



Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act

How does the FAST Act impact Complete Streets projects?

The FAST Act is the first federal transportation bill to ever include Complete Streets. The provisions help ensure that newly designed and constructed National Highway System roadways offer better transportation options, improve public health, support retired Americans, advance economic development, reinvest in underserved communities, help kids get to and from school, and keep people safe while biking and walking. The Complete Streets provisions in the FAST Act represent a great step forward in the effort to make streets across the country safer for everyone who uses them.

Safe streets for all users

The bill takes steps in maker streets safer for all users:

- Requires the Secretary of Transportation to encourage states and metropolitan planning organizations to adopt road design standards that take into account pedestrians and other vulnerable road users, as well as motor vehicles, through all phases of planning, development, and operation.
- Directs the Secretary to report on state progress toward implementation and to identify best practices in the states.
- Requires State transportation departments to take into account access for all users and modes of transportation when designing and building National Highway System roadways. This requirement is a significant step forward, in that all designs and design alternatives need to take into account all potential users of the roadways.
- Requires the use of the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO)'s Urban Street Design Guide as one of the standards that U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) must consider when developing design standards, and it permits local governments to use their own adopted design guides if they are the lead project sponsor and the direct recipient of the federal funds for the project—even if it differs from state standards.





Quick Facts

On December 4, 2015, The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act was signed into law. The FAST Act—a five-year, \$305 billion transportation bill—is the first law enacted in over ten years that provides long-term funding certainty for surface transportation, meaning States and local governments can move forward with critical transportation projects with the confidence that they will have a long-term Federal partner.

Helpful Resources

The following federal resources assist communities implementing Complete Streets projects:

- **Secretary's Action Plan on Bike and Pedestrian Safety** (<https://www.transportation.gov/office-policy/transportation-policy/secretary%E2%80%99s-action-plan-bike-and-pedestrian-safety>)
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Funding Opportunities: US Department of Transportation, Federal Transit, and Federal Highway Funds** (http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/funding/funding_opportunities.cfm)
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Funding, Design, and Environmental Review: Addressing Common Misconceptions** (http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/guidance/misconceptions.cfm)

