ABOUT THE CONSULTANTS

The mission of Active Transportation Alliance is to make bicycling, walking, and public transit so safe, convenient, and fun that we will achieve a significant shift from environmentally harmful, sedentary travel to clean, active travel. We advocate for transportation that encourages and promotes safety, physical activity, health, recreation, social interaction, equity, environmental stewardship, and resource conservation.

We are both Chicagoland’s voice for better biking, walking, and transit and a premier consultancy. Our staff includes planning, policy, and education experts who developed many of the best practice programs and policies included in this plan. By partnering with us on this project, you not only get the best plan possible, you also support our mission to improve active transportation throughout the Chicagoland region.

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ABOUT WE CHOOSE HEALTH

The project is part of the Illinois Department of Public Health’s We Choose Health Initiative, which is made possible by funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
INTRODUCTION:
RURAL AREAS NEED COMPLETE STREETS

Purpose of the Rural Companion to Complete Streets, Complete Networks.

What are Complete Streets?
Introduction: Rural areas need Complete Streets

Complete Streets provide all people, regardless of their age, ability, or mode of transportation with safe and healthy travel options throughout their community. Whether in a big city or a small town, residents need safe access to local resources and the places that they want to go, whether they’re walking, biking, catching a bus, or driving a car.

A connected network of bikeable, walkable streets supports increased property values and access to jobs, reduced traffic congestion, improved community health, and better air quality. Complete Streets enable older adults to age in place and help kids get to and from school safely and independently.

While traditional roadway design practice focuses almost solely on capacity and vehicle traffic volumes, the Complete Streets philosophy challenges engineers and planners to think more comprehensively about project goals and community impact. From scoping to construction to maintenance, all project designs should be developed with consideration for all people who will be using the road and how to accommodate diverse travel modes. Considerations must also be made for current and future land use and development.

Smaller communities face unique transportation challenges. Major roads that bring traffic through town can pose significant safety barriers for residents on foot or on bike, and they are often controlled by State or County agencies. These major roads are not only key transportation routes, but are also important to the economic vitality of a community.

With a Complete Streets approach, municipalities are empowered to coordinate with outside agencies on new project designs to ensure that it will serve local residents as well as visitors. These major roads are not only key transportation routes, but are also important to the economic vitality of a community. The businesses on major roads rely on spending from locals as well as visitors. A network of Complete Streets provide improved access to residents living nearby and calm traffic so out of town visitors are more likely to drive slowly down a main street and stop to patronize local businesses, thus supporting local economic vitality.
WHAT ARE COMPLETE STREETS?

Complete Streets are developed through a design approach and are supported by policy.

Complete Streets are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders of all ages and abilities must be able to safely move along and across a Complete Street.

A Complete Streets Policy is a commitment by a jurisdiction to routinely design and operate the entire right-of-way to ensure safe access for all users: drivers, transit users, bicyclists and pedestrians, including older people, children, people with disabilities, and—in rural areas—people transporting farm equipment and using equestrian vehicles.
Complete Streets in a Rural Context

HOW THIS GUIDE DEFINES RURAL AREAS

In this guide, the term “rural” is defined broadly to include small towns, individual communities, and clusters of communities that are not considered part of a metropolitan area. It also includes land that is predominantly agricultural, forested, or prairie land. At present, most existing Complete Streets design resources provide limited guidance for rural areas and small towns, and instead are focused on urban and suburban areas that are part of a larger metropolitan region. This guide recognizes that rural areas have unique land use patterns and transportation needs that are not typically found in larger cities, and intends to address those.

WHY COMPLETE STREETS ARE IMPORTANT IN RURAL AREAS

People in small towns and rural areas can benefit greatly from Complete Streets in the following ways:

PUBLIC HEALTH

People living in rural areas suffer from disparities in health equity. Obesity related diseases are among the top causes of death in the US, and obesity rates are higher in rural areas than in urban areas. Through a Complete Streets approach to roadway design, public agencies will facilitate the simplest ways to combat these health risks: routine, physically active transportation such as walking and biking.

EQUITY AND ECONOMY

One third of Americans do not drive. This number includes seniors beyond their driving years, people with disabilities, children, and the economically disadvantaged. The cost of car ownership can be a significant burden in poorer communities, but traveling by foot, bike, and transit helps families save money on gas and other expenses. Households that spend less on transportation are able to budget that money in other ways, and often spend money saved at local businesses. Complete Streets provide a safer environment for struggling families to access community resources and jobs.

CONNECTIVITY

Rural areas have unique development patterns. Many towns are surrounded by agricultural land and connected to nearby towns by only a few roads. Small towns often have a Main Street style downtown with shops and restaurants, but grocery stores and other basic necessities are located on the edge of town, often in developments that are unsafe or unreachable on foot, on bike, or by transit. Complete Streets give people better access to commercial areas and a choice of modes to use when traveling.

LOCAL EMPOWERMENT

Often, a town’s main street and other major roads are not controlled by the local community, but rather by the state Department of Transportation, whose main focus is on moving cars and trucks throughout the state, and not necessarily the quality of life in each community. Complete Streets policies empower local communities to work with larger transportation departments to build roadways that meet community needs.

