



National Complete Streets Coalition

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National Complete Streets Coalition Brief Annual Report, 2009

The National Complete Streets Coalition had a record-breaking year in 2009, as we worked with dozens of communities to adopt new complete streets policies, introduced bills into Congress, and drew the engagement of the Obama Administration.

Work with the Obama Administration

President Obama's Department of Transportation is very interested in Complete Streets. In November, Barbara McCann and Complete Streets Coalition members met with U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood, who said in [his subsequent blog post](#), "It turns out that a complete streets approach offers the perfect intersection of my twin guideposts: safety and livable communities."



Two days later we had a substantive 1.5 hour meeting with three of the four senior staff in the Secretary's Policy office as well as representatives of the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration to talk about our recommendations for how the USDOT can encourage Complete Streets practices in the states even as we await passage of a Complete Streets law. We have maintained close contact with staff in the Secretary's office since.

State and Local Policies Multiply

Advocates won passage of new state Complete Streets laws in Connecticut, Hawaii, and Wisconsin, and several state Departments of Transportation developed new internal policies, most notably a [strong policy adopted by North Carolina](#). Nine bills were introduced into state legislatures in 2009. We are working with coalitions in Minnesota, Louisiana and other states on new bills for 2010.

Including cities, counties, and regional governments, forty-two jurisdictions nationwide adopted policies in 2009 – a record-breaking year. Many communities became the first in their state to commit to complete streets, including Hennepin County, MN, North Little Rock, AR, Ada County, ID, Montclair, NJ, and Fairhope, AL. In October, we celebrated reaching the milestone of more than 100 policies nationwide with a Capitol Hill reception

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co-hosted by the American Planning Association and attended by planners from across the country. As of this writing we stand at 120 policies nationwide – keep track on our [Atlas](#).

Federal Legislation Advances

Last spring, we introduced the Complete Streets Act of 2009 in the U.S. Senate and House (S. 584 and H.R. 1443). Our [congressional briefing](#) on the new bills was standing room only, and the audience heard from passionate local elected officials, and a top CDC official. Co-sponsorship for our stand-alone bills is growing steadily, and a Complete Streets provision is included in the draft House bill, the Surface Transportation Authorization Act. Our biggest challenge remains securing Republican co-sponsors. We have focused on a number of Republicans in both the House and Senate, generating contacts from constituents and from local elected officials, but in the polarized atmosphere we have not met success. Our next strategy is to try to get two Republicans in the House to co-sponsor at the same time. Numerous other bills in Congress that address transportation accountability, livability, health, and climate change include references to Complete Streets.

Spreading the Word

Complete Streets received heightened media attention in 2009, most notably around the release of the Dangerous by Design report by Transportation for America, which highlighted pedestrian deaths and made Complete Streets the centerpiece solution. Dangerous by Design and Complete Streets [were covered extensively](#) in both national and local media, including Time Magazine, National Public Radio, USA Today, Christian Science Monitor, Washington Post, Boston Globe, San Francisco Chronicle, Denver Post, Baltimore Sun, Houston Chronicle, Consumer Affairs, Orlando Sentinel, Detroit Free Press, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and dozens more. During this period, our web traffic reached almost 20,000 hits a day.

Helping Communities Get it Right

Coalition staff and partners engaged in three major research projects this year aimed at putting new tools into practitioners' and advocates' hands. The AARP Public Policy Institute issued [Planning Complete Streets for an Aging America](#), in partnership with Coalition staff and another Coalition partner, the Institute of Transportation Engineers. Barbara McCann and other Coalition staff worked closely with the American Planning Association on the [Complete Streets Best Practices Manual](#), due out early in 2010. And Transportation for America issued the media-oriented report, [Dangerous by Design](#).

Many communities and advocates depend on the resources and knowledge of the Coalition to further local efforts. We help them connect through the extensive resources on our webpage, provide phone and email guidance on policy language, and review pending policy documents. We refer communities looking for more extensive help to our corporate Partners, who are also listed on our ['Hiring Help'](#) page. Our Complete Streets Workshop program, coordinated by the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals, has led over a dozen Complete Streets Workshops in 2009 for communities as diverse as Wichita, Kansas, the Louisiana Department of Transportation, and Hennepin County, Minnesota.