

# Complete Streets:





# Great Falls Complete Streets Coalition

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## □ Get Fit Great Falls

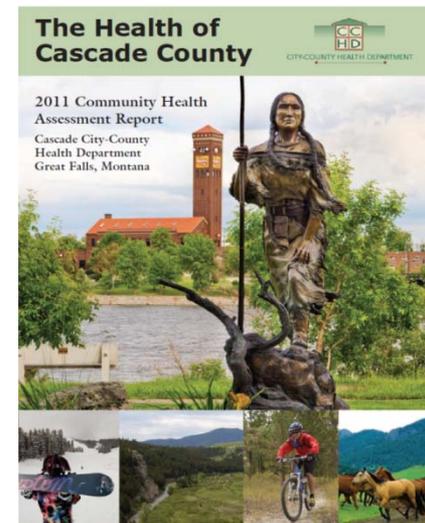
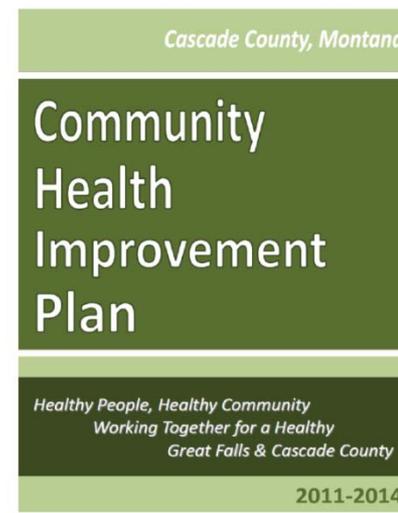
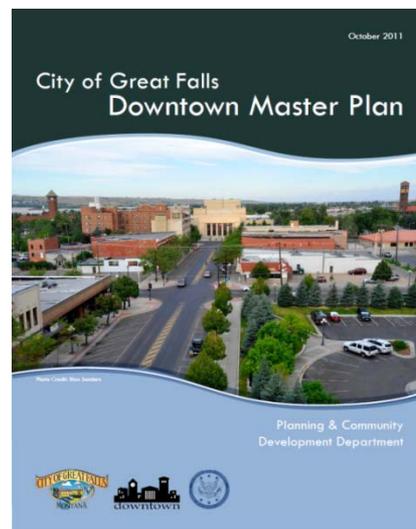
- Coalition of over 20 community agencies and organizations
- To promote the benefits of healthy lifestyles to the citizens of Great Falls and Cascade County through a unified community effort
  - Physical Activity
  - Nutrition

# Member Organizations

- ❑ Benefis Spirit of Women
- ❑ The Orthopedic Center of Montana
- ❑ City of Great Falls
- ❑ City-County Health Dept.
- ❑ Community Wellness and Cancer Prevention
- ❑ Cascade County
- ❑ Montana Wilderness Assoc.
- ❑ Action for Healthy Kids
- ❑ Great Falls Public Schools
- ❑ The Peak
- ❑ USDA, Forest Service
- ❑ Montana State Parks
- ❑ Aging Services
- ❑ Montana Nutrition and Physical Activity
- ❑ City County Historic Preservation Advisory Council
- ❑ MSU, Cascade County Extension Service
- ❑ RSVP representative
- ❑ The Heisey Youth Center
- ❑ Recreational Trails, Inc.
- ❑ GRRAnimals

# Call to action

- Great Falls residents not only want Complete Streets – we need Complete Streets
  - Downtown Master Plan
  - Community Health Improvement Plan
  - Community Health Assessment



# What are Complete Streets?

- Streets that provide safe, comfortable and convenient travel for everyone
  - Motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists and transit users
  - All ages
  - All abilities



Photo courtesy: Dan Burden

# What do Complete Streets look like?

- There is not a singular design
  - ▣ Street character
  - ▣ Neighborhood context
  - ▣ Community context



Photo courtesy: Dan Burden



Photo courtesy: Dan Burden

# Common elements of Complete Streets

- ❑ Sidewalks
- ❑ Bike lanes
- ❑ Wide shoulders
- ❑ Cross-walk
- ❑ Accessible ramp



[www.pedbikeimages.org/](http://www.pedbikeimages.org/)Dan Burden

# Incomplete Street

## Before

- No signage
- Inadequate lighting
- No bike lane
- No sidewalks
- No street crossings



