



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Yesenia Paez, Community Development Technician

Date: June 11, 2019

Subject: Resolution 19-R-08 – Adoption of Resolution for the City of Duarte Complete Streets Policy

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt Resolution No. 19-R-08, which adopts a Complete Streets Policy. Complete Streets policies seek to improve street networks by increasing safety for drivers, transit users, pedestrians and bicyclists, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation. The Policy is intended to provide the framework to encourage and support multiple modes of transportation on the City's street network. The Duarte Complete Streets Policy will provide overarching guidance for the City's transportation related planning efforts and will guide future developments and improvements.

BACKGROUND

What are Complete Streets?

Conventional transportation planning and roadway design has typically focused on drivers and their vehicles, often overlooking other users of roadway systems, such as pedestrians and bicyclists. The term "Complete Streets" promotes advancing the roadway into a facility which serves more than just motorists. Complete Streets accommodate all modes of transportation: passenger and commercial vehicles, pedestrians, bicyclists, and mass transit users, regardless of age or ability. Complete Streets make it easy to cross the streets, walk to shops, and bicycle to work. They allow buses to run on time and make it safe for people to walk to and from train stations.

Complete Streets is unique within each community. A Complete Streets policy may include improvements such as sidewalks, bike lanes (or wide paved shoulders), special bus lanes, comfortable and accessible public transportation stops, frequent and safe crossing opportunities, median islands, accessible pedestrian signals, curb extensions, narrower travel lanes, roundabouts, landscaping, and more.

Why adopt a Complete Streets Policy?

The California Complete Streets Act of 2008 (AB 1358, Chapter 657, Statutes of 2008) requires that any substantial revision of a General Plan Circulation Element commencing on or after January 1, 2011 must “plan for a balanced multimodal transportation network that meets the needs of all users of streets, roads, and highways for safe and convenient travel in a manner that is suitable to the rural, suburban, or urban context of the general plan.”

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), which manages several transportation related grants within the county, adopted a Complete Streets policy in 2014. Metro previously required local agencies to implement one of the following:

- Adoption of a Complete Streets Policy;
- Adoption of a Complete Streets Resolution; or
- Update the General Plan Circulation Element to conform with AB 1358.

Metro issued a Memo granting flexibility with meeting their required January 1, 2017 deadline, allowing agencies to maintain eligibility for Metro’s grant programs if compliance with the Complete Streets policy is achieved prior to submission of future grant applications. For the City of Duarte to comply with the Metro Complete Streets Policy, as well as the California Complete Streets Act, the City of Duarte is moving forward with the preparation of a Duarte Complete Streets Policy. If a policy or other form of Complete Streets implementation is not adopted by the City Council, the City will not be eligible for any future Federal or State grants managed through Metro.

ANALYSIS

The City of Duarte has already embraced the concept of Complete Streets. The City’s Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan was the initial blue print to ensure that we develop a transportation network that meets the needs of all users. The accommodation of alternative modes of travel such as new bike lanes can be seen around Central Avenue, Highland Avenue, and Duarte Road. The Public Works Department continues to repair sidewalks and ADA ramps on an annual basis and keeps a log of repairs.

A few elements are to be considered when preparing a Complete Streets Policy:

Principles: The City must state the commitment to providing Complete Streets to serve all users. The Policy must maintain sensitivity to the adjacent land uses, create a “sense of place” and consider the surrounding environment. The Policy should establish a procedure for involvement from all City departments, City Commissions as appropriate, and will define the types of projects for which it applies.



Implement: A Complete Streets Policy will outline design standards use for implementation and state how it can provide connectivity throughout the City and across jurisdictional boundaries. It will also explain what the next steps for implementation are and define performance measures.

Exceptions: Key components of the Policy are defining the process for allowing exceptions to Complete Streets Policy, the definition of those projects that are exempt, and the decision makers involved in the process.

Survey and Research

Staff researched local cities who have a Complete Streets Policy in place, including: Azusa, Baldwin Park, Claremont, La Verne, Hermosa Beach, and Rancho Cucamonga. A primary factor for surveying other cities was to understand the framework of their policy, and then create a resolution that is customized for Duarte.

Policy Summary

The policy statement reads “To enable our streets to provide a network of safe, convenient, and comfortable routes for all users” the City of Duarte will abide by the principles set forth in this policy. Duarte’s Policy encourages increased use of multi-modal transportation while continuing to maintain an effective transportation system for the community. This may be achieved through single projects or incrementally through a series of smaller improvements or maintenance and operation activities over time. Through implementation of these principles, the transportation network in the City of Duarte will be safe, accessible, comfortable and convenient for all transportation modes and users.

The policy would apply to all City or state sponsored improvements and privately funded projects within the public right-of-way. All newly constructed streets would be required to implement, where appropriate, those improvements that would promote Complete Streets.

Policy Implications

Implementing the Complete Streets Policy will require incorporating improvements that promote walking and bicycling, such as street improvements, bike lanes (or wide paved shoulders), bus shelters, comfortable and accessible public transportation stops, frequent and safe crossing opportunities, parkways, median islands, accessible pedestrian signals, curb extensions, roundabouts, landscaping, signage, lighting, striping and other amenities. Costs for such improvements must therefore be included within the City’s Capital Improvement Program and some operational budgets.

Financial Review

Formalizing the Complete Streets Policy will increase the City of Duarte's ability to leverage additional resources, including funding, and will make the City more competitive when pursuing funding opportunities.

Furthermore, it is difficult to estimate how much more it will cost per project, but staff estimates that implementation of this Complete Streets policy could add approximately 10% to the cost of design and street improvement capital projects work.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends City Council approve Resolution No. 19-R-08 (Exhibit A) adopting a Complete Streets Policy (Exhibit B)

ATTACHMENT:

Exhibit A: Resolution No. 19-R-08 with Attachment A
Exhibit B: Complete Streets Policy Brochure