



NEW ORLEANS COMPLETE STREETS COALITION

Support Letter

Dear Mayor Landrieu and Deputy Mayor Hebert,

We, the undersigned organizations, businesses, community groups and associations strongly support improved safety and accessibility for walking and biking in the city of New Orleans. Thank you for your leadership which has done a great deal to improve bicycling, walking, and transit. To keep up the momentum for improving transportation safety and accessibility, **please prioritize strengthening existing Complete Streets Policy** to:

- Incorporate a focus on improving health equity;
- Set higher design standards for low-stress street designs that are safe and comfortable for people of all ages and abilities, no matter how they travel or where they live;
- Plan for creating comprehensive walking, biking, and transit networks that integrate with one another and connect people to job centers, parks, schools, healthy food outlets, churches, and more; and
- Create meaningful public engagement and accountability mechanisms, including data-driven annual reports that measure implementation success against established performance metrics.

More people are biking and walking in New Orleans, which benefits us all. Complete streets help improve health equity, the economy, quality of life, and the environment. When people get approximately 30 minutes of physical activity through walking or biking each day they [reduce their risk](#) of heart disease, diabetes, and other diseases. Providing [transportation options](#) to underserved communities of color and low-income neighborhoods helps to reduce health disparities and costs. Employees who [commute by bike](#) are [more productive](#) and take fewer sick days, and businesses often [see sales improve](#) when commercial corridors [include bike lanes](#) and traffic calming measures. Cities and towns that promote bike friendly infrastructure also see [property values increase](#) and [attract more](#) young people.

Streets built to be shared improve equity, as is recognized in the [Resilient New Orleans Strategy](#) and [#EquityNewOrleans](#). As recently as 2014, over half of unemployed, working-age, African-American men did not have access to a vehicle and many [cited transportation as an obstacle to finding and holding a job](#). With [almost 20% of New Orleans households](#) having no access to a motor vehicle, improved mobility options can better connect people to jobs, parks, schools, and healthy food. High health disparities along race and class geographies can be lessened.

With the surge in infrastructure investment underway, we have a generational opportunity to increase and improve New Orleans residents' safety and accessibility to travel around their city. By doing so we will boost our economy, our health, our environment, and our quality-of-life. Please act with urgency to strengthen the Complete Streets policy of the city of New Orleans.

Thank you,

COMPLETE STREETS SUPPORTER [Sign on Next Page]



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SIGN ON IN SUPPORT OF COMPLETE STREETS FOR NEW ORLEANS!

Your organization will be featured in the letter to Mayor Landrieu, listed as a Complete Streets Supporter* and occasionally receive campaign updates by filling out the following:

Organization Name _____

Signatory Name _____ Title _____

Email _____ Phone _____ Website _____

Signature _____ Date _____

* A full list of current signatories can be found at www.bikeeasy.org

Please email to rob@bikeeasy.org or mail to 2100 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd, N.O., LA 70113. Someone from the coalition will follow up! If the best contact person at your organization is not the person listed above, please include name, phone, and email in the blank space below.