



OLD NORTH BRIDGE

TOWN OF CONCORD

SELECT BOARD'S OFFICE
22 MONUMENT SQUARE – P.O. BOX 535
CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS 01742

TELEPHONE (978) 318-3001
FAX (978) 318-3002

TOWN OF CONCORD COMPLETE STREETS POLICY July 30, 2018

The Town of Concord has recognized the goal of enhancing multimodal transportation planning through the Public Works Commission's adoption of its December 1999 Road Policy Statement which states:

In the reconstruction or construction of roads, The Town of Concord seeks to maintain those aspects of the existing environment which will enhance the historic, scenic and agricultural properties of the roadway consistent with public safety, and, in addition, to consider alternative transportation accommodation(s) on the Town's roads consistent with this policy and public safety.

Since that time the Complete Streets program has been developed and has evolved to expand the existing Road Policy statement. Providing safe and accessible modes of transportation, including walking, biking, transit and other motorized vehicles for people of all ages and abilities, continues to be a major theme for the Town of Concord as expressed in the recently completed 2018 Comprehensive Long Range Plan. Now with the development of the Complete Streets program the Town continues to recognize and establish guidelines for roadway design which indicate the Town's preference for Complete Streets, whenever feasible and practical.

This policy indicates the Town's desire to accommodate as many modes of travel and types of users as practical within the transportation network. The provision of safe and accessible "Complete Streets" will further the Town's sustainability principles as adopted by the Select Board by promoting use by pedestrians, cyclists and transit users, potentially decreasing the Town's impact on the environment and minimizing its carbon footprint.

Vision and Intent

The Town of Concord recognizes that an opportunity exists for the implementation of Complete Streets each time a roadway is designed, constructed, reconstructed, maintained or improved. The Town will strive to provide safety and accessibility on Town roadways, sidewalks, parking lots and other town owned public Rights of Way (ROW). Users include pedestrians,

cyclists, transit riders, motorists, commercial vehicles, and emergency vehicles with a focus on users of all ages and of all abilities. Furthermore, Complete Streets principles contribute toward the safety, health, economic viability, and quality of life in a community by providing accessible and efficient multi-modal connections between home, school, work, recreation and retail destinations and by improving the pedestrian and vehicular environments throughout communities.

The intent of Concord's Complete Streets policy is to:

- Accommodate all users of all ages and abilities by creating a transportation network that attempts to meet the needs of individuals using a variety of transportation modes;
- Educate, raise awareness and encourage healthy opportunities for Concord residents such as walking and bicycling instead of driving;
- Balance the needs of motorists and public safety vehicles with the environmental impacts of the transportation network; and
- Reduce reliance on motor vehicles and thereby reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Town shall continue to gain input from its residents on how to best meet their needs through its proactive public outreach efforts including neighborhood meetings, public information meetings and Road Program hearings.

Core Commitment

The Concord Complete Streets Policy is intended to serve all users including pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users of all ages and abilities, as well as commercial vehicles, trucks, emergency vehicles, buses and automobiles.

Complete Street design recommendations shall be incorporated into all publicly and privately funded projects in all phases. Where practical and economical, complete streets elements shall be considered for municipal road, sidewalk and parking lot repair and maintenance projects to enhance safety, accessibility and multi-modal usability.

Exceptions

It is recognized that incorporation of Complete Street elements may not always be feasible or practical and may be excluded for the following reasons and/or as determined by Public Works in consultation with Planning, Natural Resources and other relevant Departments:

- Funding limitations may preclude elements of Complete Streets from a project. In addition, it may be determined that the anticipated cost associated with a Complete Street enhancement may be substantially disproportionate to the need or probable use.

