

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
SANTA FE COUNTY**

RESOLUTION NO. 2009 - 135

**A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A CHANGE IN THE DESIGN OF PAVING USED ON
ROADS AND STREETS IN SANTA FE COUNTY TO ENHANCE THE SAFETY OF
BICYCLE RIDERS**

WHEREAS, as energy supplies are depleted and Americans seek a healthier lifestyle, bicycling will be an increasingly popular mode of basic transportation and will continue to be a source of physical fitness;

WHEREAS, these trends will result in increasing bicycle traffic and the potential for conflict with motor vehicle traffic;

WHEREAS, these trends will also illuminate the need to be sensitive to the hazards faced by bicyclists in the road and street design, particularly pavement design, as bicycles cannot always safely negotiate pavement characteristics that are not problematic for motor vehicles;

WHEREAS, these potential conflicts and challenges can be mitigated through better design techniques that consider the safety of bicyclists specifically;

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County has for many years utilized the most cost-effective method of designing paving projects on County roads and streets that is consistent with all relevant design criteria, to achieve the maximum amount of road improvements with the funding available;

WHEREAS, significant cost savings have been achieved by designing paving projects so that the final layer of asphalt is terminated outside the shoulder stripe instead of continuing the final layer to the outer edge of the paving;

WHEREAS, unfortunately for bicyclists, this design leaves a "lip" or raised edge of pavement just outside the shoulder stripe which can be difficult to negotiate, depending on its thickness and the type of bicycle wheels, and can deflect the front wheel and, if the bicyclist is not careful, can result in a crash when the cyclist attempts to cross the raised edge of pavement to merge from the shoulder into the traffic lane;

WHEREAS, a bicyclist using the shoulder of the road will often find it necessary to merge into the traffic lane to avoid debris and obstacles or to make turning maneuvers at intersections;

WHEREAS, a "lip" or raised edge of pavement near the shoulder stripe caused by this paving design can create challenges for bicyclists to execute this maneuver safely;

WHEREAS, many bicyclists, being aware of this problem, will simply avoid using the shoulder and will ride continuously in the traffic lane when riding on a road or street that has been designed in this manner;

WHEREAS, the practical effect of these factors is to deprive bicyclists of the use of the shoulder, forcing them into the traffic lane to the detriment of their own safety and the convenience of motorists;

WHEREAS, although the design of roads and highways used by the County is consistent with generally accepted standards, it could be improved to further enhance the safety of bicyclists and in particular to eliminate the "lip" or unevenly paved surfaces; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners desires that its road design staff consider improvements to design criteria consistent with these principles and with generally accepted design principles.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County, as follows:

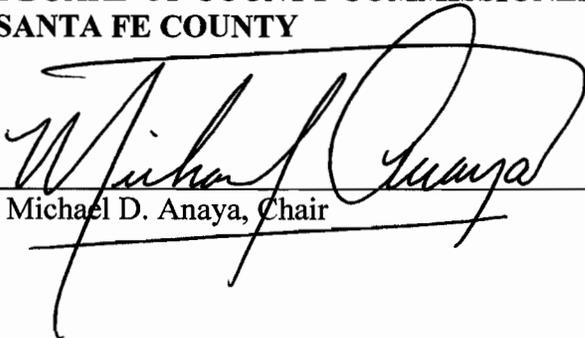
1. The Growth Management Department, Public Works Division shall design and engineer its paving or repaving projects so that final layer of paving or overlay is continued to the outer edge of the paved portion of shoulder of the street or road to avoid creating a "lip" or uneven paved road surface to enhance the safety of bicyclists.

2. The Growth Management Department shall forward a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of New Mexico and to the Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Transportation with a request that the State of New Mexico design state highways within Santa Fe County consistent with this resolution to further enhance the safety of bicyclists on State highways.

3. When designing improvements to County roads and streets generally, the Growth Management Department, Public Works Division shall consider other design and engineering improvements to County roads and streets to improve the safety of bicyclists.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED, this 11 day of August, 2009.

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY**

By: 
Michael D. Anaya, Chair

ATTEST:

Valerie Espinoza
Valerie Espinosa, County Clerk

Approved as to Form:

SR
Stephen C. Ross, County Attorney



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

BCC RESOLUTIONS
PAGES: 4

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 13TH Day Of August, 2009 at 01:12:19 PM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1573845
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Deputy *[Signature]*)
Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office Valerie Espinoza
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM