



Briefing Notice

Complete Streets: Improving Safety and Choices for All

Thursday, June 20, 2013

2:30 – 4:00 PM

2253 Rayburn House Office Building



Smart Growth America
Making Neighborhoods Great Together



National Complete Streets Coalition

The **Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI)** and the **National Complete Streets Coalition**, a program of **Smart Growth America**, invite you to a briefing to discuss national and local trends in the adoption of Complete Streets policies and how they can be incorporated into fiscally-sound federal transportation policy to support the creation of safer streets in communities across the country. More than 500 jurisdictions at the local, regional, and state levels are now using Complete Streets policies to plan, construct and operate streets that safely accommodate all users – including transit riders, bicyclists, pedestrians of all ages and abilities, and drivers. These policies are helping to build stronger local economies, attract businesses, and support healthier and safer communities. This briefing will explore the safety, health, and other benefits of Complete Streets, and how federal legislation can assist states and localities using this approach. Speakers for this event include:

- **Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA)**
- **Lynn Peterson**, Secretary, Washington State Department of Transportation
- **Danny Pleasant**, Transportation Director, City of Charlotte, NC
- **Angela Vance**, Associate State Director for Advocacy, AARP West Virginia
- **Geoff Anderson**, President and CEO, Smart Growth America

The need for safer communities is urgent. The percentage of pedestrian and bicyclist deaths in road fatalities has increased in recent years. Although the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration reported a two percent drop in roadway fatalities between 2010-2011, the number of pedestrian deaths increased by three percent and bicyclist deaths by nine percent over the same period. Of the 47,000+ pedestrian fatalities from 2000 to 2009, 67 percent occurred on federal-aid roadways.

Research shows that well-designed sidewalks, bike lanes, intersections, and other street features to accommodate all modes of travel can significantly reduce injuries, deaths, and automobile crashes. Additionally, the provision of safe, convenient, and efficient transportation infrastructure enhances the quality of communities, supports property values, and mitigates the effects of traffic congestion that accompany growth. Complete Streets have become more important as Americans embrace more transportation choices and more people demand homes and employment centers in walkable areas.

The Safe Streets Act of 2013, soon to be introduced by Rep. Matsui and Rep. David Joyce (R-OH), illustrates how federal policy can support local efforts to address roadway safety.

This event is free and open to the public. Please RSVP: www.eesi.org/062013streets#RSVP
For more information, contact John-Michael Cross at jmccross@eesi.org or (202) 662-1883.

