

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT TO
DIRECT ITS EFFORTS AND FEDERAL FUNDING TOWARD MAKING PEDESTRIAN
AND BICYCLE TRAFFIC SAFER AND CREATING SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS.

H
M
1
6
P
a
g
e
1

WHEREAS, New Mexico has the nation's highest pedestrian fatality rate; and
WHEREAS, New Mexico has the nation's sixth highest bicyclist fatality rate; and
WHEREAS, children who walk and ride bicycles are among the groups that are
more at risk from unsafe streets; and

WHEREAS, many of New Mexico's communities lack sidewalks, bicycle paths,
street crossings or other elements necessary to provide safe routes to schools; and

WHEREAS, the federal government provides millions of dollars to New Mexico
through the federal surface transportation program and the federal hazard elimination
program to pay for non-construction costs aimed at reducing injuries and deaths from
motor vehicle accidents and to resolve safety problems at hazardous locations and
roads that constitute a danger to motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists; and

WHEREAS, decreases in fatalities among pedestrians and bicyclists are more
often attributable to students walking and riding bicycles less and riding in cars more
often; and

WHEREAS, the surgeon general observed that seventy-eight percent of
children are not active enough; one in five children is overweight or at risk of becoming
overweight; and one in three teenagers is overweight or at risk of becoming
overweight; and

WHEREAS, safer routes to school can provide the ability to increase

pedestrian and bicycle traffic to help students get more regular exercise;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state highway and transportation department be requested to direct more of its efforts and federal funding on improving bicycle and pedestrian access and on traffic-calming projects in school zones rather than simply building and widening intersections; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state highway and transportation department work with its bicycle, pedestrian and equestrian committee, with school districts and law enforcement agencies and with parents, teachers and school administrators to develop innovative programs and initiatives to create safe routes to school; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state highway and transportation department present its findings and recommendations to the appropriate interim legislative committee by October 30, 2003; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to the state highway and transportation department.