

COMPLETE STREETS FACT SHEET

What are Complete Streets?

- The streets of our cities and towns ought to be for everyone, whether young or old, motorist or bicyclist, walker or wheelchair user, bus rider or shopkeeper.
- But too many of our streets are designed only for speeding cars, or creeping traffic jams.
- They're unsafe for people on foot or bike—and unpleasant for everyone.
- The streets are not complete until they are safe and convenient for travel by foot or bicycle, as well as for transit users, people with disabilities, and people in automobiles.
- A street without such safe passage is by default "incomplete."
- In communities across the country, a movement is growing to complete the streets. States, cities and towns are asking their planners, engineers and designers to build road networks that welcome all citizens.

[National Complete Streets Coalition, www.completestreets.org]

Benefits of Complete Streets

- **Economic revitalization:** Complete streets can reduce transportation costs and travel time while increasing property values and job growth.
- **Improved return on infrastructure investments:** Integrating sidewalks, bike lanes, transit amenities, and safe crossings into the initial design of a project spares the expense of retrofits later.
- **Quality of place:** Increased bicycling and walking are indicative of vibrant and livable communities.
- **Increased transportation choices:** Streets that provide travel choices can give people the option to avoid traffic jams, and increase the overall capacity of the transportation network.
- **Improved safety:** Improved design and accommodation for bicyclists and pedestrians reduces the incidence of crashes.
- **More walking and bicycling:** Public health experts are encouraging walking and bicycling as a response to the obesity epidemic. Streets that provide room for bicycling and walking help children get physical activity and gain independence.

[The National Complete Streets Coalition "Benefits Fact Sheet, and the Bicycle Coalition of Maine, April 2009]