Secretary LaHood Announces New Federal Policy Statement

Following up on his enthusiastic speech at the National Bike Summit on Thursday, Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood issued a new federal policy on Monday, putting walking and bicycling on equal footing with motorized traffic. The statement details what agencies large and small can and should do to integrate non-motorized modes into future projects:
• Consider walking and bicycling as equals with other transportation modes;
• Ensure convenient choices for people of all ages and abilities;
• Go beyond minimum design standards;
• Integrate bicycle and pedestrian accommodation on new, rehabilitated, and limited-access bridges;
• Collect data on walking and biking trips;
• Set a mode share target for walking and bicycling and track them over time;
• Maintain sidewalks and shared-use paths the same way roadways are maintained, especially during snowy weather; and
• Improve non-motorized facilities during maintenance projects.

We are thrilled and gratified for this commitment from the USDOT. Read more about the policy on our blog.
(http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bikeped/policy_accom.htm)
(http://www.completestreets.org/policy/federal/new-usdot-policy-statement-approve-complete-streets-on-to-implementation/)

Five New Policies on the Books

On March 7, the Duluth, MN City Council unanimously approved a Complete Streets Resolution, expressing a strong belief that citizens and residents of all ages, abilities, and income levels should be able to travel safely and conveniently, regardless of how they travel. The Mayor’s Complete Streets Task Force will now work to develop a policy and implementation plan with city staff, the regional government, the transit authority, and other stakeholders. Council will hear their report in mid June. Fit City Duluth has been campaigning heavily for complete streets in Duluth, bringing two of our Complete Streets Workshops to the region, and building a broad coalition of supporters including the YMCA, Community Action Duluth, and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota.
(http://www.duluthmn.gov/clerk/council/resord10/10-0128R.pdf)
(http://www.fitcityduluth.com/)
(http://www.completestreets.org/changing-policy/workshops/)

The Prattville, AL City Council unanimously approved a complete streets resolution on March 2. The resolution supports national efforts to improve travel for all people, regardless of age, ability, or how they travel, as a way to improve livability. In adopting the resolution, Prattville commits itself to following a complete streets approach in all its construction, reconstruction, and repair projects. Resident Laurie Auffant brought the idea to the Council. The Montgomery region, where Prattville is located, recently tied for the most obese metropolitan area in the country. Mayor Jim Byard hopes the policy will help residents be more active.
(http://progress.montgomeryadvertiser.com/article/20100310/PROGRESS/3100302/City+to+take+a+different+look+at+street+projects+)
(http://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/article/20100303/NEWS01/3030351/Prattville+council+to+support+Complete+Streets+effort)
The Madison County Council of Governments (MCCOG), serving the Anderson, IN region, adopted a Complete Streets Policy. The new policy will be applied to new construction and reconstruction of local roadways that use federal funds allocated by the MCCOG and to all projects added to the region’s Transportation Improvement Program. They are the second MPO in Indiana to adopt a policy.

In Montana, Bozeman became the second city to adopt a policy when its City Commission adopted Resolution No. 4244 on February 22. The policy principles will be applied to single projects and privately funded development, and through a series of smaller improvements to incrementally improve the transportation network for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit vehicles and riders, children, older adults, and people with disabilities.

Early last month, the Mayor and Council of Franklin, PA adopted Resolution No. 18 of 2010 to increase the safety, health, and general welfare of the city’s residents and visitors by accommodating all users in all new construction or reconstruction of roadways. Franklin is the second city in the state to adopt a complete streets policy.

Bill Introduced in Iowa House
State Representative Chuck Isenhart introduced HF 2506, the Iowa Complete Streets Act. Isenhart’s bill intends to direct every agency that controls roadways in the state to develop and adopt a complete streets policy (defined in the bill). If passed, the state Department of Transportation is directed to research and share best practices with regional, county, and city governments.

Missouri Resolution Supports Complete Streets
Representative Mike Sutherland introduced HCR 67, a resolution in support of Complete Streets in Missouri. The resolution makes the case for routinely including all users in transportation planning, design, construction, and maintenance. The Department of Transportation has largely opposed any legislative efforts, so the resolution represents a compromise between advocates (led by the Missouri Bicycle and Pedestrian Federation) and the state DOT to follow complete streets principles.

