



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Town of Chester

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Signature of Approval / Acceptance	<i>Patricia D. Carlino, Town Clerk</i>

**Town of Chester Massachusetts
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 and 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 the community. The purpose of Chester's Complete Streets policy, therefore, is to accommodate all road users by creating a road network that meets the needs of individuals by utilizing a variety of transportation modes. It is the intent of The Town of Chester 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.

Core Commitment

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

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The Town of Chester 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 Chester, as well as any projects funded by the state and federal government, such as the Chapter 90 funds, City 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 Chester'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.

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

1. Facilities where specific users are prohibited by law, such as freeways or pedestrian malls. An effort will be made, in these cases for accommodation elsewhere.
2. Where cost or impacts of accommodation is excessively disproportionate to the need or probable use or probable future use.

Best Practices

The Town of Chester'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 Town Of Chester's Complete Streets Policy will be carried out cooperatively within all departments in the Town of Chester 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 where 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 giving significant consideration to stakeholder and community values. It includes goals related to livability with greater participation of those affected in order to gain consensus. The overall goal of this approach is to preserve and enhance scenic, aesthetic, historic and environmental resources while improving or maintaining safety, mobility and infrastructure condition.

The Town of Chester 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 Department of Transportation Project Design and Development Guidebook
- The latest edition of American Association of State Highway Transportation Official (AASHTO) A Policy on Geometric Design of Highway Streets
- The United States Department of Transportation Federal Highway's Administration's Manual on Uniform Traffic Design Controls
- The Architectural Access Board (AAB) 521CMR Rules and Regulations Documents and plans created for The Town of Chester, such as bicycle and pedestrian network plans.

In recognition of context sensitivity, 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.

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.

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 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 on streets. A committee of relevant stakeholders designated by the Town Administrator will be created to implement this initiative.

The Town shall maintain a comprehensive inventory of pedestrian and bicycle facility infrastructure that will prioritize projects to eliminate gaps in the sidewalk and bicycle network.

The Town will reevaluate Capital Improvement Projects prioritization to encourage implementation of Complete Streets initiatives.

The Town will train pertinent staff and decision-makers on the content of Complete Streets principles and best practices for implementing policy through workshops 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.