

# COMPLETE STREETS

And the role of the advisory committee

August 18, 2016

# Agenda



- Complete streets background
- Why does it matter?
- Why have an advisory committee?
- Role of the advisory committee
- Resources
- Next steps

# Complete Streets

Streets that are designed and operated to enable **safe access for all users**, whether walking, bicycling, driving or riding transit. People of all ages and abilities are able to safely move along and across streets in a community, regardless of how they are traveling.



# Complete Streets Are For:

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- Kids walking to school
- Bus riders hoping for a dry place to wait for the bus
- Those without a car who still have places to be
- The elderly needing enough time to cross the street
- The commuter whose car breaks down, but still needs to get to work
- The community that wants to be family-friendly
- The man in a wheelchair looking for accessible sidewalks
- The city that wants its residents to be able to age in place
- Those who wish to save money on their commute
- Older adults who can no longer drive a car
- Parents walking with their children to the park

EVERYONE,  
EVERY DAY,  
no matter who  
you are or how  
you travel

# Complete Streets Might Be:

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- Raised crosswalks
- Speed cushions
- Traffic diverters
- On-street parking
- Bicycle facilities
- Street trees
- Road diets
- Sidewalks
- Transportation projects
- Stormwater projects
- Maintenance and resurfacing
- Site plans
- Zoning codes and design guidelines

# It Is Being Adopted

- Altoona
- Carlisle
- Des Moines
- Johnston
- Pleasant Hill
- Urbandale
- Windsor Heights
- West Des Moines

**Over 850  
Complete Streets  
policies in US**

**State-wide policy  
under review**

# Partners Calling for Action

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- Iowa Healthiest State Initiative
- Public Health Departments
- AARP
- Polk County Housing Trust
- Greater DSM Partnership
- Iowa Cancer Consortium
- Institute of Transportation Engineers
- Nat'l Association of Realtors
- American Public Works Assoc.
- American Heart Assoc.
- American Public Health Assoc.

# Incomplete Streets



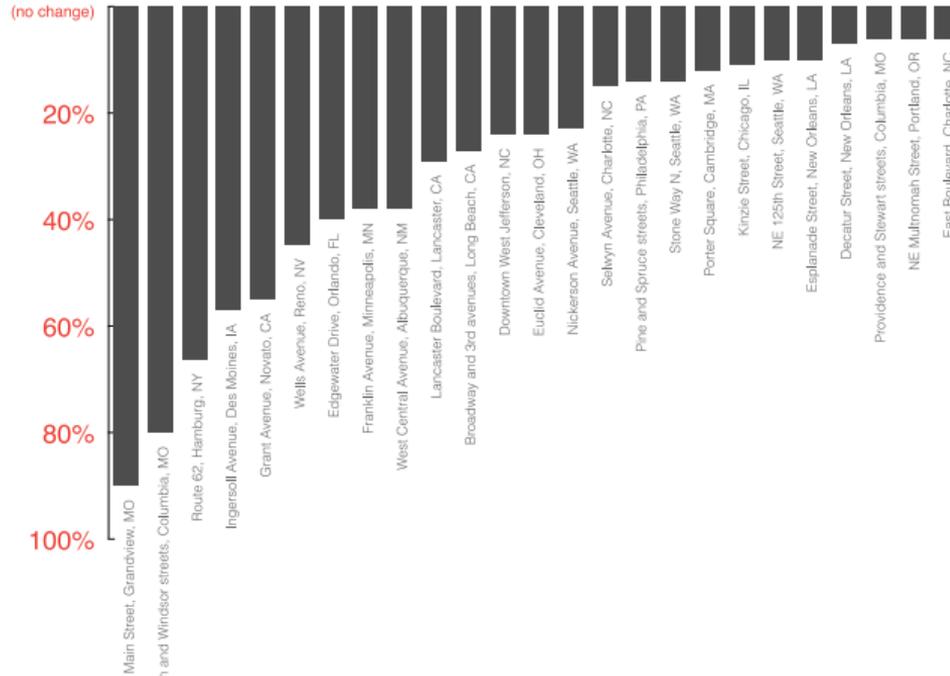
# Safety Improvements

FIG. 1



## Collisions went down.

About 70 percent of projects saw a reduction in the number of collisions after their Complete Streets improvements. Of those, many saw declines that were significant.



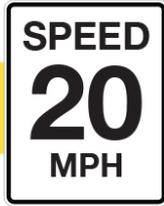
**70%**  
of projects  
resulted in  
reduced  
collisions

# Decreases Dangerous Speeding

Street	Volume Before	Volume Change	Collisions	85 <sup>th</sup> %	Aggressive Speeding (40+ mph)
Nickerson Street	18,500	-1%	-20%	-21%	-93%
N 130th Street	13,298	1%	-75%	-15%	-87%
NE 75th Street	15,569	3%	-45%	-10%	-77%
Stone Way N	13,900	-6%	-33%	-5%	-75%
NE 125th Street	13,600	11%	-8%	-8%	-69%
Dexter Ave N	11,805	+16%	-5%	-1%	-51%
S Columbian Way	12,300	15%	-19%	-6%	-46%
Fauntleroy Way SW	17,599	0%	-72%	-1%	<sup>25</sup> -13%

