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SENATE MEMORIAL 35

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

INTRODUCED BY

Bill Tallman

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING CONTINUED EFFORTS FOR NEW MEXICO
COMPLETE STREETS.

WHEREAS, the United States department of transportation identifies complete streets as streets designed and operated to enable safe use and mobility for all users, including people of all ages and abilities, regardless of whether they are traveling as drivers, pedestrians or bicyclists or riding on public transportation; and

WHEREAS, complete streets designs can encourage drivers to drive their vehicles at slower speeds and prevent dangerous conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists and motorized vehicles without the need for additional law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, multiple studies by the national complete streets coalition demonstrate that implementation of complete streets

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1 stimulates local economies by raising surrounding property
2 values, spurring private investment and reducing transportation
3 costs for users; and

4 WHEREAS, the American public health association has stated
5 that motor-vehicle related fatalities and injuries, whether
6 impacting drivers, passengers, pedestrians or cyclists, cause
7 an estimated one hundred eighty billion dollars
8 (\$180,000,000,000) in both property damage and health impacts;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, the American association of retired persons
11 public policy institute has officially endorsed the planning
12 concept of complete streets and encourages local, regional and
13 state planning agencies to change policies and procedures so
14 that multimodal accommodations are a routine part of project
15 development; and

16 WHEREAS, the United States office of the surgeon general
17 promotes walking and walkable communities by improving access
18 to safe and convenient places to walk, noting that one out of
19 every two United States adults is living with a chronic
20 disease, such as heart disease, cancer or diabetes; and

21 WHEREAS, the United States office of the surgeon general
22 further cites that street design can support walking and
23 enhance pedestrian safety; and

24 WHEREAS, transportation and travel policies and practices
25 that create or enhance pedestrian and bicycle networks and

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1 expand or subsidize public transit systems can be another
2 approach to encouraging walking for transportation; and

3 WHEREAS, other studies demonstrate how street trees, as an
4 integral part of complete streets, remove substantial volumes
5 of carbon dioxide and other air pollutants, catch significant
6 amounts of storm water, reduce urban heat-island effects and
7 create safer and more sociable neighborhoods, which contributes
8 to a sense of community, economic viability, environmental
9 sustainability and healthier people; and

10 WHEREAS, the New Mexico senate officially declared
11 February 11, 2014 "New Mexico Complete Streets Day"; and

12 WHEREAS, the New Mexico complete streets leadership team
13 consists of more than sixty members statewide with a diversity
14 of technical expertise who diligently advance policies,
15 practices and projects supporting the safety and mobility of
16 all users of public streets and roadways; and

17 WHEREAS, multiple complete streets policies, resolutions
18 and ordinances have been passed throughout the state, and the
19 cities of Las Cruces, Santa Fe, Albuquerque and Farmington have
20 taken steps to integrate complete streets into their planning
21 and regulatory framework through transportation policies and
22 design standards; and

23 WHEREAS, tribal communities in New Mexico have begun to
24 implement complete streets projects, such as the Pueblo of
25 Laguna's roundabout with bicycle and pedestrian safety

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1 features, constructed through a partnership with the New Mexico
2 department of transportation; and

3 WHEREAS, many other New Mexico organizations are
4 instrumental in contributing to complete streets planning; and

5 WHEREAS, in its 2040 long-range transportation plan, the
6 New Mexico department of transportation identified the goal to
7 adopt transportation safety policies related to complete
8 streets, pedestrian design and access management; and

9 WHEREAS, the New Mexico department of transportation's
10 vision and its mission align with complete streets principles,
11 policies and guidelines; and

12 WHEREAS, complete streets supports the New Mexico
13 department of transportation's transition planning requirements
14 in the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and
15 public right-of-way accessibility guidelines; and

16 WHEREAS, federal agencies and the president of the United
17 States issued a call to action to determine why the nation lost
18 thirty-five thousand ninety-two people in traffic crashes in
19 2015, a seven and two-tenths percent increase in deaths from
20 2014; and

21 WHEREAS, national statistics show that in 2014, New Mexico
22 had the highest rate of pedestrian deaths in the United States;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, by 2030, it is estimated that New Mexico will be
25 fourth in the nation with a percentage of people older than

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1 sixty-five, and complete streets planning provides an
2 opportunity to increase the safety and availability of older
3 adults' travel options;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
5 OF NEW MEXICO that it recognize and congratulate the leadership
6 and accomplishments of local and tribal governments, agencies
7 and team members that are committed to the safety of all users
8 of roadways in promoting and implementing complete streets
9 throughout New Mexico; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that complete streets be recognized
11 for its understanding that transportation is about moving
12 people and connecting, supporting and building vibrant
13 communities; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the team members of New Mexico complete streets;
16 the secretary of transportation; the secretary of health;
17 members of the state transportation commission; the tribal
18 liaison for the New Mexico department of transportation; the
19 division administrator of the New Mexico division of the
20 federal highway administration; the secretary of energy,
21 minerals and natural resources; the secretary of economic
22 development; and the chair of the governor's commission on
23 disability.