

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A COMPLETE STREETS POLICY FOR NOVA SCOTIA MUNICIPALITIES

WHEREAS, *Complete Streets* are streets for every person and user, and provide a mechanism to support Active Transportation by providing a policy framework; and,

WHEREAS, the mobility of freight and passengers and the safety, convenience, and comfort of motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians - including people requiring mobility aids, transit riders, and neighborhood residents of all ages and abilities should all be considered when planning and designing municipality's streets; and,

WHEREAS, integrating sidewalks, bicycle facilities, transit amenities, and safe crossings into the initial design of street projects avoids the expense of retrofits later; and,

WHEREAS, streets are a critical component of public space and play a major role in establishing the image and identity of a municipality, providing a key framework for current and future development; and,

WHEREAS, streets are a critical component of the success and vitality of adjoining private uses and neighborhoods; and,

WHEREAS, Active, Healthy Communities integrates physical activity into daily routines and Active, Healthy Communities encourage individuals of all ages and abilities to be more physically active; and,

WHEREAS, physical activity improves health by lowering risk for poor health conditions such as diabetes, and heart disease; and,

WHEREAS, communities that support physical activity and active transportation strive to create amenities that will enhance the quality of life of its residents, improve the physical and social environment in ways that attract businesses and workers, and contribute to economic development; and,

WHEREAS, [municipality] policy as stated in the adopted [local Transportation Plan] includes the goal of creating a multi-modal transportation system that encourages walking, bicycling, and transit use as part of a safe, accessible, convenient transportation system that meets the needs of people of all abilities, whether they are pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, or motor vehicle occupants, including children, elderly or disabled; and,

WHEREAS, rights-of-way are constrained in many developed areas of the [municipality], which limits the ability to expand roadways to accommodate continued growth in traffic volumes, suggesting that alternatives to single occupant vehicles must also be pursued; and,

WHEREAS, a goal of Complete Streets is to improve the access and mobility for all users of streets in the community by improving safety through reducing conflict and

encouraging non-motorized transportation and transit, which will enhance the promotion of physical activity as a means to improve the health of the community residents, and improve environmental conditions, including air quality; and,

WHEREAS, it is recognized that there are some streets or corridors in the [municipality] which would not fully satisfy a complete streets environment - where it would not be advisable to have non-motorized travel, but that the transportation system will support a comprehensive network of complete streets to serve all users.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the [municipality] establish a Complete Streets Policy that provides as follows:

1. The [municipality] will seek to enhance the safety, access, convenience and comfort of all users of all ages and abilities, including pedestrians (including people requiring mobility aids), bicyclists, transit users, motorists and freight drivers, through the design, operation and maintenance of the transportation network so as to create a connected network of facilities accommodating each mode of travel that is consistent with and supportive of the local community, recognizing that all streets are different and that the needs of various users will need to be balanced in a flexible manner.
2. Transportation improvements will include facilities and amenities that are recognized as contributing to Complete Streets, which may include street and sidewalk lighting; sidewalks and pedestrian safety improvements such as median refuges or crosswalk improvements; transit accommodations including improved pedestrian access to transit stops and bus shelters; bicycle accommodations including bicycle storage, bicycle parking, bicycle routes, shared-use lanes, paved shoulders, parallel shared use paths or cycle tracks wide travel lanes or bike lanes as appropriate; and street trees, boulevard landscaping, street furniture and adequate drainage facilities.
3. Early consideration of all modes for all users will be important to the success of this Policy. Those planning and designing street projects will give due consideration to bicycle, pedestrian, and transit facilities from the very start of planning and design work. This will apply to all roadway projects, including those involving new construction, reconstruction, or changes in the allocation of pavement space on an existing roadway (such as the reduction in the number of travel lanes or removal of on-street parking).
4. Bicycle, pedestrian, and transit facilities shall be included in street construction, re-construction, re-paving, and re-habilitation projects, except under one or more of the following conditions:
 - A. A project involves only ordinary maintenance activities designed to keep assets in serviceable condition, such as mowing, cleaning, sweeping, spot repair, concrete joint repair, or pothole filling , or when interim measures are implemented on temporary detour or haul routes.

- B. The [municipality] Engineer determines there is insufficient space to safely accommodate new facilities.
 - C. The [municipality] Engineer determines there are relatively high safety risks.
 - D. The Municipal Council exempts a project due to the excessive and disproportionate cost of establishing a bikeway, walkway or transit enhancement as part of a project.
 - E. The [municipality] Engineer and the Director of the Planning jointly determine that the construction is not practically feasible or cost effective because of significant or adverse environmental impacts to streams, flood plains, wetlands, steep slopes or other critical areas, or due to impacts on neighboring land uses, including impact from right of way acquisition.
5. It will be important to the success of the Complete Streets policy to ensure that the project development process includes early consideration of the land use and transportation context of the project, the identification of gaps or deficiencies in the network for various user groups that could be addressed by the project, and an assessment of the tradeoffs to balance the needs of all users. The context factors that should be given high priority include the following:
- A. Whether the corridor provides a primary access to a significant destination such as a community or regional park or recreational area, a school, a shopping / commercial area, or an employment center;
 - B. Whether the corridor provides access across a natural or manmade barrier such as a river or freeway;
 - C. Whether the corridor is in an area where a relatively high number of users of non-motorized transportation modes can be anticipated;
 - D. Whether a road corridor provides important continuity or connectivity links for an existing trail or path network; or
 - E. Whether nearby routes that provide a similar level of convenience and connectivity already exist.
6. The design of new or reconstructed facilities should anticipate likely future demand for bicycling, walking and transit facilities and should not preclude the provision of future improvements. [For example, under most circumstances bridges (which last for 75 years or more) should be built with sufficient width for safe bicycle and pedestrian use in anticipation of a future need for such facilities].

7. The [municipality] will maintain a comprehensive inventory of the pedestrian and bicycling facility infrastructure and will carry out projects to eliminate gaps in the sidewalk and trail networks.
8. Complete Streets may be achieved through single projects or incrementally through a series of smaller improvements or maintenance activities over time.
9. The [municipality] will generally follow accepted or adopted design standards when implementing improvements intended to fulfill this Complete Streets policy but will consider innovative or non-traditional design options where a comparable level of safety for users is present.
10. The [municipality] will develop implementation strategies that may include evaluating and revising manuals and practices, developing and adopting network plans, identifying goals and targets, and tracking measures such as safety and modal shifts to gauge success.
11. The [municipality] will develop education/awareness strategies that may include pedestrian and cycling safety skill training for various audiences (such as children and youth and others) as well as a Share-the-Road campaign, which would support infrastructure changes by ensuring all users know how to use and share the facilities and amenities of the transportation network.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the feasibility report prepared for a street project shall include documentation of compliance with this Policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the [municipality's regional or comprehensive plan] is amended so as to include the Complete Streets Policy provided for in this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Policy shall become effective as of _____, 20__.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF [MUNICIPALITY], THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 20__.

MAYOR OF SAID COMMON COUNCIL

ATTEST: _____

MUNICIPAL CLERK

APPROVED THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 20__.
