

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE TWENTY FOURTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-20-59 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Isaac Benton

1 **RESOLUTION**

2 **DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO CREATE AN “ACTIVE STREETS**
3 **INITIATIVE” TO FACILITATE SAFE, SOCIALLY-DISTANCED OUTDOOR**
4 **RECREATION AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION OPPORTUNITIES ON**
5 **NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS DURING HEALTH EMERGENCIES**

6 **WHEREAS, the COVID-19 public health emergency has created the need to**
7 **socially distance in all spaces, both indoors and outdoors; and**

8 **WHEREAS, access to spaces to walk, bike, roller skate, or otherwise**
9 **recreate outdoors is important to the health and well being of the residents of**
10 **Albuquerque; and**

11 **WHEREAS, some of the City’s parks and open spaces have been inundated**
12 **with members of the community who are seeking time outside; and**

13 **WHEREAS, some of the City’s sidewalk infrastructure is substandard or in**
14 **poor condition and is not a viable place to recreate; and**

15 **WHEREAS, outdoor recreation is a great alternative to an indoor gym; and**
16 **WHEREAS, more access to safe outdoor recreation opportunities,**
17 **particularly close to home, would provide physical and mental benefits during**
18 **this unprecedented pandemic; and**

19 **WHEREAS, the Mid-Region Council of Governments has reported that**
20 **street traffic is down 40%-60% in some areas of the City; and**

21 **WHEREAS, cities across the country are also pursuing Active Street**
22 **initiatives, such as Austin, Minneapolis, Milwaukee, San Diego, and Portland;**
23 **and**

24 **WHEREAS, now is an ideal time to reconsider how we prioritize roadway**
25 **users on underutilized roadways where vehicular traffic is temporarily**
26 **reduced; and**

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1 WHEREAS, the recently updated Complete Streets Ordinance (O-19-64)
2 adopted City policy stating streets are for all users who have a right to
3 comfortably, safely, and efficiently use the public right-of-way; and

4 WHEREAS, in 2019 the Mayor declared Albuquerque a Vision Zero city with
5 the intention to reduce all roadway crashes that result in injury or death; and

6 WHEREAS, establishing some roadways for non-vehicular users supports
7 the Vision Zero initiative by creating slower, safer streets for all users.

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

10 SECTION 1. The Administration shall collaborate with neighborhood
11 associations, active living advocates, the Complete Streets Advisory group,
12 local businesses, and the applicable City departments, including the
13 Department of Municipal Development, Parks and Recreation, Planning, and
14 the Office of Equity and Inclusion to identify roadways in the city to be
15 temporarily dedicated for recreational uses and active transportation
16 opportunities. These roadways shall be closed to vehicular traffic except for
17 local traffic, deliveries, and emergency vehicles, through temporary
18 barricading with consideration to allow residents to move safely through
19 them. Roadways in all City Council districts shall be considered.

20 SECTION 2. The following criteria shall be considered, at a minimum, to
21 determine whether a street would be a good candidate for the Active Streets
22 Initiative:

- 23 a. The street does not carry transit services
- 24 b. The street is classified as a collector or local street
- 25 c. Access plans shall be considered for roadways that have abutting
26 businesses, including the need for on-street parking, space for takeout,
27 dropoff, pickups, or outdoor table service.

28 SECTION 3. The Administration shall identify the first set of roadways
29 within two weeks of the adoption of this Resolution and shall make the City
30 Council and the public aware of what roadways have been chosen. These
31 roadways shall remain closed until the current public health order and all
32 social-distancing directives have been lifted.