

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY OF BLUE ISLAND
COMPLETE STREETS POLICY

WHEREAS Blue Island is a historic community that benefits from a tradition of well-connected streets, a pedestrian-friendly scale, and exceptional transportation assets.

WHEREAS Complete Streets are designed to improve mobility and connectivity, reduce obesity, increase safety, enhance neighborhoods, businesses, and institutions, and advance the quality of life for all Blue Island citizens and visitors.

WHEREAS Developing Complete Streets is a priority on all corridors and routes. Transportation and development projects shall be treated as an opportunity to offer improvements in access and connectivity to Blue Island's services, businesses, neighborhoods, schools, parks, trails, and adjacent communities.

WHEREAS Blue Island is a key connection point for the Calumet Sag Trail, a twenty-six mile corridor that will encourage local development, promote healthy lifestyles and bring many visitors to our community on foot and by bicycle.

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Blue Island, County of Cook and State of Illinois, as follows:

SECTION ONE

The City of Blue Island will strive to create a safe and efficient transportation system for users of all ages and abilities.

SECTION TWO

The City of Blue Island will ensure that the safety and convenience of all users of the transportation system are accommodated in all future roadway projects, including pedestrians, bicyclists, mass transit users, people with disabilities, the youth, the elderly, scooterists, motorcyclists, private motorists, commercial vehicle drivers, freight providers, emergency responders, and adjacent land users.

SECTION THREE

Sections one (1) and two (2) of this ordinance constitute the principles of the City of Blue Island's Complete Streets policy and shall be applied to all public right-of-way projects, including new construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, maintenance, and

planning of roadways, intersections, or other transportation facilities. Routes providing access to key destinations, historic districts, sites and significant travelways, as indicated in the City of Blue Island Complete Streets Map (refer to Section 6) shall be prioritized.

Through ongoing operations and maintenance, the City of Blue Island shall identify cost-effective opportunities to include Complete Streets practices.

Planning, design, reconstruction, rehabilitation, and maintenance shall be executed in a balanced, transparent, responsible, and equitable manner. Complete Streets principles will be integral when developing, modifying, and updating City of Blue Island plans, manuals, programs, rules, and zoning regulations.

SECTION FOUR

Any exception to applying this Complete Streets policy must be approved by the City Council, accompanied by documentation that indicates:

- a) The cost of establishing bicycle or pedestrian facilities would be excessively disproportionate to the need or probable use; or
- b) Existing level of service grade of "B" or better following the measurement standards adopted in Section 9; or
- c) The absence of use by all except motorized users or other factors that indicate an absence of need, with consideration given to future users; or
- d) Non-motorized uses are prohibited by law

Ordinary maintenance activities designed to keep the public right-of-way in serviceable condition (e.g. mowing, cleaning, sweeping, patching, basic repair and other interim surface treatments) may be exempt from this policy.

Exceptions to this policy shall not be allowed for roadways functionally classified as arterials.

SECTION FIVE

It shall be the goal of the City of Blue Island to foster partnerships with the State of Illinois, Cook County, the Regional Transportation Authority, Metra, Pace, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, local Townships, local School Districts, the Blue Island Park District, the Blue Island Public Library, the Blue Island Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and other Blue Island stakeholders to enhance local connectivity.

The City of Blue Island shall coordinate with neighboring municipalities and jurisdictions to enhance regional connectivity in furtherance of the City's Complete Streets policy, promoting the continuation of such facilities and accommodations beyond the City's borders.

SECTION SIX

[See "COBI Complete Streets Map.pdf"]

The City of Blue Island shall identify County, State, and Federal transportation projects and coordinate implementation of this Complete Streets policy with the relevant agencies.

SECTION SEVEN

The City of Blue Island shall call on its heritage to guide future development in a manner that is sensitive to local context and character by providing an interconnected network of streets, sidewalks and trails that supports walking, bicycling, and transit use.

The City shall refer to the most current recommendations, requirements, and standards provided by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to ensure safe and accessible travel for all. In recognition of various jurisdictions and the needs of many users, a flexible and balanced approach that follows other appropriate design standards may be considered, provided there is an emphasis on innovative design options where a comparable level of safety for all users is present.

Accepted design standards and best practices shall be followed in conjunction with the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or maintenance of the public right-of-way. The planning, design, and implementation for all corridors shall:

- Include the local community and stakeholders
- Consider the function of the roadway
- Consider transitway alignment and station areas
- Assess the current and future needs of the corridor users

SECTION EIGHT

The City of Blue Island Plan Commission shall serve as a resource on active transportation and Complete Streets. The Plan Commission shall indicate opportunities to advance the City's Complete Streets policy by providing recommendations to City Council. The Plan Commission may consider the testimony of local non-profits and civic groups, organizations, and City committees.

Adjoining land use and context will be prioritized by the Plan Commission in accordance with the City of Blue Island's Complete Streets Map, included as an exhibit to Section 6 of this policy. This map may be periodically updated and amended by City Council following the recommendations of the Plan Commission, with consideration of the priorities and goals of the City of Blue Island, its comprehensive plan.

SECTION NINE

Bicycle Level of Service (BLOS), Pedestrian Level of Service (PLOS) and Bicycle Compatibility Index (BCI) grades shall be used as a measure of success of Blue Island's Complete Streets policy. The Plan Commission shall adopt an official calculator to be used for a minimum of four (4) years. The BLOS, PLOS and BCI calculators developed by the League of Illinois Bicyclists may be used to evaluate these measures. Projects that score a grade of "B" or better shall be considered a successful implementation of Blue Island's Complete Streets policy.

The Plan Commission shall report annually to the City Council the success of Blue Island's Complete Streets policy. This report shall include BLOS/BCI grades before and after Plan Commission review, additional measures noted above when applicable, and any exceptions granted to the Complete Streets policy.

The City of Blue Island Public Works Department and the Urban Forestry Board shall partner with the Plan Commission to report annually on the installation of new facilities, including but not limited to:

- Total miles of on-street bicycle routes defined by streets with clearly marked or signed bicycle accommodations
- Linear feet of new pedestrian accommodations
- Number of curb ramps installed along City streets
- Number of new street trees provided in the public right-of-way

SECTION TEN

Implementation of Blue Island's Complete Streets policy shall be the responsibility of all Elected and Appointed Officials and City Departments. Training on Complete Streets, active transportation policies, and non-motorized transportation options will be the responsibility of each City of Blue Island Department, as guided by the Community Development Department.

For all proposed improvements to the public right-of-way, the Mayor's Office shall notify Department Heads from the City's Public Works, Engineering, Building and Zoning, Community Development, Police, Fire, and Finance Departments of a required

pre-planning meeting with the appropriate agents or jurisdictions. Each Department may choose to attend or send a representative to provide input.

The City of Blue Island Public Works shall have the authority to implement any improvement to the public right of way that conforms to this Complete Streets policy.

Improvements to corridors, routes, and sites prioritized by the Blue Island Complete Streets Map shall be subject to review by the City of Blue Island Plan Commission to ensure that all users are accommodated. Following its review the Plan Commission shall make a recommendation to City Council, which shall have final authority to implement Blue Island’s Complete Streets policy.

PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2011.

**CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF BLUE ISLAND
COUNTY OF COOK AND STATE OF ILLINOIS**

VOTING AYE: _____

VOTING NAY: _____

ABSENT: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

APPROVED: this _____ day of _____, 2011.

**MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BLUE ISLAND,
COUNTY OF COOK AND STATE OF ILLINOIS**