5 Things Cities Must Do to Ensure Complete Streets

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ITE Vision Zero Task Force
#1 Possess a Safety Culture
Prioritize Safety First

Safety
Accessibility
Mobility
Be “All in” on Vision Zero

Engineer

Educate / Engage

Evaluate

Enforce

Top 5 Crash Locations
Example: Speed Limit Setting

Method to Determine Speed Limit:
85 percentile speed (comfort level)

vs.

Ensure a safe environment based on land use context / modal priorities
#2 Establish a City-wide Modal Hierarchy
Why?

The foundation of Complete Streets policies and design guidelines rests on the establishment of a new modal hierarchy framework that prioritizes the safety and accessibility of people as they walk, bicycle, and take transit - ahead of single occupant vehicles.

3.1 Modal Hierarchy

CDOT will use modal hierarchies to inform design and operation decisions. The default hierarchy is: Pedestrian > Transit > Bicycle > Automobile. Project-specific alternative hierarchies may be submitted for Compliance Committee approval. Some possible hierarchies include:

- Transit > Pedestrian > Bicycle > Automobile - along a major transit corridor
- Bicycle > Pedestrian > Transit > Automobile - along a bicycle priority street with bikeways or a bicycle boulevard
- Automobile > Pedestrian > Bicycle > Transit - in an industrial corridor or along a parkway with no bus service
#3 Keep Planning Ahead of Design & Operations
NACTO Design Guides: Planning Needs to Catch-up

Urban Street Design Guide
Published Fall 2013

Urban Bikeway Design Guide
Published Spring 2011
2nd Edition Fall 2012

Transit Street Design Guide
Published April 2016
What can we do now:
The Plan Needs to Include a Complete Streets Network
The Plan Needs to Include a Complete Streets Network with Modal Priorities
Establish a Prioritization Process for Guiding Tough Decisions

3.6 Street Trees
High demand for space limits landscaping, so street trees are prioritized. Read More »

2. Bike Intersection Design
Conflicts between bicyclists and pedestrians and motorists can often be mitigated with intersection design. Read More »

3.3 Transit
Transit zones within the Frequent Transit Network will have enhanced amenities and accommodate higher volumes of transit riders. Read More »

3.1 Sidewalks
Wide sidewalks accommodate a large number of pedestrians, creating a vibrant streetscape that supports access to businesses, residences, and transportation. Read More »
Formalize the prioritization process for allocating limited ROW
Priority setting: Ensure a balance between Technical and **Equitable** measures

- Equitable Use of Resources
- Data-driven priorities
#5 Progressively Manage Curb space
Challenges & Opportunities

a. Challenges
   i. Lack of “How to” Guidance
   ii. Address basic safety needs first
   iii. Must prioritize demands for curbspace

b. Opportunity to think differently!
   i. Set priorities
   ii. Define better performance standards
   iii. ID spatial relationships
   iv. Prepare for changing demands
Setting Priorities

Traditional parking
Handicapped parking
Bus stops
Uber / TNCs
Emergency access
Clear zones
Fire hydrants
Carsharing
Taxis
Vending trucks
Commercial loading
Bicycle facilities
No curb?
Curbs Can Serve Activity, Commerce, and Movement
Start a dialog on applicable performance measures

**Safety Measures**
- Minimum width requirements
- Minimum sight distance requirements
- Fire & rescue access / hydrants
- Examples of conflict points

**Mobility Measures**
- Person movement

**Accessibility Measures**
- ADA related
- Commercial loading
- Concentric rings
- Retail access: turnover & time restrictions
Develop a Process to Prioritize Curbspace
Guiding Principles

System Performance

Address Safety First: Baltimore streets will be designed to eliminate severe injuries and fatalities.

Be Accessible by Everyone: Baltimore streets will be accessible by all modes, for people of all ages and abilities.

Improve Mobility: Baltimore streets will efficiently and reliably move people and goods to, from and around the City.

Community Enhancement

Ensure Equity: Baltimore streets will reflect equal opportunities for travel regardless of race, income, age, disability, health, English language proficiency, and vehicular access.

Represent Baltimore’s Culture: Baltimore streets will reflect neighborhood values and promote economic vitality.