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1 WHEREAS, Complete Streets integrate general purpose roadways,
2 sidewalks, bike lanes, transit amenities, traffic calming and convenient
3 crossings, to create a balanced transportation system that meets the needs of
4 motorized and non-motorized travelers, and persons with disabilities; and
5 WHEREAS, Complete Streets promote alternative transportation modes,
6 helping to reduce street network congestion and vehicle emissions and
7 increase the capacity of the transportation network; and
8 WHEREAS, the City of Albuquerque adopted the Integrated Development
9 Ordinance that established updated regulations for development adjacent to
10 public right-of-way, that encourages new land-use patterns that are best
11 served by balanced transportation systems that facilitate travel by all users,
12 and that requires new roadway construction to follow the Complete Streets
13 Ordinance and the Development Process Manual (DPM); and
14 WHEREAS, the DPM was updated in 2020 to incorporate the Complete
15 Streets Ordinance, and other best practices in engineering and street design;
16 and
17 WHEREAS, the City’s transportation corridors are designed to collect
18 stormwater flows without impacting traffic operations and therefore are suited
19 to become platforms for Green Stormwater Infrastructure; and
20 WHEREAS, Albuquerque is located on three sloping geologic formations
21 including, 1) the foothills of the Sandia and Manzano Ranges, 2) the alluvial
22 fans that form the north and Southeast Heights, and 3) the Atrisco
23 Escarpment; and
24 WHEREAS, these geologic features are subject to the intense summer
25 monsoon rains of the Southwestern United States and Northwest Mexico and
26 the combination of sloping terrain, and the monsoon rains create intense
27 stormwater flows that occur suddenly; and
28 WHEREAS, § 14-5-2-7 “Surface Use Of Streets For Drainage And Flood
29 Control Purposes” of the Albuquerque City Code of Ordinance requires that
30 Albuquerque’s roadways be designed to capture these flows, roadways
31 subsequently are built to convey stormwater to underground storm drainpipes
32 via inlets in the road’s and gutter pans. Roads could also be constructed to
33 direct stormflows to green stormwater infrastructure features; and

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1 WHEREAS, Section 12.1.4 of the Albuquerque Bernalillo County
2 Comprehensive Plan establishes a policy to reduce or eliminate flooding by
3 improving ponding and drainage capacities in an environmentally sensitive
4 manner through the development process and in coordination with flood
5 control agencies; and

6 WHEREAS, Section 12.1.4.a of the Albuquerque Bernalillo County
7 Comprehensive Plan establishes a policy to minimize and mitigate stormwater
8 run-off from development by limiting the amount and extent of impervious
9 surfaces and encouraging landscaped medians and parking swales; and

10 WHEREAS, Section 13.2.2 of the Albuquerque Bernalillo County
11 Comprehensive Plan establishes a policy to foster the efficient management
12 and use of water development and infrastructure; and the watering of street
13 landscaping is a heavy water use; and

14 WHEREAS, many opportunities remain to improve street rights-of-way,
15 especially in established areas of the City, including pre-scheduled projects
16 that provide opportunities to consider new configurations; and

17 WHEREAS, public demand for sustainable, or ‘green,’ stormwater street
18 infrastructure is increasing across a mutigenerational spectrum of people; and

19 WHEREAS, best practices for storm water management in arid and semi-
20 arid climates utilize green stormwater infrastructure adopted to arid and semi-
21 arid climates. These practices mimic natural processes to manage stormwater
22 as close to its source as possible, and use stormwater to promote infiltration,
23 evapotranspiration, and healthy soils throughout the landscape; and

24 WHEREAS, detaining and filtering stormwater on-site, reduces the flow of
25 unfiltered stormwater flows into the Rio Grande and bolsters the City’s efforts
26 to comply with the requirements of the Regional Municipal Separate
27 Stormwater Sewer System Permit issued by the Environmental Protection
28 Agency under the Federal Clean Water Act; and

29 WHEREAS, this update to the Complete Streets Ordinance shall encourage
30 sustainable stormwater management in roadway construction.

31 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
32 ALBUQUERQUE:

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1 SECTION 1. Chapter 6, Article 5, Part 6, Section 5 of the Revised
2 Ordinances of Albuquerque is hereby amended to insert a new definition in
3 § 6-5-6-5 DEFINITIONS:

4 *ARID ADAPTED GREEN STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE.* A set of
5 practices adapted to arid and semi-arid climates that mimic natural processes
6 to retain and use stormwater. By promoting infiltration, evapotranspiration,
7 and healthy soils throughout the landscape, green stormwater infrastructure
8 preserves and restores the natural hydrologic cycle.

9 SECTION 2. Chapter 6, Article 5, Part 6, Section 6 of the Revised
10 Ordinances of Albuquerque is hereby amended to add a new subsection (K) as
11 follows:

12 “§ 6-5-6-6 GENERAL POLICY.

13 The following complete streets principles shall apply to all projects on streets
14 that are within the jurisdiction of this ordinance. All applicable provisions that
15 further the concept of Complete Streets within the Development Process
16 Manual and the Capital Implementation Program must also be considered.

17 (K) Arid adapted ‘Green stormwater infrastructure’ best practices shall be
18 designed and incorporated into road improvement, median, landscape buffer,
19 and bulb-out projects to the extent practicable to allow for stormwater
20 infiltration and landscape irrigation. Green stormwater infrastructure features
21 incorporated into Complete Streets Projects should include:

22 (1). Green stormwater features should be depressed to collect and filter
23 stormwater by biological processes and supply supplemental irrigation to
24 landscape plants.

25 (2). For new roadways and roadways undergoing rehabilitation and
26 rebuilding, the grade of the roadway cross-section shall, to the degree feasible,
27 direct stormwater to the green stormwater features.

28 (3). Excess stormwater not infiltrated should be directed into the existing
29 storm drain system overflow catchment.

30 (4). To allow for maximum stormwater infiltration into the soil, to
31 generate healthy soils that enable and improve the biological filtering process,
32 organic mulch should be used in areas that do not have high flow rates and

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1 non-permeable fabric and other barriers that block infiltration should not be
2 included in green stormwater infrastructure.

3 (5). Green stormwater infrastructure shall be designed for ease of
4 maintenance by including a sediment trap or other best practice for the
5 collection and removal of debris, trash, and sediment.

6 (6). Other features, as needed, which meet the intent of Arid Adapted
7 Green Stormwater Infrastructure as defined in § 6-5-6-5.”

8 SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. If any section, paragraph, sentence,
9 clause, word or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or
10 unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not
11 affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this ordinance. The Council
12 hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance and each section,
13 paragraph, sentence, clause, word or phrase thereof irrespective of any
14 provision being declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid.

15 SECTION 4. COMPILATION. Sections 1 and 2 of this ordinance shall amend,
16 be incorporated in, and made part of the Revised Ordinances of Albuquerque,
17 New Mexico, 1994.

18 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall take effect five (5) days
19 after publication by title and general summary.

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