



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607-4700
TEL 510.817.5700
TDD/TTY 510.817.5769
FAX 510.817.5848
E-MAIL info@mtc.ca.gov
WEB www.mtc.ca.gov

Memorandum

TO: Partnership Jurisdictions Expecting to Receive
OBAG Funding

DATE: July 16, 2012

FR: Sean Co

RE: One Bay Area Grant: Complete Streets Required Elements

The One Bay Area Grant (OBAG) Complete Streets requires agencies to incorporate the elements listed in Attachment A into a council/board of supervisors-adopted resolution by January 31, 2013. Jurisdictions are encouraged to develop the best policy that fits within the context of their local area in consultation with affected departments and stakeholders and to go beyond the required elements to accommodate all users of the roadway network. Language in the elements is general to allow jurisdictions the flexibility they need to develop their own policy. For example there are no specific exceptions for complete streets in the MTC requirements so agencies can define their own. Jurisdictions may also meet this requirement by having adopted a General Plan that complies with the California Complete Streets Act of 2008.

For the next round of One Bay Area Grants (anticipated in 2015), the OBAG program will require jurisdictions to update the circulation element of their general plan consistent with the Complete Streets Act to maintain eligibility for these funds.

To assist agencies in developing their own resolution, MTC with assistance from [ChangeLab Solutions](#), has developed a sample resolution of support. Jurisdictions are encouraged to adapt the elements and language of the sample resolution to meet their own circumstances and plans. This sample resolution is included as Attachment B. As an example of sample language of an adopted complete streets policy, the City of Baldwin Park's policy is included as Attachment C.

Attachment A:
Elements Required of a Complete Streets Resolution to Comply with the One Bay Area Grant
(Revised July 1, 2012)

To receive funding through the OneBayArea Grant (OBAG) program, a jurisdiction must have either updated its General Plan to comply with the Complete Streets Act of 2008 or adopted a complete streets Resolution that incorporates all nine of the following elements.

Complete Streets Principles

1. **Serve all Users** - All transportation improvements will be planned, designed, constructed, operated and maintained to support safe and convenient access for all users, and increase mobility for walking, bicycling and transit use, whenever possible while promoting safe and accessible operations for all users.
2. **Context Sensitivity** – The planning and implementation of transportation projects will reflect conditions within and surrounding the project area, whether the area is a residential or business district or urban, suburban or rural. Project planning, design and construction of complete streets projects should include working with residents and ~~merchants~~ businesses to ensure that a strong sense of place is maintained.
3. **Complete Streets in all Departments** – All departments in the jurisdiction *and outside agencies* whose work affects the roadway must incorporate a complete streets approach into the review and implementation of their projects and activities. Potential complete streets opportunities could apply to projects such as, transportation projects, road rehabilitation, new development, utilities, etc.
4. **All Projects/Phases** - The policy will apply to all roadway projects including those involving new construction, reconstruction, retrofits, repaving, rehabilitation, or changes in the allocation of pavement space on an existing roadway, as well as those that involve new privately built roads and easements intended for public use.

Implementation

5. **Plan Consultation** –Any proposed improvements should be evaluated for consistency with all local bicycle, pedestrian and/or transportation plans and any other plans that affect the right of way should be consulted for consistency with any proposed improvements.
6. **Street Network/Connectivity** - The transportation system should provide a connected network of facilities accommodating all modes of travel. This includes looking for opportunities for repurposing rights-of-ways to enhance connectivity for cyclists, pedestrians and transit users. A well connected network should include non-motorized connectivity to schools, parks, commercial areas, civic destinations and regional non-motorized networks on both publically owned roads/land and private developments (or redevelopment areas).
7. **BPAC Consultation** - Input shall be solicited from local bicycle and pedestrian advisory committees (BPACs) or similar *public* advisory group in an early project development phase to verify bicycling and pedestrian needs for projects. (MTC Resolution 875 requires that cities of 10,000 or more create and maintain a BPAC or rely on the county BPAC to receive TDA-3 funds.)
8. **Evaluation** – City *and county* will establish a means to collect data and indicate how the jurisdiction is evaluating their implementation of complete streets policies. For example tracking the number of miles of bike lanes and sidewalks, numbers of street crossings, signage etc.