SAFETY

Nationally, people in rural areas can be most severely affected by a lack of Complete Streets. A disproportionate number of bicycle and pedestrian fatalities occur in rural areas. Less than 20% of the US population lives in rural areas, while 26% of all pedestrian fatalities and 31% of all bicyclist fatalities occurred in rural areas.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE BENEFITS OF COMPLETE STREETS, VISIT ATPOLICY.ORG AND SEARCH FOR FACT SHEETS

1. US Census 2010
4. PDOT - Complete Streets
5. 2012 Active Transportation: A Synthesis of 31 Urban Mobility Plans. September 2013
HOW COMPLETE STREETS DIFFER IN RURAL VERSUS URBAN AND SUBURBAN CONTEXTS

There are many types of Complete Streets. Not all roadways need a sidewalk, bike lane, and car lanes to be considered a Complete Street. Some roads in agricultural areas can be considered “complete” by providing a paved shoulder. Beyond walking, bicycling, driving, and transit, rural areas have other unique transportation modes such as farm equipment and horse drawn carriages.

Major roads, especially those without accommodations for all modes of travel can cause significant neighborhood divide and be barriers to access. A child living just a few blocks from school or a senior beyond her driving years may not be able to independently travel to important destinations because just one road or intersection along their route is too hazardous to cross. Complete Streets design helps all people access the places they want to go.
How to Build Complete Streets: Policy and Process Concepts

Successful Complete Streets design and implementation is often the result of internal and external policies and procedures created by agencies that build and fund roadways. The following concepts will help you understand the process by which Complete Streets are developed at the local level.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACHIEVING COMPLETE STREETS

Every roadway maintenance or construction project is an opportunity to include Complete Streets design elements. Some of the most common ways to construct Complete Streets are listed below.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

As municipalities grow, new roads will need to be constructed to accommodate the expansion. Allocating right-of-way for pedestrians, cyclists, and transit vehicles in initial roadway design will prevent communities from having to retrofit roads in the future.

ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

Road reconstruction completely removes the existing roadway and replaces it with a new roadway. This type of project may include a complete redesign, expansion of right-of-way, changes to drainage, and reallocation of right-of-way from one mode to another. Reconstruction is an opportunity to move curbs and expand the roadway to allow for Complete Streets elements.

UTILITY WORK

When utility companies dig under a street or sidewalk to access their lines, the company must reconstruct the roadway when they are finished with the work. Municipalities can use this reconstruction as a lower cost opportunity to patch sidewalk or resurface the road where the utility company did their work. New striping or thermoplastic installation can be included in these projects.

RESURFACING

Resurfacing is when the top layer of a roadway is removed and new layer is installed. This type of project can be an opportunity to reconfigure a cross section to include a bike lane, on-street parking, or a median without expanding the roadway. It's also an opportunity to add or redesign crosswalks and curb ramps for improved safety.

SUBDIVISION AND SITE REDEVELOPMENT

Typically, developers of new buildings and subdivisions are required to build roads within a new subdivision and make improvements to the front of the property in order to comply with existing or planned roadway standards. New developments can be set back to account for future sidewalk or bikeway construction. Developers can be asked or required by municipalities to construct sidewalks, and commercial, institutional and industrial developments should always include bike parking on-site.

ROADWAY JURISDICTION

Although all roads within a single municipality are interconnected, not all roads within the town are owned and maintained by the municipality. Each road is owned by a public agency responsible for funding, construction, maintenance, signage, repair, and operations of that road. In rural areas, typically there is a main road or roads traveling through the center of a town connecting it to other towns, which is owned by Illinois Department of Transportation, a network of local roads providing access to the homes and businesses within the town, which are owned and maintained by the municipality, and several roads leading out of the town, which are owned and maintained by the county or township. When a road is being resurfaced, reconstructed, or receiving maintenance, it must meet the design standards of the agency that owns it. To ensure that local goals and needs are served, municipalities should communicate proactively with other agencies whose projects occur within their borders.
TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

In Illinois, the following agencies own and maintain roads, provide funding for roadways, and/or govern roadway design.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (IDOT)

The Illinois Department of Transportation owns and maintains most of the major roadways in Illinois. Its network of roads facilitates travel within and between cities thought the state. IDOT also receives and distributes Federal funding allocated through the Federal transportation bill. The state is divided into 9 districts. Each district office provides maintenance, design and construction to roads under IDOT’s jurisdiction within that district.

In 2007, a Complete Streets law was passed by the Illinois General Assembly, and in 2010, IDOT updated its design guidance to include recommendations for the accommodation of bicycle and pedestrian facilities. IDOT’s policy has resulted in an increased coordination with local agencies about the inclusion of Complete Streets elements in State-led roadway projects.

At present, IDOT’s policy requires an 80/20 cost sharing agreement for roadway projects that include bike and pedestrian accommodations. Local municipalities have to pay for 20% of the cost of bicycle and pedestrian accommodations on IDOT led projects. The Illinois Bike Transportation Plan recommends eliminating local funding match requirements for bike and pedestrian facilities. So, this cost sharing requirement may change in the future.

COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Each county in Illinois has a department of transportation which owns and maintains some roads in the county. Some of these agencies provide coordination services between municipalities, townships, and the state to ensure a consistent and connected transportation network for county residents and businesses. In rural areas, county roads typically provide inter-town connectivity between smaller towns not served by IDOT roadways, or offer a second, alternative route between two towns. Some counties in Illinois, including Lake, DuPage and Cook County have adopted Complete Streets Policies.

MUNICIPAL

Municipalities in Illinois own and maintain roads only within their political boundary. These roads are usually “local” roads that serve lower traffic volumes and short trips within the town, and are usually designed and constructed on an as-needed basis to serve the local businesses and residents. A municipality can also obtain jurisdiction over high capacity roads through a process called jurisdictional transfer.

TOWNSHIP

Townships in Illinois are a local form of governance that provides services to unincorporated areas within a county. Most township roads have low traffic volumes and go through areas with very low population densities.

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

Metropolitan planning organizations are comprised of elected officials and staff representing urbanized areas with a population of 50,000 or more. These organizations are responsible for planning of the regional transportation network, regularly updating the regional transportation plan, and distributing Federal funds in accordance with the regional plan. MPOs typically do not have jurisdiction over any roadways, but may work closely with counties and municipalities to set roadway design standards.

REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY OR REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Regions with lower population densities coordinate planning activities through a regional planning agency or commission. These agencies work with cities, towns, and counties within the region but do not typically have jurisdiction over any roadways.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Transportation facilities have a long lifecycle that can span an entire generation. Each public agency with roadway jurisdiction must consider both current and future conditions with each roadway project, and plan for changes to its overall network. Planning, as a practice, strives to anticipate those changes over time in order to meet a community or region’s transportation needs. Plans help communities coordinate future development and leverage State and Federal funding for implementation. Typically plans are developed on one of the following time frames:

LONG RANGE PLANS

Long Range Plans consider long term changes of a municipality or county over a 10 or 20-year period. These types of plans usually outline a vision and goals, provide a network map of the geographic area considered under the plan, and include a phasing agenda to prioritize the projects should be completed first. Common types of long range plans are Comprehensive Plans, Transportation Plans, Bicycle Plans, Pedestrian Plans, Non-motorized Plans, Transit Oriented Development Plans, Neighborhood Plans, Corridor Plans, and Sustainability Plans.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN/PROGRAM

A Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a municipality or county’s list of transportation projects that the agency anticipates to construct in the near term. Typically the CIP outlines the next 5 years of transportation projects based on the agency’s anticipated budget and other available funding. Once a project is included within a CIP, detailed planning and design work can begin. Each municipality, county, MPO and State maintains a CIP.

MUNICIPAL CODES AND DESIGN GUIDES

Municipal codes, especially subdivision ordinances and design guides provide design details for roadways and right-of-way. This type of plan outlines how much right-of-way is required for a road, the frequency of roadway connectivity, and engineering level details for how the roadway should be designed. Each municipality and county maintain a municipal code, and may adopt their own design guidance or use IDOT and Federal guidance.

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CHAPTER 3: HOW TO BUILD COMPLETE STREETS: POLICY AND PROCESS CONCEPTS

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CHAPTER 4: HOW TO BUILD COMPLETE STREETS: DESIGN CONCEPTS

The Built Environment
Roadway Network
Components of the Right-of-Way
Design Guidance
Design Controls
How to Build Complete Streets: Design Concepts

This guide uses the following concepts as a basis for understanding Complete Streets design in rural communities:

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

We define the built environment as the human-made world around us. The homes we live in, the buildings we work in, the roads we travel upon, and the infrastructure that brings us clean water, electricity, and communications. Engineers, architects, planners, construction workers, elected officials, and community members affect the built environment through construction of new buildings, regulation of development patterns, and provision of transportation and utilities. The built environment is constantly changing to suit the needs of the people that live within it. As a population changes, transportation, housing, and commercial centers will grow or shrink to meet the demands of the community. Built environment patterns should be considered when planning for and designing Complete Streets.

In rural areas, towns are generally surrounded by agricultural or open space land uses. Land on the edge of towns is often the most affordable to develop, compared to land at the center of town, which can be constrained by existing buildings, or land farther out of town, which may not be connected to the sewer or electrical grid. Yet land on the edge of town is often the farthest from existing services and destinations, making it difficult for someone living on the edge of town to access those destinations on foot or bike. So, Complete Streets design, especially in rural areas encourages more concentrated development so people can walk or bike to destinations in a reasonable amount of time.

ROADWAY NETWORK

All transportation networks must provide access and connectivity to destinations. Trips begin with an origin, follow a route along an interconnected network of roadways, sidewalks, paths, or bikeways, and end at a destination. People and goods travel along the interconnected paths in order to arrive at their desired destination.

Networks are laid out in different patterns with varying levels of intersection frequency. Highly connected networks are laid out in a grid pattern, while networks with less connectivity are more likely to have a single main road with several local streets feeding off it.

In rural areas, road networks are designed to accommodate two types of trips, short trips within the town, and longer trips between towns. Typically, roads providing connectivity within the town are designed for lower traffic volumes, and slower moving traffic. Whereas, roads providing connections between towns are designed for higher travel speeds and higher traffic volumes.
CHAPTER 4: HOW TO BUILD COMPLETE STREETS: DESIGN CONCEPTS

COMPONENTS OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY
The right-of-way is publicly owned land maintained for the purpose of transporting people and goods. A Complete Street is comprised of multiple realms, and several zones within each realm. Each realm serves a different purpose and each zone provides travel space or a buffer for a specific mode.

