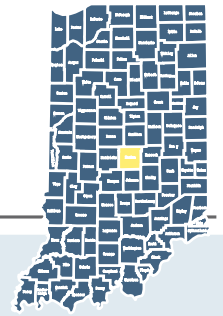
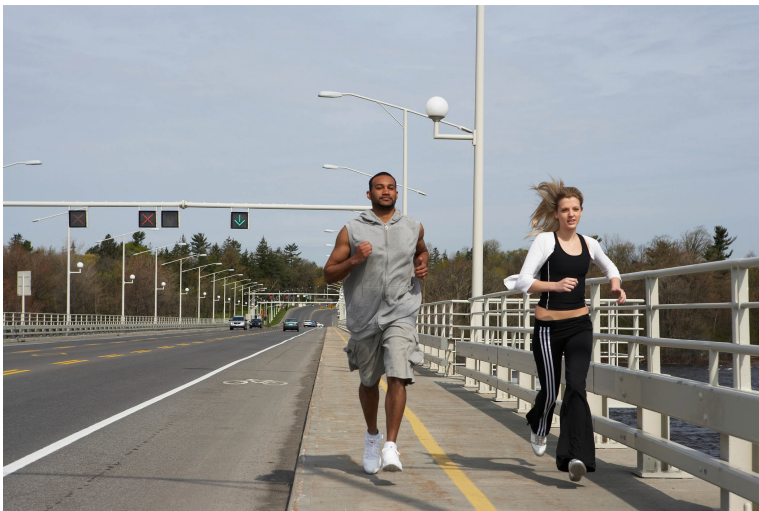


Indianapolis Complete Streets Ordinance's Passage and Implementation



SUMMARY

Indianapolis, similar to many large American cities, faces numerous challenges in the need to plan, design and maintain streets that are able to accommodate a wide range of users. Local and regional stakeholders decided to address these issues by promoting the adoption of a Complete Streets Ordinance that defines procedures and policies to implement this idea throughout the community. Complete Streets are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users: Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and public transportation users of all ages and abilities are able to safely move along and across a Complete Street. Staff from the Indiana State Department of Health's (ISDH's) Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity (DNPA) assisted with the effort to draft and promote the adoption of the Complete Streets Ordinance for Indianapolis.



CHALLENGE

Prior to adoption of the Complete Streets policy, Indianapolis and Marion County lacked an overall policy for consistently considering all users in the planning, design and maintenance of local streets. The unintended consequence is that many streets in Indianapolis do not include basic infrastructure accommodating walking, bicycling and access to transit. Approximately 32% of Marion County adults experienced obesity and 26% of adult Marion County residents reported no leisure-time physical activity in the past month, according to the 2017 County Health Ranking and Roadmaps. Physical activity can lower the risk of early death, heart disease, type 2 diabetes and some cancers. Physical activity also can help manage many chronic diseases, yet communities like Indianapolis struggle with educating residents and putting environmental changes (such as those supported by the Complete Streets Ordinance) into action to support physical activity such as biking or walking.

YOUR INVOLVEMENT IS KEY

For more information about Indianapolis' Complete Streets policy, visit the city's website at <http://www.indy.gov/eGov/City/DPW/RebuildIndy/Pages/Complete-Streets-Policy.aspx>.

More information about DNPA can be found at <http://www.dnpa.isdh.in.gov>.

"As Indianapolis continues to grow, it is essential we plan for the safe and mixed use of our streets and sidewalks."

- Maggie Lewis
Indianapolis City-County Council
Past President

Contact

Pete Fritz, AICP, RLA
Indiana State Department of Health
Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity

2 N. Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: 317-234-6808
Email: pefritz@isdh.in.gov
Website: <http://www.dnpa.isdh.in.gov>

SOLUTION

The road to passage of Indianapolis' Complete Streets Ordinance began in June 2009, with a one-and-a-half-day statewide workshop co-sponsored by National Complete Streets Coalition members, AARP Indiana and Health by Design (a regional active living coalition). Later that year, members of the City-County Council began discussions about formulating a Complete Streets Ordinance with input from this diverse coalition of stakeholders, including representatives from ISDH and DNPA. In January 2010, AARP Indiana and Health by Design launched the Indiana Complete Streets Campaign, which now includes more than 75 organizations and 250 individuals.

During this time, AARP Indiana began conducting walkability assessments in various locations in the Indianapolis/ Marion County area. These assessments began to engage neighborhoods and local residents in a discussion about complete streets. They also increased awareness of these issues to City-County Council members and ultimately helped enlist their support for the ordinance.

During the following months, from September 2011 until the spring of 2012, a full schedule of partner meetings, education and advocacy activities occurred. The Mayor's Office, the Department of Public Works, the Office of Sustainability and other organizations came together to draft language for the ordinance and to garner support for it.

RESULTS

On Aug. 13, 2012, the Indianapolis Complete Streets Ordinance passed with a unanimous vote of the Indianapolis-Marion County City-County Council, and it was signed by Mayor Greg Ballard just 10 days later. The successful passage of the Complete Streets Ordinance would not have been possible without the coordinated efforts of a diverse group of partners. Health by Design's Indiana Complete Streets Coalition, AARP Indiana and DNPA staff were key to the success of the effort.

The National Complete Streets Coalition designated the Indianapolis Complete Streets Ordinance as the best complete streets policy adopted in the United States in 2012. The reason for the designation was that the policy included all the elements recommended by the National Complete Streets Coalition for these policies and an effective advocacy process leading up to adoption.

SUSTAINING SUCCESS

Since the adoption of the Complete Streets Ordinance in 2012, Indianapolis has continued to expand on implementation of the ordinance. The city hosted a Complete Streets implementation workshop in 2015 and has formed a Complete Streets Advisory Council that meets quarterly to monitor implementation activities.

The Complete Streets approach continues to be included in various planning processes throughout the city. The policy laid the groundwork for hiring planning staff to lead the preparation of a new Transportation Integration Plan, providing policy guidance for integrating various transportation modes in Indianapolis in a more sustainable manner.

U.S. Department of Health and Human
Services
Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention
NCCDPHP

Contact CDC

<http://www.cdc.gov/cdc-info/requestform.html>

Website

<http://nccd.cdc.gov/nccdsuccessstories/>

The findings and conclusions in this success story are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the funding agencies or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



Indiana State
Department of Health