

6-9-14

VIII-B

TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL
MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

ORDINANCE NO. 14 - _____

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING
CHAPTER XV, "STREETS AND SIDEWALKS" OF
THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF
THE TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL TO ESTABLISH
A COMPLETE STREETS POLICY**

WHEREAS, the Township of Hopewell is committed to creating street corridors that will accommodate road users of all ages and abilities for all types of uses including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit vehicles, children, older citizens, and the mobility challenged; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Hopewell is recognized as a popular and desirable place for non-motorized travel due to its natural beauty and connectivity to trails and parks; and

WHEREAS, a Complete Street is a road designed designed with all users - bikers, walkers, transit riders and drivers - in mind. Roads are built to safely accommodate a variety of transportation modes and users of all ages and abilities. Complete Streets are planned, designed and constructed to blend with the local community while meeting transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of Complete Streets include:

- Improving safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, children, older citizens, and the 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,
- 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, grants and related funding opportunities now require the implementation of Complete Streets policies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Hopewell that the Township does hereby implement a Complete Streets policy by creating new section 6 in Chapter XV of the Revised General Ordinances as follows:

SECTION 1.

15-6.1 Purpose

All public street projects in the Township of Hopewell, both new construction and reconstruction, excluding maintenance, shall be planned, designed and constructed as Complete Streets.

15-6.2 Definitions

For the purpose of this ordinance, the following terms, phrases, words, and their derivations shall have the meanings stated herein unless otherwise set forth :

Complete Streets – a street design policy which provides for the accommodation of travel by pedestrians, bicyclists, public transit users, and motorists. Complete Streets shall accommodate users of all ages and abilities.

Design - facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians shall follow industry standard design guidelines such as 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; Americans with Disabilities Act; and others as related. Design considerations shall include connections for Safe Routes to School, Safe Routes to Transit, Transit Villages, trail crossings, and areas or population groups with limited transportation options.

15-6.3 Exceptions

An exception from the establishment of bicycle and pedestrian ways in new construction and reconstruction projects may be granted by resolution of the Township Tommittee if any one of the following conditions are met:

- a. Bicyclists and pedestrians are prohibited by law from using the roadway.
- b. Detrimental environmental or social impacts outweigh the need for these accommodations.
- c. The safety or timing of a project is compromised by the inclusion of Complete Streets design practices.
- d. The cost of incorporating new bicycle, pedestrian, and/or public transit facilities is excessive, defined as greater than twenty percent (20%) of total cost. The need for and/or probable use of the facility shall be considered in making the determination as to whether or not an exception should be approved at this time or held for future consideration.
- e. An exemption other than those listed above must be documented with supporting data and must be approved by the Mayor and Township Committee.

Designs for new facilities which have been granted an exception shall not preclude future improvements for bicycling and walking.

16-6.4 Accommodations During Construction

Accommodations for pedestrian and bicycle traffic shall be made when closing roads, bridges, or sidewalks for construction projects as outlined by New Jersey Department of Transportation Policy.

16-6.5 Planning

This Complete Streets Policy shall be reviewed by the Planning Board as part of each master plan reexamination, update, revision or amendment.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that a certified copy of this Ordinance shall be sent to the Planning Board, Board of Adjustment, Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders and State of New Jersey Department of Transportation.

SECTION 2.

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication as required by law.

Date Introduced:

Date Advertised:

Date Adopted:

Vanessa Sandom, Mayor

Attest:

Laurie E. Gompf, Municipal Clerk