



Planning & Zoning
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June 1, 2021

The Honorable Mayor Dan Devine
and Members of the Common Council
7525 W. Greenfield Avenue
West Allis WI 53214

RE: Resolution to adopt the West Allis Complete Streets Policy

Dear Mayor Devine and Common Council Members:

Complete Streets is the concept that our streets should be built with safety, comfort, and access in mind for all users of the road to create a walkable, livable, and thriving community. There is no singular design for a Complete Street; a quiet residential street may already function well for all people, whereas a busy commercial corridor may require wider sidewalks, curb extensions, and protected bike lanes. A Complete Streets approach integrates people and place into all phases of a project, from planning and design through construction. Fortunately, the City of West Allis has been working towards this goal for several years now as we continue to implement the Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan. With the Complete Streets Policy, we aim to formalize existing processes and join the thousands of communities across the country that have adopted their own policies.

The Policy does not mean an immediate retrofit of all streets but rather incremental changes to the built environment resulting from a shift in everyday Planning and Engineering practices. It is also not a mandate to implement Complete Streets elements into all road construction projects if costs are excessive or disproportionate, the public is not in favor, or if the project is an emergency repair. A Complete Streets subcommittee of the Capital Improvements Committee will meet twice per year to oversee implementation. Keep in mind that Complete Streets can be achieved within existing budgets and many improvements are modest in size and cost.

The Complete Streets Policy is co-sponsored by Alderpersons Lajsic and Weigel and supported by Planning & Zoning, Engineering, DPW, and Economic Development. With your support for this Policy, West Allis will add lasting value that supports healthy communities and creates safer streets for everyone.

On April 14, Planning & Zoning presented an overview of the draft Complete Streets Policy ([YouTube link here](#)). If desired, Planning & Zoning would be happy to make a brief presentation at an upcoming Public Works Committee meeting.

If you have any questions or desire further information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Tony Giron
Planner