



To: Councilor Benton, Chair, Land Use Planning & Zoning Committee
From: Members of the New Mexico Complete Streets Leadership Team
Re: Support of the Albuquerque Complete Streets Ordinance
Date: November 5th, 2014

Dear Committee Members:

The *New Mexico Complete Streets Leadership Team* asks you to support the Albuquerque Complete Streets Ordinance being sponsored by Councilor Isaac Benton. This ordinance will enable Albuquerque to become a more walkable, bikeable, and healthy city by ensuring that Albuquerque's streets are designed and operated to enable safe travel by all users.

Complete Streets policies have already been successfully adopted by hundreds of local municipalities, including Austin, Denver, Phoenix, and Seattle. They are also supported by several leading transportation engineering bodies, including 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).

As outlined in the proposed ordinance, Complete Streets have numerous benefits, including:

- Complete Streets *improve the safety* of all users, by providing safe crossings, expanded sidewalks, and dedicated bicycle infrastructure. A complete streets policy would go a long way to reduce Albuquerque's high number of pedestrian and bicycle crashes.
- Complete Streets *accommodate all users, creating more transportation choices* for everyone. This in turn can reduce congestion and air pollution.
- Complete Streets *improve health outcomes* by allowing more people to walk, bike, and take public transit to their desired destinations.
- Complete Streets *increase livability*, by creating more vibrant public spaces that can help attract and retain residents.
- Complete Streets can *encourage private investment* by catalyzing redevelopment activity along newly retrofitted streets. They can also increase business sales by making streets more attractive and accessible to an expanded range of customers.

The ordinance being put forward for your review has the power to achieve these outcomes here in Albuquerque. It is well-drafted and provides flexibility, guidance, an implementation mechanism, and a clear vision for Albuquerque to become a more vibrant, inclusive, and healthy city.

For these reasons, the New Mexico Complete Streets Leadership Team urges the adoption of this ordinance. Together, we can invest in the future of Albuquerque!

Sincerely,

On behalf of the New Mexico Complete Streets Leadership Team