Local Complete Streets Policies

Promote and support adoption of complete street policies by local municipalities that do not already have a policy. Advocate for pedestrian and bike accommodations on roadway projects.

Path Forward Priority: Next (2021-2022)

Status: In Progress

Existing Efforts:

- Previous Complete Streets style projects have been completed in Charlotte, NC.
- 2019: North Carolina Department of Transportation has a Complete Streets Policy (established in 2009 and updated in 2019) that requires consideration and incorporation of alternative modes of transportation (i.e. biking, walking, and public transit) when constructing or improving roads.
- 2020: Local nonprofits, Sustain Charlotte and RAO Community Health hosted a Complete Streets, Complete Communities virtual workshop series in partnership with Smart Growth America for local stakeholders, Mecklenburg County Air Quality (MCAQ) had a representative attend.
- 2021: The Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan includes the goal to create “Complete Communities.” This includes pedestrian and bike friendly roadways and neighborhoods for residents.

Stakeholders: City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County Public Health Department, North Carolina and Charlotte Departments of Transportation, RAO Community Health, and Sustain Charlotte

Funding: City of Charlotte Neighborhood Improvement Bond, The Charlotte Future 2040 Comprehensive Plan Bonds (if approved). Sustain Charlotte REACH grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Next Steps:

- Continue to share the Air Quality benefits of Complete Streets when asked for input on Complete Community projects or policies and roadway projects.
- Incorporate equity into staff-to-staff discussions.
- Research which other local municipalities have adopted complete streets policies.

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**Next Steps:**

- Continue to share the Air Quality benefits of Complete Streets when asked for input on Complete Community projects or policies and roadway projects.
- Evaluate racial equity impacts of strategy
- Research which other local municipalities have adopted complete streets policies.

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The Idea: Local Complete Streets Policies

- Complete Streets policies direct transportation planners to design transportation corridors for concurrent use by pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders.¹
- Complete streets give citizens transportation choices by offering multiple, safe ways to travel to and from destinations.
- N.C. Department of Transportation and many local municipalities already have complete streets policies.

The Action:

- Promote and support adoption of complete streets policies by local municipalities that do not already have a policy.
- Advocate for pedestrian and bike accommodations on roadway projects.

The Pollution Source: 23% of NOx comes from passenger vehicles²

The Cost-effectiveness: Unknown

The Factors:

- Complete Streets only reduces pollution if people use these facilities instead of driving to destinations.
- Policies do not guarantee that complete streets will be built
- Complete streets infrastructure improves safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Particulate Matter – Low co-benefits
- Greenhouse Gases – Medium co-benefits

² 19.37 tons/day of NOx. Passenger vehicles includes both passenger cars and passenger trucks. Source: Revised Maintenance Plan For The Charlotte-Gastonia-Salisbury, North Carolina 2008 8-Hour Ozone Marginal Nonattainment Area (July 2018)