



Complete Streets | Transforming Communities
October 18, 2021

Complete Streets

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

Jeff Riegner
Rybinski Engineering, LLC



What are Complete Streets?

Complete Streets are safe, comfortable, and convenient for travel for everyone, regardless of age or ability – motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transportation riders.



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What are Complete Streets?

- Streets for people
- Assets to their communities
- Inherently walkable
- What else?



What do we want from our streets?

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WE HAVE TRADITIONALLY MEASURED . . .

- Safety
- Capacity

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- Safety
- Capacity (for motor vehicles)

What do we want from our streets?

- Safety
- Capacity (for motor vehicles)
- Is there more?

What do we want from our streets?

STREETS ARE THE CENTER OF A COMMUNITY'S CIVIC LIFE



What do we want from our streets?

IS THIS HOW YOU WANT YOUR COMMUNITY TO BE KNOWN?



What do we want from our streets?

STREETS ARE ECONOMIC ENGINES



What do we want from our streets?

ENHANCED ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

Washington, DC: Barracks Row/8th Street SE

- \$8 million public investment in streetscape improvements over a two-year period
- \$8 million in private investment in the following two years
- 32 new business establishments
- \$80,000 in sales tax annually



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STREETS ARE OPEN SPACE

A wide, tree-lined street at dusk. The street is paved and has a central lane. On both sides, there are large, mature trees with green leaves. The street is illuminated by warm, yellow streetlights. On the right side, there are market stalls with white canopies, displaying various goods. Pedestrians are walking on the sidewalks, and a few people are riding bicycles. The sky is a deep blue, and the buildings on the right are lit up. The overall atmosphere is lively and pleasant.

$1/4 - 1/3$

What do we want from our streets?

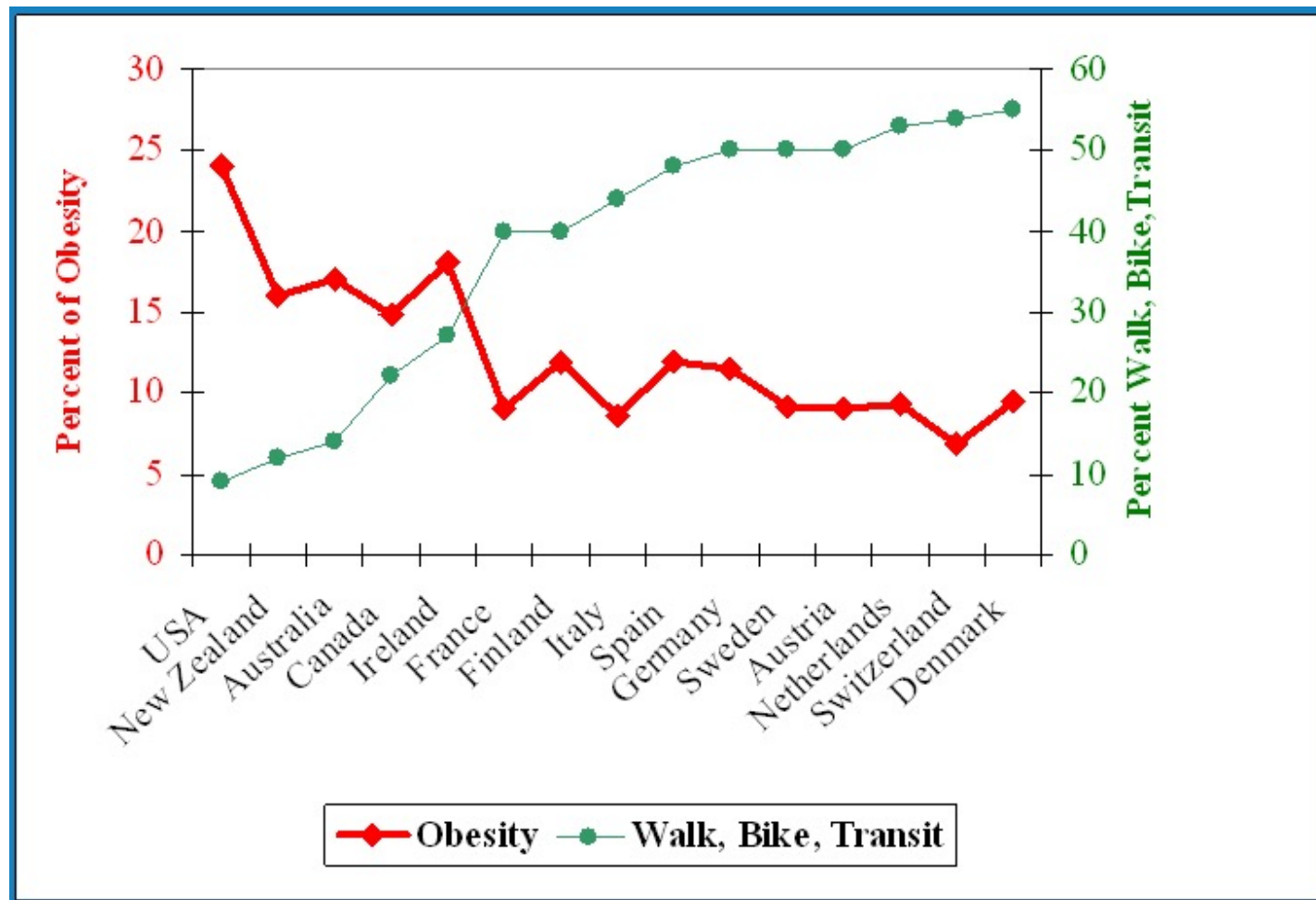
STREETS PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN PUBLIC HEALTH



