

News



Release

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Cyclists to Remember Fallen Comrades During Memorial Ride “Can You See Us Now”

ALBUQUERQUE – Bicyclists from across New Mexico will gather at 4 p.m. Sept. 20 to participate in a memorial ride to honor cyclists killed in crashes with motor vehicles during the last 20 years.

One-hundred cyclists have died in these crashes between 1989 and 2009 in New Mexico, according to New Mexico Department of Transportation records. Two cyclists already have died this year. The most recent death was 42-year-old Heather Reu, mother of four, who was killed on June 22 on Paseo del Volcan near the turn to Double Eagle Airport.

“These incidents can be prevented,” said Jennifer Buntz, a member of the board of directors of BikeABQ, a nonprofit that advocates for cyclists rights and works to create and preserve safe biking environments. “BikeABQ has many strategies to prevent these tragedies like education that fosters cyclist and driver awareness.”

The memorial ride called “**Can You See Us Now?**” was arranged by BikeABQ to remember the fallen cyclists as well as call attention to cycling and the many cyclists throughout New Mexico.

The ride will begin at 4 p.m. at Copper Avenue and Jefferson Street. Sign-in will open at 3 p.m. in the High Desert Yoga Center parking lot, 4600 Copper Ave. NE. The event is free, but participants can sign in and receive a number to wear during the event. Each number will have the name of a fallen cyclist.

The ride will follow Route 66 (Central Avenue) and end 4.3 miles away at Tiguex Park on Mountain Road near the Albuquerque Museum. Albuquerque Police Department officers will escort the cyclists on Central Avenue. See the route [here](#). A short rally presented by BikeABQ following the ride will be held in Tiguex Park, where the names of the 100 cycling victims will be read.

One of those victims, 6-year-old Johnny Mondragon, died 19 years ago when he was struck by a motorcyclist in a hit-and-run crash. The motorcyclist was never identified. His family will be at the rally to remember the young cyclist.

“Cycling is a fun, enjoyable thing to do. All cyclists, from children to world-class competitors, and everyone in-between, should be safe when they ride bicycles in New Mexico,” Buntz said. “We hope our ride will call attention to cyclists on the road, foster mutual respect and change the culture on the streets. We are asking drivers to slow down and notice us. We all need to share the roads.”