

City of Northfield Complete Streets Policy

Vision

Pedestrians, bicyclists, transit, motorists, freight carriers, and emergency responders must be able to safely move along and across Northfield's street network. The City of Northfield Complete Streets policy intends to ensure all streets within the City are planned, funded, designed, constructed, operated and maintained to safely accommodate users of all ages and abilities.

Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to design surface transportation corridors that balance the needs of all users while implementing the principles of the Comprehensive Plan of enhancing Northfield's sense of place and creating a highly connected multi-modal transportation network. As part of developing pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure through the implementation of this Complete Streets, Northfield intends and expects to realize long-term cost savings in improved public health, better environmental stewardship, reduced fuel consumption, and reduced demand for motor vehicle infrastructure through the implementation of this Complete Streets policy. Complete Streets also contribute to walkable neighborhoods which can foster interaction, create a sense of community pride and improve quality of life.

Goals

1. Incorporate the vision, purpose, and goals of this Policy into all aspects of the project development process for surface transportation projects within the City of Northfield.
2. Create a balanced, highly interconnected and attractive surface transportation network which is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Plan and other relevant policies of the City.
3. Manage stormwater and improve Cannon River water quality by reducing impervious surfaces, narrowing street widths where suitable to the context, planting street trees, and, where appropriate, increasing stormwater infiltration along streets through the design of the public right-of-way.
4. Promote the use of the latest and best "complete streets" design standards, principles, policies, and guidelines within the context of the community.

Directives

The City of Northfield's surface transportation network shall balance the needs of all current and future users. Project identification, planning, scoping, and design for new construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, rehabilitation, repair, and maintenance within the public right-of-way shall adhere to the following:

1. Accommodations for all users of the surface transportation network shall be balanced in accordance with the latest and best "complete streets" standards, principles, policies, and guidelines, **except** under one (1) or more of the following conditions:
 - a. Where the cost of providing such accommodations would be disproportionate given the need or probability of use, or
 - b. Where severe topographic or natural resource constraints prohibit such accommodations, or
 - c. Where conditions or restrictions outside the purview of the City of Northfield prohibit such actions.

In cases where one or more of these conditions occur, the City Administrator and professional staff will evaluate the project and make a recommendation to the City Council for their decision.

2. Where segregated facilities cannot be provided for pedestrians and cyclists, the constructed roadway shall reflect the character of shared space, with appropriate mechanisms to calm vehicular traffic and provide a safe, reliable, integrated, and interconnected surface transportation network.
3. Where projects involve other jurisdictions, the City will work with those jurisdictions to ensure compliance with this policy to the fullest extent. Prior to seeking bids, the City Administrator or designee shall report to the City Council on the detail of how the project does or does not comply with this Policy.
4. Roadways, sidewalks, shared-use paths, street crossings, pedestrian signals, signs, street furniture, transit stops and facilities, and all connecting pathways shall be designed, constructed, and operated to limit maintenance, and maintained so that all users of the surface transportation network can travel safely, reliably and independently .
5. The implementation of this Policy shall reflect the context and character of the surrounding built and natural environments, and enhance the appearance of such.

6. The City will implement this policy by evaluating and revising relevant City plans, rules, regulations, and programs as appropriate to incorporate this policy by reference and to utilize the most current and most effective design guidelines and other tools when designing projects.
7. A system of performance measurements shall be established to gauge the success of this Policy with regards to the stated Goals above.
8. This Policy shall be reviewed at least every five years to determine its success and make any needed revisions.