
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

COMPLETE STREETS POLICY - 2020

All modes of transportation are important for the residents and work force of Will County to access a myriad of destinations. Whether walking to school, riding your bicycle for recreation, or accessing transit, pedestrian and bicycle facilities are important components in the County's multimodal transportation system.

The following document serves as another tool for the Will County Division of Transportation (WCDOT) to utilize when considering transportation projects on the County Highway System. It offers general principals and policies the WCDOT will utilize to determine the provision of these accommodations in conjunction with any of our roadway projects.

PURPOSE

The WCDOT understands that roadway improvements provide opportunities to improve safety, access, and mobility for all travelers including those using non-motorized modes.

The purpose of this policy is to promote safe, accessible and integrated transportation options that balance the needs of all corridor users including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, motorists (including motorcyclists), freight carriers, emergency personnel, and agricultural vehicles. The policy and guidelines provided within this document are intended to establish written documentation of existing practices and formalize the process for consideration of nonmotorized enhancements in conjunction with County road improvements. This policy applies to all corridors under the WCDOT jurisdiction.

Given the diversity of the natural and built environment in Will County, flexibility in accommodating different modes of travel is essential to balancing the needs of all corridor users. The WCDOT will implement this policy to incorporate the character of the project area, the values of the community, and the needs of all users.

POLICY COMPONENTS

SERVE ALL USERS AND MODES

This policy will improve the ability of pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities to safely move along and across the Will County Highway System. The WCDOT intends through the utilization of this policy to integrate the needs of all users into the everyday transportation planning practices.

STREET DESIGN

Applicable design standards and best practices will be followed in conjunction with construction, reconstruction, changes in allocation of pavement space on an existing roadway, or other changes on a County Highway. The planning, design, and implementation processes for all County Highways shall include:

1. Where practical, facilities recognized as contributing to complete streets, through coordination with Local Agencies (LA) and the Forest Preserve District of Will County (FPDWC).
2. All projects following the Federal Aide process
 - a. In urban/suburban areas, will include at a minimum, ten (10) foot flat areas at back of curb on both sides of the street.
 - b. In rural areas, where road sections are uncurbed, paved shoulders shall be included.
3. If, through coordination with the LA and FPDWC, determination that a future multiuse path should be planned for, the flat area will be redistributed as a five (5) foot and a fifteen (15) foot flat areas, depending on the side where the future path will be installed.
4. If, through coordination with the LA and FPDWC, determination that sidewalks or multiuse paths will be installed as part of the project, an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) will be developed to lay out funding, maintenance, and operations responsibilities.

APPLICATION

1. The policy applies to new construction or reconstruction projects except in pavement overlays that do not widen the existing travel way.
2. The WCDOT shall ensure that approved alterations to the County Highway System are implemented in a way that provides all users, regardless of age or ability, a comprehensive, integrated, and connected multi-modal network of transportation options. This network of transportation options will be provided to improve the travel options in a balance, responsible, and equitable manner consistent with and supportive of the surrounding community.
3. The WCDOT shall implement policies and procedures in the construction, reconstruction, or other changes of the County Highway System to support the creation of complete streets.
4. In planning projects for the long-term, design and construction will need to anticipate future demands for pedestrian and bicycle travel, and not preclude the provision of future enhancements for these modes.

FUNDING

1. The WCDOT will fund the establishment of the minimum flat areas.
2. The LA, through the establishment of an IGA, will fund all pedestrian and bicycle improvements including the design, construction, and any additional right-of-way required.

EXCEPTIONS

The WCDOT will implement Complete Streets unless one or more of the following conditions are documented:

1. Bicyclist or pedestrians are prohibited by law.
2. The cost of establishing complete streets elements is excessive in relation to total project costs. (Excessive is defined as exceeding 20 percent of the cost of the transportation project.)
3. There are ROW restrictions.
4. Lack of support from the community
5. There are safety risks that cannot be overcome.
6. The corridor has severe topographic, environmental, historic, or natural resource constraints.
7. Other factors indicating absence of need

DESIGN STANDARDS

1. **American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)**
 - a. *Guide for Planning, Design and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities*
 - b. *Guide for Development of Bicycle Facilities*
 - c. *A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets*
2. **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)**
 - a. *Highway Capacity Manual (HCM)*
 - b. *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)*
3. **United States Division of Transportation (USDOT)**
 - a. *Policy Statement on Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodation Regulations and Recommendations*
4. **Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)**
 - a. *Bureau of Design and Environment (BDE) Manual*
 - b. *Bureau of Local Roads & Streets (BLRS) Manual*
5. **US Access Board**
 - a. *Accessibility Guidelines for Public Rights-of-Way (PROWAG)*
6. **Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG)**
7. **Local Planning Documents**
 - a. *Will Connects 2040*
 - b. *Will County Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Latest Edition*

ADOPTION

Adopted by the Will County Division of Transportation on the 10th day of July, 2020.



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