



Complete Streets Implementation: Moving from Policy to Practice

2015 Indiana MPO Conference

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WHAT ARE COMPLETE STREETS?

Complete streets are safe, comfortable and convenient for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and public transit riders, regardless of age or ability.

Complete streets serve the 1/3 of Hoosiers who do not drive.



We know how to build complete streets



Yet too often we end up with this...





COMPLETE STREETS APPROACH:

- ✓ High-level policy direction
- ✓ Changing everyday decision-making processes and systems
- ✓ Incremental improvements
- ✓ Long-term results





COMPLETE STREETS ARE NOT:

- One 'special' street project
- A one-size-fits-all approach or design prescription
- A mandate for immediate retrofit
- A silver bullet solution for all transportation issues



Examples of Complete Street Elements



COUNTDOWN TIMER
Indicates amount of time pedestrians have to cross. Helpful for people with disabilities and seniors. PHOTO: gothamist.com



LIGHTING
Increases personal safety and makes pedestrians more visible to drivers. Indicates high-priority pedestrian areas and supports business districts. PHOTO: www.pedbikeimages.org/Ron Bloomquist



RAISED MEDIAN ISLAND
Provides buffer and protection for pedestrians while crossing wide or busy streets. Adds space for green infrastructure. PHOTO: pedbikeimages.org/Dan Burden



BIKE LANE
Establishes space on road exclusively for bicycle travel. Bicycle lanes are striped and marked with a bicycle symbol and an arrow. PHOTO: Active Transportation Alliance



MARKED CROSSWALK
Uses a visual cue to designate space for pedestrian crossings and alert drivers to priority crossing areas. PHOTO: Active Transportation Alliance



TRANSIT SHELTER
Protects waiting transit users from the elements. Makes bus-transit more appealing and easier to recognize. PHOTO: Green Diary

- Design for safety
- Everyone is a pedestrian
- Be context sensitive
- Create public spaces
- **Bottom line:** all users must be able to safely move along and across a complete street

Complete Streets

Complete Streets are roadways designed to safely and comfortably provide for the needs of all users, including, but not limited to motorists, cyclists, pedestrians, transit and school bus riders, movers of commercial goods, persons with disabilities, seniors, and emergency users. They encourage people to use physically active transportation, which promotes a healthy lifestyle and minimizes unintended chronic disease effects like cancer.

► Complete Streets provide opportunities for increased physical activity by incorporating features that promote regular walking, cycling and transit use into just about every street.

► One Complete Street may look quite different than the next, but both will be designed to balance safety and convenience for everyone using the road, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation.

Incomplete Street
Four lanes of traffic, no sidewalks, no bike facilities

Road Diet
Two thru lanes with center turn lane, bike lanes

► A network of safe sidewalks and bikeways provided by a Complete Streets policy is important for encouraging active travel.

