

Complete Streets Policy Overview

**Acton , MA
Planning Board
May 20, 2014**

Complete Streets Policy Overview



Agenda

Project Background

Complete Streets Overview

Complete Streets Legislation

Acton Complete Streets Policy

Questions

Project Background

Purpose

To assist interested communities with developing an official complete streets policy that is appropriately tailored to reflect each community's goals

Project Background

Community Transformation Grant

- Funding source, awarded to MAPC by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*



* Supplemented with funding from Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Complete Streets Overview

What is a complete street?

Streets that are safe, comfortable, and accessible for:
All Users



Complete Streets Overview

What is a complete street?

Streets that are safe, comfortable, and accessible for:
Multiple Forms of Travel



Walking



Driving



Biking



Commuter Rail

Complete Streets Overview

What is a complete street?

Streets that are context sensitive



City Streets

VS



Rural Roads

Complete Streets Overview

What is a complete street?

Streets that are context sensitive



Retail Areas

VS



Residential Areas

Complete Streets Overview

What is NOT a Complete Street



Complete Streets Overview

What is NOT a Complete Street



Complete Streets Overview

Potential Elements of a Complete Street



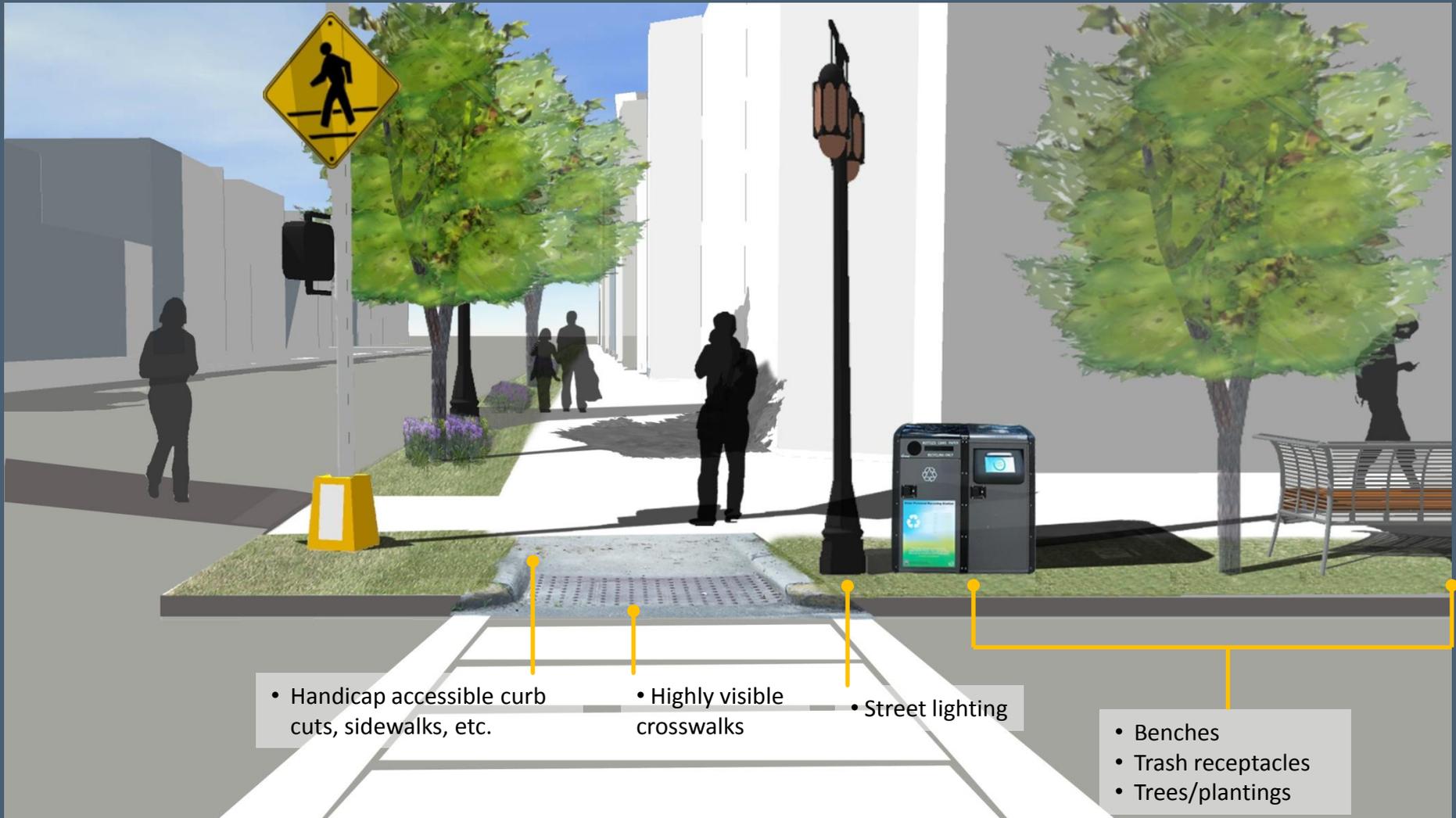
Complete Streets Overview

Potential Elements of a Complete Street



Complete Streets Overview

Potential Elements of a Complete Street



Complete Streets Overview

Potential Elements of a Complete Street



Complete Streets Overview

Potential Elements of a Complete Street



Bike lanes or buffered bike lanes



Bike racks



Wide shoulders



Markings for shared lanes



Adequate bike signage and education



Cycle track

Complete Streets Overview

Potential Elements of a Complete Street



Rumble strips



Reduced speed limits



Elevated speed tables



Neck-downs



Bow-outs

- **Narrower lanes**
- **Tight curb radii**
- **Reduced # lanes**
- Other considerations

Complete Streets Benefits

Benefits to Complete Streets

- Improved health
- Improved safety
- Increased economic development
- Reduced personal transportation costs
- Reduced congestion
- Improved environment and air quality
- Improved connections

- Potential access to funding from proposed Complete Streets Legislation

Complete Streets Overview

Complete Streets Policy

A policy does:

- Provide high-level direction
