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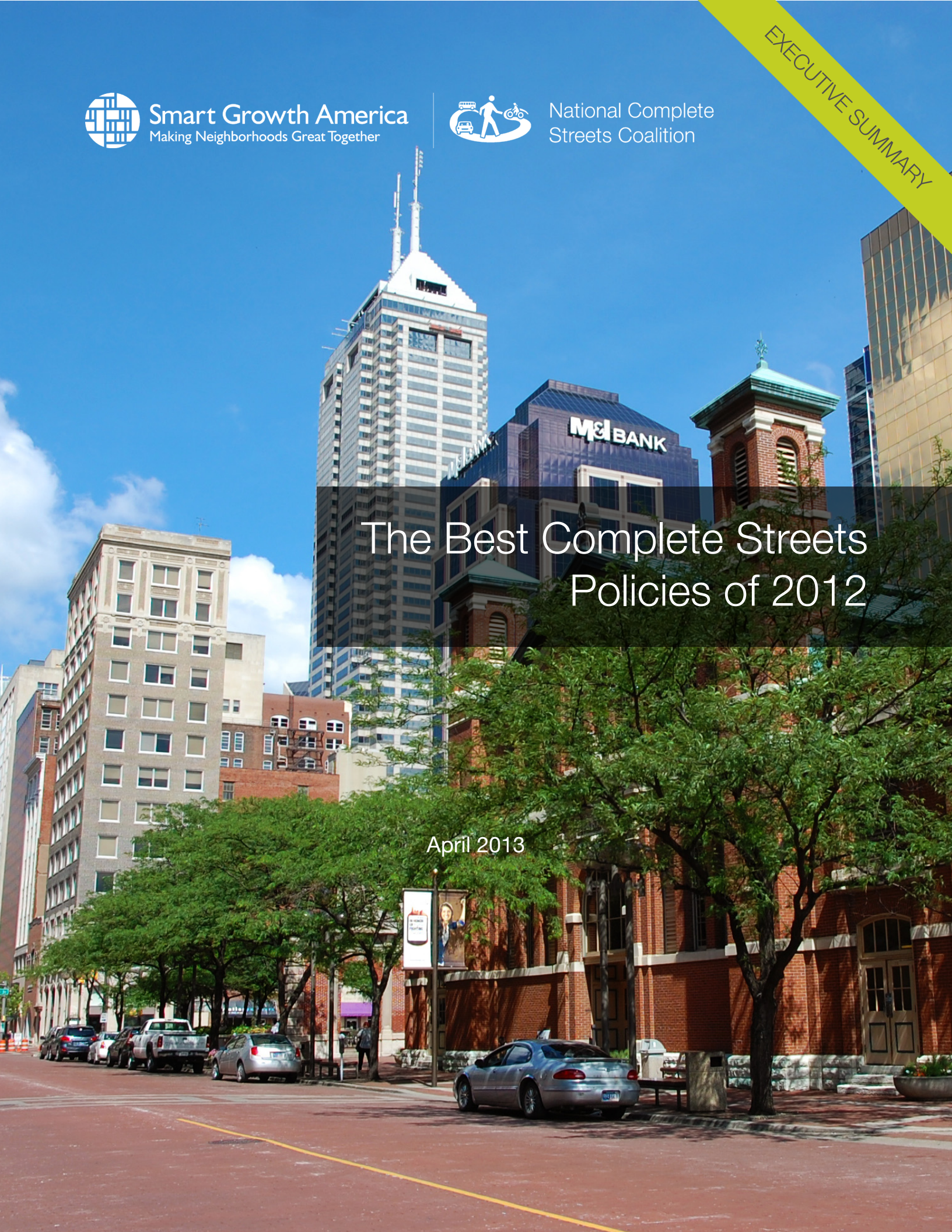


National Complete  
Streets Coalition

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# The Best Complete Streets Policies of 2012

April 2013







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Streets Coalition**

**The National Complete Streets Coalition**, a program of Smart Growth America, seeks to fundamentally transform the look, feel and function of the roads and streets in our community, by changing the way most roads are planned, designed and constructed. Complete Streets policies direct transportation planners and engineers to consistently design with all users in mind, in line with the elements of Complete Streets policies.

**Smart Growth America** is the only national organization dedicated to researching, advocating for and leading coalitions to bring better development to more communities nationwide. From providing more sidewalks to ensuring more homes are built near public transportation or that productive farms remain a part of our communities, smart growth helps make sure people across the nation can live in great neighborhoods.

For additional information, visit [www.smartgrowthamerica.org/completestreets](http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/completestreets).

## Acknowledgments

This report was written by Stefanie Seskin, Deputy Director, and Lily Gordon-Koven, Fellow, of the National Complete Streets Coalition.

Cover: Photo of Indianapolis, IN by Ian Freimuth, via Flickr.

# Executive Summary

Communities across the country are making roads safer and more accessible for everyone who uses them, and more communities are using these strategies now than ever before.

**In 2012 nearly 130 communities adopted Complete Streets policies.** These laws, resolutions, executive orders, policies and planning and design documents encourage and provide safe access to destinations for everyone, regardless of age, ability, income, ethnicity or how they travel.

**In total, 488 Complete Streets policies are now in place nationwide, at all levels of government.** Statewide policies are in place in 27 states as well as the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Forty-two regional planning organizations, 38 counties and 379 municipalities in 48 states have also adopted policies that allow everyone to safely use America's roads. The policies passed in 2012 comprise more than one quarter of all policies in place today.

The National Complete Streets Coalition examined and scored every policy passed in 2012 based on 10 elements of the policy language: Vision and intent; All users and modes; All projects and phases; Clear, accountable exceptions; Network; Jurisdiction; Design; Context sensitivity; Performance measures; and Implementation next steps. These elements refine a community's vision, provide clear direction and intent, complement community needs, and grant the flexibility needed to create an effective Complete Streets process and outcome.

**Ten cities have led the way in crafting comprehensive policy language.** Our ranking of top Complete Streets policies is intended to celebrate the communities that have done exceptional work in the past year. They are:

- |                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> Indianapolis, IN    | <b>6</b> Portland, ME          |
| <b>2</b> Hermosa Beach, CA   | <b>7</b> Oak Park, IL          |
| <b>2</b> Huntington Park, CA | <b>8</b> Trenton, NJ           |
| <b>4</b> Ocean Shores, WA    | <b>9</b> Clayton, MO           |
| <b>5</b> Northfield, MN      | <b>10</b> Rancho Cucamonga, CA |

**These policies are a model for communities across the country.** This report highlights exemplary policy language, and provides leaders at all levels of government with ideas for how to create strong Complete Streets policies. Information about additional resources for local leaders is also included.

The National Complete Streets Coalition, a program of Smart Growth America, supports communities as they develop, adopt and implement Complete Streets policies, and we are proud to have worked with many of the communities discussed in this analysis. By highlighting the top Complete Streets policies of the past year we intend to celebrate exemplary policy work and to give other communities an example to follow in writing their own Complete Streets policies.



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