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Grand Haven officials have created a policy that aims to reinforce plans to create a complete system of transportation options in the community.

City Council unanimously Monday approved a measure creating a Complete Streets policy on July 18.

"This doesn't tie our hands at all," City Manager Pat McGinnis said. "It just states what we are already doing."

Complete Streets are achieved when organizations plan, design, construct, re-construct, operate and maintain the transportation network to improve travel conditions for bicyclists, pedestrians and people with disabilities in a manner consistent with the surrounding community — according to a Disability Network/Lakeshore official.

"Mobility is important in our community — and by passing this resolution, we are making a commitment to both ourselves and our citizens that safety and accessibility are key considerations in the planning process," McGinnis said.

According to the Disability Network/Lakeshore, development of 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. Kathryn Gray, a public policy specialist for Disability Network/Lakeshore, said

streets that support and invite multiple uses with safe, active and ample space are more conducive to public life and efficient movement of people than streets designed primarily to move automobiles.

Grand Haven joins three communities in West Michigan that have adopted a policy — Holland, Allegan and Grand Rapids.

To read more of this story, see today's print or e-edition of the Grand Haven Tribune.

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