

Costs of Complete Streets

Existing transportation budgets can incorporate Complete Streets projects with little or no funding through re-prioritizing projects and allocating funds to projects that improve overall mobility.

Complete Streets allow for optimal use of limited resources – money, personnel, fuel, land, public health, and the environment.



14th Street, Birmingham
Credit: Ryan Parker, United Way of Central Alabama

National Cities with Complete Streets Policies

Charlotte | Chicago | Louisville
Nashville | New York City

Alabama Cities with Complete Streets resolutions include:

Chickasaw | Daphne | Fairhope
Florence | Orange Beach | Prattville

Alabama Cities in the process of adopting Complete Streets policies include:

Huntsville | Mobile | Montgomery

For more information contact:

Conservation Alabama Foundation – www.conservationalabamafoundation.org

Greater Birmingham Regional Planning Commission – www.rpcgb.gov

Jefferson County Department of Land Planning & Development Services – www.jeffco.jccal.org

National Complete Streets Coalition – www.completestreets.org

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Let's Complete Alabama's Streets



East Blvd. in Charlotte, NC | Credit: Charlotte, NC Department of Transportation

a proven, cost-effective way to improve safety
and accessibility for everyone using the roads

**HEALTH
ACTION**
IT TAKES COMMUNITY



Before and after photos from Cary, Illinois

During difficult financial times, local governments are looking for ways to grow their economies while protecting public health and the environment. Local governments are looking at new, innovative ways to approach public infrastructure investment. Some of the most important infrastructure a city, county, or state can invest in is in the transportation sector. Across the country, government leaders are realizing that having roads and transit corridors solely focused on vehicles limits economic opportunity, puts the environment at risk, and contributes to decreased public health. There is a new trend toward completing the streets – making sure existing and new roads are safer, more livable, and welcoming to everyone.

A complete streets policy ensures that the entire right of way is routinely designed and operated to enable safe access for all users.

“Complete Streets” are a proven, cost-effective way to improve safety and accessibility for everyone using the roads – pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, motorists, and people of all ages and abilities. Complete Streets provide more transportation choices; encourage healthier and active living; and contribute to the quality of life in neighborhoods by incorporating economic, social, and mobility functions into their design.

Complete Streets Designs

Each Complete Street is unique because each roadway has its own challenges and needs. Common features include sidewalks, bike lanes, wide shoulders, plenty of crossing opportunities, bus shelters, dedicated bus lanes, curb cuts, accessible bus stops, and audible pedestrian signals.¹

1. www.completestreets.org - Complete Streets FAQ
 2. 2035 Birmingham Regional Transportation Plan - page 3-34
 3. www.completestreets.org - Policy Elements

Complete Streets Benefits

ECONOMIC:

- Improves economic vitality of neighborhoods
- Increases property values
- Increases foot traffic for businesses
- Makes efficient use of existing infrastructure
- Stimulates mixed land-use
- Improves access to public transit

HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE:

- Encourages increased physical activity, which can help reduce obesity and health problems that can result from obesity (for example, cardiovascular diseases, high blood pressure and diabetes)
- Improves neighborhood access to parks and greenways
- Contributes to communities being more livable and walkable
- Offers more opportunities for walking and bicycling
- Decreases safety concerns by putting more “eyes on the street”
- Increases transportation choices for getting to schools, grocery stores, community services, work, public transit, etc.

ENVIRONMENTAL:

- Improves air quality
- Reduces carbon footprint
- Encourages reuse of existing infrastructure – in-fill development
- Preserves open space
- Reduces traffic congestion

Complete Streets Policies

Complete Streets policies identify solutions to help communities achieve a balanced approach to maximizing transportation investments. Policies require that new road projects and road repair projects accommodate all road users. Effective policies routinely integrate the needs of all road users into transportation planning, design and construction processes.² Typically a Complete Streets policy includes a plan that:

- Identifies a vision for how and why the community wants to complete its streets;
- Defines “all users” to include pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transit users of all ages and abilities, as well as trucks, buses, and automobiles;
- Outlines a comprehensive, integrated, diverse, and connected network for all modes of transportation;
- Applies to both new and retrofit projects, including design, planning, maintenance, and operations, for the entire right-of-way;
- Specifies steps for implementation of the policy; and
- Offers guidance for the procurement and provision of financial investments that can help achieve balanced and sustainable growth and create livable communities.³

Elected officials can adopt a Complete Streets policy by resolution, ordinance, and executive order. In addition, MPO’s can adopt policies that are included in planning documents as statements of intent for project sponsors to give due consideration to Complete Streets and the routine accommodation of bicycles, pedestrians, citizens with disabilities, and transit supportive infrastructure in project planning and design.



Top Photo: Route 1, Virginia | Credit: Cheryl Cort, Coalition for Smarter Growth

Bottom Photo: University Place, Washington | Credit: Dan Burden, Walkable and Livable Communities Institute

WWW.COMPLETESTREETS.ORG

- Provides information on the basics of complete streets, including the many types of complete streets, frequently asked questions, an atlas of all current policies, fact sheets on the many benefits of complete streets and policy implementation, and links to a number of articles, presentations, resources, and guidance.
- Assists in collaboration with national and regional partners.
- Enables you to share information on your organization’s efforts.
- Connects you with leading national and local organizations working on complete streets.
- Email newsletter connects you to the key complete streets highlights sent out every month.