- Change the everyday decision-making processes and systems
- Create an incremental changes
- Achieve long-term results

A policy is not:

- A one-size fits all design prescription
- A requirement for bike/ped facilities on every single road
- Only appropriate for cities
- A silver bullet

Complete Streets Overview

1. **Vision and intent:** The policy outlines a vision for how and why the community wants to complete its streets and takes into account Acton's goals and plans.
2. **All users and modes:** The policy specifies that "all users" includes pedestrians, bicyclists and transit passengers of all ages and abilities, as well as trucks, buses and automobiles.
3. **All projects and phases:** Both new and retrofit projects are subject to the policy, including design, planning, maintenance and operations, for the entire right-of-way.
4. **Clear, accountable exceptions:** Any exceptions are specified and must be approved by a high-level official.
5. **Network:** The policy encourages street connectivity and creates a comprehensive, integrated and connected network for all modes across the network.
6. **Jurisdiction:** All other agencies can clearly understand the policy and may be involved in the process.
7. **Design:** The policy recommends the latest and best design criteria and guidelines, while recognizing the need for flexibility in balancing user needs.
8. **Context sensitivity:** Community context is considered in planning and design solutions.
9. **Performance measures:** Performance standards with measurable outcomes are included.
10. **Implementation next steps:** Specific next steps for implementing the policy are described.

Complete Streets Legislation

Purpose

Creates a program to encourage MA municipalities to routinely include contextually appropriate complete streets design elements in locally funded road projects

What the Legislation Does

Creates the Active Streets Certification Program

Certified communities will be eligible to apply for funding to implement complete streets projects

- Adoption of a complete streets policy is key component for certification
- Proposed amount of funding to draw from is \$50,000,000 over 5 years

Complete Streets Legislation

- The legislation was included as part of this year's Transportation Bond bill
- MAPC advocating for authorization to release funds

Questions

Contact Rebecca Davis, MAPC Director of Government Affairs:

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Thank You!

Questions?

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