Sustainability

- One of the goals of the master plan is to aid the campus in becoming carbon neutral by the year 2030. Yet, much of this plan further encourages a commuter style campus. The placement of significant student housing at the farthest end of the planned area isolated from retail and transit. A north campus designed around a motor vehicle road system. Ne parking structures to appease those who will not give up their vehicles. A true, flagship, urban-campus, university encourages students to live on campus or near campus to take advantage of the amenities that typically are associated with such a moniker. This plans runs counter to that concept. 2,000 new beds over 10 years is a drop in the budget toward the goals of reaching carbon neutrality and increasing retainment. Not to mention creating a true academic atmosphere in an urban setting in and up and coming city. -- Tim Trujillo, Community Member; 8/28/2009

- (Page 12) We suggest that inclusion under "Promote the health, productivity, etc." of a statement that "Where appropriate, consider Historic Preservation or Adaptive Reuse of existing buildings rather than their removal and replacement by new buildings." Potential sustainability benefits and savings of embodied energy in existing buildings are recognized by current draft LEED guidelines on the reuse of existing buildings. The Master Plan should acknowledge the importance of always assessing the efficacy of this option. – UNM Historic Preservation Committee/ Richard Chapman, Chair; 9/8/2009

- Under the Sustainability Section (p.12)...that states "Promote the health, productivity and safety of the University community through design and maintenance of the built environment," bullets under this heading address topics such as: incorporating energy and water efficiency principles, considering life-cycle costs (what does this mean?) and placing value in facility programming and design that is flexible"; however no bullet specifically calls out the impacts of the built environment on health. The tool of Health Impact Assessment could once again be considered as a strategy for looking at the impacts planning and development decisions have on human health and assist in minimizing harm to human health and maximizing strategies for promoting health. Also under the Sustainability Section, it states: "Develop planning tools to enable comparative analysis of sustainability strategies and to support long term economic, environmental, and socially responsible decision making." Please consider including the phrase "health and public health" in this sentence to continually stress that practices of sustainability have impacts on human health in addition to the already mentioned dimensions of a well functioning community. Again, HIA could be a planning tool to assist in this comparative analysis of sustainability strategies. – Emily Piltch, UNM Staff; 9/11/2009

- I notice an interest in diversifying food choices on campus. I would like to propose a fundraising effort to create an "Edible Schoolyard" project here. Such a project would provide food to be sold throughout campus, an internship/fellowship for a gardener or two, a student affiliated with Art and Ecology, Geography, Landscape Architecture, Sustainability Studies or other programs interested, and exciting alternative to trucked in food. Students could learn about season, food resources, biodiversity and water wise urban gardening. Such a program would also provide a think tank for similar programs around the city and the state in elementary and high schools. Many places around the state are utterly dependent on trucked in foods. I appreciate the focus on bicycles, sustainability and solar power. Great work! – Catherine Page Harris, UNM Faculty; 9/11/2009