

Appendix G – LaDOTD – Complete Streets Policy



Office of the Secretary
PO Box 94245 | Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9245
ph: 225-379-1200 | fx: 225-379-1851

John Bel Edwards, Governor
Shawn D. Wilson, Ph.D., Secretary

Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development Complete Streets Policy Revised

The intent of this policy is to create a comprehensive, integrated, connected transportation network for Louisiana that balances access, mobility and safety needs of motorists, transit users, bicyclists, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities, which includes users of wheelchairs and mobility aids. It ensures a fully integrated transportation system, by planning, funding, designing, constructing, managing, and maintaining a complete and multi-modal network that achieves and sustains mobility, while safely accommodating pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users.

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) will provide the leadership to implement this policy on all transportation projects that involve federal or state funding or approval. DOTD recognizes the need for interdisciplinary coordination to effectively develop, operate, and maintain bicycle and pedestrian networks. DOTD will work with Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), transit agencies, parishes, municipalities and other stakeholders to do the same. This includes early coordination to identify whether a reconstruction or new construction project will impact a route identified on a local Complete Street plan as defined in the Complete Streets EDSM. DOTD will offer internal and external training opportunities and other resource tools in the following areas: engineering, education, planning, and evaluation. Maintenance for sidewalks and bicycle facilities outside the limits of the curb, shoulder, or barrier will be the responsibility of the local jurisdiction. Maintenance agreements will be required as a provision of the entire project.

Provisions for all users will be integrated into the project development process for the entirety of all projects through design features, using Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS).

- On all new and reconstruction roadway projects that serve adjacent areas with existing or reasonably foreseeable future development or transit service, DOTD should plan, fund, and design sidewalks and other pedestrian facilities. The appropriate facility type will be determined by the context of the roadway with local government involvement.
- On all new and reconstruction roadway projects, DOTD should provide bicycle accommodations appropriate to the context of the roadway. The provision of a paved shoulder of sufficient width, bicycle lane, a shared use path, or a marked shared lane may also suffice, depending on context with local government involvement.

All projects shall consider the impact that improvements will have on safety for all users and make all reasonable attempts to mitigate negative impacts on non-motorized modes. Restricting non-motorized access should not be considered as an appropriate strategy with the exception of those limited access facilities where pedestrians and bicyclists are prohibited. DOTD will strive to ensure projects do not become barriers to pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users by providing appropriate safe crossings, providing corridor continuity, and ensuring transportation projects comply with the current accessibility guidelines.

There are conditions where it is generally inappropriate to provide bicycle and pedestrian facilities. These instances include:

1. Facilities, such as Interstates, where bicyclists and pedestrians are prohibited by law from using the roadway. In this instance, a greater effort may be necessary to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians elsewhere within the same transportation corridor.
2. The cost of providing bicycle and pedestrian facilities would be excessively disproportionate to the need or probable use. Excessively disproportionate will be defined in the Complete Streets EDSM.
3. Other factors where there is a demonstrated absence of need or prudence. For example, in rural areas or undeveloped areas where future development is not anticipated, sidewalks and designated bikeways will generally not be provided.
4. On projects that are preservation/operations/rehabilitation/replacement only, DOTD will only consider improvements that do not require right-of-way acquisition, utility relocation, relocating or enclosing roadside drainage or major construction to provide bicycle, pedestrian or transit accommodations. These improvements may include narrowing lanes, restriping, road reconfiguration and other means of providing improved bicycle and pedestrian access according to the local complete street plan. When an identified need or candidate requires right-of-way acquisition, utility relocation, or major construction, DOTD will work with local government to identify funding for the identified need as a separate project.

Exceptions for not accommodating bicyclists, pedestrians and transit users in accordance with this policy will require the approval of the DOTD Chief Engineer.

When an MPO or local jurisdiction is not in agreement with DOTD's accommodation for bicyclists or pedestrians, they can introduce a formal appeal by means of a resolution adopted by the local governing body or board. The resolution must be submitted to the Chief Engineer for review and consideration prior to the final design approval.

Facilities will be designed and constructed in accordance with current applicable laws and regulations, using best practices and guidance from the following, but not limited to: DOTD guidelines and manuals, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) publications, the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), and the Public Rights-of-Ways Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG).

DOTD recognizes that a well-planned and designed transportation system that is responsive to its context and meets the needs of its users is the result of thoughtful planning and engineering. DOTD further recognizes the need to provide a framework for evaluation and a targeted strategy for the implementation steps identified. To this end, DOTD will work with a diverse group of stakeholders, including transportation professionals, local governing agencies, advocates, and others, as appropriate, to continue to support and steer the implementation efforts both internal and external to DOTD.



Shawn D. Wilson, Ph.D.

Secretary

Department of Transportation and Development
State of Louisiana

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