

EXPANDING THE ROLE OF COMPLETE STREETS: A PRACTITIONER'S GUIDE

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Communities across the country - more than 700 so far - have adopted some form of Complete Street policy to help ensure that the planning, design, construction and maintenance of new transportation facilities safely accommodate all types of users. Complete streets improve mobility for seniors and children; reduce the pace of climate change; promote healthier lifestyles; lower transportation costs; and increase equity across a community. Even in locations where there is less interest in walking, transit, and biking, communities want to compete successfully for Millennials and the companies that employ them through urban design elements that incorporate complete street design principles.

As a National Complete Streets Platinum-Level Partner, Stantec Consulting Services has been helping communities across North America achieve these same objectives for over 50 years, well before the complete street term was coined. We have begun to develop a practical guidance document for small- and medium-sized communities that want to know how to integrate these principles in practice. Our presentation will highlight the core content of this guide, including elements that represent an expanded view of complete streets that go beyond modal choices, like "green" street design, calculating economic returns-on-investment, and integrating crime prevention into the design process. These additional elements often create much more interest for many stakeholders than the benefits centered on direct transportation benefits. Traditional elements of complete street planning and design will be addressed as well, focusing on measuring performance and creating a level playing field analytically with traffic delay-oriented metrics. Data sources and analytical practices will also be touched on in our presentation. We will also cover how to address the political and study framework biases that often prevent well-intentioned policy from maturing into great projects.

Our presentation will make use of interactive polling technology to engage the audience, and show how biases can play a major role in project selection and development. Our presentation will feature many examples of our guidance in action with past projects, as well as encouraging the audience to discuss their experiences.