COMPLETE STREETS: A NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Tri-State Transportation Campaign
November 2008
Resources

- National Complete Streets Coalition
  - [www.completestreets.org](http://www.completestreets.org)

- Thunderhead Alliance
  - [www.thunderheadalliance.org](http://www.thunderheadalliance.org)

- Guide To Complete Streets Campaigns
Elements of a Good Complete Streets Policy

- Incorporates ‘all users’
- Aim is to create connected network.
- Flexible
- Context sensitive
- Cover the 3 R’s
- Tightly worded
- Latest and best design standards.
- Establishes performance standards

Source: www.completestreets.org
Levels of Government

- City
- Regional (Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Counties)
- State
- Federal
Types of Complete Street Policies

- Complete Streets have been enacted in a number of forms:
  - Internal Policies
  - Plans/Design Manuals
  - Resolutions
  - Tax ordinances
  - Legislation
Internal Policies

- **CalTrans (California DOT) Deputy Directive 64**

- **Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency Regional Transportation Investment Policy (NOACA)**

- **Charlotte Urban Street Design Guidelines**
Plans and Design Manuals

- State of Massachusetts Project Development and Design Guide
- St. Louis Legacy 2030 Long-Range Plan
- Colorado Springs Intermodal Transportation Plan
- Colorado Springs Complete Streets Amendment
- Decatur Community Transportation Plan
Resolutions

- State of South Carolina DOT Resolution
- San Francisco Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission Regional Policy for the Accommodation of Non-Motorized Travelers
- DuPage County Healthy Roads Initiative
- Jackson Complete Streets Resolutions
- Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health Resolution
- New Haven Board of Alderman Resolution
Legislation/Ordinances

- State of Florida Bicycle & Pedestrian Ways Statute
- State of Oregon ‘Bike Bill’ Bicycle and Pedestrian Program
- San Diego County Transnet Tax Extension
- San Francisco Transit First Policy
- State of Illinois Highway Code Amendment
- Seattle City Council Complete Streets Ordinance
Massachusetts Highway Dept.

- MHD Project Development and Design Guide
  - Framework to incorporate multi-modal elements
    - Pedestrians
    - Cyclists
    - Motorists
    - Transit vehicles
Complete Streets: Oregon

- Legislated in 1971
- “Wherever a road is constructed”
- Funding Source

Photo provided by Oregon DOT
Complete Streets: California

- Complements Existing CalTrans policy
- Signed into law September 30, 2008
- Accounts for transit users
- Set to go into effect January 1, 2011
Weaknesses

- Loose Language
- Exemptions or Exceptions
- Oversight
Major Policy ‘Red Flags’

Loose Language:

‘Consideration’ vs. ‘shall include’ or ‘require’:

- The Department fully **considers** the needs of non-motorized users… (CalTrans Deputy Directive 64)

- Project sponsors **are required** to include bikes and pedestrians in the planning/design of projects. (NOACA)
Major Policy ‘Red Flags’

Exemptions/Exceptions:

- **NOACA:** Project sponsors are required to include bikes and pedestrians in the planning/design of projects.

- Prohibition of access
- Excessive Cost
- Extreme topography
- Less than 1,000 vehicles per day
- Limited to resurfacing
Acceptable Exceptions...

- Non-motorized users are prohibited by law
- Excessive cost
- Absence of need
Approval of Exceptions...

- NOACA: Senior Level approval needed
- No approval process = ‘red flag’
Federal Complete Streets Status

- **Senate Bill 2686:**
  - “Complete Streets Act of 2008”
    - Referred to Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation

- **House Bill 5951:**
  - “Safe and Complete Streets Act of 2008”
    - Referred to House Subcommittee of Highways and Transit
Overview of Bills

- Require States and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO’s)
  - Establishment of complete streets policies
  - Federally funded projects only
  - Incorporated in all levels of project development
  - Certification requirement
  - Technical Assistance
Support

Federal Level:
www.completestreets.org/federal.html

State Level:
- Contact state elected officials

Local Level
- Contact local elected officials
Thank you!

For more information:

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