Exceptions

9. **Process**– Plans or projects that seek exemptions from the complete streets approach outlined in prior sections must provide written finding of why accommodations for all modes were not included in the project. The memorandum should be signed off by the Public Works Director or equivalent high level staff person. Plans or projects that are granted exceptions must be made publically available for review.

Federal guidance on exceptions can be found from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Accommodating Bicycle and Pedestrian Travel

http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/guidance/design_guidance/design.cfm

Attachment B:
Sample MTC Complete Streets Sample Resolution
for Bay Area Cities and Counties

ChangeLab Solutions & MTC
<http://changelabsolutions.org/>

Resolution No. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE [City Council/Board of Supervisors] OF THE [Jurisdiction] 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 [*insert other significant local users if desired, e.g. drivers of agricultural vehicles, emergency vehicles, or freight*];

WHEREAS, [Jurisdiction] 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;

WHEREAS, [Jurisdiction] 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;

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”;

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;

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;

WHEREAS, [Jurisdiction] 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/Board of Supervisors] of [Jurisdiction], State of California, as follows:

1. That the [Jurisdiction] 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 [Jurisdiction] General Plan circulation shall incorporate Complete Streets policies and principles consistent with the California Complete Streets Act of 2008 (AB 1358) and with the Complete Streets Policy adopted by this resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the [City Council/Board of Supervisors] of the [Jurisdiction], State of California, on _____, 201_, by the following vote:

Attachment: Exhibit A

SAMPLE

Exhibit A

This Complete Streets Policy was adopted by Resolution No. _____ by the [City Council/Board of Supervisors] of the [Jurisdiction] on _____, 201__.

COMPLETE STREETS POLICY OF JURISDICTION

A. Complete Streets Principles

- 1. Complete Streets Serving All Users.** [Jurisdiction] 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 [*insert other significant local users if desired, e.g. drivers of agricultural vehicles, emergency vehicles, freight, etc.*].
- 2. Context Sensitivity.** In planning and implementing street projects, departments and agencies of [Jurisdiction] shall maintain sensitivity to local conditions in both residential and business districts as well as urban, suburban, and rural areas, and shall work with residents, merchants, and other stakeholders to ensure that a strong sense of place ensues. Improvements that will 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, such as traffic calming circles, transit bulb outs, and road diets [*, as well as other features such as insert other accommodations if desired*] [*, and those features identified in insert name of Pedestrian/Bicycle Master Plan if it exists*].
- 3. Complete Streets Routinely Addressed by All Departments.** All relevant departments and agencies of [Jurisdiction] shall 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 shall be incorporated into all planning, funding, design, approval, and implementation processes for any 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 head of the relevant department provides written approval explaining the basis of such deviation. If [Jurisdiction] has a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, such deviations shall be presented to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee early in the planning and design stage, to ensure the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee has an opportunity to provide comments and recommendations.

2. **Street Network/Connectivity.** As feasible, [Jurisdiction] shall 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 Pedestrian Advisory Committee Consultation.** If [Jurisdiction] has a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, transportation projects shall be reviewed by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee early in the planning and design stage, to provide the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee an opportunity to provide comments and recommendations regarding Complete Streets features to be incorporated into the project.
4. **Evaluation.** All relevant agencies or departments shall perform evaluations of how well the streets and transportation network of [Jurisdiction] 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.** Projects that seek Complete Streets exemptions must provide written finding of why accommodations for all modes that were not included in the project and signed off by the Public Works Director or equivalent high level staff person. Projects that are granted exceptions must be made publically available for review. Federal guidance on exceptions can be found from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Accommodating Bicycle and Pedestrian Travel

http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/guidance/design_design.cfm

Attachment C: City of Baldwin Park Complete Streets Policy

SAMPLE