Complete Streets News – April 2011

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COMPLETE STREETS POLICY PROGRESS
Dubuque, Iowa Formalizes Complete Streets Policy
Dubuque is now the fourth city in Iowa to adopt a Complete Streets policy. The resolution adopted by City Council on April 4 calls for transportation projects to be developed in an “affordable, balanced, responsible, and equitable way that accommodates and encourages travel” by all users. Exceptions to the policy shall be approved by City Council or, where projects do not come before Council, by the City Manager. The resolution was supported by a range of community stakeholders, including: the Environmental Stewardship Advisory Council, Green Dubuque, Proudly Accessible Dubuque, the Long Range Planning Advisory Council, the Sierra Club Iowa Chapter, and Tri-State Trail Vision. Dubuque’s Complete Streets venture to date is
exemplified in the Historic Millwork District, where city officials kicked off a reinvestment push bolstered by $5.6 million federal grant through U.S. DOT’s TIGER program and a $150,000 Iowa Great Places grant. The project, featured last year on PBS’s NewsHour, broke ground just over a week before the resolution was adopted.

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/government_programs/jan-june10/blueprint_06-17.html
http://www.thonline.com/article.cfm?id=315821

Big News in the Lone Star State

The Texas Department of Transportation put out a new memo stating its commitment to “proactively plan, design, and construct facilities to safely accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians.” The memo provides guidance for both urbanized and rural settings and shows that TxDOT is committed to a policy inline with the Complete Streets bills in the state legislature. The two bills, HB 1105 and SB 513, would expand on the memo to ensure safe accommodations not only for bicyclists and pedestrians, but also public transportation users and people of all ages and abilities. The bill had its first hearing in the House on March 23, where the House Transportation Committee heard favorable testimony from four experts, and representatives from BikeTexas, AARP Texas, and the Partnership for a Healthy Texas. Its Senate-side twin had its first hearing in the Senate Transportation Committee this morning.

http://www.capitol.state.texas.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=82R&Bill=HB1105
http://www.capitol.state.texas.us/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=82R&Bill=SB513

Updates from the States

- **Massachusetts:** A $200 million bill for local roadway projects, including bikeways and sidewalks, and bridge repair proposed by Governor Deval Patrick was redrafted by lawmakers to include a $15 million fund to be spent specifically on the planning, design, and construction of Complete Streets. This amendment, put forward by Rep. Carl Sciotto of Medford, was stripped from the final bill, despite support for Complete Streets from committee members. Though the additional transportation funds would likely be welcomed by localities looking to complete their transportation networks, the final $250 million bill provides enough flexibility for localities to use the funds for complete streets; indeed, a 1996 law requires accommodation of bicycling and walking. Lawmakers continue to explore ways to ensure the state funds Complete Streets projects, noting that doing so was key to implementing last session's transportation reform bill.

http://www.patriotledger.com/topstories/x583203030/-250M-road-fix-bill-advances-Patrick-aide-says-even-200M-would-be-a-stretch

• **Missouri**: HCR 23, a Complete Streets resolution, was passed out of all House committees and is ready for a full vote. Advocates are working to ensure the resolution moves forward before its sponsor, Rep. Sally Faith, leaves state office to become Mayor of Saint Charles.


• **Rhode Island**: Two bills are working their way through the Rhode Island legislature. H5821 declares support of Complete Streets and would establish a Complete Streets Committee to ensure full implementation of Complete Streets throughout the state. H5886 defines Complete Streets, requires use of federal and state funds be used to develop complete streets with limited exceptions, and sets a reporting requirement on progress. The Providence Journal reports concerns among legislators on costs. Advocates, including AARP Rhode Island and the Sierra Club Rhode Island Chapter among others, continue to do education on how these bills will lead to prioritizing projects that serve everyone in Rhode Island.


• **Washington**: HB 1071, which would establish but not fund a grant program for communities adopting Complete Streets ordinances, has passed out of both the House and Senate and now awaits signature from Governor Christine Gregoire. Meanwhile, HB 1700, which would require the state Department of Transportation provide for all users, increase public participation, and adopt new design guidance that could provide increased flexibility to localities and the state awaits a vote in the Senate Rules Committee. If passed, it would move to the Senate floor for a full vote.


