

Complete Streets Policy for the Town of Spencer

WHEREAS, the Town of Spencer has adopted a Master Plan that established a Transportation objective to provide a system of roads, sidewalks, and bridges that are safe and structurally sound; and

WHEREAS, the Town's Master Plan includes a Land Use goal to revitalize and beautify downtown Spencer that provides an objective to support efforts to move the downtown toward being more pedestrian friendly; and

WHEREAS, the Town is implementing plans to complete a major roadway reconstruction and downtown revitalization project on Main Street that will include complete street elements, such as bicycle accommodations, pedestrian sidewalk reconstruction inclusive of all necessary handicap accessibility upgrades, ramps and crosswalks and streetscape enhancements; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Spencer that the attached Complete Street Policy is hereby adopted.

I. VISION & PURPOSE

In 2003, the Town in its Comprehensive Master Plan, identified the importance of achieving a system of roads, sidewalks and bridges that are safe and structurally sound and having its Downtown pedestrian friendly. To support this vision, it is the intent of Town of Spencer to formalize the planning, design, operation, and maintenance of all streets so that they are safe for users of all ages and abilities as a matter of routine.

II. CORE COMMITMENT

A. Definition

"Complete Streets" are streets that are designed and operated to provide safety and accessibility for all the users of our roads, trails and transit systems, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, motorists, commercial, freight providers and emergency vehicles and for people of all ages and of all abilities.

B. Scope of Applicability

- (i) Complete Streets practices will become a routine part of the everyday operations for the Highway Department and the Planning Board, and these agencies should approach every transportation project and program as an opportunity to improve public and private streets and the transportation network for all users.
- (ii) The Town of Spencer 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.

- (iii) 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 Spencer, as well as 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 Spencer Complete Streets Policy. Private developments and related street design components or corresponding street-related components shall adhere to (comply with) the Complete Streets principles.
- (iv) In the event that the existing right-of-way does not allow for the accommodation of all users, alternatives will be explored such as obtaining additional right-of-way (if economically feasible), use of revised travel lane configurations, paved shoulders, signage, traffic calming, education or enforcement to accommodate all potential users.
- (v) Transportation projects may be excluded from application of Complete Streets elements when costs are excessively disproportionate to future use or would be inappropriate in light of the scope of the project, as determined by the Town Administrator in consultation with the Highway Department Superintendent.

III. BEST PRACTICES

A. Context Sensitivity

The implementation of this Policy should reflect and adapt to the context and character of the surrounding built and natural environments and enhance the appearance of such. This Policy recognizes that transportation needs vary and must be balanced in a flexible, safe and cost effective manner.

B. Design Standards

The Town of Spencer will utilize the latest design guidance and standards available in the implementation of Complete Streets, including:

- The Massachusetts Project Development and Design Guide (2006)
- The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities (1999)
- The Architectural Access Board (AAB) 521CMR Rules and Regulations
- Plans created for the Town of Spencer, such as the Central Massachusetts Regional Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan and the Town of Spencer's Sidewalk Betterment Program Plan.

In recognition of context sensitivity, public input and the needs of many users, a flexible, innovative and balance approach that follows the above and other appropriate design standards may be considered, provided that a comparable level of safety for all users is present.

C. Performance Measures

This policy encourages the evaluation and regular reporting of progress on the implementation and maintenance of Complete Streets. The Town will consider providing an annual report to the Planning

Board and Board of Selectmen on transportation projects undertaken within the prior year and planned within the coming year and the extent to which these projects meet the objectives of this policy. The preparation of this annual report will allow the Town of Spencer to meet the annual progress report requirements to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the Complete Streets Certification Program.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

The Town views Complete Streets as integral to everyday transportation decision-making practices and processes. To this end:

- a. The Town of Spencer will 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.
- b. 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 codes, laws, procedures, rules, regulations, guidelines, programs, and templates to integrate Complete Streets principles in all Street Projects on streets.
- c. The Town shall maintain a comprehensive inventory of pedestrian and bicycle facility infrastructure that will prioritize projects to eliminate gaps in the sidewalk and bikeway network.
- d. The Town will 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.
- e. The Town will utilize inter-department coordination to promote the most responsible and efficient use of resources for activities within the public way.
- f. The Town will seek out appropriate sources of funding and grants for implementation of Complete Streets policies including by participating in the new Commonwealth of Massachusetts's Complete Streets Certification Program.

Issued as a Charge and Composition this 28th day of September, 2015.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

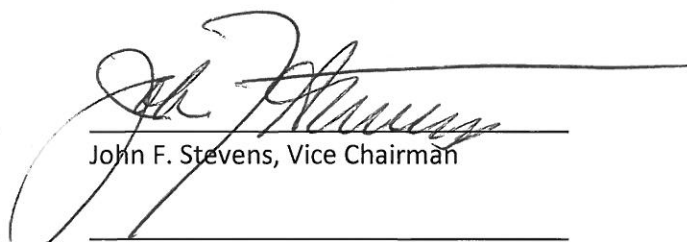


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