

7.3 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

In addition to adopting state-of-the-practice design guidelines, local jurisdictions can also use other policy and regulatory tools to improve walking and biking in their communities – notably, Complete Streets policies, zoning ordinances and subdivision regulations. Complete Streets policies are an increasingly effective strategy to ensure that the needs of pedestrians and bicyclists are incorporated into all transportation planning, design, operation and maintenance decisions. The goal of a Complete Streets policy is to provide a transportation system that meets the needs of all users, regardless of age, ability or mode of transportation. Appendix A includes a Complete Streets policy template that can be tailored to each jurisdiction.

While the effectiveness of Complete Streets policies varies across the country – **more than 1,200**

Complete Street policies have been adopted nationwide, the most successful policies emphasize:

- Applying the Complete Streets policy in all phases of transportation project development, including planning, programming, design, construction, operations and maintenance;
- Updating all department, agency and commission policies and standards for consistency with the Complete Streets policy; and
- Measuring outcomes, including design (e.g., percentage of planned sidewalks constructed) and administrative (e.g., the number of exceptions granted) performance measures.

One of the most cost-effective implementation strategies for each jurisdiction is to establish land development regulations and street design standards that promote Complete Streets and walkable and bikeable development. Based on best practices from around the U.S., Appendix B includes recommendations for strengthening local zoning ordinances and subdivision regulations. The recommendations are organized into three categories – Complete Streets and Greenways, Pedestrian and Bicycle Oriented Urban Design, and Connectivity. For each category, local jurisdiction regulations and standards were reviewed, and changes recommended where applicable.