



SPONSOR: Sen. Tim Keller

BILL: _____

ZUNI ROAD PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Bernalillo County Public Works, in coordination with City of Albuquerque Department of Municipal Development, has prepared a scoping report for implementing the proposed International Trail located along roadways in the International District (Southeast Heights) of Albuquerque. Trail corridors include Zuni Road (\$2 million in total roadway improvements) between San Mateo Blvd. and Wyoming Blvd.

Zuni Road is a principal arterial and major commuter route to downtown jobs and serves businesses and residential neighborhoods within the International District. It carries 16,800 vehicles on an average weekday at Pennsylvania Street. The roadway within this segment currently has no bike lanes and narrow or non-existent sidewalks and is non-compliant with ADA requirements for sidewalks, bus stops, intersections, and driveways.

The scoping report identifies pedestrian-bicycle safety and traffic calming improvements along International Trail corridors, such as Zuni Road, designed to:

1. prevent injuries,
2. encourage walking for health,
3. accommodate users of all abilities, and
4. reduce speeding traffic.

Safety and calming improvements called for include safer intersections and mid-block crossings with marked crosswalks, refuge medians, and pedestrian signals. Pedestrian hybrid (HAWK) beacons are proposed at a pedestrian crossing Zuni Road between Pennsylvania St. and Dallas St. where a traffic signal is not warranted but significant pedestrian crossings occur on medium speed, wide arterials (2009 MUTCD). HAWK signals have shown >95% yield effectiveness with a 29% reduction in total crashes and 69% reduction in pedestrian crashes. The estimated cost for constructing the mid-block crossing and installing the pedestrian signals is \$400,000.

Census data shows International District neighborhoods where Zuni Road is located have high pedestrian/bicycle use (6% to 15% of the population) as well as transit use (3% to 4%) correlated to low automobile ownership (9% to 12%). Zuni Road has some of the highest pedestrian counts in the City with 269 pedestrians and 35 bicyclists using this segment daily.

The Southeast Heights is also considered especially hazardous for pedestrians. Zuni Road between San Mateo Boulevard and Wyoming Boulevard has some of the highest pedestrian crash rates in the metropolitan area (up to 3x the average according to MRCOG). In 2010 alone, 5 pedestrian crashes and

Fifty First Legislature, First Session, 2013

1 bicycle crash occurred at Zuni and Pennsylvania, one of which was a fatality. This location is also on NMDOT's list of the most dangerous roadway segments in their Transparency Report.