

Approved at the August 6, 2019 Selectmens meeting

David Hall, Chairman
Wendy M. Mead, Vice-Chairman
Jesse Limanek, Clerk
Jonathan Anderson
Jeffrey Bannon

James A. Smith, Town Manager



*Sutton Town Hall
4 Uxbridge Road
Sutton, Massachusetts 01590
(508) 865-8727
Fax: (508) 865-8721*

Town of Sutton Board of Selectmen

Complete Streets Policy

Vision and Purpose:

Complete Streets are designed and operated to provide safety and accessibility for all users of Sutton roadways including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, commercial vehicles, public transit vehicles, emergency vehicles, and for people of all ages and of all abilities. Complete Streets principles contribute toward the safety, health, livability, and economic opportunity in a community by providing safe, accessible and efficient connections between home, school, work, recreation, and retail destinations by improving the pedestrian and vehicular environments throughout communities. The purpose of Sutton's Complete Streets Policy (Policy), therefore, is to accommodate all road users by creating a road network that meets the needs of individuals utilizing a variety of transportation modes. It is the intent of the Town of Sutton to formalize the plan, design, operation and maintenance of streets so that they are safe for all users of all ages and abilities as a matter of routine. This policy directs the Town to consistently plan, design, construct, reconstruct, and maintain streets to accommodate all anticipated users including, but not limited to pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, commercial vehicles, public transit vehicles, and emergency vehicles.

Core Commitment:

The Town of Sutton recognizes that all users of various modes of transportation, including, but not limited to, walking/running, bicycles, transit and school buses, passenger cars, delivery and service vehicles, freight vehicles, and emergency response vehicles, are legitimate users of public streets and deserve safe facilities. The Town of Sutton recognizes that all projects including planning, design, new construction, reconstruction, and maintenance are potential opportunities to apply Complete Streets design principles. The Town shall, to the maximum extent practicable and where current or future need is demonstrated, plan, design, construct, maintain, and operate all streets to provide for a comprehensive and integrated street network for people of all ages and abilities. 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 Sutton, as well as projects funded by the state and federal government, such as the Chapter 90 funds, Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the MassWorks Infrastructure Program, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), local capital funding, and other state and federal funds for street and infrastructure design shall adhere to (comply with) the Policy to the maximum extent practicable and where current need or future need is demonstrated. Private developments and related street design components or corresponding street related components shall adhere to (comply with) the Policy. In addition, to the maximum extent practicable, state-owned roadways shall comply with the Policy, including the design, new construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of such roadways within Town boundaries.

Transportation infrastructure projects may be excluded from the Policy, upon approval by the Board of Selectmen, where documentation and data indicate that:

1. Facilities where specific users are prohibited by law, such as interstate freeways.
2. The cost or impact of accommodation is excessively disproportionate to the current need or future need.
3. The accommodation is not in keeping with the context of community character including the surrounding natural and/or built environments. (eg. Installation of bike lanes and sidewalks on a low volume rural roadway.)

Approved at the August 6, 2019 Selectmens meeting

4. Funding is currently unavailable, recognizing that all infrastructure projects are subject to the availability of resources and town-wide prioritization.
5. Topography, right-of-way, environmental or other constraints do not allow for the accommodation of all users.
6. Ordinary maintenance activities are scheduled to keep street and other public infrastructure in serviceable condition

Best Practices:

An overall Policy goal is the focus on developing a connected and integrated network that serves all road users. Complete Streets will be integrated into policies, planning, and design of all types of public and private projects, including new construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of transportation facilities on streets and redevelopment projects.

The Town of Sutton 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. In all cases sensible projects that offer tangible benefit to pedestrian and vehicular users shall be prioritized by this Policy.

Implementation:

The Town shall 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 all local departments to include Highway, Planning, Recreation, School and, other agencies and jurisdictions to achieve Complete Streets.

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 subdivision codes, laws, procedures, rules, regulations, guidelines, programs, and templates to integrate Complete Streets principles in all Street Projects on streets.

The Town, through its Highway and Planning Department, shall maintain a comprehensive inventory of pedestrian and bicycle facility infrastructure that will prioritize projects to eliminate gaps in the sidewalk and bikeway network.

The Town, through its Highway and Planning Department, shall evaluate Capital Improvement Projects prioritization to encourage implementation of Complete Streets implementation.

The Town, through its Highway and Planning Department, shall develop design and construction standards and annually gauge the effectiveness and success of the Policy against the standards. Annual evaluations shall be reported to the Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen.

The Town will seek out appropriate sources of funding and grants for implementation of Complete Streets policies. The latest design guidance, standards, and recommendations available will be used in the implementation of Complete Streets including:

- The Massachusetts of Department of Transportation Project Design and Development Guidebook as amended
- The latest edition of American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) A Policy on Geometric Design of Highway and Streets as amended
- * The United States Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration's Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices as amended
- The Massachusetts amendments to the MUTCD
- The Architectural Access Board (AAB) 521CMR Rules and Regulations as amended
- Bylaws, rules, and regulations of the Town of Sutton as amended
- Documents and plans created for Sutton including the Sutton Master Plan and other studies

