



# Complete Streets

## FACT SHEET

### What are Complete Streets?

Complete Streets are streets designed and built for everyone. They are safe, comfortable, and convenient for people of all ages and abilities to travel by foot, bike, transit, and car.

Complete Streets begins with a policy that changes the process for designing, building, operating and maintaining the public right-of-way.



A Complete Street, including roadways, accessible parking, sidewalks, pedestrian crossings and signs, curb extensions, and bicycle parking.

### What is a Complete Streets policy? Why adopt one?

Communities who pass or adopt Complete Streets policies create the basis for on-going investments to support all users, even when leadership changes. The policy directs a community's transportation planners and engineers to routinely design and operate the entire right of way to provide safe access for all users. Under these policies, there is no need to prove pedestrian, bicycle and transit facilities are needed; it is assumed they're needed unless proven otherwise.

#### An ideal Complete Streets policy includes:

- A vision
- All users and modes
- All projects and phases
- Clear, accountable exceptions
- Network connectivity
- All jurisdictions
- Inclusive, flexible design guidelines
- Context-sensitivity
- Performance measures
- Implementation steps
- Equity considerations

### What are the benefits of Complete Streets?

- Networks that support all transportation modes and provide more transportation choices
- Streets that are safer for each mode and all modes together
- Networks that offer mobility for people with disabilities and make it easier to use strollers, carts, etc.
- Networks that make it easier for people to replace car trips with non-polluting, active transportation trips, like walking and biking
- Networks that improve access to retail and increase property values
- A policy that invests in building streets right (i.e., complete) instead of retrofitting





The length of Richland Avenue in Athens, Ohio was improved as part of a larger project.

### Do Complete Streets work in rural contexts?

Complete Streets is part of an overall strategy to build networks in rural contexts that offer circulation in towns and villages and connections between that includes trails and other off-road transportation.

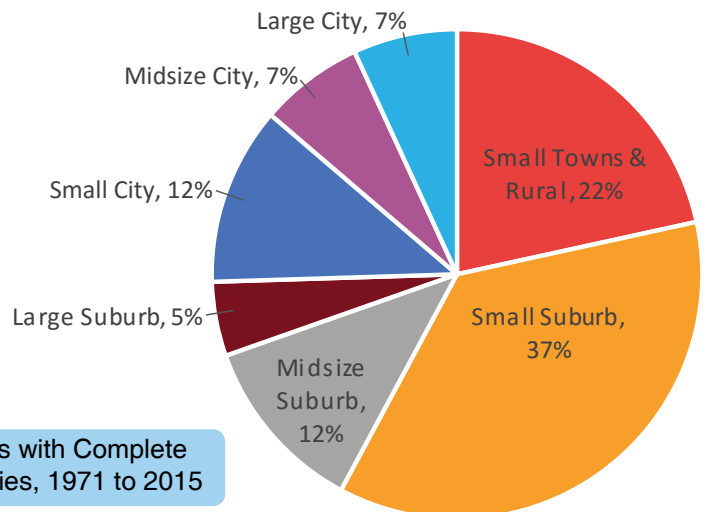
Complete Streets are context-sensitive. People in small towns and near schools can travel on wide shoulders, trails, and sidewalks. Roads with low traffic volumes and speeds may not need any new or different facilities. Signs, crosswalks, and traffic calming near pedestrian crossings help people walk within small towns and near schools, such as to markets and to socialize.



This street in Chauncy lacks sidewalks; a simple sidewalk would improve the village's walkability.

### Is my community ready for a Complete Streets policy?

All types of communities have passed and implemented Complete Streets policies, including small and large towns, counties, and regional planning organizations. It only takes a vision and a few dedicated people in a community to pass a Complete Streets policy.



Jurisdictions with Complete Streets Policies, 1971 to 2015

