# Strategies for Completing Your Streets: *Best Practices That Pave the Way*

Complete Streets are streets designed to accommodate all types of people—bicyclists, drivers, transit riders and pedestrians of all ages, income levels and abilities. Typical characteristics of Complete Streets include traffic calming to reduce speeds, urban greening, and bicyclist and pedestrian-oriented infrastructure. When cities promote safe and active transportation, residents are more active and all around more physically and mentally healthy. Are your streets complete?

Follow these 5 steps to effectively implement Complete Streets in your city:
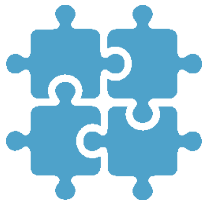
1) ASSEMBLE YOUR COMMITTEE

Establish a diverse and collaborative team to support implementation of your Complete Streets. A committee should involve all departments and agencies that make decisions about city streets.

2) ASSESS YOUR COMMUNITY'S POLICY AND PHYSICAL LANDSCAPE

Meet with your committee to better understand the various travel needs of all community members and set up systems that respond accordingly.

Conduct an environmental assessment to understand the existing environmental and physical conditions in your community—make sure to take health inequities into account. Based on this data, you can create a formal implementation plan.

3) UPDATE

Update design manuals, policies and standards to reflect current best practices and make the appropriate changes to implement a Complete Streets approach.

4) ENGAGE AND EDUCATE

Community engagement is vital to the success of your implementation! Engage your stakeholders by hosting workshops, webinars, on-the-job trainings and walk/bike audits. Provide education on new procedures and design outcomes to inform feedback.

KAISER PERMANENTE®

Strategies for Completing Your Streets:
Best Practices That Pave the Way

5) EVALUATE AND LEARN

Without evaluation, communities will have a hard time understanding how and where they are meeting their goals. Prepare an annual report with a summary of trends to track progress, highlight areas of improvement and celebrate your success!

Implementing Complete Streets in the Mid-Atlantic:

VIRGINIA:

The City of Charlottesville: In 2014, Charlottesville passed a Complete Streets Resolution, outlining the City's commitment to creating safe and active streets for all residents. As a component of the resolution, the City Council launched the Streets That Work (STW) planning process to help establish citywide plans for addressing multi-use and multimodal transportation needs throughout the City. In 2016, the City adopted the STW Guidelines as part of the City's Comprehensive Plan. The STW Guidelines have helped inform policy and design changes so that streets accommodate all users, of all ages and abilities, and all transportation options, including walking, bicycling, public transit, and vehicle traffic. In 2016, the City hosted a demonstration project, Streets that Work LIVE that showed how the guidelines might be applied for more complete streets. The event included temporary curb extensions, climbing bike lanes, planters and outdoor seating. Since committing to these guidelines, the City has continued to expand streetscape improvements along priority streets and intersections.

MARYLAND:

The Town of Edmonston: Through the Town's Green Street Project, the Town of Edmonston redesigned its main residential street into both a sustainable and safe street. Through community engagement and municipal support, this small town created one of the Country's first "Green Complete Streets." Green Complete Streets integrate sustainable practices, like using recycled materials and diverting storm water drainage into rain gardens, and complete street design like building safe sidewalks and bike lanes. The Town has continued to expand the network of bike and pedestrian paths throughout the area. In 2019, the Town received a 2019 HEAL Implementation Grant to improve bike lane connectivity with the Anacostia Trails Area and other local parks. The Town is currently drafting a complete streets policy.

KAISER PERMANENTE®