LAND USE CONTEXT
Land Use context is the area outside of the public right-of-way. It consists of the buildings, parking lots, and landscaping that is privately owned and maintained, but accessed from the public right-of-way. Building size, placement and type of use can affect the number of people that want to walk or bike there.

PEDESTRIAN REALM
The pedestrian realm is the area dedicated to travel for pedestrians. It has three main component zones:

FRONTAGE ZONE: The frontage zone is the outer most component of a cross section and is the area between the edge of the sidewalk and the edge of the public right-of-way.

PEDESTRIAN ZONE: The pedestrian zone is intended for people on foot, in wheelchairs, or pushing strollers, and should be clear of obstacles.

BUFFER ZONE: The buffer zone, also known as the curb zone or furniture zone serves as a buffer between pedestrians and moving traffic. Landscaping, utilities, bus shelters, and bicycle parking can be found in this area.

TRAVELWAY
The travelway is located between the curbs or shoulders, and allows for through movement of vehicles, including bicycles, cars, and trucks. It has three main component zones:

BIKEWAY: Bikeways are space for travel by people on bicycle. Depending on the roadway conditions, bike travel can occur in either a dedicated lane, on a shoulder, or in mixed traffic with slow moving cars.

PARKING: On-street parking provides a space for cars to park in the short term. Most commonly, parking is located on the outside edge of the travelway, but in some instances, on-street parking may act as a buffer between moving cars and bike travel.

VEHICLE LANE: Vehicle lanes are dedicated space for the movement of cars and trucks.

MEDIAN: Medians are located in the center of the roadway and allow for separation of each direction of travel and/or turn lanes. They may also accommodate crossing islands for pedestrians.
CHAPTER 4: HOW TO BUILD COMPLETE STREETS: DESIGN CONCEPTS

DESIGN GUIDANCE

Street design standards are set by the public agency that funds, owns, and maintains a given roadway. In Illinois, most of the major roadways connecting cities and towns are owned and maintained by the Illinois Department of Transportation, yet municipalities, counties and townships receive funding from the State to support roadway maintenance. All state-funded roadway projects must generally conform to IDOT’s design standards, however the agency may approve some design deviations when a municipality can demonstrate a need for more robust facilities to improve safety and access. IDOT uses two main design guides for roadway design and construction.

BUREAU OF DESIGN AND ENVIRONMENT MANUAL

This guide establishes policies and procedures for roadways under jurisdiction of the State of Illinois.

BUREAU OF LOCAL ROADS AND STREETS MANUAL

This guide establishes policies and procedures for roadways under the municipal, township and county jurisdiction.

ROADWAY DESIGN GUIDANCE

Roadway design guidance issued in Illinois is based on research and federal guidance developed by Federal transportation agencies such as Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), and the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO). The following design guides represent national best practices for bicycle and pedestrian design and may be more accessible to a reader without an engineering background:

NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide
NACTO Urban Street Design Guide
AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities
AASHTO Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities

DESIGN CONTROLS

Design controls are the parameters around which engineers select geometrics for roadways. These parameters may be different for each project, but should generally reflect community-wide goals and standards. Selecting the smallest possible design vehicle and lowest speed supports bicycle and pedestrian mobility.

FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION

Functional classification is a system of grouping roadway based on desired attributes for automobiles; vehicle speed, traffic volume, length of roadway, and accessibility of adjacent land uses. The three most common functional classifications in order from highest motorized vehicle capacity to lowest are arterial, collector, and local.

DESIGN VEHICLE

A design vehicle is the vehicle-type for which an engineer selects geometrics for lane widths and turning radii for a given project. Larger vehicles require wider turning radii than smaller vehicles do. However, a wider turning radius can encourage all traffic to speed around corners, creating unsafe crossing conditions for pedestrians. While the conventional approach would be to promote maximum vehicular throughput by selecting a large design vehicle, the Complete Streets approach is to use a smaller design vehicle, such as a delivery truck, whenever possible based on the land use context.

TARGET SPEED

Target Speed is the speed at which vehicles should operate on a thoroughfare in a specific context, consistent with the level of multimodal activity generated by adjacent land uses to provide both mobility for motor vehicles and a safe environment for pedestrians and bicyclists.

DESIGN SPEED

Design speed is the speed at which the road is designed to be driven upon. It is usually derived from policy or standards set by the roadway jurisdiction. Roadway geometrics—such as lane widths and turning radius—can inadvertently encourage people to drive faster than the posted speed limit by permitting wider lanes and wider turning radii than necessary to allow driving at the posted speed limit. Design speed should be selected so drivers naturally drive at the posted speed limit.

4.6

FIGURE 4.6 DESIGN GUIDES FOR COMPLETE STREETS

Source: NACTO Streetscape Design Guide

4.7

FIGURE 4.7 DESIGN VEHICLES INFLUENCE TURNING RADIUS AND PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

Source: NACTO Streetscape Design Guide
Context Sensitive Design

Context Sensitive Design is the practice of creating designs based on routine considerations for the places adjacent to the roadway, the people that use it, and how the roadway serves the needs of the community. This strongly growing practice is unique from the traditional approach to roadway design which typically over all other considerations.

