

Complete Streets Policy: Update 2020– STAFF REPORT

TOLEDO METROPOLITAN AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES AGENDA
JUNE 17, 2020

This resolution approves the Complete Streets Policy for TMACOG. This policy recognizes the importance of planning, designing, operating and maintaining a transportation system that is safe and efficient for users of all ages and abilities regardless of their mode of transportation. It encourages multimodal facilities by requiring project sponsors receiving TMACOG-attributable federal Surface Transportation Block Grant program funding to consider, evaluate, and make every effort to include infrastructure that improves transportation options whenever feasible for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities.

For over a decade, TMACOG has been a proponent of creating a multimodal, safe and efficient transportation system that ensures accessibility to all roadway users. This Complete Streets Policy builds upon the currently adopted Complete Streets Policy. This Complete Streets Policy is informed by the growing trend of over 1,600 jurisdictions across the United States that now have policies, resolutions, ordinances, or other formal means of supporting complete streets.

This policy defines complete streets as streets, highways, and bridges that are routinely planned, designed, operated, and maintained to safely and comfortably accommodate all transportation system users along and across the entire public right-of-way. All users of the public right-of-way include motorists, cyclists, pedestrians, transit and school bus riders, delivery and service personnel, freight shippers, and emergency responders. All users include people from the school-aged to the elderly, and individuals of all abilities, including those who use mobility aids.

This Complete Streets Policy is a tool to plan, construct, and operate streets in a manner that ensures a comprehensive transportation system. It applies to all projects, including the new construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, repair, maintenance, or planning of roadways, trails and other transportation facilities that will use federal Surface Transportation Block Grant program funds allocated through TMACOG.

Project sponsors will be required to respond to the Complete Streets Checklist as part of completing the application for Surface Transportation Block Grant program funds. For instances where a project sponsor deems that complete streets treatments are not warranted, a process for requesting exceptions is included in the policy. A process for appealing a decision regarding a request for exception is also included in the policy.

This policy encourages local and state jurisdictions/organizations to review and revise their local ordinances/policies to reflect complete street design guidelines and to apply these guidelines to local projects as appropriate.

Concurrent with implementing this policy, TMACOG will provide educational resources to support the implementation of proven complete streets techniques. TMACOG will post and maintain guidance and resources on its website to assist project sponsors in developing complete streets projects. This guidance will contain model policies, sample design standards, examples for land use and zoning practices, educational and enforcement strategies, and information on other resources.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE
TOLEDO METROPOLITAN AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
ADOPTING THE TMACOG COMPLETE STREETS POLICY: UPDATE 2020**

WHEREAS, the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) is a voluntary association of local governments and non-governmental partners in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan, organized on May 31, 1968, and established under Chapter 167 of the Ohio Revised Code and the Michigan Public Act No. 7 (EX-SESS), and has carried out comprehensive metropolitan and regional planning since that date; and

WHEREAS, the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) is designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) by the Governor through the Ohio Department of Transportation in cooperation with local elected officials and is authorized to carry out the continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process (Process) for the Toledo Metropolitan Planning Area that results in plans and programs that consider all transportation modes and supports community development and social goals; and

WHEREAS, the MPO has been designated by the United States Department of Transportation (U.S.DOT) and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) to direct, coordinate, and administer the Process in the Toledo Metropolitan Planning Area as mandated by the Congress in Titles 23 and 49 U.S.C.; and

WHEREAS, TMACOG promotes a multimodal transportation system and envisions the development of a measurably better transportation system that is more equitable, balanced, and effective and which offers every user safe, connected, and sustainable transportation options; and

WHEREAS, this policy is intended to support planning, designing, operating and maintaining a transportation system that is safe and efficient for users of all ages and abilities regardless of their mode of transportation; and

WHEREAS, this effort to make the system more complete will take advantage of opportunities presented by necessary reconstruction and expansion of the system whenever practicable; and

WHEREAS, in developing the attached policy the Pedestrian and Bikeways Committee examined regional level policies within Ohio and elsewhere and considered the policy elements advanced by Smart Growth America and the National Complete Streets Coalition and then tailored this policy to the specific context and needs of the Northwest Ohio region; and

WHEREAS, the Complete Streets Policy: Update 2020 has been reviewed approved by the Pedestrian and Bikeways Committee on May 19, 2020 and approved by the Transportation Council on June 3, 2020:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOLEDO METROPOLITAN AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS:

Section 1

THAT it affirms that the Complete Streets Policy: Update 2020 has been prepared consistent with the goals, policies, and strategies of the “*On the Move: 2045 Transportation Plan – Update 2020*” (2045 Plan), particularly those policies that call for design of streets and corridors to serve multiple transportation modes, including pedestrians, bicycles, and transit; and

Section 2

THAT it adopts the Complete Streets Policy: Update 2020 and certifies that it is consistent with the goals, policies, transportation system improvement projects and strategies of the “*On the Move: 2045 Transportation Plan – Update 2020.*”

Adopted by the Board of Trustees on June 17, 2020.

Yea _____, Nay _____, Abstain _____

Mark W. Stahl, Chair
Toledo Metropolitan Area
Council of Governments (TMACOG)

Tim W. Brown, President
Toledo Metropolitan Area
Council of Governments (TMACOG)