



Smart Growth America
Making Neighborhoods Great Together



**National Complete
Streets Coalition**

Making Cents of Complete Streets: Low-Cost, High-Impact Experiences from Idaho

**Rocky Mountain Land Use
Institute**

March 14, 2014

Overview

- Smart Growth
- Complete Streets Policies
- Creating Complete Streets Locally
- Idaho's Statewide Bicycle Plan
- Rural is Different
- Questions



Smart Growth

Smart growth means building urban, suburban and rural communities with **housing and transportation choices near jobs, shops and schools.**

These strategies **support thriving local economies** and protect the environment.

What I hear about smart growth



Wengen, Switzerland



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Smart growth is ugly.



Riomaggiore, Italy



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We have no history with it.



Mesa Verde, CO



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Nobody would want to live there.



Aspen, CO



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It just doesn't work here.



Pearl District, Portland, OR



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Shut up and drive!



The way we design and build our communities has enormous consequences



Complete Streets



Wilkinsburg, PA



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We know how to build right



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We know how to build right



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Yet too many roads still turn out like this:



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or this:



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or this:



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The Solution: Complete Streets Policies

Complete Streets policies

A Complete Streets policy ensures that the entire right of way is planned, designed, operated and maintained to provide safe access for all users.



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Many Types: Rural to Urban



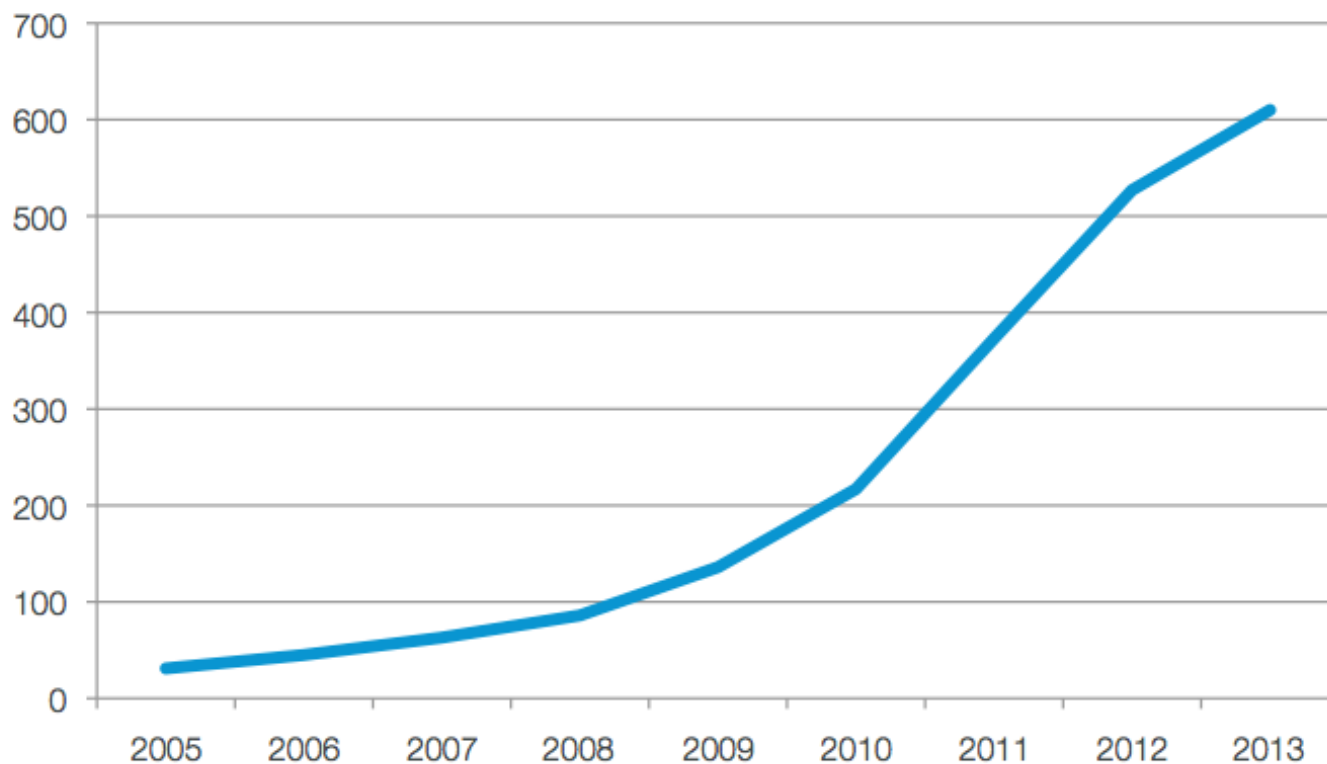
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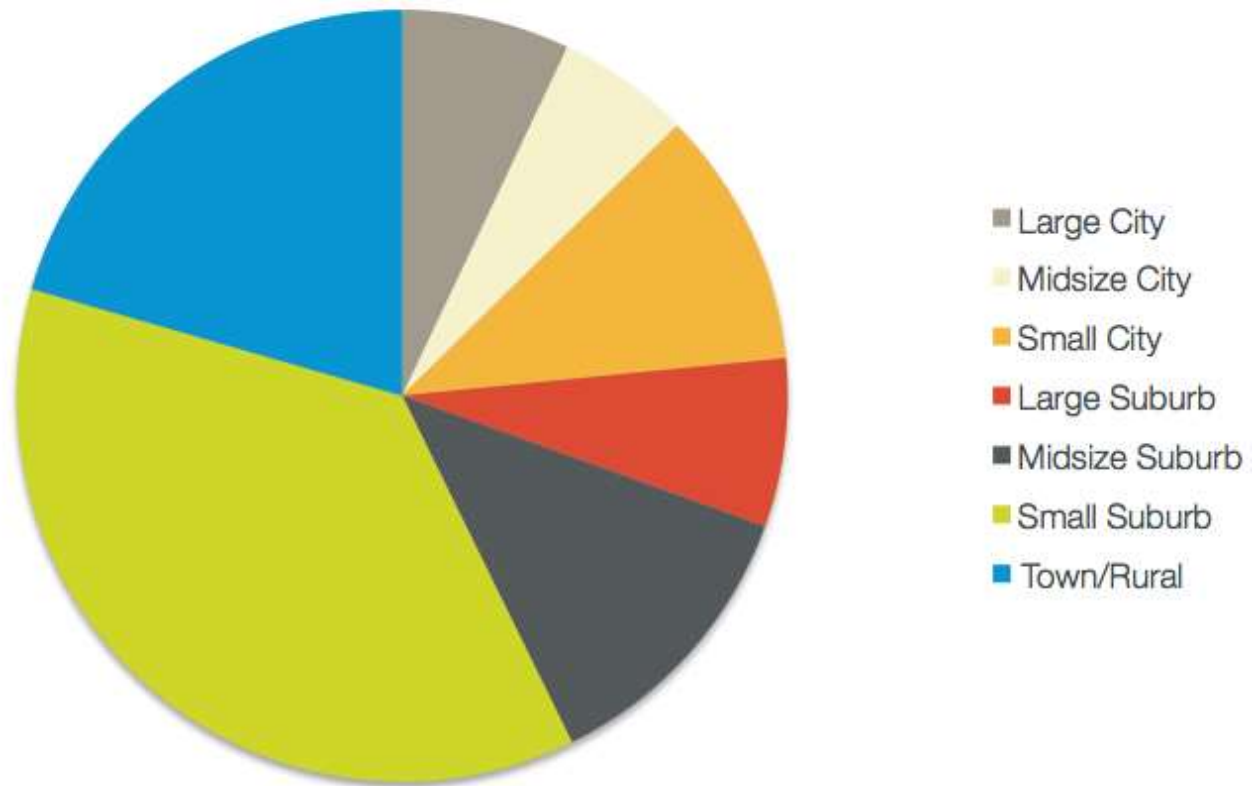
Policy adoption accelerates

