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December 19, 2014

To: Albuquerque City Council  
From: Downtown Albuquerque Millennial Group (MiABQ)  
Re: Albuquerque Complete Streets Ordinance (O-14-27)

Dear Councilor:

The Millennial Group created through the Downtown Action Team (DAT), the City of Albuquerque and the Historic District Improvement Company (HDIC), asks that you support Albuquerque's Complete Streets Ordinance (O-14-27), which was introduced by Councilor Isaac Benton. This ordinance is a great step in making Albuquerque not only more walkable and bikeable, but also improving the quality of place, which encourages businesses to invest here and young professionals to move here.

There are over 600 Complete Streets policies across the country that local and regional jurisdictions have successfully adopted. These policies enable the creation of streets that are safer for all users of the road and especially more vulnerable users such as bicyclists and pedestrians. Complete Streets policies enable cities to become more livable and improve the quality of life for everyone. Not only that, but several notable transportation engineering organizations such as the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) and the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) support Complete Streets.

The benefits to Complete Streets are numerous, but here are a few examples why Albuquerque needs a Complete Streets ordinance:

- Complete Streets can help boost our local economy and encourage private investment. People walking or biking are more likely to stop at a smaller scale neighborhood business, which are the types of businesses that help keep tax revenue and profits in our local economy. There have been a number of studies exploring bicycle/pedestrian investments that result in more local spending at businesses near bike/ped infrastructure improvements.
- Complete Streets that accommodate all users of all abilities will create more transportation choices for everyone...not just millennials, but it can enable other generations to age in place more comfortably.
- Providing infrastructure to encourage active transportation modes such as walking, walking to/from transit and cycling can reduce congestion in our roadways, help to improve our air quality and decrease pollution.
- Investing in and prioritizing active transportation projects that result in safer facilities for pedestrians and cyclists can result in more people walking and biking, which helps to address public health concerns and improve health outcomes.

Unfortunately, our millennial friends are leaving Albuquerque for cities like Austin, Denver or Portland because these cities offer quality places where you can live, work and play without driving and these cities also activate their streets as places. Studies today continually show that millennials want to live, work and play in places without having to drive and prefer walking, biking and/or taking transit. This ordinance can serve as a strategy to catalyze and build support for existing efforts that are working toward making Albuquerque a viable competitor with Austin or Denver, while enabling Albuquerque's streets to become unique, safe places that also connect nodes of activity. Existing efforts include bus rapid transit, bikeshare and Innovate ABQ among other projects that are working toward reimagining Albuquerque through its own contributions for healthy lifestyle opportunities in our amazing community. This ordinance combined with these existing efforts and action will help to not only retain and attract new young professionals in our community, but also new businesses will also want to locate and invest here because Albuquerque is investing in an innovative future.

Albuquerque has so much unrealized potential and the Complete Streets Ordinance (O-14-27) is an active, positive step toward capitalizing on its existing assets, while cultivating and creating streets as quality places.

For these reasons, MiABQ strongly supports and urges the adoption of this ordinance.

On behalf of the MiABQ group sincerely,

Susan	Adams	Researcher
Jonathan	Anderson	musician/producer
Natalie	Armijo	Owner, (Oh, So Natty LLC)
Erin	Atencio	None
Shelley	Bailey	MDM, CenturyLink
Emily	Ball	MPH, medical student
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		Attorney, Rodey Law Firm, Member,
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Allison	Bland	ACVB
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Adam	Ciepiela	Vice President, Charles Stephen, Past Presisent 20-30 Club, YPA
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Hayley	Davis	Physical therapist
Jitka	Dekojova	NMASLA
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Zoya	Dixon	
Travis	Dulany	None
Shannon	Dyke	Pharmacist
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Meghan	Ferguson	Tamarind Institute
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Todd	Jacobsen	None
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Cletus	Kuhn	Founder, Funky Llama Productions
John	Kynor	Cletus Kuhn
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Phil	Leckman	Consultant, Planet4People
		GIS Director, Statistical Research, Inc.

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Caerllion	Thomas	gis coordinator
Bob	Tilley	President, Raynolds Neighborhood Association
Nathan	Todd	Urban Planning student, APA-UNM Vice President
Cara	Tolino	Local-iQ Magazine
Gabrielle	Uballez	Working Classroom, Executive Director
Andrew	Valencia	VP- Brown and Brown Insurance
Lindsay	Waite	Lindsay Waite Photography and Freelance
William	Walker	Engineer, Applied Technology Associates
Linda	White	Albuquerque Resident

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Kristen

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