



New Mexico Healthier Weight Council

A collective effort to provide solutions for healthy living to all New Mexicans

December 9, 2104

To: Albuquerque City Council

From: New Mexico Healthier Weight Council

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

Dear Councilor:

The New Mexico Healthier Weight Council (NMHWC) asks that you support the Complete Streets Ordinance (O-14-27) recently introduced by Councilor Isaac Benton. This ordinance will have a positive influence on the health and wellbeing of our citizens.

Complete Streets are designed to enable safe and convenient access for all users. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and public transportation users of all ages and abilities are able to move safely along and across Complete Streets.

What will make our streets more “complete?”

Any combination of the following will assist in helping to make our streets more “complete.”

- Wide sidewalks (set back from the curb)
- Bike lanes or wide shoulders
- Protected mid-block crossings
- Pedestrian median refuges
- Bus shelters
- Transit priority features (e.g., dedicated bus lanes)
- Raised crosswalks
- Audible pedestrian signals
- Sidewalk bulb-outs
- ADA compliant

Benefits of Complete Streets include:

- Increased safety and fewer traffic fatalities
- Enhanced mobility
- More livable communities and less traffic congestion
- Improved public health and engagement in healthier activities
- Reduced transportation costs
- Economic growth

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New Mexico has an abysmal record of pedestrian and bicycle fatalities and better transportation planning could significantly reduce the number of injuries and deaths that occur on our streets. A Complete Streets Ordinance that provides for the comprehensive planning for a// transportation users is long overdue. Please support the Complete Streets Ordinance (0-14-27).

Thank you for your leadership and hard work on behalf of our City.

Sincerely,

Lori Bennison, Wellness Consultant
New Mexico Healthier Weight Council
NMHWC Past Chair