Good Complete Street
Sidewalk, bike lanes, center turn lane with median

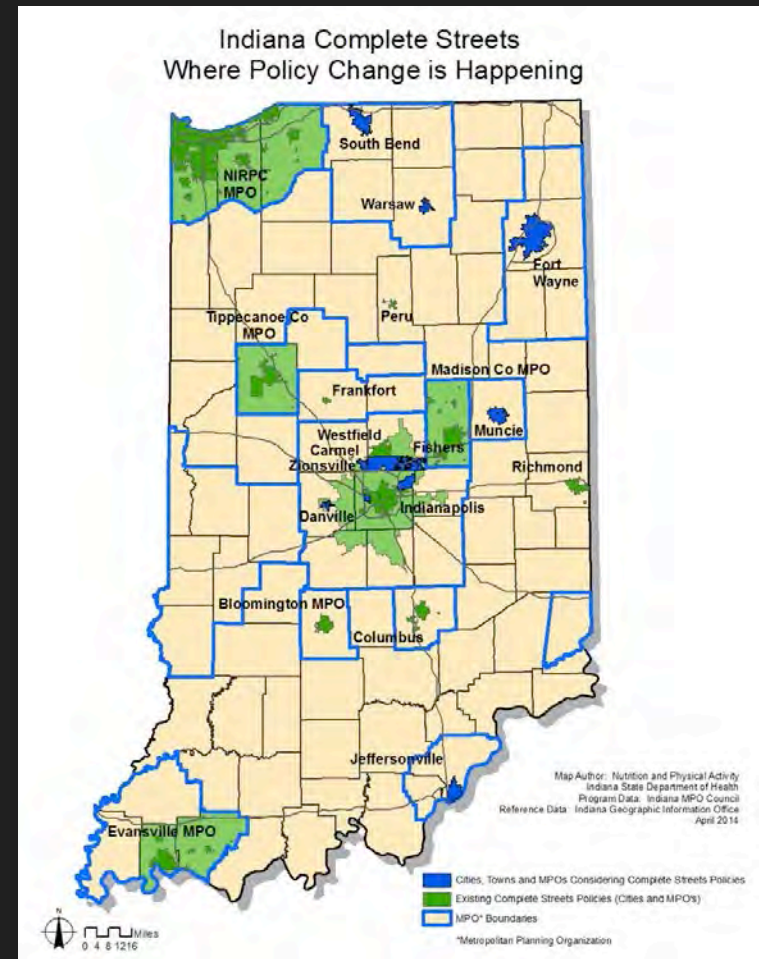
Better Complete Street
Transit stop, street trees, bike lanes, sidewalk with buffer, crosswalks





IN INDIANA

1. Bloomington/Monroe County MPO (policy, 2009)
2. Madison County MPO (policy, 2010)
3. Northwest IN MPO (resolution, 2010)
4. City of Columbus (plan, 2010)
5. City of Richmond (plan, 2011)
6. City of Frankfort (resolution, 2012)
7. Evansville MPO (policy, 2012)
8. Tippecanoe County MPO (plan, 2012)
9. City of Indianapolis (ordinance, 2012)
10. City of Westfield (resolution, 2012)
11. City of Peru (ordinance, 2013)
12. Indianapolis MPO (policy, 2014)
13. INDOT (policy, 2014)
14. Town of Whitestown (ordinance, 2014)
15. City of Logansport (ordinance, 2014)
16. Town of Lowell (ordinance, 2014)





WHY DOES A POLICY MATTER?

