

'Complete Streets' planning considers all users



NAPLES PATHWAYS
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Although Florida remains No. 1 in bicycle and pedestrian crashes and fatalities, with Collier County ranking No. 15 among Florida's 67 counties, Collier County commissioners and some high-ranking staff have been slow to embrace the "Complete Streets" design, context-based transportation planning that takes all users of a roadway into consideration.

This is particularly troubling in light of the development boom going on east of Collier Boulevard.

In the nick of time, some important transportation guidelines have been released that will be a factor in the planning of the new developments, as well as the retrofitting of existing roads. The documents relate to the Florida Department of Transportation's Complete Streets Implementation Plan. They are drafts of:

- » the FDOT Complete Streets Handbook: <http://bit.ly/2pYE6Bi>.
- » a supplementary Design Manual: <http://bit.ly/2q0lgdO>.
- » A Complete Streets Handbook Brochure provides a brief overview of both: <http://bit.ly/2q0jJ7t>.

These documents are important because they are the guidelines that change the way Florida roadways are designed. The state is moving from a transportation system designed just for cars to one that is context-based and takes into consideration other users such as pedestrians, transit users, disabled citizens and bicyclists. This design system is being adopted across the U.S. to make roadways safer for legitimate means of nonvehicular transportation that current design ignores or marginalizes, thus contributing to the high rate of crashes and fatalities.

The guidelines pertain to the roadways over which FDOT has control, but they are being used by jurisdictions that have adopted Complete Streets policies, such as the cities of Naples and Bonita Springs. When the drafts of these Complete Streets documents are complete, they will be included in the update of the Florida Greenbook in 2018. The Greenbook applies directly to local governments.

You may wish to take a look at these drafts to better understand some of the changes that will directly affect how roadways are constructed. FDOT is asking for comments and questions by May 26. You can email them to StateRoadway.Design@dot.state.fl.us.

For more general information about Complete Streets in Florida, visit www.flcompletestreets.com. The next time you attend a coffee with your commissioner, ask if he or she is aware of Complete Streets planning and its implications. If the answer is no, please share these URLs.

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