

Proposition: 14-14/15

Date Submitted:

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Assigned Committee: Long Range Planning

Title: Memorial in support of NMSU's development of a Bicycle Friendly Transportation infrastructure, education, encouragement, and enforcement.

This proposal requests that the administration

- 1) Support the NMSU Environmental Health and Safety and the NMSU Sustainability Council's efforts to increase the bicycle friendliness of the Las Cruces campus.
- 2) Adopt and enforce the City of Las Cruces (CLC) Bicycle Ordinances at NMSU.
- 3) Charge the Office of Facilities and Services (OFS) to include enhanced financing and planning for bicycle facilities, services, and bicycle safety education in NMSU's Long Range Plan for Transportation and Parking.
- 4) Adopt Complete Streets criteria following American Association of Highway and Transportation Officials [AASHTO] and Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices [MUTCD] guidelines for effective and safe roads for bicycle/vehicle movement and facilities.
- 5) Actively include discussion of bicycle facilities, education and services in NMSU's dialogues with the City of Las Cruces (CLC) and the Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization to improve the bicycle and pedestrian transportation interface between the University and the CLC, particularly across University Avenue. Specifically, we request that NMSU work with the City of Las Cruces to build the infrastructure on University Avenue in support of bicycle facilities that was planned in both the NMSU University Master Plan and the CLC's University Avenue Overlay District Planning effort.
- 6) Implement the League of American Bicyclists recommendations to NMSU concerning actions to provide a more bike-friendly campus.
- 7) Provide assistance, support and training for the NMSU Police Department in their efforts to provide a safe environment for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians.

Rationale:

Bicycling has the potential to make NMSU safer, healthier, and environmentally cleaner. The University can take actions to improve and enhance the ability of bicyclists to navigate safely on campus and improve campus sustainability. Bicycling provides health benefits for riders and reduces vehicular traffic on campus. Education and improved facilities will provide a safe environment to minimize the potentially dangerous interactions between bicycles and automobiles and between bicycles and pedestrians.

NMSU attained Bicycle Friendly University Bronze status from the League of American Bicyclists (LAB) in 2013 recognizing efforts to provide a more bicycle-friendly campus for

students, staff and faculty. The award was based on achievement in five categories known as the “Five E’s”:

- 1) Encouraging people to ride bicycles on campus,
- 2) Education on bike safety and awareness,
- 3) Enforcement by campus police of bicycle-related laws,
- 4) Engineering – ie. facilities, bike friendly road marking and design, and
- 5) Evaluation and planning.

The Bicycle Friendly University (BFU) program provided the roadmap to improve campus cycling, and provided specific suggestions for how to improve the conditions for bicycling on campus. The successful award application was assembled by staff, faculty, and students, with support by the NMSU Environmental Health and Safety unit. A Web page with links to bicycle training and safety information also contains the proposal and comments from reviewers (<http://safety.nmsu.edu/programs/BikeSafety/bike-friendly-university.html>).

Bicycle Friendly University status for NMSU should serve as a positive indicator for current and prospective students as well as faculty and staff. Bicycles provide a simple solution to many of the complex problems that institutions face, including issues around mobility, space, health, and economics. The designation reflects a positive sustainable environment in which to live, study and work. The steps we outline in this memorial are concrete, actionable ideas the University can advance to allow NMSU to fully realize the promise for enhanced bicycle facilities on campus that our Bicycle Friendly Campus seeks to support.