

OVERALL SUCCESS



Winner!

South Bend, Indiana

South Bend, IN, excelled at promoting bicycle and pedestrian safety throughout the Mayors' Challenge. Soon after signing up for the Challenge, the city began coordinating with partners, leading to a community focus group event in August 2015 that was attended by local government leaders, agency representatives, interest groups, and residents. The focus group identified which Challenge areas to emphasize and opportunities for immediate design improvements to existing street and public space projects. The city's efforts in three of the seven Mayors' Challenge areas has earned the city the Secretary's Award for Overall Success and the award for Challenge Activity 1, "Complete Streets."

Demonstrated Successes

South Bend excelled overall in the Mayors' Challenge by addressing several Challenge activities and also did exceptional work addressing Complete Streets.

Overall Success

Pedestrian and Bicycle Data Collection Efforts

Identify Areas for Improving Safety and Connectivity

South Bend, in partnership with the Michiana Area

Council of Governments (MACOG), collected data to inform decision-making on pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements. South Bend collected data on the following:

- Non-motorized crashes by time, characteristic, and location between 2012-2016;
- Non-motorized facility demand; and
- Bicycle suitability of the road network, including consideration of factors that impact bicyclists' level of comfort and safety.

This data allowed the city to identify roadways that were in need of improvement, would be well-suited for bicycle traffic, and had a high demand for bicycle and pedestrian facilities. It also provided a general picture of connectivity throughout the region and helped South Bend identify the next steps in creating and improving the regional bike network.

Context Sensitive Design Approach Uses New Techniques to Improve Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities

In 2015 and 2016, South Bend tackled multiple projects on major arterials to "design right" through one-way to two-way street conversions,



Mayors' Challenge focus group participants come together to inform transportation policy for South Bend.



Rendering of a one-way to two-way conversion in downtown South Bend.

road diets, streetscape enhancements and new bicycle facilities. The city also developed a two-way communication tool to share live updates and tracking of project schedules and activities with area residents and visitors.

One signature project underway includes converting over six miles of South Bend's largest remaining one-way street pair to two-way traffic for the first time in over 40 years and reconfiguring the layout to accommodate three travel lanes and three roundabouts. The space made available by the conversion will accommodate separated bicycle facilities, curb bump outs, trees, street lights, medians, and on-street parking.

Complete Streets

Planning Policies and Initiatives Emphasize Safety and Efficiency in Planning for All Road Users

Prior to implementing Complete Streets projects on major arterials throughout the city in 2015 and 2016, South Bend first launched the [Smart Streets initiative](#) in 2014. This initiative promotes safety and efficiency by creating new traffic patterns that better accommodate motorists, transit riders, cyclists, and pedestrians. Building on this initiative during the Mayors' Challenge, the city adopted

The South Bend Complete Streets Policy states that all city-owned transportation facilities in the public right-of-way must be designed and operated so users of all ages and abilities, including pedestrians and bicyclists, can travel safely and independently. It also creates formal performance measures, including changes in assessed property value, counts or rates of crashes, injuries and fatalities by mode, citywide walk-score, and bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

a formal Complete Streets Policy in November 2015, which ensures better coordination and accountability across city departments. The National Complete Streets Coalition ranked the policy as the 3rd best new policy in the nation for 2015.

"Great cities have well-designed streets, and forward-looking design decisions will help accelerate our city's comeback. A Complete Streets policy means that our streets will be safer, friendlier to cyclists and pedestrians, and better able to support quality of life in South Bend." - Mayor Pete Buttigieg

Next Steps

South Bend will continue its community-wide dialogue on the benefits of bicycle and pedestrian facilities that began during the Mayors' Challenge. In addition, the city plans to finish the ongoing two-way conversion projects by late 2016.

For more information about the Mayors' Challenge results and award winners see: www.transportation.gov/mayors-challenge/awards-and-results