# Complete Street

## After

- Median divider
- Designated left turn
- Bike lanes
- Sidewalks
- Street lighting
- Street crossings
- Bus stop shelter
- Street signage



9/29/1999 2:06pm

# Great Falls has a history of Complete Streets



That has evolved into this





93 NORTH  
LEFT LANE

Hardee's

Chevron

FAIRWAY

PUP LIQUOR STORE

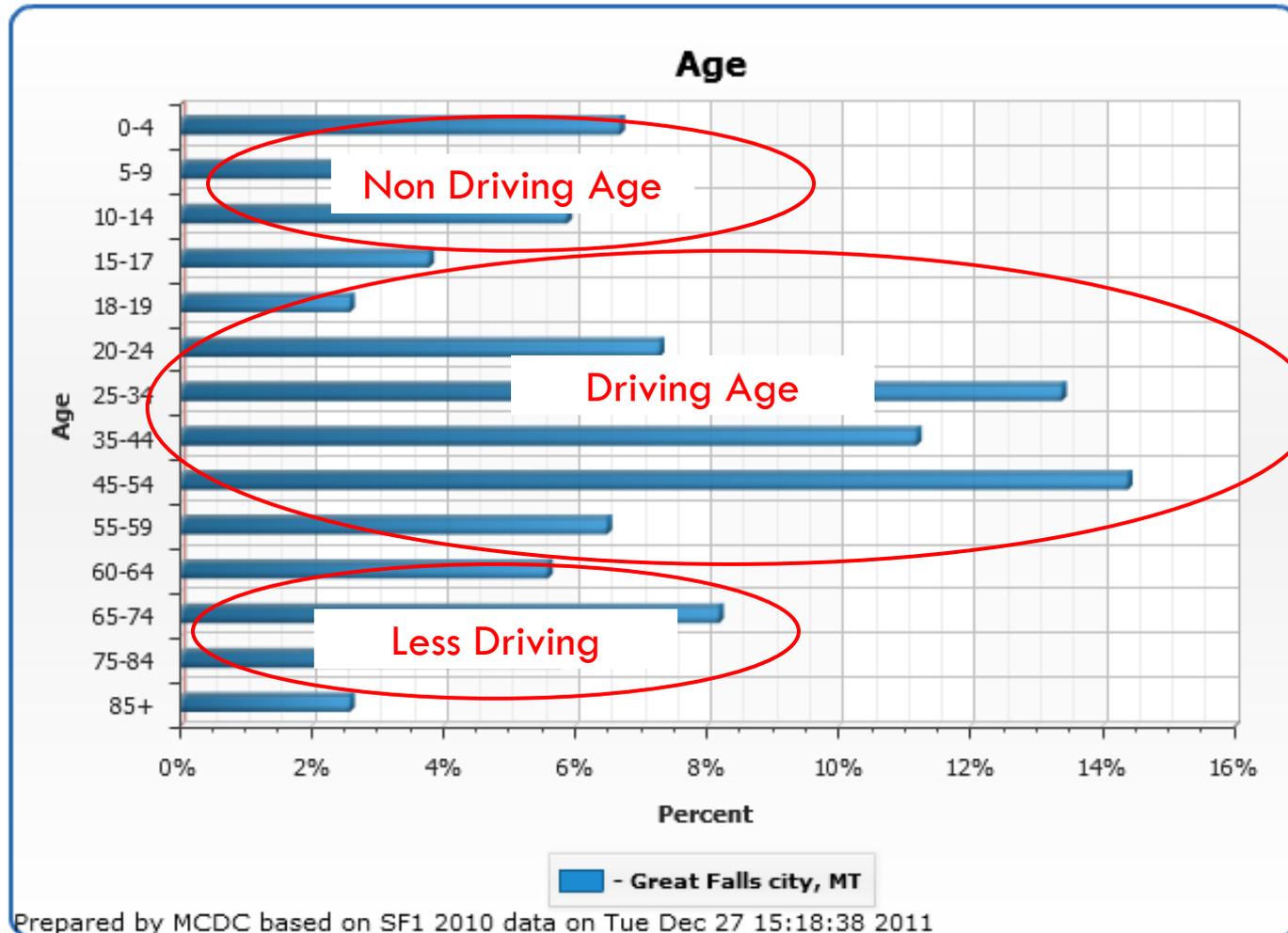
NEW LINE

Holiday Village

WESTERN FEDERAL

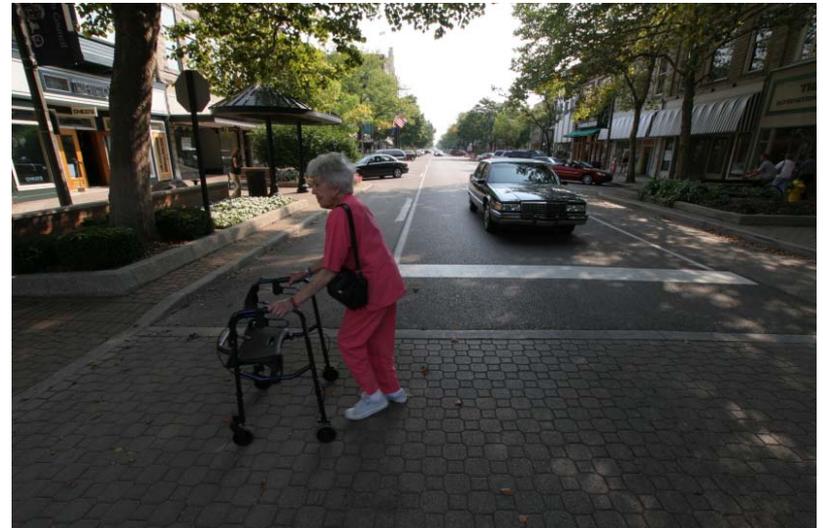
LAKE CREST

# 2010 Census – Age Breakdown



# There is great Opportunity

- Of all trips:
  - 50% are under 3 miles
  - 28% are 1 mile or less
  - 72% of trips 1 mile or less are driven
- Increased demand by young professionals
- Allow seniors to age place



[www.pedbikeimages.org/](http://www.pedbikeimages.org/)Dan Burden

# Benefits of Complete Streets

- Economic
- Health and safety
- Family transportation costs
- Quality of life
- Municipal cost



# Economic

- Improves home values
- Proven method for revitalizing an area and attracting new development
- Can create additional jobs





# Health and Safety

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## □ Health

- Provide opportunities for active transportation and physical activity
- Reduce obesity rates and lowers risk of diabetes and other chronic disease

## □ Safety

- Provide safe walking, biking and driving environment
- Reduce traffic-related dangers
- Provide children and elderly with opportunities to reach destinations in a safe environment.
- Great Falls is becoming more dangerous

# Family Transportation Costs

- Americans spend an average of 18 cents of every dollar on transportation
- Transit users save an average of \$6,251 annually
- Cost-savings can then be invested into the local economy



# Quality of Life

- Improve connections between homes, jobs and recreation activities
- Shorter commutes
- Happier and healthier residents



# Municipal Cost Savings

- Complete streets can be completed within the context of existing budgets
- Complete streets save money
  - All elements of the road are considered the same time
  - Efficient use of taxpayers money





