



SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING

AGENDA SECTION	NEW BUSINESS
MEETING DATE	OCTOBER 10, 2023

ITEM:	Review of Complete Streets Proposal.	
DEPARTMENT:	Community Development	BY/DATE: Andrew Boucher, City Planner 10/5/2023
CORE CITY STRATEGIES: <i>(please indicate areas that apply by adding an "X" in front of the selected text below)</i>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Healthy and Safe Community		<input type="checkbox"/> Thriving and Vibrant Destination Community
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equitable, Diverse, Inclusive, and Friendly		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strong Infrastructure and Public Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Trusted and Engaged Leadership		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainable

BACKGROUND

In the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, the City of Columbia Heights defines Complete Streets as roadways that accommodate all users (pedestrians, bicyclists, vehicles, and transit) regardless of age and ability. The City has not established design guidelines related to Complete Streets. However, the Comprehensive Plan embraces several elements of Complete Streets and MnDOT has implemented a Complete Streets Policy to incorporate complete street design principles in all projects, which can serve as a resource to the City for incorporating complete street design standards into City projects. An explicit Complete Streets Policy is also a requirement for Step 3 progression in the MN GreenStep Cities program.

GreenStep Cities provides implementation tools and resources for Complete Streets, Living Streets, and Street Design, such as a Local Government Complete Streets Toolkit from MN Complete Streets Coalition and a Complete Streets Policy Framework created by Smart Growth America and the National Complete Streets Coalition to assist in developing ordinances and policies. There are also examples of cities in Minnesota that have met the highest star rating for their Complete Streets policies and served as examples to follow when crafting Columbia Heights' Complete Streets policies. The cities examined included Arlington, Edina, Lakeville, and Maplewood, but staff also reviewed the policies of Fridley, Northfield, and South St. Paul as other three-star examples.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Sustainability Commission give a positive recommendation to the City Council to review the proposed Complete Streets policy and design standards at the next available work session and consider implementation and adoption should the policy serve the public interest and satisfy the goals of the Comprehensive Plan.

RECOMMENDED MOTION(S):

MOTION: Move to recommend that the City Council review the attached Complete Street policy at an upcoming work session to consider adoption and implementation of Complete Streets policies and design standards.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- [Complete Streets Ordinance](#)
- [Complete Streets Policy Framework](#)