COMPLETE STREETS POLICY PROGRESS

First Policy in Arkansas
Updates on State Bills
Federal Policy News

COALITION NEWS

BikeLids Systems Joins as Gold Partner
Thanks Erika; Welcome Ivan
Work for Complete Streets
AARP Joins Transportation For America

COMPLETE STREETS NEWS

Virginia to Stop Supporting Cul-de-Sac Development
New Haven Begins Complete Streets Work
Town Hall Success in Prescott, AZ
Quick Takes: Complete Streets Talk Around the Country

RESOURCES

Study: Pedestrian & Cycle Path Encourages Exercise
AARP and Project for Public Spaces Publish Transportation Series
Engine of Opportunity
Presentations from New Partners for Smart Growth
National Environmental Public Health Conference

QUOTES

COMPLETE STREETS POLICY PROGRESS

First Policy in Arkansas
On March 9, North Little Rock became the first community in Arkansas to adopt a complete streets policy. Resolution No. 7425 (pdf), sponsored by Alderman Charlie Hight, calls for complete streets, achieved through single projects or incrementally in a series of smaller improvements or maintenance activities. After noting the hard work from community members and City staff on developing the policy, the City Council adopted the resolution unanimously.

Updates on State Bills
Supporters packed a House Transportation Committee room on March 24th for a hearing on Hawaii’s Complete Streets bill, SB 718, and brought along more than 60 letters of support. The Committee passed the bill and referred it to the Finance Committee, which passed it on April 1 with sixteen ayes and one abstaining member. SB 718 moves to the conference committee next. The bill has received a lot of media buzz in the past few weeks. KMGB9 News, the Honolulu Advertiser, and KHON2 spoke with key members in the One Voice for Livable Islands Coalition, focusing on the
overwhelming desire among Hawaiians to complete their streets.

The Climate and Energy Planning Act, LD 1333, was introduced in the Maine legislature on March 31. The Act contains complete streets provisions that direct any transportation projects receiving state or federal funding to fully consider bicycle and pedestrian ways and intermodal connections that link bicyclists and pedestrians with public transportation facilities. The Speaker of the House, Hannah Pingree, sponsored the legislation, and Senate President Libby Mitchell and Transportation Committee Chair Dennis Damon are original co-sponsors.

The Missouri Complete Streets bill (House Bill 642), sponsored by Representative Sutherland, passed out of the Missouri House Transportation Committee on March 24. Advocates have heard the bill's language will be included in an omnibus transportation bill, which has a good chance of moving forward this year.

Federal Policy News

Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA) signed on to S. 584, the Complete Streets Act of 2009, as a co-sponsor last week, making the bill bi-partisan. Both the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia and Walk and Bike Berks County have offered their thanks to him. Be sure to use our online action form to contact your senators and representatives to encourage them to co-sponsor S 584 or H.R. 1443 (or thank them for already signing on!). Since our last newsletter, nine more members of the House have signed on to H.R. 1443. They include Rep. Blumenauer (OR-3), Rep. Carnahan (MO-3), Rep. Carson (IN-7), Rep. Lipinski (IL-3), Rep. Moran (VA-8), Rep. Polis (CO-2), Rep. Schwartz (PA-13), Rep. Stark (CA-13), and Rep. Woolsey (CA-6).

On March 19, Andy Clarke, President of the League of American Bicyclists and Chris Zimmerman, Arlington County VA Board Member, testified in favor of complete streets at the Select Committee Energy Independence and Global Warming hearing titled "Getting from Point A to Point Green." Clarke testified (pdf) on the important role of walking and cycling in climate change mitigation and urged the adoption of the Complete Streets Act of 2009. Zimmerman (pdf) focused on Arlington County's success in implementing complete streets and the key role of accessible public transportation.

Kathleen M. Novak, President of the National League of Cities and Mayor of Northglenn CO, testified (pdf) before the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works at a hearing entitled "The Need for Transportation Investment" on March 25. Novak asked that federal transportation policy reflect a balanced approach that does not favor one mode over another.

