Lancaster City First to Adopt a Complete Streets Policy
July 2014 FYI

On May 27, 2014 Lancaster City took the lead in the implementation of complete streets in Lancaster County, by becoming the first municipality to adopt a complete streets policy.

As city council contemplated adoption of a complete streets policy, Councilman Tim Roschel told city council members that with this resolution, the City of Lancaster seeks to create an interconnected network of transportation facilities that accommodate all users and modes of travel in a way that is consistent with the community context and goals. He stated that complete streets are safe and convenient for users of all ages and abilities including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transit riders, and motor vehicles drivers.

As indicated in the resolution, the City of Lancaster recognizes that streets affect the way residents and visitors experience the city. They play a vital role in promoting economic development, public safety, health, and quality of life. Since the automobile became the dominant form of transportation, the design of streets has favored vehicles, often to the exclusion of pedestrians, bicycles, and transit. For many decades, the young, the elderly, and the physically challenged were not considered in the design and construction of streets.

The City of Lancaster is looking to shift the emphasis more towards these users as well as pedestrians and bicyclists in general. The city is committed to providing increased mobility choices and improved safety for all its residents. In order to do this, the city will incorporate complete streets concepts into the planning, design, and operation of all future municipal street, sidewalk, trail, and other transportation projects, whether new construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or pavement maintenance. The city will also incorporate green infrastructure measures where appropriate to manage stormwater runoff.

Over the long term, investments in pedestrian, bicycle, and transit infrastructure will help promote “active transportation” and bring physical activity into the daily lives of residents. This will help improve their health by reducing obesity and the incidences of diabetes and heart attacks, as well as improve air quality and limit greenhouse gas emissions by reducing traffic congestion.

In passing a complete streets policy, city council directed city staff to review and update language in the city’s comprehensive plan, subdivision and land development ordinance, zoning ordinance, and other codes related to streets to incorporate complete streets concepts.

The city is already beginning implementation of the complete streets concept with its reconstruction and conversion of Mulberry Street from one-way to two-way traffic. This project is intended to create a complete street which will reduce speeds, increase pedestrian and bicycle safety, and improve access. Elements that will be included are new paving, bulb-out curbs with ramps, and fewer traffic signals.

Green Infrastructure will be incorporated into the project to manage stormwater runoff and increase ground water recharge. Biorention areas, permeable pavers, and infiltration trenches will be incorporated into the street design. The city will also seek an increase in tree canopy through private initiatives to plant street trees.
The complete streets initiatives taking place here in Lancaster will help make streets safer and more equitable by increasing access to physical activity for all populations.

~ Coalition for a Bicycle Friendly Lancaster Facebook post, June 19, 2014

Lancaster City Complete Streets Policy Resolution

ADMINISTRATION RESOLUTION NO. 27-2014

INTRODUCED – JUNE 10, 2014

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL – JUNE 10, 2014

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANCASTER ADOPTING A COMPLETE STREETS POLICY TO BETTER INTEGRATE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY INTO THE DAILY LIVES OF THOSE WHO LIVE IN AND VISIT THE CITY OF LANCASTER THROUGH AN INCREASED EMPHASIS ON ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION MODES WHICH WILL CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVED HEALTH, REDUCED TRAFFIC CONGESTION, IMPROVED AIR QUALITY, REDUCED EMISSIONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES AND MORE ECONOMICALLY VIBRANT COMMUNITIES. See entire resolution here.
Mulberry Street, Lancaster City. Concept for conversion from current one-way street to two-way street.