Inventory of Public Comments on the DRAFT 2009 Master Plan Update

Community Engagement

- Form a community based citizen committee, in conjunction with the planning department to discuss and record advances in the plan, as they unfold. Once again, minutes should be maintained and reported to the UNM President and Board of Regents, on a regular basis. – Michael Kenney, Community Member; 8/11/2009

- Where can I find all the community input and additional commentary on the August 11th Master Plan? – Judith Binder, Neighborhood Resident, 8/31/2009

- Involvement: Our neighborhood was not treated as partner or stakeholder in the development process. Our area is greatly impacted by traffic accessing the UNM North Campus via Girard, Constitution, Lomas and Indian School. Cut Through traffic by medical school students and staff, hospital staff, medical clinic staff, law school students and staff adversely impact the safety of our area and create constant street parking stresses. The density and vast size of the development proposed for the North Campus will dramatically increase this problem. Request: There we ask for true participation in decisions that impact development density and traffic flow. The UNM SWOT report states that a weakness is: "Historic perception that decisions are made without input from those whom they will impact - community, faculty, staff, etc." The Report on Community Engagement & UNM Campus Development, states that "despite this [historic perception] UNM has yet to define a path for community engagement" and adds the examples of the four day Campus Development Visioning Charrette did not include input from community leaders or neighborhood residents. The Report includes several models of other University/community interactions and Master Plan developments that could guide the Regents in how to better interact with the community. – Keith Rasmussen, Summit Park Neighborhood Association Resident; 9/11/2009

- Neighborhood/ Stakeholder Communication and Involvement: The impact that UNM has on surrounding neighborhoods cannot be overstated, and as the largest institution of higher education in the state and one of the largest employers in Albuquerque, UNM has a significant daily impact on city facilities and services, such as roads and the transit system. We feel that the greatest oversight of this Master Plan update process was a failure to engage the City of Albuquerque and the neighborhoods, including neighborhood businesses, which stand to be most affected by UNM's long-term development plans in a meaningful way. 1) The City of Albuquerque is not listed and was not engaged as a partner/stakeholder in the 2009 Master Plan Update process, yet numerous proposals and concepts, specifically those related to transportation and transit, will require the cooperation of City agencies. For example, "Proposed Road Network and Circulation Improvements: for each of the campuses in the Land Use Districts chapter of the Plan will require City of Albuquerque cooperation, approval, and, very likely, capital. However, without formal consultation with and agreement from the City to construct these improvements, the university cannot simply assume that they will happen, which may impact the university's own plans for development in certain areas. 2) The neighborhoods that surround North, Central, and South Campuses are not listed and were not engaged as partners/stakeholders in the 2009 Master Plan Update process but they stand to be most impacted by UNM's long-term development plans: The measures to improve communication with the greater community listed on page 77 of the Plan are good ideas; however, why were they not used as part of the Master Plan Update process itself? 3) The 1996 "Campus
**Community Engagement (cont’d.)**

Development Plan” by Barton Myers Associates lists four City of Albuquerque representatives, including then-City Councilor Angela Robbins, and twenty-two neighborhood representatives as "Study Participants" The 2009 Plan contains no mention of specific City and neighborhood participants. Why were representatives from these groups not invited to participate as they were in 1996? RECOMMENDATIONS: Engage City and neighborhood representatives in discussion about UNM's plans for future development. Invite the District 3 City Councilor, other City representatives (e.g., Planning Department, Municipal Development, Transit), and at least one official representative from each neighborhood to attend official meetings regarding the Master Plan Update and specific projects. View the City of Albuquerque and neighborhoods as partners and resources, not adversaries, in planning for the future of UNM. – *Isaac Benton, et. Al, City Councilor; 9/11/2009*

- Regarding public comment: During the August 11 presentation I saw a couple of slides showing several people looking at posters that illustrated planning ideas. These to me are insufficient evidence that adequate provision was made for ongoing and inclusive public review and comment. As a full-time employee, I never heard of any such opportunities, nor did I even know that a master-planning process was underway. And yes, I routinely read university media and e-mail announcements. – *Frances Strong, UNM Staff; 9/13/2009*

- The opportunity to have ongoing input as a neighbor or as a member of a neighborhood association board could be more democratic, giving us neighbors a permanent seat at the real table. The notion of running ideas by neighbors at meetings suggests to me an institutional lack of faith in meaningful partnership with neighbors to address challenges jointly. The basis of my feelings here is the meeting I attended regarding a Proposed Parking Structure. – *Whitney Durrell, Spruce Park Neighborhood Resident; 9/11/2009*

- Community Relationships: The Master Plan should be an opportunity to improve community relations not just by including community members in the planning process, but also in its material, spatial, and cultural vision for campus development. Initiatives such as light rail stop, bike paths, free parking, and more community/family friendly events (e.g. Grower’s Market on Johnson Field on the weekend) will invite community members onto campus. Preserving and reclaiming green space will also encourage people to come to campus to commune, discuss intellectual ideas, enjoy the shade, and play. – *GPSA, Andrew Marcum, UNM Students; 9/11/2009*