



Office of the  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
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## **COMPLETE STREETS POLICY**

### **Vision and Intent**

The Town of Marblehead is 4.33 square miles in size square miles with a population of approximately 20,000. Although primarily a residential community, it also has two small commercial centers and small industrial area. As one of the Commonwealth's densest communities coupled with the fact that many of the older roads were not designed for automobiles, the Town recognizes both the importance and unique challenges of maintaining and promoting multiple modes of transportation within the town.

The purpose of the Complete Streets Policy is to accommodate a wide range of system users by creating a transportation network that meets the needs of individuals utilizing a variety of transportation modes. The policy will be applied as a guide in decision-making in related infrastructure planning and construction. Complete Streets principles contribute toward the safety, health, 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 transportation system throughout the community and its connection to the region.

### **Core Commitment**

The Town of Marblehead recognizes that users of various modes of transportation, including, but not limited to, pedestrians, cyclists, MBTA bus and school bus riders, motorists, 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 and abilities.

The Town of Marblehead recognizes that all roadway projects, whether 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.

Where feasible, Complete Streets design recommendations shall be incorporated into all publicly and privately funded projects. This includes transportation infrastructure and street design projects requiring funding or approval by the Town of Marblehead, as well as projects funded by the state and federal government, such as the Chapter 90 funds, Town improvement grants, Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the MassWorks Infrastructure Program, and other state and federal funds for street and infrastructure design. The same will be applied to private developments and related street design components or corresponding street related components. 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.

The Engineering Department and Department of Public Works will use best judgment regarding the feasibility of applying complete streets principles for routine roadway maintenance and repair projects. Other transportation infrastructure projects, including but not limited to roadway reconstruction, roadway reconfigurations, or subdivisions, transportation infrastructure may be excluded, upon approval by the Board of Selectmen and/or its designee, where documentation and data indicate that:

1. Cost or impacts of accommodation is excessively disproportionate to the need or probable use or probable future use.
2. Facilities where specific uses are prohibited by law. An effort will be made, in these cases for accommodations elsewhere.
3. Other Town policies, regulations, or requirements contradict or preclude implementation of Complete Streets principles.

### **Best Practices**

The Town of Marblehead Complete Streets policy will focus on developing a connected, integrated network that serves all users of roads, trails and pedestrian ways. 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 for incorporating Complete Streets elements will occur in projects' beginning stages 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 that consider stakeholder and community values on a level plane with the project need. 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, with consideration as to reasonableness.

The Town of Marblehead recognizes that "Complete Streets" objectives 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 & Development Guidebook
- Documents and plans created for the Town of Marblehead, such as Marblehead Open Space and Recreation Plan (2012 Update)
- The latest edition of 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 Design Controls (2009)
- The Architectural Access Board (AAB) 521CMR Rules and Regulations
- Proposed and any future adopted versions of the United States Access Board's Public Right-Of-Way Access Guidelines (PROWAG)

- The latest editions of the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Urban Street, Bikeway, and Transit Design Guides

### **Implementation**

The Town will make Complete Streets practices routine and will 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.

Town will review and either revise or develop proposed revisions to all appropriate planning documents open space and recreation plan, etc. subdivision regulations other procedures, rules, regulations, guidelines, programs, and templates to integrate Complete Streets principles in all projects on streets, as well as potential off-road trails and paths. The Department Public Works Director and the Town Engineer will be responsible for implementing and managing this initiative.

Implementation of the Town of Marblehead's Complete Streets Policy will be carried out cooperatively among all departments in the Town of Marblehead and, to the greatest extent possible, among private developers and state, regional, and federal agencies. All departments should consider the goals of this policy during their review and commentary process.

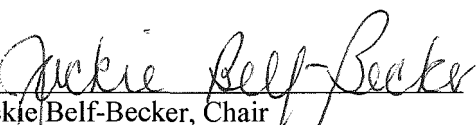
The Town will make its best effort, as resources allow, to train pertinent town staff and decision-makers on the content of Complete Streets principles and best practices for implementing policy.

The Town will utilize inter-department coordination to promote the most responsible and efficient use of resources for activities within the public way and will make a best faith effort to coordinate with adjacent municipalities to ensure a seamless network of facilities for all users of the roadway.

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

Complete Streets implementation and effectiveness will be constantly evaluated for success and opportunities for improvement. The Town will utilize performance measures to gauge implementation and effectiveness of the Complete Streets Policy using, as a minimum, the following performance measures:

- Total miles of on-street bicycle routes defined by streets with clearly marked or signed bicycle accommodation
- Linear feet of new pedestrian accommodation
- Number of new curb ramps installed along town streets Performance will be measured on an annual basis and reported in the Town Report.

  
Jackie Belf-Becker, Chair  
Marblehead Board of Selectmen