# COMPLETE STREETS: A NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Tri-State Transportation Campaign November 2008

#### Resources

- National Complete Streets Coalition
  - www.completestreets.org
- Thunderhead Alliance
  - www.thunderheadalliance.org
  - Guide To Complete Streets Campaigns

# Elements of a Good Complete Streets Policy

- Incorporates 'all users'
- Aim is to create **connected network**.
- Flexible
- Context sensitive



- Cover the 3 R's
- Tightly worded
- Latest and best design standards.
  - Establishes **performance standards**

Source: www.completestreets.org

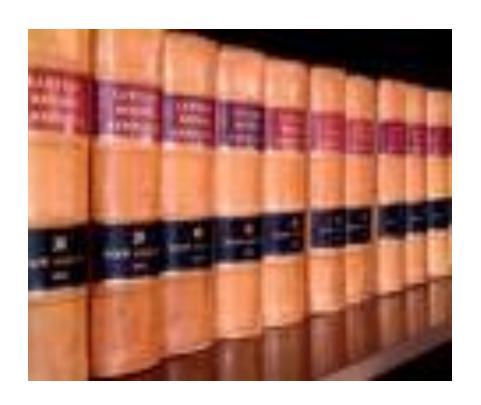
#### Levels of Government

- City
- Regional (Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Counties)
- State

Federal

# Types of Complete Street Policies

- Complete Streets have been enacted in a number of forms:
  - Internal Policies
  - Plans/Design Manuals
  - Resolutions
  - Tax ordinances
  - Legislation



#### Internal Policies

CalTrans (California DOT) Deputy Directive 64

Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency
Regional Transportation Investment Policy (NOACA)

Charlotte Urban Street Design Guidelines

### Plans and Design Manuals

 State of <u>Massachusetts</u> Project Development and Design Guide

- St. Louis Legacy 2030 Long-Range Plan
- Colorado Springs Intermodal Transportation Plan
- Colorado Springs Complete Streets Amendment
- Decatur Community Transportation Plan

#### Resolutions

- State of South Carolina DOT Resolution
- San Francisco Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission Regional Policy for the Accomodation of Non-Motorized Travelers
- DuPage County Healthy Roads Initiative
- Jackson Complete Streets Resolutions
- □ <u>Tacoma-Pierce County</u> Board of Health Resolution
- New Haven Board of Alderman Resolution

# Legislation/Ordinances

- State of Florida Bicycle & Pedestrian Ways Statute
- State of <u>Oregon</u> 'Bike Bill' Bicycle and Pedestrian Program
- San Diego County Transnet Tax Extension
- San Francisco Transit First Policy
- State of <u>Illinois</u> Highway Code Amendment
- Seattle City Council Complete Streets Ordinance

## Massachusetts Highway Dept.

MHD Project Development and Design Guide

- Framework to incorporate multi-modal elements
  - Pedestrians
  - Cyclists
  - Motorists
  - Transit vehicles

## Complete Streets: Oregon

Legislated in 1971

"Wherever a road is constructed"

□ Funding Source



#### Complete Streets: California

Complements Existing CalTrans policy

□ Signed into law September 30, 2008

Accounts for transit users

Set to go into effect January 1, 2011



#### Weaknesses

Loose Language

Exemptions or Exceptions

Oversight

# Major Policy 'Red Flags'

- Loose Language:
  - 'Consideration' vs. 'shall include' or 'require':
    - The Department fully considers the needs of non-motorized users... (CalTrans Deputy Directive 64)
    - Project sponsors are required to include bikes and pedestrians in the planning/design of projects. (NOACA)

# Major Policy 'Red Flags'

Exemptions/Exceptions:

NOACA: Project sponsors are required to include bikes and pedestrians in the planning/design of projects.

Prohibition of access

Less than 1,000 vehicles

per day

**Excessive Cost** 

Limited to resurfacing

Extreme topography

#### Acceptable Exceptions...

Non-motorized users are prohibited by law

Excessive cost

Absence of need



## Approval of Exceptions...

□ NOACA: Senior Level approval needed

□ No approval process='red flag'



### Federal Complete Streets Status

- □ Senate Bill 2686:
  - "Complete Streets Act of 2008"
    - Referred to Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
- □ House Bill 5951:
  - "Safe and Complete Streets Act of 2008"
    - Referred to House Subcommittee of Highways and Transit

#### Overview of Bills

- Require States and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO's)
  - Establishment of complete streets policies
  - Federally funded projects only
  - Incorporated in all levels of project development
  - Certification requirement
  - Technical Assistance

#### Support

#### Federal Level:

www.completestreets.org/federal.html

#### State Level:

Contact state elected officials

#### **Local Level**

Contact local elected officials

## Thank you!

For more information:

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