



## **RESOLUTION - POLICIES - ESTABLISHING AND ADOPTING COMPLETE STREETS POLICY**

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Department of Transportation's (NJDOT) Complete Streets Policy states, "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 Policy include improving safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, children, older citizens, non-drivers and the mobility challenged, as well as those who cannot afford a car or choose to live without a car; providing connections to bicycling and walking trip generators such as employment, education, residential, recreation facilities, 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 for new projects saving money by incorporating sidewalks, bike lanes, safe crossings, provision for curbside deliveries, and transit amenities into the initial design of a project, thus sparing the expense of retrofits later; and

**WHEREAS**, the goals of a Complete Streets Policy are: improvement of safety, mobility and access for all users; promotion of healthy lifestyles and public health; provision of environmental benefits; mitigation of long term capital costs; and support for local businesses and the local economy and the implementation of this policy will create a comprehensive, integrated, connected multi-modal transportation network within Franklin Township; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council of the Township of Franklin wishes to implement a Complete Streets policy through the planning, design, construction, maintenance and operation of the entire right of way for new and retrofit transportation facilities which are the Township's responsibility, enabling safe access and mobility for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users and motorists of all ages and abilities; and

**WHEREAS**, a Complete Streets Policy commits Franklin Township to design and implement, to the extent practicable, all new street construction, reconstruction, or repaving; provide safe access and use for all users (pedestrians, bicyclists, etc. as well as motor vehicles) and provides exceptions to the policy made in writing following policy requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of the Complete Streets Policy, the NJDOT strongly encourages the adoption of similar policies by regional and local jurisdictions who apply for funding through

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Local Aid programs (and grants a point on grant proposals to municipalities which have adopted a Complete Streets policy), and Somerset County and eight of its municipalities have adopted Complete Streets policies; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of Franklin, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey that it hereby adopts a Complete Streets Policy with the following objectives:

1. Provide safe and accessible accommodations for existing and future pedestrian, bicycling and transit facilities and shall consider opportunities to improve public health through promotion of healthy lifestyles and improving mental and physical health, including the following:
  - a. Incorporating physical activity into our lives by increasing pedestrian activity and bicycle use;
  - b. By increasing physical activity, reducing rates of chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, depression, and some cancers;
  - c. Reducing rates of injury and death from decreased traffic crashes and improved road safety for all users;
  - d. Reducing rates of asthma and other respiratory issues by improving air quality through emissions reduction and air filtration by vegetation;
  - e. Increasing health and wellness benefits by improving access to necessary amenities for vulnerable populations;
  - f. Reducing the risk of illnesses related to water-borne pathogens resulting from improved storm water infiltration;
  - g. Increasing the sense of social connectivity and sense of belonging to a community;
  - h. Improving aesthetics through decorative and functional vegetation.
  
2. Establish a checklist of pedestrian, bicycle and transit accommodations such as accessible sidewalk curb ramps, crosswalks, countdown pedestrian signals, signs, curb extensions to provide safety for pedestrians waiting to cross, lighting designed to illuminate pedestrians, provision for curbside delivery to retail establishments, bicycle lanes, and walkable/ridable shoulders, for consideration in each township street project. The interaction of pedestrian and bicycle traffic with on-street parking, if any, and the inclusion of vegetated swales and buffers to reduce storm water run-off, should be considered. The checklist shall be used during the planning, designing,

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construction, and maintenance of all transportation projects. The Director of Public Works or his/her designee shall be responsible for completing or reviewing the checklists. All complete street checklists shall be made publicly available.

3. This Resolution shall be forwarded all Township departments within thirty (30) days of adoption. The Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, and the Township Engineer shall make Complete Streets practices and principals a standard part of everyday operations. All township transportation projects, procedures, policies, training programs, performance measures and other guidance documents shall be evaluated for Complete Streets consistency and feasibility, with consideration of local support, environmental constraints, right-of-way availability, funding resources, and bicycle and pedestrian compatibility. All planning and design studies shall consider opportunities to improve public health.
4. In rural areas, paved shoulders or a multi-use path shall be included in all new construction and reconstruction projects on roadways used by more than 1,000 vehicles per day. Paved shoulders provide safety and operation advantages for all users. Exemptions shall be considered for designated Scenic Roads and Historic Byways. If there is evidence of regular pedestrian use, sidewalks should be considered in the project.
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 available design standards and practices, including the New Jersey Roadway Design Manual, the New Jersey Complete Street Design Guide, 2017 edition, the AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, AASHTO's Guide for the Planning, Design and Operations of Pedestrian Facilities, the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, FHWA's *Achieving Multimodal Networks: Applying Design Flexibility and Reducing Conflicts*, and others as related.

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8. Provisions shall be made for pedestrians and bicycles when closing roads or sidewalks for construction projects as outlined in NJDOT Policy #705 - Accommodating Pedestrian and Bicycle Traffic During Construction.
9. Improvements shall also consider connections to Safe Routes to Schools, Safe Routes to Transit, Transit Villages, trail crossings, and areas or population groups with limited transportation options.
10. Improvements shall also consider recommendations in the Franklin Township Master Plan, as well as pedestrian, bicycle and trail plans.
11. Improvements shall comply with Title VII Environmental Justice, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and complement the context of the surrounding community.
12. All private developers and other entities must obtain prior approval from the Director of Public Works or his/her designee for any complete streets-related construction on streets that are or will be township streets or within the township's right of way. In addition any such construction on Somerset County roadways must obtain prior approval from the County Engineer.
13. The Township may enter into partnerships with Somerset County, private developers and other entities in order to ensure project support as well as adequate funding of the design, construction and maintenance of proposed facilities.
14. Exemptions to the Complete Streets policy shall be presented to the Director of Public Works or his/her designee in writing and documented with supporting data that indicates the reason for the decision, and are limited to the following:
  - a. Where non-motorized users are prohibited by law.
  - b. Where scarcity of population, travel and attractors, both existing and future, indicate an absence of need for such accommodations.
  - c. Where detrimental environmental, historic or social impacts outweigh the positive effects of accommodations.

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- d. Where high right of way, environmental or construction costs prohibit construction of full accommodations.
- e. Where the safety or timing of a project is compromised by the inclusion of Complete Streets features.

An exemption other than those listed above must be documented with supporting data and must be approved by the Director of Public Works or his/her designee.

- 15. Franklin Township shall develop and adopt Complete Streets checklists to be used during the planning, designing, construction, and maintenance of all transportation projects. The Director of Public Works shall be responsible for completing the checklists and/or reviewing the checklists. All complete street checklists shall be made publicly available.

### CERTIFICATION

I, Ann Marie McCarthy, Township Clerk of the Township of Franklin, in the County of Somerset, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Township Council at a Work Session/Regular Meeting held on the 4/9/2019.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Township this 4/9/2019.

Ann Marie McCarthy  
Township Clerk

### Verified and Encumbered as to Availability of Funds:

Date: 4/9/2019

Account No.:

PO No.:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
KATHLEEN MOODY, Director of Revenue & Finance

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## Clerk's Office

Ann Marie Marie McCarthy  
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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Ann Marie McCarthy, Township Clerk

**From:** Ann Marie Marie McCarthy, Township Clerk

**Date:** 4/9/2019

**RE:** 19-166

Establishing and Adopting Complete Streets Policy

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