



S. 2077 - The Complete Streets Act of 2019

The Issue »

Complete Streets policies require that communities plan, design and build their streets for all users: a complete street can accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transit users, not just cars and freight vehicles. For over 15 years, bicyclist and pedestrian organizations have joined the National Complete Streets Coalition and others to advocate for their communities and states to adopt these policies. During that time, more than 1500 Complete Streets policies have been passed in the United States, including by 35 States, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia.

Now, Congress can show leadership by taking the next step and offering technical assistance, funding, and guidance to local governments as they implement Complete Streets plans nationwide.

The Solution »

The Complete Streets Act of 2019 (S.2077), introduced by Senator Markey [D-MA] will make our streets safe and accessible for all users.

What it Does »

- » Strengthens language governing the design of federally funded surface transportation projects to require states and MPOs to adopt and implement complete streets standards,
- » Requires US DOT to create minimum standards for what a local complete streets policy must include, and
- » Requires states set aside 5% of their federal highway funding to establish a technical assistance and construction grant program to help local governments build complete streets projects.

Why it Matters »

- » One in three traffic fatalities is someone outside a car--pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists and people using mobility devices including wheelchairs or scooters—and it's becoming deadlier by the year to share the road with cars, both in real numbers and as a percentage of overall traffic fatalities.
- » In fact, more pedestrians and cyclists were killed in 2018 than in any year since 1990. These deaths are due to years of prioritizing traffic speed over safety in transportation engineering and we can prevent these deaths through legislative actions.
- » With 1500 Complete Streets policies across the country, we see a desire to redesign our streets for everyone but we still see the difficulty in changing the way engineering is done. Offering technical assistance and standards gives communities a place to start.
- » Complete Streets policies consider all users of the roadway including motorists, emergency vehicles, freight, bicyclists, pedestrians and people with disabilities while allowing states and local governments to come up with criteria and designs that fit their community.

What You Can Do »

Please co-sponsor S.2077, The Complete Streets Act of 2019.

To cosponsor the legislation, contact Eric_Kashdan@markey.senate.gov.