



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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AGENDA ITEM NO. _____

TO: David Hankerson
County Manager

FROM: David Montanye
Director

DATE: January 27, 2009

PURPOSE

To adopt a policy regarding the Complete Streets concept, to improve safety and accessibility to Cobb County's transportation system for all citizens.

BACKGROUND

Complete Streets is a concept that ensures streets are designed and operated in a manner that allows safe access for all users: motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians and transit users, including individuals with physical disabilities and senior citizens. Features of a complete street include, but are not limited to, sidewalks, bicycle lanes, wide shoulders, crosswalk (intersection and mid-block), refuge medians, bus lanes/pull-offs for transit buses, raised crosswalks, audible pedestrian signals for the visually impaired, as well as many others.

Many local governments and the states of Oregon, South Carolina and Virginia, have adopted formal Complete Streets policies. While the County has incorporated the Complete Streets concept as defined through the design of several transportation improvement projects funded by the 2005 SPLOST and the General Fund, no formal County policy exists pertaining to Complete Streets.

The Department believes that this policy will help ensure that the County approaches each of its roadway improvement projects with the Complete Streets concept in mind. This will benefit the citizens of Cobb County by making alternative modes of transportation safer and therefore more appealing, which in turn can help alleviate traffic congestion within the County. Additionally, there are public health benefits that can be gained from this policy; primarily from the anticipated increase in walkers and bicycle riders.

The Department recommends adoption of this initial Complete Streets Policy to guide all future roadway engineering, design and operations in Cobb County. This policy, if adopted, will be followed by more detailed guidelines, which will be proposed for inclusion in the County's Development Standards during the next update cycle.

FUNDING

Not Applicable

RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Commissioners adopt a policy regarding the Complete Streets concept, to improve safety and accessibility to Cobb County's transportation system for all citizens.

ATTACHMENT

Draft Complete Streets Policy