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**CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-72**

**INTRODUCED BY:**

Councilor JoAnne Vigil Coppler

Councilor Peter N. Ives

**A RESOLUTION**

**IN SUPPORT OF THE INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF SAFETY SIGNAGE  
IN THE CITY FOR PEOPLE ON BICYCLES.**

**WHEREAS**, under NMSA 1978, Section 66-3-702 and Section 12-8-2 of the City of Santa Fe Uniform Traffic Ordinance, people on bicycles have the same rights as vehicle drivers, subject to limitations that are unrelated to use of the full lane, therefore people on bicycles may use the full vehicle travel lane; and

**WHEREAS**, under NMSA 1978, Section 66-3-705 and Section 12-8-14 of the Uniform Traffic Ordinance, a person on a bicycle may use the full lane in a number of circumstances that the person riding a bicycle must personally assess; and

**WHEREAS**, increasing the bicycle safety awareness in the City by better educating vehicle drivers of a person on a bicycle’s legal right to use the full vehicle travel lane is a priority for the bicycling community; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Mexico Transportation Commission adopted the Federal Highway Administration’s “Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices” (MUTCD) via Resolution No.

1 2003-5 as the NMDOT Design Manual and it currently governs roadway signage in New Mexico;  
2 and

3 **WHEREAS**, the MUTCD includes regulatory sign R4-11, which correctly displays to  
4 road users the message that “Bicycles May Use Full Lane”; and

5 **WHEREAS**, under the MUTCD, Section 2B.01.01, regulatory signs that state messages  
6 like “Bicycles May Use Full Lane" inform and educate road users of selected traffic laws and  
7 indicate the applicability of State’s and City’s legal requirements; and

8 **WHEREAS**, under the MUCTD yellow signs like “Share The Road” are mere advisory  
9 warning signs and the MUTCD, under Section 2C.02.02, advises minimal use of advisory signs;  
10 and

11 **WHEREAS**, two published transportation studies (“Effects of ‘Bicycles May Use Full  
12 Lane’ Signs on Bicyclist and Motorist Behavior along Multi-Lane Facilities, University of Texas  
13 at Austin, 2010; and “Bicycles May Use Full Lane” Signage Communicates U.S. Roadway Rules  
14 and Increases Perception of Safety, North Carolina State University, 2015) have shown that  
15 “Bicycles May Use Full Lane” signs are superior to “Share The Road” signs because they more  
16 effectively communicate the rules of the road; and

17 **WHEREAS**, at least thirteen other states or jurisdictions have adopted “Bicycles May  
18 Use Full Lane” signs and

19 **WHEREAS**, in 2011 the Governing Body adopted Ordinance No. 2011-23, which  
20 amended Section 12-6-2.7(F) of the Uniform Traffic Ordinance to require a 5-foot minimum  
21 passing distance when motor vehicles pass people on bicycles; and

22 **WHEREAS**, vehicle drivers within the City should be educated as to the requirement in  
23 Section 12-6-2.7(F) of the Uniform Traffic Ordinance for a 5-foot minimum passing distance  
24 when motor vehicles pass people on bicycles; and

25 **WHEREAS**, people on bicycles within the City should be educated on their legal

1 requirements to be safe bicycle riders, sharing the road with vehicle drivers and following the  
2 same traffic laws per the Uniform Traffic Ordinance; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Governing Body seeks to grow the bicycle ecosystem to make the City  
4 safe for people on bicycles, attract business investment and growth, promote the outdoor  
5 recreation economy, foster public health and wellness, and increase sustainability.

6 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**  
7 **CITY OF SANTA FE** that it is the policy of the City of Santa Fe to change bicycle safety signs  
8 throughout the City as follows:

9 1. cease the use of “Share The Road” signs and adopt the use of “Bicycles May Use  
10 Full Lane” signs in accordance with the MUTCD and other applicable standards;

11 3. as soon as practicable, but in no less than one calendar year from the date of the  
12 adoption of this Resolution, replace all existing “Share The Road” signs with “Bicycles May Use  
13 Full Lane” signs; and

14 3. as soon as practicable, but in no less than one calendar year from the date of the  
15 adoption of this Resolution, erect signs that are conspicuous and easily readable from a moving  
16 vehicle on roads at the City limits and other such appropriate locations within the City, clearly  
17 advising motorists of the City Ordinance requiring a 5-foot minimum passing distance when  
18 vehicles pass bicycles in the City.

19 PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 12th day of December, 2018.

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23 ALAN M. WEBBER, MAYOR  
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1 ATTEST:

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4 YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

5 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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8 ERIN K. McSHERRY, CITY ATTORNEY

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25 *M/Legislation/Resolutions 2018/2018-72 Bicycle Safety Signs*