

R-2021-04

A RESOLUTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF A COMPLETE STREETS POLICY

WHEREAS, the National Complete Street Coalition defines Complete Streets as a transportation approach that ensures all future street projects will take into account the needs of all travelers, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation; and

WHEREAS, Complete Streets are designed to improve mobility, access, and connectivity for all people traveling by all modes including but not limited to pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and public transport; and

WHEREAS, a Complete Streets Policy provides additional guidelines and consideration of standards for transportation improvements to calm traffic, improve access, increase safety, and integration of health-conscious mobility for all residents; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wheaton will continue to plan for, design, fund, construct, operate, and maintain a safe and efficient transportation system for all users in all street and roadway projects, including new construction, retrofit, or reconstruction projects; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wheaton is a key destination on the Illinois Prairie Path and the Union Pacific Railroad West-Line, which encourages local development, promotes healthy lifestyles, and brings many visitors to the City of Wheaton by foot, bicycle, train, car, and bus; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wheaton routinely applies for and receives federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding for capital improvement projects where such funding for a project is in part evaluated and scored based upon a Complete Streets Policy; and

WHEREAS, adopting a Complete Streets policy is in the best interest of the City and by adopting this policy, the City will now be formally applying Complete Streets practices as part of transportation projects.

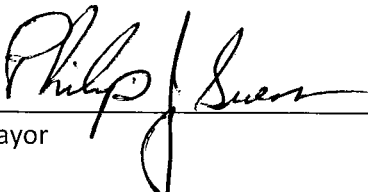
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Wheaton, Illinois, in exercise of its home rule authority, as follows:

SECTION 1: The foregoing Recitals are a material part of this Resolution and are incorporated in this Section 1 as though fully set forth.

SECTION 2: The Complete Streets Policy attached to this Resolution as Exhibit A is hereby adopted by the City of Wheaton.

SECTION 3: This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

ADOPTED this 19th day of January 2021.



Mayor

ATTEST:


City Clerk

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes:

Councilwoman Bray-Parker
Councilwoman Fitch
Mayor Suess
Councilwoman Robbins
Councilman Rutledge
Councilman Zaruba
Councilman Barbier

Nays:

None

Absent:

None

Motion Carried Unanimously

Complete Streets Policy

The City of Wheaton shall provide a safe, accessible, well-connected, and visually attractive surface transportation network that accommodates the needs of all users including: pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, public transportation riders and drivers, emergency response vehicles and promote a more livable community for people of all ages and abilities, including children, youth, families, older adults, including those with disabilities.

Purpose

This Complete Streets Policy is intended to ensure that all planning, scoping, programming, design, right-of-way acquisition, construction, construction engineering, reconstruction, operation and maintenance activities for surface transportation projects take all potential users of the City's transportation network into consideration. This Policy is not intended to mandate that Complete Streets be incorporated into every project; rather, that complete street improvements are considered as part of projects where the City determines incorporation of the improvements is permissible, practical, feasible, financially viable, and consistent with other City policies and plans. This Policy is also intended to encourage walking and biking, producing the health benefits that result from these types of activities, help reduce the demand for fossil fuels, ease traffic congestion, reduce wear on roadways, improve air quality and make streets and public and private spaces more attractive for businesses and customers and increase economic activity.

Projects

Consistent with the goals and objectives of the City's Comprehensive Plan (Transportation), the City of Wheaton seeks to continue a comprehensive, integrated, and connected transportation network where every right of way user can travel safely and comfortably and where sustainable transportation options are available to everyone. The City of Wheaton shall approach every transportation facility related improvement and project phase as a potential opportunity to create safer and more accessible streets for all users. These phases include, but are not limited to planning, scoping, programming, design, right-of-way acquisition, construction, construction engineering, reconstruction, operation, and maintenance.

Maintenance activities do not necessarily trigger requirements for major street improvements that would be required to incorporate Complete Streets and should not be expected to do so. However, maintenance activities do present some opportunities that can improve the environment for other transportation network users. Complete Streets principles will be applied to City of Wheaton projects incrementally over time.

Maximum financial flexibility is important to implement Complete Streets principles. All sources of transportation funding, public and private, should be considered as available, to implement Complete Streets.

