



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

POLICY STATEMENT

POLICY NO. EX.O. - 31

October 23, 2014

SUBJECT: Complete Streets

This policy is developed in accordance with Section 13a-153f (a)(d) of the Connecticut General Statutes, Accommodations and Provision of Facilities for All Users. It is the policy of the Department of Transportation (Department) to consider the needs of all users of all abilities and ages (specifically including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and vehicle operators) in the planning, programming, design, construction, retrofit and maintenance activities related to all roads and streets as a means of providing a “safe, efficient transportation network which enhances quality of life and economic vitality”. Complete streets shall be defined as, for the purposes of this policy, a means to provide safe access for all users by providing a comprehensive, integrated, connected multi-modal network of transportation options.

As a condition of funding, Complete Streets must be considered, in adherence with Public Act 09-154. This policy enables the alignment of transportation funds to encourage improvements for non-motorized users, especially those that connect to transit, schools, and other generators of non-motorized traffic.

OBJECTIVES

- Improve safety and mobility for pedestrians of all ages and abilities, bicyclists, and the mobility challenged, as well as those who choose to live vehicle free
- Develop and support a transportation system that is accommodating of active transportation modes that promote healthier life styles
- Develop and support a transportation system that is accommodating of compact, sustainable and livable communities
- Ensure that the State's transportation network is sustainable through Transportation Demand Management and System Management
- Improve mobility and accessibility to activity centers, including: employers, commercial centers, schools, transit, and trails
- Encourage a shift to alternative transportation modes, reducing reliance on carbon fuels and promoting energy conservation
- Support the State's Transit Oriented Development (TOD) efforts through the provision of integrated transportation networks
- Enhance State economic competitiveness by enabling communities to become livable, walkable, bikeable, drivable, efficient, safe and desirable

The Department shall form a Complete Streets Standing Committee with membership from each Bureau. This standing committee shall be responsible for providing guidance for the implementation of Complete Streets Department-wide.

PROCEDURES

This policy will be implemented via the following actions:

1. **Training:** The Department will provide training for its engineers and planners on Complete Streets best practices. This training will also be open for registration to municipal engineers, planners and local traffic authorities, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Regional Planning Organizations (RPOs), as room permits. The Complete Streets Standing Committee will schedule annual training opportunities related to Complete Streets.
2. **Checklist:** The “Connecticut Department of Transportation Bike and Pedestrian Travel Needs Assessment Form” will be regularly updated to ensure compliance with this policy. This form shall be used at the earliest point in project development for all applicable projects. This form shall apply to all Department projects, utility projects within the state right-of-way, the Office of the State Traffic Administration (OSTA) certificate applications receiving state or federal funding, and municipal transportation projects that receive state or federal funding.
3. **Complete Streets** shall be considered in all projects receiving state or federal funding. The checklist will be integrated into all Department reviews including Planning, Engineering, Encroachment Permits, Public Transportation, Ferries and Ports, and OSTA Certificate Applications. The checklist will consider all travel modes, environmental and social context.
4. **Design Guidance:** The Department will amend its design, construction and maintenance guidelines to reflect the routine accommodation of all users. The Complete Streets Standing Committee shall provide input on the development guidance documents. Department design guidance shall reflect best practices for all users.
5. **Funding:** The Department shall review eligibility of funding sources to increase flexibility for the funding of Complete Streets. The Complete Streets Standing Committee shall work with program managers to refine prioritization criteria in order that all projects reflect complete streets, and projects that focus on bicycles and pedestrians are able to compete with traditional roadway projects for funding appropriately.
6. **Data Collection:** The Department will include non-motorized users in traffic counts to the extent possible. Turning movement counts associated with OSTA certificate application reviews shall include counts of non-motorized users where appropriate.
7. **Performance Measures:** The Department shall establish and annually report performance measures, through the Performance Measures Standing Committee. These measures shall be developed in line with federal performance measures for safety and mobility of non-motorized users.

James Redeker
Commissioner