

Township of Lawrence
County of Mercer

Adopted on September 21, 2021


Kathleen S. Norcia, Municipal Clerk

Resolution No. 290-21 Date September 22, 2021

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LAWRENCE
ESTABLISHING AND ADOPTING A COMPLETE AND GREEN STREETS POLICY**

WHEREAS, safe, convenient, accessible, equitable, healthy, and environmentally and economically beneficial transportation for all users is a priority of Lawrence Township; and

WHEREAS, Complete and Green Streets is a means to provide a comprehensive, integrated, connected multi-modal network of transportation options through planning, design, construction, maintenance, and operation of new and retrofit transportation facilities along the entire right-of-way for all roadway users of all ages and abilities; and

WHEREAS, Complete and Green Streets allow for safe, accessible, and convenient travel, reducing serious injuries and fatalities for all users of the roadway; and

WHEREAS, "all users" include motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians, public transportation vehicles and their passengers, delivery trucks and movers of commercial goods, persons with disabilities, older adults, and residents of Priority Communities; and

WHEREAS, Complete and Green Streets allow for multiple modes of travel, aside from personal automobiles, so that those who are unable to drive, who cannot afford a car, or choose to reduce their car usage may travel by transit, by bicycle, or on foot safely; and

WHEREAS, Complete and Green Street policies support the goals of the Lawrence Township master plan and supporting elements; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey is federally designated as a Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Focus State due to high numbers of pedestrian/bicycle-involved fatalities, and New Jersey's pedestrian fatality rate continues to significantly exceed the national average; and

WHEREAS, traffic crashes are preventable and the only acceptable number of traffic deaths for Lawrence Township is zero; and

WHEREAS, Complete and Green Streets that incorporate sustainable Green Streets design elements, such as green stormwater infrastructure, traffic calming treatments, shade trees, and the use of recycled materials, protect and create a healthier natural and social environment, improve air and water quality, and reduce localized flooding; and

WHEREAS, Complete and Green Streets implementation enhances access to local businesses, encourages reinvestment, increases property values and employment, and stimulates private investment, especially in retail districts, downtowns, and tourist areas; and

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WHEREAS, Complete and Green Streets encourage an active lifestyle through increased physical activity, social connectivity, and sense of community belonging, thereby lowering risk of obesity, reducing chronic disease, improving mental health, and promoting wellness; and

WHEREAS, Complete and Green Streets implementation provides the opportunity to enhance the historic character of our communities and our understanding of our shared history in a way that promotes the economic and social vitality of our communities and should be considered in the design of infrastructure improvements; and

WHEREAS, procedures should be implemented that ensure fair treatment, equitable funding and resource distribution, and meaningful involvement of all communities in all phases from selection, planning, and design to construction and long-term maintenance; and

WHEREAS, a balanced and flexible transportation system where all people can easily and safely walk and bicycle to everyday destinations – such as schools, shops, restaurants, businesses, parks, transit, and jobs – enhances neighborhood economic vitality and livability; and

WHEREAS, low- and moderate-income areas, whether in rural, urban, or suburban communities, are typically the least safe for pedestrians and bicyclists, especially for children walking and biking to school, due to long-standing infrastructure disparities and higher concentration of streets with faster-moving and higher-volume traffic; and

WHEREAS, implementation of the Complete and Green Streets policy should not negatively impact the affordability of the neighborhood for current residents; and

WHEREAS, the Complete and Green Streets policy applies to new, reconstruction, retrofit, and resurfacing projects, including design, planning, construction, maintenance and operations, for the entire right-of-way; and

WHEREAS requests for all exceptions will be evaluated by the Municipal Engineer in accordance with the Lawrence Township policy; and

WHEREAS, all initial planning, concept and design studies of infrastructure projects shall consider design elements that improve public health, environment, economy, equity, and safety.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Lawrence Township adopts the Complete and Green Streets Policy attached hereto, and made part of this Resolution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to all Lawrence Township departments within thirty (30) days of the adoption of this Resolution.

Adopted: September 21, 2021

RECORD OF VOTE

COUNCIL	AYE	NAY	PRESENT	ABSENT	ABSTAIN	MOVE	SECOND
Mr. Bobbitt	✓					✓	
Ms. Lewis	✓						✓
Mr. Powers	✓						
Mr. Ryan	✓						
Mayor Kownacki	✓						