



American Planning Association
New Mexico Chapter
Making Great Communities Happen

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November 20, 2014

To: Albuquerque City Council
From: American Planning Association New Mexico Chapter

Re: Albuquerque Complete Streets Ordinance (O-14-27)

Dear Council Member:

The American Planning Association New Mexico Chapter (APA-NM) asks that you support the Albuquerque Complete Streets Ordinance (O-14-27) recently introduced by Councilor Isaac Benton. This ordinance will enable Albuquerque to become more walkable, bikeable, and healthier, while improving our economic vitality.

Complete Streets policies ensure that streets are safe for all users and especially more vulnerable users such as bicyclists and pedestrians. Over 600 Complete Street policies have been successfully adopted across the country and several transportation engineering organizations such as the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) and the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) support Complete Streets.

As outlined in the proposed ordinance, Complete Streets have numerous benefits including, but not limited to:

- Active transportation projects help address public health concerns and Complete Streets improve health outcomes
- Complete Streets improve the safety of all users and especially for more vulnerable users of the road such as cyclists and pedestrians
- Complete Streets encourage private investment because businesses will want to be located along streets where people are more likely to walk, bike and linger safely and comfortably
- Complete streets that accommodate all users, create more transportation choices for everyone. Providing infrastructure to encourage active transportation modes such as walking or biking can reduce congestion, improve air quality and decrease pollution

According to several studies, Albuquerque ranks as one of the worst cities in the country for pedestrian and cyclist fatalities. Improving our transportation planning and prioritizing pedestrians, cyclists and transit users for our roadways could significantly reduce the number of injuries and fatalities in our streets. This Complete Streets ordinance provides the needed guidance to make this happen and is an important step in improving Albuquerque's built environment.

For these reasons, APA-NM urges the adoption of this ordinance.

Sincerely,

Sandra Gaiser, AICP
APA-NM President