

City of New Brunswick Complete Streets Policy

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of New Brunswick supports the development of “complete streets” and wishes to reinforce its commitment to creating a comprehensive, integrated, connected street network that safely accommodates all road users of all abilities and for all trips;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

I. PURPOSE

To create and implement a Complete Streets Policy in New Brunswick through the planning, design, construction, maintenance and operation of new and retrofit transportation facilities within public rights of way, including projects processed or administered through the City’s Capital Program.

II. DEFINITIONS

A Complete Street is defined as means to provide safe access for all users by designing and operating a comprehensive, integrated, connected multi-modal network of transportation options.

III. BACKGROUND

The benefits of Complete Streets are many and varied:

- Complete Streets improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, children, older citizens, non drivers and the mobility challenged as well as those that cannot afford a car or choose to live car free.
- Provide connections to bicycling and walking trip generators such as employment, education, residential, recreation, retail centers and public facilities.
- Promote healthy lifestyles.
- Create more livable communities.
- Reduce traffic congestion and reliance on carbon fuels thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Complete Streets make fiscal sense by incorporating sidewalks, bike lanes, safe crossings and transit amenities into the initial design of a project, thus sparing the expense of retrofits later.

IV. POLICY

The New Brunswick Department of Engineering shall implement a Complete Streets policy through the planning, design, construction, maintenance and operation of new and retrofit transportation facilities, enabling safe access and mobility of pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users of all ages and abilities. This includes all projects funded through the Department’s Capital Program. The Department strongly encourages the adoption of similar policies by the County and State when they are funding or undertaking the retrofit or construction of transportation facilities in New Brunswick.

1. Create a comprehensive, integrated, connected multi-modal network by providing connections to bicycling and walking trip generators such as employment, education, residential, recreational and public facilities, as well as retail and transit centers.
2. Provide safe and accessible accommodations for existing and future pedestrian, bicycle and transit facilities.
3. Establish a checklist of pedestrian, bicycle and transit accommodations such as accessible sidewalks curb ramps, crosswalks, countdown pedestrian signals, signs, median refuges, curb extensions, pedestrian scale lighting, bike lanes, shoulders and bus shelters with the presumption that they shall be included in each project unless supporting documentation against inclusion is provided and found to be justifiable.
4. Establish a procedure to evaluate resurfacing projects for complete streets inclusion according to length of project, local support, environmental constraints, right-of-way limitations, funding resources and bicycle and/or pedestrian compatibility.
5. Transportation facilities are long-term investments that shall anticipate likely future demand for bicycling and walking facilities and not preclude the provision of future improvements.
6. Address the need for bicyclists and pedestrians to cross corridors as well as travel along them. Even where bicyclists and pedestrians may not commonly use a particular travel corridor that is being improved or constructed, they will likely need to be able to cross that corridor safely and conveniently. Therefore, the design of intersections, interchanges and bridges shall accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians in a manner that is safe, accessible and convenient.
7. Design bicycle and pedestrian facilities to the best currently available standards and practices including the New Jersey Roadway Design Manual, the AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, AASHTO's Guide for the Planning, Design and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities, the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices and others as related.
8. Stay abreast of and support new technologies in improving safety and mobility.
9. Make provisions for pedestrians and bicyclists when closing roads, bridges or sidewalks for construction projects as outlined in NJDOT Policy #705 – Accommodating Pedestrian and Bicycle Traffic During Construction.
10. Improvements should also consider connections for Safe Routes to Schools, Safe Routes to Transit, Transit Villages, trail crossings and areas or population groups with limited transportation options.
11. Improvements must comply with Title VI/Environmental Justice, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and should complement the context of the surrounding community.
12. A memorandum from the Mayor and Business Administrator outlining the Complete Streets policy shall be distributed to all Department Heads within 30 days of adoption of this resolution. Additionally, the Director of Public Works, City Engineer, Director of Police, Director of Planning, Community and Economic Development, Business Administrator, Water Utility Director and Director of Social Services, along with other appropriate staff, shall attend a Complete Streets training program within 180 days of adoption of this resolution.
13. Establish Performance Measures to gauge success.

14. Update the City's Engineering Standards for to provide guidance for private developers to follow when private development affects elements of a complete street, such as sidewalks, crosswalks, handicapped ramps, street furniture, street lighting, street landscaping and roadway surfaces.

V. EXEMPTIONS

Exemptions to the Complete Streets policy must be presented for final decision to the Mayor in writing by the Department of Engineering and documented with supporting data that indicates the reason for the decision and are limited to the following:

- 1) Non-motorized users are prohibited on the roadway.
- 2) Scarcity of population, travel and attractors, both existing and future, indicate an absence of need for such accommodations.
- 3) Detrimental environmental or social impacts outweigh the need for these accommodations.
- 4) Cost of accommodations is excessively disproportionate to cost of project, more than twenty percent (20%) of total cost.
- 5) The safety or timing of a project is compromised by the inclusion of Complete Streets.

An exemption other than those listed above must be documented with supporting data and must be approved by the Mayor along with approval by the City Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be sent to the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders and all Departments and Agencies having a responsibility for or connection with projections covered by the City of New Brunswick Complete Streets Policy.