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Subject: Article in today's New Mexican about upcoming BPAC agenda item-few if any consequences for killing by car
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Romella

Might want to make sure all the BPAC members know this story came out today. Hopefully a good turnout Thursday. I will unfortunately be in a doctor's office thursday afternoon. I injured my back.

Khal Spencer

https://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/bicyclists-question-lack-of-consequences-for-drivers-in-fatal-wrecks/article_6d24bf18-ddf4-4964-9f79-2b8e41b37aad.html

I left these comments, FWIW.

Like Stefanie, I recall the earlier reports saying the driver ran a red. Still, yield means yield, not make a left through the intersection against thru traffic, i.e, Failure to Yield. It is a distinction without a difference for the victim, even if it is a different moving violation. The problem is with the state's lax penalties for bad driving.

As far as the meaningless penalties for killing or maiming? Old news, and not the cop's fault or the DA's. Maybe the judge's fault for a deferred sentence after a driver killed someone. But that is not the big picture. You have to look at the laws and sentence guidelines.

Back a decade ago when the Bicycling Coalition of New Mexico was an actual thing, I was on its Board along with the late Diane Albert, who was for a while on the Board of the national League of American Bicyclists. At the time, we were working with the New Mexico Motorcycle Rights Organization, BikeABQ, and the Duke City Wheelmen to get a bill through the Legislature to increase penalties on motorists who violate traffic law and injure or kill vulnerable users. Former Rep. Rick Miera carried these bills. A few of us were working closely with NMMRO given both bicyclists and motorcyclists are vulnerable users who are often victims of "I didn't see him/her" (e.g., Jennifer of the Duke City Wheelmen and me because I am also a motorcyclist). Each year it died in committee. Some history stored here:

<https://labikes.blogspot.com/search?q=roundhouse>

This past session, SB 265, which would have increased penalties, including those for Careless Driving, was introduced by Sen. Munoz, and it too died a quiet death after getting a do pass in its first committee. One has to ask why. Bill info below:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Legislation/Legislation?chamber=S&legtype=B&legno=265&year=25>

I think it will take a lot of hard work to change the paradigm from "accidents will happen, too bad for you" to actually holding people accountable for stupid decisions that maim or kill. There is a new anti-bad driving organization in Santa Fe now. City Council has voted Vision Zero, which works in parallel. Everyone has to work together on this or it will get nowhere.

Oh, and Sen. Peter Wirth voted against SB 265. Will someone please run against him? Or at least raise a stink? Where is Bike Santa Fe?

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0265CT1.pdf>