

News

Macomb County Board of Commissioners



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sept. 9, 2011

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Economic Development Committee Explores Complete Streets

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. — Taking an initial step toward embracing Complete Streets policy on a county level, members of the Macomb County Economic Development Committee Thursday hosted a presentation on the subject from State Representative Jon Switalski of Warren and members of the county's Planning and Economic Development Department.

The presentation highlighted the benefits and the need for designing county roadways which embrace Complete Streets philosophy. Complete Streets are roadways designed/operated to be safe and user-friendly for people of all ages and mobility levels regardless of the chosen mode of transportation (motorists, pedestrians, cyclists). A Complete Street utilizes features such as transit shelters, bike parking, sidewalk extensions, on-street parking, and mid-block crossing.

Economic Development Committee Co-chair David Flynn said his goal is to create a resolution and eventually an ordinance in support of Complete Streets in Macomb County.

"As the 2010 Census illustrates, Macomb County's demographics are rapidly changing, and I believe our approach to designing transportation infrastructure should as well," Flynn said. "I view this as a movement which allows us to adapt to meet the needs of our population."

Committee Co-chair Jim Carabelli said one advantage of embracing Complete Streets policy is that it increases local control of the safety and usefulness of a roadway.

"Complete Streets has the potential to make our streets all-inclusive and more user-friendly, as well as create uniformity in communities that have been developed over decades," Carabelli said.

In Michigan, eight local units of government have ordinances supporting Complete Streets policy and 46 governmental entities (from counties to villages) have local resolutions in support of the Complete Streets approach. In August 2010, the Michigan legislature passed Public Act 134, which amends the Michigan Planning Enabling Act by allowing municipalities to add non-motorized, Complete Streets and traffic calming language.

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