



Board of Selectmen
Town of Montague

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COMPLETE STREETS POLICY

ADOPTED: 12/11/2017

Vision and Purpose:

Complete Streets is the planning, design, and implementation of transportation systems to provide safety and accessibility to all of its users. This includes pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, horseback riders, motorists, emergency, commercial vehicles, and any other forms of transportation. Furthermore, Complete Streets principles and initiatives contribute towards the general health, safety, economy, and overall quality of life within a community by improving pedestrian and vehicular connectivity as well as accessibility for users of all ages and abilities.

Therefore, the purpose of Montague's Complete Streets Policy is to accommodate all transportation users by creating a road and network that meets the needs of individuals utilizing a variety of transportation modes. The Town of Montague's intent is to formalize the planning, design, maintenance, and operation of streets to ensure safety for routine users of all ages, all abilities, and all income levels. This Policy directs decision makers to consistently plan, design, and construct streets to accommodate all anticipated users including, but not limited to pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, motorists, emergency vehicles, and commercial vehicles.

Core Commitment:

The Town of Montague recognizes that "all users" of "all modes", including, but not limited to pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, horseback riders, emergency vehicles, commercial vehicles, and motorists of all ages, abilities, and income levels, deserve safe transportation facilities.

The Town of Montague guarantees to the maximum degree possible, both fiscally and otherwise, to design, construct, operate, and maintain all streets to create and provide a comprehensive and integrated transportation network for all of its users. All projects-including new development, maintenance, repair and reconstruction- are opportunities to implement Complete Streets design principles.

As appropriate, all publicly and privately funded projects must consider the Town of Montague's Complete Streets design principles. This includes, but is not limited to:

- All transportation infrastructure and roadway design requiring funding or approval by the Town of Montague
- Projects funded by the State and Federal government, including but not limited to Chapter 90, Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), MassWorks Infrastructure Program, Capital Funding, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), local or other funding sources for street repairs, upgrades, expansions, or infrastructure design.
- To the extent practical, state-owned roadway projects, repairs, upgrades, and expansions shall comply with Complete Streets Policy, including design, construction, and maintenance within Town boundaries, subject to, and as may be modified by MassDOT guidelines and standards.
- To the extent practical, private developments and street design components shall adhere to the Town of Montague's Complete Streets Policy.

Exemptions

Transportation infrastructure may be excluded with approval of Superintendent of Public Works where, after evaluation, documentation clearly shows, or evidence can be presented that:

- Specific uses are prohibited by law, such as pedestrian pathways along state highways.
- The costs of impacts of implementation are excessively disproportionate to the need, probable use, or future use.
- There is an absence of current and future need.

Best Practices

The Town of Montague's Complete Streets Policy will focus on developing a connected, integrated, and comprehensive transportation network that serves all users. Complete Streets policy and design will be incorporated into all types of public and private projects, including new construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, repair, and maintenance of transportation facilities on streets and redevelopment projects.

Implementation of the Town of Montague's Complete Streets Policy will be carried out cooperatively within and between all departments in the Town, and, to the greatest extent possible, with multi-jurisdictional cooperation among any other parties including, but not limited to, private developers, and state, regional, and federal agencies. The Town understands the importance of collaboration with neighboring communities to ensure efficient transportation networks for all users.

The Town of Montague recognizes that Complete Streets principles may be achieved through single elements incorporated into a specific project or incrementally through smaller improvement and maintenance activities over time.

Complete Streets principles include the development and implementation of projects in a context sensitive manner that considers the community's physical, economic, and social setting. The context sensitive approach to process and design includes a range of goals by considering community and stakeholder values on a level plane with the project need. The general goal of this approach is to preserve and enhance scenic, aesthetic, historical, and environmental resources while improving or maintaining safety, mobility, and infrastructure.

The latest design guidance, standards, and recommendations available will be used in the implementation of the Town of Montague's Complete Streets. This includes, but is not limited to:

- The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (DOT) Project Development and Design Guide
- The latest edition of 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 Administrator's Manual on Uniform Traffic Design Controls (2009)
- The Architectural Access Board (AAB) 521CMR Rules and Regulations
- Plans created by and for the Town of Montague, such as the Montague Comprehensive Plan, Open Space and Recreation Plan, Downtown Turners Falls Livability Plan and other planning documents prepared by Town of Montague.

Implementation:

The Town of Montague shall make Complete Streets policy and practices a routine part of everyday operations. Every transportation project and program will be treated as an opportunity to improve streets and the transportation network for all users. The implementation of Complete Streets policy will be the responsibility of all departments. The Town of Montague shall work in coordination with all other departments, agencies, and jurisdictions to achieve the goals of Complete Streets policy.

The Town of Montague will utilize inter-department coordination to promote the most responsible and efficient use of resources for activities within the public way. Furthermore, the Town will make an effort to coordinate with adjacent municipalities to ensure a regional approach to an interconnected transportation network for all users.

The Town of Montague will train pertinent town staff and decision makers on the content and purpose of Complete Streets principles and best practices for implementation through staff meetings, trainings offered by the State and Franklin Regional Council of Governments, and other appropriate means.

The Town of Montague shall review and revise all appropriate planning documents, such as master plans, open space and recreation plans, livability plans, zoning and subdivision rules and regulations, laws, procedures, rules, regulations, guidelines, programs, and templates to include Complete Streets principles in all street projects, so as to be consistent with the Town of Montague's Complete Streets Policy.

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

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

Evaluation of Effectiveness:

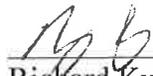
The Town of Montague will regularly evaluate Complete Streets implementation and effectiveness for success and opportunities for improvements. The Town Planner or designee will create performance measures to gauge implementation and effectiveness of Complete Streets policies using appropriate measures of effectiveness, which may include:

- Linear feet of new or rehabilitated pedestrian facilities, such as sidewalks.
- Linear feet of new bicycle accommodations or trail systems.
- Improved Level of Service (LOS) for vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists.
- Crash rates by mode of transportation.
- Rate of children walking or bicycling to school. (If data is readily available)
- Number of trips by mode. (If data is readily available)

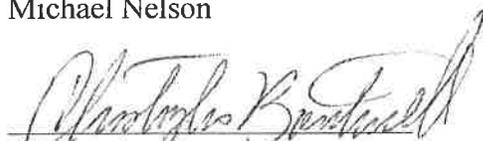
An evaluation report will be compiled by the Planning and Conservation Department every two years.

Adopted this 11 Day of December 2017.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN,


Richard Kuklewicz


Michael Nelson


Christopher Boutwell