



MEMO

TO: NWARPC Policy Committee
FROM: NWARPC Staff
DATE: February 20, 2025
RE: Safe Streets and Roads For All (SS4A) –
NWA Regional Complete Streets Design Guide

BACKGROUND

The draft NWA Regional Complete Streets Design Guide has been developed for NWARPC by Toole Design Group to:

- provide decision-makers, planners, and designers with a framework to create balanced streets that accommodate all modes of transportation;
- support the region’s transportation goals;
- encourage collaboration and consistency; and
- enhance safety and accessibility for all users.

The NWA Regional Complete Streets Design Guide is a supplement to the NWA “Vision Zero” Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) approved by the Board of Directors by Resolution #2023-10 on June 28, 2023, and funded through the SS4A Action Planning Grant, with the local match generously provided by the Walton Family Foundation. The draft Guide and additional information about the process can be found at www.nwarpc.org/transportation/vision-zero-plan/.

In accordance with the NWARPC Public Participation Plan (PPP), the following public notification process was followed for public comment on the Draft Complete Streets Design Guidelines:

- The draft Guide was shared with TAC for review before the January 16, 2025 meeting, during which Toole Design presented the Guide, and TAC voted to recommend sending the draft for Public Comment.
- Legal Notice was published in the Democrat Gazette on Sunday, February 2, 2025, in the Spanish-language La Prensa Libre on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, and in the McDonald County Press on Thursday, February 6, 2025, and online at www.nwarpc.org/public-notifications/, including information pertaining to the 2-week public comment period, and the approval process.
- A Public Comment Period was held from Monday, February 3, 2025 through Monday, February 17, 2025. Written comments were encouraged via email or through the comments tab online, www.nwarpc.org/contact/.
- Notices were also sent to appropriate federal, state, and local agencies, interested citizens and the press. Information was posted on the NWARPC website and made available in the NWARPC office.
- Letters were mailed to area Spanish-speaking churches and human service agencies announcing the public comment period, and the approval process.

The public comment period for the draft Guide concluded Monday, February 17, 2025. Public comments received from two individuals, summarized below.

Note: Technical suggestions, typos/scrivener errors, and formatting recommendations that have been received from member staff are being reviewed for concurrence and implemented as applicable.

PUBLIC COMMENT THEMES	RESPONSE/ACTION
Need for training requirements in safe-street practices for project personnel	Addressed on page 127. Will also be addressed in local Safety Action Plans
Include language encouraging municipalities and counties to downsize their EMS vehicle fleets.	Adding language that EMS agencies should actively participate to promote complete streets, including considering fleet vehicle size.
Add design guidance on pedestrian push button placement and accessible pedestrian signals for wheelchair users.	Addressed on page 100 & page 107
Include the ITE yellow light timing standard using GHM model to correct yellow light timing.	Reviewing for concurrence
Lack of audited, standardized metrics and accountability for achieving Vision Zero goals.	Addressed in Model Complete Streets Policy Section 8 (pp. 126-127) & 2023 Regional CSAP
Need for stronger language within exception criteria for model complete streets policy (Chapter 4)	Reviewing for concurrence. Will strengthen language.