

# Federal Perspective on the Barriers to Translating Research into Effective Policy

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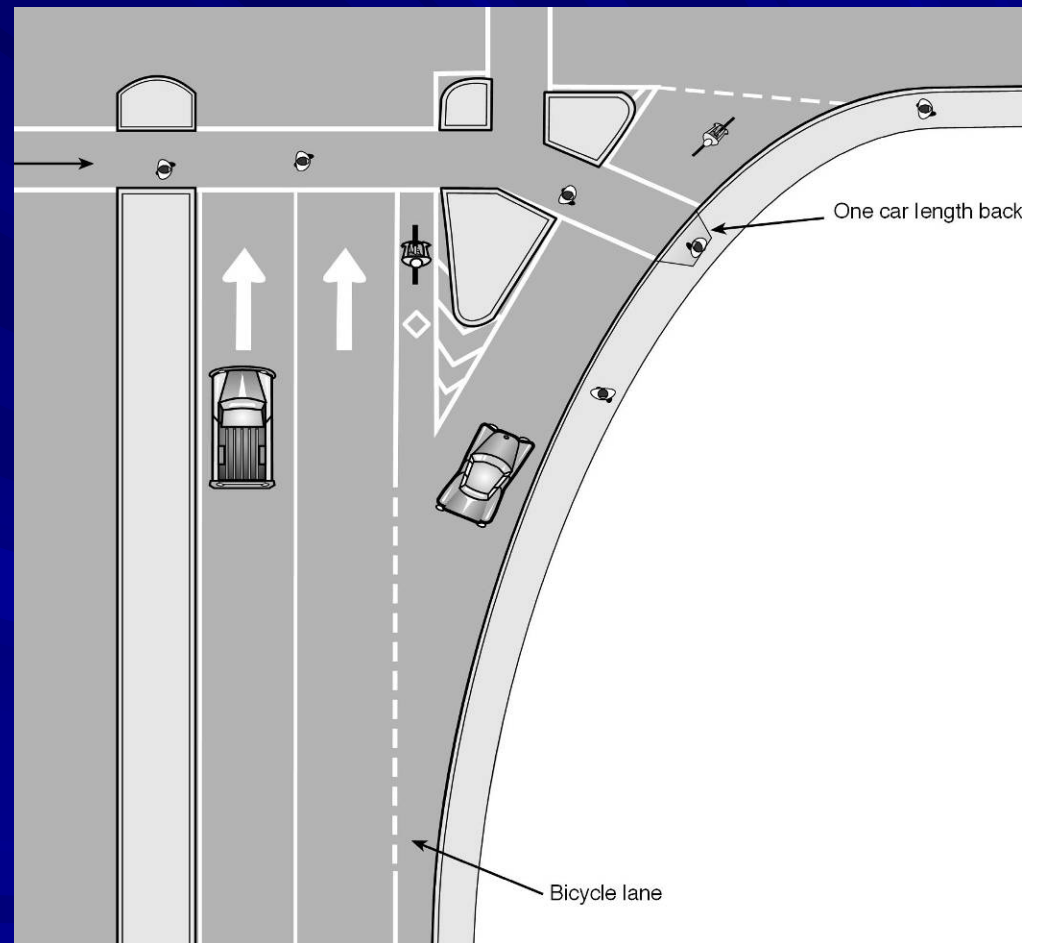
Senator Tom Harkin

# Obesity Has Become A Front-Page Issue



# Complete streets and safety

- Designing intersections for pedestrian travel can reduce pedestrian risk by 28%
- Medians reduced pedestrian crashes 40%



# Complete streets and Safety

FHWA review of safety literature found:

- Sidewalks
- Raised medians
- Better bus stop placement
- Traffic calming
- Treatments for disabled travelers

All improve pedestrian safety.

# Public health researchers agree:

- Actions to encourage more physical activity:
  - Build more sidewalks
  - Improve transit service
  - Shift highway funds to create bike lanes

# Complete Streets promote physical activity

- Residents are 65% more likely to walk in a neighborhood with sidewalks.
- Cities with more bike lanes per square mile have higher levels of bicycle commuting





S. 2686

## The Complete Streets Act of 2008

“To ensure that all users of the transportation system, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users as well as children, older individuals, and individuals with disabilities, are able to travel safely and conveniently on streets and highways.”



## S. 2686

# The Complete Streets Act of 2008

- States and MPOs are directed to adopt and implement effective complete streets policies
- Apply the policies to upcoming TIP projects
- Incorporate complete streets principles in all aspects of project development
- Calls for research and data collection

## S. 771

### Child Nutrition Promotion and School Lunch Protection Act

#### *Foods Allowed and Not Allowed for Sale under Current USDA Stds*

##### ■ **Allowed:**

- Fruitopia
- French fries
- Ice cream
- Snickers candy bars
- Oreos cookies
- Pizza
- Whole milk
- Cheetos
- Cheese danish
- Donuts

##### **Not Allowed:**

- Coca-Cola, Sprite
- Cracker Jacks
- Popsicles (without fruit/fruit juice)
- Jelly beans
- Chewing gum
- Lollipops
- Breath mints
- Licorice
- Cotton candy
- Cough drops

## S. 771

### Child Nutrition Promotion and School Lunch Protection Act

- Requires the Sec. of Agriculture to update the nutritional standards for foods sold in schools.
- Requires the Sec. of Agriculture to apply the updated definition everywhere on schools grounds.
- The proposed legislation does not affect school parties.