Context Sensitive Design applies an “outside-in” approach. This means beginning a design project by first identifying the types of destinations and land uses “outside” the travelway, as well as why, how, and how many people will need to access them. Then, shift focus toward the “inside” the public right-of-way, consider the transportation modes people are likely to use and any local goals for modeshare or modeshift. Finally, select a roadway typology as a guide for allocating right-of-way based on the land use and modal priorities. This is unlike the traditional approach in which designers begin their considerations at the street centerline, first setting the number and width of vehicle travel lanes, and then only considering parking, bikeways, and pedestrian ways when additional right-of-way is leftover.

In rural areas, context can dramatically affect roadway design. A two lane road connecting two small villages is likely to have some, but not many bike or pedestrian trips, so a paved shoulder between the travelway and a drainage ditch can accommodate the few bike and pedestrian trips made between the towns, making the roadway safer and more accessible for all users —especially the economically disadvantaged. Whereas, that same road may go through the center of a business district, where a person might bike to the district, park and then walk between the businesses. To safely accommodate travel within that business district, wider sidewalks, parking and crosswalks would need to be included as part of the roadway design for that roadway to be considered a Complete Street.

The following chapter outlines the steps for developing Complete Streets designs in rural areas.

1. Identify land use context
2. Identify intensity of the development pattern
3. Select roadway typology
4. Select modal priority
5. Develop cross-section

Each section describes how context influences transportation design, and how roads, even those with the same amount of right of way can look very different, depending on which modes are prioritized in the roadway design.

For more details on how to select facilities for roadway design, see Complete Streets, Complete Networks Chapters 3, Geometrics: Components for Assembling Complete Streets and Chapter 4, Amenities: Components for Assembling Complete Streets.

These chapters are collections of best practices for design elements to include in roadways. They include sections on both “Getting Started” and “Going the Distance,” which describe approaches for communities that are committed to building Complete Streets, and include cutting-edge approaches now in use across the country.

Land use helps the roadway designer understand the number or trips, mode share, and time of day for trips generated by the buildings and destinations adjacent to a roadway. The most common types of land uses found in rural areas are listed below:

RESIDENTIAL

Residential areas are characterized by the presence of housing units. The single family home located on an individual parcel of land is the most common type of residential land use in rural areas. However, all types of housing; single family house, townhome, multi-family apartments and condominiums, and mobile homes are all considered residential land uses.

Schools, houses of worship, small parks, and community centers are also frequently located in residential areas.
Commercial land use refers to both office and retail uses. Towns in rural areas are likely to have a Main Street commercial district with small offices, stores, restaurants, bars, and entertainment venues. Larger rural towns may also have strip-center style development, office parks, or big box retail corridors that draw customers and employees from outside the town.

Industrial land uses include warehousing, manufacturing, processing, and shipping. These types of uses can be loud and generate odors, so they are rarely located near residential areas. Some of these facilities operate 24 hours with employees and trucks arriving and departing at all times of day. Although truck mode share is relatively high in this type of land use, employees, especially lower paid employees may be arriving on foot or bike.
OPEN SPACE

Open space land uses refer to areas with few buildings or structures, such as parks, forests, gardens, and agricultural land. When located within a town, recreational spaces in particular may attract visitors arriving on foot or bike. Open space, especially agricultural land, outside of a town may generate trips on less conventional modes such as horses or farm equipment.

OVERLAYS

An overlay is a district or area with a general, unifying purpose and special provisions to support it. For example, a college campus will have dorms (residential), classrooms and offices (commercial), and a sports field (open space), and may need to design wider sidewalks and pedestrian paths to allow for travel around campus.
SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENT PATTERN INTENSITIES AND COMMON ATTRIBUTES IN RURAL AREAS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Development Pattern Intensity</th>
<th>Common Land Uses</th>
<th>Separation between Buildings</th>
<th>Road Network</th>
<th>Intersection Density</th>
<th>Sewer Connectivity</th>
<th>Transit Present</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Agricultural, forest, prairie</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Sparse, disconnected</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Septic</td>
<td>None, dial a ride</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Large lot single family residential, big box retail</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Sprawling, somewhat connected</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Sewer or septic</td>
<td>Limited, fixed route or dial a ride</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Small lot single family residential, multi family, entertainment/cultural</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Gridded, highly connected</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Sewer</td>
<td>Fixed route</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DEVELOPMENT PATTERN INTENSITY

Compete Streets Design Manuals use a land use model called the transect, to describe intensity of land use and development pattern. The transect uses the built form, building height, setback, space between buildings and roadway network design to describe the levels of land use intensity. Transects usually occur in six categories, T1 to T6 which represent the spectrum of land uses from extremely rural low density development (T1) to extremely dense, urban development patterns (T6). Transects can be customized to local development patterns.