The Lens & Sight of Books

Handcrafted Art Glasses

Eclipse Beads







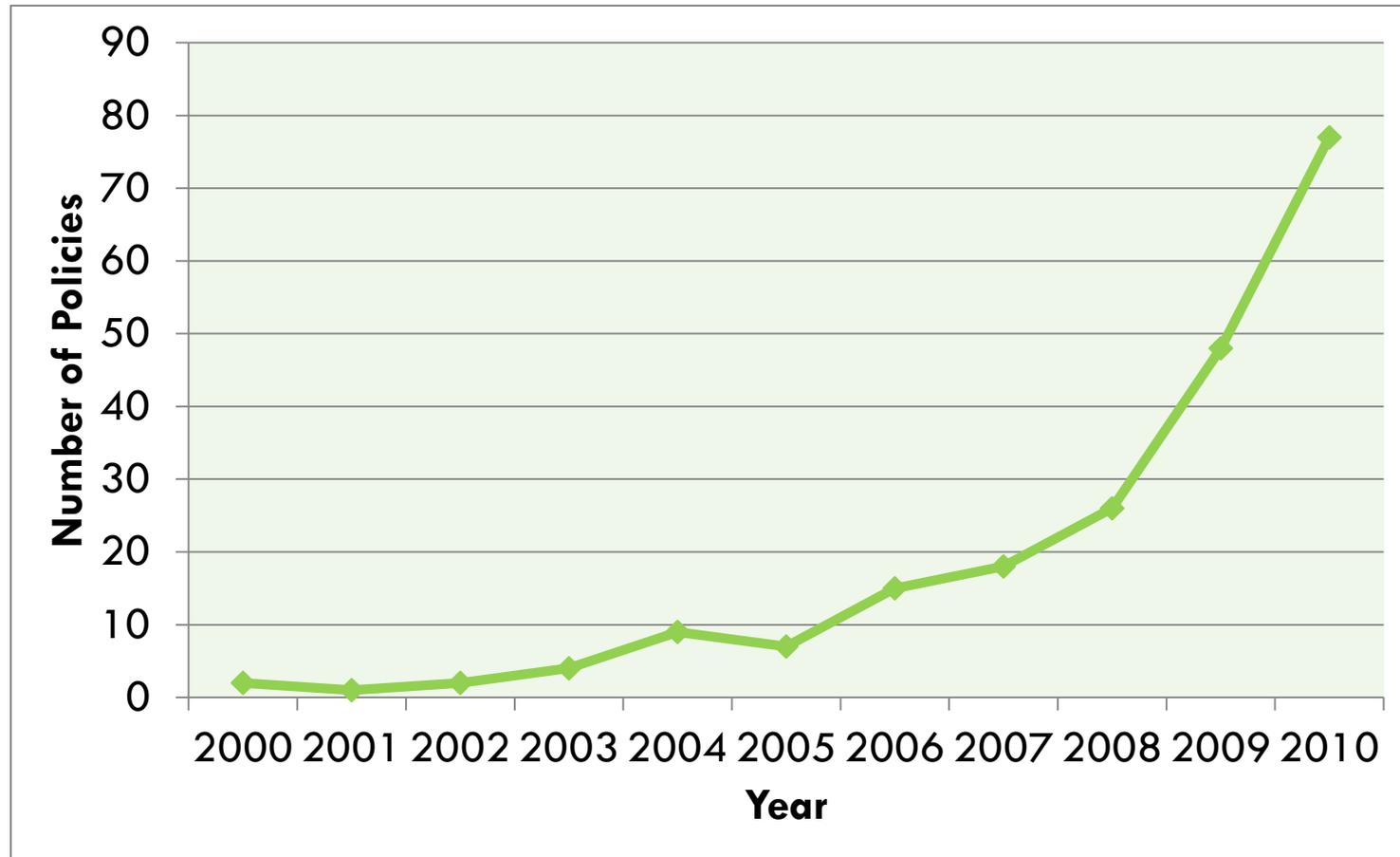


# How do we achieve Complete Streets

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- Join the 314 communities in all 50 states who have adopted a complete streets policy
- What is a Complete Streets policy?
  - Not more government or more regulation
  - Aligns transportation planning and policy with public health, safety and welfare
  - Formalize our community's intent to plan, design and maintain our streets for all users

# Growing Movement





# Elements of a Complete Streets Policy

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- ❑ Sets a vision.
- ❑ Includes all modes.
- ❑ Emphasizes connectivity.
- ❑ Applies to all phases of all applicable projects.
- ❑ Specifies and limits exceptions.
- ❑ Uses latest design standards.
- ❑ Is flexible.
- ❑ Is context-sensitive.
- ❑ Sets performance standards.
- ❑ Includes implementation steps.

# What's next

- Join the Complete Streets movement
  - Alicia M. Thompson (406) 791-9260
    - [athompson@cascadecountymt.gov](mailto:athompson@cascadecountymt.gov)
  - Paul Lloyd-Davies (406) 781-8771
    - [jackssavage8@bridgemail.com](mailto:jackssavage8@bridgemail.com)
  - Patty Rearden (406) 771-1265
    - [prearden@greatfallsmt.net](mailto:prearden@greatfallsmt.net)

- GFGF Coalition Meetings –
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday @ 10:30 a.m.
- Complete Streets Sub-Committee Meetings –
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday @ 2:00 p.m.
- Community Open House:
  - Wednesday May 23, 4:30 - 6:30.