

Complete Streets

Creating safe streets for everyone

What are complete streets?

Complete streets are designed and built to ensure they are inviting and easy for everyone to use, including pedestrians, children, elderly, cyclists, and disabled people.

To create complete streets, transportation departments, planners, and local development agencies must work together to initiate the design and construction of infrastructure that leads to a varied, quality street design.

Complete streets can include:

- sidewalks and crosswalks
- bike lanes and bike racks
- traffic calming devices like speed bumps and roundabouts
- bump-outs or curb extensions
- well-connected transit stops
- accessible retail and commercial storefronts
- streetscape improvements like benches and trees



Victoria, British Columbia; John Luton

Why are complete streets important?

Safe streets stimulate economic development by activating the street with shoppers and customers, create valuable public spaces for neighbors, and encourage people to walk and bike.

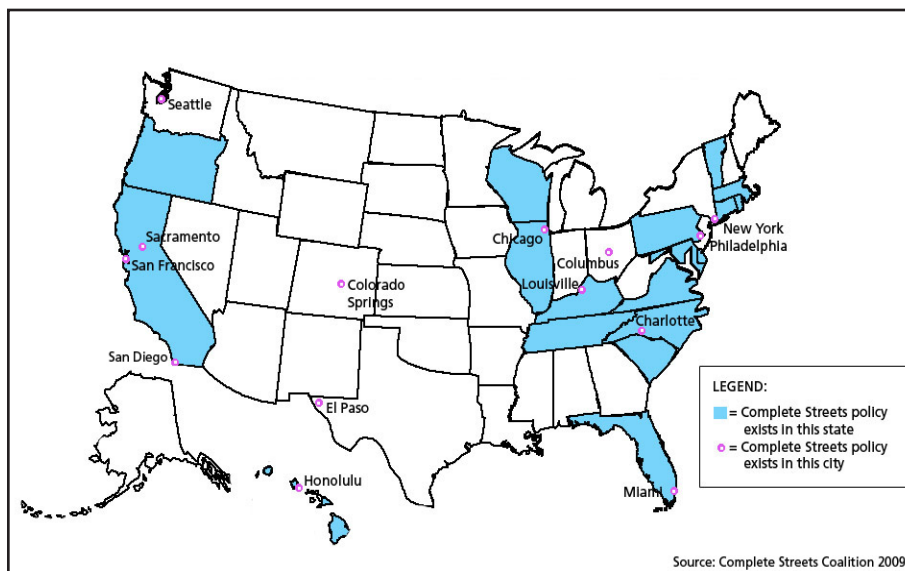
Successful complete streets are desirable destinations and safe arteries for travel of all kinds. They integrate transportation and the communities they serve, linking people and creating stronger neighborhoods.

Complete streets lead to a higher quality of life, making cities more competitive and attracting talented, diverse populations.



San Francisco, CA; Kristen Steele

Which states have Complete Streets policies?



As of 2009, Complete Streets policies existed in 18 states, including Illinois, and more than 13 cities, including Chicago, and Champaign, Ill. Cook and DuPage counties are among several counties nationwide that have such policies. Legislation varies from setting specific design requirements to including biking and walking needs in the planning process of roadway and transportation facility projects.

At the federal level, the Complete Streets Act of 2009 was introduced in March, 2009. This bill would require states to adopt complete streets policies within two years, and apply the policies to federally funded transportation projects.

For more information, please contact:

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