Complete Streets in the Southeast: A Toolkit
Improved access for all modes

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Incomplete Streets

No sidewalks
Too dangerous to cross on foot
Incomplete Streets

Unsafe for bicyclists
Incomplete Streets

Traffic jams on arterials
Too many crashes
Incomplete Streets

Uninviting for transit riders
Incomplete Streets

Inaccessible for people with limited mobility
Incomplete Streets

No room for people!
We know how to build right
We know how to build right
We know how to build right
We know how to build right
Yet many roads are built like this
And this
Complete Streets policies

Ensure that the entire right-of-way is planned, designed, constructed, operated and maintained to provide safe access for all users.
Complete Streets Policies in the Southeast

- 116 Complete Streets policies in 9 Southeastern states—almost 20% of US total policies
- 7.5 million people in the region covered by municipal Complete Streets policies
Complete Streets Policies in the Southeast

- State-level policies in:
  - Florida
  - Georgia
  - Louisiana
  - Mississippi
  - North Carolina
  - South Carolina
  - Tennessee
Complete Streets Policies in the Southeast

• Exemplary policies:
  – Fort Lauderdale, FL
  – Birmingham, AL
  – Hillsborough County FL MPO (Tampa area)
Complete Streets is NOT

• One “special” street project
• A design prescription
• A mandate for immediate retrofit
• Only accomplished with special funding source
• A silver bullet; other initiatives must be addressed:
  – Land use (proximity, mixed-use)
  – Environmental concerns
  – Transportation Demand Management
No magic formula for design

• One size doesn’t fit all
• Doesn’t mean that every street has sidewalks, bike lanes, and transit
• Fits context of community: land use and transportation needs
Complete Streets: Low-speed shared streets
Complete Streets: Rural roads with paved shoulders
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Complete Streets: Traffic calming measures
Complete Streets: Wide sidewalks connecting to transit stops
Complete Streets: Bike lanes and center turn lanes
Complete Streets: Curb extensions and on-street parking
Complete Streets: Transit routes
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Complete Streets: Busy multi-modal thoroughfares
Complete Streets: Modern roundabouts
Complete Streets: Signalized crossings
Complete Streets: Accessible crosswalks and sidewalks
Complete Streets: Landscaping between sidewalk and curb
There were **32,367** traffic fatalities in the United States in 2011. Of these,

- **22,448** were people in cars
- **4,432** were people on foot
- **677** were people on bicycles

Incomplete Streets are unsafe

Of more than 40,000 pedestrian fatalities between 2000-2009 nationally:
40% occurred where no crosswalks were available
Incomplete Streets are unsafe

More than 50% of injuries nationally are along high-speed arterials.

More than 60% of urban deaths were along arterials.
Complete Streets reduce pedestrian crashes

- ↓39% with medians
- ↓29% with street conversions
Complete Streets reduce pedestrian crashes

↓ 88% with sidewalks

↓ 69% with hybrid beacons
Slower travel speeds are safer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speed</th>
<th>Probability of pedestrian fatality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20mph</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30mph</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40mph</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Benefits: Older adults

• By 2025, nearly 1 in 5 Americans will be 65 or older.
• About ½ of all non-drivers over the age of 65 would like to get out more often.
Benefits: Older adults

- Complete Streets = better design for older folks driving and walking.
- Complete Streets = staying active, independent, and involved in communities.
Broward County, FL

- High concentration of older adults
- Complete Streets key to creating age-friendly communities
Benefits: Children

17% of kids and teens are obese

Limited physical activity contributes to the obesity epidemic
Benefits: Children

Dedicated, safe space for bicycling and walking helps kids stay active and gain independence.
Birmingham, AL

Safe Routes to School was the first step in building support for Complete Streets
Complete Streets and public health

- Southeastern states rank high in obesity, childhood obesity, Type II diabetes, and other chronic conditions
- Sedentary lifestyles are a key culprit
Chronic disease

Lowest levels of biking & walking → highest rates of diabetes, high blood pressure, & obesity

North Carolina
Complete Streets and public health

Complete Streets reduce environmental barriers to active lifestyles

Health departments have started Complete Streets discussions in many communities
Complete Streets enhance community character
Decatur, Georgia

- Supports downtown “feel”
- Wide sidewalks, narrow streets make areas near transit more walkable.
- Doubled retail and restaurant business, decreased auto trips.
West Jefferson, NC

- Adapting to changing conditions
- Embraced decrease in commercial traffic by reclaiming right-of-way for pedestrians
- Boosted main street foot traffic, local commerce
Charleston, SC

- Walkability central to city’s character and appeal
- Narrow streets, generous sidewalks, low vehicle speeds
New Orleans, LA

- High rate of walking and biking
- Complete Streets increasing safety and equity
Complete Streets and trails

- Complete Streets + trails = comprehensive network
- Streets provide access
- Connect destinations
- Transportation and recreational use
Sanibel and Captiva, Florida

25 miles of trails connect visitors and residents to beaches, shopping, and restaurants

Relieves pressure on small islands’ road network
Swamp Rabbit Tram Trail:

• Recreation and access to destinations

• 400K users in 2012, highest usage around schools
Complete Streets are good for local economies
West Jefferson, NC

- Replaced signals with 4-way stops
- Streetscape shortened crossings, expanded pedestrian area
- Result: $500K in new private investment, 10 new businesses, fewer vacancies
Memphis, Tennessee

- Broad Ave. district calmed traffic, added bike lane and pedestrian improvements
- Result: 30 properties renovated, 25 new businesses, $20m in reinvestment
Greenville, SC

Converted 4-lane highway to a pedestrian bridge, jumpstarting downtown revival
Complete Streets support tourism
New Orleans, Louisiana

Complete Streets provide greater safety in the French Quarter, where large volumes of foot, bike and car traffic mix on congested streets.
Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia

- Improvements underway on US 27, 5-lane arterial, gateway to Chickamauga Battlefield N.M.P.
- Adding sidewalks, bike lanes, crosswalks/medians, landscaping, lighting, turn lanes, burying utilities
Orlando, Florida

Complete Streets are essential to moving more people safely and cost-effectively