

We know physical inactivity can lead to chronic diseases like heart disease, stroke, and diabetes. It also can contribute to obesity. Creating complete streets in our communities can help people in Washington achieve the recommended 60 minutes of daily physical activity while working to reduce chronic disease.

What is a complete street?

Complete streets are for everyone including:

- Pedestrians.
- Bicyclists.
- Motorists.
- Transit riders.

They allow users of all ages and abilities the chance to safely move along and across a street.



What does one look like?

A complete street can include the following:

- Sidewalks.
- Bike lanes.
- Accessible, comfortable bus shelters.
- Safe crossings.
- Median islands.
- Pedestrian signals.
- Curb extensions.
- Connections between destinations.
- Narrower travel lanes.
- Roundabouts.

A complete street in a rural community may look different than one in an urban area. Each community's needs are unique so priorities and designs can vary.

How is our state government encouraging complete streets?

State Law

[RCW 47.04.320](#) encourages local governments to adopt a jurisdiction-wide complete streets ordinance that plans for the needs of all users and is consistent with sound engineering principles.

[HB 1071](#) set up an unfunded grant program to help local governments implement complete streets.

Examples of Local Ordinances

Airway Heights

<http://www.codepublishing.com/WA/AirwayHeights/AirwayHeights14/AirwayHeights1410.html#14.10>

Spokane

<http://councilmanjonsnyder.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Complete-Streets-Ordinance-Nov-8th-Clean.pdf>

Langley

http://www.langleywa.org/documents/complete_streets_ordinance.pdf

What tips can help you build complete streets in your community?

- Highlight the benefits of complete streets such as health, economic development, safety and job creation.
- Educate elected officials and the community on the benefits of complete streets through meetings and trainings.
- Organize a complete streets advisory committee to the city council, county commissioners or board of health.
- Invite elected officials, advocates, school districts, and representatives from transportation, planning, and public health to develop an ordinance or resolution for the community.
- Include health language in the ordinance.
- Incorporate complete streets into comprehensive plans, bicycle and pedestrian plans, zoning codes, and Safe Routes to School programs.
- Implement an ordinance or resolution to support the work and comply with state law.
- Involve the media in the process and share success stories.

Where can you find resources?

National Complete Streets Coalition

<http://www.completestreets.org/>

Community Assessment Tool

http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/NutritionPA/our_communities/active_community_environments/toolkit/default.htm

Washington State Department of Transportation—Complete Streets Planning

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/LocalPrograms/Planning/MainStreets.htm>

Complete Street Policy Elements

<http://www.completestreets.org/changing-policy/policy-elements/#vision>

Complete Streets Best Practices

<http://www.completestreets.org/changing-policy/policy-elements/>

Complete Streets Analysis

<http://www.completestreets.org/webdocs/resources/cs-policyanalysis.pdf>

Complete Streets Design Guidelines

<http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/bikeped/CompleteStreets.pdf>

American Planning Association

<http://www.planning.org/research/streets/index.htm>

Who can help?

- Washington State Department of Transportation Highways & Local Programs Division provides training and technical assistance.
- Washington State Department of Commerce provides technical assistance.

We are committed to working with you to create complete streets.

We offer resources and technical assistance.

For more information please contact James Kissee at James.Kissee@doh.wa.gov or 360-236-3623.

For persons with disabilities, this document is available on request in other formats. To submit a request, please call 1-800-525-0127 (TDD/TTY call 711).