

Michigan Local Government Management Association  
Complete Streets



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### Complete Streets in a Nutshell

- Complete streets are
  - planned,
  - designed,
  - operated and
  - maintained
- such that all users may
  - safely,
  - comfortably and
  - conveniently
- move along and across streets
- throughout a community



All users include:

- Pedestrians
- Bicyclists
- Transit users
- Motorists
- Trucks

All users include:

- Children
- Elderly
- People of various abilities



### Michigan's Complete Street Legislation

**Act 51 (Transportation) Rev.**

- Requires interjurisdictional consultation on non-motorized projects and 5-year plans
- Use of established best practices
- Establish an Advisory Council to
  - Adopt Complete Street policies
  - Develop model policies
  - Advise MDOT and locals on implementation issues
- MDOT may provide technical assistance and required to share expertise
- Enables interjurisdictional agreements for maintenance

**Act 33 (Planning) Revisions**

- Definition of "streets" expanded to include all legal users
- Expands elements that may be included in a master plan to include all forms of transportation
- Specifies that transportation improvements be appropriate to their context
- Specifies cooperation with road commission and MDOT

### Three Essential Elements of Complete Streets



**Public Policies**

- Planning & Zoning
- Design Standards
- Performance Measures
- Decision Making Process
- Universal Design
- Public Transit
- School Transportation
- Maintenance
- Enforcement

**Physical Environment**

- Urban Form
- Public R.O.W.
- Public Spaces
- Off-Road Trails
- Wayfinding
- Bicycle, Pedestrian and Transit Support Facilities
- Environmental and Art Enhancements

**Community Programs**

- Ongoing Assessment
- Resources
- Campaigns
- Marketing/ Outreach
- Special Events
- Targeted Encouragement
- School Age
- Safety Education

**Resulting Quality of Life**

- Increased Activity Levels
- Crash Reduction
- Improved Personal Safety
- Enhanced Health and Wellbeing
- Energy Savings
- Pollution Reduction
- Sense of Place
- Robust Economy

### Public Policies

- Planning & Zoning
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How does a community strategically position itself to promote walking and bicycling in its long-term planning and day-to-day operations.

Complete streets do not fall under the domain of one person, one department or even one agency.



### Physical Environment

- Urban Form
- Public R.O.W.
- Public Spaces
- Off-Road Trails
- Wayfinding
- Bicycle, Pedestrian and Transit Support Facilities
- Environmental and Art Enhancements




How safe, comfortable and convenient is it to walk and bike throughout town and to surrounding destinations?

The physical environment says a lot about where bicycles and pedestrians stand on a community's priority list



### Community Programs

- Ongoing Assessment
- Resources
- Campaigns
- Marketing / Outreach
- Special Events
- Targeted Encouragement
- School Age
- Safety Education



How do we break out of deeply ingrained travel patterns to bring about a fundamental cultural shift?

Choosing to walk or bike should not be a brave choice, but an ordinary, everyday thing

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### Resulting Quality of Life

- Increased Activity Levels
- Crash Reduction
- Improved Personal Safety
- Enhanced Health and Wellbeing
- Energy Savings
- Pollution Reduction
- Sense of Place
- Robust Economy



The public policies, physical environment and community programs (or lack thereof) come together to influence the quality of life.

Positively influencing the quality of life for all residents is the end game.

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### Why Undertake a Complete Streets Plan?

- A means to build consensus on how to best accommodate alternative transportation
- Establish a logical framework for implementation
- Work towards quality of life goals for residents
- Keep competitive in the "New Economy"!



Healthy, Livable Communities  
Cool Cities  
Smart Growth  
Safe Routes to School

All have common ground in improving non-motorized facilities

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### Creating Growth in the New Economy

- MSU's Land Policy Institute's Growth Study Found that some segments of the population are better than others when it comes to attracting economic development
  - Educated youth
  - High energy immigrants
  - Educated senior citizens
  - Entrepreneurs



Talented, well-educated people choose location first, then look for a job


Providing a high quality of life is the key to attracting these folks

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### The Importance of Place

What do these job creators want?

- Vibrant downtowns
- Green infrastructure
- Pedestrian and bicycle linkages
- Transit
- Diversity of housing options
- Recreation amenities such as water, hunting and fishing
- Creative entrepreneurial environment



This is the new board room



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### Rethinking Streets

- People have come to view most streets as having a single purpose – to move cars and trucks
- Lost is the historical context of streets as a public forum
- People spend more recreation time on streets than in parks
- Streets define a community's character



A street encompasses the road, the landscape, the sidewalks, the architecture and the people.

Streets constitute a community's single most important public space in terms of size, visibility and use

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**Questions or Comments**

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