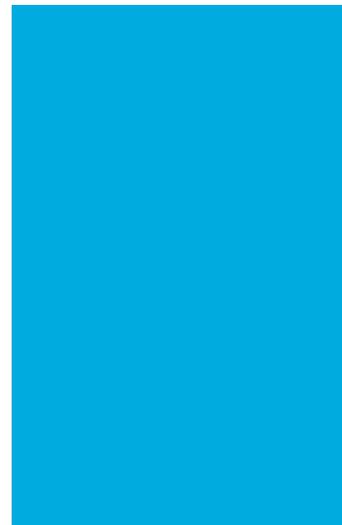


VISION AND GOALS



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VISION AND GOALS DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The New Mexico Prioritized Statewide Bicycle Network Plan (NM Bike Plan) is part of a framework of inter-connected transportation and mobility plans developed by NMDOT. Specific direction for developing a New Mexico bicycle plan is included in the long-range statewide transportation plan, the New Mexico 2040 Plan. The vision of the New Mexico 2040 Plan is to create “a safe and sustainable multimodal transportation system that supports a robust economy, fosters healthy communities, and protects New Mexico’s environment and unique cultures.” The NM Bike Plan vision and goals should support and complement this vision, as well as the vision and goals of the 2016 Strategic Highway Safety Plan and the 2017 Highway Safety Plan.

Based on these background documents, the following vision statement options and goals were developed for the NM Bike Plan. Goals and objectives were also informed by public outreach, stakeholder involvement, and best practices from other statewide active transportation plans.

VISION STATEMENT

The vision statement outlines the kind of bicycling environment the State of New Mexico intends to provide to residents and visitors. The vision statement describes the future conditions for bicycling that NMDOT would like to provide and serves as a source of inspiration to guide implementation of the NM Bike Plan.

A safe, sustainable, and well-connected bicycle network that increases access to statewide destinations, stimulates and supports economic development, fosters healthy communities, and equitably serves New Mexican residents and visitors.

GOALS & IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Goals will guide the state towards implementing the Plan’s vision. Each of the goals below contains an overarching theme. Under each goal, a series of strategies are provided to guide NMDOT towards achieving the particular goal. This approach is consistent with the NM 2040 Plan.

I. PRIORITIZED STATEWIDE BICYCLE NETWORK

Develop a tiered system of New Mexico owned and maintained roadways (NM highways) that can be used to inform statewide investments in bikeway infrastructure

- Develop New Mexico-specific criteria for determining where bikeway improvements would be most beneficial, including identification of key bicyclist destinations, first/last mile connections to transit, established bicycling routes, existing infrastructure, employment centers, and others
- Establish a tiered route system to identify the appropriate infrastructure for bikeway infrastructure investments on NM highways that have existing or latent demand for bicycling
- Ensure adequate investment of funds on Tier I and Tier II roadways to achieve minimum standards for design, maintenance, and efficient operations of bicycle facilities
- Provide online map of tiered statewide bicycle network to the public showcasing NMDOT's focus areas for investment and improvement

II. SAFETY AND COMFORT

Improve bicyclist safety by designing quality bikeways that make bicycling a more comfortable and attractive mode of transportation

- Create and utilize design guidelines that ensure high-quality routes for New Mexico residents are available for traveling by bicycle
- Reduce fatalities and serious injuries of bicyclists on NM highways through implementing crash reduction measures, including the installation of dedicated bicycling facilities, providing wide shoulders on bicycling routes, and improving intersection crossing conditions for bicyclists, while increasing the total number of bicyclists in New Mexico
- Combine infrastructure improvements with signage and pavement markings to enhance the visibility of bicyclists and improve awareness on the part of motorists
- Bolster existing NMDOT public outreach campaigns, such as the "Look for Me" campaign, to increase education and outreach regarding bicyclist safety and awareness

III. PUBLIC HEALTH

Improve health outcomes by providing increased transportation options and making bicycling an attractive and accessible option for recreational activities

- Invest in facilities that provide connections to parks and recreational sites, linking assets that support positive physical and mental health outcomes
- Increase physical activity and improve long-term health outcomes of New Mexico citizens by making bicycling a more desirable mode of transportation and recreation, and increasing the number of bicycling trips
- Improve air quality and reduce emissions through a higher statewide bicycling mode share

IV. CONNECTIVITY AND ACCESS

Expand transportation and recreation choices by making bicycling for all trip types easy and efficient, and by connecting local and regional bicycle networks

- Improve access to goods, services, and employment opportunities by implementing a statewide bicycle network that connects people to destinations within major cities, provides connections between major cities, and provides connections between rural and urban communities
- Invest in facilities that improve connections to transit stops and stations and regional and local bicycle networks
- Invest in facilities that that connect to critical/high demand destinations, including activity centers and employment sites, cultural and tourist attractions, and educational institutions
- Reduce single-occupancy vehicle (SOV) commute trips by improving access for bicyclists to employment centers located along NM highways, providing a legitimate alternative to using a private vehicle and reducing the number of vehicle trips and/or vehicle miles traveled (VMT)

V. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

Stimulate and support a robust economy by elevating the status of bicycling as a driver of statewide economic development

- Make New Mexico a go-to bicycling destination by developing a high-quality statewide bicycle network that improves the experience of long-distance bicyclists
- Invest in facilities that connect to regional attractions, such as New Mexico's state and national parks, as well as rural/small town communities with tourism potential, to promote and support recreational bicycle tourism
- Work with organizers of bike races to address safety and maintenance issues for events on NM highways.

VI. EQUITY

Make bicycling a reliable and convenient mode of transportation for historically underserved populations in New Mexico

- Identify areas in New Mexico where there are concentrations of historically underserved populations who may rely more of walking, bicycling, and transit to complete a disproportionate share of their trips
- Invest in roadways serving communities with concentrations of historically underserved populations, helping to make bicycling a convenient form of transportation, while minimizing adverse impacts to cultural resources
- Invest in first-and-last mile connections to transit stations and to employment centers to facilitate journey-to-work trips for historically underserved populations
- Pursue equitable investment in bikeway infrastructure across the state of New Mexico by balancing investments in utilitarian and recreational bicycling routes

VII. INTER AND INTRA-AGENCY COORDINATION

Work with agencies at all levels of government to create a statewide bicycle network that is well-integrated with local and regional networks and to facilitate efficient implementation

- Encourage integration of the NM Bike Plan with local and regional bike planning efforts. Integrate the statewide bicycle network with local and regional networks to improve bicycle travel across communities, regardless of jurisdictions or infrastructure ownership.
- Where possible, leverage funding decisions and investments for bicycling via local, regional, and state coordination
- Develop an internal process where the NM Bike Plan and associated design guidelines are referenced during preliminary planning and design phases for all roadway projects led by NMDOT
- Capitalize on opportunities to implement bikeway infrastructure on NM highways, including during routine operations and maintenance, resurfacing, and roadway widening and reconstruction projects