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Transportation Design

Bernalillo County does not follow *Chapter 23* of the *DPM*.

The primary documents for **transportation design** in **Bernalillo County** are the following chapters in the **Bernalillo County Code of Ordinances**:

Chapter 66 Roads and Bridges

Chapter 82 Traffic and Vehicles

You can access these chapters at the following internet link:

www.municode.com/library

The Design Engineer should realize that there are differences between designing in **Bernalillo County** and designing in the *City of Albuquerque*. Because of the diversity of terrain and population density in **Bernalillo County**, the design approach and specifications may vary according to region: **valley**, **mountains** or **mesa** and whether that area is **urban**, **semi-urban** or **rural**.

Bernalillo County has its own design standards. Design Engineers should obtain the **latest** copy of the **Bernalillo County Street Standards** from **DR**. The **Bernalillo County Street Standards (County Ordinance #88-42)** will be used for any roadway design in **Bernalillo County**. Design Engineers should consult with an Engineer in **DR** to determine which standards apply to the project.

Street design in **urban** areas of **Bernalillo County** is similar to that in the *City of Albuquerque*. However, roadway design in **rural** areas of **Bernalillo County** is different from the criteria specified in the *DPM*. For example, many roads may have roadside swales instead of curb and gutter, driveway and roadway culverts are commonplace and, in some cases, private gravel roads are permitted.

Information on geometric design of streets, approach distances, turning radii, pavement thicknesses, traffic-calming techniques, typical sections and intersection design is found in the **Bernalillo County Street Standards**.

All **Bernalillo County** roadways are to be **“complete streets”** designed to allow for the safe and convenient movement of people of all ages and abilities, and goods, along and across the public right-of-way by accommodating various modes of travel including vehicles, pedestrians, bicycles and transit. Consult the **Bernalillo County Street Standards**, **the references listed below**, and **County Engineers** in **DR** for specifics on all design issues.

Any property owner who is building a **driveway, drivepad, road, or entrance** that connects to a **Bernalillo County Road** is required to obtain an **Access Permit**. For more information go to the following link:

www.berncogov.com/DRforms

Initially, a **Traffic Scoping Report** will be required for all commercial or industrial developments. The **Traffic Scoping Report** will identify if the property goes over the threshold to require a full **Traffic Impact Analysis**. A **Traffic Impact Analysis** is a study, prepared by a NM Licensed Engineer, which assesses how a proposed development affects the transportation network and will recommend how to mitigate traffic impacts. A **Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA)** may be required for subdivisions and driveway permits including:

- Subdivisions containing 25 or more parcels.
- Development of 25 or more dwelling units.
- Commercial or industrial development.

If you have been told to prepare a **Traffic Impact Analysis**, go to the following link:

www.berncogov.com/TIA/

When you are designing a trail or bikeway, consult the **Bernalillo County Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety Action Plan**. To access this document, go to the following link:

www.berncogov.com/infrastructure-planningand-geo-resources-3225/

Additional resources may be consulted for issues not specifically addressed in the **Bernalillo County Street Standards** or other **Bernalillo County** publications:

- **NMDOT** (New Mexico State Department of Transportation) **Standard Specifications for Highway and Bridge Construction** – Latest Edition
- **AASHTO:**
 - **A Policy on the Geometric Design of Highways and Streets** – Latest Edition
 - **Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities** – Latest Edition
 - **Roadside Design Guide** – Latest Edition
- **Federal Highway Administration, MUTCD**, Federal Highway Administration, Latest Edition

- **U.S. Justice Department, ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Standards for Accessible Design** – Latest Edition

For more information, you can access the **Bernalillo County Code of Ordinances** at the following internet link:

<http://www.municode.com/library>

Chapter 66, Article VI of the **Code** contains the **Bernalillo County Street Standards**.