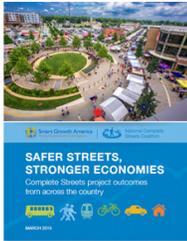




Evaluating Complete Streets

Illinois Bicycle Summit
October 27, 2015

Two Reports

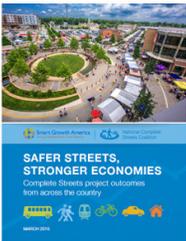





What do communities get for their investments in Complete Streets projects?

To answer this question, *Safer Streets, Stronger Economies*:

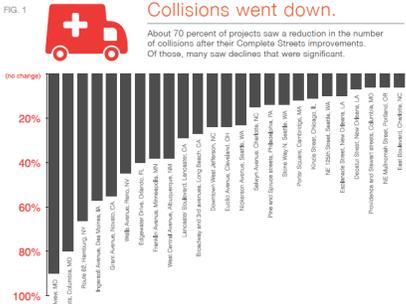
- Analyzed 37 projects on their transportation performance using before-and-after data
- Examined a subset of projects w. economic data (more limited)




1. Safer streets for people using them

FIG. 1 Collisions went down.

About 70 percent of projects saw a reduction in the number of collisions after their Complete Streets improvements. Of those, many saw declines that were significant.



- Collisions fell in about 70 percent of projects.
- Injuries fell in about 56 percent of projects.

...and these safer conditions saved money.

- Every avoided collision produces cost-savings for individuals.
- For individual projects, these savings alone can justify the cost of these improvements.



Within our sample, Complete Streets improvements collectively averted

\$18.1 million in collision costs in **1 year.**



2. Streets that encouraged multimodal travel



Bicycling increased in 22 of 23 projects.



Walking increased in 12 of 13 projects.



Transit ridership increased in 6 of 7 projects.



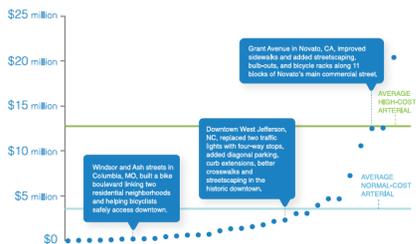
Automobiles increased in half of the projects and decreased in the other half.



3. Streets that were remarkably affordable

 The cost per mile to build Complete Streets projects vs. an average arterial road

Complete Streets projects are remarkably affordable—some of the projects in our survey cost just a few thousand dollars. They cost less to build than an average urban arterial, yet, as explained earlier, can still increase bicycle, pedestrian, and automobile activity.



4. Streets that supported local economic strategies

Communities reported:

- Higher employment and property values, often outpacing similar unimproved corridors and citywide trends;
- Net new businesses along 6 projects;
- Higher retail sales in 4 projects; and
- Private investment along 8 projects.



How do you evaluate Complete Streets projects?

Evaluating Complete Streets Projects:

- Discuss useful measures for common Complete Streets goals:
 - Access
 - Economy
 - Environment
 - Equity
 - Place
 - Public Health
 - Safety



Smart Growth America | National Complete Streets Coalition

Case Study: Measuring air quality



For more information:

www.smartgrowthamerica.org/completestreets

