



AN INITIATIVE OF

the de Beaumont Foundation + Kaiser Permanente

Complete Streets

POLICY BREAKDOWN

“Our Complete Streets policy meets the diverse needs of all Houstonians while also creating more accessible and attractive connections to residential areas, parks, businesses, restaurants, schools and employment centers. As we work to build a healthier community, it is more important than ever to reimagine our approach to streets, sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, public transit, bike trails and lanes.”

— Former Mayor Annise Parker, Houston, TX



CityHealth helps cities thrive through policies that improve people’s day-to-day quality of life, well-being and health.

CityHealth, an initiative of the de Beaumont Foundation and Kaiser Permanente, works to advance a package of evidence-based policy solutions that will help millions of people live longer, better lives in vibrant, prosperous communities.

Our ratings are the culmination of a two-year assessment of how the nation’s 40 largest cities fare in nine policies based in

research, backed by qualified experts and shown to have bipartisan support. With these policies in place, cities will attract families who want the best for themselves and their children, young people looking for interesting places to work and businesses that need high-quality talent. The bottom line: Policies like complete streets will improve lives and help cities thrive.

FOCUS ON POLICY: COMPLETE STREETS

A “complete streets” policy helps city residents safely walk, bike, drive or take public transit around their community. It keeps buses running on time, reduces traffic congestion, and makes sure kids have safe routes to school. From street lighting to bike lanes to crosswalks, this policy ensures that all residents have safe, convenient ways of getting around and staying active—regardless of their age or ability. These are just some of the benefits of a comprehensive complete streets policy:

- **Promote healthy living and fight obesity.** Complete streets encourage an active lifestyle by creating opportunities to integrate exercise into daily activities. This helps reduce the risk of obesity and health problems such as diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, as well as certain cancers, stroke, asthma, and depression.
- **Improve public safety.** Complete streets reduce traffic speed and the risk of injury for pedestrians and cyclists. Those are among the reasons why complete streets is a transportation policy recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- **Economic benefits to cities.** The safer conditions in 37 cities with complete streets policies avoided a total of \$18.1 million in collision and injury costs in one year alone. These cities also had a net increase to new businesses, property values, and employment levels.
- **Benefits beyond active living.** A complete streets policy has a range of benefits for cities, from community safety to connectedness, improved health to reduced stress, and economic well-being. Complete streets policies have also resulted in improved green space, increased sense of community, and reduced crime and stress.

MEDALS BY CITY

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| Albuquerque | None |
| Atlanta | None |
| Austin | Gold |
| Baltimore | Gold |
| Boston | None |
| Charlotte | None |
| Chicago | Gold |
| Columbus | None |
| Dallas | Gold |
| Denver | None |
| Detroit | Gold |
| El Paso | None |
| Fresno | Gold |
| Ft. Worth | Gold |
| Houston | Gold |
| Indianapolis | Gold |
| Jacksonville | None |
| Kansas City | Gold |
| Las Vegas | None |
| Long Beach | Gold |
| Los Angeles | Gold |
| Louisville | None |
| Memphis | None |
| Mesa | Gold |
| Milwaukee | None |
| Nashville | Gold |
| New York | Gold |
| Oklahoma City | None |
| Philadelphia | Gold |
| Phoenix | Gold |
| Portland | None |
| Sacramento | Gold |
| San Antonio | None |
| San Diego | Gold |
| San Francisco | Gold |
| San Jose | Gold |
| Seattle | Bronze |
| Tucson | None |
| Virginia Beach | None |
| Washington, D.C. | Gold |

HOW CITIES STACK UP

The State of Complete Streets Policies in Big US Cities

In 2018, 32 out of 40 cities received a medal for complete streets policies, including 22 gold, 9 silver, and 1 bronze. Kansas City adopted a new complete streets ordinance, earning a gold medal. Our 2018 assessment confirmed that all California cities are

subject to a state performance measure review, which in turn improved the medal status for Fresno, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, and San Jose, which did not already have a clear local performance measure review policy.



The Gold Standard for Complete Streets

CityHealth's 40-city assessment combined innovative legal analysis with the input of national experts to determine the "gold standard" for each policy. We identified which elements are necessary for the best quality policy (gold), a good

quality policy (silver), and a passable quality policy (bronze). Cities with no policy received no medal. Our assessment of complete streets policies includes information about city laws valid through December 1, 2017.

How did we award complete streets policy medals?

| | Bronze | Silver | Gold |
|---|--------|--------|------|
| City has a complete streets policy | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Policy requires compliance | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Policy accommodates pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and public transit vehicles | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Policy explicitly accommodates all ages | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Policy explicitly accommodates all abilities | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Policy assigns a department to oversee implementation | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ |
| Policy requires development of performance measures | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ |