Invest in Complete Streets.
Planning and Investment Principle: Street design will serve all users equitably, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, freight, and personal vehicle drivers and riders.

Transportation investments are made based on a complete streets framework which supports the convenient and safe travel of all people — of all ages and abilities as appropriate to a facility’s community context.

Utilizing a complete streets framework ensures that transportation investments are consistently planned, programmed, designed, operated and maintained with all users in mind — including bicyclists, public transportation vehicles and riders, pedestrians of all ages and abilities, and local delivery needs.

Successful implementation of a complete streets framework will be achieved by working with municipalities to improve communication and coordination, training and education, and design standards and other resources.

In addition to the importance of land use and equity considerations, the Complete Streets chapter discusses laws and design standards, implementation and funding, and design considerations, namely road diets, green infrastructure, signals, new technologies, level of service, and maintenance.

Recommendations are proposed as follows:

A. Finalize Complete Streets Design and Implementation Guidelines

CDTC staff will continue drafting guidelines applicable throughout the Capital Region. These will include design guidance on sidewalks, bikeways, transit infrastructure, green infrastructure, curbside space, and maintenance. Once completed, CDTC will encourage municipal adoption and will distribute the guidelines to municipalities, consulting firms, and other interested parties.

B. Continue the Educational and Technical Workshop series

CDTC staff will continue the Workshop series to build local capacity to implement complete streets approaches, strengthening relationships between transportation practitioners, other departments, and the community. These free workshops are interactive, build local capacity to implement complete streets, and strengthen relationships between transportation practitioners, other departments, and the community. Attendees learn how to more effectively balance the needs of all users and routinely create and maintain complete streets.
Staff will make a concerted effort to reach out to municipalities that haven’t participated. After the third round of Workshops in 2020, staff may re-evaluate the Workshop goals and materials to maintain relevance as municipalities develop their capacities. In addition, staff will consider creating template policies or resolutions, as well as checklists, sensitive to the context of the Capital Region. These can assist smaller municipalities and those with less staff to better serve all roadway users equitably.

C. Continue Documenting TIP Project Outcomes

Staff will conduct field visits to document in photos or videos completed TIP projects that included at least one complete street element in the application or Project Justification Package (PJP). In instances where complete streets elements listed in the application or PJP are not part of the completed project, staff will seek to understand reasons for the change to improve outcomes.

D. Recommend Pedestrian and Transit Level of Service Methodologies

Staff will determine a preferred methodology for both pedestrian and transit level of service for CDTC-funded planning studies.

E. Collect Data on the Impact of Complete Streets Projects

In partnership with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, staff will collect economic, crash, and usage data on infrastructure projects that include significant complete streets elements.

Performance measures are proposed as follows.

F. Number of communities in the region adopting complete streets policies via governing body action
G. Number of CDTC complete streets training sessions held and number of attendees
H. Number of funded TIP projects including complete streets features
I. Number of municipalities that maintain year-round usability
J. Number of municipalities utilizing a checklist for project development