This guide has adapted the transect concept and calibrated it for rural Illinois, making it unique from its original framework developed by the Congress for New Urbanism and the Institute of Transportation Engineers. Typically, terms like urban, suburban, and rural are used to describe the development patterns within the transect, but as this guide is intended only for rural areas, the following terms will be used:

LOW INTENSITY

Low intensity development patterns are located outside of a town. Development would be extremely sparse with just a few residences or businesses surrounded by agricultural or natural land. Nearby buildings are separated by hundreds of feet, and few, if any destinations can be reached on foot in less than 10 minutes. Most buildings are on a septic system, and are not located within an incorporated municipality. The roadway network is extremely sparse. Examples: farmhouse, grain silo, roadside fruit stand.

MEDIUM INTENSITY

Medium intensity development patterns are located on the edge of a town. Development is characterized by long, wide setbacks, one or two story buildings with parking lots in front or on the side of the building. Adjacent buildings can be reached in less than 2 minutes walking. Buildings may be on septic or sewer. This pattern can be found either on the outside edge of an incorporated area, or just outside of the incorporated area. The roadway network is often set up in a pattern of curvilinear streets with long blocks and infrequent intersections. Examples: farmettes, large lot subdivisions, big box stores, industrial parks, truck stops.

HIGH INTENSITY

High intensity development patterns are located in the center of a town. Development is characterized by limited setbacks, buildings can be multi-story, and many buildings can be reached within a 10 minute walk. The roadway network is often set up in a grid pattern with short blocks and frequent intersections. All buildings are connected to sewer and are located in incorporated areas. In larger towns and cities, fixed route transit service can be found in these areas. Examples: small lot subdivisions, business districts, apartment complexes, mixed use buildings.

OVERLAY ZONES

Place overlays, also called special districts, are intended to accommodate and create special design considerations for specific areas with a unique character or identity. Two of the most common overlays for rural areas are listed below.

CAMPUS OVERLAY

The campus overlay can be applied to a set of buildings all owned or maintained by a single agency, where many visitors or employees arrive on the campus and then may visit multiple buildings in or around the campus in a single day. Walking and biking mode share in and around campuses is often higher than other parts of town. Examples include college campuses, medical campuses, and government complexes.

MAIN STREET OVERLAY

The main street overlay can be applied to traditional business districts. Buildings in these districts are usually zoned for commercial or mixed use, with wide sidewalks, no setbacks, and on-street parking. These districts sometimes have a chamber of commerce that will coordinate unique signage and street furniture to identify the business district and set it apart from other community areas. Often, a Main Street business district will be surrounded by relatively higher intensity land uses.
SUMMARY OF LAND USE INTENSITIES AND COMMON ATTRIBUTES IN RURAL AREAS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roadway type</th>
<th>Vehicle Capacity</th>
<th>Design Speed</th>
<th>Mode Separation</th>
<th>Level of connectivity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boulevard</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Town to town</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avenue</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Cross town</td>
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<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ROADWAY TYPOLOGY

The roadway typology will help to determine appropriate modal facilities and allocation of right-of-way. To select a roadway typology, review the existing conditions: functional classification, modal accommodations and context zones.

The roadway typologies described here provide mobility for all modes of transportation, with a greater focus on the most vulnerable users; pedestrians and cyclists. They are meant to broaden the design process by going beyond traditional design considerations such as traffic volume and vehicle speed in order to ensure the creation of Complete Streets. Designers should recognize the need for greater flexibility in applying design criteria, based on context and the need to create a safe environment for all roadway users.

MODAL PRIORITIZATION

Modal prioritization provides an alternative to traditional methods of roadway design optimization measures, such as vehicular capacity and Level of Service (LOS). Modal priority guidelines can assist the application of engineering judgment to design decisions.

All modes should be considered in a Complete Street. However, many Complete Streets will require retrofitting the existing roadway network and force designers to address trade-offs between competing priorities. Each mode can be assigned a different priority on each corridor, based on the context zone, street typology and desired outcomes.

This guide recommends prioritizing the most vulnerable roadway users when designing roads to support safety, public health, mode shift, and to increase trip capacity. In areas with higher intensity uses and buildings closer together, the pedestrian should be prioritized, and in areas with lower intensity uses, and buildings farther apart, the bicyclist should be prioritized.

The following are basic design considerations for each mode.

WALKING

Pedestrians are the most vulnerable roadway users and require the most separation from motorized traffic. Sidewalks within the right-of-way should be at least 5 feet wide, paved and separated from the travelway by a buffer of at least 5 feet. This width meets national standards for accessibility and will reasonably accommodate two people walking side by side or passing one another. Pedestrians may also be accommodated on multi-use paths shared with bicyclists if the path is at least 8 feet wide, or on paved shoulders in areas with few pedestrian trips.

Sidewalks intended for pedestrian transportation should always be designed parallel to the roadway to allow for the most direct pedestrian trip.
CHAPTER 5: CONTEXT SENSITIVE DESIGN

BICYCLING

Bicycling and designing for bicycle travel has evolved significantly since bikeways were first included to modern transportation design, in the 1970s. Some cyclists feel safe comfortable sharing the road with cars, while others prefer separation. On low speed, low volume roadways, bicyclists can share the road with cars without requiring physical separation from motorized traffic. On moderate speed, moderate volume roads, bicyclists prefer a marked or painted separation such as a 5 feet wide bike lane or 6-7 feet wide buffered bike lane with 4-5 feet marked for through bicycle travel, and a painted buffer separating the cyclists from traffic and/or on-street parking. On higher speed, higher volume roadways, safe cycling requires physically separated bikeways, either designed as a barrier protected bike lane using on-street parking and/or curbs to separate motorized and bike traffic, or an 8-10 feet multi-use path shared with pedestrian. In areas with low intensity development patterns, a 4 foot paved shoulder (without rumble strips) can accommodate bike travel. Although these areas may include faster vehicle speeds, lower traffic volume will make it possible for motorists to pass cyclists safely.

