Complete Streets Policy and Practice

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Learning Objectives

- ✓ Understand the connection between public health and transportation

- ✓ Learn the difference between Complete Streets and the traditional approach to building roads

- ✓ Identify the unique challenges that communities face, and strategies for addressing them

- ✓ Understand some of the tools and concepts that go into roadway planning and design

What does transportation have to do with public health?

Physical Activity:

- Adults need 20 min/day

- Every trip is an opportunity for physical activity

- The built environment influences our choices
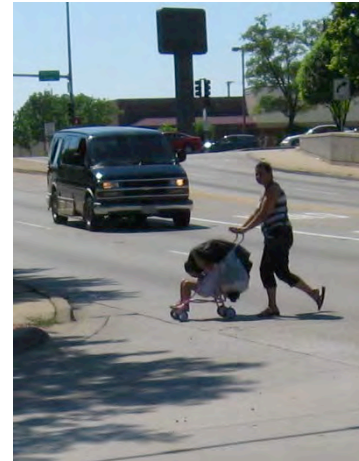
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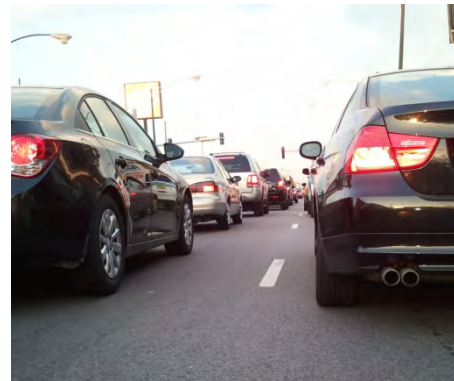## A <u>good</u> Complete Streets policy…

…helps to make it possible.

Barriers to active transportation

Facilities: Lack of sidewalks, crossings, and bikeways

Traffic Safety: Speeding cars, frequent crashes

Inconvenience: Environment built for cars, and…

Barriers to active transportation

Distance Barrier

Walkable distance

The traditional approach to roadway design

The traditional approach to roadway design

Barriers: Nowhere to safely walk

Barriers: Nowhere to safely walk

Barriers: Inaccessible bus stops

Complete Streets solutions

Image Credit: www.completestreets.org

Complete Streets solutions

Barriers: Nowhere to safely bike

Complete Streets solutions

Traditional bike lane

Barrier protected bike lane

Barriers: Faded crosswalks

What the pedestrian sees

What the driver sees

Complete Streets solutions

Barriers: Lack accessible curb ramps

The Air Quality Connection

- ## Short Trips

  - Substitution of cycling for driving for short trips has the potential to <u>reduce gasoline demand</u> up to nearly 34.9% of current domestic oil consumption (Higgins, et al., 2005)

  - Trip Distance in miles (2009)

    - This table illustrates the 30-40-50 trip distance concept: 30% of trips are a mile or shorter, 40% are two miles or shorter and 50% are three miles or shorter

Mileage	Percent
1 mile or less	28%
1.1 – 2 miles	13%
2.1 – 3 miles	9%
3.1 – 4 miles	6%
4.1 – 5 miles	7%
More than 5 miles	37%

Driving a car 1 mile = 423 grams CO_2
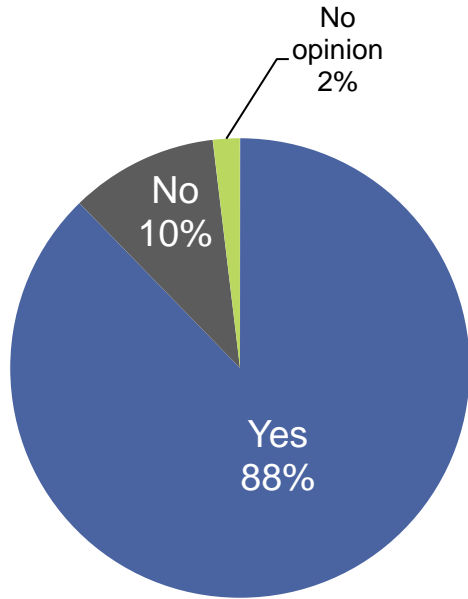
The Air Quality Connection

19TH ANNUAL **BIKE TO WORK DAY** THURS MAY 9 2013
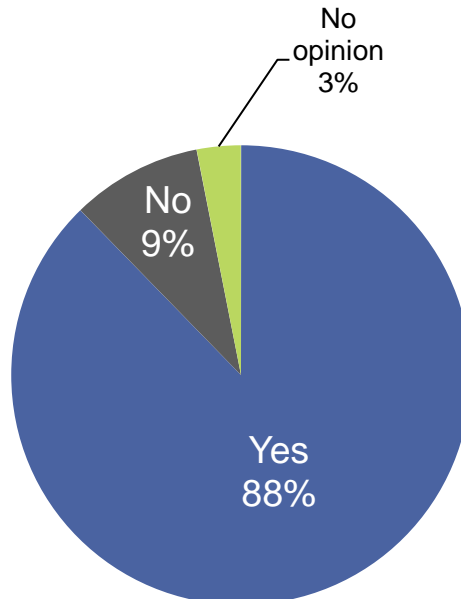
- Commuting
  - During its lifetime each car produces 1.3 billion cubic yards of polluted air and scatters 40 pounds of worn tire particles, brake debris and worn road surface into the atmosphere.
  - Bicycling significantly reduces transportation emissions while also reducing traffic congestion and the need for gasoline/oil. The total number of pounds of pollutants emitted per year is:
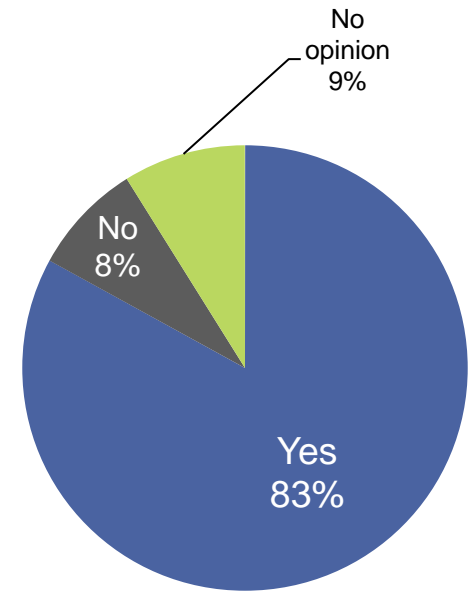   - 0.97 lbs/mile for passenger cars
    - 1.21 lbs/mile for light trucks

