

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY FOURTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. F/S R-21-182 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Klarissa J. Peña

1 RESOLUTION

2 ESTABLISHING CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS FOR 118TH STREET FROM
3 INTERSTATE 40 TO SENATOR DENNIS CHAVEZ BOULEVARD AS A PRIORITY
4 FOR THE CITY ALBUQUERQUE FUNDING PROCESSES, ENCOURAGING THE
5 NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PRIORITIZE THE
6 APPROVAL AND CONSTRUCTION OF AN INTERCHANGE AT INTERSTATE 40
7 AND 118TH STREET, FORMING A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COUNTY OF
8 BERNALILLO TO DEVELOP 118TH STREET.

9 WHEREAS, the Mid Region Metropolitan Planning Organization 2040 Long
10 Range Roadway System Map designates 118th Street from Interstate 40 to
11 Senator Dennis Chavez Boulevard as a Community Principle Arterial; and

12 WHEREAS, Community Principle Arterials, which include roadways such
13 as Eubank Boulevard, Montañó Road/Montgomery Boulevard, and San Mateo
14 Boulevard, are the primary commercial and commuter through-fares for the
15 City; and

16 WHEREAS, transportation connections between the places that residents
17 live, work, play and learn is key to enhancing quality of life; and WHEREAS,
18 Community Principle Arterials in addition to moving large volumes of traffic
19 provide robust access to adjacent lands uses are the City's primary economic
20 corridors for the provision of commercial and government services and siting
21 large employers; and

22 WHEREAS, over 100,000 residents of Albuquerque reside on the Southwest
23 Mesa. The residents of this area are more likely to live in households with
24 Children under 18, are a person of color, speak a primary language other than
25 English, and have an average household income below the median income;
26 and

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1 WHEREAS, policy 6.5.1.a of the City’s Comprehensive Plan supports
2 reducing household transportation costs by improving mobility and choice
3 among modes. Policy 6.5.1.b supports prioritizing transportation investments
4 to underserved and underrepresented neighborhoods to respond to distinct
5 needs within Community Planning Areas. Policy 6.5.1 c supports prioritizing
6 transportation investments in Metropolitan Redevelopment Areas and in areas
7 underserved by private development; and

8 WHEREAS, the Albuquerque City Council adopted R-20-75, strengthening
9 and reaffirming the City of Albuquerque’s commitment to addressing racial
10 and social inequity and the City is committed to working toward better
11 addressing racial disparities and equity concerns in all capital projects. And
12 that the strategies necessary to address racial and social equity require
13 intention and action at the policy, process, program and service delivery
14 levels; and

15 WHEREAS, following the adoption of R-20-75 the City Council adopted R-
16 20-85, creating a community equity criterion to be used in the implementation
17 of the City’s Capital Implementation Program; and

18 WHEREAS, Albuquerque residents living in the Southwest Mesa who
19 reside within close proximity of 118th Street do not have the same degree of
20 access to transit stops, hospitals, grocery stores, public open space and other
21 basic services that ensure their quality of life as residents living in other parts
22 of the City; and

23 WHEREAS, failures In the City’s development approval and zoning
24 processes resulted in the Southwest Mesa, being severely deficient in critical
25 community infrastructure including, community centers, fire Stations, parks,
26 recreation fields, retail stores, roadways, storm sewers, street lighting; and

27 WHEREAS, the residents of the Southwest Mesa must use the Southwest
28 Mesa’s underdeveloped roadway system to travel to other quadrants of the
29 City to reach basic services that are absent in the Southwest Mesa; and

30 WHEREAS, according to the American Community Survey 2018 data, 82.6%
31 of commuters in the Southwest Mesa drove themselves to work alone, another
32 12.8% carpooled, 2% worked from home, 1.4% used transit, 0.8% walked, and
33 0.3% used an alternative means of transport; and

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1 WHEREAS, 118th and 98th Streets and Central Avenue are the only
2 designated Community Principle Arterials for the 100,000 residents of the
3 Southwest Mesa and 118th Street has yet to develop, leaving two Community
4 Principle Arterials for the area. The consequence of this dearth of principle
5 arterials is evident in the lack of commercial services and employment
6 generators in the area and the long commute times endured by area residents
7 to reach such services in other quadrants of the City; and

8 WHEREAS, the regional complex of medical facilities for the Northwest and
9 Southwest Mesas will be located north of the Interchange of Interstate 40 and
10 118th Street. Access for resident of the Southwest Mesa to the center will
11 require the development of 118th Street from Senator Dennis Chavez to
12 Interstate 40 and the construction of an interchange of Interstate 40 with 118th
13 Street; and

14 WHEREAS, The residents that live along the one developed section of 118th
15 Street between Amole Mesa Avenue and Senator Dennis Chavez, travel an out
16 of direction route to reach services north and east of their location causing
17 extensive travel time for the simplest of errands; and

18 WHEREAS, Atrisco Heritage Academy, which has the third largest
19 enrollment in the region behind only the main campuses of the University of
20 New Mexico and Central New Mexico Community College is located on 118th
21 Street. Senator Dennis Chavez is the only street that links the neighborhoods
22 of the Southwest Mesa, via 98th Street and Unser Boulevard to the high school.
23 The development of 118th Street will allow parents, students and staff another
24 option for their commute to the school; and

25 WHEREAS, residential subdivision development in the Southwest Mesa,
26 after a 10-year hiatus, is restarting including a new 151-home subdivision
27 along 118th Street which will increase the number of commuters on 98th Street
28 and Unser Boulevard. Constructing 118th Street will help alleviate traffic along
29 these routes; and