- Constraints related to limitations in ROW or property rights and agency jurisdiction along with natural and built features may restrict the feasibility and practicality of Complete Streets elements.
- Sensitivity to the context of Concord's roadway network which may include narrow two-lane roads, stone walls and legacy trees. These features which help define the historic character of the Town may limit the inclusion of certain Complete Street enhancements. Fortunately, some of these existing conditions can provide the benefit of traffic calming which is consistent with one of the goals of the Complete Streets program.
- Facilities where specific users such as bicycles and pedestrians are prohibited by law, such as interstate freeways are exempt from the Complete Street Best Practices.
- Certain facilities outside the Town's jurisdiction that are limited to non-motorized transportation modes, such as multi-use paths, pedestrian paths, bicycle paths, and walking and hiking trails may be exempt from the Best Practices. i.e. MASSDOT funded projects, privately funded or located trails
- Where the environmental impact(s) of a Complete Streets element is excessively disproportionate to the need or probable use or probable future use.
- Other Town policies, regulations, or requirements contradict or preclude the implementation of this Policy, even after such policies, regulations, and requirements have been examined and updated, as appropriate, in an effort to be consistent with the Town of Concord Complete Streets Policy as determined by Public Works, in consultation with Planning, Natural Resources and other relevant Departments.
- For projects proposed at locations where there is an absence of current and/or future need, exceptions may be made to the Concord Complete Streets Policy.
- Complete Streets elements may be excluded where such facilities would constitute a threat to public safety.
- The impact of accommodation would result in the loss of significant legacy trees or natural resources whose value outweighs the advantages of the Complete Street infrastructure as determined by Public Works in consultation with Planning, Natural Resources and other relevant Departments.

Best Practices

The Town of Concord Complete Streets policy will focus on developing a comprehensive, connected, integrated network that serves all users. Complete Streets will be integrated into policies, planning, and design of all types of public and private projects, including new construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, repair, and maintenance of transportation facilities on streets and redevelopment projects.

Implementation of the Town of Concord Complete Streets Policy will be carried out by the Concord Public Works cooperatively within all relevant departments in the Town of Concord and to the greatest extent possible, among private developers, and state, regional, and federal partners. Complete Streets principles include the development and implementation of projects in a context sensitive manner in which project implementation is sensitive to the community's physical, historic, agricultural, economic, and social setting. The context-sensitive approach to process and design includes a range of goals by considering stakeholder and community values on a level plane with the project need. It includes goals related to livability with greater participation of those affected in order to gain project consensus. The overall goal of this approach is to preserve and enhance scenic, aesthetic, historical, and environmental resources while improving or maintaining safety, mobility, and infrastructure conditions.

The Town of Concord recognizes that "Complete Streets" may be achieved through single elements incorporated into a particular project or incrementally through a series of smaller improvements or maintenance activities over time.

The latest design guidance, standards, and recommendations available will be used in the implementation of Complete Streets including:

- The 2006 Massachusetts Department of Transportation Project Development and Design Guide
- The latest edition of American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) A Policy on Geometric Design of Highway and Streets
- The United States Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration's Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (2009).
- The Concord Public Works Design and Construction Standards (Nov. 2016)
- The Concord Public Works ADA Transition Plan for Public Rights of Way (2010)
- The Architectural Access Board (AAB) 521 CMR Rules and Regulations/PROWAG
- Massachusetts Department of Transportation Separated Bike Lane Planning and Design Guide (2016)

Implementation

The Town, through its Public Works Department, will consider Complete Streets Best Practices as a routine part of everyday operations, when designing transportation projects and programs, and will consider complete Streets Best Practices in coordination with other departments, agencies, and jurisdictions to achieve Complete Streets.

Complete Streets implementation and effectiveness will be regularly evaluated for success and opportunities for improvement.

- The Town will develop performance measures to gauge implementation and effectiveness of the best practices which will include among other items: number of curb ramps upgraded to ADA standards, lineal footage of sidewalk improved, linear footage of roadway which has been enhanced through roadway repair, pavement marking, signage, public shade tree planting and maintenance and signage upgrades.
- The Town will maintain a comprehensive inventory of pedestrian and bicycle facility infrastructure in order to prioritize projects to eliminate gaps in the sidewalk and bikeway network.
- The Town will reevaluate Capital Improvement Projects prioritization to encourage implementation of Complete Streets.
- The Town will train pertinent town staff and decision-makers on the content of Complete Streets Infrastructure and principles and best practices for implementing policy through workshops and other appropriate means.
- The Town will explore opportunities to obtain appropriate sources of funding and grants to implement the Complete Streets Policy.

We, the undersigned, being a majority of the Select Board of the Town of Concord, hereby certify that at a meeting duly held on the 30 day of July, 2018, the Select Board voted to adopt the foregoing Complete Streets Policy.

TOWN OF CONCORD

By its Select Board



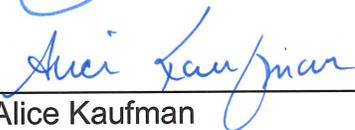
Thomas McKean, Chair



Michael Lawson, Clerk



Jane Hotchkiss



Alice Kaufman



Linda Escobedo