What do we want from our streets?

STREETS PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN PUBLIC HEALTH

Obesity is lower in places where people use bicycles, public transportation, and their feet.

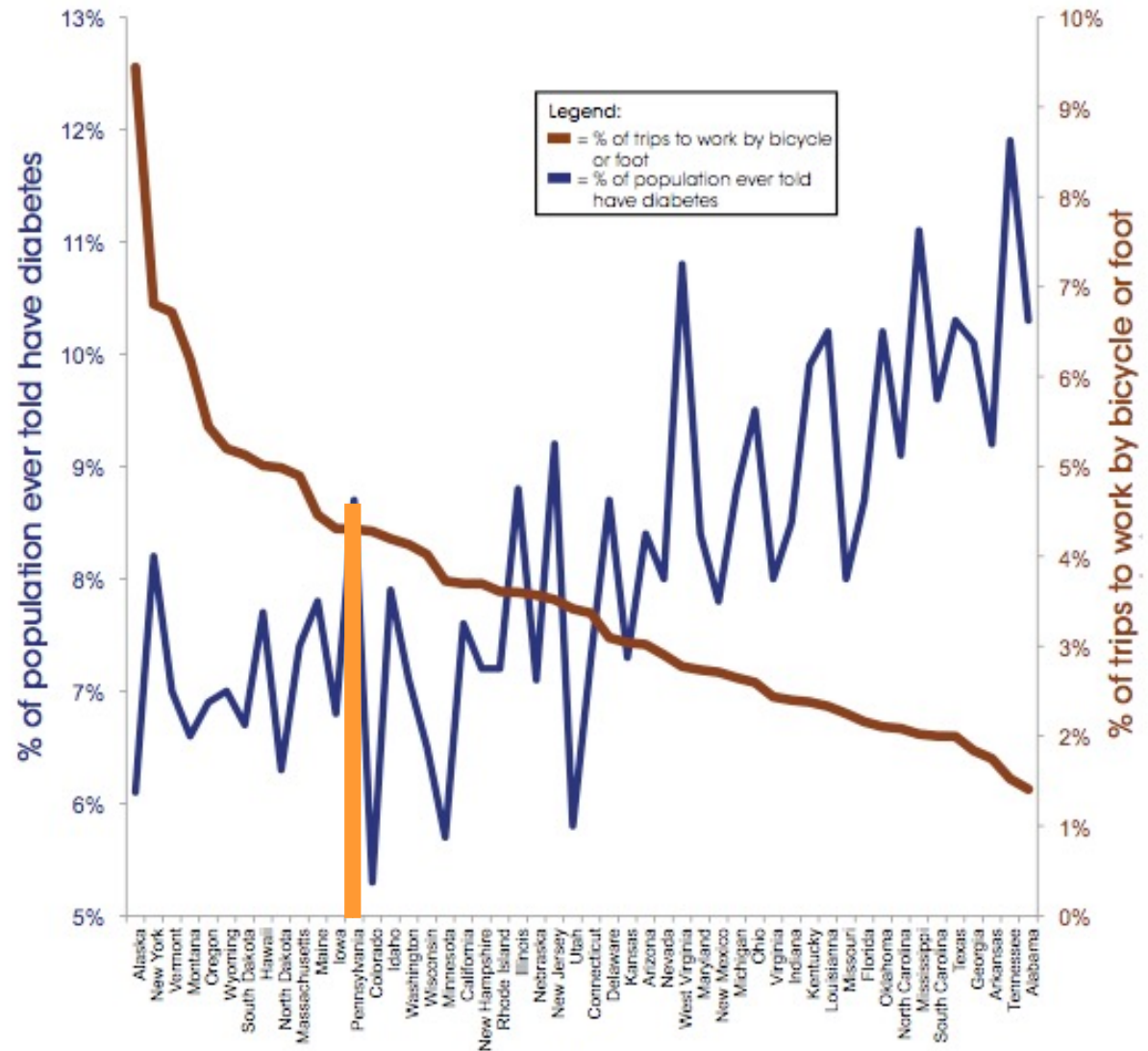


What do we want from our streets?

