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City of El Paso's Complete Streets Policy Ranks Third in the Nation in New Smart Growth America Report

El Paso, Texas — The City of El Paso Complete Streets policy has been ranked in the Top 3 best policies in the nation in a new report from Smart Growth America and the National Complete Streets Coalition.

Evaluations were conducted using the <u>Complete Streets Policy Framework</u>, a national model of best practices to create a Complete Streets policy that can be implemented at any level of governance, in any type of community.

"This recognition and last year's Gold Medal ranking affirms the City of El Paso is prioritizing all users of streets from pedestrians to cyclists to motorists of all ages and all abilities through the Complete Streets police adopted in 2022," said Joaquin Rodriguez, Transportation Planning Administrator for the City's Capital Improvement Department. "The policy provides the framework to promote pedestrian safety while creating walkable connections between public parks, facilities and other amenities that encourage people to get out of their vehicles and get active."

This is the second recognition the City of El Paso has received for its Complete Streets policy, which was drafted in close collaboration with the El Paso Complete Streets Coalition and adopted in 2022 to improve the safety, health, and quality of life for all who use El Paso streets.

In late 2022, CityHealth (an initiative of the de Beaumont Foundation and Kaiser Permanente, aimed at supporting policy solutions that ensure all people in our largest cities have access to healthy choices) awarded a Gold Medal to El Paso for the Complete Streets policy. El Paso is one of only four cities in the nation—the only one in Texas—awarded the gold medal.

"A strong Complete Streets policy is a crucial step to combatting the historic increase in pedestrian fatalities in the United States," said Beth Osborne, VP of Transportation and Thriving Communities at Smart Growth America. "We applaud El Paso's commitment to creating a policy that is poised to produce tangible improvements that will make their streets safer.

To view the full rankings and to access the report from Smart Growth America and the National Complete Streets Coalition, visit <u>The Best Complete Streets Policies Report</u> <u>2023</u>.

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