



Tool: Complete Streets Workshops

Provider: Smart Growth America and the National Complete Streets Coalition

Summary:

Complete Streets policies ensure that all future street projects respond to the needs of everyone using the roadway. These Workshops help communities set new priorities for transportation investments, write a policy and tackle implementation challenges. Three distinct workshops, each one-day long, meet the needs of communities at different stages of Complete Streets familiarity:

1. Laying the Foundation for Complete Streets introduces the complete streets concept and its benefits, and gives participants a chance to try out some Complete Streets planning tools during small group exercises.

2. Policy Development helps participants start to develop a policy customized to their community. Through small group exercises, participants compare existing practice to Complete Streets policy models, identifying the critical elements to include in a new policy.

3. Policy Implementation helps participants identify ways to more effectively implement their policies. Participants learn how to change their transportation decision-making process to routinely balance the needs of all users. They also learn the four steps to Complete Streets implementation and best practices in tackling issues such as limited right of way, costs concerns, balancing user needs, and new street classification systems.

Description:

Each workshop builds local capacity to implement Complete Streets and smart growth approaches and strengthens relationships between transportation practitioners, community stakeholders, and elected officials. The highly interactive daylong workshops typically help 20-30 targeted decision makers, community stakeholders, and agency professionals learn how to more effectively balance the needs of all users and routinely create and maintain Complete Streets. Two expert instructors— one with policy expertise, the other with design experience— are selected from a pool of nationally-recognized practitioners trained to provide these Workshops, providing scheduling flexibility and an array of experiences to best meet each community's needs.

At the end of each workshop, the instructors help attendees develop clear, appropriate, and strategic next steps based on the community's opportunities and strengths. These steps help build the local technical and political capacity to implement change over the long term. Several weeks later, one instructor and the Coalition's State and Local Policy Manager hold a follow-up call with 3-5 key decision makers from the workshop to progress and provide assistance and resources to maintain momentum.

