Complete Streets Implementation Coast to Coast

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New Partners for Smart Growth
San Diego, California – February 2, 2012
Active Living Bemidji

Comprehensive approach to incorporating physical activity into the daily lives of residents of the Bemidji Area

5 Year Project
Active Living Partners

- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of MN
  - Active Living Minnesota

- Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP)
  - Minnesota Department of Health
Complete Streets in Bemidji

Phase One
- Developed a solid Vision

Phase Two
- Embed that Vision into relevant plans and policies

Phase Three
- Implement Successful Projects
Phase One – Strong Vision

✨ Destinations
  – Where are people going?

✨ People
  – Who needs to get there?
    (Children, seniors, avid bicyclists, the average person, etc.)

✨ Local Connections
  – Where are there deficient facilities? How can we make routes safe and convenient?
Phase Two - Planning

- Land Use Plan
- Transportation Plan
- Parks, Open Space and Trail System Plan
- Active Living/Complete Resolution(s)
Active Living and Complete Streets Resolution

WHEREAS, integration of the Complete Streets foundational principles in transportation and land use decision-making could result in Bemidji being a community:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Bemidji is committed to a philosophy that seeks to expand transportation and recreation options for residents and visitors, including people of all ages and abilities, in the community’s on-going development of a safe, efficient, and balanced multi-modal transportation system.

- that has strong connections – allowing people to comfortably navigate to and from destinations in the community
- where children can safely walk and bicycle to school; and

Committed to a Complete system that integrates all modes of a healthy and active Bemidji Area

WHEREAS, the City believes that a community and streets designed with these principles in mind will be in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the City and its residents, specifically, will result in quality of place, sustainability and responsible and use, increased health benefits, transportation options, accessibility, equity, and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City has reviewed and hereby approves and recommends the JPR’s codification of the “Active Living” land amendments proposed to the JPR Transportation and Land Use Plans for the Greater Bemidji Area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Bemidji is committed to a philosophy that seeks to expand transportation and recreation options for residents and visitors, including people of all ages and abilities, in the community’s on-going development of a safe, efficient, and balanced multi-modal transportation system.
Phase Three - Implementation

Work with the City to achieve successful outcomes to build support

Primary Focus:
– Restructuring procedures to accommodate users on every project
– Training and Education opportunities
Outcomes (Bicycle Map)
Outcomes
(Shared Use Paths)

Transportation Enhancement Grant – Bemidji Waterfront
Outcomes (Signage)
Outcomes
(Striped Bicycle Lanes)
Outcomes
(Parking Downtown)
Observations

Strong commitment from City Council and Engineer

– Proactive = better outcomes
– Reactive = back to square one

Strategic Question: How do we ensure that complete streets are a part of every transportation project?
Case Study
Trial and Error

- CUP
  - Local
  - Community facilities
- Core
- Mall
- Primary school
- Bicycle
- Wetland Complex
Case Study (Continued)

Planning Commission Recommendations

- Sidewalk on the north and northwest
- Landscaping buffer to direct to intersection (north)
- Paved path along the west (To connect to the park)
Case Study (Continued)

Planning Board Decision

– Included the sidewalk and landscaping on the north end

– Removed the paved path on the west!!

– Rationale was that it was not in the code and should not be “imposed” on private development
Complete Street in Development Code

- Annual update of the zoning and subdivision Ordinance

- Proposed edits include specific criteria for:
  - Conditional Use Permits
  - Subdivisions (with new roads)
  - New development and major alterations
Lessons Learned

- Need a clear and inspiring vision – it’s not about the pavement
- Don’t forget development regulations
- Need advocates that show up
- Opportunistic and incremental
- Get to know your engineers…seriously…
Thank you

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