



Source: San Francisco DOT



# COMPLETE AND GREEN STREETS MODEL POLICY: PROMOTING ACCESSIBLE, COMPLETE STREETS FOR ALL IN NEW JERSEY



## What are Complete & Green Streets?

**Complete Streets accommodate the needs of everyone.** They provide safe access for all road users: pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities. Adding “Green” elements ensures that even rainwater has a place to go, reducing flooding and stress on sewer systems. To encourage counties and municipalities to implement Complete and Green Streets, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) has released model policy guidance.



## Why is a Complete Streets Policy Important to Counties and Municipalities?

Adopting a Complete Streets policy shows a commitment to providing a safe and welcoming transportation network open to all. NJDOT has a Complete Streets policy but they oversee less than 10% of New Jersey’s roads. In order to create a comprehensive network of Complete Streets, **support at the county and municipal level is needed.** Adopting a policy does not require putting bike lanes and sidewalks everywhere. It simply provides a mechanism to ensure a county or municipality does what it can to make things safe and comfortable for everyone. As an added bonus, adopting a policy earns one additional point on NJDOT grant applications and municipalities can receive up to 30 points towards Sustainable Jersey certification.

## What is the Importance of Adopting the New Model Policy?

Things have changed since NJDOT first issued Complete Streets guidance over a decade ago. Lessons learned have led to a re-evaluation of priorities and desired outcomes. The new model policy emphasizes that **Equity** and **Sustainability** are critical to creating truly Complete Streets. Counties and municipalities have struggled in the past to turn Complete Streets policies into action. Older policies often lack measures ensuring Complete Streets strategies are routinely part of the decision making process. NJDOT’s new model policy provides best practices and checklists to help update or write new policies to better achieve **Project Implementation.**



## Key Updates in the Model Policy

The NJDOT Model Policy incorporates input from Complete Streets experts across the state, including representatives from municipalities, counties, NJDOT, the Transportation Management Associations, advocates and more. The updated policy includes guidance on:

- Complete Streets implementation
- Incorporating green infrastructure into Complete Streets projects
- Prioritizing health, equity and fairness in project selection

The model policy incorporates these strategies, encouraging:

- **Public participation:** forming a Complete Streets advisory committee
- **Exemptions:** identifying specific processes for exempting projects from Complete Streets guidelines
- **Program reporting:** establishing performance measures and procedures for tracking progress
- **Adoption of checklists:** using provided templates to create checklists that will guide each phase of a project

To learn more and for assistance with developing a Complete & Green Streets Policy, contact Cross County Connection. Download the Complete And Green Streets for All Model Policy and Guidance at [state.nj.us/transportation/eng/completestreets/resources.shtm](http://state.nj.us/transportation/eng/completestreets/resources.shtm).



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## Complete and Green Streets Benefits



### Economic Development

A Rutgers University study found that biking and walking related infrastructure, businesses, and events added **\$497 million** to the state economy in 2011. Complete Streets stimulate local economies by making it easier to walk, bike and take transit to downtowns, shopping centers and businesses.



### Green Infrastructure

Green Infrastructure such as permeable pavement, large planters, bioswales and rain gardens can be used to get the most out of Complete Streets projects. These elements minimize flooding while also creating an attractive walking and biking environment.



### Equity

Complete Streets leads to fair and equitable communities. Access to essential services is necessary for those whose transportation choices are limited by circumstance and location. **Over 58,000** South Jersey households do not have access to a vehicle.



Source: Marcela Gara, Resource Media