STREETS PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN PUBLIC HEALTH

States with the lowest levels of biking and walking have, on average, the highest rates of obesity, diabetes, and high blood pressure.

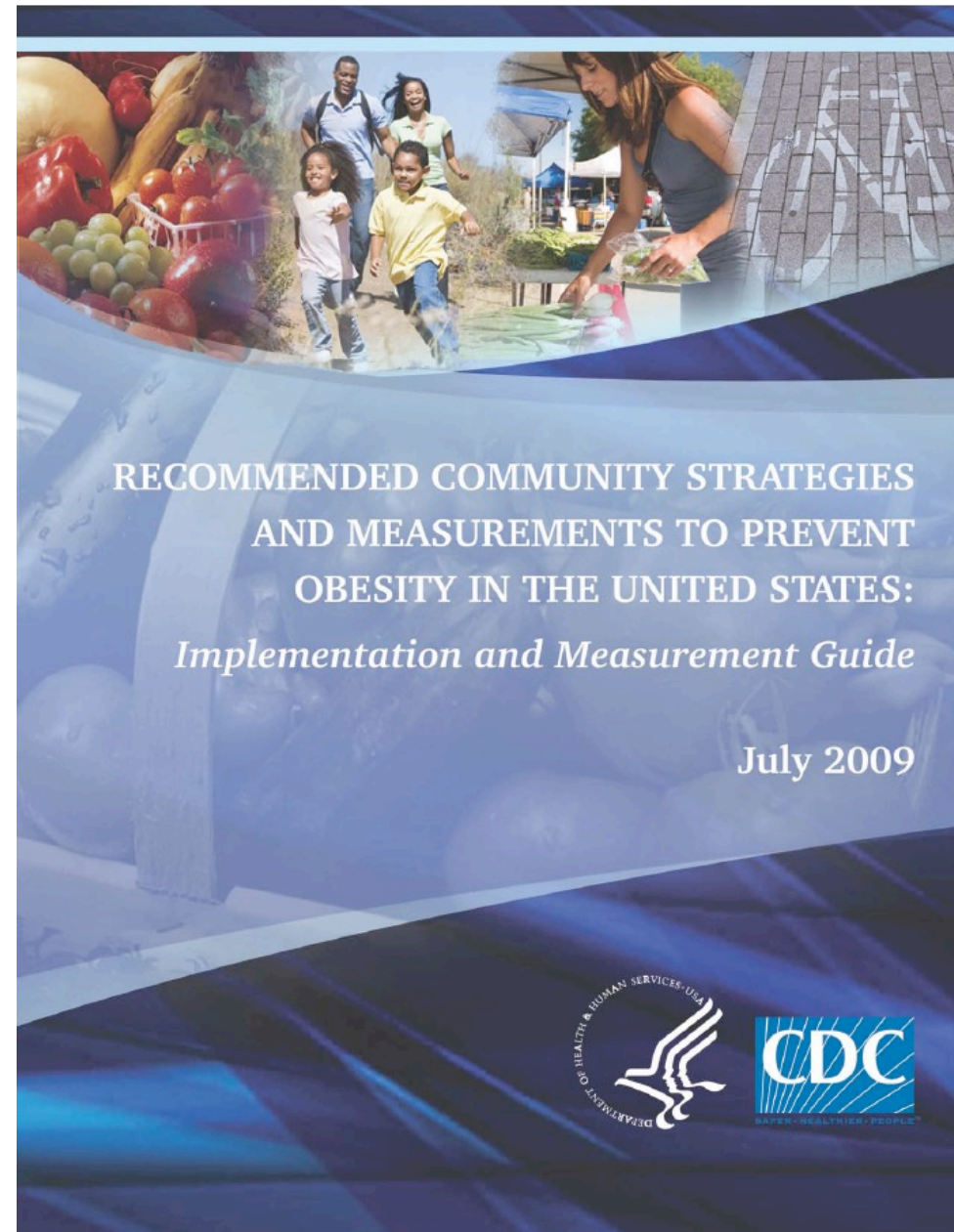
Comparing Bicycling and Walking to Diabetes Rates in 50 States



What do we want from our streets?

STREETS PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN PUBLIC HEALTH

Adoption of Complete Streets policies is one of the CDC's recommended strategies to prevent obesity.



What do we want from our streets?

SAFETY IS ALSO A HEALTH ISSUE

... and speed is a principal determinant of safety for all users of urban streets.

