

Town of Nantucket Complete Streets Policy

Effective Date	May 25, 2016
Selectmen vote to adopt policy	May 25, 2016
NP&EDC vote to recommend	May 2, 2016
Public Meeting (NP&EDC)	March 28, 2016

Vision and Purpose:

A Complete Street provides safety, comfort, and accessibility for all the users of our roadways, trails, and transit systems, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, motorists, commercial vehicles, and emergency vehicles. "All users" includes users of all ages, abilities, and income levels. These principles contribute toward the safety, health, economic viability, and quality of life in the community by creating safe, accessible, and comfortable pedestrian and vehicular environments for travel between home, school, work, recreation and commercial destinations. Complete Streets also furthers equity objectives by providing safe forms of travel and empowering residents of all income levels.

Considering the need to preserve the historic and environmental qualities of the island, the community's transportation challenge is to manage the use of cars on Nantucket while providing a transportation system that is safe, convenient, economical, and sensitive to the character of the island. It can be difficult to provide a system that accommodates all users along the many narrow roadways that are constrained by historic buildings and environmental resources, especially when the volume of users swells during the summer tourist season. The purpose of the Town of Nantucket's Complete Streets 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, while protecting the elements that are important to both the character and the economy of the community. The Town of Nantucket's Complete Streets policy directs the community's decision-makers to consistently plan, design, operate and maintain streets that are sensitive to the character of the island while accommodating all anticipated users, including but not limited to pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, emergency vehicles, freight, and commercial vehicles.

Core Commitment:

The Town of Nantucket recognizes that users of various modes of transportation, including but not limited to pedestrians, cyclists, transit and school bus riders, motorists, delivery and service

personal, freight haulers, and emergency responders, are legitimate users of streets and deserve safe facilities. "All users" includes users of all ages, abilities, and income levels. The Town of Nantucket recognizes that all projects, including new construction, maintenance and reconstruction, are potential opportunities to apply Complete Streets design principles.

During the Town's capital project review process, Town Administration will, to the maximum extent practical, require that any design, construction, maintenance and operation funding request for any roadway demonstrate consideration for accommodating users of all ages and abilities. This includes demonstrating that improved accommodations either connect to a similar established network of accommodation for users or transitions from an improved facility to the existing roadway network in a manner that is safe, convenient, and sensitive to the character of the island.

All transportation infrastructure and roadway design projects requiring funding or approval by the Town of Nantucket, as well as projects funded by the State and Federal government, including but not limited to Chapter 90 funds, 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 the Town of Nantucket's Complete Street Policy. Private developments and related roadway design components shall also adhere to the Complete Street principles. In addition, to the extent practical, state-owned roadways will comply with the Complete Streets Policy, including the design, construction and maintenance of such roadways within town boundaries. Town Departments will use best judgment regarding the desirability and feasibility of applying Complete Streets principles for routine roadway maintenance and projects such as repaving, restriping and so forth.

Exemptions:

Transportation infrastructure projects, including but not limited to roadway reconstruction, roadway reconfigurations or subdivisions may be excluded upon approval by the Board of Selectmen with consultation from the appropriate town departments, where documentation and date indicate that any of the following apply:

- Private roadways, ways over private land, and roadways maintained by private organizations, such as the Land Bank, are not subject to this policy.
- Where it is demonstrated that costs or impacts of accommodation are excessively disproportionate to the need or probable future use.
- Other town policies, regulations or requirements contradict or preclude implementation of Complete Streets principles.

Best Practices:

The Town of Nantucket's Complete Streets policy will focus on developing a connected, integrated network that serves all users. 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 from the appropriate town departments for incorporating complete streets elements will occur in projects' beginning stages prior to design. Implementation of the policy will be carried out cooperatively within all departments in the Town with multi-jurisdictional cooperation and, to the greatest extent possible, among private developers and state, regional and federal agencies.

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 by giving significant consideration to stakeholder and community values. It includes goals related to livability with greater participation of those affected in order to gain project consensus. 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.

The Town of Nantucket 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. To the maximum extent possible, and while preserving the community's historical integrity, the latest design guidance, standards and recommendations available will be used in the implementation of Complete Streets, including the most up-to-date versions of:

- The Massachusetts Department of Transportation Project Design and Development Guidebook
- American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets
- The United States Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration's Manual on Uniform Traffic Design Controls
- The Architectural Access Board (AAB) 521 CMR Rules and Regulations
- NP&EDC's Nantucket Regional Transportation Plan
- Documents and plans created for the NP&EDC and Town of Nantucket, including but not limited to:
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 - Nantucket Master Plan
 - NP&EDC accepted area plans
 - Downtown Circulation and Ferry Access Improvement Plan
 - Traffic Study and Strategy for the Mid-Island Area
 - Open Space and Recreation Plan

The Town of Nantucket will implement a balanced and flexible approach to accommodating all users that utilizes the latest design guidance, standards and recommendations while providing

flexibility to best accommodate all users and modes given the unique characteristics of the surrounding community.

Evaluation of Effectiveness:

The Town, through coordination with the Department of Public Works and NP&EDC, will develop performance measures to periodically assess the rate, success, and effectiveness of implementing the Complete Streets Policy. The Town will determine the frequency of assessment and utilize appropriate metrics for analyzing the success of this policy, primarily through the capital project review process. These metrics may include:

- total miles of new on-street bicycle routes defined by lane markings or signage,
- linear feet of new pedestrian accommodation,
- number of new curb ramps or other retrofitted pedestrian facilities,
- increase in the number of users of public transportation,
- increase in bicycle use, particularly to recreation areas,
- decrease in the number of traffic accidents involving vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians in areas improved using the Complete Streets policy,
- number of new street trees and other appropriate landscaping planted along streets,
- outcome metrics may be mapped into a Logic Model to see clearly the benefits of any particular Complete Streets activity.

Implementation:

The Town shall make Complete Streets practices a routine part of 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.

The Nantucket Planning and Economic Development Commission and Nantucket Planning Board will integrate Complete Streets principles in all new planning documents, as applicable (master plans, open space and recreation plan, etc.), laws, procedures, rules, regulations, guidelines, programs and templates, and make recommendations for zoning and subdivision rules and regulations to encourage contextual design of complete streets policies, respecting the presence of important scenic, environmental and historic resources.

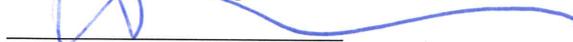
The Town shall:

- Maintain a comprehensive inventory of pedestrian and bicycle facility infrastructure that will highlight projects that eliminate gaps in the sidewalk and bike path network.
- Evaluate projects within the Capital Improvement Plan to encourage implementation of this policy.
- Secure training for pertinent town staff and decision-makers on both the technical content of Complete Streets principles and best practices, as well as community engagement methods for implementing the Complete Streets Policy. Training may be accomplished through workshops and other appropriate means.

- Utilize inter-department coordination to promote the most responsible and efficient use of resources for activities within the public way.
- As a Compact Community, seek out appropriate sources of funding and grants for implementation of Complete Street policies.

Nantucket Board of Selectmen:
May 25, 2016


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Dawn E. Hill Holdgate


Robert DeCosta


Rick Atherton


Matthew Fee