Minnesota Bill Moves Forward
The Minnesota Complete Streets bill (HF 2801/SF 2461) is moving through the legislature. It passed both the House and Senate Transportation Committees unanimously after encountering a brief speed bump regarding reporting costs. It later passed the House Finance Committee on its way to the House Ways & Means Committee. On the Senate side, just passed the Transportation Committee’s Budget and Policy Division and will head to the Senate Finance Committee next. The Minnesota Complete Streets Coalition is not anticipating serious concerns to arise before the bills hit the floor in both chambers; keep up with the bill’s progress on their website.

(https://www.revisor.mn.gov/revisor/pages/search_status/status_detail.php?b=Senate&f=SF2461&ssn=0&y=0&ls=86)
(http://www.mncompletestreets.org/)

MORPC to Upgrade Policy
The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission has proposed upgrading its Routine Accommodations policy to a full Complete Streets policy. A working group representing local and state transportation engineers and planners, transit representatives, public health organizations, and MORPC staff developed a broader Complete Streets policy to address all modes and people of all ages and abilities, not just the pedestrians and bicyclists covered in the Routine Accommodations policy. The new policy will also extend the scope of the policy to cover all stages of a project, including planning, design, construction, and maintenance. If the policy and accompanying checklist are adopted, they could inspire local governments to adopt similar policies and allow for more creative roadway design.

(http://www.morpc.org/trans/BikePed_T-15-04_Att_5-Rev_Routine_Accommodation_v2.pdf)
(http://www.morpc.org/trans/CompleteStreets_Policy_Draft.pdf)
(http://www.morpc.org/trans/CompleteStreets_Checklist_Draft.pdf)
(http://www.morpc.org/transportation/complete_streets/completeStreets.asp)

Caltrans Releases Complete Streets Implementation Action Plan
The California Department of Transportation has released its Complete Streets Implementation Action Plan, a set of actions to transform Caltrans’s approach and create a statewide system of roads for California travelers of all ages and abilities. The ambitious and thorough Action Plan describes the management oversight and monitoring process to ensure implementation and lists a variety of Division and District tasks to pursue in the coming years. The priority actions include updating the Highway Design Manual, as well as system planning guidance, project development procedures, and reviewing data collection and performance measures.

(http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/ocp/complete_streets.html)

Federal Policy Update
Two groups of advocates were on the Hill last week lobbying for complete streets. National Bike Summit attendees and representatives from the YMCA of the USA visited their legislators to build support. As a result, the Complete Streets Act of 2009 (HR 1443) gained three new cosponsors. Thank you Representatives Filner (CA-5), Lewis (GA-5), and Pingree (ME-1) for
showing leadership in creating safe, complete streets that will improve America’s health. Have you asked your legislators to support the Complete Streets Act? Have you thanked them for signing on? If not, use our quick and easy online form!
(http://action.smartgrowthamerica.org/t/6237/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=81)

In other federal policy news, we’re excited to support the Active Communities Transportation Act (HR 4722) introduced by Representative Blumenauer earlier this month. The ACT Act, as it is known, establishes a competitive grant program for communities to build active transportation networks and fill in gaps to improve mobility, accessibility, and safety for everyone.
(http://blumenauer.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1606&Itemid=1)
(http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d111:HR04722:

The existing federal transportation law, SAFETEA-LU, was extended for another month, following a failed effort by Senator Bunning to withhold transportation funding. Language to extend the law through the end of the year was included in a Senate-passed jobs bill, and could be taken up by the House this month.
(http://dc.streetsblog.org/2010/03/03/bunning‐throws‐in‐the‐towel‐congress‐restores‐transport‐funding/)

Administration links Clean Energy Economy and Complete Streets
The new USDOT policy statement on bicycling and walking came two weeks after a White House forum at which Transportation Secretary LaHood and Housing and Urban Secretary Donovan were joined by Salt Lake City Mayor Becker to discuss the role of livable, sustainable communities in achieving a “clean energy future.” Mayor Becker spoke about his city’s complete streets work. At the event, it was clear the Administration wanted to lead by providing communities like Salt Lake City with the resources needed to innovate. Read more about the event on our blog.
(http://www.completestreets.org/policy/federal/white‐house‐clean‐energy‐economy‐forum/)

Quick Takes: Policy Progress
• Portage, IN: The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) moved another step closer to adopting a complete streets policy on March 9 when the Transportation Policy Committee approved an amended document. The policy will go before the NIRPC Executive Board at its March 18 meeting. (NWI.com
http://nwitimes.com/business/local/article_6443939f‐1e46‐51ac‐9082‐4a11ad061f7.html?mode=story)
• Breckenridge, MN: The Active Living Committee is making great strides in developing a complete streets policy, moving ahead of other cities in the region. The Committee hopes to see the policy adopted by August. (Wahpeton Daily News
• Mississippi: Tupelo (reported on last month) and three other communities are looking to complete streets policies. Hernando’s Mayor Chip Johnson reports their bill will come
before the Board of Alderman soon. Ridgeland is already on board with the concept and Palahatchie is studying the benefits of a complete streets approach. 

