



METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 4b

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*Memorandum*

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: December 4, 2009

FR: Executive Director

RE: S. 584 (Harkin)/H.R. 1443 (Matsui): The Complete Streets Act of 2009

**Description**

This bill requires state departments of transportation and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) to adopt complete streets policies for new roadway and bridge construction and reconstruction projects. While the bill would have no direct impact on MTC — we adopted a Complete Streets policy in June 2006 (Resolution 3765) — staff recommends a support position on the bill as a matter of good public policy in support of non-motorized travel, and so that the bill's sponsor, the National Complete Streets Coalition, can list MTC as an official supporter of the legislation.

**Recommendation:** Support

**Discussion**

This bill directs state departments of transportation and MPOs to adopt a "Complete Streets" policy within two years of the bill's enactment. The bill defines a "Complete Street" as a roadway that accommodates all travelers, particularly public transit users, bicyclists, pedestrians, including individuals with disabilities, and motorists to enable safe and efficient use of the roadway. The bill further requires that states and MPOs incorporate complete streets principles into all aspects of transportation project development, programming and delivery process. Lastly, the bill provides a reasonable mechanism for exceptions to the policy, including that it not apply to projects 1) that have already completed 30 percent of their design work; 2) for which the cost to comply would be "excessively disproportionate as compared to the need or probable use of the facility; or 3) the existing and planned population and employment density level is so low as to make the requirement unnecessary.

For the reasons outlined above, we recommend a support position on S. 584/H.R. 1443.

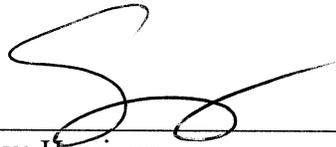
**Known Positions**

Support

See Attachment A

Oppose

None

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Heminger

**The Complete Streets Act of 2009 (S. 584/H.R. 1443) Supporters**

AARP  
ACSM American Fitness Index  
Active Transportation Alliance  
Alliance for Biking and Walking  
America Bikes  
American College of Sports Medicine  
American Council of the Blind  
American Institute of Architects  
American Planning Association  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals  
Bikes Belong  
Campaign to End Obesity  
City of Boulder  
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund  
Easter Seals  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Friends of the Earth  
Humana  
Kimley-Horn and Associates  
League of American Bicyclists  
LOCUS: Responsible Real Estate Developers and Investors  
National Association of City and County Health Officials  
National Association of REALTORS  
National Center for Bicycling and Walking  
National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity  
National Recreation and Parks Association  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Partnership for Prevention  
Prevention Institute  
Rail-to-Trails Conservancy  
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District  
Safe Routes to School National Partnership  
Smart Growth America  
Strategic Alliance for Healthy Food and Activity Environments  
Transportation Equity Network  
Transportation For America  
Trust for America's Health  
US Conference of Mayors  
YMCA of the USA