

RESOLUTION NO. 16- 2

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENICIA ADOPTING A COMPLETE STREETS POLICY

WHEREAS, the term "Complete Streets" describes a comprehensive, integrated transportation network with infrastructure and design that allows safe and convenient travel along and across streets for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, persons with disabilities, motorists, movers of commercial goods, users and operators of public transportation, seniors, children, youth and families; and

WHEREAS, the City of Benicia acknowledges the benefits and value for the public health and welfare of reducing vehicle miles traveled and increasing transportation by walking, bicycling, and public transit; and

WHEREAS, the City of Benicia recognizes that the planning and coordinated development of Complete Streets infrastructure provides benefits for local governments in the areas of infrastructure cost savings, public health and environmental sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has emphasized the importance of Complete Streets by enacting the California Complete Streets Act of 2008 (AB 1358), which requires that when cities or counties revise general plans, they identify how they will provide for the mobility needs of all users of the roadways, as well as through Deputy Directive 64, in which the California Department of Transportation explained that it "views all transportation improvements as opportunities to improve safety, access, and mobility for all travelers in California and recognizes bicycle, pedestrian, and transit modes as integral elements of the transportation system"; and

WHEREAS, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) sets a mandate for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in California, and the Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 (known as SB 375) requires emissions reductions through coordinated regional planning that integrates transportation, housing, and land use policy, and achieving the goals of these laws will require significant increases in travel by public transit, bicycling and walking; and

WHEREAS, adoption of a Complete Streets policy is consistent with the Benicia General Plan Circulation Goals 2.14, 2.15, 2.16, 2.17, and 2.20 which encourage development of additional pedestrian, bicycle and transit facilities for a more comprehensive transportation system; and

WHEREAS, Complete Streets policies advance the overarching Sustainability theme of the General Plan and the specific objectives of the Climate Action Plan which call for increasing bicycle and pedestrian mode share (Objective T-3), increasing transit ridership (Objective T-4), increasing carpooling (Objective T-7), and reducing reliance on the conventional automobile (Objective T-8); and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is requiring jurisdictions who wish to access OneBayArea Grant Program (OBAG 2) transportation funds during the upcoming five-year grant cycle to adopt a Complete Streets Resolution incorporating MTC's nine required complete streets elements by January 31, 2016; and

WHEREAS, on December 10, 2015 the Planning Commission adopted Resolution No. 15-13 recommending that the City Council adopt the Complete Streets Policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council of the City of Benicia adopts the Complete Streets Policy, in accordance with the requirements of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, attached hereto as Exhibit A and made a part of this Resolution, and that said exhibit is hereby approved and adopted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Benicia will review its General Plan to determine if it meets the policies and principles of the California Complete Streets Act of 2008 (AB 1358) and the Complete Streets Policy adopted by this resolution and, if not, the City of Benicia will incorporate the necessary changes with the next substantial revision of the City of Benicia General Plan Circulation Element.

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On motion of Council Member **Campbell**, seconded by Council Member **Schwartzman**, the above Resolution was introduced and passed by the City Council of the City of Benicia at a regular meeting of said Council held on the 5th day of January, 2016, and adopted by the following vote.

Ayes: **Council Members Campbell, Hughes, Schwartzman, Strawbridge, and Mayor Patterson**

Noes: **None**

Absent: **None**


Elizabeth Patterson, Mayor

Attest:


Lisa Wolfe, City Clerk

1-11-16
Date

Exhibit A: Complete Streets Policy of City of Benicia

This Complete Streets Policy was adopted by Resolution No. 15-__ by the City Council of the City of Benicia on January 5, 2016.

A. Complete Streets Principles

- 1. Complete Streets Serving All Users.** The City of Benicia expresses its commitment to creating and maintaining Complete Streets that provide safe, comfortable, and convenient travel along and across streets (including streets, roads, highways, bridges, and other portions of the transportation system) through a comprehensive, integrated transportation network that serves all categories of users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, persons with disabilities, motorists, movers of commercial goods, users and operators of public transportation, seniors, children, youth, and families.
- 2. Context Sensitivity.** In planning and implementing street projects, departments and agencies of the City of Benicia shall maintain sensitivity to local conditions in both residential and business districts as well as urban, suburban, and rural areas, and shall work with residents, merchants, and other stakeholders to ensure that a strong sense of place ensues. Improvements that will be considered include sidewalks, shared use paths, bicycle lanes, bicycle routes, paved shoulders, street trees and landscaping, planting strips, accessible curb ramps, crosswalks, refuge islands, pedestrian signals, signs, street furniture, bicycle parking facilities, public transportation stops and facilities, transit priority signalization, and other features assisting in the provision of safe travel for all users, such as traffic calming circles, transit bulb outs, and road diets.
- 3. Complete Streets Routinely Addressed by All Departments.** All relevant departments and agencies of the City of Benicia shall work towards making Complete Streets practices a routine part of everyday operations, approach every relevant project, program, and practice as an opportunity to improve streets and the transportation network for all categories of users, and work in coordination with other departments, agencies, and jurisdictions to maximize opportunities for Complete Streets, connectivity, and cooperation. The following projects provide opportunities: pavement resurfacing, restriping, accessing above and underground utilities, signalization operations or modifications, and maintenance of landscaping/related features.
- 4. All Projects and Phases.** Complete Streets infrastructure sufficient to enable reasonably safe travel along and across the right of way for each category of users shall be incorporated into all planning, funding, design, approval, and implementation processes for any construction, reconstruction, retrofit, maintenance, operations, alteration, or repair of streets (including streets, roads, highways, bridges, and other portions of the transportation system), except that specific infrastructure for a given category of users may be excluded if an

exemption is approved via the process set forth in section C. 1 of this policy.

B. Implementation

- 1. Plan Consultation and Consistency.** Maintenance, planning, and design of projects affecting the transportation system shall be consistent with local bicycle, pedestrian, transit, multimodal, and other relevant plans, except that where such consistency cannot be achieved without negative consequences, consistency shall not be required if the head of the relevant department provides written approval explaining the basis of such deviation. If the City of Benicia has a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, such deviations shall be presented to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee early in the planning and design stage, to ensure the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee has an opportunity to provide comments and recommendations.
- 2. Street Network/Connectivity.** As feasible, the City of Benicia shall incorporate Complete Streets infrastructure into existing streets to improve the safety and convenience of users and to create employment, with the particular goal of creating a connected network of facilities accommodating each category of users, and increasing connectivity across jurisdictional boundaries and for existing and anticipated future areas of travel origination or destination.
- 3. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Consultation.** The City of Benicia Traffic, Pedestrian, Bicycle Safety Committee shall review transportation projects early in the planning and design stage to provide an opportunity to provide comments and recommendations regarding Complete Streets features to be incorporated into the project.
- 4. Evaluation.** All relevant agencies or departments shall perform evaluations of how well the streets and transportation network of the City of Benicia are serving each category of users by collecting baseline data and collecting follow-up data on a regular basis.

C. Exemptions

Leadership Approval for Exemptions. Projects that seek Complete Streets exemptions must provide written finding of why accommodations for all modes that were not included in the project and signed off by the Public Works Director or equivalent high level staff person. Projects that are granted exceptions must be made publically available for review. Federal guidance on exceptions can be found from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Accommodating Bicycle and Pedestrian Travel http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/guidance/design_guidance/design.cfm