

Introduced by: Public Safety and
Transportation
Commission
Date: July 24, 2012
Action: Failed
Vote: 2-4

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

RESOLUTION #12-16

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL PROVIDING FOR A
COMPLETE STREETS POLICY AND DIRECTING STAFF TO DEVELOP
IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES TO INCREASE THE USABILITY OF
ALL STREETS FOR ALL MODES OF TRAVEL FOR CITIZENS OF ALL
AGES AND ABILITIES IN
BETHEL**

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel wishes to ensure that all users of our transportation system are able to travel safely and conveniently on all streets and roadways within the public right-of-way in Bethel;

WHEREAS, a complete street is defined as one which provides a safe, convenient, and context-sensitive facility for all modes of travel, for users of all ages and all abilities;

WHEREAS, complete streets better serve the needs of those who use transit by providing access to transit systems;

WHEREAS, complete streets have public health benefits, such as encouraging physical activity and improving air quality, by providing the opportunity for more people to bike and walk safely;

WHEREAS, complete streets improve access and safety for those who cannot or choose not to drive motor vehicles;

WHEREAS, complete streets are essential in providing safe routes to school for children;

WHEREAS, complete streets policies have been adopted legislatively by at least five states, and by at least 36 localities – of which 13 are by local law (resolutions or ordinances);

WHEREAS, the City of Bethel currently has a limited complete streets policy;

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City of Bethel to formalize a commitment to the principles of complete streets for all of our streets;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Bethel Alaska as follows: that Bethel commits to a Complete Streets Policy which has the following elements:

1. Any roadway in the City of Bethel which is to be newly constructed or completely reconstructed must be designed and constructed to
 - a. Provide for the safety and convenience of all users of all ages and of all abilities: pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and motorists; and
 - b. Address the needs of all users both along roadway corridors and crossing the corridors.
2. Any project in which an existing roadway surface is to be restored or rehabilitated, and any remediation of deficient or non-existent sidewalks, shall be reviewed for the potential of making the roadway a complete street. Consideration shall particularly include proportionality: is the scope of work needed to make a complete street reasonable in relation to the scope of the proposed roadway maintenance or improvement?
3. Any exception to applying this Complete Streets Policy to a specific roadway project must be approved by the City Council, with documentation of the reason for the exception.
4. An annual report will be made to the City Council by the City Administration showing progress made in implementing this policy.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Complete Streets Policy will apply to the scoping, design, and construction of projects.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Public Works Department will review current design standards which apply to new roadway construction, to assure that they reflect the best available design standards and guidelines, and effectively implement the Complete Streets Policy above stated.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these design standards also serve as guidance for all existing roadway rehabilitation, reconstruction, or resurfacing, to the extent that the work required is reasonably proportional to the scale of the proposed rehabilitation, reconstruction, or resurfacing.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that application of design standards will be flexible to permit context-sensitive design, fitting the roadway design within the context of the neighborhood, recognizing that all streets are different and user needs will be balanced.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that staff in the Public Works Department be directed to develop ordinances, resolutions, programs, and recommendations for funding to implement the Complete Streets Policy, for consideration by the City Council; and that

these shall identify the complete streets needs and recommend a plan to meet those needs, including for sidewalks, throughout the city.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council commits to including Complete Streets Policy and principles in all future City plans.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS ___ DAY OF AUGUST 2012, BY A VOTE OF _ IN FAVOR AND _IN OPPOSITION.

Joseph A. Klejka, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lori Strickler, City Clerk