Exceptions

The intent of this Policy is not to mandate the incorporation of Complete Streets with facilities such as sidewalks, bike lanes, shared lanes, grade-separated pedestrian crossings, and other Complete Streets improvements provided within all projects. However, the City shall consider the incorporation of the aforementioned types of improvements within projects. As part of this consideration, the following are some, but not all, of the exceptions to incorporating Complete Streets within a given project:

- The scope of the relevant project is limited to maintenance activities intended to keep the roadway in serviceable condition.
- The costs of providing accommodation for some travel modes are excessively disproportionate to the need or probable use by those modes.
- There is sufficient documentation that there is no feasible way to accommodate improvements for the non-vehicular traffic within the project scope.
- Where the construction is not practically feasible or cost effective because of unreasonable adverse impacts on the environment or on neighboring land uses including impact from right-of-way acquisition.
- There is a reasonable and equivalent accommodation along the same corridor, effectively serving the same destinations and providing the same access and mobility, which is already programmed to provide facilities, therefore exempting the project at hand.
- The project scope precludes the practical and cost-effective incorporation of Complete Streets.
- The incorporation of Complete Streets would violate another City, County, State, or Federal Policy.

Integrated Network of Transportation Modes

The City of Wheaton Complete Streets Policy shall support creating integrated networks of transportation modes. The needs, design guidelines, and context of transportation facilities will be taken into consideration to support the ability of users to walk, drive, bike, and utilize the available transit modes of transportation.

Multi-Jurisdictional Involvement

The Complete Streets Policy shall involve multiple jurisdictions by pursuing and incorporating Complete Streets within rights-of-way owned and maintained not only by the City but also by the State of Illinois, DuPage County, Milton Township, and Union Pacific Railroad. Examples include, but are not limited to, constructing improvements such as multi-use paths and sidewalks within these agencies' rights-of-way, pursuing improvements in the downtown near the railways and Train Stations, and supporting the continued use of the DuPage County Prairie Path trail system. Private development projects will also be strongly encouraged to follow the Complete Streets principles.

Design Guidelines

The City of Wheaton shall follow accepted or adopted design standards and use the best and latest design standards available, including but not limited to, existing design guidance from: Illinois Department of Transportation, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, Federal Highway Administration, the Institute of Transportation Engineers, National Association of City Transportation Officials, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines, and the Active Transportation Alliance. In recognition of various contexts and public input, a flexible, innovative, and balanced approach that follows other appropriate design standards may be considered, provided that a comparable level of safety for all users is present.

Context

The City of Wheaton shall implement Complete Streets solutions in a manner that is sensitive to the local context and character of Wheaton, in a manner that aligns transportation and land use goals, and in a manner that recognizes that the needs of users may vary throughout the community.

Performance Measures

To evaluate the success of the City of Wheaton Complete Streets Policy towards the implementation of the Complete Streets approach, the City of Wheaton will annually use, but not be limited to, the following performance measures:

- Linear feet of pedestrian accommodations built along City of Wheaton streets, where no such accommodations currently exist.
- Miles of bike accommodations built or marked where no such accommodations exist.
- Number of crosswalk/ sidewalk ramp locations improved where deficiencies exist.
- Square feet of sidewalk rehabilitated/improved where deficiencies exist.
- Number of traffic control complaints received through the City of Wheaton Engineering Department.

Implementation

To implement this Complete Streets Policy, the City of Wheaton will:

- Continue to review all roadway projects, public and private developments, and other opportunities to ensure Complete Streets are incorporated into projects as applicable. Review of this Policy and overall implementation of this Policy shall be the responsibility of the City of Wheaton Engineering Department.
- Continue to advocate that the City of Wheaton's Capital Improvement Plan supports implementation of the Complete Streets Policy with applicable Capital Projects.
- Encourage staff professional development and training in areas that related to Complete Streets such as ADA/Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines, Active Transportation, Transit Oriented Development, Traffic Engineering, and other applicable subjects that relate to Complete Streets.
- Continue to implement and monitor the effectiveness of this Policy and make adjustments as necessary to ensure the City's objectives for supporting Complete Streets are met.

