

Town of Sherborn Complete Streets Policy

Complete Streets is an approach to community transportation using design principles to ensure the safety, comfort and accessibility for users of all ages, abilities, and income levels as well as for all the users of our streets, trails and transit system. The Complete Streets approach has multiple benefits, including:

Reducing congestion by providing safe travel choices that encourage non-motorized transportation options, increasing the overall capacity of the transportation network, as well as decreasing consumer transportation costs and overall carbon footprint.

Supporting economic growth and community stability by providing accessible and efficient connections between home, school, work, recreation, and retail destinations by improving the pedestrian and vehicular environments throughout communities;

Enhancing safe walking and bicycling options for school-age children, in alignment with the national Safe Routes to School program objectives and Physical Activity guidelines;

Reducing vehicle crashes, injuries, and their related costs.

THEREFORE, the Board of Selectmen adopts this Complete Streets Policy effective November 22, 2016.

Vision and Purpose:

The purpose of the Town of Sherborn Complete Streets Policy is to provide safe, convenient transportation routes for all users of our roadways, pathways and sidewalks, for the benefit of people of all ages and of all abilities. This will include pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, commercial vehicles, transit vehicles, emergency vehicles, and users of wheelchairs and other power-driven mobility devices. Furthermore, The Complete Streets Policy is to accommodate all road users by creating a road network that meets the needs of individuals utilizing a variety of transportation modes. 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 commercial vehicles.

Core Commitment:

The Town recognizes that all roadway projects (including new construction, maintenance, repair and reconstruction, are potential opportunities to apply Complete Streets design principles. The Town shall, to the extent practical, design, construct, maintain, and operate streets to provide for a comprehensive and integrated network of facilities for people of all ages and abilities. Complete Streets design recommendations will be incorporated into all publicly and privately funded projects, as appropriate, including: new transportation infrastructure and street design projects requiring funding or approval by the Town of Sherborn; projects funded by the State and Federal government (including but not limited to Chapter 90 funds; Town improvement grants, Transportation Improvement (TIP), MassWorks Infrastructure Program, Capital funding and other State and Federal funds for street and infrastructure design); and privately funded subdivision developments. 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 the Town boundaries.

Exceptions:

Transportation infrastructure projects may be excluded from compliance within this policy where documentation and data indicate that any of the following apply:

1. Roadways 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.
2. Cost or impacts of accommodation are extremely disproportionate to the need or probable future use and/or a reasonable alternative to accommodate the need is available or planned.
3. In order for an exception to be incorporated into a design, the exception must be presented for review and approval, to both the Planning Board and the Director of Community Maintenance and Development (CM&D). If both approve the exception, it is authorized. If both disapprove, it is denied. Appeals of such decisions, or if one approves and one disapproves, may be brought before the Board of Selectmen for a final decision.

Best Practices:

The Town of Sherborn 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. As practicable, recommendations from the Planning Board and Director of Community Maintenance and Development for incorporating Complete Streets elements will occur in the beginning stages of projects prior to design.

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 giving significant consideration to stakeholders and community values on a level plane with 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 Sherborn 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:

- 1) Massachusetts DOT Project Design and Development Guidebook
- 2) Federal DOT Manual on Uniform Traffic Design Controls
- 3) Architectural Access Board (AAB) 521CMR Rules and Regulations
- 4) Documents and plans created for the Town of Sherborn, including but not limited to:
 - a. General Plan
 - b. Sidewalk Study and Prioritization Plan
 - c. Town Center Design Plan
 - d. Open Space and Recreation Plan

Performance Measures

Sherborn shall evaluate the Complete Streets Policy on an annual basis. At a minimum, the following measures shall be considered in evaluating progress on this policy, but other measures as applicable may be considered as well.:

- 1) Linear feet of new or reconstructed sidewalk
- 2) Miles of sharrows or other bicycle facilities
- 3) Number of new or improved trees and protected seedlings
- 4) Number of new or improved ADA/AAB accommodations
- 5) Number and type of crosswalk and intersection improvements
- 6) Decrease in rate of crashes, injuries, and fatalities by mode
- 7) Economic impacts in business districts
- 8) Satisfaction levels as expressed in a resident survey
- 9) Number of approved exemptions from a Complete Streets
- 10) Policy

Implementation:

The Town shall make consideration of 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 the Complete Streets initiative.

The Complete Streets policy will be carried out cooperatively within a multidisciplinary team and all relevant departments in the Town of Sherborn, including but not limited to, Community Maintenance and Development, Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, Planning Board, Conservation Commission Board of Health, Council on Aging, and Recreation Department. The Planning Board, along with the Director of Community Maintenance and Development, work together implement the Complete Streets initiative. These departments shall meet and further organize as needed. Key responsibilities are:


1. Maintain a pedestrian and bicycle facility inventory that will prioritize projects and eliminate gaps in the sidewalk, pathway, and bicycle network;
2. Develop proposed revisions to all appropriate zoning and subdivision codes, bylaws, procedures, rules, regulations, guidelines, programs, and templates to integrate Complete Streets principles in roadway projects;
3. Recommend regulatory changes for ensuring the implementation of the Complete Streets Policy, and, where necessary, alter the existing practices and overcome barriers that may act as impediments to implementation;
4. Regularly update and solicit feedback on the potential projects with the general public to ensure that the perspectives of the community are considered and incorporated, as appropriate; and
5. Work to integrate Complete Streets principles in all new planning documents, and as applicable to master plans, open space and recreation plans, laws, procedures, rules, regulations, and guidelines. Develop programs and templates and make recommendations for zoning and subdivision codes.

The Town will provide training for the Complete Streets staff, pertinent Town staff, and decision makers on both the technical content of Complete Streets principles and best practices, as well as community engagement 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 evaluate projects as appropriate, within the Capital Improvement Plan, to encourage implementation of this policy. The Town will seek out appropriate sources of funding and grants for the implementation of Complete Streets policies.


Signed,



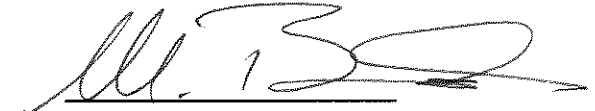
Michael Giaimo, Chair



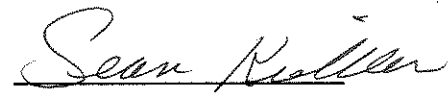
Paul R. DeRensis, Vice Chair



Charles Yon, Clerk



Mark Brandon, Selectman



Sean Killeen, Selectman

Date: December 15, 2016