Number of Complete Streets policies nationwide, 2005–2013

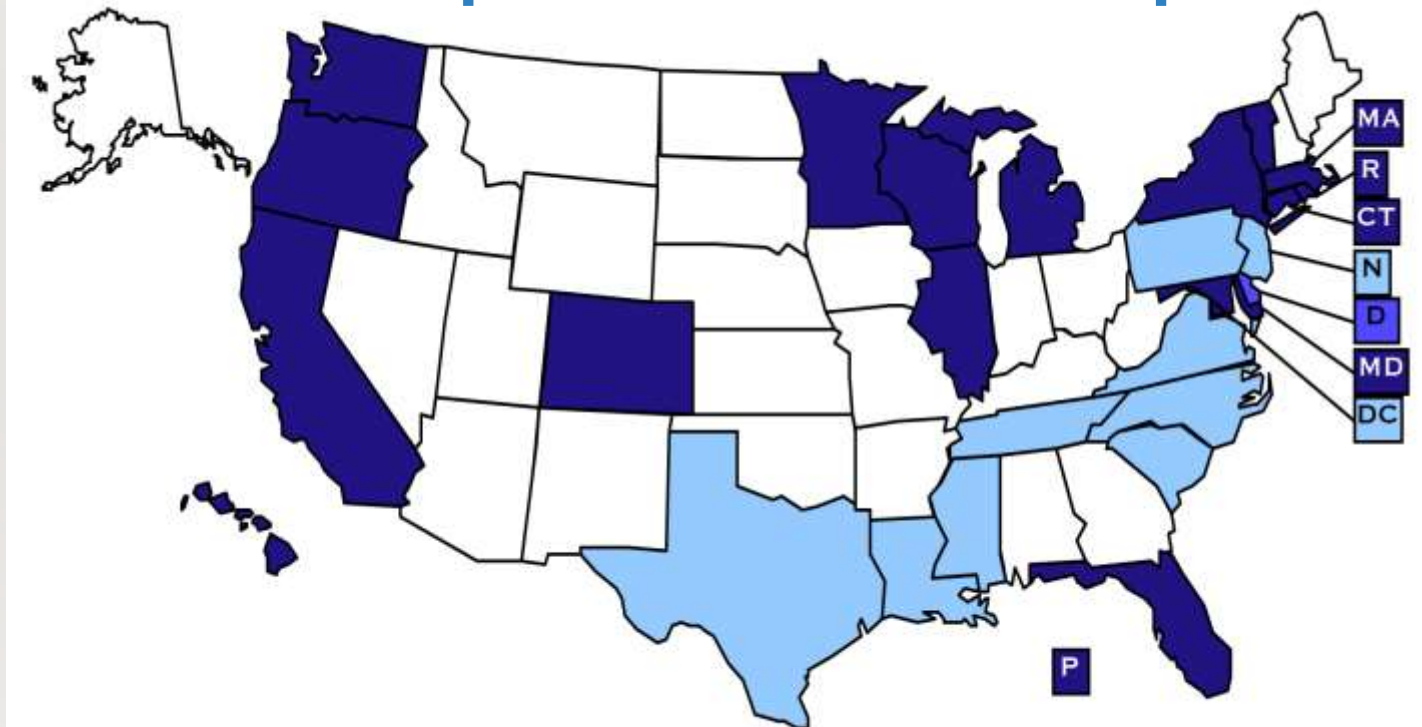






Policies adopted in all types of communities

Municipalities with Complete Streets policies by size, 1971—2013



State Complete Streets policies



Legislative Policy		CA, CO, CT, FL, HI, IL, MD, MA, MI, MN, NY, OR, RI, VT, WA, WI, PR
Executive Order		DE
DOT Policy		LA, MS, NJ, NC, PA, SC, TN, TX, VA, DC
No State Policy		AL, AK, AZ, AR, GA, ID, IN, IA, KS, KY, ME, MO, MT, NE, NV, NH, NM, ND, OH, OK, SD, UT, WV, WY

www.completestreets.org/atlas



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Streets Can Benefit Communities

- Improve safety
- Provide choices
- Better health
- Support economic dev.
- Reduce costs
- Manage congestion
- Smarter growth
- Conserve resources



Complete Streets means:

- A policy approach
- A change to the everyday decision-making processes and systems
- Long-term changes to built environment



Complete Streets doesn't mean:

- One 'special' street project
- A design prescription
- A mandate for immediate retrofit
- A silver bullet; other issues must be addressed:
 - Land use (proximity, mixed-use)
 - Environmental concerns
 - Transportation Demand Management



What about funding?

- Complete streets is about using existing resources differently
- While retrofit funding is important, it is not necessary to get started
- Additional funding is not needed

Think Ahead, Think Smart

- Complete Streets can save money
- Narrower travel lanes require less land, less pavement
- Provide more options = reduce need for widening some intersections
- Do it right the first time, not when forced to later
 - at a higher price

“If we think we don’t have the time and money to do it right, what makes you think we have the time and money to do it over?”

– *Dr. Mark Nicholson*



Complete Streets Resources

- Fact sheets, photos, brochures
- Policy tracking & examples
- Information on technical assistance & workshops
- Complete Streets blog and monthly newsletter
- Links to research & publications
- Complete Streets Best Practices