AARP, a Coalition Steering Committee member, submitted a letter (pdf) to Senate and House leadership, asking them to enact transportation policies that would "enable older adults to live independently in their homes and communities throughout their lifespan, and transportation is critical to maintaining the community connections that make that
possible." To accomplish this goal, AARP urged the adoption of complete streets policies.

COALITION NEWS

BikeLid Systems Joins as Gold Partner
The Coalition is happy to announce our newest Complete Streets Gold Partner: BikeLid Systems. BikeLids are innovative long-term bicycle parking systems that provide one or two bicycles complete protection from vandalism, theft, and the elements. Each BikeLid is made in the USA from 90% industrial plastic waste and recycled steel. Thanks to BikeLid Systems for supporting Complete Streets!

Thanks Erika; Welcome Ivan
Our Federal Policy Fellow, Erika Wolfe, has finished her six-month stint. Her help has been invaluable in doing outreach and building support for our federal bills, and we wish her all the best. We are pleased to introduce Ivan Kaplan, our new Federal Policy Fellow. Ivan, a recent graduate of the University of Chicago's Graduate School of Business, comes to us after eighteen months of work with the Obama for America campaign and the Presidential Inaugural Committee 2009. He previously spent six years on the Hill, working for Senator Patty Murray (WA) and Representative Brian Baird (WA-3). Before he heads off to law school in three months, he will help advance federal policy efforts by moving coalition members and partners to action and coordinating the federal policy efforts of the complete streets network. He can be reached at ikaplan [at] completestreets [dot] org or 202-207-3355.

Work for Complete Streets
After many months of hard work, our intern Lisa Schott is off to find a career. Thanks Lisa! We are now looking for a summer intern. To find out more about this exciting opportunity, check out the listing through Idealist.

AARP Joins Transportation For America
Late last month, AARP became a partner in the Transportation For America campaign, endorsing its call for renewal of the national transportation program for the 21st Century. AARP is a founding member of the National Complete Streets Coalition, and Transportation For America is an important and active Coalition member.

COMPLETE STREETS NEWS

Virginia to Stop Supporting Cul-de-Sac Development
The Washington Post reports on the Secondary Street Acceptance Requirements recently adopted by VDOT, which now require that all new subdivisions feature connected streets - walkable and no wider than 29 feet - to adjacent neighborhoods, schools and shopping areas, or the Virginia Department of Transportation will neither maintain them nor clear them of snow. This remarkable step forward for better
connectivity and safer residential streets was partially inspired by the DOT's complete streets policy, adopted in 2004.

**New Haven Begins Complete Streets Work**
After adopting its complete streets policy last October, the City of New Haven is taking its first steps in developing a tool kit of ideas to better balance the needs of all users: pedestrians, cyclists, public transportation users, and motorists. The *New Haven Independent* reports that city officials joined several fourth-graders on a walking audit of their Hill neighborhood, led by led by the deputy director of the Department of Traffic and Parking, David Sousa of Clough Harbour & Associates, and Ian Lockwood of Glatting Jackson Kercher Anglin, a Complete Streets Silver Partner. Their report, to be delivered in May, will emphasize short term, affordable solutions, like repainting crosswalks and adding greenery.

**Town Hall Success in Prescott, AZ**
Prescott Alternative Transportation, with advice from the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals, organized a Complete Streets Town Hall meeting on March 26. According to the Daily Courier, about 65 people turned out to hear the views of a panel of four, including PAT Executive Director Lisa Barnes, State Transportation Board member Bill Feldmeier, the Pima County Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager Matt Zoll and the Assistant City Attorney Tom Lloyd. The meeting was a great success, spurring great discussion over the transportation system in town. This meeting is a precursor to two Complete Streets Workshops that will be held in Phoenix, AZ next month; one for the Maricopa Association of Governments, the other for the Arizona Department of Transportation. Want to have national experts come to your town? Download our workshop flyer (pdf) to learn more.

