

Livable Streets

AN OVERVIEW



CITY OF CHARLOTTE, NC / NEW URBAN NETWORK



MAIN STREET IN HAMBURG, NY / DAN BURDEN



COMPLETE STREETS

LIVABLE STREETS — sometimes referred to as complete streets — are roadways designed to allow for safe and convenient travel by all users, including motor vehicles, pedestrians (including those with disabilities), transit vehicles, and bicyclists both along and across the corridor.

IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY

By making roads more accessible for all modes of transportation, livable streets provide safe and convenient travel for persons of all ages and abilities, including children and the elderly.

PROMOTE GOOD HEALTH

Livable streets make active living easy by providing streets and sidewalks that encourage walking and biking. Livable streets build a physical environment where residents are connected and mobile.

PROVIDE ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Livable streets create attractive transportation corridors that make businesses both inviting and easily accessible. Attractive corridors increase property value and visibility for both homes and business owners.

ENHANCE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Not only do livable streets improve air quality by providing space that encourages low-emission travel, they include effective green infrastructure that retain and treat stormwater runoff and improve water quality. Also, livable streets provide landscaping elements that can reduce the heat island effect in urban communities.

ENSURE LONG-TERM SAVINGS

Costs for livable streets might be greater initially, but they are offset by the many long-term benefits they bring. Livable streets may reduce construction and maintenance costs when roadways are narrowed and stormwater is more efficiently managed.