• **Charlotte, NC**: Councilmembers are looking to codify the city’s award-winning Urban Street Design Guidelines, which currently apply to all City transportation projects. Adopting the Guidelines as an ordinance will require private developers to comply with the high standards as well. *(Charlotte Observer http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2010/03/02/1283291/foxx-be-flexible-with-developers.html)*

• **Allentown, PA**: The City is developing a complete streets policy, as directed by its draft Connecting Our Community plan, with a focus on connecting the city’s park system to a network of complete streets. *(http://renewlv.wordpress.com/2010/02/25/allentown-plan-looking-to-adopt-complete-streets-policy/)*

• **Philadelphia, PA**: The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission allocated a $60,000 grant to the City of Philadelphia to develop a Complete Streets Handbook. The Handbook is a key element in implementing Mayor Nutter’s Executive Order on Complete Streets issued last year. *(http://blog.bicyclecoalition.org/2010/03/dvrpc-awards-money-to-bike-and-complete.html)*

**COALITION NEWS**

**Complete Streets Best Practices Manual Available**

Drawing on lessons learned from 30 communities across the country, *Complete Streets: Best Policy and Implementation Best Practices* provides insight into successful strategies and practices to create complete streets. The new Planners Advisory Service Report, a joint project of the American Planning Association and the National Complete Streets Coalition, discusses how to build support for complete streets, adopt policies, and integrate the policy into everyday practice. The book, co-edited by Barbara McCann and Suzanne Rynne, with chapters written by Coalition staffer Stefanie Seskin, also covers topics such as cost, design, and working with stakeholder. It is now available for purchase at APAPlanningBooks.com *(http://www.planning.org/apastore/search/Default.aspx?p=4060)*

**Walkable Urban Thoroughfares Manual Unveiled in Savannah**

At its annual conference, the Institute of Transportation Engineers debuted its new Recommended Practice: *Designing Walkable Urban Thoroughfares: A Context Sensitive Approach*. This document represents years of work from the Congress for the New Urbanism and hundreds of transportation professionals and advances the successful integration of land use consideration and multi-modal roadway design. The new manual, produced in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, and in partnership with the Congress for the New Urbanism, will be of great help as communities and states implement their complete streets policies. *(http://www.ite.org/css/)*
Tenth Annual Bicycle Summit a Huge Success
The League of American Bicyclists ushered in a new decade of transportation advocacy last week at its National Bike Summit. Nearly 700 planners, engineers, community advocates, bicycle retailers, and club membersdescended on the nation’s capitol to advocate for the Complete Streets Act and other policies that will create more livable, sustainable communities. Streetsfilms collected some of the voices from this year’s summit. Secretary LaHood’s appearance at Thursday’s Congressional Reception rocked the crowd, as he reaffirmed his commitment to multi-modal transportation and thanked the hundreds gathered for being effective advocates of livable, bike-friendly communities.

Fourth Straight Year of 10 Billion Trips on Public Transportation
The American Public Transportation Association released its 2009 Ridership Report last week, which found that despite high unemployment, economic recession, and lower gas prices, people are still taking public transportation in record numbers. Despite losing some rides from 2008’s half-century high mark, transit ridership is still growing overall – up 31% from 1995.

Coalition Welcomes New Steering Committee Member, Partners
We are excited to announce that SvR Design Company is our newest Platinum Partner and will be joining our Steering Committee. SvR was founded in 1989 with the mission of providing innovative and ecological solutions for urban environments. Located in Seattle, WA, SvR approaches this mission as an integrated design firm that blurs the lines between landscape architecture, civil engineering, and applied ecology. SvR explores solutions to streetscapes that build stronger communities, promote healthier lifestyles, and enhance the natural environment. Complete Streets form a perfect intersection with this mission and design philosophy. Some recent examples of SvR’s experience includes the High Point Redevelopment (Complete Street design coupled with green infrastructure), C Street improvements in Washington, D.C. (multimodal green street), and Green Street Standards for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

We also welcome a new Bronze Partner this month. Linscott, Law & Greenspan, Engineers provides transportation planning, traffic engineering, and parking consultation services for private and public sector clients throughout the United States and overseas, with the core of their practice in Southern California and Nevada.

