

### ● CREATE STREETS THAT ARE USABLE BY ALL PEOPLE

Universal design is the design of products and environments — including streets — to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible.

### ● GO BEYOND THE REQUIREMENTS

Universal design is a way of planning that extends beyond accessibility requirements, considering elements that will have the greatest use for the greatest numbers of users. This includes people with disabilities, the aging population and the community in general.

### ● CONSIDER PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Planning for streets that are usable by all people should take into account people with disabilities. They are major users of public transportation, and are more likely than people without disabilities to consider inadequate transportation to be a problem (30% versus 10%).

### ● IMPROVE SAFETY

Livable streets improve safety for pedestrians with disabilities. People with mobility disabilities and aging pedestrians need longer times to cross the street safely. Blind pedestrians make more unsafe crossings than sighted pedestrians, a problem that can be lessened by accessible pedestrian signals.

### ● INCLUDE USERS IN PLANNING

People with disabilities should be involved in the planning process. A pedestrian or transportation user from the disability community brings unique expertise to the table and can be a well-informed contributor.



(top) WWW.PEDBIKEIMAGES.ORG / DAN BURDEN  
(middle) WWW.PEDBIKEIMAGES.ORG / JAN MOSER  
(bottom) COMPLETE STREETS

### PRINCIPLES OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN AND SUGGESTIONS FOR LIVABLE STREETS

**USE FOR ALL** – The design is useful to people with diverse abilities.

- Curb cuts are useful to parents with strollers, aging pedestrians, and people using canes or wheelchairs.
- Rather than stairs and a ramp, consider grading the approach for everyone.

**SIMPLE AND INTUITIVE** – Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills or the focus of their attention.

- Transit stops that are easy to use, and provide clear, picture-based signage help everyone better use public transportation.

**CLEAR INFORMATION** – The design communicates information effectively to the user, regardless of weather or other local conditions, or the user's hearing or sight.

- Accessible pedestrian signals that are visible and clearly audible (e.g., state "walk") can improve safety and usability for all users by giving feedback that the pushbutton works and to wait for the signal.

**SAFE FOR ALL** – The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.

- Allowing sufficient time for crossing helps parents with children, aging users, and people with disabilities cross the street safely.

**LOW PHYSICAL EFFORT** – The design can be used efficiently and comfortably, and with little fatigue.

- Protecting transit stops from the cold and wind help all people use transportation safely in bad weather.
- Adding usable benches along streets helps anyone who may need to stop and rest.

#### MORE ON UNIVERSAL DESIGN AND LIVABLE STREETS

Read more about principles of universal design: [www.ncsu.edu/ncsu/design/cud/about\\_ud/udprinciples.htm](http://www.ncsu.edu/ncsu/design/cud/about_ud/udprinciples.htm)

The city of New York developed a guide for communities interested in implementing universal design principles:

[www.ap.buffalo.edu/idea/Publications/pdfs/udny2.pdf](http://www.ap.buffalo.edu/idea/Publications/pdfs/udny2.pdf)