

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
RESOLUTION: R1**

ESTABLISHING AND ADOPTING A COMPLETE STREETS POLICY

WHEREAS, safe, convenient, accessible, equitable, healthy, and environmentally and economically beneficial transportation for all users is a priority of Watchung in Somerset County; and

WHEREAS, Complete 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 users of all ages and abilities. “All users” include pedestrians, bicyclists, persons with disabilities, motorists, movers of commercial goods, and transit vehicle users; and

WHEREAS, Complete Street policies support the goals of the Borough of Watchung’s master plan and supporting elements; and

WHEREAS, Complete Streets allow for safe, accessible, and convenient travel, reducing serious injuries and fatalities for all users of the roadway, including pedestrians, bicyclists, children, older adults, people with disabilities, non-drivers, transit riders, residents of Priority Communities, and those who cannot afford a car or choose to reduce their car usage; 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 Watchung is zero; and

WHEREAS, Complete Streets that incorporate sustainable Green Streets design elements, such as green stormwater infrastructure,¹² 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 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; ¹³ and

WHEREAS, Complete Streets encourage an active lifestyle through increased physical activity, social connectivity,¹⁴ and sense of community belonging, thereby lowering risk of obesity, reducing chronic disease, improving mental health, and promoting wellness; and

WHEREAS, Complete 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,¹⁵ and meaningful involvement of all communities in all phases from selection, planning, and design to construction and long-term maintenance; and

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WHEREAS, a balanced and flexible transportation system where all people can easily and safely walk and bicycle to everyday destinations¹⁶ — 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,¹⁷ 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;¹⁸ and

WHEREAS, implementation of the Complete Streets policy should not negatively impact the affordability of the neighborhood for current residents;¹⁹ and

WHEREAS, the Complete Streets policy applies to new, reconstruction, retrofit, and resurfacing projects, including design, planning, construction, maintenance and operations, for the entire right-of-way;²⁰ and

WHEREAS requests for all exceptions must be submitted in writing, with supporting documentation, and made publicly available with a minimum of 30 days allowed for public input; and

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

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Watchung, that the Borough adopts the Complete Streets Policy attached hereto, and made part of this Resolution.

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

Curt S. Dahl, Council President

Ronald Jubin, Ph.D. Mayor

ADOPTED: FEBRUARY 2, 2026
INDEX: MISC
C: ENG, PD,