AUTO

Motor vehicles are an essential part of the Complete Streets network, but they should not be the only mode considered in network optimization. Car travel lanes should be 10-11 feet wide, and as narrow as 9 feet in low volume, low speed development patterns. On designated truck routes and in industrial areas with a high share of freight traffic, travel lanes should be 12 feet. Wide vehicle lanes (13 feet or greater) with moderate vehicle speeds and traffic volumes may be re-striped to include shared lane markings or bike lanes.

TRANSIT

Larger towns in rural areas may have a bus system. Because all transit trips begin and end with walking, and many bus riders will need to cross the street to reach their destination, or on their return trip, bus routes are likely to have a higher number of pedestrians present. Design consideration on bus routes include a wider travel lane 11 feet and shelter, bench and signage placement that does not interfere with pedestrian travel. In denser areas, space for a bus bump out in the parking lane or pull off into the buffer zone may be appropriate.

OTHER MODES

FREIGHT

Freight traffic, especially large trucks require additional travel lane width. On designated truck routes, at least one travel lane should be 12 feet wide.

FARM EQUIPMENT

Farm equipment travels slowly and may be wider than a typical automobile. On roadways where farm equipment is expected frequently, consider including 8 feet wide shoulders, or include pull offs to allow faster moving traffic to pass the farm equipment.

HORSES

Horse and buggy is a culturally distinct mode of travel in select rural areas. Typical carriages are 6 feet wide and require 8 feet of travelway. Consider a paved or aggregate shoulder to accommodate horse-powered travel.
CHAPTER 5: CONTEXT SENSITIVE DESIGN

DEVELOPING THE CROSS SECTION

The cross section is an illustration of right-of-way allocations and lane configurations for a roadway. Follow the steps listed below to build a cross section using the design principles outlined in this guide. Follow the steps listed below. Right-of-way tables and sample cross sections have been included in the back of the chapter to illustrate ideal conditions for building Complete Streets in rural communities.

1. **STEP 1: IDENTIFY LAND USE CONTEXT**
   - Visit the project site and observe the types of buildings, size of buildings, and uses for the buildings. Research the existing zoning and long-range plans within that area as your baseline for an ideal cross section.

2. **STEP 2: IDENTIFY DEVELOPMENT PATTERN INTENSITY**
   - Use a map of the town along with your observations and research of existing and planned conditions within the study area to select a roadway typology. Decide which land use description is most appropriate for the project area: residential, commercial, industrial, open space, or overall.

3. **STEP 3: SELECT ROADWAY TYPOLOGY**
   - Consider the current uses and travel patterns along the corridor as well as future plans and develop a cross section. Decide which street typology is most appropriate for your current and planned roadway operations: boulevard, arterial, or street typology.

4. **STEP 4: SELECT A CROSS SECTION**
   - Use the right-of-way tables for your selected roadway typology. Find the row that corresponds to your land use and intensity. Use the dimensions and sample cross sections have been included in the back of this chapter to illustrate ideal conditions for building Complete Streets in rural communities.

5. **STEP 5: NOTE MODAL PRIORITY**
   - Each row in the right-of-way table has a default modal priority. The modal priority of road travel should be considered first when designing the roadway. Modal priority can be used to guide trades in the design process.

6. **STEP 6: ADJUST CROSS SECTION FOR THE ON-GROUND CONDITIONS**
   - The ideal cross section may not always be achievable given your project type and other factors. Refer to section 3.A for information on how project types impact cross sections.

7. **STEP 7: CONSIDER HOW TO POPULATE THE CROSS SECTION**
   - In addition to the sample cross sections provided in back of this chapter, details about how each travel mode can be accommodated through facilities and amenities that meet the needs of each mode can be found in Complete Streets, Complete Networks: Chapter 3, Geometric Components for Assembling Complete Streets and Chapter 6, Additional Components for Assembling Complete Streets.

BOULEVARD

A boulevard is a roadway designed for higher vehicle capacity and moderate speed, traversing an urbanized area. Due to higher speed and trip volumes, greater separation between motorized and non-motorized traffic is needed. In areas with high intensity development patterns, a divided, protected bike lane, and/or sidewalk with a wide traffic buffer zone are appropriate to areas with lower intensity development patterns, where there are fewer bike and pedestrian trips, a sidewalk is appropriate. Boulevards often have relatively low pedestrian and bike trips, but at intersections with dispersed roadway networks, they are used as the main direct or indirect routes between two destinations. To promote community access and safety, boulevards may use mid-block connections for all types of travel modes.
### AVENUE

An avenue is a roadway of moderate to high vehicular capacity and low to moderate speed. Selective movement management is recommended in areas with moderate to high intensity development patterns, or in areas with low intensity development patterns, a pedestrian realm may be appropriate. In areas with lower intensity development patterns, on-street parking, traditional design elements, and a curb may be appropriate. In areas with medium to high intensity development patterns, a pedestrian realm or buffered bike lanes, and sidewalk may be appropriate.

