

**TOWN OF WESTPORT**  
**COMPLETE STREETS POLICY**

*Adopted by vote of Westport Board of Selectmen on 2/4/19*  
*Effective date of policy: 2/4/19*

**Vision and Intent**

The Town of Westport recognizes the need for complete street design and construction. Complete Streets are designed and operated to provide safety, comfort, and accessibility for all 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, of all abilities and income levels. The implementation of Complete Streets principles contribute toward the safety, health, economic viability, and quality of life in a community by promoting a sustainable and cohesive transportation network with accessible and efficient connectivity between home, school, work, recreation and retail destinations.

The purpose of the Town of Westport's Complete Streets Policy is to accommodate all road users by creating a transportation network that meets the needs of individuals using a variety of transportation modes. It is the intent of the Town of Westport to consider and incorporate, as a matter of course and to the extent reasonably possible, the principles of Complete Streets in the planning and design of transportation related capital projects, so that they are safe for all users. This policy will guide our decision-makers to regularly plan, design and construct capital projects to accommodate all anticipated users including but not limited to pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, motorists, emergency vehicles, freight and commercial vehicles.

**Core Commitment**

The Town of Westport recognizes that users of various modes of transportation, including, but not limited to, pedestrians, bicyclists, transit and school bus riders, motorists, users of wheelchairs and other power-driven mobility devices, 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, abilities and income levels.

The Town recognizes that all public transportation capital projects are potential opportunities to apply Complete Streets design principles. The Town will, to the maximum extent practical, design, maintain and operate all streets to provide for a comprehensive and integrated street network of facilities for people of all ages, abilities and income levels. In addition, to the extent practical, State-owned roadways within the Town of Westport shall comply with the Complete Streets Policy, including the design, construction, and maintenance of such roadways within Town Boundaries.

The Highway Department shall use its best judgement regarding the feasibility of applying Complete Streets principles for routine roadway maintenance and projects. Other transportation infrastructure projects, including but not limited to roadway reconstruction, roadway reconfiguration, transportation improvements may be excluded upon approval by the Highway Survey and/or designee, where documentation and data indicate that:

1. Specific users are prohibited by law, such as interstate freeways or pedestrian malls. An effort will be made, in these cases for accommodations elsewhere.
2. Cost of accommodation is excessively disproportionate to the need or probable use.
3. There is an absence of current and future need.
4. The Highway Surveyor, in consultation with the Board of Selectmen will use best judgement regarding the feasibility of applying complete streets principles for routine street maintenance and projects, such as repaving, restriping and so forth.

### **Best Practices**

The Town of Westport's Complete Streets Policy will focus on developing a connected, integrated 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 Complete Streets Policy will be carried out cooperatively within all departments within the town with multi-jurisdictional cooperation, to the greatest extent possible, as well as with private developers, and state, regional, and federal agencies, to the greatest extent possible. The Town recognizes that Complete Streets principles may be achieved through single elements incorporated into a particular project or incrementally through a series of small improvements or maintenance activities over time.

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 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 & Development Guidebook*  
The latest edition of 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 Manual on Uniform Traffic Controls  
The Architectural Access Board (AAB) 521 CMR Rules and Regulations  
Documents and plans created for the Town of Westport, such as bicycle and pedestrian network plans and conservation/recreation trails plans.

### **Implementation**

The Town of Westport 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 transportation network for all users, and shall work in coordination with other departments, agencies, and jurisdictions to achieve Complete Streets.

The Town of Westport will maintain an 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.

The Town of Westport will review and either revise or develop proposed revisions to incorporate Complete Streets principles into the town's master plan as well as other appropriate planning documents including the open space & recreation plan, subdivision regulations and site plan review.

The Town of Westport will train pertinent town staff and decision makers on the content of the Complete Streets principles and best practices for implementing policy. The Town will also 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.

### **Evaluation of Effectiveness**

Complete Streets implementation and effectiveness should be constantly evaluated for success and opportunities for improvements. The Highway Surveyor and/or designee will develop performance measures to gauge implementation and effectiveness of Complete Streets policies using appropriate measures of effectiveness which may include:

- Linear feet of new bicycle accommodations.
- Linear feet of new or rehabilitated pedestrian facilities.

- Improved Level of Service (LOS) for vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists.
- Crash rates by mode of transportation.
- Rate of children walking or bicycling to school and/or
- Number of trips by mode.

These measures of effectiveness will be compiled into a report issued by the Town every three years.