Complete Streets in the West: Public Policy Implications

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Track A: Safety and Multi-Modal
Session: 2
Complete Streets as Public Policy

• Political Environment of Policy Making
• Urban Policy and Land Use – Post WW II Built Form
• Public Management – Complete Streets Official Authority
• Public Policy Analysis – Complete Streets Authentic Authority
• Public Policy Implementation – Organization, Resources, & Support
• Leadership and Change – 21st Century Built Form
• Working Together
Political Environment of Policy Making

Intermodal Surface Transportation Equity Act of 1992

• Coincided with the last construction of the original Interstate System (organizing mission)

• Restructured intergovernmental dynamics

• Empowered emerging transportation advocacy

• Provided enhanced flexibility for federal funding

• Serves as the framework for subsequent federal authorizations
Urban Policy and Land Use

Trends and Concepts

• Post WW II suburbanization, master planned communities, auto-orientation…to 21st Century realities

• **Fiscalization of Land Use** (using land use planning and development to encourage revenue production)

• **Blight** (urban decline characterized by abandoned homes, vacant store fronts, and crumbling infrastructure)

• **Gentrification** (displacing existing residents by increased property values through purchase/refurbishment by wealthier people)

• Ultimately, built form…
Urban Policy and Land Use

Multiple Stakeholders

- Diverse community groups (age, race, income, etc.)
- Multiple, interrelated public initiatives (health, economic development, social services, education, etc.)
- Many local, state, & national public agencies with different missions

The Role of Transportation?

Support economic vitality
Provide for business logistics
Provide personal mobility

“Stitch together the fabric of societies” (Gross, 2015, ITE 2015 Western District Annual Meeting)
Public Management (Official Authority)

Organizational Dynamics

- Complete streets exists as policy implemented through, at most ordinances; typically at the local level
- The National Complete Streets Coalition generates and advocates for complete streets policies
- Public agencies and department vary in their involvement in implementation of complete streets policy
- “Authority” comes from the cooperation and support with for example: the US Code, Safe Routes to School, Context Sensitive Solutions, etc.
The Great Streets Movement: Identifying How to Make Our Streets Great. (Mustafa & Birdsall; ITE Journal; March, 2014)

- National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Main Street Project, 1977
- Multi-organizational coordination developing technical guidance from principles

Complete Streets Come of Age: Learning From Boston and Other Innovators. (Sehngebot & Peiser; Planning; May, 2014)

- Local guidebooks instead of design manuals
- Multi-dimensional pursuits: multiple travel modes, green infrastructure, & “smart” technology
Public Management (Official “Authority”)

Transit and Complete Streets Helping to Create the Next Charlotte. (Newsome & Pleasant; ITE Journal; February, 2014)

- Case studies
- Experience & learn
- Leverage funding
- Recognize 60% stated preference for “urban” form


- 1960 driver first
- Delay as adverse
- Traffic studies should systematically consider context for modal priority
Public Policy Analysis (Authentic “Authority”)

Considering All Initiative Aspects

- Analysis for all public sector management
- Analysis for elected officials (executive & legislative)
- Analysis for community stakeholders & the general public
- Analysis for initiative “effectiveness” & “outcomes”
- Bring things together to make sense…
- The street is a quintessential social public space…
- Incomplete to complete streets must consider the history & legacy of the street…
Public Policy Implementation

• What are the organizational structure implications?
• What are the “authority” implications?
• What are the “intellectual” implications?
• How to cope with the “unknown”?
• Who are our allies?
• Who are our doubters?
Public Policy Implementation

Incorporating Complete Streets Into Transportation Master Plans. (Sears, ITE Journal, April 2014)

- Prepare Active Transportation Plans
- Road classification
- Sidewalks
- Policy

Placing Stakeholders and the Community at the Center of Lasting Transportation Improvements. (Catherine, ITE Journal, March 2015)

- State DOTs invest in community based planning
- Get all public, citizen, and public stakeholders involved early in scoping possibilities
Walking for Health – In Healthy Communities. (Walljasper, Planning, May 2014)

- 30 minutes of physical activity can prevent or help treat diabetes, breast & colon cancer, depression, dementia…
- National Walking Summit


- 20th Century suburbs
- 21st Century communities
Leadership and Change

Management Does Not Mean Leadership

• Nurture the passion and embrace the possibilities
• Meet 21st Century issues with 21st Century ideas & strategies (demographic shifts, technology, global dynamics…)
• Recognize the changing dynamics of generating, organizing, allocating, & ultimately justifying resource expenditure (taxes, user fees, bonding, performance measurement…)
• Cultivate organizational & inter-organizational partnerships
Leadership and Change

Creating Great Communities Through Transportation: A Perspective of Becoming More Relevant to the Public. (Mustafa & Jones; ITE Journal; February, 2015)

• Changing values
• Sustainability for all
• 21st Century characteristics: listen, seek feedback, engage everyone, focus on issues...

Really Complete Streets: Let’s Make Room for Parks and Recreation in the Right-of-Way. (Leonard & Egan; Planning; October, 2014)

• Nearly 40% of city land is public right-of-way
• Corridor plans are glorified access plans but should consider the complexity with land use
Leadership and Change

**Planning With Moms in Mind.** *(Pangborn-Dolde & Walker; ITE Journal; September, 2014)*

- Moms of young
- Physical activity
- Focus on caregivers
- Policy – make health central
- Create funding resources
- Quick fixes and innovate

**Engineers + Planners = Success: The World Is Better With Engineers and Planners Collaborating.** *(Blair, Pangborn-Dolde, Wyse, & Carney; ITE Journal; June, 2014)*

- Foster local cooperation with ITE and APA
- Health & active living
- Boomer, millennial shift
Working Together

Work to Establish a Genuine Collaborative Framework

• Cooperation is not collaboration
• Collaboration seeks mutual gains through purposeful, active engagement
• Listen, listen, listen, and then maybe talk…
• Encourage consideration of a wide range of “resources”
• Local non-profits could be the best advocates (health, economic development, community development…)
• Listen some more…
A Complete Streets Suggested Reading List


*The Street: A Quintessential Social Public Space;* Mehta; 2014; Routledge.
A Complete Streets Suggested Reading List

*Changing Metropolitan America: Planning for a Sustainable Future*; Hudnut III; 2008; The Urban Land Institute.

*Pedestrian and Transit-Oriented Design*; Ewing & Bartholomew; 2013; The Urban Land Institute & the American Planning Association.
Closing Thoughts for Consideration

• Embrace the complexity
• Complexity offers opportunity
• Foster non-profit and non-traditional transportation stakeholders engagement & participation
• Consider supporting community-oriented groups for advancing individual complete streets initiatives
• Everyone involved should take their organizational accounting colleagues to lunch & talk about accommodating the complex implications of complete streets arrangements
Thank you, questions?