



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Altoona commits to designing streets for all users with new policy**

The City of Altoona is proud to announce the adoption of a Complete Streets Policy to support roadway design that accommodates all transportation modes and users.

This policy is meant to enable economic growth, regional competitiveness, and active lifestyles, while providing improvements to existing roadways and redevelopments throughout the community.

“We are able to continue our commitment to the citizens including children, people with specific mobility issues, the elderly and the physically active by adopting and continuing to implement this policy,” explained Mayor Skip Conkling. “The City of Altoona’s goals when installing or improving the streets in Altoona are threefold: enhance connectivity, accommodate multiple modes of transportation, and highlight Altoona’s identity as a green community, promoting healthy lifestyles while maintaining the small town feel.”

In August 2014, the City of Altoona adopted an updated Comprehensive Plan that recommended exploring a Complete Streets Policy. The City continues to review and implement the Comprehensive Plan recommendations when appropriate.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx challenged U.S. mayors to take significant action to make streets safer for all people, and one of his recommendations was adopting complete street policies. “Complete streets” is a term used to describe streets designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders.

A model policy was developed by the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization for metro-area governments to consider adapting to their communities. The effort helps meet the goals established in the region’s long-term transportation plan, Mobilizing Tomorrow, as well as The Tomorrow Plan, the regions’ long-term plan for sustainable development over the next 40 years.

The City of Altoona is the ninth metro-area government to adopt a complete streets policy, joining the cities of Des Moines, Carlisle, Johnston, Norwalk, Pleasant Hill, Urbandale, Windsor Heights and West Des Moines. More information about the MPO’s Complete Street Initiative is available at [www.dmampo.org/complete-streets](http://www.dmampo.org/complete-streets).

**The Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)** acts as a regional forum to ensure coordination between the public and local, state, and federal agencies in regard to planning issues and to prepare transportation plans and programs. The MPO develops both long- and short-range multimodal transportation plans, selects and approves projects for federal funding based upon regional priorities, and develops methods to reduce traffic congestion.