



Background Related to Complete Streets

- Complete Streets is a flexible transportation planning and design process that considers the safety and accessibility needs of all users. Complete Streets is not a prescriptive roadway design. Individual “complete” street designs vary based on context, including topography, road function, the speed of traffic, pedestrian and bicycle demand, local land use, and other factors.
- Complete Streets is a national movement with policies adopted by 12 states and more than 100 cities and counties, including Rochester, Hennepin County, St. Paul, and Albert Lea.
- State Senator Tony Lourey (Kerrick) and State Representative Mike Obermueller (Eagan) will introduce Complete Streets legislation during the 2010 legislative session.
- The Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) is working to create a partnership of state agencies, local governments, and other stakeholders to develop and implement a Mn/DOT policy on Complete Streets.
- In December 2009, Mn/DOT released a legislatively mandated [Complete Streets Report](#), which includes a recommendation for Mn/DOT to work in partnership with representatives of relevant stakeholders to develop a Complete Streets policy. The report also articulates the important connection between Complete Streets and Context-Sensitive Solutions, which together support building roads that better fit local needs and contexts and help save money.
- Mn/DOT Commissioner Thomas Sorel has spoken publicly about the benefits of Complete Streets and his commitment to taking a leadership role on implementation of a Complete Streets policy.
- Between 1999 and 2008, 417 pedestrians and 84 bicyclists were killed and more than 10,000 pedestrians and more than 9,000 bicyclists were injured on Minnesota’s roads.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Minnesota Department of Health, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, American Heart Association, HealthPartners, and other public health officials in Minnesota and across the country have called for Complete Streets as an important public health tool in fighting the obesity epidemic by supporting exercise as a part of daily life.
- The Complete Streets concept is also supported by AARP, Urban Land Institute of Minnesota, Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, Minnesota Environmental Partnership, and many other transportation, planning, and public health professionals. The [Minnesota Complete Streets Coalition](#) has more than 50 member organizations that support the concept of Complete Streets and a state Complete Streets policy.



Benefits of Complete Streets

- Complete Streets improves safety by reducing crashes and injuries and their costs.
- Complete Streets removes barriers to transportation facilities and services for seniors, children, and people with disabilities, allowing them to lead more active and independent lives.
- A state Complete Streets policy will give local governments more flexibility to build roads that meet the needs in their community. Local Complete Streets policies ensure that communities maximize every road project as an opportunity to improve safety.
- Complete Streets promotes public health by supporting exercise as a part of daily life.
- Complete Streets helps avoid costly future retrofits by making sure that we build roads right the first time.
- Complete Streets supports affordable transportation options for families.
- Complete Streets reduces congestion by providing safe travel choices that encourage non-motorized transportation options, increasing the overall capacity of the transportation network.
- Complete Streets supports more pedestrian, bicycle, and transit travel, which helps protect clean air and clean water and reduces our dependence on costly energy sources.
- Complete Streets promotes economic growth and community stability by providing accessible and efficient connections between home, school, work, recreation, and retail destinations by improving the pedestrian and vehicular environments throughout communities.
- Complete Streets supports vibrant and walkable neighborhoods that improve quality of life and help build community.

For more information:

www.mncompletestreets.org

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