



# BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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## TOWN OF BILLERICA COMPLETE STREETS POLICY

*Adopted by vote of Billerica Board of Selectmen on March 6, 2017*  
*Effective date of policy: March 6, 2017*

### Vision and Purpose

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. All users include people of all ages and abilities. The implementation of Complete Streets principles supports the safety, health, economic viability, and general 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 Billerica's Complete Streets Program 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 Billerica 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 users. This policy will guide our decision-makers to regularly plan, design, and construct capital projects to accommodate all anticipated users, as noted above.

### Core Commitment:

The Town recognizes that users of various modes of transportation, including, but not limited to, pedestrians, bicyclists, transit and school bus riders, motorists, users of wheelchairs or other power-driven mobility devices, delivery and service personnel, freight haulers, and emergency responders are legitimate users of streets and deserve safe facilities.

The Town also recognizes that all public transportation capital projects are potential opportunities to apply Complete Streets design principles. The Town will, to the maximum extent practical and with consideration to compatibility between modes and

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community context, plan, design, construct, maintain, and operate streets to provide for a comprehensive and integrated street network of facilities.

Complete Streets design shall be evaluated for all transportation related publicly funded capital projects, as appropriate subject to the availability of funding and right of way. All public transportation projects requiring funding or approval by the Town, as well as projects funded by the state and federal government, such as Chapter 90 funds, the Transportation Improvement Program, the MassWorks Infrastructure Program, Community Development Block Grants and other state and federal funds for transportation projects shall consider the Town's Complete Streets Policy. The priority in applying Complete Streets principles will be on major roadways: arterials and collectors.

Complete streets principles shall be considered for future public streets constructed as part of private developments, where the Town has jurisdictional review and approval authority. In addition, to the extent practical, the Town will collaborate with the jurisdictional agencies of state-owned roadways within Town boundaries to comply with the Complete Streets policy.

Transportation infrastructure may be excluded, upon approval by the Department of Public Works, where documentation and data indicate that:

1. Facilities where specific users are prohibited by law, such as interstate freeways (Route 3) or on private property.
2. Where cost or impacts are excessively disproportionate to the benefit or expected use, such as on lightly travelled roadways where benefits are minimal.
3. Where topography or other circumstance make certain kinds of modes impractical.
4. Where sufficient funding or public right of way are not available for incorporation of all or certain design considerations, yet significant public benefits are still attainable by the project.

**Best Practices:**

Our Complete Streets policy will focus on developing a connected integrated network that serves all road users. Complete Streets principles will be integrated into policies, planning, and design of all types of public and private projects, including new construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation of transportation facilities on roadways and redevelopment projects.

Implementation of the Complete Streets Policy will be carried out cooperatively between the appropriate departments within in the Town with multi-jurisdictional cooperation, 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 smaller improvements or maintenance activities over time.

The latest available design guidance, standards, and recommendations will be used in the implementation of Complete Streets including:

- The Massachusetts Department of Transportation *Project Design and Development Guidebook*
- The 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 Control Devices (MUTCD)*
- The Architectural Access Board (AAB) 521CMR Rules and Regulations
- Documents and plans created for the Town of Billerica, such as the Master Plan.

**Implementation:**

The Town shall make Complete Streets practices a routine part of everyday operations, shall approach transportation projects 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.

Our Complete Streets implementation and effectiveness will be evaluated annually for success and opportunities for improvement.


Over time, the Town will review and either revise or develop proposed revisions to 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 street projects.

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

The Town will train pertinent town staff and decision-makers on the nature and characteristics of Complete Streets principles and best practices for implementing the 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.



**Andrew N. Deslaurier, Chairman**