

SANTA FE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
RESOLUTION NO. 2022-01

**RESOLUTION ADVANCING COMPLETE STREETS AS A
PROVEN COUNTERMEASURE TO ADVANCE SAFER AND MORE
EQUITABLE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVMENTS IN THE SANTA
FE METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA WHILE REDUCING THE
IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.**

WHEREAS the Santa Fe MPO's members have been supporting the principles of Complete Streets since 2007 including the belief that ALL TRIPS HAVE EQUAL VALUE and acknowledge the benefits and value for the public health and welfare of reducing vehicle miles traveled and increasing transportation by walking, bicycling, and public transportation; and

WHEREAS for eight years (2012-2019), the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has ranked New Mexico in the top four states nationwide with the highest rates of pedestrian fatalities per 100,000 population; and

WHEREAS designing streets for speeds over 25 miles per hour dramatically increases the likelihood that a person struck while walking will be killed where designs that self-enforce lower speeds save lives and reduce both speed and driver error; and

WHEREAS Complete Streets are a comprehensive, integrated transportation network with infrastructure and design that supports safe and well managed travel along and across streets for all users, including pedestrians, users and of public transit, bicyclists, persons with disabilities, seniors, children, motorists, visitors, shared mobility services and movers of commercial goods; and

WHEREAS the Santa Fe MPO promotes transportation improvements that encourages walking, bicycling and transit use and see them as equal mobility options to the automobile; and

WHEREAS Complete Streets support the health and wellbeing of residents and the environment by creating and improving sustainable transportation options, providing opportunities for physical activity through improved access to active transportation, improving air quality through reduced vehicle emissions, mitigating the urban heat island effect, utilizing stormwater runoff and decreasing stormwater pollutants, and maximizing shade trees and vegetation; and

WHEREAS Complete Streets are essential in providing safe routes to schools and parks for children and parents; and

WHEREAS the encouragement of diverse and comprehensive public engagement and participation in community decisions concerning street design is critical to community context and to date, public engagement results have revealed a commanding desire for a more walkable, bikeable and transit accessible transportation network; and

WHEREAS streets ought to be designed to not only accommodate safe access for all users, but in a manner in which we create vibrant, attractive and sustainable public places that advance ambitious but reasonable environmental and social equity goals; and

WHEREAS the implementation of complete streets helps to shift toward carbon neutrality and is a sustainable planning practice, both of which are consistent with Santa Fe’s Sustainability Plan and Climate Impact Reduction Goals”; and

WHEREAS streets designed for all users and not for commuter convenience offers long-term cost savings for local and state governments, provide public health benefits and provide financial benefits to property owners and businesses; and

WHEREAS there is a continued and urgent recognition that impacts of climate change are occurring more frequently and with added severity where the further design and promotion of a multi-modal, regional transportation system contributes to a comprehensive strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS the MPO and members agree to prioritize the inclusion of complete streets in the review of new developments, new road construction or retrofits of existing roads, project funding priorities, and in other instances involving a potential change to the design of any street; and

WHEREAS the Santa Fe MPO and members therefore, in light of the foregoing benefits and considerations including more urgent safety needs and climate change impacts, wishes to improve its commitment to Complete Streets and desires for its streets form a comprehensive and integrated transportation network promoting safe and convenient travel for all users while preserving flexibility, recognizing community context, sustainability and social equity and using design guidelines and standards that support best practices;

WHEREAS that the attached graphic summary of the benefits of complete streets within the Santa Fe Metropolitan Planning Area articulate a vision of how roads and streets may be repurposed to advance multiple goals of member agencies around

sustainability, community, affordable housing, safety, economic development and public health and are representative of our commitment to further advance these goals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Santa Fe MPO, as follows: That the Santa Fe MPO affirms its commitment to Complete Streets as a core value and this resolution shall inform and guide the development or revision of land use plans, regulations and codes where the design and construction of streets form a comprehensive, safe and integrated transportation network for all road users and recognizes that it is not just a responsibility of one department but has critical implications across multiple departmental and division functions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Santa Fe MPO, as follows: That the Santa Fe MPO shall strive to support the reconstruction of existing roadways and offer design guidelines for new developments in a manner that support the design elements described herein.