

Town of Goshen

Complete Streets Policy

August 20, 2018

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 of all abilities in a context-sensitive manner. 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 Goshen'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 Goshen to formalize the plan, 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 in ways that preserve and enhance scenic, aesthetic, and environmental resources while improving or maintaining safety, mobility, and infrastructure conditions.

Core Commitment:

The Town of Goshen 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 Goshen recognizes that all projects, new, maintenance, or reconstruction, are potential opportunities to apply Complete Streets design principles. 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 design recommendations shall be incorporated into all publicly and privately funded projects, as appropriate. All transportation infrastructure and street design projects requiring funding or approval by the Town of Goshen, 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 to the maximum extent practical adhere to (comply with) the Town of Goshen's 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. The application of the Complete Streets Policy to each project will be based on the project's immediate surroundings and within the context of the broader community. In the following cases, transportation infrastructure may be excluded, upon approval by the Select Board, where documentation and data indicate that:

- There are facilities 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.
- The costs or impacts of accommodation is excessively disproportionate to the need or probable use or probable future use.
- Other City, State, or Federal policies, regulations, or requirements contradict or preclude implementation of Complete Streets principles.

Best Practices:

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

The Town of Goshen 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 but not limited to:

- The Massachusetts Department of Transportation Project Design and Development Guidebook
- 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 Design Controls (2009).
- The Architectural Access Board (AAB) 521CMR Rules and Regulations
- Federal Highway Admin. (FHWA); Small Town and Rural Multimodal Networks
- Healthy Hampshire; Urban, Rural and Suburban Complete Streets Design Manual for the City of Northampton and Communities in Hampshire County
- National Assoc. of City Transportation Officials (NACTO); Urban Street Design Guide and Urban Bikeway Design Guide
- ITE Designing Walkable Urban Thoroughfares: A Context Sensitive Approach
- Goshen Healthy Aging and Community Design Report
- Documents and plans created by and for Goshen such as bicycle, trail and pedestrian network plans.

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. In recognition of sensitivity of context, public input and the needs of many users, a flexible, innovative, and balanced approach that follows other appropriate design standards may be considered, provided that a comparable level of safety for all users is present.

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.

The application of this Complete Streets Policy to each project will be based on the project's immediate surroundings and within the context of the broader community. The Town Shall review and either revise or develop proposed revisions to all appropriate planning documents (master plans, Complete Streets prioritization plan, open space and recreation plan, etc.), zoning and subdivision codes, laws procedures, rules, regulations, guidelines, and programs to integrate Complete Streets principles in all street projects. The Select Board will designate a Committee of relevant stakeholders, the Complete Streets Committee, to implement, monitor, and periodically review this initiative. Feedback on this initiative and on potential specific projects will be solicited from the general public of Goshen to ensure that the perspectives if the community are considered.

The Town shall maintain a comprehensive inventory of pedestrian and bicycle facility infrastructure that will 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 implementation.

The Town will identify pertinent town staff and decision-makers to receive training on the content of Complete Streets principles and best practices for implementing policy as needed.

The Town will utilize interdepartmental 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.


Evaluation of Effectiveness:


The Complete Streets Committee, in consultation with the Goshen Select Board will develop performance measures and periodically assess the rate, success, and the effectiveness of implementing the Town of Goshen's Complete Streets Policy. The Committee will determine the frequency of assessment and utilize appropriate metrics for analyzing the success of this policy. These metrics shall include: total miles of bike lanes, linear feet of new pedestrian accommodation, number of new curb ramps installed, and number of crosswalk and intersection improvements.

Adopted on August 20, 2018:

By the Goshen Select Board


Angela Otis, Chair


Wayne Glaser, Vice Chair


James Heroux, Clerk