

Complete Streets Policy for the Town of Shutesbury

Adopted by Select Board October 29, 2019

Approved by Department of Transportation January 30, 2020

Recognition of a Network

The Town of Shutesbury recognizes that Complete Streets supports greater community cohesion, an enhanced environmental footprint, and more developed local infrastructure by providing accessible and varied transportation options for travel between home, school, work, recreation and commercial destinations by improving the pedestrian and vehicular environments throughout our community.

Users and Modes

Shutesbury is committed to Complete Streets in order to provide and increase safety, comfort, and accessibility for all the users of our roads, including pedestrians, bicycles, motorists, commercial vehicles and emergency vehicles, and for people of all ages, abilities, and income levels. Furthermore, Shutesbury embraces the understanding that Complete Streets principles contribute toward the safety, health, economic viability and quality of life in our rural community by improving the pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular environments in order to provide safer, more accessible travel between home, school, work, recreation and retail destinations.

Sensitivity to the Community

The Town of Shutesbury recognizes that development and implementation of Complete Streets projects must occur in a “context sensitive” manner. 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. This recognition means that any Complete Streets project that is conceived and completed will be sensitive to the community’s physical, economic, and social setting. By being “context sensitive”, a Complete Streets process and design will include consideration of stakeholder and community values on a equal level with the project need. As such, any project will include goals related to livability and will seek significant participation by those affected in order to gain project consensus.

Vision and Intent

The Shutesbury Complete Streets Policy recognizes that all new construction, reconstruction or maintenance, provides the town with opportunities to consider and implement Complete Streets approaches and strategies. The Town of Shutesbury recognizes these are tangible opportunities to enhance the quality of life for our residents. The Town of Shutesbury will, to the maximum extent logistically and financially possible, and in accordance with resident sentiment, redesign, construct, maintain, and operate roads in a manner that supports and promotes comprehensive and integrated local transportation options to meet the various needs of residents of all ages and abilities.

All Projects and Phases

Where feasible and appropriate, Complete Streets design recommendations shall be considered for all publicly and privately funded projects. This includes road design projects requiring funding or approval by the Town of Shutesbury, 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. The same approach will, as appropriate and feasible, be applied to private development and related road design components or corresponding road-related components.

In addition, to the extent practical, Shutesbury will encourage state-owned roadways to comply with the Complete Streets resolution, including the design, construction, and maintenance of such roadways within Town boundaries.

Exceptions

The Select Board, in consultation with the Highway Department, and secondarily, as appropriate, with the Police Chief, Fire Chief, Emergency Management Coordinator and the Planning Board, will use its best judgment in applying Complete Streets principles for routine roadway maintenance and projects including consideration of feasibility and cost.

The following exceptions to the Complete Streets Policy may be granted by the Shutesbury Select Board when:

- The cost of accommodation is excessively disproportionate to the need or probable use, as determined by the Department of Public Works or other town departments or its consultants
- There is the absence of a documented current or future need.
- Routine maintenance does not change the roadway geometry or operations; such as mowing, sweeping, and spot repair.
- A reasonable and equivalent project along the same corridor is already programmed to provide facilities exempted from the project at hand.

Design

Design guidance, standards, and recommendations for the implementation of Complete Streets, will be informed by, but not limited to, the following resources:

- Pioneer Valley Planning Commission's Healthy Community Design Toolkit
- The Massachusetts Department of Transportation Project Design and Development Guidebook
- Documents and plans created for the Town of Shutesbury, including:
 - The Town Master Plan
 - Open Space Guidelines

Performance Measures

Measurement of success of Shutesbury's Complete Streets will include but not be limited by the following indicators:

- Percentage completion of bicycle and pedestrian networks as envisioned by municipal plans
- Linear feet of new pedestrian friendly walkways

- Miles of new or restriped bicycle friendly lanes/paths
- Number of new or repainted crosswalks
- Number and type of crosswalk and intersection improvements
- Number and type of traffic calming improvements
- Rate of children walking or bicycling to school
- Rate of residents walking or bicycling in town for business or recreation
- Satisfaction levels as expressed on resident surveys

Implementation

Complete Streets implementation will include:

1. The Select Board convening a meeting of representatives from the Highway Department, the Planning Board, the Board of Health, the Recreation Committee, the Police Chief, the Fire Chief, and the Town Administrator to discuss further ways to integrate Complete Streets for maximize the benefits for Shutesbury operations and its residents.
2. The Highway Department reviewing and incorporating Complete Streets approaches for its practices and plans for projects.
3. The Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals considering Complete Street design policies and guides for new and existing projects before them and in regards to the Town's Master Plan.
4. The Town Administrator updating and soliciting feedback on potential projects with the general public to ensure that the perspectives of the community are considered and incorporated, as appropriate.

Jurisdiction

- All transportation infrastructure and road design and construction projects requiring funding or approval by the Town of Shutesbury shall require consideration of the Town of Shutesbury Complete Streets Policy.
- Projects funded by the State or Federal government, including but not limited, Chapter 90 funds, Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), MassWorks Infrastructure Program, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), or other State and Federal funds for street and infrastructure design shall require consideration of the Town of Shutesbury Complete Streets Policy, subject to and as may be modified by funding agency guidelines and standards.
- Private developments and related or corresponding road design and construction components shall strongly encouraged to adhere to the Town of Shutesbury Complete Streets Policy.
- To the extent possible, state-owned roads shall be requested to comply with the Town of Shutesbury Complete Streets Policy, including the design, construction, and maintenance of such streets within Town boundaries, subject to and as may be modified by MassDOT guidelines and standards.