

# CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

## TWENTY THIRD COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-18-40 ENACTMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSORED BY: Isaac Benton

1 RESOLUTION

2 ESTABLISHING CITY POLICY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DOWNTOWN  
3 WALKABILITY IMPROVEMENTS; REPEALING AND REPLACING R-15-152  
4 (ENACTMENT R-2015-024)

5 WHEREAS, the City Council in early 2014 commissioned Jeff Speck, a  
6 nationally-known urban planner, designer and author, to study the overall  
7 walkability of the city's core and make recommendations for pedestrian,  
8 bicycle and traffic improvements that could be implemented there [which  
9 resulted in the Albuquerque Downtown Walkability Analysis submitted by Mr.  
10 Speck on September 5, 2014 (the "report")]; and

11 WHEREAS, this study involved close coordination and dialogue with  
12 relevant city agencies and stakeholder groups, including the Department of  
13 Municipal Development, ABQ Ride, Downtown residents and business owners,  
14 and revitalization leaders; and

15 WHEREAS, the report makes recommendations for vehicle lane  
16 reconfigurations, bicycle facilities, roadway realignments and sidewalk  
17 improvements that could improve circulation and livability in Downtown; and

18 WHEREAS, the report also makes policy recommendations aimed at  
19 encouraging the continued revitalization and redevelopment of the area and  
20 addressing challenges such as parking, safety and street trees; and

21 WHEREAS, these recommendations include many that could be  
22 implemented inexpensively during already-scheduled roadway maintenance  
23 and small improvement projects, such as restriping lanes and enhancing  
24 signalization, and others that warrant further consideration and/or  
25 prioritization of funding, such as providing at-grade pedestrian and/or traffic  
26 crossings over the railroad tracks for some east-west streets, conversion of

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one-way streets to two-way facilities, and reducing vehicle lanes to calm traffic on major thoroughfares; and

WHEREAS, many of the recommendations aim to further enhance current redevelopment efforts, such as Innovate ABQ, Bus Rapid Transit and the Rail Yards redevelopment with timely improvements to the public right-of-way; and

WHEREAS, none of the recommendations are in conflict with the current planning regulations and land-use policies established for the area ~~[by the Downtown 2025 Sector Development Plan,]~~ and would implement many of the [relevant] recommendations ~~[of that plan]~~ for place-making and walkability; and

[WHEREAS, although R-15-152 as adopted establishes the current policy for the continued development, maintenance and upgrade of public transportation facilities in Downtown; and

WHEREAS, continued progress toward a more vibrant and walkable Downtown is dependent on the adherence to the well-studied and well-reasoned policies established by R-15-152, and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding, certain improvements made pursuant to R-15-152 have recently been reversed or otherwise abandoned to the detriment of downtown; and

WHEREAS, in order to ensure consistent and predictable future progress consistent with R-15-152 a revised resolution may be necessary to clarify and better implement the guiding policies established by the City Council;]

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

[SECTION 1. R-15-152 is hereby repealed in its entirety, and replaced with this resolution.

SECTION 2. The [September 5, 2014] Albuquerque Downtown Walkability Analysis, attached hereto as [Exhibit] 1, [shall be considered and incorporated herein by reference is] the [City's] current policy ~~[document]~~ for the continued development, maintenance and upgrading of transportation facilities in the public right-of-way in Downtown.

1       SECTION 3. [Exhibit 2, as attached hereto and incorporated herein by  
2 reference, lists and categorizes the specific policies outlined by the report for  
3 ease of reference, and] the Department of Municipal Development shall  
4 ~~[endeavor to]~~ implement the list of key improvements identified in Section 1 of  
5 ~~[Attachment Exhibit] 2 [to this legislation]~~ as soon as regular maintenance  
6 needs require work in affected public rights-of-way and/or as funding is  
7 available. [Notwithstanding the foregoing, the four-way-stops at 4<sup>th</sup> and Roma  
8 and at 5<sup>th</sup> and Roma, listed as part of item 15 of Exhibit 2, “signalizations  
9 improvements,” shall be immediately reinstated.]

10       SECTION 4. The City Council, the Department of Municipal  
11 Development, and other affected agencies shall coordinate and study the  
12 feasibility and costs of, and where applicable prioritize the development of  
13 funding sources for the projects identified in Section 2 of Attachment 2 to this  
14 legislation.

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