

RESOLUTION NO. 6123

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MENLO PARK ADOPTING A COMPLETE STREETS POLICY

WHEREAS, the term “Complete Streets” describes a comprehensive, integrated transportation network with infrastructure and design that allows safe and convenient travel along and across streets for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, persons with disabilities, motorists, movers of commercial goods, users and operators of public transportation, seniors, children, youth, and families , emergency vehicles, and freight; and

WHEREAS, the City of Menlo Park acknowledges the benefits and value for the public health and welfare of reducing vehicle miles traveled and increasing transportation by walking, bicycling, and public transportation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Menlo Park recognizes that the planning and coordinated development of Complete Streets infrastructure provides benefits for local governments in the areas of infrastructure cost savings; public health; and environmental sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has emphasized the importance of Complete Streets by enacting the California Complete Streets Act of 2008 (also known as AB 1358), which requires that when cities or counties revise general plans, they identify how they will provide for the mobility needs of all users of the roadways, as well as through Deputy Directive 64, in which the California Department of Transportation explained that it “views all transportation improvements as opportunities to improve safety, access, and mobility for all travelers in California and recognizes bicycle, pedestrian, and transit modes as integral elements of the transportation system”; and

WHEREAS, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (known as AB 32) sets a mandate for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in California, and the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 (known as SB 375) requires emissions reductions through coordinated regional planning that integrates transportation, housing, and land-use policy, and achieving the goals of these laws will require significant increases in travel by public transit, bicycling, and walking; and

WHEREAS, numerous California counties, cities, and agencies have adopted Complete Streets policies and legislation in order to further the health, safety, welfare, economic vitality, and environmental well-being of their communities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Menlo Park therefore, in light of the foregoing benefits and considerations, wishes to improve its commitment to Complete Streets and desires that its streets form a comprehensive and integrated transportation network promoting safe, equitable, and convenient travel for all users while preserving flexibility, recognizing community context, and using the latest and best design guidelines and standards.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Menlo Park, as follows:

1. That the City of Menlo Park adopts the Complete Streets Policy attached hereto as Exhibit A, and made part of this Resolution, and that said exhibit is hereby approved and adopted.

2. That the next substantial revision of the City of Menlo Park General Plan Circulation Element shall incorporate Complete Streets policies and principles consistent with the applicable state and federal requirements and with the Complete Streets Policy adopted by this resolution.

I, Margaret S. Roberts, City Clerk of Menlo Park, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing Council Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted at a meeting by said Council on the twenty-second day of January, 2013, by the following vote:

AYES: Carlton, Cline, Keith, Ohtaki. Mueller

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Official Seal of the City of Menlo Park on this twenty-second day of January, 2013.



Margaret S. Roberts, MMC
City Clerk

EXHIBIT A

This Complete Streets Policy was adopted by Resolution No. 6123 by the City Council of the City of Menlo Park on January 22, 2013.

COMPLETE STREETS POLICY OF CITY OF MENLO PARK

A. Complete Streets Principles

- 1. Complete Streets Serving All Users.** City of Menlo Park expresses its commitment to creating and maintaining Complete Streets that provide safe, comfortable, and convenient travel along and across streets (including streets, roads, highways, bridges, 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, and families, emergency vehicles and freight.
- 2. Context Sensitivity.** In planning and implementing street projects, departments and agencies of the City of Menlo Park shall maintain sensitivity to local conditions in both residential and business districts, and shall work with residents, merchants, and other stakeholders to ensure that a strong sense of place ensues. Improvements that should be considered include sidewalks, shared use paths, 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, and other features assisting in the provision of safe travel for all users, including those features identified in the *El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan* and the *City of Menlo Park Comprehensive Bicycle Development Plan*.
- 3. Complete Streets Routinely Addressed by All Departments.** All relevant departments and agencies of the City of Menlo Park should 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, and work in coordination with other departments, agencies, and jurisdictions to maximize opportunities for Complete Streets, connectivity, and cooperation. The following projects provide opportunities: pavement resurfacing, restriping, accessing above and underground utilities, signalization operations or modifications, and maintenance of landscaping/related features.

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 should be considered for incorporation into all significant planning, funding, design, approval, and implementation processes for any significant 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 local bicycle, pedestrian, transit, multimodal, and other relevant plans, except that where such consistency cannot be achieved without negative consequences. Consistency shall not be required if the Public Works Director provides written approval explaining the basis of such deviation, such deviations shall be presented to the Bicycle and Transportation Commission early in the planning and design stage, to ensure the Bicycle and Transportation Commission has an opportunity to provide comments and recommendations.
2. **Street Network/Connectivity.** As feasible, the City of Menlo Park should incorporate Complete Streets infrastructure into existing streets to improve the safety and convenience of users and to create employment, with the particular goal of creating a connected network of facilities accommodating each category of users, and increasing connectivity across jurisdictional boundaries and for existing and anticipated future areas of travel origination or destination.
3. **Bicycle and Transportation Commission Consultation.** Large transportation projects, as deemed by the Public Works Director, shall be reviewed by the Bicycle and Transportation Commissions early in the planning and design stage, to provide the Bicycle and Transportation Commissions an opportunity to provide comments and recommendations regarding Complete Streets features to be incorporated into the project, as deemed appropriate.
4. **Evaluation.** The Menlo Park Public Works and Planning Departments shall perform evaluations of how well the streets and transportation network of Menlo Park are serving each category of users by collecting baseline data and collecting follow-up data on a regular basis.

C. Exemptions

1. **Leadership Approval for Exemptions.** A project seeking Complete Streets exemption must provide written finding of why accommodations for all modes was not incorporated into the project. Exemptions shall be reviewed

and approved by the Director of Public Works and made available to the public for 10 business days after decision. Within that 10 business day period the public can submit an appeal on the decision to City Council through either the City Clerk or Director of Public Works.