
**CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE
CITY COUNCIL**

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Timothy M. Keller, Mayor

FROM: Isaac Padilla, Director of Council Services

for IEP TMM

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Legislation

Transmitted herewith is Bill No. C/S O-24-6 Amending The Complete Streets Ordinance, Of The Revised Ordinances Of Albuquerque, Chapter 6, Article 5, Part 6, Section 5 Definitions To Include A Definition Of Arid Adapted Green Stormwater Infrastructure; Amending Chapter 6, Article 5, Part 6, Section 6 General Policy To Include Green Stormwater Infrastructure In City Medians And Landscape Buffers (Fiebelkorn, Grout, Rogers), which was passed at the Council meeting of April 3, 2024 by a vote of 9 FOR AND 0 AGAINST.

In accordance with the provisions of the City Charter, your action is respectfully requested.

1 **WHEREAS, Complete Streets integrate general purpose roadways,**
2 **sidewalks, bike lanes, transit amenities, traffic calming and convenient**
3 **crossings, to create a balanced transportation system that meets the needs of**
4 **motorized and non-motorized travelers, and persons with disabilities; and**

5 **WHEREAS, Complete Streets promote alternative transportation modes,**
6 **helping to reduce street network congestion and vehicle emissions and**
7 **increase the capacity of the transportation network; and**

8 **WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque adopted the Integrated Development**
9 **Ordinance that established updated regulations for development adjacent to**
10 **public right-of-way, that encourages new land-use patterns that are best**
11 **served by balanced transportation systems that facilitate travel by all users,**
12 **and that requires new roadway construction to follow the Complete Streets**
13 **Ordinance and the Development Process Manual (DPM); and**

14 **WHEREAS, the DPM was updated in 2020 to incorporate the Complete**
15 **Streets Ordinance, and other best practices in engineering and street design;**
16 **and**

17 **WHEREAS, the City’s transportation corridors are designed to collect**
18 **stormwater flows without impacting traffic operations and therefore are suited**
19 **to become platforms for Green Stormwater Infrastructure; and**

20 **WHEREAS, Albuquerque is located on three sloping geologic formations**
21 **including, 1) the foothills of the Sandia and Manzano Ranges, 2) the alluvial**
22 **fans that form the north and Southeast Heights, and 3) the Atrisco**
23 **Escarpment; and**

24 **WHEREAS, these geologic features are subject to the intense summer**
25 **monsoon rains of the Southwestern United States and Northwest Mexico and**
26 **the combination of sloping terrain, and the monsoon rains create intense**
27 **stormwater flows that occur suddenly; and**

28 **WHEREAS, § 14-5-2-7 “Surface Use Of Streets For Drainage And Flood**
29 **Control Purposes” of the Albuquerque City Code of Ordinance requires that**
30 **Albuquerque’s roadways be designed to capture these flows, roadways**
31 **subsequently are built to convey stormwater to underground storm drainpipes**
32 **via inlets in the road’s and gutter pans. Roads could also be constructed to**
33 **direct stormflows to green stormwater infrastructure features; and**

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1 **WHEREAS, Section 12.1.4 of the Albuquerque Bernalillo County**
2 **Comprehensive Plan establishes a policy to reduce or eliminate flooding by**
3 **improving ponding and drainage capacities in an environmentally sensitive**
4 **manner through the development process and in coordination with flood**
5 **control agencies; and**

6 **WHEREAS, Section 12.1.4.a of the Albuquerque Bernalillo County**
7 **Comprehensive Plan establishes a policy to minimize and mitigate stormwater**
8 **run-off from development by limiting the amount and extent of impervious**
9 **surfaces and encouraging landscaped medians and parking swales; and**

10 **WHEREAS, Section 13.2.2 of the Albuquerque Bernalillo County**
11 **Comprehensive Plan establishes a policy to foster the efficient management**
12 **and use of water development and infrastructure; and the watering of street**
13 **landscaping is a heavy water use; and**

14 **WHEREAS, many opportunities remain to improve street rights-of-way,**
15 **especially in established areas of the City, including pre-scheduled projects**
16 **that provide opportunities to consider new configurations; and**

17 **WHEREAS, public demand for sustainable, or ‘green,’ stormwater street**
18 **infrastructure is increasing across a mutigenerational spectrum of people; and**

