



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

P.O. BOX 495

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING AGENDA SUBMISSION FORM

1. **Title of submission:** Complete Streets Resolution
2. **Date of submission:** May 4, 2016
3. **Date of Board Meeting:** May 9, 2016
4. **Individual or Entity making the submission:**

Lisa L. Heavner, First Selectman and James Rabbitt, Director of Planning and Community Development

5. **Action requested of the Board of Selectmen:**

Requesting Board of Selectmen adopt the Complete Streets resolution attached to this submission.

6. **Summary of Submission:**

The resolution is for Board of Selectmen support of a complete streets approach to design, build, and use of town streets to further the health, safety, welfare, economic vitality, and environmental well-being of our town. "Complete Streets" are supported by the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the American Planning Association, US Conference of Mayors. The benefits of a "Complete Streets" policy include enhancement of mobility, improved safety, expanded transportation access/choice, and related contributions toward building a healthy community. A "Complete Streets" policy is also an important component of economic development by helping to create walkable and vibrant communities which attract and retain businesses and residents.

7. **Financial Impact:**

N/A

8. **Description of documents included with submission (All documents must be in final form and signed by the appropriate party.):**

The following documents are included with this submission and attached hereto:

Draft resolution and letter from James Rabbitt, Director of Planning and Community Development



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

P.O. BOX 495

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Office of Planning and Community Development

April 18, 2016

Lisa L. Heavner, First Selectman
933 Hopmeadow Street
P.O. Box 495
Simsbury, CT 06070

RE: Complete Streets Policy/Resolution

Dear Lisa:

I have attached a snippet of the National Complete Streets Coalition Web page. This organization does a nice job of summarizing what complete streets are.

<http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/complete-streets>

Link to CTDOT web site on Complete Streets.

<http://www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?a=3531&q=531678>

In addition, I have attached a **draft resolution** regarding Complete Streets for your review.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Jamie

James D. Rabbitt, AICP
Director of Planning and Community Development

Cc: Thomas Cooke, Director of Administrative Services



National Complete Streets Coalition

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Welcome to the National Complete Streets Coalition

Streets are a vital part of livable, attractive communities. Everyone, regardless of age, ability, income, race, or ethnicity, ought to have safe, comfortable, and convenient access to community destinations and public places—whether walking, driving, bicycling, or taking public transportation. But too many of our streets are designed only for speeding cars or, worse, creeping traffic jams.

A nationwide movement launched by the National Complete Streets Coalition in 2004, Complete Streets integrates people and place in the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of our transportation networks. The Coalition promotes the development and implementation of policies and professional practices that ensure streets are safe for people of all ages and abilities, balance the needs of different modes, and support local land uses, economies, cultures, and natural environments.

To date, over 730 agencies at the local, regional, and state levels have adopted Complete Streets policies, totaling over 880 policies nationwide.

RECENT COMPLETE STREETS NEWS

Your questions answered about "The Best Complete Streets Policies of 2015"

Unfortunately, we were only able to answer a fraction of the questions that listeners asked. We've taken a few minutes here to answer the rest.

[READ MORE](#)

Upcoming webinar: Complete Streets Implementation and Design

Hundreds of communities across the country have adopted Complete Streets policies—the next step is to implement them. An upcoming webinar will help transportation planners and practitioners do just that.

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Town of Simsbury, Connecticut
Resolution to Adopt a Complete Street Policy

WHEREAS, the term “Complete Streets” describes a comprehensive, integrated transportation network with infrastructure and design that allows safe and convenient travel along and across streets for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, persons with disabilities, motorists, transit vehicles, emergency responders, users and operators of public transportation, seniors, children, youth and families;

WHEREAS, the people of Simsbury have expressed a desire and need for walking and bicycling options;

WHEREAS, “Complete Streets” is a national movement that fundamentally changes how we view our communities and how we design, build, and use our streets in order to further the health, safety, welfare, economic vitality, and environmental well-being of our town. “Complete Streets” are supported by the Institute of Transportation Engineers, American Planning Association, US Conference of Mayors, and other planning and public health professionals;

WHEREAS, the Town of Simsbury recognizes the numerous benefits associated with the adoption of a Complete Streets policy to enhance mobility, improve safety, expand transportation access/choice and related contributions toward building a healthy community. A Complete Streets approach to design contributes to an enhanced quality of life and economic vitality for residents and businesses. Benefits include reducing vehicle miles traveled and increasing transportation by walking, bicycling and public transportation, which can help address a wide variety of challenges, including pollution, climate change, traffic congestion, social isolation, obesity and physical inactivity;

WHEREAS, “Complete Streets” are an important component of transportation, design and economic and community development by helping create walkable and vibrant communities, which attract and retain businesses and residents and allow for the option to safely walk or bicycle to school, work, parks, or other community destinations;

WHEREAS, “Complete Streets” can play an important role by improving pedestrian and bicyclist interactions, reducing traffic congestion, and improving air quality both by promoting alternative forms of transportation and by helping improve traffic flow;

WHEREAS, the design and construction of new transportation and other facilities should consider future demand for bicycling, walking and other alternative transportation facilities and not preclude the provision of future improvements;

WHEREAS, the Town of Simsbury recognizes that the careful design and development of Complete Streets infrastructure provides long-term quality of life enhancements for Simsbury and supports and attracts an expanded tax base; improves public health and lowers health care expenses; provides financial benefits to property owners and businesses; and decreases air and water pollution. In contrast, the lack of a Complete Streets policy may result in significant costs to government, employers and individuals, due to the cost of physical inactivity;

WHEREAS, The application of “Complete Streets” will vary depending on the surrounding land uses and densities and it’s general context, however street and transportation plans should always be guided by the principle that streets should promote multiple transportation options for all people;

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut Complete Streets Policy (Executive Order #31) was signed October 23, 2014 in accordance with section 13a-153f(a)(d) of the Connecticut General Statutes supported by funding via Substitute Senate Bill No. 735Public Act No. 09-154 AN ACT IMPROVING BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS;

WHEREAS, the Town of Simsbury, therefore, in light of the foregoing benefits and considerations, wishes to demonstrate its commitment to Complete Streets and desires that its streets and multiuse trails form a comprehensive and integrated transportation network promoting safe, equitable and convenient travel for all users while preserving flexibility, recognizing community context and using the latest and best design guidelines and standards;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Simsbury in the State of Connecticut that the Town of Simsbury:

1. Will strive, where practical and economically feasible, to incorporate "Complete Streets" elements into transportation projects in order to provide appropriate accommodation for bicyclists, pedestrians, transit users and persons of all abilities, while promoting safe operation for all users in comprehensive and connected networks and in a manner consistent with, and supportive of, the surrounding community.
2. Will coordinate with the Town's staff and municipal Boards and Commissions, the Capital Region Council of Governments, the Connecticut Department of Transportation, and related advisory and community organizations to develop implementation strategies, which may include revising and updating processes, policies, procedures, design and construction manuals, and other guidance to assist in this resolution's implementation.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Simsbury, State of Connecticut on June 13, 2016, by the following vote: