

In City Council November 19, 2015.
Report filed as informational.

6A1

Vern M. Hood

Assistant City Clerk

City of Keene
NEW HAMPSHIRE

November 10, 2015

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee
SUBJECT: **RESOLUTION: R-2015-40 – Relating to Complete Streets**

On a vote of 4 to 0, the Municipal Services, Facilities, and Infrastructure Committee recommends the adoption of Resolution R-2015-40.



Chairman/Designee

Background:

Public Works Director Kürt Blomquist and Planner Tara Germond introduced themselves. Mr. Blomquist reported that the MSFI Committee has gone through the Complete Streets resolution twice and it was available to the public for input. He continued that they reviewed the design guidelines, which they will adopt per the street utilities standards. They published in the Keene Sentinel that the design standards have been produced and are being adopted, and that will go into effect upon their adoption. Ms. Germond added that they incorporated the edits and comments that were received at previous meetings on the resolution, in its final form as it was presented to the City Council.

Chair Duffy replied that the committee is pleased to see the word “inclusive” in the resolution. He asked if committee members or members of the public had questions or comments. Hearing none, he asked for a motion.

Councilor Jones made the following motion, which was seconded by Councilor O'Connor.

On a vote of 4 to 0, the Municipal Services, Facilities, and Infrastructure Committee recommends the adoption of Resolution R-2015-40.

Mr. Blomquist thanked the committee, the Planning Department, Ms. Germond, Ms. Brunner at the Southwest Regional Planning Commission, and everyone who has been a part of this. He continued that with the adoption of this resolution a component of the Comprehensive Master Plan is being implemented.



CITY OF KEENE

R-2015-40

Fifteen

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and
Relating to Complete Streets

A RESOLUTION

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Keene, as follows:

WHEREAS, the City of Keene works to have a well-balanced and connected transportation infrastructure that is safe, more livable, and welcoming for all users, including drivers, public transportation riders, pedestrians, bicyclists as well as older people, children and those with mobility challenges, and

WHEREAS, the City, in its 2008 Community Vision, calls for a transportation system that connects people and goods locally, regionally and globally, and will allow people to be less dependent on their cars, and will promote alternatives to the use of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, the City, in its 2010 Comprehensive Master Plan, recommends that the City become a Complete Streets community and the City Council adopted a 2011 resolution to adopt a Complete Streets policy; and

WHEREAS, to support this vision, it is the intent of the City of Keene to formalize the planning, design, operation, and maintenance of all streets so that they are safe for users of all ages and abilities as a matter of routine.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF KEENE AS FOLLOWS:

Application

Complete Streets are inclusive streets that are designed, operated, and maintained to enable safe access and mobility for all users, so that pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and public transportation users of all ages and abilities are able to safely move along and across a street.

All City-owned transportation facilities in the public right of way including, but not limited to: streets, bridges and all other connecting pathways should be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained to support the concept of Complete Streets where appropriate or feasible.

The City will approach transportation improvements and project phases as an opportunity to create safer, more accessible streets for all users. These phases include, but are not limited to: planning, programming, design, right-of-way acquisition, construction, reconstruction, operation and maintenance. Ordinary maintenance activities designed to

keep assets in serviceable conditions (e.g. mowing, sweeping, and cleaning) may be exempt from this policy.

Complete Streets principles may be achieved through single elements incorporated into a particular project or incrementally through a series of smaller improvements or maintenance activities over time.

In the event that the existing right-of-way does not allow for the accommodation of all Complete Streets design elements, alternatives will be explored such as obtaining additional right-of-way, use of revised travel lane configurations, paved shoulders, signage, traffic calming, education or enforcement to accommodate all potential users.

It is recognized that designs should reflect and adapt to the context and character of the surrounding built and natural environments and enhance the appearance of such. This Policy recognizes that transportation needs vary and must be balanced in a flexible, safe, and cost effective manner.

The City will follow the adopted Keene Complete Streets Design Guidelines as well as the latest design standards. In recognition of context sensitivity, public input and the needs of many users, a flexible, innovative and balanced approach that follows other appropriate design standards may be considered, provided that a comparable level of safety for all users is present.

Implementation

Complete Streets are integral to everyday transportation decision-making practices and processes. To this end:

(a) The City will incorporate Complete Streets principles into existing plans, manuals, checklists, decision-trees, rules, regulations, and programs as appropriate;

(b) The City will review current design standards, including regulations which apply to new roadway and transportation infrastructure design and construction, to ensure that they reflect the best available design standards and guidelines, and effectively implement Complete Streets, where feasible;

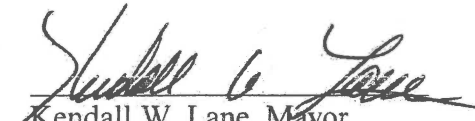
(c) The City will identify and seek out appropriate sources of funding for implementation of this policy and to have project selection criteria that will identify projects that support Complete Streets projects;

(d) The City should promote inter-departmental coordination among City departments with an interest in the activities that occur within the public right-of-way or on public lands in order to support Complete Streets goals; and

(e) The City should consider and pursue educational opportunities to ensure that all users of the transportation system understand and can safely utilize Complete Streets project elements.

Performance Measures

This policy encourages the evaluation and regular reporting of progress on the implementation and maintenance of Complete Streets. Periodic updates should be considered to be given to the City Council and/or other boards/committees on transportation infrastructure projects undertaken to the extent these projects meet the objectives of this policy.


Kendall W. Lane, Mayor

In City Council November 5, 2015.
Referred to the Municipal Services, Facilities and
Infrastructure Committee.



City Clerk

