

S 1056

Safe and Complete Streets Act of 2011

Congress: 112 (2011–2013, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Transportation and Public Works

Introduced: May 24, 2011

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. (May 24, 2011)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/senate-bill/1056>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Harkin, Tom [D-IA]

Party: Democratic • **State:** IA • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (16 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Begich, Mark [D-AK]	D · AK		May 24, 2011
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		May 24, 2011
Sen. Carper, Thomas R. [D-DE]	D · DE		May 24, 2011
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		May 24, 2011
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		May 24, 2011
Sen. Lautenberg, Frank R. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		May 24, 2011
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		May 24, 2011
Sen. Levin, Carl [D-MI]	D · MI		May 24, 2011
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		May 24, 2011
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		May 24, 2011
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		May 24, 2011
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		May 25, 2011
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Jun 6, 2011
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jun 14, 2011
Sen. Nelson, Bill [D-FL]	D · FL		Jun 21, 2011
Sen. Kerry, John F. [D-MA]	D · MA		Nov 29, 2011

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Environment and Public Works Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 24, 2011

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
112 HR 1780	Related bill	May 6, 2011: Referred to the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit.

Summary (as of May 24, 2011)

Safe and Complete Streets Act of 2011 - Requires each state to have in effect within two years a law, or each state department of transportation and metropolitan planning organization (MPO) an explicit policy statement, that requires all federal-aid highway projects, with certain exceptions, to accommodate the safety and convenience of all users in accordance with certain complete streets principles.

Defines "complete streets principles" as federal, state, local, or regional level transportation laws, policies, or principles which ensure that the safety and convenience of all users of a transportation system, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transit users, children, older individuals, motorists, freight vehicles, and individuals with disabilities, are accommodated in all phases of project planning and development.

Allows such law or policy to make project-specific exemptions from such principles, subject to proper approval, only if affected roadways prohibit specified users by law from using them, the cost of a compliance project would be excessively disproportionate to the need, or the population and employment densities, traffic volumes, or level of transit service around a roadway is so low that the expected roadway users will not include pedestrians, public transportation, freight vehicles, or bicyclists.

Revises federal-aid highway project standards to require the Secretary of Transportation to ensure that project plans provide for highway facilities that are consistent with the complete street principles.

Requires the construction design for a highway on the National Highway System to take into account certain criteria, including the need to balance design speed, right-of-way needs, and community livability. Directs the Secretary (who currently is merely authorized) to develop criteria for such design. Requires the Secretary also, in developing such criteria, to consider roadway design guidelines issued jointly by Congress for the New Urbanism and the Institute of Transportation Engineers in developing such criteria.

Requires the Secretary to establish a method for ensuring compliance by state departments of transportation and MPOs with complete streets principles.

Requires the Access Board to issue final standards for accessibility of new construction and alterations of pedestrian facilities for public rights-of-way.

Requires the Secretary to conduct research regarding complete streets to: (1) assist states, MPOs, and local jurisdictions in developing and implementing complete streets-compliant plans, projects, procedures, policies, and training programs; and (2) establish benchmarks for, and provide technical guidance on, implementing complete streets policies and principles.

Actions Timeline

- **May 24, 2011:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 24, 2011:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.