CASE STUDY

COMPLETE STREETS POLICY DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL Klickitat County
WHITE SALMON AND BingEN, KLICKITAT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE: The Complete Streets ordinance in White Salmon and Bingen seeks to promote and facilitate changes needed to make streets safer for drivers, bicyclists, transit vehicles and users, and pedestrians. The Complete Streets concept focuses on changing the decision making process so that all users are considered while planning, designing, building and operating roadways. Two objectives of the project were to coordinate Complete Streets and Safe Routes to School (SRTS) trainings and to pass the ordinance and implement the SRTS program.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS: Six months after the Complete Streets ordinance passed in White Salmon City Council, the WA State Department of Transportation (DOT) unexpectedly removed the rumble strip along a stretch of the state highway that many people use for walking and biking. Since this unofficial pedestrian ‘highway loop trail’ didn’t have sidewalks, pedestrians spoke out and voiced their concern about the loss of rumble strip that they felt kept them safer. The new Complete Streets ordinance was a helpful resource to reference in order to work with the DOT and have the rumble strip replaced. Community members expressed that walkability is an important issue, and they were able to feel that their community cared about pedestrian safety.

COSTS AND FUNDING: Klickitat County received an Active Community Environments Grant for $23,000.
IMPLEMENTATION TIME-FRAME:
In December 2011, the Active Living Task Force in White Salmon formed within an existing county health coalition and a SRTS coordinator was hired through a Community Transformation Grant. A plan was drafted in November 2012 when a meeting with the coalition, DOT, and Department of Health took place. Soon after the meeting, research and information was gathered regarding Complete Streets policies and was coupled with the already-successful SRTS program. In March 2013, the ordinance passed, and local press coverage inspired the neighboring town of Bingen to follow suit.

BENEFITS AND RESULTS/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: This Complete Streets ordinance has laid the foundation for community involvement in pedestrian advocacy. Klickitat County Health Department held a fun run/walk in April to celebrate walkability and they continue to elicit feedback from the community.

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RESOURCES:
White Salmon Complete Streets Ordinance
https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/150b4a812ff8b87a?projector=1
Complete Streets Policy Development in Rural Klickitat County Powerpoint
https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/150b4a812ff8b87a?projector=1