Quick Takes: Policy Progress

• **Kansas City, KS**: With a vote on April 7, the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas became the second community in the state to adopt a Complete Streets policy. The new resolution directs a Complete Streets approach in new construction, reconstruction, and operation of streets within Kansas City, and formalizes a partnership between the Department of Public Works, the Department of Planning, and the Wyandotte County Health Department.

• **Grand Rapids, MI:** On Tuesday, March 22, the City Commissioners resolved to “design and construct Complete Streets wherever feasible” and review related policies to ensure implementation.  
  http://www.bikegrandrapids.org/files/events/City_of_GR_Complete_Streets_Resolutio

• **Union Charter Township, MI:** A resolution adopted on March 23 calls for incorporating “Complete Streets design considerations and practices” into infrastructure planning and design for this community of 7,600.  

• **Lewisboro, NY:** The Town Board is considering adopting a Complete Streets policy for its 12,000 residents. Board Members agreed to first defer to the Planning Board before moving ahead.  
  (Lewisboro Ledger http://www.acorn-

• **Southampton, NY:** Southampton Town Director of Transportation Tom Neely and longtime resident Eric Cohen’s proposed Complete Streets resolution was well-received by the Town Board last month. When the Board decides to move ahead, Neely and Cohen will bring together a Complete Streets Committee to guide ongoing implementation.  
  (Sag Harbor Express http://sagharboronline.com/sagharborexpress/page-1/a-wholisitic-approach-to-streets-

• **Guthrie, OK:** The town of 10,000 became the second in the state to commit to Complete Streets with the adoption of a resolution on March 15 stating that streets projects should be planned, designed, and operated so as to “provide for a balanced, responsible, and equitable way to accommodate and answer travel” for all users.  

• **Philadelphia, PA:** Implementing Complete Streets is key to Philadelphia 2035, the new comprehensive plan for the city now in draft form. The current draft calls for the development of new design guidance for city agencies and developers and implementation of supportive policies related to bicycle parking, traffic calming, and congestion management.  

• **Anderson, SC:** An all-volunteer Complete Streets Committee, with representatives from the city, the county, bicycle shops, and residents, held a public workshop to help prioritize transportation projects that will improve safety and accessibility for pedestrians and bicyclists.  

• **Nashville, TN:** The Metro Planning Commission will consider drafts of the new Mobility 2030 plan and the Major and Collector Street Plan tomorrow night, April 14. Both are key documents in the implementation of the area’s Complete Streets policy.  
  (http://www.nashville.gov/MPC/)
Federal Policy Update
The House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee held their first hearings on the transportation reauthorization. The hearings included testimony from public transportation organizations and advocates, Bikes Belong, and members of Congress. The National Complete Streets Coalition submitted testimony urging the Committee to support a national Complete Streets policy.

COALITION NEWS
Complete Streets Champions Receive Legislative Leadership Award
For their efforts to improve the lives of older adults and their families, AARP presented Representative Doris Matsui (CA-5) and Representative Steven LaTourette (OH-14) with Legislative Leadership awards. The awards recognized both Congress members for championing federal Complete Streets legislation in the 111th Congress. We look forward to working alongside them to promote Complete Streets in the 112th Congress.
http://www.completestreets.org/policy/federal/complete-streets-champions-receive-legislative-leadership-award/

Four Communities to Get “Building Blocks” for Complete Streets
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has selected Wichita, Kansas; Portland, Maine; Nashville/Davidson County, Tennessee; and McKinney, Texas to receive Complete Streets assistance through its new Sustainable Communities Building Blocks program. Each of the four communities will host a modified version of our Complete Streets Workshops, designed to help each at their specific point in the Complete Streets process. A total of 32 communities will participate in the program, selected from a pool of over 350 applicants.

