

# **Michigan Complete Streets Coalition**

Building roadways that move people not just automobiles

## **City of Otsego Planning Commission Discusses Complete Streets**

June 30, 2011 in News | by League of Michigan Bicyclists

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE via Disability Network/Lakeshore**



Otsego, MI. – On Monday night, planning commissioners in the City of Otsego listened to a presentation by Kathryn Gray, Public Policy Specialist for Disability Network/Lakeshore, regarding Complete Streets.

Complete Streets are achieved when local organizations and agencies routinely plan, design, construct, reconstruct, operate, and maintain the transportation network to improve travel conditions for bicyclists, pedestrians, and people with disabilities in a manner consistent with, and supportive of, the surrounding community.

City Manager, Thad Beard, requested the presentation for the planning commission as an educational opportunity to learn about the benefits of Complete Streets and how Complete Streets would benefit the Otsego Community. Commissioners asked several questions in regards to further ensure the safety of citizens traveling through the M-89 corridor including those who are biking and walking.

Development of pedestrian, bicycle, and transit infrastructure offers long term cost savings, improved public health, economic development, a cleaner environment, reduced transportation costs, enhanced community connections, social equity, and more livable communities. Streets that support and invite multiple uses, including safe, active, and ample space are more conducive to public life and efficient movement of people than streets designed primarily to move automobiles.

Gray stated, “The City of Otsego has made several strides in moving towards a walkable and livable community. However, there is always more we can be doing as a city to create a sense of belonging which truly represents the citizens of our community. The City of Otsego’s dedication to an accessible and mobile

community in which all ages and users are welcomed is extremely important. Because of this dedication, Complete Streets is a perfect fit for the Otsego community.”

The planning commission would like to form a committee of community stakeholders to further explore the idea of Complete Streets and the potential of creating a resolution in support of Complete Streets for the City of Otsego.

Over 40 Michigan communities have adopted a Complete Street ordinance or resolution.

**For more information:**

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