Public Opinion

Swansea — No opinion 2%, No 10%, Yes 88%
Waterloo — No opinion 3%, No 9%, Yes 88%
Columbia — No opinion 9%, No 8%, Yes 83%

Do you think your city should consider non-motorized transportation (i.e. walking & biking) a priority?
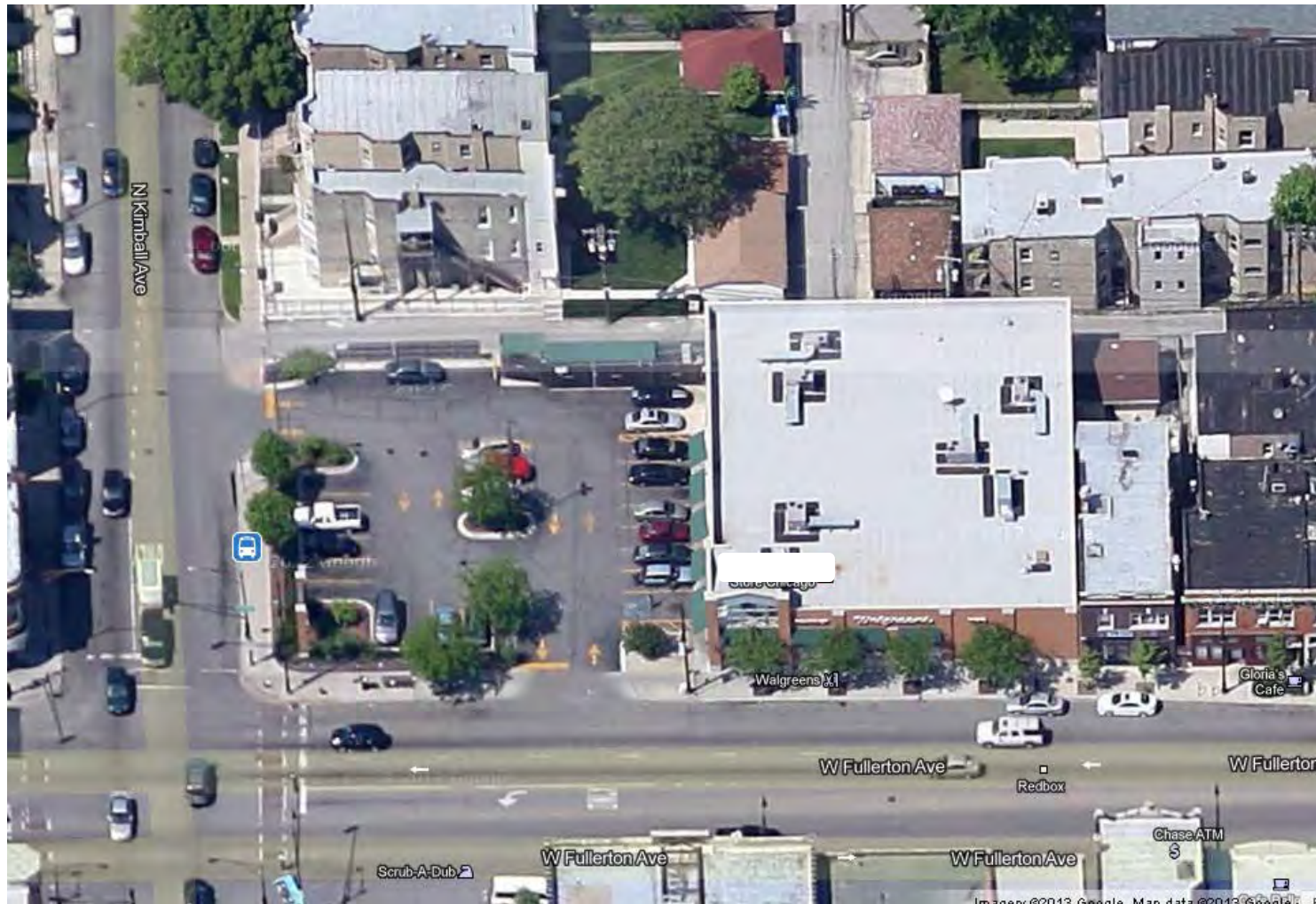
Why policy?

- Changes the rules that shape the built environment

- Overall ideals, not individual projects

- Outlasts the changing political climate

- Promotes systemic change

National Chain Example

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St. Clair County Success

St. Clair County Success

1. Competition

2. Laying a Good Foundation

3. Planning Future Phases

Questions?

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