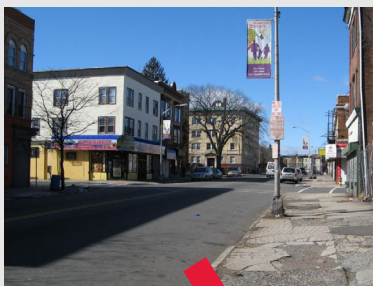




EDUCATE.
ENCOURAGE.
EMPOWER.

www.njbikeped.org



RUTGERS

Edward J. Bloustein School
of Planning and Public Policy

HOW MUCH ARE INCOMPLETE STREETS* COSTING YOUR COMMUNITY?

What are Complete Streets?

Complete Streets are streets for everyone. They are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities. Complete Streets make it easy to cross the street, walk to shops, and bicycle to work. They allow buses to run on time and make it safe for people to walk to and from transit stops. Complete Streets are designed with the needs of the surrounding community in mind.

What are the benefits of Complete Streets?

Economic: Complete Streets have been shown to spur private investment, raise property values, and increase traffic to local businesses. With younger demographics increasingly preferring to live in vibrant, walkable neighborhoods, Complete Streets help communities remain competitive in attracting residents and jobs.

Health: Complete Streets provide opportunities for increased physical activity to be incorporated into daily routines. 55% of the US adult population falls short of recommended activity guidelines and childhood obesity rates have more than doubled in the past 30 years.

Safety: Complete Streets make travel safer. There are over 80,000 vehicle crashes each year in New Jersey and over 5,000 involving pedestrians. More than 700 people die on the state's roads every year.

Financial: Complete Streets can help save people. Transportation costs make up 20% of the average household budget. An estimated 30% of all trips are a mile or less, and many people would prefer to make these trips by walking or bicycling if they had a safe and comfortable way to do so.

Mobility: Complete Streets allow those who cannot or prefer not to drive to have access to their daily needs. One third of Americans don't drive, a number which is expected to increase as by 2025 nearly one in five Americans will be over the age of 65.

Are there added costs of Complete Streets?

In addition to the economic benefits mentioned above, Complete Streets typically add little to no expense to a community's budget. Complete Streets projects are often more cost-effective than streets designed only for cars. Many Complete Streets implementations are simply a matter of restriping lines differently after repaving a street.

What is a Complete Streets policy?

Complete Streets policies direct decision-makers to consistently plan for, design, construct, and fund community streets to accommodate all anticipated users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation users, motorists, and freight vehicles. While Complete Streets policies are most often found in either Resolutions or Ordinances, they may also take the form of executive orders, board policies, plans, or design guidelines.

Does New Jersey have a Complete Streets policy?

The NJ Department of Transportation passed one of the nation's strongest Complete Streets policies in 2009. As of August 7, 2013, five counties and 64 municipalities in New Jersey had passed policies. Policies have been adopted in urban, suburban, and rural communities. Only Michigan, a larger state both in terms of population and total municipalities, has adopted more policies.

*Incomplete Streets are streets that are intended only to facilitate the movement of automobiles but could accommodate all road users by making simple changes.