![Diagram of an Avenue](image.png)

#### FIGURE 5.22

**AVENUE**

- First Avenue
- Second Avenue
- Third Avenue
- Fourth Avenue
- Fifth Avenue
- Sixth Avenue
- Seventh Avenue
- Eighth Avenue
- Ninth Avenue
- Tenth Avenue
- Eleventh Avenue
- Twelfth Avenue

#### FIGURE 5.23

**AVENUE**

- First Avenue
- Second Avenue
- Third Avenue
- Fourth Avenue
- Fifth Avenue
- Sixth Avenue
- Seventh Avenue
- Eighth Avenue
- Ninth Avenue
- Tenth Avenue
- Eleventh Avenue
- Twelfth Avenue

#### TABLE 5.1

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Mode Priority</th>
<th>Pedestrian Zone</th>
<th>Bike Lanes</th>
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</tbody>
</table>
### CHAPTER 5: CONTEXT SENSITIVE DESIGN

#### Pedestrian Realm

- **Pedestrian Zone**: 10’ Zone
- **Buffer Zone**: 5’ Zone
- **Gutter Pan**: 7’ Lane
- **Buffered Bike Lane**: 1’ Lane

**Notes**:
- Only allowed in low intensity development with very low vehicle speeds and volumes.
- Pedestrians may share the road with other modes of travel.
- Pedestrians will need sidewalk but in lower intensity development, route signage and shared lane or bike boulevard markings can enhance roadway safety.
- In higher intensity development, pedestrians will need sidewalk but in lower intensity development, route signage and shared lane or bike boulevard markings can enhance roadway safety.

#### Bike Lanes

- **Bike Lanes**: Protect 5’ Lane
- **Protected Bike Lane**: 1’ Lane

**Notes**:
- A street is a roadway with relatively few vehicle trips and low speeds. Adult cyclists may feel comfortable biking on any type of roadway without special facilities. However, bike route signage and shared lane or bike boulevard markings can enhance roadway safety.
- A street is a roadway with relatively few vehicle trips and low speeds. Adult cyclists may feel comfortable biking on any type of roadway without special facilities. However, bike route signage and shared lane or bike boulevard markings can enhance roadway safety.

#### Motorized Vehicle Lanes

- **Vehicle Lane**: 10’ Lane
- **Median**: 10’ Lane
- **Parking Lanes**: 1’ Lane

**Notes**:
- Only allowed in low intensity development with very low vehicle speeds and volumes.
- Pedestrians may share the road with other modes of travel.
- Pedestrians will need sidewalk but in lower intensity development, route signage and shared lane or bike boulevard markings can enhance roadway safety.
- In higher intensity development, pedestrians will need sidewalk but in lower intensity development, route signage and shared lane or bike boulevard markings can enhance roadway safety.

#### Buffers and Separations

- **Buffer Zone**: 5’ Zone
- **Curb Zone/Shoulder**: 3’ Zone

**Notes**:
- Only allowed in low intensity development with very low vehicle speeds and volumes.
- Pedestrians may share the road with other modes of travel.
- Pedestrians will need sidewalk but in lower intensity development, route signage and shared lane or bike boulevard markings can enhance roadway safety.
- In higher intensity development, pedestrians will need sidewalk but in lower intensity development, route signage and shared lane or bike boulevard markings can enhance roadway safety.
CHAPTER 5: CONTEXT SENSITIVE DESIGN

STREET: COMMERCIAL, MEDIUM INTENSITY LAND USE

STREET: INDUSTRIAL, MEDIUM INTENSITY LAND USE

STREET: COMMERCIAL, HIGH INTENSITY LAND USE

STREET: INDUSTRIAL, LOW INTENSITY LAND USE
Chapter 5: Context Sensitive Design

Street: Industrial - High Intensity Land Use
- Buffer Zone: 5'
- Frontage Zone: 2'
- Parking Lane: 10'
- Vehicle Lane: 10'
- Bike Lane: 5'
- Pedestrian Zone: 5'
- Drainage Ditch

Street: Open Space - Low Intensity Land Use
- Buffer Zone: 1'
- Frontage Zone: 1'
- Parking Lane: 10'
- Vehicle Lane: 10'
- Bike Lane: 5'
- Pedestrian Zone

Street: Open Space - Medium Intensity Land Use
- Buffer Zone: 1'
- Frontage Zone: 5'
- Parking Lane: 10'
- Shared Lane: 10'
- Bike Lane: 5'
- Gutter Pan

Street: Open Space - High Intensity Land Use
- Buffer Zone: 1'
- Frontage Zone: 5'
- Parking Lane: 10'
- Shared Lane: 10'
- Bike Lane: 5'
- Gutter Pan

Street: Open Space - Low Intensity Land Use
- Buffer Zone: 1'
- Frontage Zone: 1'
- Parking Lane: 10'
- Shared Lane: 10'
- Bike Lane: 5'
- Pedestrian Zone