

**RESOLUTION NO. 9968**

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS COMPLETE STREETS POLICY**

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Whereas, the Great Falls City Commission adopted the Downtown Master Plan as an attachment to the 2005 City of Great Falls Growth Policy which recommends the development and adoption of a complete streets policy; and

Whereas, the purpose of this complete streets policy is to protect and enhance public health, safety and welfare through the planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of the City's streets and roadways; and

Whereas, this complete streets policy is intended to create a streamlined framework for City staff to collaboratively plan, design, construct and maintain the City's streets and roadways in a safe, efficient and holistic manner; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA, THAT:

**1. Complete Streets Community Vision:**

Complete streets are intended to create a safe, efficient, affordable and balanced transportation system that makes Great Falls a more livable, enjoyable, and attractive community for current residents and future generations. This complete streets policy will be utilized by the City of Great Falls to align the City's transportation and land use planning and policy with the protection and enhancement of the health, safety and welfare of the City's residents.

**2. Users and Modes:**

Complete streets are intended to ensure that the City's transportation system accommodates users of all ages and abilities and all modes of transportation, including: motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders in a safe, balanced, equitable and responsible manner.

**3. Projects and Phases:**

The City of Great Falls will consider all users of the transportation network and all modes of transportation in the scoping, planning, and design phases and the construction, operation and maintenance of the streets and roadways under the City's jurisdiction.

This complete streets policy shall be applied to the following types of projects: new construction, resurfacing and rehabilitation, striping and other maintenance projects as well as privately built roads and easements intended for public use. Complete streets may be achieved through single projects or incrementally through a series of regularly scheduled improvements and operation activities.

**4. Exceptions:**

Complete streets principles and practices shall be applied to all new construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, rehabilitation, striping and other maintenance projects, including those constructed by private developers, except under one or more of the following conditions:

- A. Daily, routine or emergency maintenance designed to keep the street or roadway in serviceable condition, including but not limited to pothole repair, excavation patches, or other similar activities of a minor nature; or
- B. A project occurring on a roadway where insufficient space, extreme natural or topographical features and/or high safety risks make automobile transportation the only feasible option; or
- C. A documented absence of current and future need for the provision of complete streets elements; or
- D. The cost of accommodation of complete streets elements is excessive and disproportionate to the benefit of accommodation. Costs and benefits, including financial, quality of life and community benefits should be considered as part of this determination.

The exceptions described in B, C, and D above must be approved by the Director of Public Works, the Director of Planning and Community Development and the Chief of Police.

**5. Network:**

The City of Great Falls, in cooperation with other partners whenever possible, will design, operate and maintain a multi-modal network of transportation facilities that connect the City's neighborhoods, schools, employment centers, parks and other community amenities and destinations.

The City of Great Falls will capitalize on the success of the River's Edge Trail to connect existing and future non-motorized networks.

The City of Great Falls will utilize existing planning documents to help guide network-related decisions including but not limited to:

- A. Downtown Master Plan;
- B. Growth Policy;
- C. Medical District Master Plan;
- D. Missouri River Urban Corridor Plan;
- E. Park Master Plan
- F. Student Safety Plan; and
- G. Transportation Plan and related studies

**6. All Agencies and Roads:**

The City of Great Falls will develop partnerships with private developers, governmental and transportation agencies to encourage the incorporation of this complete streets policy into roadway projects under their jurisdiction within the City and/or connecting to City roadways to implement a connected and continuous complete transportation network.

**7. Design Guidance and Flexibility:**

The City of Great Falls will utilize accepted or adopted design standards and best practices when implementing this complete streets policy to ensure the provision of safe, consistent and predictable transportation facilities, and will also consider innovative approaches to ensure the needs of all users, ages and abilities.

**8. Context:**

This complete streets policy will be implemented using a context-sensitive approach to develop transportation facilities that fit the unique character of the City of Great Falls and consider the following factors:

- A. Public safety;
- B. Adjacent and surrounding land uses;

- C. Connectivity and location in relation to significant destinations such as schools, employment centers, park or recreational areas, commercial corridors, major shopping destinations or other community amenities; and
- D. Roadway characteristics.

**9. Implementation:**

The City of Great Falls will develop performance measures and will document progress in implementing complete streets features by reporting said performance measures to the City Commission on an annual basis.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Great Falls, Montana, on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2012.

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Michael J. Winters, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

(Seal of the City)

APPROVED FOR LEGAL CONTENT:

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James W. Santoro, City Attorney