30 WHEREAS, there are insufficient connections onto Interstate 40 from the
31 Southwest Mesa. Mesa residents use 98th Street or Unser Boulevard to access
32 Interstate 40, which overloads the interchange with traffic creating long travel

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1 time delays due to congestion during the peak morning and evening hours;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, with the development of the employment center on Atrisco
4 Vista Boulevard an access point along 118th Street will allow Southwest Mesa
5 residents, who commute to the Atrisco Vista employment center, another
6 option to access homes in the western section of the Southwest Mesa; and

7 WHEREAS, much of the corridor that will become 118th Street is within
8 unincorporated Bernalillo County, it is located in undeveloped areas and the
9 primary users of the road will be the residents of the residential subdivisions
10 located several hundred feet east of 118th Street and that are located within the
11 City Limits; and

12 WHEREAS, the lands west of 118th Street are on a slope and will likely not
13 undergo development in the foreseeable future, and to develop the roadway in
14 a reasonable time period will require a public funded project; and

15 WHEREAS, the County of Bernalillo in 2019 completed a study that
16 establishes a right of way corridor for 118th Street, and site plan has been
17 presented to the County Planning Department for a development that would
18 construct 118th Street from Central Avenue to Sunset Gardens; and

19 WHEREAS, the County of Bernalillo due to limited access to property tax
20 mill levies to finance capital projects, must utilize federal transportation gas
21 tax funding or other special appropriations to finance the development of
22 roadways and developer dedications; and

23 WHEREAS, the County of Bernalillo has adopted AR-2021-72 establishing
24 the development of 118th Street as a priority of County Commission District 2;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, the County of Bernalillo has expressed a willingness to join
27 with the City to pursue Federal Surface Transportation Planning Urban
28 formula Grants to fund the development of 118th Street and to develop and
29 provide a 30% engineering study that will identify the location of the right of
30 way, determine the design cross-sections, and provide cost estimates to fully
31 develop the roadway; and

32 WHEREAS, a significant portion of 118th Street from Cartegena Avenue
33 to Interstate 40 is in unincorporated County of Bernalillo. The County has

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1 stated a willingness to partner with the City to develop the roadway through
2 the adoption of AR-21-72, which establishes the development of 118th Street
3 and the Interchange at Interstate 40 as a priority of County Commission
4 District 2; and

5 WHEREAS, the development of 118th will require cooperation and
6 agreement between the City of Albuquerque and the County of Bernalillo; and

7 WHEREAS, as made evident in the findings in this Resolution, designating
8 the development of 118^t Street from Interstate 40 to Senator Dennis Chavez is
9 necessary for the orderly development of the Southwest Mesa of Albuquerque
10 and to provide for the residents' public health welfare and Safety and
11 appropriately apply the City equity policies.

12 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
13 ALBUQUERQUE:

14 Section 1. To fulfill the City of Albuquerque's responsibility to provide for
15 the health welfare and safety of its citizens, especially for the purpose of
16 resolving issues of inequity that have occurred though the development of the
17 City's built environment it is a priority of the City of Albuquerque to develop
18 and construct to the full planned cross-section, 118TH Street from Interstate 40
19 to Senator Dennis Chavez. Development of the segment should:

- 20 1. Comply with the City's Complete Streets regulations by
21 accommodating for multiple modes of travel including motor vehicle, bicycles
22 and pedestrians and providing landscaping.
- 23 2. Comply with Federal standards for roadway projects in Metropolitan
24 Planning Areas to improve system efficiency throughout the Southwest Mesa.
- 25 3. Comply with Federal Environmental standards for roadway projects
26 to protect the health of the natural environment.

27 Section 2. The City of Albuquerque encourages the New Mexico
28 Department of Transportation and the New Mexico Transportation
29 Commission to designate as a New Mexico Department of Transportation
30 District 3 priority, the development of an interchange of 118th Street with
31 Interstate 40. This should include the facility planning, all federal regulatory
32 approval processes, design, engineering and construction.

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1 Section 3. The City should assist the County of Bernalillo with the
2 engineering planning study that will develop conceptual cross-sections, for
3 118th Street, identify the right of way corridor, and provide estimated
4 development costs for the purposes of identifying funds.

5 Section 4. That funding the development of 118th Street and the
6 Interchange is a City priority when seeking funds from the following revenue
7 programs:

- 8 – City of Albuquerque Capital Implementation Program for Calendar
9 Years, 2023, 2025 and 2027,
- 10 – Programing new City of Albuquerque revenue that occurs in the
11 Infrastructure Gross Receipts Tax Fund and One Time Federal
12 Government Stimulus Funds,
- 13 – The City of Albuquerque State Legislative priorities for the purposes
14 of procuring state funding for calendar years 2022 through 2027.
- 15 – Acquiring project funds from the New Mexico Department of
16 Transportation Local Government Road Fund,
- 17 – Acquiring project funds in the 2025 through 2030 Transportation
18 Improvement Program for the Mid Region Metropolitan Planning
19 Organization, and
- 20 – Acquiring project funds from the Federal Highway Administration
21 Discretionary Grant Programs.

22 Section 5. That the City of Albuquerque will work with the County of
23 Bernalillo to pursue a Federal Transportation Formula and Competitive
24 Grants to fund the construction of 118th Street.

25 Section 6. The City of Albuquerque will form a working group with the
26 County of Bernalillo that will reach out to land owners to create zoning along
27 118th Street that creates commercial development opportunities.