



VILLAGE OF BROOKFIELD

A news release from the Village of Brookfield

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Village Adopts 'Complete Streets' Policy to Encourage Better Biking and Walking Options

Brookfield, IL— The Village of Brookfield Board of Trustees adopted a Complete Streets Policy that will encourage active transportation, improve safety and expand accessibility for all roadway users. Additionally, the policy will help lay the foundation for the Village as the most bike-friendly community in the western suburbs.

Complete Streets are roadways that account for the mobility of all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders and motorists. The policy provides standards and guidelines to incorporate new transportation elements such as crosswalks, bike lanes, curb extensions and bus shelters during the capital improvements planning process.

This policy gives Village leaders the tools to analyze where roadway improvements make sense, and to integrate street improvements into the capital improvements planning process to ensure efficient and effective use of resources. The main idea behind Complete Streets is that more people walking and bicycling is a good thing for the health of the Village's economy, environment and residents, and the Village must provide the infrastructure to make it easier for people to walk, bike and take transit. Adopting a Complete Streets policy does not mean bike lanes or crosswalks will be coming to every street.

The policy supports Brookfield's *2020 Master Plan*, which calls for a "balanced transportation system which ensures the safe and efficient movement of vehicles, trains, pedestrians and cyclists." It also supports the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's *Go To 2040* comprehensive regional plan, which advocates strategic investment in increased transportation options.

"The Village is committed to improving safety and accessibility for everyone, regardless of whether they drive or take another form of transportation," Village President Kit Ketchmark said. "This policy lets us take a broad approach to roadway improvements and make smart decisions about when and where we can provide new features."

Cities across the country have implemented similar policies, which are recommended by the American Planning Association and the Illinois Department of Transportation. A handful of communities in the region have joined them, including Berwyn, Blue Island, Des Plaines, Oak Park and Tinley Park.

Complete Streets help create safer, more vibrant retail corridors as well. Research proves that streets with protected bicycle lanes have 90 percent fewer injuries per mile. According to Active Transportation Alliance research, the policy also serves as an economic development tool, as walkable and bikeable communities are correlated with increased home values and increased retail and tax revenue.

"The Complete Streets policy is a crucial first step toward smarter multi-modal transportation planning," Village Manager Keith Sbiral said. "We intend to put the policy to work right away, starting with our grant funding requests for 2017 roadway improvements. It is crucial that capital planning take an interdisciplinary approach in a municipal organization."

For more information about the Village of Brookfield please contact the Village Manager's Office at 708.485.7344 or contact Keith R. Sbiral at ksbiral@brookfieldil.gov.

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