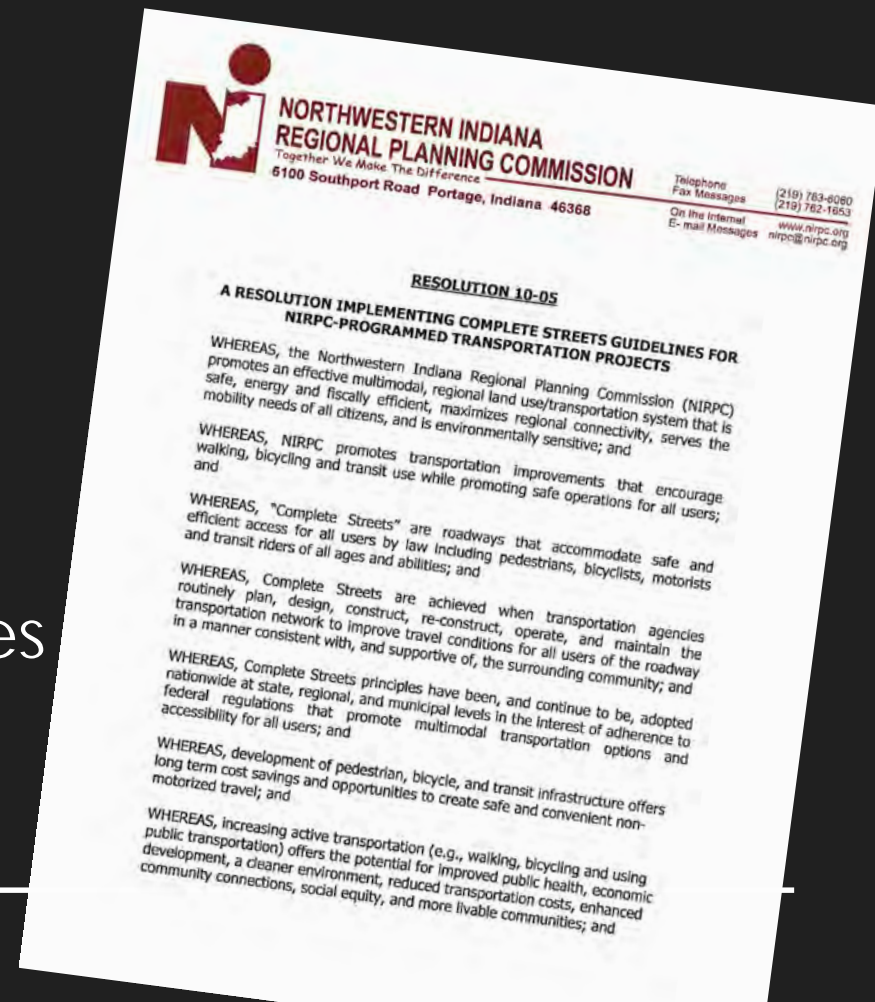
- Routinely including the needs of all users ensures that people have options.
 - It saves time and money, and ensures no missed opportunities (no more piecemeal approach).
 - It shows other jurisdictions how you want streets designed and operated in your community.
 - Provides a basis for new funding.
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TYPES OF POLICIES

Complete streets policies can be adopted as:

- Ordinances
- Resolutions
- Plans
- Design guidelines
- Municipal policies
- Internal agency policies
- And more





SUCCESSFUL POLICIES:

1. Set a vision.
2. Include all users and all modes.
3. Apply to all phases of all applicable projects.
4. Specify exceptions and require high-level approval.
5. Emphasize connectivity.





SUCCESSFUL POLICIES:

6. Are understood by all agencies to cover all roads.
7. Use the best and latest design standards while allowing flexibility.
8. Complement local context.
9. Set performance standards.
10. Include implementation steps.





FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE

2-step process:

- Institutionalize project oversight and reporting
- Target retrofits

Consider mandatory review of the policy after five years





IMPLEMENTATION

Outline specific next steps that prompt the transportation agency to:

1. Restructure or revise related procedures, policies and plans to accommodate all users on every project.
 2. Develop new design policies and guides.
 3. Offer training and education opportunities to staff, elected officials and the general public.
 4. Institute better ways to measure performance of the streets are serving all users.
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IMPLEMENTATION

In practice, this often involves:

- Establishing an advisory group
- Maintaining an infrastructure inventory
- Reevaluating CIP prioritization
- Developing better coordination between departments

Design and Project Development

What Needs To Be Done	Responsibility Area	Deliverable/Outcome	Expected Completion Date
1. Develop, launch on-line learning module on Context Sensitive Solutions	Director of CSS, Web Developer,	Easy to use and engage tool to promote the continual integration of Context Sensitive Solutions	June 2010
2. Evaluate and modify scoping process	To be determined	Reflects Complete Streets goals and objectives and cost effective	To be determined
▪ Review and revise project type definitions	CSS and others	Promote CS goals, include bike and pedestrian system and safety and delivery of cost effective projects	To be determined
▪ Develop guidance on scoping various projects based on context and analysis	CSS and others	Promote CS goals, include bike and pedestrian system and safety and delivery of cost effective projects	To be determined
▪ Establish process and interim policy to determine bicycle and pedestrian facility integration with resurfacing and preservation project types	CSS and others	Promote CS goals, include bike and pedestrian system and safety and delivery of cost effective projects	To be determined
▪ Develop and integrate scoping checklist into scoping process	CSS	Integrate Complete Streets into project process	2013
3. Integrate Complete Streets into design and project development process; review design documents for contradictions, gaps & challenges and develop and amend as needed	Director of CSS, Technical Support, Bridge Office	Provide design and planning guidance and standards to develop project and provide technical support	Ongoing
▪ Review and revise Road Design Manual and Bridge Design Manuals to reflect new standards including pedestrian, transit, intersections, cross sections, bridges	Bridge, Technical Support, CSS	Provide additional guidance for project managers, designers, others on design, planning and scoping	Ongoing
4. Evaluate the Minnesota road design standards and guidance values for 13 controlling design criteria for road design.	Technical Support, CSS Director	Provide flexibility in design and more guidance on design	Ongoing



PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

- Project identification and selection
- Scoping
- Funding
- Planning
- Building
- Operating
- Maintaining
- Evaluating

COMPLETE STREETS HANDBOOK CHECKLIST

Philadelphia City Planning Commission

INTERSECTIONS & CROSSINGS COMPONENT (Handbook Section 4.9)

49. Identify Existing and Proposed Signal Cycle Lengths

SIGNAL LOCATION	EXISTING CYCLE LENGTH	PROPOSED CYCLE LENGTH

			DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW ONLY		
50. Does the design minimize the signal cycle length to reduce pedestrian wait time?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	ACCEPT <input type="checkbox"/>	N/M <input type="checkbox"/>
51. Does the design provide adequate clearance time for pedestrians to cross streets?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	ACCEPT <input type="checkbox"/>	N/M <input type="checkbox"/>
52. Does the design minimize pedestrian crossing distances by narrowing streets or travel lanes, extending curbs, reducing curb radii, or using medians or refuge islands to break up long crossings? <i>* If yes, City Plan Action may be required.</i>	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	ACCEPT <input type="checkbox"/>	N/M <input type="checkbox"/>
53. Identify "High Priority" intersection and crossing design treatments (see Handbook Table 1) that will be incorporated into the design, where width permits. Are the following "High Priority" design treatments identified and dimensioned on the plan?				ACCEPT <input type="checkbox"/>	N/M <input type="checkbox"/>
• Marked Crosswalks	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	ACCEPT <input type="checkbox"/>	N/M <input type="checkbox"/>
• Pedestrian Refuge Islands	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	ACCEPT <input type="checkbox"/>	N/M <input type="checkbox"/>
• Signal Timing and Operation	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	ACCEPT <input type="checkbox"/>	N/M <input type="checkbox"/>
• Bike Boxes	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	ACCEPT <input type="checkbox"/>	N/M <input type="checkbox"/>
54. Does the plan simplify complex intersections where possible?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	ACCEPT <input type="checkbox"/>	N/M <input type="checkbox"/>
55. Does the design reduce vehicle speeds and increase visibility at intersections?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	ACCEPT <input type="checkbox"/>	N/M <input type="checkbox"/>
56. Overall, do intersection designs limit conflicts between modes and promote pedestrian and bicycle safety?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	ACCEPT <input type="checkbox"/>	N/M <input type="checkbox"/>

*N/M = Needs Modification

APPLICANT: Intersections & Crossings Component

Additional Explanation / Comments: _____

DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW ONLY: Intersections & Crossings Component

Reviewer Comments: _____



PROJECT OVERSIGHT & REPORTING

- Create or assign a review committee
- Require public reporting of policy exceptions
- Assign a staff person to manage and track the process

