

## Complete Streets in Alaska: 2023-2024 Project Memo

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### About Smart Growth America

Smart Growth America envisions a country where no matter where you live, or who you are, you can enjoy living in a place that is healthy, prosperous, and resilient. We empower communities through technical assistance, advocacy, and thought leadership to realize our vision of livable places, healthy people, and shared prosperity.

### Complete Streets in Alaska

Smart Growth America welcomes the opportunity to work with AKDOTPF as it continues on its path to creating transportation options for all community members. In our experience, active participation from state DOTs is a critical factor in the successful development and implementation of a Complete Streets approach. The manual review, virtual sessions, and in-person workshops will be an opportunity to demonstrate that the future of Alaska is one that provides safe, accessible, and joyful transportation.

A Complete Streets approach, supported by statewide policies, funding, and project support, will help to achieve a number of Alaska's current priorities. Complete Streets provides safe, accessible, and convenient transportation regardless of mode, supporting active transportation and prioritizing the needs of those who have been historically disadvantaged by the transportation system. It encourages active transportation, community engagement, and social connectivity which can improve physical and mental well-being, grow the economy, and address climate concerns.

We recognize that Alaska has already made strides in the direction of Complete Streets. Our partnership with headquarters staff during the Complete Streets Leadership Academy showed us the passion and expert knowledge that exists. They not only participated in the program sessions, but regularly provided additional support, access to resources, and their own time while navigating a challenging process. Pilots like the bike lanes in Anchorage demonstrate a willingness to be innovative and shift the status quo to meet the needs of all community members. Smart Growth America looks forward to building on these efforts and more as we help Alaska on its path toward a Complete Streets approach.

## 2024 Scope of Work

### Manual Review and Recommendations (ongoing)

Smart Growth America is currently performing a review of manuals, regulations, and other materials identified by AKDOTPF. This review will identify areas which will need to be updated or improved to support a Complete Streets approach and potential Complete Streets policy. It will also provide insight as to the staff teams and cross-sector areas that will need to be engaged for a successful Complete Streets implementation.

### Internal Capacity Building (early 2024)

Smart Growth America will conduct two virtual sessions in early 2024. These sessions will be for AKDOTPF staff and other identified partners to provide necessary knowledge around Complete Streets and related issues. The first session proposed to build on existing experience with Complete Streets, specifically highlighting the Complete Streets policy framework and considerations in successfully adopting a Complete Streets approach. The second session will discuss the role of state DOTs in Complete Streets with relevant examples from across the U.S. Both sessions will provide SGA an opportunity to become more familiar with important AKDOTPF stakeholders and identify areas that will need to be explored again in the in-person workshops.

### In-Person Workshops (early 2024)

Smart Growth America will develop and deliver three in-person workshops across the state of Alaska. These workshops will be primarily for AKDOTPF staff and identified partners with opportunities to engage advocates and community members. Content will build on the discussions from the virtual sessions with an emphasis on the practical aspects of drafting, adopting, and implementing a Complete Streets approach for Alaska. Attendees will have the opportunity to go on a walk audit of a local site to see firsthand how Complete Streets can change transportation in Alaska.

### Final Deliverables (mid-2024)

At the end of this project, Smart Growth America will deliver to AKDOTPF:

- A report on the improvements needed to specific manuals and regulations to support Complete Streets
- A report with observations from the virtual and in-person events with recommended next steps on identified action items
- Recommendations on how to proceed with drafting and implementing a Complete Streets approach in Alaska

Throughout this process, Smart Growth America will work with AKDOTPF staff to identify potential additional areas of support, such as the review of draft policies and manuals to support statewide Complete Streets efforts.

### Next Steps and Action Items

Smart Growth America is currently working on the manual review and will present its findings to AKDOTPF staff in early 2024. At the same time, we are in the process of preparing content for the virtual and in-person workshops. Any feedback or input from AKDOTPF would be appreciated as we move forward with both. Additionally, AKDOTPF will soon need to provide thoughts on attendees for both the virtual and in-person components as well as support meeting logistics.