

Memorandum

Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department Lawrence Complete Streets Committee

TO: Scott McCullough, Director of Planning and Development Services, City of Lawrence
FROM: Charlie Bryan, Community Health Planner, Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department
DATE: February 14, 2012
RE: Lawrence Complete Streets Committee response to revised Complete Streets Policy

Members of the Lawrence Complete Streets Committee are grateful for the opportunity to provide input on revisions to the draft Complete Streets Policy. After careful review of the final draft policy, available at http://www.lawrenceks.org/wrr/system/files/Complete_Streets_Policy_020812.pdf, the Lawrence Complete Streets Committee stands in support of the revised policy, which contains several changes, as follows:

- The definition of street Users was expanded to include mobility device users, neighborhood electric vehicle users and utility tricyclists
- The applicability of the policy to Street Maintenance was clarified
- The applicability of the policy to both public and private transportation infrastructure was illuminated
- A section on data collection, progress reporting and public input was added

Support for the adoption of a Complete Streets policy is found in a number of City documents, including the Climate Protection Plan, the Peak Oil Plan and the environmental chapter of Horizon 2020, the City's comprehensive land use plan. Additionally, the Policy Board of the Lawrence-Douglas County Metropolitan Planning Organization passed a resolution in support of Complete Streets.

While the Lawrence Complete Streets Committee supports the revised policy, committee member dissension, rather than consensus, was notable in two areas:

1. Dissenters viewed the phrases "feasible and fiscally appropriate" in the purpose statement, "as feasibility and funding allows" in the principles section and "where feasibility and funding allows" in the applicability section as unnecessarily repetitious. The exclusions section makes it clear that feasibility and funding are required.
2. Dissenters were concerned about interpretation of the phrase "absence of current or future need" in the list of reasons for excluding Complete Streets elements from a Street Project. The alternatives to this phrase that were discussed included "*documented* absence of current or future need" and "*documented* absence of current *and* future need."

Committee members are encouraged to express their individual dissension through written and/or oral statements to Lawrence Commissioners.

The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department has facilitated the Lawrence Complete Streets Committee on behalf of LiveWell Lawrence, a community initiative focused on making it easy for Lawrence residents to eat healthy foods and be more physically active.

Members of the Lawrence Complete Streets Committee represent a broad cross-section of the community, and the committee includes participants who serve in an advisory role. The diverse composition of committee was a deliberate effort to be inclusive of the divergent views among Lawrence residents, the pro-business community and environmentalists. The committee includes representation, for example, from the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, the Lawrence Home Builders Association and Parsons Brinkerhoff as well as Independence, Inc., the Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods, the Lawrence Central Rotary Club, the Sustainability Action Network, the Lawrence Sustainability Advisory Board and the Lawrence Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.