

Complete streets being embraced by U.S.

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- An increasing number of U.S. communities have implemented the proposal of complete streets that allow roads to be used by nearly every type of travel. While 14 U.S. states and 52 cities have instituted such policies, the concept of adding sidewalks and bike paths to area streets is blossoming in several other locations as local and state officials warm to transportation proposal, USA Today said Monday. Supporters of the travel legislation include the American Association of Retired Persons, which credits the concept with aiding the elderly. "As an aging society, we need to look at the ability to get where we want to go not just as the driver of a car," AARP livable communities director Elinor Ginzler said. "Walking safely, getting to the bus stop safely, has to become more possible." Yet opponents of the measure alleged that it can negatively disrupt a region's travel flow and harm neighboring communities. "You encourage drivers to divert to other neighborhoods," University of North Carolina at Charlotte professor David Hartgen told USA Today. "You're dumping your auto pollution on someone else. And ultimately it's not very effective. You haven't changed total travel."

Copyright © 2007, by United Press International. All Rights Reserved.

Complete streets being embraced by U.S. by UPI