

TOWN OF NATICK COMPLETE STREETS POLICY

Vision and Purpose:

Complete Streets are designed and operated to provide safety and accessibility for all the users of our roadways, trails and transit systems, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, motorists, commercial vehicles, and emergency vehicles and for people of all ages and abilities. Furthermore, Complete Streets principles contribute toward the safety, health, economic viability, and quality of life in a community by providing accessible and efficient connections between home, school, work, recreation and retail destinations by improving the pedestrian and vehicular environments throughout communities. The purpose of Natick's Complete Streets policy, therefore, is to accommodate all road users by creating a road network that meets the needs of individuals utilizing a variety of transportation modes. It is the intent of the Town of Natick to formalize the planning, design, operation and maintenance of streets so that they are safe for all users of all ages and abilities as a matter of routine. This policy directs decision-makers to consistently plan, design, and construct streets to accommodate all anticipated users including, but not limited to pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, emergency vehicles, and freight and commercial vehicles.

Core Commitment:

The Town of Natick recognizes that users of various modes of transportation, including, but not limited to, pedestrians, cyclists, transit and school bus riders, motorists, delivery and service personnel, freight haulers, and emergency responders, are legitimate users of streets and deserve safe facilities. "All Users" includes users of all ages and abilities.

The Town of Natick recognizes that all projects, new, maintenance, or reconstruction, are potential opportunities to apply Complete Streets design principles. The Town further recognizes that many Natick roads are substandard, unaccepted, scenic, and/or constrained by natural features or other limitations. The Town will, to the maximum extent practical, 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.

Complete Streets principles and design elements shall be considered for all publicly and privately funded projects, and incorporated as appropriate. All transportation infrastructure and street design projects requiring funding or approval by the Town of Natick, as well as projects funded by the state and federal government, such as the Chapter 90 funds, Town improvement grants, Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the MassWorks Infrastructure Program, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), Capital Funding and other state and federal funds for street and infrastructure design shall adhere to (comply with) the Town of Natick Complete Streets Policy.

Private developments and related street design components or corresponding street-related components shall adhere to (comply with) the Complete Streets principles. In addition, to the extent practical, state-owned roadways will comply with the Complete Streets resolution, including the design, construction, and maintenance of such roadways within Town boundaries.

Transportation infrastructure may be excluded, upon approval by the Town Engineer with review by the Board of Selectmen, where documentation and data indicate that:

1. Facilities where specific users are prohibited by law, such as interstate freeways or pedestrian malls. An effort will be made in these cases for alternative accommodations.
2. Where cost or impacts of accommodation are excessively disproportionate to the need or probable use or probable future use.
3. Where the constraints of the roadway preclude a design that can safely accommodate all users. An effort will be made in these cases for alternative accommodations.
4. Where such facilities would constitute a threat to public safety in the determination of the Town Engineer in consultation with the Natick Police Department Safety Officer.

Best Practices:

The Town of Natick Complete Streets policy will focus on developing a connected, integrated network that serves all road users. Complete Streets principles 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 Natick Complete Streets Policy will be carried out cooperatively within all departments in the Town of Natick with multi-jurisdictional cooperation, to the greatest extent possible, among private developers, and state, regional, and federal agencies.

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, 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 Natick 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 Massachusetts of Department of Transportation Project Development and Design Guidebook and current Engineering Directives
- The latest edition of American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets
- The United States Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration's Manual on Uniform Traffic Design Controls (2009).
- The Architectural Access Board (AAB) 521CMR Rules and Regulations
- Documents and plans created by or for the Town of Natick, such as bicycle and pedestrian network plans, land use plans, open space and recreation plans, Town of Natick Pavement Management Program Five-year Roadway Improvements Plan.

Complete Streets implementation and effectiveness should be constantly evaluated for success and opportunities for improvement. The town will develop performance measures to gauge implementation and effectiveness of the policies.

The Town will endeavor to ensure that Natick ways, including but not limited to those subject to improvements under this policy, are accessible to all, and that the town employs education, encouragement and enforcement to help ensure the safety of all users.

Implementation:

The Town shall make Complete Streets practices a routine part of everyday operations, shall approach every transportation project and program as an opportunity to improve streets and the transportation network for all users, and shall work in coordination with other departments, agencies, and jurisdictions to achieve Complete Streets.

Town shall review and either revise or develop proposed revisions to all appropriate planning documents (master plans, open space and recreation plan, etc.), zoning and subdivision codes, laws, procedures, rules, regulations, guidelines, programs, and templates to integrate Complete Streets principles in all Street Projects. A committee of relevant stakeholders designated by the Town Administrator may be created to implement this initiative.

The Town shall maintain a comprehensive inventory of pedestrian and bicycle facility infrastructure, including infrastructure in need of maintenance, repair and connectivity, which will prioritize projects to eliminate gaps in the sidewalk and bikeway network.

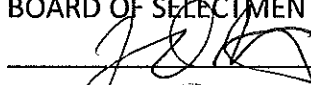
The Town will consider capital planning and funding to encourage implementation of Complete Streets implementation.

The Town will train pertinent town staff and decision-makers on the content of Complete Streets principles and best practices for implementing policy through workshops, reference materials, and other appropriate means.


The Town will utilize inter-department coordination to promote the most responsible and efficient use of resources for activities within the public way.

The Town will seek out appropriate sources of funding and grants for implementation of Complete Streets policies, and advocate for such funding directly or through affiliations.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



Joshua Ostroff, Chair



Charles M. Hughes, Vice-Chair



Nicholas S. Mabardy, Clerk



John J. Connolly



Richard P. Jennett, Jr

Adopted: March 23, 2015