# **The Complete Streets Act** H.R. 7082 / S 3670: The Complete Streets Act of 2024



## WHAT IT IS \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Streets are roads designed to accommodate all road users, regardless of age, ability, and choice of transportation. Rather than solely prioritizing the efficiency of automobiles, the Complete Streets approach encourages engineers to enable safe access for people using means other than cars to get around like walking, biking, or using public transit. This is often accomplished through initiatives like wider sidewalks, bike lanes, bus lanes, accessible sidewalks and transit stops, and safe street crossings.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act created a 2.5 percent set aside of planning dollars for Complete Streets policies and prioritization plans at the state and metropolitan planning organization (MPO) level. After five years of planning, states and MPOs will have project lists ready for funding!

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- Directs states to set aside five percent (5%) of highway funding to create and implement a Complete Streets grant program, for which local governments will be eligible to apply.
- Requires the Federal Highway Administration to provide guidance to states on creating Complete Streets standards for local projects.
- Phases in a requirement for states to incorporate Complete Streets elements into all new construction and reconstruction, and includes funding for technical assistance to local governments.

#### WHY IT MATTERS

- Complete Streets policies work. According to the National Library of Medicine, the pedestrian fatality rate in Florida decreased by 0.5% more per quarter than nationwide trends in the 29 years following the state's Complete Streets policy implementation in 1984.
  Source: <u>https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5844420/</u>
- Pedestrian traffic fatalities have hit a 40-year high, according to the Governor Highway Safety Association. Including vulnerable road users in transportation project design could significantly lower these deaths. Source: <u>https://www.ghsa.org/resources/Pedestrians23</u>
- University of South Florida researchers found economic benefits of Complete Streets design, including a strong association with increased commercial activity, often outpacing other areas in the city and the city itself.
  Source: <u>https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/cutr\_nctr/79/</u>

# SUPPORT THE COMPLETE STREETS ACT OF 2024 TO ENABLE SAFE ACCESS FOR ALL ROAD USERS.

# **CO-SPONSOR THIS BILL**

The Complete Streets Act is sponsored by Senators Ed Markey (D-MA), Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-CT.), Raphael Warnock (D-Ga.), and Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) and Representatives Steve Cohen and Jake Auchicloss. To co-sponsor the bill, please contact Nate Birnbaum, nate\_birnhaum@markey.senate.gov or Alex Schnelle: alex.schnelle@mail.house.gov.

