

ORDINANCE 17,260

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 28 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF PEORIA BY ADDING ARTICLE XII COMPLETE STREETS POLICY TO THE CITY CODE

WHEREAS, the City of Peoria is a home rule unit of government pursuant to Article VII, Section 6 of the Constitution of the State of Illinois 1970, and may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Peoria strives to be a livable community and contain a well-balanced and connected transportation system that allows for safe walking and biking, and that an efficient, robust public transit is a vital component of a livable community; and

WHEREAS, Complete Streets are a sound financial investment in our community that provide long-term savings, in that a transportation budget can incorporate Complete Streets projects without requiring additional funding; and

WHEREAS, CEOs for Cities released a report called "Walking the Walk" which measured the dollars-and-cents value that homes in walkable areas – all other things being equal – command over homes with average walkability, and found that, in 13 of the 15 housing markets they studied, increased neighborhood walkability was positively correlated with highly significant price increases; and

WHEREAS, creating Complete Streets should reduce infrastructure costs by requiring less pavement per user compared to increasing road capacity for vehicles alone; which saves money at the onset of the project and reduces maintenance costs over the long-term; and

WHEREAS, encouraging non-motorized modes of transportation may help the Peoria area to avoid becoming an ozone nonattainment area, which could result in an estimated \$10M to \$40 per year in additional costs to local government, local businesses, and citizens due to higher cost gasoline, vehicle inspections and restrictions on industry and construction; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau projects that by 2030, the portion of Illinois residents over 65 will increase from 12% to 18%, totaling nearly 21,000 additional people over 65 in Peoria, who will need the public right-of-way to better serve them by safe places to walk, bicycle or board the bus, and by designing the streets to better accommodate older drivers; and

WHEREAS, more than one third of Americans do not drive due to age, disability or poverty, and need transportation alternatives; and

WHEREAS, in Peoria County 29% of adults are overweight or obese, and incomplete streets means many people lack opportunities to be active as part of daily life.

WHEREAS, in 2007 The Illinois Department of Transportation passed a "Complete Streets Law" requiring Department of Transportation to give bicycle and pedestrian ways full consideration in the planning and development of transportation facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS that:

SECTION 1. Chapter 28 of the Code of the City of Peoria is hereby amended by adding the following, which includes ARTICLE XII, COMPLETE STREETS POLICY in its entirety:

Secs. 28-606 – 28-699. Reserved.

ARTICLE XII. – COMPLETE STREETS POLICY

Sec. 28-700. Definition of Complete Streets.

“Complete Streets” means streets that are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, in that pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and public transportation users of all ages and abilities are able to safely move along and across a street.

Sec. 28-701. Complete Street Policy.

The City shall develop a safe, reliable, efficient, integrated and connected multimodal transportation system that will promote access, mobility and health for all users, and will provide for the safety and convenience of all users of the transportation system, including pedestrians, bicyclists, users of mass transit, people of all ages and abilities, motorists, emergency responders, freight providers and adjacent land users.

Sec. 28-702. Scope of Complete Streets Applicability.

(a) All city-owned transportation facilities in the public right of way including, but not limited to streets, bridges and all over connecting pathways shall be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained so that users of all ages and abilities can travel safely and independently.

(b) Privately constructed streets and facilities shall adhere to this policy, as described by City of Peoria Zoning Code, and applicable building codes and ADA requirements.

(c) The City shall foster partnerships with the State of Illinois, Peoria County, neighboring communities, CityLink, businesses, school districts, and Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and other relevant organizations, to develop facilities and accommodations that further the City’s Complete Streets Policy and continue such infrastructure beyond the City’s borders.

(d) The City shall approach every transportation improvement and project phase as an opportunity to create safer, more accessible streets for all users. These phases include, but are not limited to: planning, programming, design, right-of-way acquisition, construction, construction engineering, reconstruction, and operation and maintenance.

Sec. 28-703. Exceptions.

Any exception to this policy, including for private projects, must be approved by the Director of Public Works, or designee, and be documented with supporting data that indicates the basis for the decision. Such documentation shall be publicly available.

