Springfield Complete Streets

What are complete streets?
Complete streets are streets that are designed to accommodate all users in a safe, convenient, and comfortable manner, regardless of the travel mode they select (driving, transit, walking, bicycling, etc.), their age or their ability.

What are the benefits of complete streets?
The benefits of complete streets are numerous. Designing streets that account for all types of transportation gives people more options to get from point A to B. Complete streets can make traveling by foot or bicycle safer, increasing the likelihood of someone getting around that way. More people traveling actively translates into positive health outcomes. Getting people out of their cars can also improve traffic flow and improve air quality. Lastly, it can improve the quality of life for all, as streets become a place where people want to be.

What is Springfield doing about complete streets?
The City of Springfield has a Complete Streets Plan and Implementation Guide. This plan and guide outline different classifications of streets and how they should be designed to accommodate all road users in the future. The city also adopted a Complete Streets Policy in 2016, which commits the city to including provisions for all road users, to the maximum extent feasible, when a street is reconstructed or built.

What can you do in your neighborhood?
To advance Complete Streets in your neighborhood, there are a few things you can do. You can report things that aren’t working through the city’s ‘311’ program. This could include reporting when a pedestrian signal is broken, where paint has faded on a crosswalk or where you think a new crosswalk should be.

Additionally when you hear that a road is being redone, call or email and advocate for complete street facilities like wider sidewalks, bike lanes and crosswalks, on it.

Did you know….?

74% of Springfield residents surveyed would like to walk more.

76% of Springfield residents surveyed would like to bicycle more.

People said they would be more likely to walk if….
- The streets were clean
- There was good lighting
- The sidewalks were maintained

People said they don’t bike because...
- There aren’t enough bike lanes or bike lanes are not connected
- They don’t feel safe riding in traffic
- The road surface is not maintained well

Source: Springfield Bicycle and Walking Survey 2014

Image source: https://dallascompletestreets.wordpress.com/