(https://www.svrdesign.com/)

(https://www.streetfilms.org/voices-from-the-national-bike-summit/)
(https://www.bikeleague.org/blog/2010/03/lahood-you-have-a-full-partner-in-ray-lahood/)

(https://www.completestreets.org/get-involved/join-the-coalition/#partner)
COMPLETE STREETS NEWS

Metro Improves Accessibility, Independence

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro) launched a two-year travel training pilot program to help customers with disabilities to use fixed-route transit independently, allowing them to be mobile without relying exclusively on paratransit. Metro’s paratransit service, MetroAccess, has seen service grow over 300% in the last decade, and helping some of its customers use fixed-route transit can help reduce costs for the agency. The expanded travel training program was announced just days after Metro has released new guidelines to improve bus stop accessibility. Together, these initiatives ensure that people of all abilities can safely and conveniently access all parts of the Washington, DC region’s transportation system.

(http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/14/AR2010031402792.html?hpid=newswell)

Complete Streets Activity Multiplying Across Michigan

The complete streets movement is growing by leaps and bounds in the Wolverine State: State Representatives Switalski and Gonzales included complete streets language in the state DOT budget bill that recently passed out of the House Transportation Subcommittee on Appropriations. Advocates are hard at work in communities across Michigan, pushing for local application of complete streets principles. The Michigan Complete Streets Coalition is successfully recruiting new partner organizations. Five local health departments will receive funding from the state Department of Community Health (MDCH) to pursue complete streets policies this year, and another five will receive support to do the same next year. And, to help coordinate a state-level campaign and provide assistance to local communities, MDCH and Michigan Public Health Institute are hiring a Complete Streets Project Coordinator.

(http://michigancompletestreets.wordpress.com/2010/03/16/another-victory-for-michigan-complete-streets/)  
(http://letssavemichigan.com/blog/entry/completing-streets-across-michigan/)  
(http://michigancompletestreets.wordpress.com/partners/)  
(http://michigancompletestreets.wordpress.com/2010/02/24/complete-streets-grants-request-for-applications/)  
(http://michigancompletestreets.wordpress.com/2010/02/24/job-posting-complete-streets-project-coordinator/)

Opportunity in Indiana

Though a recent $26 million project failed to include crosswalks, the Indiana Department of Transportation may take a different approach with the $22 million it plans to spend on U.S. 27 through downtown Richmond. Last Friday, Richmond Mayor Sally Hutton sent the City’s official response to the current design, asking INDOT to instead look at the route’s renovation as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to provide for all users and propose a design based on complete streets principles. Mayor Hutton hopes new plans will keep automobile speeds at a safe level for the people walking and biking downtown and better compliment the city’s Comprehensive Plan and the U.S. Mayor’s Climate Protection Agreement. Bike Richmond has
launched a petition to support to the Mayor’s letter and welcomes stories and support from those across the country.  
(http://www.pal-item.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=20103050318)  
(http://www.thepetitionsite.com/2/complete-streets-richmond-indiana)

Complete Streets Policy at Work on SF’s Market Street
Within weeks, San Francisco is expected to finalize the scope of work for Market Street, one of the city’s most iconic corridors. A three-year process to plan and design the street will first reach out to businesses and the community for input on how best to safely accommodate everyone – young and old, walking, bicycling, taking public transportation, or driving. The plans are expected in time for Market Street’s scheduled repaving in late 2013 or early 2014. The City’s two legislative imperatives for complete streets are on display here, illustrating the need to plan for all users from the beginning stages and maximizing efficiency in planning and design by linking a major repaving project to complete street improvements.  
(http://sf.streetsblog.org/2010/03/11/the-hopes-and-challenges-for-remaking-san-franciscos-market-street/)

Quick Takes: Complete Streets Talk Across the Country
• Silicon Valley, CA: Frederick Ferrer, CEO of the Health Trust, submitted an opinion piece to Mercury News urging cities in the area to plan for health when updating their general plans, noting a specific need for complete streets to allow residents to safely walk and bicycle to stores, schools, public transportation, and workplaces.  
(http://www.mercurynews.com/opinion/ci_14649962?nclick_check=1)
• Lee County, FL: An opinion piece from local advocates BikeWalkLee in the Fort Myers News-Press calls on the Florida Department of Transportation to aggressively promote complete streets. A few days later, the News-Press published an editorial supporting the advocates’ view.  
• Hawaii: After seven pedestrians were killed in the first seven weeks of 2010, the Honolulu Star Bulletin editorial board urges quick and low-cost action to make Hawaii’s streets safer for pedestrians.  
(http://www.starbulletin.com/editorials/20100223_Act_now_to_stem_pedestrian_deaths.html)
• Manistique, MI: The Manistique Strategic Alliance for Health was recently created by the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians to plan for long-term, community-wide changes to improve health and promote active living. The Coalition will focus on tying Safe Routes to School efforts to a community-wide complete streets approach. (Escanaba Daily Press http://www.dailypress.net/page/content.detail/id/517727.html?nav=5003)
• Springfield, MO: With the prospect of renewing a ballot measure to fund capital improvements, advocates in Springfield are hopeful that the continued fund will focus
on creating complete streets. (OzarksFirst.com
http://ozarksfirst.com/content/fulltext/?cid=242901)

- Kingston, NY: Healthy Kingston for Kids, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson
  Foundation, has formed a committee to educate the community about complete streets
  and draft a policy for adoption by the City Council. (City of Kingston
  http://www.kingston-nv.gov/content/120/2336/default.aspx)

Incomplete Streets Death: Amelia Ordona
Amelia Ordona, 73, was killed as she attempted to cross the busy Pacific Coast Highway in
Malibu, CA on March 15. After the initial crash, Ordona was thrown to the other side of the
road and hit by several more cars. Ordona and her sister, who survived with minor injuries,
worked as caregivers in a nearby residence and had just finished their shift and were crossing
the road to reach their bus stop. This stretch of the PCH has no sidewalks, few crossings, and
concrete benches at bus stops otherwise disconnected from any safe walking path.
(http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_14678539)
(http://cbs2.com/local/pedestrian.killed.Malibu.2.1562552.html)

RESOURCES
Complete Streets: Policy and Implementation Best Practices
Drawing on lessons learned from 30 communities across the country, Complete Streets: Best
Policy and Implementation Best Practices is now available for purchase from the American
Planning Association.

Designing Walkable Urban Thoroughfares: A Context Sensitive Approach
This new ITE Recommended Practice advances the successful integration of land use
consideration and multi-modal streets to create walkable communities.
(http://www.ite.org/css/)

International Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety and Mobility Scan
Lessons from Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom have been
assembled in the final report for the 2009 International Scan on Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety
and Mobility. The report describes how these countries have made walking and bicycling safer
and more convenient through policy, engineering, education, and other strategies.
(http://international.fhwa.dot.gov/links/pub_details.cfm?id=662)

Cool Pedestrian Environments
Transportation consulting firm Fehr & Peers, a Complete Streets Partner, has established a
web-based resource for pedestrian planning, design, and safety documents and links to other
resources. The sit covers topics like ADA accommodations, master planning, grant writing,
training, and complete streets.
(http://www.completestreets.org/get-involved/join-the-coalition/#partner)
(http://coolpedestrianenvironments.org/)
Pedestrian, Bicycle, Motorcycle Research Available
Twenty-four papers that explore pedestrian, bicyclist, and motorcyclist research and issues are now available from the Transportation Research Board. (http://trb.metapress.com/content/j566510613j4/?p=44343146bee64a4a89616e8be476795e&pi=0)

QUOTES
“The DOT policy is to incorporate safe and convenient walking and bicycling facilities into transportation projects. Every transportation agency, including DOT, has the responsibility to improve conditions and opportunities for walking and bicycling and to integrate walking and bicycling into their transportation systems. Because of the numerous individual and community benefits that walking and bicycling provide — including health, safety, environmental, transportation, and quality of life — transportation agencies are encouraged to go beyond minimum standards to provide safe and convenient facilities for these modes.”

“We have generations worth of street reconstruction that has the potential to change the nature of how streets look and feel. If we don't do it right now, there's another generation that will pass before we do it right.”
– Duluth, MN Councilor Tony Cuneo in the Duluth News Tribune (http://www.duluthnewstribune.com/event/article/id/162056/)

“Folks like to walk here. They walk to work, to school, to the market, to catch the bus. It shouldn't be a death-defying feat.”

“It's good exercise and it's good for the environment. As a resident of our downtown area, I enjoy walking through the neighborhoods. As the city progresses and grows, we need to use designs that foster walking and biking.”
– Prattville, AL Mayor Jim Byard, Jr. in the Montgomery Advertiser (http://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/article/20100303/NEWS01/3030351/Prattville+council+to+support+Complete+Streets+effort)