



Complete Streets

Panelists:

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Moderator:

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What are Complete Streets?

“Complete streets are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities must be able to safely move along and across a complete street.”

-Complete Streets Coalition

What are Complete Streets?



<http://www.michaelronkin.com/samples.htm>





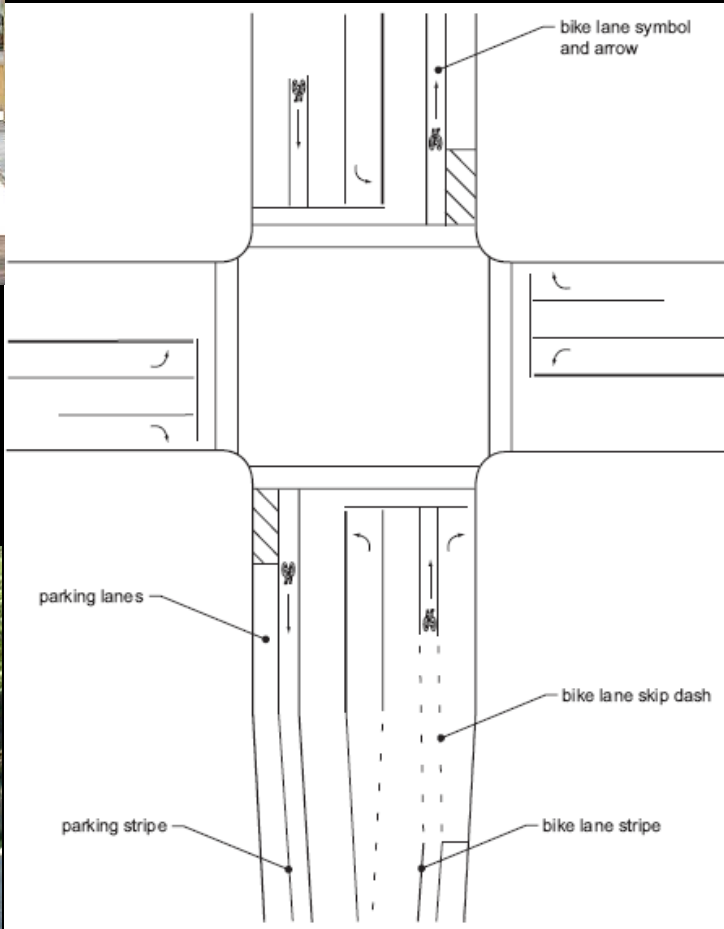
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Typical Complete Streets Solutions

- Sidewalks/Side paths
- Curb bulb-outs
- Curb turning radii
- Turning lanes and “pork chops”
- Mid-block crossing and median refuges, trail crossings
- Signalized crossings/Ped-Countdowns
- Roundabouts

What are Complete Streets?



For flared intersections with left-turn lanes, the bicycle lane treatment remains.



Chicago's Complete Streets Policy

The safety and convenience of all users of the transportation system including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, freight, and motor vehicle drivers shall be accommodated and balanced in all types of transportation and development projects and through all phases of a project so that even the most vulnerable—children, elderly, and persons with disabilities—can travel safely within the public right of way.

Examples of how the Complete Streets policy may be implemented:



- Design and construct right-of-way improvements in compliance with Americans With Disabilities Act accessibility guidelines.



- Incorporate features that create a pedestrian friendly environment, such as:

- Narrower traffic lanes
- Median refuges
- Curb extensions ("bulb-outs")
- Countdown pedestrian signals



- Improve pedestrian accommodation and safety at signalized intersections by:

- Using good design to minimize crossing distances and increase visibility between pedestrians and motorists
- Timing signals to minimize pedestrian delay and conflicts
- Balancing competing needs of vehicular level of service and pedestrian safety (e.g., 2007 version of MUTCD to reduce design walking speed from 4 ft./sec. to 3.5 ft./sec.)



- Reclaim street space for other uses through the use of "road diets" by:

- Converting 4-lane roadway to 3-lane roadway with marked bike lanes



Successful Complete Streets Policies

- Sets a vision
- Specifies all users
- Encourages Connectivity of network
- Is applicable to all roads
- Applies to new and retrofit projects



<http://www.michaelronkin.com/samples.htm>



Successful Complete Streets Policies

- Provides for exceptions
- Encourages best design standards
- Complements community context
- Establishes performance standards
- Identifies steps for implementation



Benefits of Complete Streets

- Makes economic sense
- Improves safety
- Encourages improvements to health
- Eases transportation woes
- Helps children
- Promotes better air quality
- Makes fiscal sense

Complete Streets – Coming to a Street Near You!

- Over 150 Complete Streets Policies





Panel Discussion

- If you were a form of transportation, what would you be and why?



Panel Discussion

- What was the impetus for creating a Complete Streets Policy for your MPO?



Panel Discussion

- How long did it take for you to develop and adopt your Complete Streets Policy?



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Panel Discussion

- Please give an overview of your Complete Streets Policy (provisions/requirements/etc.)



Panel Discussion

- What impact on projects (if any) has the policy had since its adoption?



Panel Discussion

- Did you experience resistance from any people or groups during development of your Complete Streets Policy? Who were they and how did you deal with them?

Panel Discussion



- What advice would you give another MPO (or community) if they wanted to develop a Complete Streets Policy?





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Panel Discussion

- How do you deal with the perception that Complete Streets Policies might cause a project to cost more than it would without such requirements?



Panel Discussion

- Has your policy been “tested” by a unique project? What was the outcome?



Panel Discussion

- Do you foresee making any changes to your policy in the future? If so, what are they and why are they warranted?



Complete Streets Resources

- Complete Streets Coalition:
 - <http://www.completestreets.org/>
- Alliance for Walking & Biking:
 - <http://www.thunderheadalliance.org/pdf/Guide%20Excerpts.pdf>
- AARP:
 - [http://www.aarp.org/home-garden/livable-communities/info-08-2009/Planning Complete Streets for an Aging America.html](http://www.aarp.org/home-garden/livable-communities/info-08-2009/Planning%20Complete%20Streets%20for%20an%20Aging%20America.html)
- BMCMPO:
 - www.bloomington.in.gov/clearinghouse
- MCCOG:
 - <http://www.mccog.net/Complete%20Streets/CompleteStreets.html>
- NIRPC:
 - <http://www.nirpc.org/transportation/pdf/CompleteStreetsGuidelinesFINAL.pdf>



Thank You!

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