

**2011 NYSAC Winter Conference
Standing Committee on Transportation & Public Works
Resolution #**

**RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE TO REJECT
NEW UNFUNDED MANDATES LIKE “COMPLETE STREETS” PROPOSALS**

WHEREAS, proposals to require highway and bridge projects throughout the state to employ complete streets features in the planning, design, construction, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of state and local transportation facilities, while well meaning, could add to the state and local transportation systems’ poor ratings and safety concerns because of the diversion of scarce financial resources away from some of the most critical infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS, these proposals fail to acknowledge that on many of the targeted state and local roads, imposing mandates to thoroughly investigate complete street features and to provide such enhancements as widening the size of the roadway to accommodate pedestrians and bikers on both sides, as well as maintain bicycle lanes, “share the road” signage, raised crosswalks and ramps, and “traffic calming measures” would be physically impossible; and

WHEREAS, the State DOT Five Year Capital Plan recommends a funding level for transportation that is only 50% of what is the identified need, and it is estimated that the local highway and bridge system outside of NYC is presently underfunded by \$1.2 billion per year and diversion of effort and funding as mandated by complete streets proposals would further the deterioration of our infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, funds are simply not available now to do the routine maintenance and many basic safety improvements necessary to the local system; and the result has been measurable compromises to safety for the traveling public. Adherence to complete street procedures for state and local projects as directed under such proposals adds another layer of costs and review that is inappropriate in many instances and could severely delay or prevent some critically-needed projects from going forward; and

WHEREAS, much of the accommodations for other users of highways are now being planned and implemented where practical and affordable and where supported by the affected communities, making further legislation unnecessary;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) urges the Governor and the Legislature of the State of New York to oppose “complete streets” and other burdensome unfunded mandates that divert scarce resources away from critical local highway and bridge maintenance projects and instead seek ways to accomplish desired enhancements with financial incentives rather than mandates, and limiting complete street compliance by population density or for only large state reconstruction or construction projects where during the planning and preliminary design phases of the project they are already being considered; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NYSAC will forward copies of this resolution to the Governor, the full membership of the New York State Legislature and all others deemed necessary and proper.

