

Position Paper



Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce **BOARD POSITION**

Action: Approved

Date: 11/20/2014

Chamber Supports Complete Streets Ordinance Albuquerque City Council Bill No. O-14-27

The Board of Directors of the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the Complete Streets ordinance (O-14-27) legislation introduced by Albuquerque City Councilor Issac Benton.

The Complete Streets Ordinance establishes a new city-wide goal to expand safe use of Albuquerque's streets by requiring equal consideration of the efficiency and safety of all types of travel. The ordinance will also adopt nationally-recognized standards for streets to serve existing and future development with appropriate infrastructure that encourages walkability and inviting public spaces. The Complete Streets approach is a nationally recognized framework for designing context-sensitive street facilities that enable safe travel by all users, including the estimated one third of Americans who do not drive. Hundreds of municipalities and more than half of U.S. states have adopted ordinances and policies incorporating Complete Streets Concepts. To date, over 650 agencies at the local, regional and state-level have adopted Complete Streets policies.

The Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce believes that in order for Albuquerque to be competitive in a national economy, we must create a city infrastructure designed and operated to enable safe access for all users. The Complete Streets ordinance will benefit all pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders, and motorists. Creating communities that are safer and more attractive to pedestrians and cyclists is a critical component to advancing Albuquerque's place as an innovative city. The Complete Streets ordinance will also support high traffic areas in becoming more inclusive of all forms of urban transportation, reducing congestion while making streets safer.

Everyone, regardless of age, ability, income, race, or ethnicity, should have safe, comfortable, and convenient access to community destinations and public places—whether walking, driving, bicycling, or taking public transportation. By supporting walkable communities, the Complete Streets ordinance will contribute to increased residential property values and increased sales for businesses located along Complete Streets. Complete Streets improves safety and reduces crashes by providing pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, such as safe crossings, sidewalks, or on-road bicycle lanes. In addition, Complete Streets promotes public health by making it safe and convenient for children and families to incorporate physical activity into their daily lives.

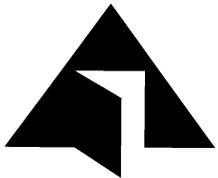
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Background

Albuquerque City Councilor Isaac Benton introduced the Complete Streets Ordinance (O-14-27) at a regularly scheduled Albuquerque City Council meeting on Monday, October 6, 2014. The Ordinance is open to comments and modifications prior to final action. The first formal hearing on the bill was heard on Wednesday, November 12 in the Land Use Planning & Zoning Committee (LUPZ). A second hearing will be held in LUPZ on December 10, 2014, with anticipated final action on the bill during the regularly scheduled Albuquerque City Council meeting on December 15, 2014. The Mid Region Council of Governments has passed a resolution requiring that Complete Streets Principles are to be incorporated into the Council of Governments Planning Documents.



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