



The City of San Diego

Staff Report

DATE ISSUED: November 28, 2023  
TO: City Council  
FROM: Sustainability and Mobility  
SUBJECT: Complete Streets Council Policy

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Council District(s): Citywide

OVERVIEW:

This action item provides a proposed Complete Streets Council Policy for the City Council's review, discussion, and adoption. Complete Streets are facilities that are designed and maintained to serve the mobility needs of everyone. This policy will advance the City's commitment to enable safe, attractive, and comfortable access so that pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit users of all ages and abilities can safely travel within the public right-of-way.

PROPOSED ACTIONS:

Adopt the proposed Complete Street Council Policy to further Complete Streets implementation and the City's attainment of a healthier, safer, and more sustainable multimodal mobility system.

DISCUSSION OF ITEM:

The City has adopted several plans that outline the development of City streets and mobility systems. The General Plan sets forth goals and policies for enhancing the quality of life in communities through a balanced, multimodal mobility system. The City Council also approved an updated Climate Action Plan (CAP) in 2022 setting the ambitious citywide goal of net zero emissions by 2035 and an associated transition to more sustainable modes of transportation. The City has also committed to improving safety for all roadway users through the Vision Zero Strategic Plan and its goal of eliminating traffic fatalities and severe injuries. This Council Policy for Complete Streets will provide guiding principles for projects within the public right-of-way to be consistent with these adopted plans and initiatives. This policy will further the attainment of a balanced, multimodal mobility system with increased mobility options and supportive infrastructure. Complete Streets are multimodal facilities that are planned, designed, implemented, operated, and maintained to provide safety, comfort, and access to destinations for all users such as pedestrians, people who are living with or experiencing disabilities, bicyclists, transit riders, and motorists. The Policy provides guidance in identifying viable improvements to existing City corridors consistent with Complete Streets planning concepts and strategies. When implemented, these will result in dynamic, vibrant corridors for all modes of travel. The proposed Council Policy includes the necessary actions to implement Complete Streets: policies related to internal governance; design for multimodal connectivity; plans and processes; funding and implementation capacity; monitoring; and outreach.

By adopting a formal Complete Streets Policy, the City will be better positioned to provide a more comprehensive and equitable mobility system; improve road safety and accessibility for all; reduce rates of injury and death from collisions; improve climate resiliency, air quality, and greenhouse gas reductions; reduce vehicle miles traveled; and encourage walking, rolling, and bicycling for improved health.

A draft of the proposed Complete Streets Policy was initially shared to the Active Transportation & Infrastructure (ATI) Committee on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, where staff received feedback from Committee members and the public. Staff followed up during the course of the summer to gather additional feedback from various stakeholders, present to multiple advisory boards, and meet with other City Departments including City Planning, Transportation, Engineering and Capital Projects, Development Services, Stormwater, and Department of Race and Equity. Based on all the feedback received, revisions to the Complete Street Policy included: modifications to exceptions; integration of Green Streets elements; references to best practices; clarification on the Policy's alignment with other City efforts; and role of the Mobility Governance group.

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, staff then returned to the ATI Committee with a revised draft Policy. The ATI Committee recommended this policy, including a request that staff and City Attorney work with Council District 1 to make clarifying, non-substantive policy revisions. This included reconciling the use of defined terms plus a requirement that an annual report be made regarding implementing the Policy to the Committee and the Mobility Board.

City of San Diego Strategic Plan:

The Complete Streets Policy directly supports the Strategic Plan's Priority Area: Advance Mobility and Infrastructure to create safer conditions for all users of the road, especially those walking, rolling, and biking, and encourages enhancements to public transit for improved efficiency and performance.

The Complete Streets Policy also directly supports the Strategic Plan's Priority Area: Championing Sustainability, by implementing CAP goals for reducing mobile source emissions through mode shift and increased sustainable mobility options.

Fiscal Considerations:

No direct costs are associated with this action. The cost of Complete Streets elements will be considered on individual projects as they are programmed through the City's annual budget process.

Charter Section 225 Disclosure of Business Interests:

N/A

Environmental Impact:

This activity has been reviewed for consistency with the following documents, all referred to as the "CAP FEIR": Final Program Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the City of San Diego Climate Action Plan ("CAP") (Project No. 416603/SCH No. 2015021053) which was certified by the City Council on January 4, 2016 (Resolution R-310176), the Addendum to the CAP FEIR for the CAP Consistency Checklist which was adopted by the City Council on July 19, 2016 (Resolution R-310595), and the Addendum to the CAP FEIR for the 2022 CAP which was adopted by the City Council on August 10, 2022 (Resolution R-314298). The Complete Streets Policy will facilitate the development of a balanced, multimodal transportation system in accordance with the goals and policies of the City's CAP; therefore, the adoption of this policy is a subsequent discretionary action within the scope of the development program evaluated in the CAP FEIR and is not considered to be a separate project for the purposes of CEQA review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15378(c) and 15060(c)(3). Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21166 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 there is no substantial change in circumstance, additional information of substantive importance, or project changes that show the project will have significant effects not discussed in the CAP FEIR, or that significant effects previously examined will be substantially more

severe than shown in the CAP FEIR, or that this activity would alter the City’s mitigations measures or alternatives as described in the CAP FEIR, so as to warrant additional environmental review or revisions to the CAP FEIR for this action.

Climate Action Plan Implementation:

The Complete Streets Policy supports Strategy 3 – Mobility and Land Use by developing a policy to achieve mobility improvements citywide that align with Climate Action Plan goals. This policy is directly related to the Measure 3.5 “Climate-Focused Land Use” action to develop a Complete Streets Policy that will “enable safe, attractive and comfortable access so that pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit users of all ages and abilities can safely travel within public right-of-way.”

Equal Opportunity Contracting Information (if applicable):

N/A

Previous Council and/or Committee Actions:

The Sustainability and Mobility Department presented the draft Complete Streets Council Policy as an information item during the June 21, 2023 Active Transportation and Infrastructure Committee meeting.

The proposed Complete Streets Council Policy was brought back as an action item and heard at the November 8, 2023 Active Transportation and Infrastructure Committee meeting. The item passed 3-0 with a motion by Vice Chair La Cava to recommend approval of staff’s proposed actions and request that staff and City Attorney work with District 1 to make clarifying, non-substantive revisions to the Policy, including reconciling the use of defined terms, before docketing that item to the full Council for consideration, and, adding a requirement that an annual report be made regarding implementing the Policy to this Committee and the Mobility Board. Second by Chair Lee.

Planning Commission Action:

N/A

Key Stakeholders and Community Outreach Efforts:

Key stakeholders include the City Council; advisory boards; City departments and external agencies and entities that plan, construct, or permit improvements within the right-of-way; and all residents and visitors that utilize the City’s right-of-way.

Alyssa Muto

Casey Smith

Department Director

Deputy Chief Operating Officer

Attachments

1. CP 900-23 Council Policy (clean).pdf
2. CP 900-23 Council Policy (strikeout).pdf
3. R-2024-235.pdf
4. Approval Log