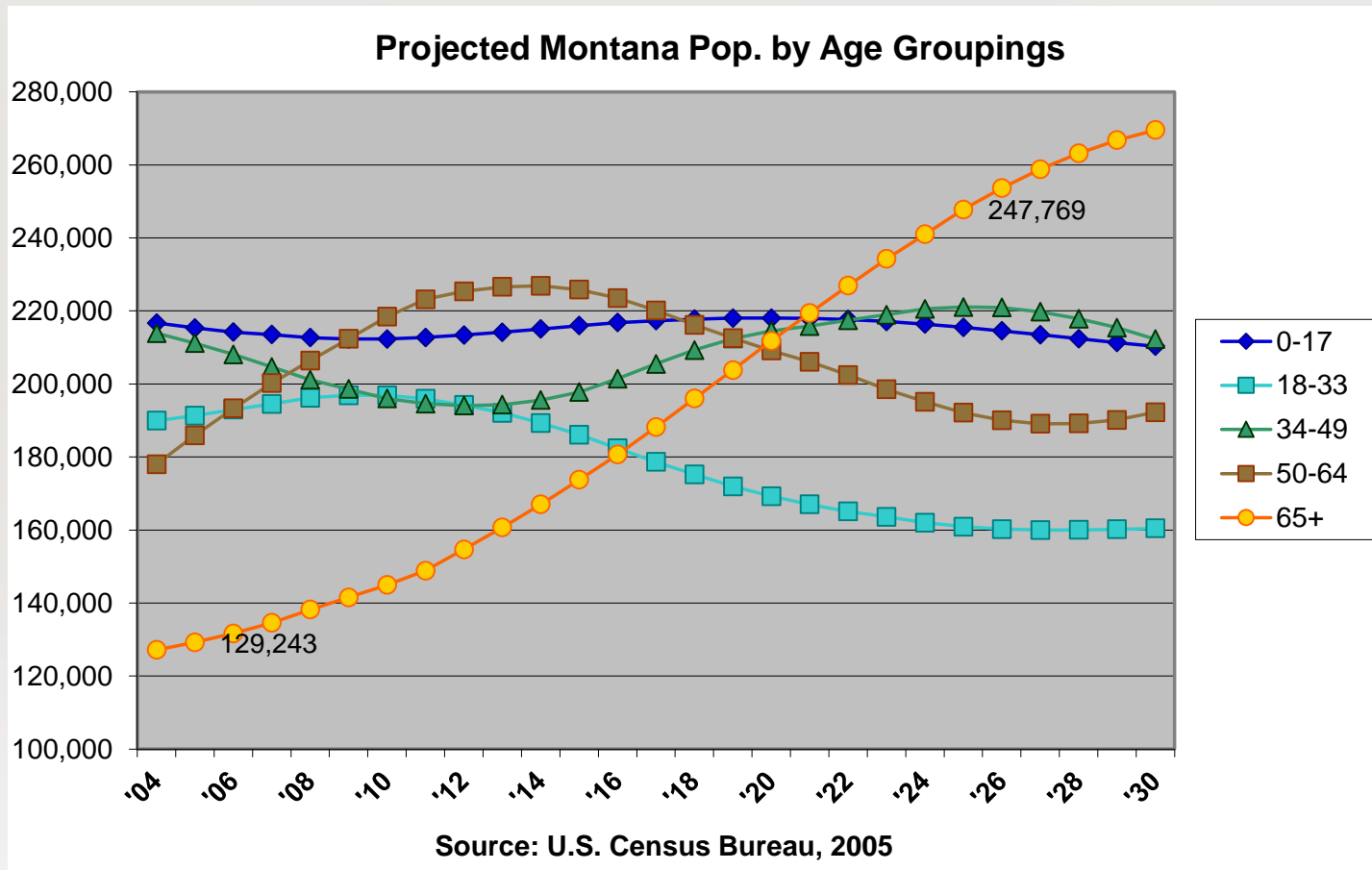
Rural/small town communities are different



The state we live in



Rural demographics



Graph courtesy of Dr. Larry Swanson, O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West, U. of Montana



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Urban levels of traffic



Lack of transportation choice



Lack of housing for workers



Lack of housing for families



Infrastructure capacity



Environmental issues



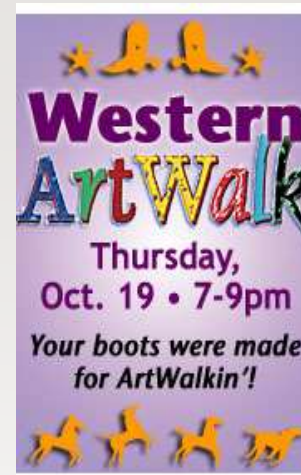
Economic viability of downtowns



Workforce development



A desire for a vibrant cultural community



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A need for lifelong learning and civic involvement



Remember why you live here...



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Shaping the future you want



We have the freedom to make informed, humane, and intelligent choices about the kind of world we want to leave for our children and grandchildren. We also have the freedom to make uninformed, selfish, and stupid choices. Which will it be?

- Greg Pahl



Thank you!

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