

A RESOLUTION ENDORSING A "COMPLETE STREETS POLICY" WITHIN THE TOWN OF AGAWAM

(Sponsored by Richard A. Cohen, Cosponsored by James P. Cichetti)

WHEREAS, "Complete Streets" are defined as streets that are designed to accommodate all users - motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, freight, commercial, emergency and transit riders;

WHEREAS, "Complete Streets" can include a range of elements to accommodate all transportation users of all ages and abilities, including, but not limited to, sidewalks, signage, paved shoulders, bicycle lanes, separated bike lanes, traffic lanes shared with motorist including sharrows and other bicycle pavement markings, crosswalks and other pavement markings for pedestrians, pedestrian control signalization, bicycle actuated traffic signals, bus pull outs, ADA compliant curb cuts, raised crosswalks, roundabouts, traffic islands and other traffic calming measures;

WHEREAS, "Complete Streets" principles shall guide future roadway and transportation plans for both new and reconstruction projects in the Town of Agawam, and any exception to this approach shall be appropriately justified;

WHEREAS, "Complete Streets" application will be context sensitive and vary depending on the surrounding transportation system, land uses and densities and its general context, however street and transportation plans shall always be guided by the principle that streets will promote multiple transportation options for all people;

WHEREAS, "Complete Streets" can spark economic development and community development by helping to create walkable, vibrant communities where businesses can thrive and be strong, livable neighborhoods for Town of Agawam residents;

WHEREAS, "Complete Streets" can play a role in transportation projects by improving safety for all modes of transportation (including bicycle and pedestrian), reducing chronic disease, reducing traffic congestion, improving air quality both by promoting alternative forms of transportation, improving equity, providing better accessibility for the disabled and by helping to improve traffic flow;

WHEREAS, the people of the Town of Agawam have expressed a strong desire for increased transportation options, including walking, cycling, and transit;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Agawam City Council hereby adopts the attached Complete Streets administrative policy for the Town of Agawam to enhance transportation options and to improve quality of life for the residents of Agawam.

*Org & cc. TR CLK
cc- Council
cc- Engineering / DPW
cc- Law Dept
cc- Assessors
cc- Insp. Services*

Agawam Complete Streets Administrative Policy.

Vision and Purpose:

Complete Streets are designed and operated to provide safety and accessibility for all the users of our roadways, trails and transit systems, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, motorists, freight, commercial, and emergency vehicles and for people of all ages and of all abilities. Furthermore, Complete Streets principles contribute toward the safety, health, economic viability, and quality of life in a community by providing accessible and efficient connections between home, school, work, recreation and retail destinations by improving the pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular environments throughout communities. These principles also assist in improving air quality and reducing energy consumption for a more sustainable environment.

The purpose of Agawam's Complete Streets policy, therefore, is to accommodate all road users by creating a transportation network that meets the needs of individuals utilizing a variety of transportation modes. To the best extent practicable, the Town of Agawam will continuously ensure that all plans, designs, operations and maintenance of streets safely accommodate all users of all ages and abilities. This policy directs decision-makers to consistently plan, design, construct and maintain streets for the accommodation of all anticipated users including, but not limited to pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, emergency vehicles, transit, freight and commercial vehicles in a context sensitive manner. This policy shall apply to all municipal, state and federal (when allowed by Law) roadway repairs, upgrades or expansion projects within the public right of way and private developments requiring approval from the Town. Procedures will be developed to ensure Complete Streets elements are incorporated into these activities.

Core Commitment:

The Town of Agawam recognizes that users of various modes of transportation, including, but not limited to, pedestrians, bicyclists, transit and school bus riders, motorists, delivery and service personnel, freight haulers, and emergency responders, are legitimate users of streets and deserve safe facilities. "All users" includes users of all ages and abilities.

The Town of Agawam recognizes that all projects, new, maintenance, or reconstruction, are potential opportunities to apply Complete Streets design principles. The Town will, to the maximum extent practical, design, construct, maintain, and operate all streets to provide for a comprehensive and integrated street network of facilities 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 Agawam, as well as projects funded by the state and federal government, such as the Chapter 90 funds, Town improvement 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 (comply with) the Town of Agawam Complete Streets Policy. Private developments and related street design components or corresponding

street-related components, including new subdivisions, shall adhere to (comply with) the Complete Streets principles. In addition, to the extent practical, state-owned roadways will comply with the Complete Streets resolution, including the design, construction, and maintenance of such roadways within Town boundaries.

