Compete Streets Policies and Bicycle & Pedestrian Plans: Key Tools for Healthy, Active Communities

Safe Routes to School National Partnership
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What is a Complete Streets policy?

A policy that ensures that all new construction and renovation of streets creates streets that are **safe, comfortable, and convenient** for **everyone** using them.

**Who?** People walking and biking, cars, public transportation riders, people with disabilities, and people of all ages.
What is a bicycle and pedestrian plan?

Key document adopted by a city or county that determines goals, objectives, and actions to **improve street conditions** and **programs** that support **safe walking** and **bicycling**

Sometimes referred to as an **active transportation plan**

Delves into more specific changes needed to support walking and bicycling and is **implementation focused**
Why do Complete Streets policies and bicycle and pedestrian plans matter?

- Key tools for making local changes to street design and improving environments for walking and bicycling
- Solidify local jurisdiction’s commitment to streets that support walking and biking, not just cars
- Initial steps to gaining the benefits of a walkable, bikeable community
The Benefits

• Increased safety, reduced injuries and fatalities from vehicle crashes
• Easier for people to incorporate physical activity into their day and meet physical activity recommendations
• Reduced healthcare costs
• Reduced fuel costs and wear and tear on roads
• Increased commercial revenues
Essential Components for a Strong Policy or Plan

- Ensuring policies and plans advance equity
- Meaningful community engagement
- Defined implementation steps
- Performance measures & reporting
- Implementation oversight
Key Roles for Health

- Translating health data into transportation needs & strong policy language
- Community engagement
- Providing health perspective to decision makers
- Non-infrastructure programmatic recommendations
- Funding and implementation
- Evaluation
Complete Streets Policies

Key Components of a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan
- A bicycle and pedestrian plan typically includes these key elements:
  - Key elements: Complete Streets policies and plans, bicycle and pedestrian plans,
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