



**SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MEETING**

<b>AGENDA SECTION</b>	<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>
<b>MEETING DATE</b>	OCTOBER 10, 2023

<b>ITEM:</b>	<b>Review of Complete Streets Proposal</b>	
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	<b>Community Development</b>	<b>BY/DATE: Andrew Boucher, City Planner 10/5/2023</b>
<b>CORE CITY STRATEGIES:</b> <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 Transportation Plan’s goals and policies embrace several elements of Complete Streets (safety for pedestrians and bicyclists) and MnDOT’s has adopted a Complete Streets Policy committing to assessing opportunities for incorporating complete street design principles in all MnDOT’s Complete Streets Policy 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 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 who 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 including Arlington, Edina, Lakeville, and Maplewood, but 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](#)
- [Comprehensive Plan Chapter 6 – Transportation Maps](#)
- [Comprehensive Plan Chapter 7 – Parks and Trails](#)
- [Complete Streets Policy Framework](#)
- [Best Practice Action 11.1 – Arlington](#)
- [Best Practice Action 11.1 – Edina](#)
- [Best Practice Action 11.1 – Lakeville](#)