

RESOLUTION NO. 246

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO EVALUATE THE BENEFITS OF ESTABLISHING A COMPLETE STREETS POLICY IN ALBANY COUNTY

Introduced: 7/8/13

By Messrs. Morse, Beston, Bullock, Clay, Clenahan, Commisso, Corcoran, Cotrofeld, Ethier, Feeney, Ms. Kinsch, Mr. Mackey, Ms. Maffia-Tobler, Mr. Mayo, Ms. McKnight, Messrs. Nichols, O'Brien, Reilly, Simpson, Ward, Higgins, Public Works Committee, Ms. Chapman, Messrs. Dawson, Joyce and Ms. Connolly:

WHEREAS, A Complete Street policy considers the needs of all users of our roadways of all ages and abilities including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation and school bus riders, motorists, movers of commercial goods, persons with disabilities, seniors and emergency services, and

WHEREAS, Bicycling and walking are important forms of transportation and recreation in Albany County, and walking and bicycling contribute to health, fitness, and economic development, and

WHEREAS, Streets that support and invite multiple uses, including safe, active, and ample space for pedestrians, bicycles, and public transportation are more conducive to the public life and efficient movement of people than streets designed primarily to move automobiles and trucks, and

WHEREAS, Promoting pedestrian, bicycle and public transportation travel as an alternative to the automobile reduces negative environmental impacts, promotes healthy living, and is less costly to the commuter, and

WHEREAS, The design and construction of roads and facilities should anticipate future demand for biking, walking and other alternative transportation facilities and not preclude the provision of future improvements, and

WHEREAS, Complete Streets are supported by the Institute of Traffic Engineers, the American Planning Association and many other transportation, planning and public health professionals, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Department of Public Works is requested to evaluate the benefits of establishing a complete streets policy in Albany County pertaining to the planning stage of each project, evaluate the feasibility of implementing the Complete Streets design features which may include: sidewalks, paved shoulders suitable for use by bicyclists, lane striping, bicycle lanes, share the road signs,

crosswalks, road diets, pedestrian control signalization, bus pull outs, pedestrian curb ramps, and traffic calming measures; and recognize that the needs of users of the road network vary according to a rural, urban and suburban context, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That as part of the evaluation, the Department is requested to determine if the Complete Streets Policy cannot apply because it has been determined the following exist: use by bicyclists and pedestrians is prohibited by law, such as within a limited access highway; or the cost would be disproportionate to the need or demonstrated lack of need as determined by factors such as, but not limited to: land use context, current and projected traffic volumes, population density, or demonstrates lack of community support, or the use of these design features would have an adverse impact on, or be contrary to, public safety, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department of Public Works is requested to include in its analysis a parameter whereby the Department is not required to expend monies that exceed the amount of County, State and Federal funding allocated for a particular project as identified in the County's capital program, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

Referred to Public Works Committee. 7/8/13

Adopted by unanimous vote. 8/12/13