

# Complete Streets

In 2022, the Washington State Legislature passed the Move Ahead Washington package. This included a Complete Streets requirement, which directs WSDOT to “improve the safety, mobility and accessibility of state highways” through the incorporation of Complete Streets principles. This applies to state transportation projects over \$500,000 for projects starting design on or after July 1, 2022.

## What is a Complete Street?

A Complete Street is safe and feels safe for everyone using the street, for all users regardless of their age and ability.

A Complete Street may include: sidewalks, bike lanes, shared use paths, comfortable and accessible public transportation stops, frequent and safe crosswalks, median islands, accessible pedestrian signals, curb extensions, narrower travel lanes, roundabouts, and more.

## What does this mean for communities?

While Complete Streets are a process and approach to street design, there is no singular design prescription for Complete Streets. Each one is unique and responds to its community context.

Complete Streets plans need to be tailored to the local context, guided by collaboration with diverse local partners, including municipal staff and elected officials, to build positive relationships and understand a community’s needs.

The complete streets requirement creates the opportunity for the types of changes on state highways that many communities have requested. This includes making walking, bicycling, and rolling more inviting by closing gaps in sidewalks and bicycle facilities, and potentially calming traffic with slower speeds, smaller lanes, and even reductions in the number of lanes.

It is important to make changes with communities. Understanding the current state of networks for walking, bicycling, and rolling, particularly with respect to conditions on state highways is vital to the success of a project.



Photo: Google Street View



Photo: Tom Fucoloro, Seattle Bike Blog



Photo: Google Street View

The context and needs of potential users are different in rural, suburban, and urban communities, and streets will look different as a result. WSDOT will collaborate with communities to identify appropriate, cost-effective changes that can be incorporated into the scope of state transportation projects to incrementally contribute to more complete networks for walking, bicycling, and rolling.

## Why Complete Streets?

Having Complete Streets means having safe roadways, paths and connections for all users regardless of their age and ability. Washingtonians deserve safe and convenient transportation to get where they need to go, no matter how they choose to get there.

Complete Streets projects create an opportunity to improve the quality of life in Washington's communities. These projects can improve our roads and connections to invite more people to walk, bike, or take public transit. This helps us reduce greenhouse gases and environmental pollution. It also aligns with our goal of moving people, not just cars, and our policy and commitment to develop and maintain an interconnected and integrated multimodal transportation system that provides all Washington travelers with safe, sustainable, equitable access.

To learn more about Complete Streets, please visit our website: [wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/complete-streets](https://wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/complete-streets)

## MORE INFORMATION:

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