**Quick Takes: Complete Streets Talk Around the Country**

- **Cincinnati OH**: Cincinnati City Councilmember Roxanne Qualls introduced a resolution supporting the Complete Streets Act of 2009. The resolution was discussed in the Council's Economic Development Committee, yesterday April 7. Check in with our web site for updates. (via Soapbox)
- **Florida**: At the inaugural Florida Bike Summit, members of the Florida Bicycle Association (FBA) asked state legislature to ensure compliance with the state complete streets law. "For me it's equal treatment, making sure that complete streets are built so that all users have full usage of the roadways," said David Henderson, FBA president. (via the *Tallahassee Democrat*)
- **Golden CO**: City staff is developing a Complete Streets program to holistically address how streets are designed in the town, tying them to various other efforts underway. (via Mayor Smith on YourHub)
- **Lansing MI**: Walk and Bike Lansing had a kick off meeting last Friday, April 3 for its proposed Complete Streets Ordinance. (via the *Lansing State Journal*)
Complete Streets News – April 2009

- **Montclair NJ:** At a Fourth Ward meeting on March 31, Mayor Jerry Fried announced a concerted town-wide initiative to complete the streets in Montclair, making them safer for drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists. (via Baristanet)
- **Olympia WA:** The City of Olympia will discuss complete streets as part of its 2009 Transportation Mobility Strategy at a workshop on Monday, April 13. For more information, visit the City's website.
- **Washington DC:** At a recent hearing on the City's budget, the head of the DC Senior Transportation Initiative presented maps that showed the gaps in DC's sidewalk network. Many older adults rely on walking for transportation, and several areas with the most gaps in sidewalks correspond to high concentrations of older residents. Sidewalks are an important aspect of complete streets in the District. (via Greater Greater Washington)
- **Wendell NC:** Town commissioners created a list of priorities for a new economic development firm to explore, including complete streets initiatives. (via the Eastern Wake News)

RESOURCES

**Study: Pedestrian & Cycle Path Encourages Exercise**
Charleston Moves and the South Carolina Coastal Conservation League have released a study showing that two-thirds of people who walk, run, or bike on the new Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge say they're exercising more since the opening of the very popular pedestrian path. Exercise levels are even higher among African Americans. Citizens fought hard to be sure the South Carolina DOT included pedestrians and bicyclists in plans for the new bridge, and helped inspire adoption of a complete streets resolution by the state Transportation Commission in 2003. Advocates say SC DOT needs to do much more to provide non-motorized connections to the bridge path (most users drive to use it), and to provide paths on other bridges. Read more at WCBD News 2.

**AARP and Project for Public Spaces Publish Transportation Series**
Project for Public Spaces (PPS) and AARP have released a series of transportation books aimed at helping citizens have an impact on transportation planning in their communities. The three-part series includes A Citizen's Guide to Better Streets: How to Engage Your Transportation Agency, Streets as Places, and The Quiet Revolution in Transportation Planning: How Great Corridors Make Great Communities. All three publications are available via free download from PPS.

**Engine of Opportunity**
Presentations from New Partners for Smart Growth
More than 230 PowerPoint presentations from the 2009 New Partners for Smart Growth conference are now available on Smart Growth Online, including those from both break-out sessions on complete streets.

National Environmental Public Health Conference
The Healthy People in a Healthy Environment conference, organized by the CDC and the National Environmental Health Association, is now accepting abstracts. The conference will be held in Atlanta, GA from October 26 - 28. For more information, visit the Conference website.

QUOTES

“Our competitive advantage is in our neighborhoods, and our quality of life is dependent on our streets. If we look at our streets as our largest public spaces, then the quality of those spaces is critical to economic development.”
-Councilmember Roxanne Qualls, Cincinnati OH, in Soapbox