

Fact Sheet: Complete Streets

Making Our Streets Safer for Everyone

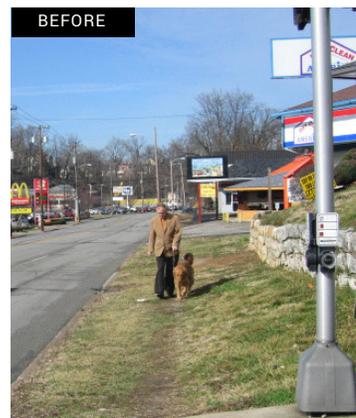


With community-specific designs, Complete Streets provide benefits for many people:

- **Improved safety for people who walk and bicycle:** better sidewalks, improved crosswalks, median crossing islands, graded curb ramps, protected or dedicated bike lanes, wide paved shoulders, and bike parking
- **Better access for people using public transit:** bus shelters and benches, curb bumpouts, bus-only lanes, traffic signal priority for transit vehicles
- **Increased access** to education and job opportunities for people who don't own a car
- **Tighter corners** to reduce vehicle turning speeds; **fewer travel-lanes;** no free-flow right-turn lanes; angled, **face-out parking**
- **Reduced flood risk:** additional green areas that allow for more trees, planter strips, and rain gardens to absorb and control storm water

Q: What is a "Complete Street"?

A: A street that provides safe, convenient, and accessible transportation options for people of all ages and abilities, for all travel modes: walking, biking, public transit, and cars.



Rural, suburban, and urban communities can all benefit from Complete Streets:

- Complete Streets help **address health inequities** because low income communities and communities of color suffer the most from the lack of safe sidewalks, cross walks, bike lanes, and reliable public transit options.
- Walkable, bikeable communities have **lower rates of obesity** than those with incomplete streets.
- **Local businesses do better** in neighborhoods with safe streets and sidewalks because foot traffic is more common.
- Complete Streets help make for **age-friendly communities**, allowing older adults to age in place.
- Safer streets and intersections get us closer to **Vision Zero**, an initiative to eliminate traffic deaths and injuries of pedestrians and bicyclists by vehicles.

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The MA Complete Streets Funding Program exists to help municipalities improve their streets:

- After adopting a Complete Streets Policy, any municipality in Massachusetts may apply to MassDOT for planning and construction grants.
- Launched in 2016, the Complete Streets Funding Program has awarded \$12.4 million in the first two years. There is **\$50 million in MassDOT's 2018-2022 Capital Investment Plan** to continue this program.
- At least one-third of this funding must go to communities with average incomes below the state median.
- It took significant work by advocates and local leaders to create and fund the Complete Streets Program; more advocacy will be needed to extend and expand it.



For more information...

- CompleteStreets.org
- MassCompleteStreets.org
- BostonCompleteStreets.org
- LivableStreets.info
- MAPublicHealth.org
- MassBike.org
- VisionZeroCoalition.org
- WalkBoston.org