19 **WHEREAS, best practices for storm water management in arid and semi-**
20 **arid climates utilize green stormwater infrastructure adopted to arid and semi-**
21 **arid climates. These practices mimic natural processes to manage stormwater**
22 **as close to its source as possible, and use stormwater to promote infiltration,**
23 **evapotranspiration, and healthy soils throughout the landscape; and**

24 **WHEREAS, detaining and filtering stormwater on-site, reduces the flow of**
25 **unfiltered stormwater flows into the Rio Grande and bolsters the City’s efforts**
26 **to comply with the requirements of the Regional Municipal Separate**
27 **Stormwater Sewer System Permit issued by the Environmental Protection**
28 **Agency under the Federal Clean Water Act; and**

29 **WHEREAS, this update to the Complete Streets Ordinance shall encourage**
30 **sustainable stormwater management in roadway construction.**

31 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF**
32 **ALBUQUERQUE:**

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1 SECTION 1. Chapter 6, Article 5, Part 6, Section 5 of the Revised
2 Ordinances of Albuquerque is hereby amended to insert a new definition in
3 § 6-5-6-5 DEFINITIONS:

4 **ARID ADAPTED GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE.** A set of
5 practices adapted to arid and semi-arid climates that mimic natural processes
6 to retain and use stormwater. By promoting infiltration, evapotranspiration,
7 and healthy soils throughout the landscape, green stormwater infrastructure
8 preserves and restores the natural hydrologic cycle.

9 SECTION 2. Chapter 6, Article 5, Part 6, Section 6 of the Revised
10 Ordinances of Albuquerque is hereby amended to add a new subsection (K) as
11 follows:

12 **“§ 6-5-6-6 GENERAL POLICY.**

13 The following complete streets principles shall apply to all projects on streets
14 that are within the jurisdiction of this ordinance. All applicable provisions that
15 further the concept of Complete Streets within the Development Process
16 Manual and the Capital Implementation Program must also be considered.

17 (K) Arid adapted ‘Green stormwater infrastructure’ best practices shall be
18 designed and incorporated into road improvement, median, landscape buffer,
19 and bulb-out projects to the extent practicable to allow for stormwater
20 infiltration and landscape irrigation. Green stormwater infrastructure features
21 incorporated into Complete Streets Projects should include:

22 (1). Green stormwater features should be depressed to collect and filter
23 stormwater by biological processes and supply supplemental irrigation to
24 landscape plants.

25 (2). For new roadways and roadways undergoing rehabilitation and
26 rebuilding, the grade of the roadway cross-section shall, to the degree feasible,
27 direct stormwater to the green stormwater features.

28 (3). Excess stormwater not infiltrated should be directed into the existing
29 storm drain system overflow catchment.

30 (4). To allow for maximum stormwater infiltration into the soil, to
31 generate healthy soils that enable and improve the biological filtering process,
32 organic mulch should be used in areas that do not have high flow rates and

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1 non-permeable fabric and other barriers that block infiltration should not be
2 included in green stormwater infrastructure.

3 (5). Green stormwater infrastructure shall be designed for ease of
4 maintenance by including a sediment trap or other best practice for the
5 collection and removal of debris, trash, and sediment.

6 (6). Other features, as needed, which meet the intent of Arid Adapted
7 Green Stormwater Infrastructure as defined in § 6-5-6-5.”

8 SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. If any section, paragraph, sentence,
9 clause, word or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or
10 unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not
11 affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this ordinance. The Council
12 hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance and each section,
13 paragraph, sentence, clause, word or phrase thereof irrespective of any
14 provision being declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid.

15 SECTION 4. COMPILATION. Sections 1 and 2 of this ordinance shall amend,
16 be incorporated in, and made part of the Revised Ordinances of Albuquerque,
17 New Mexico, 1994.

18 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall take effect five (5) days
19 after publication by title and general summary.

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1 PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 3rd DAY OF April, 2024
2 BY A VOTE OF: 9 FOR 0 AGAINST.

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Dan Lewis, President
City Council

APPROVED THIS 12 DAY OF April, 2024

Bill No. C/S O-24-6



Timothy M. Keller, Mayor
City of Albuquerque

ATTEST:


Ethan Watson, City Clerk

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