

Hennepin County Board Action Request



Item Description:

Complete Streets Policy for Hennepin County - Offered by Commissioners Dorfman and McLaughlin

Resolution:

WHEREAS, Hennepin County is one of eight communities contracted by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota to create Active Living initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Hennepin County is committed to Active Living - integrating physical activity into daily routines through activities such as biking, walking, or taking transit, and also to the development and maintenance of a safe, efficient, balanced and environmentally sound county transportation system that integrates Complete Streets; and

WHEREAS, Complete Streets are designed and operated to assure safety and accessibility for all the users of our roads, trails and transit systems, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, motorists, commercial and emergency vehicles and for people of all ages and of all abilities; and

WHEREAS, Hennepin County Board Resolution 09-0058R1 incorporated a Complete Streets philosophy to expand transportation choices and directed the Active Living Workgroup, along with other key staff selected by the county administrator, to develop a County Complete Streets policy and accompanying implementation procedures; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hennepin County Board adopts the attached Complete Streets policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the development of implementation and evaluation procedures, and ensuring that Hennepin County's roadside enhancement partnership program (99-11-482) is consistent with Complete Streets, will begin upon approval of this Board Action in order to allocate funding consistent with Complete Streets principles and practices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the assistant county administrator for Public Works will report back annually to the County Board on how the policy is being implemented into all types and phases of Hennepin County's transportation and development projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hennepin County Board encourages the State of Minnesota, municipalities, other counties and regional organizations to adopt and implement Complete Streets policies.

Hennepin County Board Action Request (continued)



Requesting Department	Commissioner Dorfman
Recommendation from County Administrator	
Committee Assignment	

Background

On December 5, 2008, policy makers, public works and health professionals from around the metropolitan area attended a Complete Streets workshop given by national experts. Attendees came away ready to take action. A smaller group worked that same day to draft the components of a Complete Streets policy.

Then on February 10, 2009, the Hennepin County Board unanimously approved Resolution 09-0058R1 that directed the Active Living Workgroup, along with other key staff selected by the county administrator, to develop a County Complete Streets policy and accompanying implementation procedure.

The policy attached to this Board Action Request is the result of that direction.

Outcomes of this effort will include:

- Integration of Complete Streets principles and practices into transportation and development projects carried out or contracted by the county
- Conducting an inventory and assessment of existing corridors
- Development of Complete Streets implementation procedures
- Development of Complete Streets evaluation procedures
- Re-evaluation of Hennepin County’s roadside enhancement partnership program (99-11-482)
- Referencing Complete Streets in the Transportation Systems Plan and other appropriate plans and documents

Location of county facilities in areas easily accessible by all modes of transportation, and integration of Complete Streets into roadways connecting to these facilities

Approvals

Department Head
Deputy/Assistant Administrator
County Administrator

Date
Date
Date

Complete Streets Policy

Final draft for the Board

June 10, 2009

This Complete Streets policy was created under Hennepin County Board Resolution 09-0058R1. The resolution demonstrates the county's commitment to develop and maintain a safe, efficient, balanced and environmentally sound county transportation system and to support Active Living – integrating physical activity into daily routines through activities such as biking, walking, or taking transit. The county strives to be a leader in providing opportunities and choices for its residents, and believes that a well-planned transportation system that includes Complete Streets demonstrates this leadership.

Hennepin County will enhance safety, mobility, accessibility and convenience for all corridor users including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, motorists, commercial and emergency vehicles, and for people of all ages and abilities by planning, designing, operating, and maintaining a network of Complete Streets. This policy applies to all corridors under Hennepin County jurisdiction. The county will work with other transportation agencies to incorporate a Complete Streets philosophy and encourages the State of Minnesota, municipalities, other counties and regional organizations to adopt similar policies.

Given the diversity of the natural and built environment in Hennepin County, flexibility in accommodating different modes of travel is essential to balancing the needs of all corridor users. The county will implement Complete Streets in such a way that the character of the project area, the values of the community, and the needs of all users are fully considered. Therefore, Complete Streets will not look the same in all environments, communities, or development contexts, and will not necessarily include exclusive elements for all modes.

Developing Complete Streets will be a priority on all corridors, and every transportation and development project will be treated as an opportunity to make improvements. This will include corridors that provide connections or critical linkages between activity centers and major transit connections, and in areas used frequently by pedestrians and bicyclists today or with the potential for frequent use in the future.

Hennepin County will conduct an inventory and assessment of existing corridors, and develop Complete Streets implementation and evaluation procedures. The Complete Streets policy and implementation procedures will be referenced in the Transportation Systems Plan and other appropriate plans or documents.

Applicable design standards and best practices will be followed in conjunction with construction, reconstruction, changes in allocation of pavement space on an existing roadway, or other changes in a county corridor. The planning, design, and implementation processes for all transitway and roadway corridors will:

- Involve the local community and stakeholders,
- Consider the function of the road,
- Integrate innovative and non-traditional design options,
- Consider transitway corridor alignment and station areas,
- Assess the current and future needs of corridor users,
- Include documentation of efforts to accommodate all modes and all users,
- Incorporate a review of existing system plans to identify Complete Streets opportunities.

Hennepin County will implement Complete Streets unless one or more of the following conditions are documented:

- The cost of establishing Complete Street elements is excessive in relation to total project cost.
- The city council refuses municipal consent or there is a lack of community support.
- There are safety risks that cannot be overcome.
- The corridor has severe topographic, environmental, historic, or natural resource constraints.

The County Engineer will document all conditions that require an exception. The Assistant County Administrator for Public Works will provide the Hennepin County Board with annual reports detailing how this policy is being implemented into all types and phases of Hennepin County's Public Works projects.

Hennepin County will identify and apply measures to gauge the impact of Complete Streets on Active Living and the quality of life of its residents.