

Senate Resolution 1213

By: Senator Miller of the 49th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Senate Complete Streets Study Committee; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Georgians need streets and roadways that are safe and convenient for travel by
3 automobile, foot, bicycle, and transit regardless of age or ability; and
- 4 WHEREAS, the doubling of Georgia's older adult population from 852,000 to 1,668,000
5 between 2005 and 2025 is evidence of the increased need for locally based transportation
6 options and a state-wide transportation system less reliant on the automobile; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the state's commitment to providing community based options for individuals
8 with disabilities requires access to a broader range of transportation options than are
9 currently available in most communities; and
- 10 WHEREAS, streets that support and invite multiple uses are more conducive to public life
11 and to efficient movement of people than are streets designed primarily to move automobiles
12 and trucks; and
- 13 WHEREAS, the full integration of all modes in the design of streets and roadways will
14 increase the capacity and efficiency of the road network, reduce traffic congestion, improve
15 mobility options, and improve air quality; and
- 16 WHEREAS, regular walking and bicycling improve physical health, increase mental
17 well-being, and help reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease, Type 2 diabetes, some
18 cancers, and other chronic diseases associated with obesity; and
- 19 WHEREAS, increased physical activity is critical to combating the obesity crisis in Georgia,
20 where 29.6 percent of adults are obese and nearly 40 percent of children are obese or
21 overweight; and

22 WHEREAS, bicyclists and pedestrians account for 11.5 percent of all traffic fatalities in
23 Georgia; and

24 WHEREAS, Complete Streets is the practice of designing and constructing streets and roads
25 to meet the needs of bicyclists, pedestrians, transit riders, and drivers; and

26 WHEREAS, Complete Streets promotes the walkability and bicycle friendliness of
27 communities through principles such as context-sensitive design, mobility-friendly design,
28 mixed-use, and infill developments; and

29 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Transportation has the opportunity to create and
30 improve transportation facilities for all users by implementing these principles and standards
31 through its projects; and

32 WHEREAS, the goals of the Complete Streets guidelines include:

- 33 (1) Creation of a comprehensive, integrated, and connected transportation network that
34 allows users to choose between different modes of transportation;
- 35 (2) A change in the decision-making and design process so that all users are considered
36 in planning, designing, building, operating, and maintaining all roadways;
- 37 (3) A recognition that all streets are different, and users' needs should be balanced in
38 order to ensure that the solution will enhance the community; and
- 39 (4) The use of the latest and best design guidelines as they apply to bicycle, pedestrian,
40 transit, and highway facilities; and

41 WHEREAS, the Complete Streets guidelines shall accomplish the following:

- 42 (1) The development of model design guidelines for suburban, rural, and urban contexts;
- 43 (2) The application of such guidelines to both new and reconstruction projects;
- 44 (3) A determination of what components of guideline implementation require
45 administrative and legislative changes;
- 46 (4) The development of any necessary legislation for the 2013 legislative session;
- 47 (5) The coordination of Complete Street guidelines with metropolitan planning
48 organizations;
- 49 (6) The balancing of costs with benefits;
- 50 (7) A prioritization of interventions to connect bike and pedestrian networks throughout
51 the state;
- 52 (8) Building on the Georgia Department of Transportation's draft revised bike and
53 pedestrian plan; and

54 (9) The development of model urban street design guidelines and model local
55 ordinances.

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that there is created the Senate
57 Complete Streets Study Committee to be composed of seven members of the Senate to be
58 appointed by the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall designate one of
59 the members to serve as chairperson of the committee. The chairperson shall call all
60 meetings of the committee.

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
62 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any actions
63 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee shall
64 develop state-wide policy on the design and construction of thoroughfares that maximize use
65 by all Georgians whether they choose to bike, walk, ride transit, or drive a car. The
66 committee may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem
67 necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its
68 duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the
69 committee shall receive the allowances authorized for legislative members of interim
70 legislative committees but shall receive the same for not more than five days unless
71 additional days are authorized by the President of the Senate. The funds necessary to carry
72 out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds appropriated to the Senate.
73 In the event that the committee makes a report of its findings and recommendations for
74 proposed legislation, such report shall be made no later than December 31, 2012. The
75 committee shall stand abolished on December 31, 2012.