

**RESOLUTION No. 2018-**  
**Creation of the Niagara Falls Complete Streets Policy**  
**By: All Council Members**

*WHEREAS, a Niagara Falls Complete Streets Policy City of Niagara Falls will improve bicycle and pedestrian friendliness through consistent public realm design standards to revitalized mixed-use neighborhoods, making our city safer and more accessible; and*

*WHEREAS, the City of Niagara Falls shall plan for, design, construct, operate and maintain appropriate facilities for all transportation users in all new construction, retrofit and reconstruction projects; and*

*WHEREAS, streets that integrate multiple transportation choices for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit, with special consideration for children, the elderly and people with disabilities, contribute to the public life of a community, sustainable economic development and efficient movement of people and goods; and*

*WHEREAS, the City of Niagara Falls shall, to the maximum extent practical, scope, plan, design, construct, operate and maintain all streets to provide a comprehensive and integrated network of facilities for all users of all abilities; and*

*WHEREAS, any exception to applying this Complete Streets Policy to a specific roadway project must be approved by the Niagara Falls City Council with documentation of the reason for the exception. Exceptions may be made when the project involves a roadway on which non-motorized use is prohibited by law. In this case, an effort shall be made to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists elsewhere; and*

*WHEREAS, this policy will create a comprehensive, integrated, connected transportation network for the City of Niagara Falls that balances access, mobility, health and safety needs for all residents. Planning, funding, designing, constructing, managing and maintaining a complete multi-modal network, ensures this; and*

*WHEREAS, it is the intent of this policy to foster partnerships with the State of New York, Niagara County, Niagara Falls School District, citizens, businesses, interest groups and neighborhoods to implement complete streets.*

*WHEREAS, the City of Niagara Falls shall adapt, develop and adopt departmental policies, design criteria, standards and guidelines based upon recognized best practices in street design, construction and operations including but not limited to the latest editions of American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways*

*and Streets; AASHTO Guide for Planning, Designing, and Operating Pedestrian Facilities; AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities; Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) Designing Walkable Urban Thoroughfares: A Context Sensitive Approach; National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Urban Bikeway Design Guide; U.S. Access Board Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines; Highway Capacity Manual and Highway Safety Manual.*

*WHEREAS, the implementation of this policy shall reflect the context and character of the surrounding built and natural environments while enhancing the appearance of such. In doing so, the City of Niagara Falls shall consider methods of providing development flexibility within safe design parameters such as context-sensitive design solutions and shall attempt to employ all solutions consistent with and sensitive to the context of the project.*

*WHEREAS, complete Streets should be continuously evaluated for success and opportunities for improvement sought. This policy encourages the regular evaluation and reporting of implementing complete streets through the following performance measures:*

- *Increase in the share of bicycles, pedestrians and transit users;*
- *Crash data;*
- *Use of new projects by mode;*
- *Compliments and complaints;*
- *Linear feet of pedestrian accommodations built;*
- *Number of ADA accommodations built;*
- *Miles of bike lanes/trails built or striped;*
- *Number of transit accessibility accommodations built;*
- *Number of street trees planted;*
- *Number of building permits issued along new complete street;*
- *Number of exemptions from this policy.*

*WHEREAS, the City of Niagara Falls shall implement the following steps to ensure successful implementation of complete streets:*

- *Advisory Board: The City of Niagara Falls will establish an interdepartmental advisory board to oversee the implementation of this policy. The committee should include members of various constituencies, including the Niagara Falls City Council, the Niagara Falls Planning and the Niagara Falls Engineering Department, Department of Public Works, Department of Community Development, Niagara Falls Police Department, the Niagara Falls School District, the New York State Department of Transportation as well as representatives from bicycling, pedestrian, disabled, youth and elderly communities or any other organizations as deemed relevant. This committee will meet quarterly and provide a written report to the Mayor of Niagara Falls evaluating progress and advising on implementation.*

- *Inventory: The City of Niagara Falls will maintain a comprehensive inventory of the pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and will prioritize projects to eliminate gaps in the sidewalk and bikeway networks.*
- *Capital Improvement and Maintenance Project Prioritization: The City of Niagara Falls will reevaluate capital improvement and maintenance project prioritization annually to encourage implementation of pedestrian and bicycle improvements.*
- *Revisions to Existing Plans and Policies: The City of Niagara Falls will incorporate complete street principles into the comprehensive plan, zoning code and other plans and manual, rules, regulations and programs.*
- *Other Plans: The City of Niagara Falls will prepare, implement and maintain a Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan, a Safe Routes to School Plan, an Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan, and a Street Tree and Landscape Plan.*
- *Storm Water Management: The City of Niagara Falls will prepare and implement a plan to transition to sustainable storm water management techniques along our streets.*
- *Staff Training: The City of Niagara Falls will train all pertinent staff on the content of the complete streets principles and best practices for implementing the policy.*
- *Coordination: The City of Niagara Falls will utilize inter-departmental project coordination to promote the most responsible and efficient use of fiscal resources for activities that occur within the public right of way.*
- *Street Manual: The City of Niagara Falls will create and adopt a Complete Streets Design Manual to support implementation of this policy.*
- *Funding: The City of Niagara Falls will actively seek sources of appropriate funding to implement complete streets.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Niagara Falls, New York hereby supports the creation of a Niagara Falls Complete Streets Policy.*