

Complete Streets in Ottawa

What are complete streets?

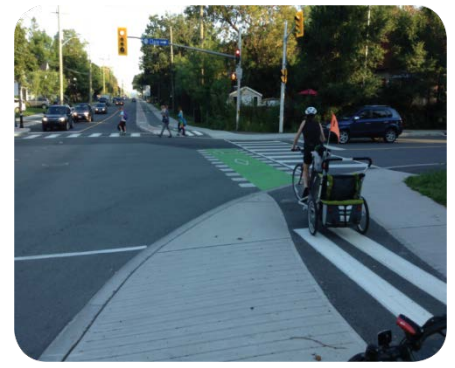
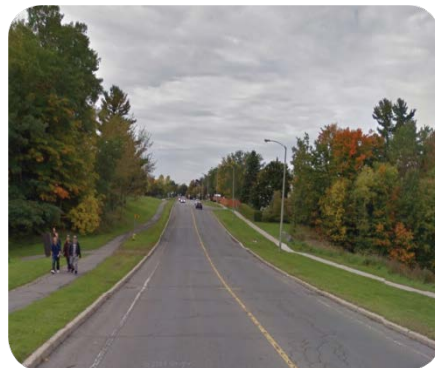
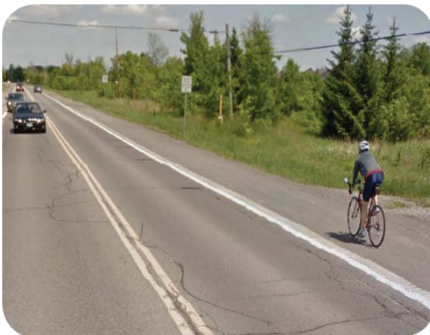
Complete Streets incorporate the physical elements that allow a street to offer safety, comfort and mobility for all users of the street regardless of their age, ability, or mode of transportation. A Complete Streets approach uses every transportation project as a catalyst for improvements within the scope of that project to enable safe, comfortable and barrier-free access for all users.

In other words, complete streets:

- Accommodate multiple modes
- Incorporate context-sensitive design principles
- Can be used as a way to improve neighbourhoods and support liveability

All streets can be Complete Streets but they look different based on the surrounding context. In Ottawa, they will differ:

- In rural, suburban, and urban contexts
- For local, collector, and arterial roads
- Based on land use characteristics and Official Plan designations.



Why are complete streets important?

Complete Streets have many benefits. Implementing this design concept will ensure streets are designed to meet the needs of everyone whether they choose to walk, bike, drive or take public transit. Complete Streets:

- Help reduce heavy traffic and crashes by getting more people cycling, walking and taking transit
- Help create safe, liveable and welcoming communities
- Encourage healthy lifestyles by making it easier to walk or bike
- Help build sustainable communities by reducing pollution caused by traffic
- Ensure that more people can easily get to stores and businesses
- Improve the lives of people with mobility impairments or disabilities

What is the City of Ottawa doing?

The City of Ottawa has developed a Complete Streets Implementation Framework. As part of the shift to a Complete Streets approach, the City of Ottawa will consider all modes when projects are initiated, instead of later during planning or design. The project budget is determined early, when the project is first identified. Expectations about the improvements possible for each mode will be clearly articulated up front.

The City of Ottawa’s Complete Streets Implementation Framework:

- Provides staff with the foundation to implement the policy, define expectations for each project and coordinate internal communication
- Creates an internal mechanism to address operational issues such as winter maintenance
- Allows for scoping of the transportation project in the early planning phases of the project for long-term budgeting, timelines and resource planning purposes

