

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-1364

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE MOTOR VEHICLE DIVISION OF THE NEW MEXICO TAXATION AND REVENUE DEPARTMENT IMPLEMENT BICYCLE SAFETY AND ROADSHARING EDUCATIONAL PROVISIONS IN THE NEW MEXICO DRIVERS HANDBOOK, THE NEW MEXICO DRIVERS TEST AND STUDENT DRIVERS EDUCATION CURRICULUM

WHEREAS, thousands of New Mexico bicyclists depend upon public roadways for essential transportation and recreation; and

WHEREAS, vehicle-bicycle collisions accounted for 7 deaths in New Mexico in 2008, the most recent year for which such statistics are available; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies have shown that the behavior of motorists is a significant factor in the likelihood of collisions with bicyclists; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) "encourages states, local governments, professional associations, community organizations, public transportation agencies, and other government agencies, to adopt similar policy statements on bicycle and pedestrian accommodation as an indication of their commitment to accommodating bicyclists and pedestrians as an integral element of the transportation system" (USDOT Regulation March 11, 2010); and

WHEREAS, New Mexico currently has no requirement for educating or examining motorists regarding safely sharing the roadways with bicyclists; and

WHEREAS, state governments throughout the country have begun to address the need to educate and test motorists about the rights and obligations regarding bicyclists on public roadways; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico ranks 50th among all states for bicycle friendly "Policies and Programs" and "Education and Encouragement" in the League of American Bicyclists 2010 state rankings, and 46th overall, among bicycle friendly state rankings; and

WHEREAS, the current driver's education training program allows time to include the rules and obligations of safe road-sharing with bicyclists; and

WHEREAS, modifications to the Motor Vehicle Division driver's handbook and computerized driver's test could be implemented at a minimal cost to the state of New Mexico.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF FARMINGTON, that the City of Farmington respectfully requests that the Motor Vehicle Division of the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department implement bicycle safety and road-sharing educational provisions in the New Mexico drivers handbook, the New Mexico drivers test and student drivers education curriculum.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff is directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Taxation and Revenue.

PASSED, APPROVED, SIGNED AND ADOPTED this 27th day of July, 2010.

Tommy Roberts, Mayor

SEAL

ATTEST:

Dianne Fuhrman, City Clerk