



Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Dear Governor Charlie Crist:

The US Secretary of Transportation issued a significant new policy statement putting walking and bicycling on equal footing with motorized traffic. Washington supports complete streets and multi-modal transportation. Given this direction, the Institute of Transportation Engineers' new Walkable Urban Thoroughfares Manual, and the example for statewide leadership on complete streets by California and their Complete Streets Implementation Action Plan, we call upon you, the Governor of Florida, and the Florida Secretary of Transportation to do the following:

- Adopt the New Federal Policy Statement as FDOT policy and integrate it into the state's policies, planning processes and guidance documents, including the FDOT revisions to the "Green Book"—the manual used by local governments in designing their road projects.
- Provide leadership and support for a complete streets approach statewide, including aggressively promoting its adoption in communities throughout Florida so that a statewide complete streets program and action plan can be developed and implemented.

BACKGROUND: Below are the details on the three recent events that prompt this request for action:

1. Secretary LaHood Announces New Federal Bike/Ped Accommodations Policy Statement

Secretary of Transportation Ray [LaHood issued a new federal policy](#) on Monday, putting walking and bicycling on equal footing with motorized traffic. The statement details what agencies large and small can and should do to integrate non-motorized modes into future projects:

- Consider walking and bicycling as equals with other transportation modes;
- Ensure convenient choices for people of all ages and abilities;
- Go beyond minimum design standards;
- Integrate bicycle and pedestrian accommodation on new, rehabilitated, and limited-access bridges;
- Collect data on walking and biking trips;
- Improve non-motorized facilities during maintenance projects.

The USDOT policy statement encourages States, local governments, professional associations, community organizations, public transportation agencies and other government agencies to adopt similar policy statements.

2. Walkable Urban Thoroughfares Manual Debuted by Institute of Transportation Engineers

The Institute of Transportation Engineers debuted its new Recommended Practice: [Designing Walkable Urban Thoroughfares: A Context Sensitive Approach](#). This new manual, produced in cooperation with

the Federal Highway Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, and in partnership with the Congress for the New Urbanism, will be of great help as communities and states [implement their complete streets policies](#).

3. California Releases Complete Streets Implementation Action Plan

The California Department of Transportation has released its [Complete Streets Implementation Action Plan](#), a set of actions to create a statewide system of roads for California travelers of all ages and abilities and ensure implementation. The priority actions include updating the Highway Design Manual, as well as system planning guidance, project development procedures, and reviewing data collection and performance measures. Please recommend a similar framework and implementation action plan for our state.

Thank you for your attention to these important issues.

Sincerely,

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