Creating Walkable and Bikeable Communities

**COMPLETE STREETS**

**WHY ARE COMPLETE STREETS IMPORTANT?**

Complete Streets is a set of street design concepts that treat pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and drivers as legitimate users of the transportation network. Everyone is accommodated regardless of how they travel or what their special needs may be. A Complete Street can significantly improve safety and reduce pedestrian-related crashes. It can also help reduce congestion, improve and increase transit use, provide more efficient travel and goods movement within the community, and spur economic development.

**...THEY ARE STREETS FOR EVERYONE**

Complete Streets are particularly good at improving mobility for the young and old – those less likely to drive.

**OTHER PUBLISHED RESOURCES**

- Institute of Transportation Engineers (Designing Walkable Urban Thoroughfares): library.ite.org/pub/e1ff441c-2358-4714-51d9-d82b39d4bad
- FHWA Small Town and Rural Multimodal Networks: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/publications/small_towns/

**ONLINE RESOURCES**

ABOU T COMPLETE STREETS

NYS DOT Complete Streets Page: https://www.dot.ny.gov/programs/completestreets
NYSAMPO Fact Sheets: https://www.nysmpos.org/wordpress/?page_id=1548
National Complete Streets Coalition: https://smartgrowthamerica.org/program/national-complete-streets-coalition/
American Planning Association Complete Streets Resource Database: https://planning.org/research/streets/
AARP Public Policy Institute: Planning Complete Streets for an Aging America: https://www.aarp.org/home-garden/active-communities/info-06-2008/Planning_Complete_Streets_for_an_Aging_America.html

**FACT SHEET**

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**ONLINE RESOURCES**

- NACTO currently provides two training opportunities: Design Guide Trainings and a Sister Cities Roadshow – a multi-day event. Learn more at: https://nacto.org/training-and-workshops/
- Smart Growth America provides technical assistance to state and local agencies through day-long workshops focused on everything from basics to detailed design considerations. Learn more at: https://smartgrowthamerica.org/work-with-us/workshop-types/complete-streets/
- Your MPO may provide training or technical assistance. To find your MPO, visit: https://nysmpos.org
- Social Impact Organizations New York Bicycling Coalition, AARP and other groups may offer training and education opportunities.

**NYSAMPO**

- NYSAMPO is a coalition of the fourteen MPOs in New York State, which have committed to work together toward common goals. NYSAMPO works collaboratively on planning and research initiatives in order to provide high-quality transportation planning expertise to the public.
  - The NYSAMPO has several Working Groups that provide a forum for the exchange of planning related ideas and information for a range of Federal, state, regional, and local partners.

New York State Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations

www.nysmpos.org

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WHO BENEFITS?

EVERYONE!

22% of workers 16 years and older in NYS do not have access to a vehicle.

35% of NYS workers 16 years and older in NYS walked, rode a bike, or took public transportation to work.

100% of children under 16 do not drive.

WHY SHOULD MY MUNICIPALITY ADOPT A COMPLETE STREETS POLICY?

SHOW SUPPORT:
Adopting a Complete Streets policy shows residents, staff, funding agencies, and others that your municipality is serious about implementing Complete Streets.

FORMALIZE CONSIDERATION BY ALL DEPARTMENTS:
A policy helps ensure that infrastructure improvements that allow for travel by all users will be seriously considered in project planning and design.

FORMALLY RECOGNIZE DEMAND:
Survey after survey show that people want options and feel they cannot safely move on foot or bicycle in many instances. Complete Streets Policies show that municipalities are serious about increasing mobility options.

SUPPORT FUNDING REQUESTS:
Grant applications and funding requests are best supported by adopted policies and plans that show commitment to the item being requested for funding.

FUNDING

Regional Economic Development Councils: https://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/content/

NYSDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) & Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ): https://www.dot.ny.gov/TAP-CMAQ

Consolidated Funding Application: https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/

WHO BENEFITS?

WHY ARE COMPLETE STREETS IMPORTANT?

SAFETY
People are using the existing infrastructure – whether or not it is designed for travel by all users.

HEALTH
Complete Streets encourages increased physical activity.

MOBILITY
Complete Streets provides options for all users. It also provides or enhances options for the mobility impaired.

SOCIAL EQUITY
Transportation costs are the 2nd highest family expense according to most studies. Providing mobility options such as bicycling and walking can help keep transportation costs down.

PLACE-MAKING
They make places more pleasant to spend time, support greenning of corridors, and implementation of green infrastructure.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Statistics show that Complete Streets investments support and enhance economic development – more foot traffic = more potential purchases.

WHY ARE COMPLETE STREETS IMPORTANT?

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WHAT CAN YOU DO TO MAKE YOUR COMMUNITY SAFER AND BRING ABOUT COMPLETE STREETS?

BE A COMPLETE STREETS CHAMPION
1. Contact the Planning or Health Department(s) in your community to inquire about Complete Streets activities.
2. Attend an MPO or municipal meeting.
3. Identify what neighboring communities are doing and discuss how these can be implemented in your community.
4. Assess Complete Streets potential in your community.
5. Help bring about or assist with Complete Streets implementation by volunteering on a local Board or Committee.

HOW DO WE GET STARTED?
1. Education: If Complete Streets is not a focus in your community, help educate elected and appointed officials about its importance.
2. Adopt a Policy/Ordinance/Resolution: One of the first steps to committing to a Complete Streets program/effort is to adopt a policy or ordinance stating goals for such efforts and showing the commitment of your municipality.
3. Form a Committee: Request that your municipality form a Complete Streets Committee to assist elected officials and staff with implementation opportunities.

BRING ABOUT POSITIVE CHANGE: IDENTIFY LOW-COST SOLUTIONS
1. Ensure that municipal departments are coordinating infrastructure projects. If a drainage, grading, widening or development project is proposed, work to ensure that Complete Streets infrastructure is included in the project.
2. Identify locations for simple restriping projects that could create bike lanes, upgrade or provide high-visibility crosswalks, or incorporate sharrows (shared lane markings).
3. Locate areas that would benefit from the addition of curb extensions, reverse angle parking, lighting, or other physical improvements.

MaisysafetyandmobilityoptionsareprovidedbyCompleteStreets.Policiesshowthatmunicipalitiesseriousaboutincreasingmobilityoptions.

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The2011NYSCompleteStreetsActrequiresstate,county,andlocalagencies
toconsidermobilityofalluserswhendevelopingtransportationprojectsthatareceivestateandFederalfunding.

Safearoundavoided$18.1Mincollisionandinjurycostsin1yearalone.

Over100towns,villages,andcitiesand12countiesinNYShavecomplete
Streetsresolutionsorpolices.

Thereareover1,400adoptedCompleteStreetsPolicies
throughouttheUnitedStates.

FormallyRecognizeStatewideLegislation

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