A Whirlwind of Complete Streets Workshops
We’ve been busy the past few weeks, bringing our workshops to communities from California to Alabama. We joined forces with Mark Fenton, walkability guru, to engage elected officials, decision makers, and residents of Pima County, AZ in a discussion on Complete Streets. Our workshop team, Michael Ronkin, Michael Moule, and instructor-trainee Craig Williams, then facilitated a Complete Streets Policy Development workshop with transportation professionals from several jurisdictions in the region. A few days later, Ronkin and Moule were joined by instructor-trainee Ryan Snyder in Los Angeles County, CA, to help translate the Complete Streets visions of several communities into actionable policy. Instructor John LaPlante and instructor-trainee Cynthia Hoyle met up with Ronkin in Salt Lake County, UT to help local policymakers, planners, and engineers implement its 2010 ordinance. Just this past Monday, instructor and Coalition Executive Director Barbara McCann, aided by Moule and instructor-
trainee Jeff Reigner, worked with local officials, planners, and engineers from communities across Jefferson County, AL to build a common understanding of Complete Streets and how the area could pursue a Complete Streets approach. We’ll be able to catch our breath before heading to the island of Kauai, HI later this month. Want to host a Complete Streets Workshop in your community? Check our website for details.

http://www.completestreets.org/changing-policy/workshops/

Coalescion Celebrates Renewing Partner, Welcomes New Partners
We’re pleased to have Alta Planning + Design continue as a Coalescion Silver Partner. Alta is at the forefront of the multimodal transportation movement, specializing in bicycle, pedestrian, greenway and trail planning, design and implementation. They conduct nationally significant research and professional development courses. Creating “Complete” and livable streets for communities is an integral part of their work, as evidenced in projects such as the North Carolina DOT Complete Streets Design Manual; Tacoma, WA Complete Streets Reviews; Queen City Livability Access Plan, Buffalo, NY; and Division Street/Main Street Plan, Portland, OR. They also produced the Fundamentals of Bicycle Boulevard Planning and Design Guide with Portland State University’s Initiative for Bicycle and Pedestrian Innovation and the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals.

http://www.altaplanning.com/  
http://nacto.org/cities-for-cycling/design-guide/  
http://archives.buffalorising.com/story/community_input_is_needed_to_d  
http://www.portlandonline.com/bps/index.cfm?&c=41524  
http://www.ibpi.usp.pdx.edu/guidebook.php

At the Bronze level, we welcome Abonmarche. Abonmarche has provided engineering, architecture, surveying, marina/waterfront, landscape architecture, development and community planning services in the Midwest since 1979. They are committed to the development of Complete Streets in the communities they serve, as shown in their award-winning work in Benton Harbor, MI. Check out their website and Facebook page for more information.

http://www.abonmarche.com/  
http://www.facebook.com/abonmarche

For over a decade, Coalition Bronze Partner North Country Healthy Heart Network has designed and implemented community-based strategies to prevent chronic disease in northern New York State. In the last year, they organized the Essex County Complete Streets Coalition and the Malone Complete Streets Partnership to advocate for Complete Streets policy, planning, and implementation strategies that meet the unique needs of small, rural communities. The Heart Network became a Partner to network with other initiatives around the country and to share their rural prospective on Complete Streets.

http://www.heartnetwork.org/  
http://ran.heartnetwork.org/index.php?q=coalition-partners
Patti Banks Associates (PBA) is pleased to become a part of the National Complete Streets Coalition as a Bronze Partner. For over 15 years, PBA has been designing and problem solving for a better future and environment. For example, the 20th Street Streetscape Plan proposes a complete right-of-way transformation within the vibrant, unique and artistic Kansas City Crossroads District.

http://www.pbassociates.com/
http://www.20thstreetkc.com/

Want to join these and other organizations in supporting the work of the National Complete Streets Coalition? Check out our website for information.

http://www.completestreets.org/get-involved/join-the-coalition/#partner

COMPLETE STREETS NEWS

Online Training: Creating Livable, Accessible Communities by Completing Our Streets

