

DRAFT
TOWN OF WILBRAHAM
MASSACHUSETTS
COMPLETE STREETS POLICY

Vision and Intent

1. Vision & Intent

The Town of Wilbraham Complete Streets Policy recognizes that all potential street projects, new, maintenance, or reconstruction, are included as opportunities to implement Complete Streets. The town will, to the maximum extent possible, design, construct, maintain, and operate all streets to provide for a comprehensive and integrated street network of facilities for people of all ages and abilities.

Core Commitment

2. Users and Modes

Complete Streets are designed and operated to provide safety, comfort, and accessibility for all the users of our streets, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, motorists, commercial vehicles and emergency vehicles, and for users of all ages, abilities, and income levels. Furthermore, Complete Streets principles contribute toward the safety, health, economic viability and quality of life in the community by improving the pedestrian and vehicular environments in order to provide safer, more accessible and comfortable means of travel between home, school, work, recreation and retail destinations.

3. All Projects and Phases

Where feasible, Complete Streets design recommendations shall be incorporated into all publicly and privately funded projects. The policy will apply to municipal road repairs, upgrades and expansion projects located on the public right-of-way. Procedures will be developed to incorporate Complete Street elements when conducting municipal road repairs, upgrades and expansion projects located on the public right-of-way. This includes transportation infrastructure and street design projects requiring funding or approval by the Town of Wilbraham, as well as projects funded by the state and federal government, such as the Chapter 90 funds, Town improvement grants and other state and federal funds for street and infrastructure design. The same will be applied to private developments and related street design components or corresponding street-related components.

The Town Engineer will use best judgment regarding the feasibility of applying Complete Streets principles for routine roadway maintenance and projects.

4. Clear, Accountable Exceptions

Exceptions to the Complete Streets Policy may be granted, as authorized by the Town of Wilbraham Select Board, by the Wilbraham Planning Board, the Wilbraham Zoning Board of Appeals, the Wilbraham Traffic Safety Committee or other approved authority. Exceptions may include:

- Transportation networks where specific users are prohibited by law, such as interstate freeways or pedestrian malls. An effort will be made, in these cases, for accommodations elsewhere.
- Where cost or impacts of accommodation is excessively disproportionate to the need or probable use.
- Documentation of an absence of current and future need.

Best Practices

5. Network

The Complete Streets Policy affirms a network approach that will support economic growth and community stability by providing accessible and efficient connections between home, school, work, recreation and retail destinations by improving the pedestrian and vehicular environments throughout the community.

6. Jurisdiction

- All transportation infrastructure and street design and construction projects requiring funding or approval by the Town of Wilbraham shall adhere to the Town of Wilbraham Complete Streets Policy.
- Projects funded by the State or Federal government, including but not limited to, Chapter 90 funds or other State and Federal funds for street and infrastructure design shall adhere to the Town of Wilbraham Complete Streets Policy, subject to and as may be modified by funding agency guidelines and standards.
- Private developments and related or corresponding street design and construction components shall adhere to the Town of Wilbraham Complete Streets Policy.
- To the extent possible, state-owned streets shall comply with the Town of Wilbraham Complete Streets Policy, including the design, construction, and maintenance of such streets within Town boundaries, subject to and as may be modified by MassDOT guidelines and standards.

7. Design

The best latest design guidance, standards, and recommendations available will be used in the implementation of Complete Streets, including the most up-to-date versions of:

- The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Project Design and Development Guide
- The National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Urban Bikeway Design Guide
- The National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Urban Street Design Guide
- Pioneer Valley Planning Commission's (PVPC) Healthy Community Design Toolkit
- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) A Policy on Geometric Design of Highway and Streets
- The United States Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways (MUTCD)
- The Architectural Access Board (AAB) 521 CMR Rules and Regulations
- Documents and plans created, and approved, for the Town of Wilbraham.

8. Context Sensitivity

Community context shall be a factor in the decision-making process. Complete Streets principles include the development and implementation of projects in a context sensitive manner in which project implementation considers the impacts to the community's physical, economic, and social setting. This approach considers stakeholder and community values, as compared to the project need. 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.

9. Performance Measures

Established performance standards will be used to measure the Complete Street Policy's success. Using existing baseline data, one or more of the following performance measures will be used to show progress:

- Linear feet of new or reconstructed sidewalks
- Miles of new or restriped on-street bicycle facilities
- Number of new or repainted crosswalks
- Number of new street trees/number of street trees removed
- Crosswalk and intersection improvements
- Miles of repaved or reconstructed road

The following data will be collected:

- New intermodal connections

- New or enhanced connections between areas of lower income households to various town locations, workplaces, retail and service centers, and other transportation modes

Implementation

10. Implementation

An Advisory Board shall be appointed to provide oversight to ensure the implementation of the Complete Streets Policy, reflecting the needs of the town and incorporating the best thinking among town boards, committees, commissions, staff, residents, and visitors. The Advisory Board will fulfill duties under this policy and may delegate such tasks as they deem appropriate.

The Advisory Board will:

1. Annually review and report on established performance criteria in effort to improve methods of tracking progress and identifying opportunities.
2. Provide project management and oversight to ensure Complete Streets projects are carried out efficiently and effectively, and in accordance with this policy.
3. Facilitate an ongoing process for assessing the Town's road and walkway network.
4. Solicit improvement suggestions from key Town departments and agencies, and the general public.