What is a complete street?
It’s a street for everybody to use.
• Takes into account all users of the street, not just those in cars.
• A safe corridor for people traveling by foot, bicycle, transit, and car.
• Cost effective because it provides travel options and reduces congestion.
About 40% of Houstonians do not drive
For some, it’s a question of money, others are disabled, some may be too old, some are too young, and some just choose not to drive. All of them have access needs and obstacles, and all of their frustration and difficulties tend to be hindrances to health, happiness, and prosperity.
Vision: Streets are safe for all users at all times throughout Houston

A movement is growing to complete the streets
States, cities, towns, and neighborhoods are asking their planners and engineers to build road networks that are safer, more livable, and welcoming to everyone.
Vision: Streets are safe for all users at all times throughout Houston
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What does a complete street look like?
Each complete street is unique, but ingredients may include sidewalks, bike lanes (or wide paved shoulders), bus lanes, comfortable and accessible transit stops, frequent crossing opportunities, median islands, accessible pedestrian signals, curb extensions, and more.
Complete streets improve safety

A Federal safety review found that pedestrian safety is improved along streets designed with sidewalks, raised medians, better bus stop placement, traffic-calming measures, and treatments for disabled travelers. Some features, such as medians, improve safety for all users, enabling pedestrians to cross busy roads in two stages, reducing left-turn crashes to zero, and protecting bicyclists.
Vision: Streets are safe for all users at all times throughout Houston

Complete streets improve health
The National Institutes of Medicine recommends fighting childhood obesity by establishing ordinances to encourage construction of sidewalks, bikeways, and other places for physical activity. One study found that 43% of people with safe places to walk within 10 minutes of home met recommended activity levels; without safe places to walk, just 27% were active enough.
Vision: Streets are safe for all users at all times throughout Houston

Complete streets address energy and emissions

Complete streets would help convert many short auto trips to multi-modal travel. Increasing bicycling from 1% to 1.5% of all US trips would save 462 million gallons of gasoline each year. Using transit has helped the United States save 1.4 billion gallons of fuel each year, which is a savings of 3.9 million gallons of gasoline every day.
Complete streets foster strong communities
Complete streets play an important role in livable communities, where all people – regardless of age, ability or mode of transportation – feel safe and welcome on the roadways.
What are some of the benefits of complete streets?
Complete streets make economic and fiscal sense, help children, are good for air quality, and can help ease transportation woes.
Instituting a complete streets policy ensures that planners and engineers consistently design and operate the entire roadway with all users in mind - including bicyclists, public transportation vehicles and riders, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities.
Laws and Ordinances (blue);
Resolutions (red);
Tax Ordinances (yellow);
Departmental Policies & Executive Orders (purple);
Plans (magenta);
Design Manuals or Guides (green);
Policies Adopted by Elected Board (teal).
Vision: Streets are safe for all users at all times throughout Houston