



# TOWN OF PRINCETON

## Office of the Selectboard

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### Complete Streets Policy

Effective Date: December 29, 2020  
Expiration Date: None  
Date Last Revised: N/A  
Selectboard vote to adopt policy: December 29, 2020

#### **Vision and Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to provide safe and convenient access to the streets of the Town of Princeton for users of all abilities, ages, income levels, and types of transportation. These would include, but not be limited to, automotive vehicles, bicyclists, pedestrians, pedestrians with walkers, wheel chairs, transit vehicles, commercial trucks, emergency vehicles, equestrians, farm equipment, freight traffic, road maintenance vehicles, motorcycles, ultra-heavy commercial vehicles, or any other forms of transportation.

In order to meet the twin goals of safe and convenient access, the Town shall utilize Complete Streets design principles to plan, design, maintain, and operate the Town's transportation network. The design principles shall also be applied to ensuring equal and safe access to the Town Common, and all town services.

By following this Policy, accessibility and connectivity initiatives shall be undertaken to promote improvements in the overall economy, safety, general health, and quality of life in the Town.

The Policy shall be used by all decision makers to design, engineer, and construct all Town transportation infrastructure so that all users of all ages and abilities can access them in a safe and comfortable manner.

#### **Core Commitment**

The Town of Princeton recognizes that all users, regardless of age, ability or type, of various modes of transportation, including but not limited to, automotive vehicles, bicyclists, pedestrians, pedestrians with walkers, wheel chairs, transit vehicles, commercial trucks, emergency vehicles, equestrians, farm equipment, freight traffic, road maintenance vehicles, motorcycles, ultra-heavy commercial vehicles, or

any other forms of transportation deserve equal and safe access to the transportation network of the Town.

The Town shall apply and implement the core design principles to the existing transportation network of the Town and all future and new projects. The Town shall view any new infrastructure project as an opportunity to implement the core design principles of the Complete Streets initiative. To this end, the Town recognizes that bicycling, hiking, and walking by residents of Town are healthy physical activities that shall be encouraged and enabled for its residents and visitors.

Where feasible, all publicly and privately funded transportation infrastructure projects must comply with the Complete Street design principles of the Town of Princeton. This would include projects funded by the following:

- All roadway infrastructure projects requiring funding by the Town of Princeton
- Chapter 90 funds from the Commonwealth
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Small Town Road Assistance Program (STRAP)
- The Massworks Infrastructure Program
- Community Development Block Grants

### **Best Practices**

The Town of Princeton shall develop a connected, integrated infrastructure that serves all users of the Town's roads. Complete Streets principles will be incorporated into the design, planning and policy guides applicable to all types of private and public projects. These would include maintenance, new construction, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of all Town wide transportation infrastructure.

The implementation of the Complete Streets Policy shall be carried out cooperatively by all the departments of the Town of Princeton in conjunction with multi-jurisdictional cooperation, to the greatest extent possible, with Federal, State, and regional agencies. This policy shall also apply to private developers.

The Town of Princeton recognizes that "Complete Streets" shall be achieved through single elements incorporated into a particular project or incrementally through a series of improvement or maintenance activities over time.

The Town of Princeton seeks to utilize the Complete Streets principles to develop and implement projects in a context-sensitive manner, considering especially the Town's economic, physical, and social setting. This context-sensitive approach will include stakeholder and community values consistent with project needs. By focusing on livability, the Town aims to preserve and enhance aesthetic, environmental, historical, and scenic resources while improving or maintaining safety and mobility of the infrastructure of the Town.

The latest design guidance, recommendations and standards used in the implementation of the Complete Streets Policy shall include, but not be limited to:

- 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 and Streets
- The United States Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration's Manual on Uniform Traffic Design Controls (2009)
- The Architectural Access Board (AAB) 521 CMR Rules and Regulation
- National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Urban Street Design Guide
- NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide
- Massachusetts Department of Transportation Separated Bike Lane Planning and Design Guide
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Small Town and Rural Multi-modal Networks
- Any other planning documents developed by the Town of Princeton.

The effectiveness and implementation of the Complete Streets Policy shall be evaluated constantly for success and opportunities for improvement. The Town shall develop performance measures to gauge the effectiveness and implementation of the Policy.

### **Implementation**

The Town shall make the practices of the Complete Streets Policy a routine part of everyday operations; approach every transportation infrastructure program and project as an opportunity to improve the Town's roads and transportation network for all users, and work in coordination with other Town-wide departments as well as Federal and State agencies and jurisdictions to achieve the goals of the Complete Streets Policy.

The Town shall review and either revise or develop proposed revisions to all appropriate planning documents (master plans, open space and recreation plans, etc.), zoning and subdivision codes, laws, procedures, rules, regulations, guidelines, programs, and templates to integrate Complete Streets principles into all Town policies and procedures. The Select Board, Town Administrator, Highway Superintendent, and the appropriate Town Boards shall work together to implement this initiative.

The Town shall consider the context of proposed improvements in their decision to implement Complete Streets principles in project planning, design, operation, and maintenance.

The Highway Superintendent is responsible for determining the feasibility of applying the Complete Streets principles for routine roadway and preventative maintenance projects.

Exceptions to the Complete Streets policy shall be allowed for routine maintenance of the road infrastructure. This shall include, but not be limited to, cleaning of road drains, mowing, street sweeping, snow plowing, spot surface repair, tree removal, and cutting of brush on the sides of the roads.

Other exceptions shall be allowed if the Select Board, Town Administrator, and Highway Superintendent all agree that the cost or impacts of accommodating the implementation of the Complete Streets policy is excessively disproportionate to the need or probable use of said accommodation. Exceptions shall also be granted by the same parties if the absence of a current and future need can be documented.

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 networks. The Complete Streets Prioritization Plan shall be the primary means for this. The Town shall periodically update the Plan to reflect completed projects and changing needs in Town.

The Town shall reevaluate the prioritization of Town-wide capital improvement projects to encourage implementation of the Complete Streets Policy.

The Town shall train pertinent Town 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 shall utilize inter-department coordination to promote the most responsible and efficient use of resources for activities within the public way.

The Town shall seek out appropriate sources of funding and grants for implementation of Complete Streets policies.

Adopted on: December 29, 2020

By the Selectboard of the Town of Princeton.

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Karen Cruise, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Bisk'.

Richard Bisk, Vice Chair

Matthew Moncreaff, Clerk

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