



Town of Dennis  
Office of the Select Board and Town Administration  
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## TOWN OF DENNIS COMPLETE STREETS POLICY

Adopted and Effective on June 14, 2022

### 1. 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. These users include pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, motorists, commercial vehicles, and emergency vehicles and 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 greater opportunities in multi-modal and non-motorized transportation, along with accessible and efficient connections between home, school, work, recreation and retail destinations by improving the pedestrian and vehicular environments throughout.

The purpose of the Town of Dennis's Complete Streets policy, therefore, is to accommodate all users by creating a context-sensitive roadway network that meets the needs of individuals utilizing a variety of transportation modes. It is the intent of the Town of Dennis to formalize the planning, design, operation and maintenance of roadways 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, construct, and maintain roadways to accommodate all anticipated users including but not limited to pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, transit riders and vehicles, emergency vehicles, and freight and commercial vehicles.

### 2. Core Commitment:

The Town of Dennis recognizes that users of various modes of transportation, including but not limited to pedestrians, cyclists, transit and school bus riders, motorists, delivery and service personal, 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 Dennis recognizes that all projects, including new construction, maintenance and 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 Dennis, as well as projects funded by the State and Federal government, including but not limited to Chapter 90 funds, 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 the Town of Dennis Complete Street Policy. Private developments and related roadway design components shall also adhere to the Complete Street principles. In addition, to the extent practical, state-owned roadways will comply with the Complete Streets Policy, including the design, construction and maintenance of such roadways within town boundaries.

The Department of Public Works will use its best judgment regarding the feasibility of applying Complete Streets principles for routine roadway maintenance and projects.

Transportation infrastructure projects, including but not limited to roadway reconstruction, roadway reconfigurations or subdivisions may be excluded upon approval by the Town Engineer where documentation and data indicate that any of the following apply:

- Roadways where specific users are prohibited by law, such as limited access highways. An effort will be made in these cases for accommodations elsewhere
- Where it is demonstrated that costs or impacts of accommodation are excessively disproportionate to the need or probable future use
- Where other town policies, regulations or requirements contradict or preclude implementation of Complete Streets principles
- Where protected scenic, historic and/or environmentally sensitive characteristics would be adversely impacted
- On local, residential roads where complete street improvements are not appropriate for the character and use of the road

### **3. Best Practices:**

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

The Town of Dennis will work cooperatively with neighboring communities and regional entities in an effort to strengthen regional connectivity options for all users.

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 project development process and design includes a range of goals by considering stakeholder and community values. 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 Dennis 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 most up-to-date versions of:

- Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Project Design and Development Guidebook
- American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO): A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets
- United States Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration: Manual on Uniform Traffic Design Controls (MUTCD)
- Architectural Access Board (AAB): 521 CMR Rules and Regulations
- The National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Urban Street Design Guide and Urban Bikeway Design Guide
- Cape Cod Commission: Complete Streets/Living Streets Design Manual
- Cape Cod Metropolitan Planning Organization: Cape Cod Regional Transportation Plan
- Documents and plans created for the Town of Dennis, including but not limited to:
  - Local Comprehensive Plan
  - Open Space and Recreation Plan
  - ADA Transition Plan
  - Sidewalk Master Plan

The Town of Dennis will implement a balanced and flexible approach to Complete Streets implementation that utilizes the latest design guidance, standards and recommendations while providing flexibility to best accommodate all users and modes given the unique characteristics of the surrounding community.

The Town of Dennis will prioritize Complete Street design standards on projects in the following areas and that provide the following functions:

- Continuity Projects-Projects that address network gaps or deficiencies by improving or extending existing infrastructure-These projects may be a single project or part of a phased project
- Destination and Attractions Areas-Projects that provide infrastructure to connect to destinations such as commercial, business, and shopping areas, town-owned property including public facilities, beaches, open space recreational and conservation areas where appropriate
- Major transportation projects such as signalized intersections and construction projects along arterial and collector roads
- Highly Populated Areas-Projects that support connection to and circulation with heavily populated areas and neighborhoods as appropriate
- School Zones-Projects that provide safe and accessible connectivity to the Town schools including Safe Routes to Schools projects
- Regional Connection-Projects that provide interconnectivity between adjoining towns and region
- Town Prioritized Projects-Projects that are consistent with the Town’s Local Comprehensive Plan, Open Space and Recreation Plan

#### **4. 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 town shall integrate Complete Streets principles in all new planning documents, as applicable (e.g., master plans, open space and recreation plan, etc.), laws, procedures, rules, regulations, guidelines, programs and templates.

The town shall maintain a comprehensive inventory of pedestrian and bicycle facility infrastructure that will highlight projects that eliminate gaps in the sidewalk and bikeway network.

The town will evaluate projects within the Capital Improvement Plan to encourage implementation of this Policy.

Pertinent staff will be trained on Complete Street principles and best practices for implementing the policy.

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 Street policies.

#### **5. Evaluation of Effectiveness:**

The town will develop performance measures to periodically assess the rate, success, and effectiveness of implementing the Complete Streets Policy. The town will determine the frequency of assessment and utilize appropriate metrics for analyzing the success of this policy. These metrics may include:

- Inventory of safety measures installed through Complete Streets and associated effectiveness
- Improved Level of Service (LOS) for vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists
- Decrease in the number of traffic accidents involving vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians in Complete Streets areas
- Linear feet of new and rehabilitated vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian accommodations
- Number of new curb ramps or other retrofitted pedestrian facilities
- Rate of children walking or biking to school

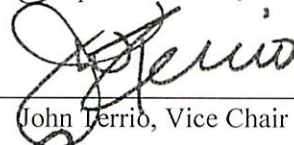
These metrics will be compiled into a report by the town and presented as needed, but no less than annually. Implementation strategies will be adjusted as needed based on the findings in these reports.

This Complete Streets policy was adopted by the Dennis Select Board at a public meeting held on June 14, 2022.

**SIGNATURES OF THE SELECT BOARD**



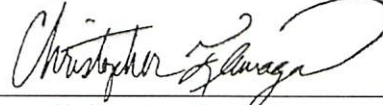
Christopher Lambton, Chair



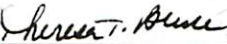
John Terrio, Vice Chair



Paul McCormick



Christopher Flanagan



Attest of the Town Clerk  
Theresa T. Bunce

James Plath