUERQUE – THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO AND CENTRAL NEW MEXICO COMMUNITY COLLEGE – AND BERNALILLO COUNTY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE INSTITUTIONS AND OF THE CITIZENS OF THE ALBUQUERQUE METROPOLITAN AREA; RESOLVING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION STUDY; DESIGNATING PREVIOUSLY APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS RESOLUTION.

WHEREAS, the University of New Mexico (UNM) is one of the largest institutions of higher education in New Mexico, with nearly 22,000 full-time students enrolled at its main campus in Albuquerque; and WHEREAS, UNM is the third largest employer in Albuquerque, with over 14,000 faculty and staff, and provides many other benefits to the city and region; and WHEREAS, the Main campus of Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) is located between UNM Main and South campuses; and WHEREAS, CNM has 12,000 commuter students enrolled at its main campus and an additional 13,000 commuter students enrolled at its other campuses throughout the metropolitan area; and WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque (City) values the contributions that UNM and CNM make to the community through their institutional offerings and revenue generation; and
WHEREAS, in these difficult economic times, it is incumbent upon and behooves governments to work together for the well-being of all parties; and

WHEREAS, City services and facilities, including public transit and roadways, are used on a daily basis by UNM and CNM faculty, staff, and students with the costs of operation and maintenance of those services and facilities paid by City taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, UNM’s 2009 Draft Campus Master Plan Update calls for numerous improvements to City facilities; and

WHEREAS, UNM’s 2009 Draft Campus Master Plan outlines growth strategies to serve the higher educational needs of the city, region, and state and may have impacts on the community that are associated with university expansion and development, namely traffic, congestion, noise, and parking conflicts, which can be proactively addressed if cooperative planning takes place and a constructive working relationship between the municipality/community and university is established ("Town-Gown"); and

WHEREAS, across the country, local governments sign pacts, enter into agreements, or create joint advisory boards with institutions of higher education to create formal partnerships in which parties share responsibilities and have structures available to address issues of mutual concern; and

WHEREAS, national examples of successful and healthy “Town-Gown” relationships should be studied in developing communication, coordination, and collaboration between the City, UNM, CNM and Bernalillo County (County); and

WHEREAS, a healthy partnership between the City, UNM, CNM and the County can result in more efficient delivery of services and the ability of faculty and staff to access their workplaces while protecting established residential neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, UNM and CNM are entities of the State of New Mexico and, therefore, not subject to the jurisdiction, including land use and development regulations, of the City; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive City/UNM/CNM/County transportation study is needed in order to inform federal grant applications and future land-use and infrastructure decisions; and
WHEREAS, the City and the Mid-Region Council of Governments have resources, such as land-use and transit planners, that they can make available to assist UNM and CNM in their planning and development efforts.

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

Section 1. The City of Albuquerque desires to engage the University of New Mexico, Central New Mexico Community College, and Bernalillo County in developing strong “Town-Gown” relationships and establishing a formal agreement in order to create a vehicle for meaningful partnership and consultation to engage and benefit the community and the institutions. The City shall provide resources from Planning Department and Council Services staff to work in collaboration with UNM, CNM, and County planners and staff to research “Town-Gown” best practices and make recommendations to the Mayor, City Council, UNM Board of Regents, CNM Board, and County Commission about how to proceed to develop a healthy and productive working relationship between these entities.

Section 2. As a first step towards establishing an improved working relationship with UNM, CNM, and the County, the City supports and desires to participate in the development of a comprehensive transportation study to be led by the Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG). Such transportation study shall be suitable for use as part of an Alternatives Analysis for an improved public transportation system to serve city and county residents and UNM/CNM faculty, employees, and students. The City shall work with UNM, CNM, and the County to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding that details the parameters and desired outcomes of the study.

Section 3. The following, previously-appropriated funding is designated to pay for the City’s portion of the comprehensive transportation study described in Section 2 above: up to $50,000 in contractual services funding in the Council Services general fund budget and up to $50,000 in contractual services funding in the City Council Projects project within Fund 305, project number 7299990. Study costs will be shared by the participating entities, and exact amounts will be determined based upon further negotiations. Use of
this funding is contingent upon UNM, CNM, and the County providing matching funding to MRCOG for said transportation study.

Section 4. The City calls upon the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, UNM’s Board of Regents, CNM’s Board, the Bernalillo County Commission, and the New Mexico State Legislature, to formally endorse the development of strong “Town-Gown” relationships between the City, UNM, CNM, and the County and to support the effort by contributing matching resources, both financial and staffing, to it.