

Arlington, Wenatchee, and Airway Heights, Washington awarded Complete Streets Leadership Academy

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Airway Heights, WA has been chosen to participate in a series of workshops to support its work to create safer, healthier streets.

The National Complete Streets Coalition, a program of Smart Growth America, announced today the cities of Arlington, Wenatchee, and Airway Heights have been selected for the first ever Complete Streets Leadership Academy workshop series.

The National Complete Streets Coalition is excited to debut this technical assistance program in Washington State with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Transportation Improvement Board. The Washington State Department of Transportation and the Washington State Department of Health are partners in this assistance program.

These communities will participate in a series of three workshops designed to pilot new approaches to implementing [activity-friendly routes to everyday destinations](#), which make it safe and convenient for people of all abilities to walk, run, bike, skate, or roll to reach homes, jobs, shops, schools, and more.

Kevin Richey, Mayor of the City of Airway Heights, stated regarding the award grant,

“We have the opportunity to enhance the effectiveness of our complete street policy through the development of an implementation framework developed through this grant. This grant complements the City’s policy and the community’s strategic vision for multi-mobility and transportation. It can assist Airway Heights in creating strategies that effectively support our most vulnerable, underinvested communities that are impacted by health disparities. “

Each of the communities will host one of the three workshops during the next eight months. The workshops will focus on building skills to transform their streets into safer and healthier places. These skills include harnessing the arts through creative placemaking, conducting inclusive community engagement, and undertaking [local road safety planning](#). The communities will then apply these new and improved skills by implementing temporary, on-the-ground demonstration projects with support from Smart Growth America and the Transportation Improvement Board.

“A region can’t thrive if some people are struggling just to get to the grocery store,” said Emiko Atherton, Director of the National Complete Streets Coalition. “Often, overcoming that challenge takes cooperation across agencies and sectors. Through our previous work with communities nationwide, we’ve learned that demonstration projects are important opportunities to test out new approaches to redesigning safer, healthier streets in partnership with the community.”

This technical assistance is funded through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity. This

program is designed to support the Washington State Department of Health's ongoing work through the State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) program.

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The National Complete Streets Coalition, a program of Smart Growth America, is a non-profit, non-partisan alliance of public interest organizations and transportation professionals committed to the development and implementation of Complete Streets policies and practices. A nationwide movement launched by the Coalition in 2004, Complete Streets is the integration of people and place in the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of transportation networks. To date, agencies nationwide have adopted over 1,500 Complete Streets policies.