


## COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF DES MOINES OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	<b>18-622</b>	Meeting:	<b>November 19, 2018</b>
	Agenda Item:	<b>41A</b>	Roll Call:	<b>18-1932</b>
	Submitted by:	<b>Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer</b>		

### AGENDA HEADING:

Approving Amendment to Complete Streets Policy for the City of Des Moines to reflect the goals and policies of the MoveDSM Transportation Master Plan.

### SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of Amendment to Complete Streets Policy. The goals and policies of the PlanDSM Transportation Chapter recommended to evaluate, refine, and implement the Complete Streets Policy. Updates to the Complete Streets Policy were proposed as part of the development of MoveDSM, the City's first Transportation Master Plan.

### FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- PlanDSM – Creating Our Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan was adopted by City Council on April 25, 2016, under Roll Call No. 16-0717. PlanDSM specifically recognized the important linkage between land use and transportation planning to develop a sustainable community. The goals and policies of the PlanDSM Transportation Chapter recommended to evaluate, refine, and implement the Complete Streets Policy.
- Complete Streets are streets that are planned, designed, operated, and maintained to enable safe access for all users of all ages, including those who walk, bike, drive, or ride transit.
- The existing City of Des Moines Complete Streets Policy was adopted by City Council on September 22, 2008, under Roll Call No. 08-1701.
- The National Complete Streets Coalition (NCSC) provides national guidance on complete streets and publishes a set of criteria for evaluation and implementation. From the 2017 review of national complete streets policies, the existing Des Moines Complete Streets Policy received a score of 39.6 out of 100 from NCSC.

- A review of complete streets best practices was conducted as part of the development of MoveDSM, the City's first Transportation Master Plan. These best practices were used to provide an updated policy which now includes sections on goals, environmental justice areas, applicability, oversight, exceptions, design resources, coordination, and annual reporting.
- Below are the highlights of the updated Complete Streets Policy:
  - Expands allowable exceptions.
    - Adds considerations of severe topographic constraints, emergency repairs/routine maintenance, and allowance for another project already programmed.
    - Eliminates the specific percentage amount for "excessively disproportionate costs."
  - Defines Implementation/Accountability.
    - Removes Staff Complete Streets Committee and assigns those roles to Transportation Safety Committee (TSC).
    - Recommends annual training of City employees across departments on Complete Streets.
    - Adds annual reporting to Council.
  - Addresses social equity by prioritizing projects that affect vulnerable users.
  - Adds MoveDSM, National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO), International Fire Code, and City's Zoning Code to the list of design standards and Guidelines.
  - Adds statement that Complete Streets projects will be prioritized in project selection and funding over projects not consistent with this policy.

### **PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: September 24, 2018

Roll Call Number: [18-1612](#) and [18-1613](#)

Action: Items regarding the MoveDSM Transportation Master Plan: Plans [Connect Downtown MoveDSM](#)

- (A) [Receive](#) and file communication from Plan and Zoning Commission regarding Connect Downtown, MoveDSM and Complete Streets Policy. Moved by Mandelbaum to receive and file the communication from the Plan and Zoning Commission. Motion Carried 7-0.
- (B) [Direct](#) the City Manager to work with the Des Moines Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to remove the Southwest Connector from Iowa Highway 28 to Park Avenue as part of the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan and complete a traffic study to determine remaining future roadway network needs in southwest Des Moines. ([Council Communication No. 18-487](#)) Moved by Mandelbaum to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: April 25, 2016

Roll Call Number: [16-0717](#)

Action: [On](#) City-initiated request to consider adoption of “PlanDSM: Creating Our Tomorrow” as an amendment to the City’s Comprehensive Plan. Moved by Hensley to adopt the plan as presented; refer to the City Manager for review and recommendation regarding: 1. Goal for the City to become carbon neutral by 2040. 2. Reconvening a citizen Sustainability Task Force. Motion Carried 7-0.

Date: September 22, 2008

Roll Call Number: [08-1701](#)

Action: [Adoption](#) of “Complete Streets” policy regarding review, consideration and addition of bicycle and pedestrian facilities on street projects. ([Council Communication No. 08-561](#)) Moved by Kiernan to approve. Motion Carried 6-1. Absent: Coleman.

### **BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):**

Board: Plan and Zoning Commission

Date: September 6, 2018

Resolution Number: N/A

Action: David Courard-Hauri made a motion for approval of Part A) To incorporate the Connect Downtown study as an element of MoveDSM Master Transportation Plan, approval of Part B) Amendment to the PlanDSM - Creating Our Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan to adopt the MoveDSM Master Transportation Plan as an element and approval of Part C) Amendments to update the current Complete Streets Policy for the City of Des Moines to reflect the MoveDSM Master Transportation Plan. Motion passed 12-0.

Board: Transportation Safety Committee

Date: August 28, 2018

Resolution Number: N/A

Action: Motion was made by Jim Windsor to approve the final MoveDSM document with recommended changes and, also recommend the final document to Plan and Zoning Commission for adoption as an element of PlanDSM; seconded by Scott Bents. Motion passed 9-0.

### **ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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