Exceptions may be considered for approval when:

- (a) An affected roadway prohibits, by law, use by specified users (such as interstate freeways or pedestrian malls), in which case a greater effort shall be made to accommodate those specified users elsewhere, including on roadways that cross or otherwise intersect with the affected roadway;
- (b) The Director of Public Works issues a documented exception concluding that the application of Complete Streets principles is unnecessary, unduly cost prohibitive, would require significant right-of-way acquisition, or is inappropriate because it would be contrary to public safety; or
- (c) Other available means or factors indicate an absence of need, including future need.

The following items do not require documentation, due to their functions in making the roadways serviceable: Maintenance activities designed to keep assets in serviceable condition (e.g. mowing, cleaning, sweeping, spot repairs, and surface treatments such as seal coat or interim measures).

The Director of Public Works shall submit an annual report to the City Council summarizing all exceptions granted in the preceding year. These reports shall be submitted at the first City Council meeting of February of each year, and shall be posted on-line on the City of Peoria website.

Sec. 28-704. Design Standards.

The City shall follow accepted or adopted design standards and use the best and latest design standards available, such as the recommended practices published in the "DESIGNING WALKABLE URBAN THOROUGHFARES: A CONTEXT SENSITIVE APPROACH" by the Institute of Transportation Engineers.

In recognition of context sensitivity, public input and the needs of many users, a flexible, innovative and balanced approach that follows other appropriate design standards may be considered, provided that a comparable level of safety for all users is present.

Sec. 28-705. Performance Measures.

The City shall measure the success of this Complete Streets policy using, but not limited to, the following performance measures:

- Total miles and type of bike lanes added or improved
- Linear feet of new and improved sidewalks
- Number of new curb ramps installed along city streets
- Crosswalks and/or curb bump outs added
- Percentage of ADA transit stops accessible via sidewalks and curb ramps
- Report of crashes, injuries and fatalities by mode before and after a complete street project
- Number of Right-of-way tree plantings
- Annual surveys of citizen responses to Complete Streets

Unless otherwise noted above, within twelve months of policy adoption, the City shall create individual benchmarks for each of the performance measures included, as a means of tracking and measuring the annual performance of the policy. Annual reports shall be posted on-line for each of the above measures.

Sec. 28-706. Implementation and Reporting.

The City of Peoria shall view Complete Streets as integral to everyday transportation decision-making practices and processes. To this end:

(a) The Department of Public Works, the Community Development Department, and other relevant departments, agencies, or committees will incorporate Complete Streets principles into all existing plans, manuals, checklists, decision-trees, rules, regulations, and programs as appropriate (including, but not limited to, The Manual of Practice for Infrastructure Design Standards, the Comprehensive Plan, the Community Investment Plan, any and all Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plans, Transit Plans, ADA and Bus Stop plans and other appropriate plans);

(b) The Department of Public Works, the Community Development Department, and other relevant departments, agencies, or committees will review current design standards, including subdivision regulations which apply to new roadway construction, to ensure that they reflect the best available design standards and guidelines, and effectively implement Complete Streets, where feasible;

(c) When available, the City shall encourage staff professional development and training on non-motorized transportation issues through attending conferences, classes, seminars, and workshops;

(d) City staff shall recommend improvements to the project selection criteria to support Complete Streets projects;

(e) The City shall promote inter-departmental project coordination among City departments with an interest in the activities that occur within the public right-of-way in order to better use fiscal resources;

(f) An annual report will be made to the City Council showing progress made in implementing this policy. The Department of Public Works, the Community Development Department, and other relevant departments, agencies, or committees shall report on the annual increase or decrease for each performance measure contained in this policy compared to the previous year(s); and

(g) Every Complete Streets project shall include an educational component to provide information to assist all users of the transportation system in understanding and safely utilizing Complete Streets project elements.

Secs. 28-707– 28-799. Reserved.

SECTION 2. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval according to law.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS this 8th day of September, 2015.

APPROVED:



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk

EXAMINED AND APPROVED:



Corporation Counsel