What do we want from our streets?

SAFETY IS ALSO A HEALTH ISSUE

... and speed is a principal determinant of safety for all users of urban streets.

SPEED (MPH)	STOPPING DISTANCE (FT)*	CRASH RISK (%)†	FATALITY RISK (%)†
10–15	25	5	2
20–25	40	15	5
30–35	75	55	45
40+	118	90	85

* Stopping Distance includes perception, reaction, and braking times.

† Source: Traditional Neighborhood Development: Street Design Guidelines (1999), ITE Transportation Planning Council Committee 5P-8.

What do we want from our streets?

- Safety
- Capacity
- Civic pride
- Economic strength
- Public health outcomes
- Beauty

What do we want from our streets?

“Streets are the public realm and should be designed to a higher standard as beautiful, safe and comfortable places for all people, in order to equitably support the common good....”

City of Austin Complete Streets Policy

- Safety
- Capacity
- Civic pride
- Economic strength
- Public health outcomes
- Beauty



***A Complete
Streets approach
will help us
achieve these
outcomes***

Examples of a Complete Streets approach

BEFORE



Examples

AFTER



Examples

BEFORE



DURING CONSTRUCTION



Photo: Lancaster, California

Examples

AFTER



Photo: Lancaster, California

Examples

BEFORE



Photo: San Diego, California
(Dan Burden, Walkable and Livable Communities Institute, Inc.)

Examples

AFTER



Photo: San Diego, California
(Dan Burden, Walkable and Livable Communities Institute, Inc.)

Examples

BEFORE



Photo: Cary, Illinois

AFTER



Photo: Cary, Illinois

BEFORE



Photo: Boulder, Colorado

Examples

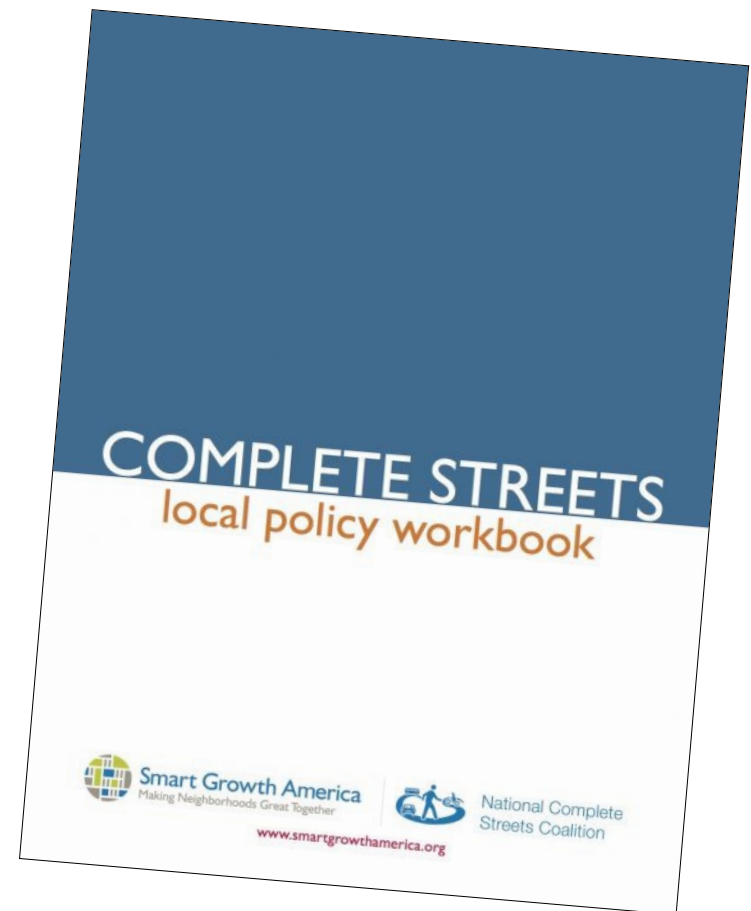
AFTER



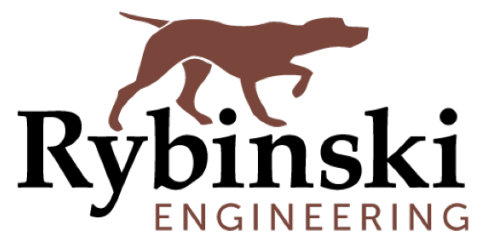
Photo: Boulder, Colorado

Where does our community go from here?

- Explore resources at completestreets.org
 - Build support throughout the community
 - Learn how to develop a Complete Streets policy using the Ten Elements
 - Make it happen!
- Work with PennDOT through PennDOT Connects to apply your policy across all streets in your community



Questions?



Jeff Riegner
jeff.riegner@rybinski.com