

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS  
COUNTY OF ESSEX

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
PROPOSED BY: FREEHOLDER GILL

AUTHORITY FOR RESOLUTION N.J.S.A. 40:41A-38(g)  
AUTHORITY FOR ACTION C.C.E. 3:2-29(B)

SUBJECT:

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**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AND ADOPTING AN ESSEX COUNTY COMPLETE STREETS POLICY**

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**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 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 Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders wishes to establish a Complete Streets policy though the planning, design, construction, maintenance and operation of new and retrofit transportation facilities, enabling safe access and mobility; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the intent of the Board of Chosen Freeholders that to the extent practicable, the Essex County Complete Streets policy shall include all road, bridge, and building projects.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders establish the following Complete Streets Policy with the following goals and objectives:

1. Provide safe and accessible accommodations for existing and future pedestrian, bicycle and transit facilities.
2. Establish a checklist of pedestrian, bicycle and transit accommodations such as accessible sidewalks curb ramps, crosswalks, countdown pedestrian signals, signs, curb extensions, pedestrian scale lighting, bike lanes, and shoulders for consideration in each project where county jurisdiction applies.
3. Additionally, in rural areas, paved shoulders or a multi-use path shall be in all new construction and reconstruction projects on roadways used by more than 1,000 vehicles per day. Paved shoulders provide safety and operational advantages for all road users. Exemptions shall be considered for County and State designated routes such as Scenic Roads, and Historic or Cultural Byways. If there is evidence of heavy pedestrian usage then sidewalks shall be considered in the project.
4. Establishment of 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 constructed for long-term use shall anticipate likely future demand for bicycling and walking facilities and not preclude the provision of future improvements.
6. Designs shall address the need for bicyclists and pedestrians to cross corridors, as well as travel along them, in a safe, accessible and convenient manner.

7. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities shall be designed and constructed 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. Provisions shall be made 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.

9. Improvements shall 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.

10. Improvements shall comply with Title VII Environmental Justice, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and complement the context of the surrounding community.

11. Exemptions to the Complete Streets policy shall be presented for final decision to the County Engineer in writing and documented with supporting data that indicates the reason for the decision and are limited to the following:

- a) Non-motorized users are prohibited on the roadway.
- b) Scarcity of population, travel and attractors, both existing and future, indicate an absence of need for such accommodations.
- c) Detrimental environmental or social impacts outweigh the need for these accommodations.
- d) Cost of accommodations is excessively disproportionate to cost of project.
- e) The safety or timing of a project is compromised by the inclusion of Complete Streets.
- f) An exemption other than those listed above must be documented with supporting data and must be approved by the County Engineer.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a certified copy of this Resolution shall be sent to the Office of the County Administrator, Office of County Counsel and Department of Public Works.