This two-part training, delivered on May 18 and May 25, will be lead by Barbara McCann and Michael Ronkin. McCann, Executive Director of the National Complete Streets Coalition, and Ronkin, co-developer of the Complete Streets Workshop program will discuss the principles of Complete Streets and how implementing a Complete Streets policy will create improved transportation option for people with disabilities. Participants must be able to attend both sessions and be willing to complete homework between the two. Registration is free, but must be made by May 11.

http://projectaction.easterseals.com/site/Calendar?view=Detail&id=34686

Quick Takes: Complete Streets Talk Across the Country

• **Fairbanks, AK**: After efforts to improve downtown business through zoning and street design changes were rejected by the Fairbanks North Start Borough Assembly, the Downtown Association is looking for new ways to attract businesses and customers through the creation of more pedestrian and bicycle friendly streets. *(Fairbanks Daily News-Miner http://newsminer.com/bookmark/12551344-After-a-setback-from-the-Borough-Assembly-businesses-are-wondering-how-to-breathe-new-life-into-downtown-Fairbanks)*

• **Manchester, CT**: City officials held a public meeting on Complete Streets and expanded transit service earlier this month. The meeting was in response to community interest in exploring the topics in developing a new comprehensive plan for the town. *(Hartford Courant http://www.courant.com/community/manchester/hc-manchester-transportation-0401-20110331-9,0,7187897.story)*

• **Lawrence, KS**: A Complete Streets policy in Lawrence would help older adults and people with disabilities, writes Kelly Barth in the *Lawrence Journal-World*. Barth interviews Dot Nary, a disability researcher at Kansas University, who shares the ways incomplete streets limit the ability of these populations to get around.

• **Detroit, MI**: About 160 people attended a recent community meeting on Complete Streets. Organizers hoped the meeting would build community will for Complete Streets and give them an active role in crafting the new transportation vision for the city. [http://www.michigantrails.org/events/packed-house-for-detroit-complete-streets-workshop/](http://www.michigantrails.org/events/packed-house-for-detroit-complete-streets-workshop/)

• **Toledo, OH**: John LaPlante, Director of Traffic Engineering at Coalition Silver Partner firm T.Y. Lin International and Complete Streets Workshop instructor, spoke at the 2011 Transportation Summit about creating complete streets from existing roadways. His talk covered the necessary policy and institutional changes needed to support Complete Streets planning, design, and operation. *(Toledo Free-PRESS)*[http://www.toledofreepress.com/tag/complete-street/](http://www.toledofreepress.com/tag/complete-street/)

• **New York City, NY**: Howard Wolfson, Deputy Mayor for Government Affairs and Communications, New York City, spoke out in favor of providing more safe transportation choices across the city, and distributed a memo citing evidence that new bike lanes are popular, supported by community groups, and make the city's streets safer. Meanwhile, 750 parents, children, friends, and neighbors attended a community event in support of Brooklyn’s more family-friendly bike lanes; a response to recent criticism of the city's commitment to innovative transportation solutions. *(http://www.nyc.gov/html/om/pdf/bike_lanes_memo.pdf, Huffington Post)*[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/howard-wolfson/bike-lanes-a-choice-not-a_b_839076.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/howard-wolfson/bike-lanes-a-choice-not-a_b_839076.html), *(http://www.streetfilms.org/ride-the-lanes-prospect-park-west-family-bike-ride/)*

**Near Death on Miami’s Brickell Ave**

The Transit Miami blog reports that an unnamed cyclist was recently struck by a car while traveling along Miami, Florida’s Brickell Avenue, a fast-paced commercial road notoriously dangerous for people on foot or bicycle. As is made clear in the blog post, local advocates have long campaigned for a more complete street with traffic calming and appropriate accommodations for all users, only to be denied by the Florida Department of Transportation and elected officials.


**Incomplete Streets Death: Raymond Horace Sanders**

Raymond Horace Sanders, 53, was struck while walking along Colony Road in Hudson, Florida, a community approximately 40 miles north of Tampa. Colony Road lacks both street lamps and sidewalks, despite the presence of sidewalks in some adjoining subdivisions. Florida Highway Patrol noted the poorly lit street in their investigation.

