



Date: January 24, 2019
To: Transportation Advisory Commission
From: Frederick C. Dock, Director
Subject: Complete Street Blueprint Tool

BACKGROUND

For many years, the City has recognized that people need transportation options other than driving, and the importance of Complete Streets in creating these options. The Mobility Element of the 2015 General Plan encourages walking, biking, and transit use as alternatives to driving and articulates a vision of Pasadena as a “community where people can circulate without cars.” The General Plan also emphasizes the importance of safety, livability, quality of life, and the value of reflecting the needs and character of Pasadena’s unique neighborhoods.

To complement the General Plan’s vision, the City adopted a *Street Design Guide* in 2017 which describes preferred options for operational and safety treatments that should be used when implementing, or constructing, Complete Streets elements – this includes bike lanes, sidewalks, access management, on-street parking, and connections to bus and rail transit. The *Street Design Guide* also illustrates many safety treatments, such as curb extensions, narrow travel lanes, protected bike lanes, and other traffic calming options.

The City of Pasadena’s Department of Transportation has hired Toole Design, a firm specializing in active transportation planning, engineering, and urban design, to develop a Complete Street Blueprint Tool. The Complete Street Blueprint Tool will help the City:

- Identify locations in need of Complete Streets projects
- Prioritize Complete Streets projects throughout the city
- Integrate Complete Streets projects with road resurfacing and operational requests from the public
- Share information about Complete Streets projects with the Pasadena community through a Complete Streets Dashboard

PROJECT SCOPE

What is “Complete Streets”?

Complete Streets are streets that are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users. People of all ages and abilities who walk, ride bicycles, drive, or use transit must be able to safely move along and across a Complete Street.

What it takes to make a street “complete” depends on many factors and varies based on land use contexts, so there is no single definition or typical cross section. However, Complete Street elements may include:

- Sidewalks
- Bike lanes (or wide paved shoulders)
- Special bus lanes
- Comfortable and accessible transit stops
- Frequent crossing opportunities
- Median islands
- Accessible pedestrian signals
- Curb extensions
- And other treatments

A Complete Street in a hillside or natural area will look quite different from a Complete Street in a highly urban area, but each is designed to achieve safety, accessibility, and convenience for everyone using the road.

Complete Street Blueprint Tool

The City and project team are currently developing the Complete Street Blueprint Tool which will help the City identify opportunities for implementing Complete Streets projects and prioritize their implementation. This Tool will build upon an existing internal process currently used by City staff to make decisions about Complete Streets project implementation and funding.

The Complete Street Blueprint Tool will use geographic information systems (GIS) to organize and manage the data. The Tool will be capable of analyzing a suite of demographic, crash, and infrastructure data to identify project locations based on need. The Tool will help the City prioritize or rank candidate project locations based on adjustable performance metrics evaluating the need to:

- Reduce crashes
- Increase comfort

- Build connected bicycle and pedestrian networks
- Provide easier access to transit
- Other metrics

The Tool will also help the City dovetail Complete Streets projects with other roadway projects, such as resurfacing or routine maintenance projects.

The City will use the tool to assess short-term needs as well as forecast Complete Streets needs over a five-year horizon. The City can also use the Tool to monitor progress towards achieving Complete Streets goals and building connected bicycle and pedestrian networks.

Complete Streets Dashboard

After the Complete Streets Blueprint Tool is developed, a public-facing Complete Streets Dashboard will be created to complement the Blueprint Tool. The web-based Dashboard will share information with the community regarding:

- How and why projects with Complete Streets elements were selected for implementation
- How the Pasadena community can get involved in the project process
- Information about upcoming meetings and events
- Schedule for when the projects will be constructed
- How City resources are being allocated

Complete Street Blueprint Project Timeline

City staff and the project team began developing the Complete Street Blueprint Tool in October 2018. Creation of the Complete Streets Dashboard will begin in early 2019. The City will be engaging with the public through early 2019 and completing the project by summer 2019.