



Legislation Text

File #: R-20-28, Version: 1

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE
TWENTY FOURTH COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. R-20-28 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Isaac Benton

RESOLUTION

Adopting The Silver Avenue Bike Boulevard Review, Making The Recommendations Within The Plan Policy Priorities For The Silver Avenue Bike Boulevard Between Yale Boulevard And The Paseo Del Bosque Trail (Benton)

WHEREAS, Silver Avenue (“the corridor”) is a critical corridor in the City’s bicycle transportation network; and

WHEREAS, a bicycle boulevard provides the function of a principle arterial to cyclists by providing the capacity and efficiency to conveniently connect together major origins and destinations within a community; and

WHEREAS, the corridor is part of a complex of three bike boulevards, three paved bike paths, and three bike/pedestrian bridges that connect the Petroglyph National monument on the City western border to the Sandia National Wilderness on Albuquerque’s eastern boundary; and

WHEREAS, the corridor connects major destinations such as Old Town, Downtown, EDo and Huning Highland, the University of New Mexico (UNM), Nob Hill, and the Bosque; and

WHEREAS, the corridor is an increasingly prominent transportation facility for the purposes of economic and community development connecting residential neighborhoods with major component of today’s urban economy: the higher education, research, and medical facilities at the UNM’s north, main and south campuses, the Central New Mexico (CNM) Main Campus, and the UNMH, UNM-NIH Cancer Hospital, the Presbyterian Main, and Presbyterian Hospital Campuses, the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL); and

WHEREAS, facilities such as Silver Avenue are a key component to providing the quality of life that could attract and retain students, professors, research professionals, and others associated with these institutions; and

WHEREAS, riding a bike is both a means of recreation, of low-cost transportation, a way to stay healthy for an active life style and a way to release the stress from a workday of high-stress, mentally challenging work at a desk, laboratory, examination room, or class room; and

WHEREAS, the corridor supports bicycle use by cyclists of all abilities; and

WHEREAS, bicycle boulevards were designed and implemented in 2009 following the passage of F/SR 07-268; and

WHEREAS, the portion of the Silver Bike Boulevard from Yale Blvd to Nob Hill was reviewed in 2015, resulting in the identification of deficiencies and the design and construction of improvements that have made that portion of the Silver Bike Boulevard safer and easier to use; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 the City engaged a professional transportation engineering consultant to review the corridor from Yale Blvd to Paseo Del Bosque Trail to identify deficiencies and make recommendations for improvements that could make the corridor safer and easier to use; and

WHEREAS, the consultant made two presentations to the Greater Albuquerque Bicycling Advisory Group (GABAC) and held two public meetings; and

WHEREAS, the input and recommendations from the community were taken into consideration in the final draft of the plan that was produced in December 2019; and

WHEREAS, in February 2020 a draft of the plan was produced and provided to the surrounding community; and

WHEREAS, the Silver Avenue Bike Boulevard Review ("the Plan") is attached to this legislation as "Exhibit A"; and

WHEREAS, the Plan offers recommendations for projects for the entirety of the corridor to make the corridor safer and easier to use for cyclists of all abilities; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations address crossing Interstate 25 (I-25) and the railroad tracks which are two major obstacles to creating a comfortable connection throughout the corridor for all levels of users; and

WHEREAS, the corridor passage under I-25 is especially needed to provide bike access from the residential neighborhoods and employment uses, which though small in scale will have a significant impact on the development of Albuquerque; and

WHEREAS, adoption of the Plan will help prioritize improvements along the corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Plan is consistent with the recommendations and policy guidance in the City's Complete Street Ordinance, O-19-64; and

WHEREAS, the Plan and its recommendations further existing studies and adopted plans, including the Downtown 2025 Metropolitan Redevelopment Plan, the Downtown Neighborhood Area Traffic Study, the Downtown Walkability Analysis, the Downtown Signals-to-Stop Signs Conversion Evaluation, and the Downtown Safe Zone; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations in this plan further several goals and policies within the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Comprehensive Plan, particularly in the Transportation (Ch. 6) and Urban Design (Ch. 7) Chapters.

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

SECTION 1. The City Council hereby adopts The Silver Avenue Bike Boulevard Review, attached hereto as Exhibit A, to guide the improvement of the Silver Avenue Bike Boulevard between Yale Blvd. and Paseo Del Bosque.

SECTION 2. The City Council supports the placement of the project within the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).