



City of Albuquerque
Planning Department
Landmarks Commission
P.O. Box 1293
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

Date: April 12, 2023

OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF DECISION

PR-2023-008232
SI-2023-00337
Adoption of City Landmark Designation

The City of Albuquerque Planning Department, requests approval of a City Landmark Designation for the Central Avenue Bridge, located between Tingley Drive and Sunset Road (J-12).

On April 12, 2023 the Landmarks Commission voted to **Approve PR-2023-008232/SI-2023-00337**, based on the following Findings and Conditions of Approval.

FINDINGS for APPROVAL of a request to Recommend Adoption for City Landmark Designation of the Central Avenue Bridge – Case SI-2023-00337/Project # PR-2023-008232 – April 12, 2023. .

1. This application is a request for Designation of a Landmark or Structure located on Central Avenue between Tingley Drive and Sunset Road.
2. The structure is composed of two separate bridge deck units with 16 spans at 75 ft intervals, spanning 1200 ft.
3. The request meets the Designation of a Landmark or Structure Review & Decision Criteria in IDO Section 14-16-6-7(C)(3)(c) as follows:

It is of particular historical, architectural, cultural, or archaeological significance.

The Santa Rosa-Laguna Shortcut is a section of US 66 that was shortened by 107 miles due to the independent construction of the Santa Rosa and Laguna Cut-offs. The two cut-offs were constructed after August of 1926, when Route 66 was officially designated and aligned through New Mexico and, up to October of 1937, when Route 66 was originally rerouted along the new shortcut.

The completion of Central Avenue Bridge by the State of New Mexico was the final hurdle that led the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads to recognize the Santa Rosa-Laguna Shortcut as the future alignment of Route 66. This event made the shortening of Route 66 by 107 miles a reality in 1937.

The Central Avenue Bridge over the flood-prone Rio Grande was essential for transcontinental highway traffic to travel through New Mexico. Every vehicle that went through Albuquerque on Route 66 from 1937 to 1983 traveled over two versions of the Central Avenue Bridge.

1. It is the site of a significant historic event.

The construction and implementation of the bridge in 1930 was the final event that helped federal officials accept the Santa Rosa-Laguna shortcut in New Mexico and realign Route 66 east-west through Albuquerque. The construction of the Central Avenue Bridge in 1930 was the final state funded structure that motivated federal officials to reroute Route 66 and save 107 miles of travel.

Conditions of Approval:

1. If approved, the LC staff would work with the City to ensure that a plaque is placed at the bridge commemorating the significance of the bridge as it was a key part of Route 66 history.

APPEAL: IF YOU WISH TO APPEAL A FINAL DECISION YOU MUST DO SO IN THE MANNER DESCRIBED BELOW. A NON-REFUNDABLE FILING FEE WILL BE CALCULATED AT THE LAND DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION COUNTER AND IS REQUIRED AT THE TIME THE APPEAL IS FILED.

The applicant or any person aggrieved by decision of city staff may appeal the decision of the city staff designated by the Mayor relative to a Certificate of Appropriateness to the Commission. The applicant or any person aggrieved by decision of the Commission (LC) may appeal the decision to the City Council. Any city staff or Commission decision is final unless appeal is initiated by application to the city within 15 days of the decision. The date the determination is not included in the 15-day period for filing an appeal, and if the 15th day falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday as listed in §3-1-12, the next working day is considered as the deadline for filing the appeal. A building permit dependent on a case shall not be issued and a proposed project not requiring a building permit shall not be initiated until an appeal is decided or the time for filing the appeal has expired without an appeal being filed.

The City Council, after consideration of the appeal record, may decline to hear an appeal if it finds that all city plans, policies and ordinances have been properly followed. If it decides that there is substantial question that all City plans, policies and ordinances have not been properly followed or are inadequate, it shall hear the appeal.

ALL CASES THAT RECEIVED APPROVAL ON **April 12, 2023** WILL BE MAILED A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS, AFTER THE 15-DAY APPEAL PERIOD HAS EXPIRED ON **April 27, 2023**.

Silvia Bolivar

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