



HUNTSVILLE

Department of Urban Development

Michelle Gilliam Jordan, AICP
Director
Planning Department

03/20/2017

John Robert Smith and Emiko Atherton
Smart Growth America (SGA)
National Complete Streets Coalition 1707 L St. NW, Suite 250
Washington, DC 20036

RE: City of Huntsville Complete Streets Implementation Six Month Status Update

John Robert and Emiko:

This update chronicles the progress of the City of Huntsville, AL in the six months since city staff received the Smart Growth America Complete Streets Policy Implementation Next Steps Memo.

On November 17, 2016, the Huntsville City Council adopted a resolution authorizing the city's Urban Development Department to draft a Complete Streets policy. This action by the Council was a significant step in more closely linking urban design and transportation planning in the city. This resolution is attached to this letter.

Since the authorization, the BIG Picture Huntsville staff continues to work diligently to draft the new policy, with the goal of presenting it to the Planning Commission in April, 2017. In addition, Big Picture staff also worked on several local Complete Streets initiatives related to the policy.

The City of Huntsville continues to make progress towards the two Complete Streets projects, Holmes Ave and Clinton Ave, discussed at the Smart Growth America Complete Streets Workshop in June, 2016. The city's FY 2017-2026 budget and capital improvement plan, passed in Fall, 2016, includes funding for both projects.

In February 2017, in preparation for the Clinton Ave. project, our Traffic Engineering Department, restriped the intersection at Governors Drive and Triana Blvd to remove a double left turn lane. This will accommodate the planned Complete Streets update on nearby Clinton Ave by reconfiguring Clinton so that only one lane will turn left, making it safer for the increased number of bicycles and pedestrians anticipated at this intersection.

The Star of Alabama

In March 2017, the city launched its first two bike share programs. Zagster is sharing forty bicycles at eight locations around downtown Huntsville, while the Huntsville Urban Bike Share (HUBS) is sharing bikes throughout downtown and the surrounding urban core, including the Lowe Mill area. Each bicycle sharing program is unique and designed to serve a different set of customers and cyclists. However, the programs are complementary and it is envisioned that cyclists can use both in the course of a single day to increase the total geographic area one can ride on a borrowed bicycle.

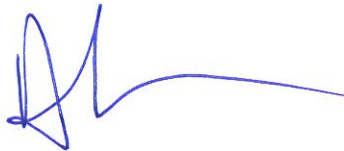
The City of Huntsville's partnership with the Land Trust of North Alabama, finalized on September 22, 2016, continues to progress steadily toward drafting an update of the City of Huntsville Greenway Master Plan. Additionally, the committee has developed a prioritized list of ten greenway projects to complete in the next five years. These projects are mostly connections between existing greenways in order to create an interconnected greenway network. The Greenway Committee has drafted a set of prioritization criteria for greenway project selection.

The prioritization criteria for the Complete Streets policy are currently being developed with the help of materials sent to BIG Picture staff in September, 2016 by Emiko Atherton following her Next Steps Memo meeting with the city. The BIG Picture staff will coordinate and help ensure the compatibility of the prioritization criteria in the Greenway Master Plan and the Complete Streets policy, as well as other relevant plans such as Sidewalks and Bikeways. The goal is to create an integrated system of greenways and complete streets which work together to enhance mobility in the community.

To further support this goal, the BIG Picture Huntsville partnered with Downtown Huntsville Inc. and consultants from Urban Design Associates (UDA) to host a series of Downtown Master Plan events, culminating in a public meeting on March 8, 2017. The initial summary of these events from UDA show alternative transportation options and multi-modal transportation as a priority for residents, businesses, and other stakeholders as the city updates its Downtown Master Plan. The Complete Streets policy will complement the new Downtown Master Plan effort.

The City of Huntsville is benefiting greatly from the technical assistance offered by Smart Growth America and thanks you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dennis Madsen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dennis Madsen
Director Urban and Long Range Planning

RESOLUTION NO. 16-913

WHEREAS, in January 2016, the Mayor entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Smart Growth America (SGA); and,


WHEREAS, SGA offers technical assistance to local governments around the country in the writing, adoption, and implementation of complete streets policies; and,

WHEREAS, SGA held a workshop in Huntsville for the development and implementation of a complete streets policy, and delivered a Next Steps Memo to the city following the workshop; and,

WHEREAS, the January 2016 MOU states the City will make efforts to meet the objectives in the Next Steps Memo including the drafting of a complete streets policy within six months of receipt of the Memo;

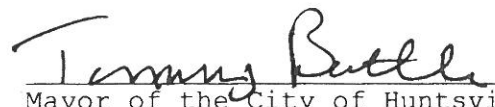
BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Huntsville, that the Urban Development Department of the City of Huntsville be authorized, requested and directed to draft a Complete Streets policy for the City of Huntsville.

ADOPTED this the 17th day of November, 2016



President of the City Council of
the City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the 17th day of November, 2016



Mayor of the City of Huntsville,
Alabama

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM COVER MEMO

Agenda Item Number: _____

Meeting Type: Regular

Meeting Date: Nov 17, 2016

Action Requested By: Planning

Agenda Type: Resolution

Subject Matter:

Resolution authorizing the Urban Development Department to draft a Complete Streets policy for the City of Huntsville

Exact Wording for the Agenda:

Resolution authorizing the Urban Development Department to draft a Complete Streets policy for the City of Huntsville

Note: If amendment, Please state title and number of the original

Item to be considered for: Action

Unanimous Consent Required: No

Briefly state why the action is required; why it is recommended; what council action will provide, allow and accomplish and; any other information that might be helpful.


This action will allow for the drafting of a Complete Streets policy for the City of Huntsville. The drafting of this policy will be carried out by a leadership team comprised of staff members of divisions of the City of Huntsville Urban Development Department.

Complete Streets is a transportation policy and design approach that requires streets to be planned, designed, operated, and maintained to enable safe, convenient and comfortable travel and access for users of all ages and abilities regardless of their mode of transportation.

Associated Cost: _____

Budgeted Item: _____

MAYOR RECOMMENDS OR CONCURS: _____

Department Head:  _____

Date: 11-9-16