

December 1, 2009

Susan Bransen  
Associate Deputy Director  
California Transportation Commission  
By email to [susan.bransen@dot.ca.gov](mailto:susan.bransen@dot.ca.gov)

Dear Ms. Bransen:

WALKSacramento supports the inclusion of Complete Streets within the CTC's draft RTP guidelines. We urge the CTC not only to retain the proposed revisions but to incorporate Complete Streets provisions throughout the guidelines.

As noted in the draft guidance, "A 'Complete Street' is a transportation facility that is planned, designed, operated and maintained to provide safe mobility for all users, including bicyclists, pedestrians, transit riders, and motorists appropriate to the function and context of the facility." Isn't this what a multi-modal transportation is supposed to provide – access for all users?

Incorporating a Complete Streets approach would, for the first time, give priority toward completing the transportation system for all modes. This is particularly important for walking. Historically, transportation research and planning has considered the modes separately and minimized the role of walking. And yet, walking is critical to all modes – it is the beginning and the end of all trips. Whether or not there is good pedestrian access is a critical determinant of whether a person will choose to walk for shorter trips or choose to take transit on longer trips. Taking an approach that stresses Complete Streets will assure that pedestrian needs are fully met.

Our country is far behind the European countries which provide extensive transportation facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists of all ages. Their significant mode shares by bicycle, pedestrian and transit, as well as their better health statistics, reflect their priority for a fully integrated transportation system.

Walking, bicycling and transit are critical to meeting our clean air and climate change targets and our public health goals as well. Complete Streets is a systematic way of addressing the needs of all modes. The CTC should retain a strong Complete Streets component within its draft RTP guidelines.

Thank you for your consideration,

Anne Geraghty  
Executive Director  
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