

By: Cook

S.B. No. 1770

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the accommodation of pedestrians, bicyclists, persons with disabilities, children, senior citizens, users of public transportation, movers of commercial goods, and motorists on streets and highways.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. (a) The Texas Department of Transportation shall consider the needs of motorists, public transportation vehicles, users of public transportation, bicyclists, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities in all transportation planning, design, construction, reconstruction, retrofitting, operations, and maintenance.

(b) The Texas Department of Transportation shall:

(1) view all transportation improvements as opportunities to improve safety, access, air quality, and mobility for all travelers in Texas; and

(2) recognize that bicycle, pedestrian, and transit modes are integral elements of the transportation system.

SECTION 2. Subchapter H, Chapter 201, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 201.626 to read as follows:

Sec. 201.626. COMPLETE STREETS POLICY. (a) In this section:

(1) "Complete streets policy" means a written policy that:

1 (A) provides guidelines for addressing the
2 safety, accessibility, and mobility of users of streets and
3 highways, including pedestrians, bicyclists, persons with
4 disabilities, children, senior citizens, users of public
5 transportation, movers of commercial goods, and motorists, in the
6 planning, design, construction, and maintenance of streets and
7 highways; and

8 (B) recognizes that the needs of users of streets
9 and highways vary according to the urban, rural, or suburban
10 context.

11 (2) "Local authority" means a county, municipality, or
12 other local entity authorized to plan, design, construct, and
13 maintain streets and highways.

14 (b) The commission shall adopt a complete streets policy.

15 (c) The commission, in adopting a complete streets policy
16 under Subsection (b), shall consider best practices and guidance
17 from:

18 (1) the United States Department of Transportation
19 Federal Highway Administration;

20 (2) the American Association of State Highway and
21 Transportation Officials;

22 (3) the National Association of City Transportation
23 Officials;

24 (4) the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control
25 Devices;

26 (5) the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility
27 Guidelines;

1 (6) the Public Rights-of-Way Accessibility
2 Guidelines; and

3 (7) the recommended practice titled "Designing
4 Walkable Urban Thoroughfares: A Context Sensitive Approach,"
5 issued by the Institute of Transportation Engineers.

6 (d) The commission shall ensure that the following comply
7 with the complete streets policy:

8 (1) transportation planning, design, construction,
9 and reconstruction; and

10 (2) improvements to streets, highways, and other
11 projects that fall under the commission's jurisdiction.

12 (e) A local authority shall ensure that all transportation
13 planning, design, construction, and reconstruction, street or
14 highway improvements, and access roads, bicycle paths, and
15 sidewalks to public transportation comply with the complete streets
16 policy if federal or state funds are used.

17 (f) To the extent consistent with federal law, a
18 metropolitan planning organization shall ensure that any
19 transportation improvement plan complies with the complete streets
20 policy.

21 (g) This section does not apply to a transportation project
22 if:

23 (1) use of a particular street or highway by
24 bicyclists or pedestrians is prohibited by law, including within
25 interstate highway corridors;

26 (2) the cost to comply with the complete streets
27 policy would be excessively disproportionate to the present or

1 future need or probable use of the particular street or highway; or
2 (3) a sparseness of population indicates an absence of
3 future need.

4 (h) An exemption under Subsection (g) must be:

5 (1) approved by the department or local authority, as
6 appropriate; and

7 (2) supported by publicly available documentation.

8 (i) The department or local authority, as appropriate,
9 shall certify that each transportation project complies with the
10 complete streets policy in all aspects of project development. No
11 additional certification is required unless the scope of the
12 transportation project changes.

13 SECTION 3. The Texas Transportation Commission shall
14 publish a best practices report not later than July 1, 2028. The
15 report must describe how the Texas Department of Transportation,
16 local authorities, and metropolitan planning organizations have
17 changed their procedures to implement the complete streets policy
18 required under Section 201.626, Transportation Code, as added by
19 this Act. The commission shall include a list of transportation
20 projects exempted under Section 201.626(g), Transportation Code,
21 as added by this Act, in the best practices report. The commission,
22 in publishing a best practices report under this section, shall
23 consider:

24 (1) procedures for identifying the needs of users of
25 all ages and abilities;

26 (2) the types and designs of facilities needed to
27 serve the needs of users described by Subdivision (1) of this

1 section;

2 (3) measures of effectiveness that document the
3 results of implementing Section 201.626, Transportation Code, as
4 added by this Act, on transportation projects under the
5 commission's jurisdiction; and

6 (4) procedures for identifying and overcoming
7 barriers to implementing the complete streets policy required under
8 Section 201.626, Transportation Code, as added by this Act.

9 SECTION 4. Section 201.626, Transportation Code, as added
10 by this Act, does not apply to a roadway project if a draft
11 Environmental Impact Statement, Environmental Assessment, or
12 Environmental Reevaluation for the roadway project is submitted to
13 the regulatory agency in accordance with the National Environmental
14 Policy Act before September 1, 2025.

15 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.