



Everything Michigan

## Zeeland supports 'complete street' concept, but not as a formal ordinance

Published: Monday, October 17, 2011, 9:31 PM Updated: Monday, October 17, 2011, 9:39 PM



By **Greg Chandler | The Grand Rapids Press**

**ZEELAND** — City officials say they support the idea of trying to make their streets more friendly to bicyclists and pedestrians.

They just don't think an ordinance is needed to drive home that stance.

City Council members on Monday said they'd be willing to consider a "complete streets" policy, but stopped short of endorsing an ordinance that would make Zeeland the first West Michigan city to pass such a measure. The ordinances are designed to encourage improvements to local streets to accommodate people who walk, ride bicycles or use a motorized wheelchair due to a disability.

"I have not had one citizen come up to me and say (support) complete streets (by passing an ordinance)," Mayor Pro Tem Sally Gruppen said.

One idea that could gain acceptance from council members is developing dedicated bike lanes on major city streets, such as Central, Main and Fairview avenues.

Councilman Glenn Kass, who favors a policy over an ordinance, thinks it would be worthwhile.

"It's figuring out the right-of-way (that's available on the road) and putting a stripe down," Kass said. "It's not rocket science."

Disability Network/Lakeshore and the Ottawa County Health Department received a \$4,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Community Health to work with the city on the "complete streets" proposal.

A total of 55 Michigan communities have passed ordinances or resolutions, with Grand Rapids, Holland and Grand Haven passing resolutions. Only nine of the communities have passed ordinances, none west of Lansing.

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