

# FUTURE OF ROUTE 66



## Central Avenue Neon Design Overlay Zone (CAN DOZ)

Incentives for Neon Signs on Central Ave.

### What is the CAN DOZ?

The City of Albuquerque has adopted a **Central Avenue Neon Design Overlay Zone (CAN DOZ)**, which covers properties with frontage along Central Avenue from 106th Street to east of Tramway Boulevard.

The CAN DOZ is part of a larger strategy for revitalization along Central Avenue. It is directly related to the encouragement of neon signs along Route 66 to promote the history and identity of the road.

The CAN DOZ provides incentives for the refurbishment of existing neon signs and the development of new neon or neon look-alike signs for properties along historic Route 66. Under the new legislation neon sign dimensions have expanded, allowable heights increased, and permit fees can be waived, making the process of installing an iconic neon sign simpler.

The City's Public Art Program can provide free design assistance to businesses and organizations that comply with CAN DOZ and have a site selected and approved for a sign.

### Features of the CAN DOZ

#### Size and Height Bonuses

**Sign Size:** Free-standing and projecting sign area may be up to 50% over the sign area allowed in the underlying zone, up to a maximum of 250 SF. Building-mounted signs may be up to 25% larger than the sign allowed in the underlying zone.

**Sign Height:** Free-standing signs are allowed to be up to 30 feet, which is slightly higher than the current height limit of 26 feet tall. A building-mounted sign can be up to 10% taller than the building height, up to a maximum height of 35 feet tall. There are some limitations for neon signs mounted on buildings in front of residential uses, so the sign would not be a nuisance to residents.

#### Animation

Traditional neon illumination, such as a sequential change in the illumination of the tubes, is allowed for signs that comply with the design requirements of the CAN DOZ. However, flashing lights and physical movement of a sign and/or its elements do not qualify as animation.



#### CAN DOZ

##### Central Avenue Neon Sign Design Overlay Zone

Incentives for businesses wanting to refurbish existing neon signs or develop new neon or neon look-alike signs along historic Route 66.

#### DESIGN ASSISTANCE

On-call artists available for free neon sign design assistance for businesses within the Design Overlay Zone.

#### LEARN MORE

CANDOZ web page

<http://tinyurl.com/NeonDOZ>

#### CONTACT US

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E-mail [lrumpf@cabq.gov](mailto:lrumpf@cabq.gov)

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## Who is eligible for the CAN DOZ?

Businesses and organizations with properties inside the Central Avenue Neon Design Overlay Zone, who want to refurbish existing neon signs or to develop new neon or neon look-alike signs for properties along historic Route 66. To utilize the CAN DOZ incentives, your proposed sign needs to have 50% or more in neon or neon-like illumination.

## Waiver of Sign Permit Fee and Plan Check Fee

The typical City fees associated with the erection of a sign include sign permit, plan check, electric, and building permit fees. The sign permit and plan check fees are waived\* for signs that comply with the CAN DOZ design criteria, per Ordinance O-13-55:

*“... sign fees and plan check fees shall be waived for signs within the Central Avenue Neon Sign Design Overlay Zone that are approved based upon meeting the Qualifying Signs Design Criteria.”*

\*Other fees (building and electric permits) still apply.

## CAN DOZ application process

To see if your property is located within the new Design Overlay Zone and if it qualifies for the incentives offered by the CAN DOZ, follow these steps:

1. Check your property on the CAN DOZ layer in the City's AGIS on-line mapping system or by viewing the map at <http://tinyurl.com/CANDOZ-map>
2. Make an appointment with the City Design Review Team (DRT) by contacting the Planning Department at (505) 924-3860. This is an informal process focused on design and helping designers and applicants understand and meet the City's various architectural and site layout standards.
3. Once your design is approved by DRT, you will receive a DRT stamp on your plans, which indicates approval of your sign design and the two fee waivers. From there you can submit your sign permit application at the East side front counter of the first floor of the Plaza del Sol building located at 600 Second Street NW, Albuquerque, NM.

## For more information

Contact the Planning Department at (505) 924-3342 or email [lrumpf@cabq.gov](mailto:lrumpf@cabq.gov)

