

City of Miami, Florida

MANUEL A. DIAZ
MAYOR



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March 12, 2009

The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senate
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0905

Dear Senator Nelson:

I am writing to encourage you to support the Complete Streets Act of 2009, a landmark bill introduced by Senator Harkin last year to ensure that our country's streets truly work for people of all ages and abilities.

I urge you to support complete streets by co-sponsoring this bill when it is re-introduced in the 111th Congress and throughout the development of the next transportation authorization bill. This important piece of legislation would ensure that future transportation investments made by state Departments of Transportation and Metropolitan Planning Organizations create appropriate and safe transportation facilities for all those using the road – motorists, transit vehicles and riders, bicyclists, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities. By meeting the needs of all users from the onset, complete streets are cost effective. By offering a full range of transportation options, complete streets reduce congestion, mitigate the effects of climate change, and encourage healthy and active lifestyles. Finally, complete streets improve safety, because they provide facilities for all users in a clear and convenient way.

In the City of Miami, we have been promoting complete streets with a number of initiatives, including our Bicycle Action Plan – which was adopted by our City Commission with unanimous support in October of last year, and our monthly event, Bike Miami Days, which promotes cycling and walking, livable streets and community.

Today, our City Commissions unanimously approved a resolution establishing a "Complete Streets Program." Across our country, cities, counties, MPOs and states – including Florida - have adopted complete streets policies that direct transportation planners to consider the needs of all users when transportation investment decisions are made. The Complete Streets Act of 2009 will direct all transportation organizations to build our roads right the first time.

Please support the Complete Streets Act of 2009, which will be introduced by Senator Harkin this year. I also welcome you to contact my office at (305) 250-5300 with any questions you may have.

Thank you again for supporting progressive, green legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Manuel A. Diaz".