RESOURCES

Mobilizing Action Toward Community Health (MATCH): Community Grants Program
A new Community Grants program from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation aims to spark action in communities that are ready to address the social and economic factors that affect health, but are often ignored in community health improvement actives. Brief proposals must be received by April 27.

http://www.rwjf.org/applications/solicited/cfp.jsp?ID=21351&cid=XEM_2601352

Realtors® Survey: Americans Want Walkable Neighborhoods
A new survey by the National Association of REALTORS® shows that more people want less time in the car. The Community Preference Survey highlights that 56% of Americans prefer more walkable neighborhoods with a mix of nearby destinations to those that require more driving. Half of the respondents wanted improvements to existing public transportation rather than new roads and development, and nearly three out of five would trade square footage for short commute.


Rural Implications of Federal Transportation Policy
The Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) released a new report, Rethinking Federal Investment in Rural Transportation: Rural Considerations Regarding Reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Act, discussing the importance of rural transportation. Rural areas, small towns, and small cities, the report argues, require more flexibility in transportation investments – including public transportation, vanpools, walking and bicycling facilities, and highways – to ensure a rule transportation system that increases integrated regional planning, economic development, and quality of life.

http://rupri.org/leftsidemore.php?selectedid=45

Webinar: Rural and Tribal Transportation
On April 27, the Equity Caucus at Transportation for America will host the second of its webinars dedicated to more sustainable transportation future. This webinar will focus on transportation policy for strong rural and tribal communities and will feature Jacque Hostler, Chief Executive Officer of Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria; Tim Marema, Vice President of the Center for Rural Strategies; and John Robert Smith, President & CEO of Reconnecting America and former Mayor of Meridian, Mississippi.

http://equityblog.org/2011/03/30/webinars-transportation-for-a-sustainable-future/

Report: The State of Our Nation's Bridges
Transportation for America released a new report detailing the nation's 69,223 structurally deficient bridges and why such a huge backlog of poor bridges exists. In addition to prioritizing funding for bridge repair and ensuring those funds are used only for that purpose, the report recommends that when bridges are upgraded, they are designed to provide access for people on foot, bikes, or public transportation in addition to those on cars. The report's companion
interactive map shows all bridges within a 10-mile radius of an address with structurally deficient bridges highlighted in red.
http://t4america.org/resources/bridges/
http://t4america.org/docs/bridgereport/bridgereport-national.pdf

**Toronto Complete Streets Forum: April 28-29**
The Toronto Coalition for Active Transportation is holding its annual forum on Complete Streets this month. This year, the forum will focus on building alliances and will feature leading experts Mia Birk of Alta Planning + Design, Michel Labrecque of Société de Transport de Montréal, and Roelof Wittink of I-CE. This is a must-attend event, so register today.
http://www.torontocat.ca/completestreetsforum2011

**Smart Growth Presentations Available**
Presentations made at the 10\(^{th}\) Annual New Partners for Smart Growth conference this past February are now up on the conference’s website. Be sure to check out the *North Carolina: Transforming the “Good Roads State” to the “Complete Streets State”* panel, which featured examples from Complete Streets leader Charlotte, NC; its smaller neighbor 20 miles to the north, Davidson; and the state Department of Transportation. The presentations are listed under the Friday schedule at 1:45 pm.
http://www.newpartners.org/program.html

**QUOTES**
“I’m convinced that Complete Streets is a good piece of legislation... it not only has my co-sponsorship; it has my full support.”
– U.S. Representative Steven LaTourette (OH-14)

“Our goal is to bring back all modes of transportation to our citizens, whether it is cars, bicycles, feet or horses. We want to make sure that people can use all modes of transportation.”
– Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon

“Complete streets can be done and it doesn’t have to cost a lot of money. It’s all about making streets more useable and safer for all kinds of traffic.”
– John LaPlante, PE, PTOE, Director for Traffic Engineering for T.Y. Lin International
http://www.toledofreepress.com/tag/complete-street/

*CORRECTION*: In last month’s newsletter, we erroneously stated that Sandi Vega was a resident of Hempstead, New York. Vega lives in Wantaugh, New York.