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

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**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.

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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.
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.

How can you help?

Join or establish a local group that advocates for public transit, walking, or bicycling.

Sign up for information and advocacy alerts from Transportation for Massachusetts (T4MA.org!)

Propose a Complete Streets policy in your community to qualify for state funding to improve walking, biking, and public transit.

Attend local public meetings for building or road projects and request that the plans incorporate accommodations for people who walk, bike, and use public transit.

For more information...

Complete Streets Coalition
MA Complete Streets
Boston Complete Streets
LivableStreets
MPHA
MassBike
Vision Zero Coalition
WalkBoston