# Why Speed Matters

Hit by a vehicle traveling at



9 out of 10 pedestrians survive



5 out of 10 pedestrians survive



1 out of 10 pedestrians survive

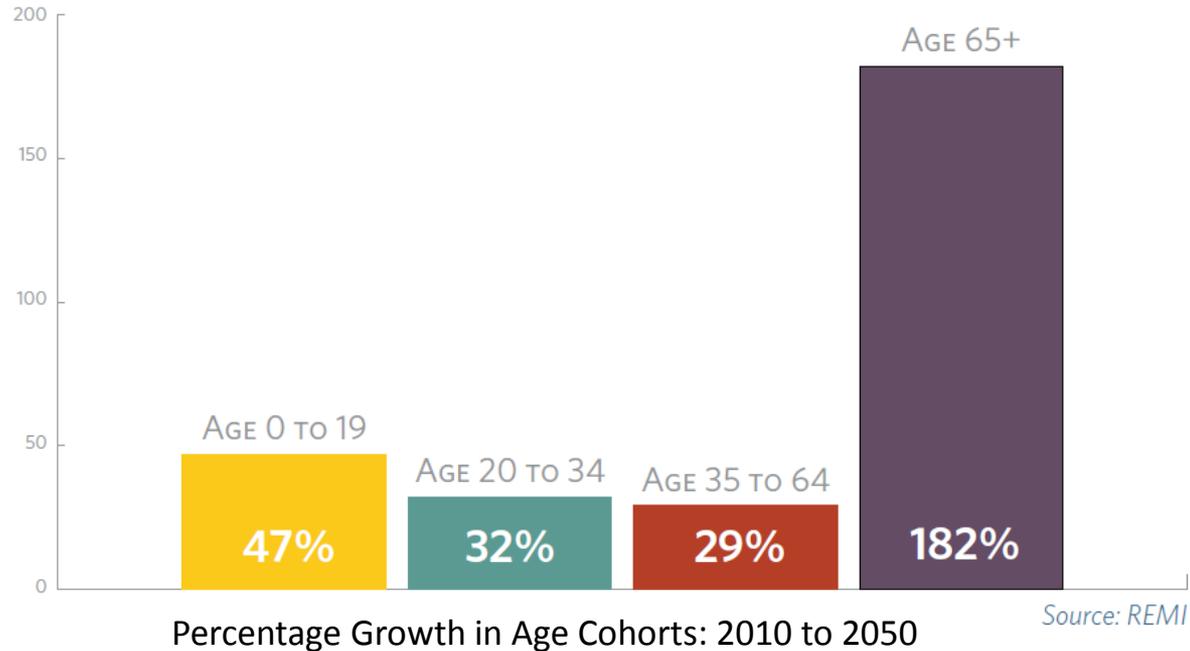


# Age-in-Place Communities

Greater  
Independence

Welcome in the  
Community

Longevity and  
Wellness



# Advisory Committee – Sample Mission

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**To increase access and travel for the Redwood City community utilizing Complete Streets principles and practices.**

- Help to create multi-modal transportation options that enable safe, attractive, comfortable, and independent access and travel for people of all ages and abilities.
- Provide staff with recommendations for pragmatic and specific user solutions.
- Serve as a conduit for community input and provide recommendations to staff.

# Advisory Committee – Sample Duties

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- **Provide general input and assistance** to staff.
- Serve as a resource to increase safety for people walking and riding bicycles.
- Assist with public education.
- Assist with outreach to support community workshops and communication.
- **Identify opportunities** for increasing bicycle, pedestrian, and transit use and mobility, and provide prioritized recommendations for consideration.
- **Review projects and plans** for Complete Streets criteria as appropriate.
- **Identify and prioritize** possible citywide **goals**.

# Your Role as a Committee

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- Ensure the City is applying the complete streets policy to all street projects, policies, ordinances, planning, and operations
- Review staff recommendations, project designs, site designs, etc. for compliance with complete streets policy
- Identify opportunities to increase the safety and use of walking, bicycling, and transit in Windsor Heights

# Your Role as a Committee

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- Assist with education and outreach on complete streets
- Grant publicly documented exceptions where necessary
- Evaluate the City's progress and provide public reporting

# Your Involvement

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- Public plans
- Development-related ordinances and resolutions
- Street projects
- Site plans
- Design guidelines and codes
- Communications and public outreach

# Resources

- Local Complete Streets Model Policy
- Flexible Street Design: Comparing Available Guides
- Infrastructure Guide
- City of Des Moines Presentation: Ingersoll 3-lane After Results
- Join the Mayors' Challenge
- Presentations
  - MPO Presentation: Communicating Complete Streets
  - MPO Presentation: Local Model Policy
  - MPO Presentation: Complete Streets — Guide to Implementation
- Other Resources:
  - Complete Streets Local Policy Workbook *(by Smart Growth America)*
  - Complete Streets Coalition: Implementation *(by Smart Growth America)*
  - Taking Action on Complete Streets *(by Smart Growth America)*
  - Cedar Rapids Complete Streets Policy and Design Guidelines *(by the City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa)*

<http://www.dmampo.org/complete-streets>

# Next Steps



- What needs to be done to ingrain this process?
- What other training can the MPO provide to empower your role as an advisory committee?