Exceptions to the policy are only allowed upon approval by the Mayor based on recommendation by the Town Engineer in consultation with the DPW Superintendent, Police Chief, Planning and Community Development Director and any other necessary consultant (as may be required under the circumstances of the specific project) where one or more of the following can be documented and supported:

1. Facilities where specific users are prohibited by law, such as interstate freeways or pedestrian malls. An effort will be made, in these cases for accommodations elsewhere.
2. Where cost or impacts of accommodation is excessively disproportionate to the need or probable use or probable future use.
3. The existing right-of-way or adjacent land is constrained in a manner that inhibits the addition of transit, bicycle, or pedestrian improvements. In this case, the Town shall consider alternatives such as lane reduction, lane narrowing, on-street parking relocation, shoulders, signage, traffic calming, or enforcement.
4. Where such facilities would constitute a threat to public safety or health.
5. Where construction and future maintenance will create significant adverse environmental impacts to streams, flood plains, wetlands, historical resources.

Best Practices:

The Town of Agawam Complete Streets policy will focus on developing and maintaining a connected, 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, rehabilitation, repair, and maintenance of transportation facilities on streets and redevelopment projects.

Implementation of the Town of Agawam Complete Streets Policy will be carried out cooperatively within all departments in the Town of Agawam with multi-jurisdictional cooperation, 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 considering stakeholder and community values on a level plane with the project need. 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 Agawam 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 the fulfillment of the goals of this Complete Streets policy, the Town will follow the latest design manuals, standards and guidelines including but not limited to those listed below. When good engineering judgement allows, the Town shall not be precluded from considering innovative and non-traditional design options where a comparable level of safety for all users is provided.

- The Massachusetts Department of Transportation Project Design and Development Guidebook
- Massachusetts Department of Transportation Engineering Directives
- The American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) A Policy on Geometric Design of Highway and Streets as well as the AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities
- ITE Designing Walkable Urban Thoroughfares: A Context Sensitive Approach
- Federal Highway Administration Separated Bike Lane Planning and Design Guide
- National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Urban Bikeway Design Guide and Urban Street Design Guide
- The United States Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration's Manual on Uniform Traffic Design Controls.
- The Architectural Access Board (AAB) Rules and Regulations
- Documents and plans created for the Town of Agawam, such as bicycle and pedestrian network plans.

Complete Streets implementation and effectiveness shall be constantly evaluated for success and opportunities for improvement. The Town will develop performance measures to gauge implementation and effectiveness of the policies. These performance measures may include but not be limited to:

- Total miles of bike lanes
- Total miles of roadway with a shoulder of 4 feet wide or greater

- Linear feet of sidewalk
- Linear feet of ADA compliant sidewalk
- Closure of gaps in bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure network and removal of impediments in the Transportation infrastructure
- Number of ADA compliant curb ramps installed
- Number of bicycle racks installed
- Crosswalk and intersection improvements
- Crash and personal injury data
- Citations for traffic violations
- Public participation in bicycle, pedestrian and transit systems
- an estimate of the quantity of funds applied toward the design and construction of complete street measures

Implementation:

Implementation of this policy will be carried out cooperatively within all departments in the Town of Agawam with multi-jurisdictional cooperation, to the greatest extent possible, among private developers, and state, regional and federal agencies.

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 other departments, agencies, and jurisdictions to achieve Complete Streets.

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. A committee of relevant stakeholders designated by the Mayor will be created to implement this initiative.

The Town 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 shall promote inter-department project coordination among Town departments with an interest in the public right-of-way in order to better use of fiscal resources.

The Town shall seek methods to educate all transportation users to better understand and utilize complete streets. This shall include but not be limited to public outreach meetings, Town website updates, social media posts, and informational pamphlets/inserts sent to the public and students.

The Town will seek input from residents, developers and businesses and work with neighboring municipalities and the Department of Transportation to coordinate and optimize connectivity of improvements on a both a local and regional level.

The Town will reevaluate Capital Improvement Projects prioritization to encourage implementation of Complete Streets implementation.

The Town will train pertinent Town staff and decision-makers on the content of Complete Streets principles and best practices for implementing policy through workshops, project meetings, and other appropriate means.

The Town will utilize inter-department coordination to promote the most responsible and efficient use of resources for activities within the public way.

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

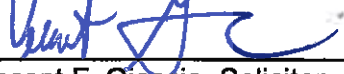
DATED THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2016.

PER ORDER OF THE AGAWAM CITY COUNCIL



James P. Cichetti, President

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY



Vincent F. Gioscia, Solicitor

MAYORAL ACTION

Received this 17th day of February, 2016 from Council Clerk.

Signed by Council President this 16th day of February, 2016.

APPROVAL OF LEGISLATION

By the powers vested in me pursuant to Article 3, Section 3-6 of the Agawam Charter, as amended, I hereby approve the passage of the above legislation on this 17th day of February, 2016.



Richard A. Cohen, Mayor

DISAPPROVAL OF LEGISLATION

By the powers vested in me pursuant to Article 3, Section 3-6 of the Agawam Charter, as amended, I hereby veto the passage of the above legislation on this _____ day of _____, 2016 for the following reason(s):

Richard A. Cohen, Mayor

RETURN OF LEGISLATION TO COUNCIL CLERK

Returned to Council Clerk this 17th day of February, 2016.