

# Complete Streets Advisory Council



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Chairperson  
Michigan Municipal League

**John Niemela**  
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County Road Association  
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**Christopher White**  
Ann Arbor  
Transportation Authority

August 1, 2012

Chairman Jerrold M. Jung  
Michigan State Transportation Commission  
PO Box 30050  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Chairman Jung:

To begin, let me congratulate you and the entire State Transportation Commission on your recent enactment of a state complete streets policy for Michigan. This is a momentous accomplishment that has the potential to significantly improve Michigan's economy and quality of life.

This letter may help provide further support for that change. The Commission is also required by P.A. 135 to provide "a model complete streets policy or policies to be made available for use by municipalities and counties." I am pleased to transmit to you on behalf of the Complete Streets Advisory Council (CSAC) a sampling of model complete streets policies and ordinances that may be used in your efforts to provide municipalities and counties with solid examples of such language.

The policies and ordinances included here are not a comprehensive list, but a representative sample, providing language developed by a variety of jurisdictions, including some in Michigan as well as other states. Links to each are provided below, in alphabetical order:

- [Dexter, MI](#)
- [Fargo, ND-Moorhead, MN Metropolitan Area](#)
- [Hennepin County, MN](#)
- [Lansing, MI](#)
- [New Hope, MN](#)
- [Rochester, MN](#)
- [Rockville, MD](#)
- [Traverse City, MI](#)
- [Ypsilanti, MI](#)

The range of language and options represented by these local policies offer a good

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starting point for governments interested in developing their own complete streets policy or ordinance. Many have strong language in one area of emphasis or another. For example, the New Hope, MN, policy does an excellent job of describing the agencies covered by the policy; the Rockville, MD, policy has strong language describing the extent of the network; and the Ypsilanti ordinance does a good job describing the types of projects that are to be addressed.

Recognizing that the policy the Commission just enacted also provides some excellent language that locals might consider adopting for themselves, the council recommends the Commission provide some preliminary advice to local governments. The CSAC recommends that the Commission strongly encourage local governments to consider including the following in their policies:

- A strong vision for complete streets that is consistent with the vision developed by the CSAC and included in the Commission's policy
- Reference to "all legal users"
- Language about the need for collaborative funding, and the potential to find additional funding for complete streets from sources outside transportation

In providing this information for local governments, the Council recommends that the Commission also include reference to the National Complete Streets Coalition's list of complete streets policy elements. The National Complete Streets Coalition recommends that sound policies include, where possible, language to address the following ten points:

- A strong vision for complete streets
- Specifies "all users"
- Applies to new and retrofit projects
- Makes exceptions and the procedure for exceptions specific
- Encourages street connectivity
- Covers all agencies and roads
- Directs the use of the latest and best design criteria
- Directs that complete streets solutions complement the context
- Establishes performance standards
- Includes specific next steps

More detailed information is available on the coalition's website at <http://www.completestreets.org/changing-policy/policy-elements>.

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Finally, the Commission could include a reminder to local governments that these model policies and ordinances should be considered just a sample, and encourage additional research in order to develop a policy that best fits their community and its context.

On behalf of the CSAC, I offer our continued assistance to the State Transportation Commission as you work to make complete streets in Michigan a reality. Thank you for the opportunity to take on this important responsibility.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Schulz, Chair  
Complete Streets Advisory Council