



CITY OF BREVARD

COMPLETE STREETS POLICY

ADOPTED MARCH 18, 2019

BREVARD CITY COUNCIL

PARKS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION COMMITTEE/BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BREVARD PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Scope

Complete Streets is an approach to transportation planning and design using principles to ensure safe, comfortable, and accessible travel for people of all ages, abilities, and income levels, regardless of the mode of transportation they use.

Benefits

The Complete Streets approach to transportation planning has multiple benefits, including:

- Reducing congestion by providing safe travel choices that encourage non-motorized transportation options, increasing the overall capacity of the transportation network.
- Decreasing consumer transportation costs and overall carbon footprint.
- Supporting economic growth and enhancing the City's livability by providing a balanced transportation system of accessible and efficient connections between home, school, work, recreation, and retail destinations.
- Encouraging an active lifestyle by creating and enhancing safe walking and bicycling options for school-age children, in alignment with the national Safe Routes to School program objectives.
- Improved public health by reducing the risk of injuries and fatalities from traffic crashes, injuries, and their related costs for users of all modes of transportation.

Vision and Purpose

The purpose of the City of Brevard Complete Streets Policy is to provide safe, convenient, and comfortable transportation routes for all users of our roadways, greenways, and sidewalks, for the benefit of people of all ages and of all abilities. This will include pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, commercial vehicles, transit vehicles, emergency services vehicles, farm equipment, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

Furthermore, The Complete Streets Policy aims to accommodate all road users by creating a road network that meets the needs of individuals utilizing a variety of transportation modes. This policy directs decision makers to consistently plan for, design, construct, operate, and maintain appropriate transportation infrastructure and facilities to accommodate all anticipated users.

Policy Statement

The City of Brevard is committed to a Complete Streets approach to transportation planning that promotes and creates a comprehensive and integrated transportation network that provides safe, equitable, comfortable, and convenient travel for all users of all ages and abilities.

Core Commitment

Complete Streets principles will be applied on all new City projects, privately funded development, and incrementally on existing streets through various small improvements and activities over time. In addition, to the extent practical, the City will advocate that state-owned roadways within the City boundaries comply with the Complete Streets Policy, including the design, construction and maintenance of such roadways. All sources of

transportation funding, public and private, should be drawn upon to implement Complete Streets in Brevard.

The City of Brevard will incorporate Complete Streets principles into the City's Comprehensive Plan, Land Use Plan, small area plans, transportation plans, zoning/development ordinances, standards and specifications documents, and other policy documents as appropriate.

Exceptions

Complete Streets principles will be applied in all street construction, retrofit, and reconstruction projects, except in unusual or extraordinary circumstances as outlined below. Transportation projects may be excluded from compliance within this policy where documentation and data indicate that any of the following apply:

1. Projects on roadways where specific users are prohibited by law, such as interstate freeways or pedestrian malls.
2. Existing right-of-way does not allow for the accommodation of all users.
3. Cost or impacts of accommodation are extremely disproportionate to the need or probable future use, particularly if alternative facilities is available or planned within a reasonable walking and/or bicycling distance.
4. A documented absence of current or future need of non-vehicular travel.
5. Where application of Complete Streets principles is inappropriate because it would be contrary to public safety.
6. Construction would result in unreasonable adverse impacts on the environment or on neighboring land uses, including impact from right-of-way acquisition.
7. Ordinary maintenance activities by NCDOT or City of Brevard Public Works, including but not limited to: installation/removal/repairs of water, sewer, and/or stormwater systems; installation of fire hydrants; installation of private utility fixtures.

Performance Measures

City Staff shall evaluate the Complete Streets Policy as needed or requested by City Council. The following measures shall be considered in evaluating progress on this policy, but other measures as applicable may be considered as well:

1. Linear feet of new or reconstructed sidewalk
2. Miles of sharrows, bike lanes, or other bicycle facilities
3. Number of new or improved ADA accommodations
4. Number and type of crosswalk and intersection improvements
5. Decrease in rate of crashes, injuries, and fatalities by travel mode
6. Satisfaction levels as expressed in applicable user surveys

Implementation:

The City shall consider Complete Streets principles and practices a routine part of everyday operations, shall approach every transportation project and program as an opportunity to improve streets and the transportation network for all users, and shall work in coordination with other departments, agencies, and jurisdictions to achieve Complete Streets principles.

This Complete Streets Policy will be carried out cooperatively by a multidisciplinary team of relevant departments, boards, and committees in the City of Brevard, including but not limited to: Planning Department, Public Works Department, Police Department, City Manager, Planning Board, Parks, Trails, and Recreation Committee (which acts as the City's Bicycle Advisory Committee), Public Safety Committee, and City Council.

The Parks, Trails, and Recreation Committee, along with Planning Department Staff, will work together as the primary force to initiate and implement the City's various Complete Streets initiatives.

Key implementation responsibilities include:

1. Maintaining a pedestrian and bicycle facility inventory in GIS that will prioritize projects and eliminate gaps in the sidewalk, pathway, and bicycle network.
2. Developing proposed revisions to zoning and subdivision codes and regulations and development review procedures to integrate Complete Streets in all projects.
3. Regularly soliciting feedback on potential projects from the public to ensure that the community's perspective is considered and incorporated.
4. Working to integrate Complete Streets principles in all new planning studies, small area plans, and other policy documents.
5. Finding opportunities for Complete Streets training for pertinent City staff and decision makers on both the technical content of Complete Streets principles and best practices, as well as community engagement workshops and other appropriate means.
6. Evaluating projects, as appropriate, within applicable studies and plans, to encourage implementation of this policy.
7. Seeking out appropriate sources of funding and grants for the implementation of Complete Streets policies.

Design Guidelines

Streetscape designs shall be determined by using the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) "Complete Streets Planning & Design Guidelines," the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) "Urban Bikeway Design Guide," the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) "Guide for Development of Bicycle Facilities," and any other appropriate and current design guidelines.

Severability

If any provision of this policy or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions of this policy which may be given effect without the invalid provision or application and, to this end, the provisions of this policy are declared severable.

Effective Date

This Complete Streets Policy shall be in full force and effect on the date of passage by the Brevard City Council.