

This Complete Streets Policy was adopted by Resolution No. 2016/374 by the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County on July 12, 2016.

## COMPLETE STREETS POLICY OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

### A. Complete Streets Principles

1. **Complete Streets Serving All Users.** Contra Costa County expresses its commitment to creating and maintaining Complete Streets that provide safe, comfortable, and convenient travel along and across rights-of-way (including streets, roads, highways, bridges, paths, and other portions of the transportation system) through a comprehensive, integrated transportation network that serves all categories of users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, persons with disabilities, motorists, movers of commercial goods, users and operators of public transportation, seniors, children, youth, students and families.

2. **Context Sensitivity.** In planning and implementing street projects, departments and agencies of Contra Costa County shall maintain sensitivity to local conditions in both residential and business districts as well as urban, suburban, and rural areas, and shall work with residents, merchants, school representatives, and other stakeholders to ensure that a strong sense of place ensues. Improvements that will be considered include sidewalks, shared use paths, separated bikeways/cycle tracks, bicycle lanes, bicycle routes, paved shoulders, street trees and landscaping, planting strips, accessible curb ramps, crosswalks, refuge islands, pedestrian signals, signs, street furniture, bicycle parking facilities, public transportation stops and facilities, transit priority signalization, traffic calming circles, transit bulb outs, road diets and other features assisting in the provision of safe travel for all users and those features and concepts identified in the Contra Costa County Complete Streets General Plan Amendment of April 2008.

3. **Complete Streets Routinely Addressed by All Departments.** All departments and agencies of Contra Costa County shall work towards making Complete Streets practices a routine part of everyday operations, approach every relevant project, program, and practice as an opportunity to improve streets and the transportation network for all categories of users/modes, and work in coordination with other departments, agencies, and jurisdictions to maximize opportunities for Complete Streets, connectivity, and cooperation. Example activities include, but are not necessarily limited to the following: pavement resurfacing, restriping, accessing above and underground utilities, signalization operations or modifications, maintenance of landscaping/related features, and shall exclude minor (catch basin cleaning, sign replacement, pothole repair, etc.) maintenance and emergency repairs.

4. **All Projects and Phases.** Complete Streets infrastructure sufficient to enable reasonably safe travel along and across the right of way for each category of users shall be incorporated into all planning, funding, design, approval, and implementation processes for any construction, reconstruction, retrofit, maintenance, operations, alteration, or repair of streets (including streets, roads, highways, bridges, and other portions of the transportation system), except that specific infrastructure for a given category of users may be excluded if an exemption is approved via the process set forth in section C.1 of this policy.

### B. Implementation

1. **Plan Consultation and Consistency.** Maintenance, planning, and design of projects affecting the transportation system shall be consistent with the Contra Costa County General Plan, as well as other applicable bicycle, pedestrian, transit, multimodal, best practices, and other relevant documents. Where such consistency cannot be achieved without negative consequences, consistency shall not be required if the head of the relevant departments, or designees, provides written approval explaining the basis of such deviation.

2. **Street Network/Connectivity.** As feasible, and as opportunities arise, Contra Costa County shall incorporate Complete Streets infrastructure into existing streets to improve the safety and convenience of users, with the particular goal of creating a connected network of facilities accommodating each category of users, increasing connectivity across jurisdictional boundaries, and for accommodating existing and anticipated future areas of travel origination or destination. A well connected network should include non-motorized connectivity to schools, parks,

commercial areas, civic destinations and regional non-motorized networks on both publically owned roads/land and private developments (or redevelopment areas).

**3. Countywide Bicycle Advisory Committee (CBAC) Consultation.** The CBAC may review the design principles used by staff to accommodate motor vehicle, bicycle, pedestrian, and transit modes of travel when reviewing projects. The CBAC will be engaged early in the planning and design stage to provide an opportunity for comments and recommendations regarding Complete Street features of major public transportation projects.

**4. Evaluation.** The County will establish a means to collect data and evaluate the implementation of complete streets policies. For example tracking the number of miles of paths, bike lanes and sidewalks, numbers of street crossings, signage etc.

### **C. Exceptions**

**1. Required Findings and Leadership Approval for Exemptions.** Plans or projects that seek exemptions from incorporating Complete Streets design principles must provide a written explanation of why accommodations for all modes were not included in the project. An exemption may be granted by the Director of Public Works or Director of Conservation and Development upon finding that inclusion of Complete Streets design principles are not possible or appropriate under one or more of the following circumstances: 1) bicycles or pedestrians are not permitted on the subject transportation facility pursuant to state or local laws; 2) inclusion of Complete Streets design principles would result in a disproportionate cost to the project; 3) there is a documented absence of current and future need and demand for Complete Streets design elements on the subject roadway; and, 4) one or more significant adverse effects would outweigh the positive effects of implementing Complete Streets design elements. Plans or projects that are granted exceptions must be made available for public review.