

RESOLUTION ADOPTING A COMPLETE STREETS POLICY TO DESIGNATE AND OPERATE A COMPREHENSIVE, INTEGRATED, CONNECTED MULTI-MODAL NETWORK OF TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

WHEREAS, a Complete Street is defined as a means to provide 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 the mobility challenged as well as those that cannot afford a car or choose to live car free, providing connections to public transportation, employment, education, residential, recreation, retail centers, tourist attractions, 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, on-street bike facilities, and safe crossings; and

WHEREAS, the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders wishes to establish a Complete Streets Policy through the planning, design, construction, maintenance and operation of new and retrofitted transportation facilities, enabling safe access and mobility; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Element of the Passaic County Master Plan identifies priority actions and improvement areas along with Complete Streets Guidelines that act as an action plan to propose Complete Streets alternatives that match the context of the surrounding land use in adherence to the Policy;

WHEREAS, the Freeholder Committee for Planning and Economic Development, at its meeting of February 4, 2014, reviewed this matter and is recommending to the full Board for adoption.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders hereby adopts a Complete

Streets Policy to designate and operate a comprehensive integrated, connected multi-modal network of transportation options, with the following goals and objectives:

1. Create a comprehensive, integrated, connected multi-modal transportation network by facilitating connection 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 Complete Streets checklist to document preferred outcomes and ensure that adequate consideration of bicycle, pedestrian and transit needs are incorporated into the planning, concept development, preliminary and final engineering, construction, and maintenance of projects where County jurisdiction applies. This checklist shall also be applied to site plan review and resurfacing projects. The Planning Department Project Manager is responsible for completing the checklist with all supporting documentation and must work with the Project Designer to ensure that the checklist has been completed and all comments addressed prior to advancement of a project to Final Design. The Checklist shall be applied to all new publicly funded transportation and land use projects with the exception of:
 - Sidewalk repairs
 - Bicycle facility roadway markings, striping or signage
 - Installation of bike racks or street signs
 - Installation of ADA curb ramps;
4. Additionally, checklist items shall take into consideration scenic and historic assets that may be impacted by any project as well as any possible “Green Streets” applications that can mitigate the impacts of flooding throughout the County;

5. Transportation facilities constructed for long-term use shall anticipate likely future demand for bicycling and walking and public transportation facilities and not preclude the provision of future improvements;
6. Designs shall address the need for bicyclists and pedestrians to cross corridors and waterways, as well as travel along them, in a safe, accessible and convenient manner; therefore, the design of intersections, interchanges and bridges shall anticipate use by bicyclists and pedestrians;
7. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities shall be designed and constructed to the most reasonable extents possible to adhere to the Passaic County Complete Streets Guidelines in conjunction with 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. The provision of all improvements on County roadways will be compatible with the Transportation Element of the Passaic County Master Plan, October 2012;
9. Provisions shall be made to the most reasonable extent possible 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 shall also consider connections for Safe Routes to Schools, Safe Routes to Transit, Transit Villages, trail crossings and areas or populations groups with limited transportation options;
11. Improvements shall comply with Title VII Environmental Justice, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and complement the context of the surrounding community; and