

BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK
No. 8-13-248

RESOLUTION SETTING FORTH HIGHLAND PARK'S
COMMITMENT TO COMPLETE STREETS

RESOLUTION: Public Works & Public Utilities Committee

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Transportation's Complete Streets policy states "A Complete Street is defined as providing safe access for all users by designing and operating a comprehensive, integrated, connected multi-modal network of transportation options;" and

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

WHEREAS, the Borough Council supports this "complete streets" initiative and wishes to reinforce its commitment to creating a comprehensive, integrated, connected street network that safely accommodates all road users of all abilities and disabilities for all trips; and

WHEREAS, the Borough, Middlesex County, and the New Jersey Department of Transportation have already completed street projects that improve the walking environment and safety of pedestrians, including the 2011-2013 improvements to Raritan Avenue and the 2011 crosswalk improvements on River Road;

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Borough of Highland Park hereby recognizes the importance of creating Complete Streets that enable safe travel by all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation riders, motor vehicle drivers, emergency vehicle drivers, and people of all ages and abilities, including children, youth, families, older adults, and individuals with disabilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Borough departments and professionals, such as Department of Public Works, municipal planner, engineer and Zoning Officer should incorporate Complete Streets infrastructure into all planning, design, approval, and implementation processes for any construction, reconstruction, or retrofit of streets, bridges, or other portions of the transportation network, including pavement resurfacing, restriping, and signalization operations if the safety and convenience of users can be improved within the scope of the work; however, such infrastructure may be excluded, upon written approval of the Borough Administrator made publicly available by the Borough Clerk with input from the Borough Council, where documentation and data indicate that:

- (1) Use by non-motorized users is prohibited by law;
- (2) The cost would be excessively disproportionate to the need or probable future use over the long term;
- (3) There is an absence of current need AND no reasonable expectation of future need based on the Zoning Ordinance, Master Plan, and population trends;
- (4) Inclusion of such infrastructure would be unreasonable or inappropriate in light of the scope of the project; or
- (5) Significant adverse environmental impacts outweigh the positive effects of the infrastructure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Planning Board, the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Redevelopment Agency, along with their respective planning and engineering professionals, shall incorporate this Complete Streets policy into its reviews of major site plan and redevelopment projects; that all initial planning and design studies, environmental reviews, and other project reviews for projects requiring funding or approval by the Borough of Highland Park should: (1) evaluate the effect of proposed project on safe travel by all users, and (2) identify measures to mitigate any adverse impacts on such travel that are identified.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Borough departments and professionals, such as Department of Public Works, Municipal Planner, Engineer and Zoning Officer should review and either revise or develop proposed revisions to all appropriate plans, zoning and subdivision codes, laws, procedures, rules, and regulations, including subsequent updates to the Borough of Highland Park Master Plan and Redevelopment Plan, to integrate, accommodate, and balance the needs of all users in all projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that trainings in how to integrate, accommodate, and balance the needs of all users should be provided for planners, civil and traffic engineers, project managers, plan reviewers, inspectors, and other personnel responsible for the design and construction of streets, bridges, and other portions of the transportation network.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the head of each affected department should report back to the Borough Council within one year of the date of passage of this resolution regarding: the steps taken to implement this Resolution; additional steps planned; revisions carried out to codes, rules, plans and procedures to implement this resolution, and any desired actions that would need to be taken by the Borough Council or other agencies or departments to implement the steps taken or planned.

ADOPTED: August 13, 2013

ATTEST:

BOROUGH CLERK

I, Joan Hullings, Borough Clerk of the Borough of Highland Park, New Jersey, do hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Borough Council of said Borough on the 13th day of August, 2013.

Joan Hullings, Borough Clerk

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTES

Council Member	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Brill Mittler				
Erickson				
Foster-Dublin				
Millet				
Potts				
Welkovits				