Seattle Department of Transportation Complete Streets Checklist
April 2011

Priority Elements Matrix	Street Types							
	Regional Connector	Main Street	Green Street	Commercial Connector	Mixed Use Street	Neighborhood Green Street	Local Connector	Industrial Access
Primary Design Features								
Sidewalks buffered from moving traffic by additional sidewalk width or planting strip	■							
Street trees and landscaping		■	■	■	■	■	■	
Low landscaping or high branching trees in planting strip	■							■
Weather protection integrated with buildings for street level uses and at transit zones	■	■			■			
Pedestrian scaled lighting	■	■	■		■	■		
Emphasis on coordinated street furniture	■	■	■		■			
Short-term, on-street parking		■			■			
Curb bulbs where there is on-street parking		■	■		■	■		
Emphasis on small curb radii and curb bulbs where on-street parking exists			■			■		
Load zones to support delivery activities		■						■
Striped bicycle lanes or sharrows, and signage on designated bicycle routes	■	■		■	■		■	
Bicycle access accommodated if parallel route is not feasible	■							
Bicycle route appropriate to share with motor vehicles			■			■		
Emphasis on bicycle parking in business districts	■	■	■		■			
Truck route signage								■
Traffic calming			■			■	■	
Bus shelters at transit stops				■			■	
Minimize curb cuts and driveways to create continuous sidewalk		■	■			■		
Natural Drainage encouraged			■	■		■	■	



PERFORMANCE MEASURES

What will we measure to gauge progress?

Examples:

- User data
- Crash data
- Linear feet of sidewalk
- Miles of bike lanes
- Number of exemptions

SIDEWALKS & TRAIL/PATH			INCIDENTS			ADA RAMPS	
Count of Transportation Projects Included : 73			Reported in Marion County for 2014, Quarter 4			Count of ADA Ramps In-Progress	
3 that include sidewalks	1 that include sidewalks	1,377 linear feet of sidewalk completed:	Number of Automobile/Pedestrian Incidents: 91	Number of Automobile/Bicycle Incidents: 43	Number of Automobile Incidents: 8,184	5 that include ADA ramps	1 that include ADA ramps
linear feet of sidewalk bid: 10,561	linear feet of sidewalk completed: 1,377		<i>Incidents reported herein are obtained through "ARIES, Automated Reporting Information Exchange System v2.1.2" and subject to terms of</i>			ADA ramps bid: 227	ADA ramps completed: 7
22 that include sidewalks			KIDS WALKING TO SCHOOL			20 that include ADA ramps	
99,163 linear feet of sidewalk in-progress			DPW is beginning to work with the appropriate parties to begin reporting on this metric. Quarterly reports are not required until 2014.			1,067 count of ADA ramps in-progress	
INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS			TRANSIT STOPS			BIKE LANES	
4 projects bidding			0 projects completed			0 that include bike lanes	
0 projects going to bid with crosswalks			0 projects completed with crosswalks			0.0 miles of new bike lanes bid	
0 count of crosswalks to bid			0 count of crosswalks completed			0.0 miles of rehab bike lanes bid	
7 projects in-progress with crosswalks			111 count of crosswalks in-progress			5 that include bike lanes	
			DPW is beginning to work with the appropriate parties to begin reporting on this metric. Quarterly reports are not required until 2014.			10.5 miles of new bike lanes	
						0.3 miles of rehab bike lanes	



EVALUATION

Seattle: “Before and after” reports

Nickerson Street Before:



Nickerson Street After:



Top End Speeders			
<i>Percent 10+ mph over the speed limit</i>			
	Before	After	Change
Westbound	17%	1.4%	-92%
Eastbound	38%	1.5%	-96%



5-YEAR REVIEW

- Record any problem with implementing the policy
- Begin drafting revisions to address policy changes after the initial adoption
- Assign a staff person to manage and track the potential policy revisions





NATIONAL ADOPTABLE/ADAPTABLE GUIDANCE





RESOURCES

- Complete Streets Implementation Action Plan 2.0, California Department of Transportation (November 2014)
 - Complete Streets Implementation Work Plan, Minnesota Department of Transportation (October 2014)
 - Implementation Action Plan, Lee County, Florida
 - Transportation Demand Management for Site Plan Development, Arlington County, VA
 - Evansville – Completing the Street: A Complete Streets Toolkit
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Evansville – Completing the Street: A complete Streets Toolkit



QUESTIONS?

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