



Complete Streets

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What is the Complete Streets planning model? The idea of Complete Streets is to increase safe roads for vehicles, pedestrians, cyclists, and individuals with disabilities. It applies to everyone traveling along a road, whether it's used for transportation, physical activity, or just taking a walk.

Complete Streets don't need to mean that our rural areas will be converted into urban settings. It's all about making our roads and passageways safer and accessible to all in a way that works for our local community. This can include signage, crosswalks, more street lighting, or planting trees in strategic areas to designate space.

On October 26, 2016 Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County (CCESC) hosted a Complete Streets Workshop in partnership with the Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental, Sullivan Renaissance, NYS Department of Transportation, and Smart Growth America. The workshop was sponsored by NYS Department of Transportation. Smart Growth America provided most of the presentation. The NYS Department of Transportation joined in to provide valuable information pertinent to funding.

Representatives from the towns of Bethel, Fallsburg, Mamakating, Neversink, Thompson, and Callicoon, the villages of Thompson, and Jeffersonville, the hamlet of Hurleyville, Sullivan County Public Health, Green Design/Liberty Museum and Arts, Sullivan County Industrial Development Agency (IDA), and Capacity Consulting, were in attendance to learn more about how to apply Complete Street concepts in our local municipalities.

Workshop topics included:

- The Concept of Complete Streets
- Economic, Health, & Safety Benefits
- NYS's Complete Streets Benefits
- Case Studies
- Complete Streets in Rural Communities
- Low Cost Options
- Funding Complete Streets Projects

A walking workshop was done at the corner of Ferndale-Loomis Road and State Route 55, as well as on Sullivan Avenue.

With our partners, the CCESC Creating Healthy Schools and Communities team is here to actively inform and support community leaders on the benefits of Complete Streets in the County's shared vision of sustainable, healthy, community development strategies and infrastructure projects. Implementing Complete Streets strategies is one way to build a stronger economy, better health, and improved safety as the county grows.

With supportive coalitions in many towns and villages, many municipalities are working towards adopting a Complete Streets policy. Adopting a Complete Streets policy is a first step which opens the doors for communities to develop a plan and design, consider strengths and pitfalls of potential projects, and take into account budgetary impacts and sustainability considerations.

A policy is a great way to get started. It's a formal document that allows access to grants and other resources. Projects don't need to be completed overnight.

Remember, Rome wasn't built in one day.

To learn more about how your community can adopt Complete Streets projects, contact CCESC at 845-292-6180.