Complete Streets Policy Overview

Acton , MA
2020 Committee
May 28, 2014

Complete Streets Policy Overview

Agenda

- Complete Streets Overview
- Complete Streets Legislation
- Acton Complete Streets Policy
- Questions

Complete Streets Overview

What is a complete street?

Streets that are safe, comfortable, and accessible for:

<u>All Users</u>

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

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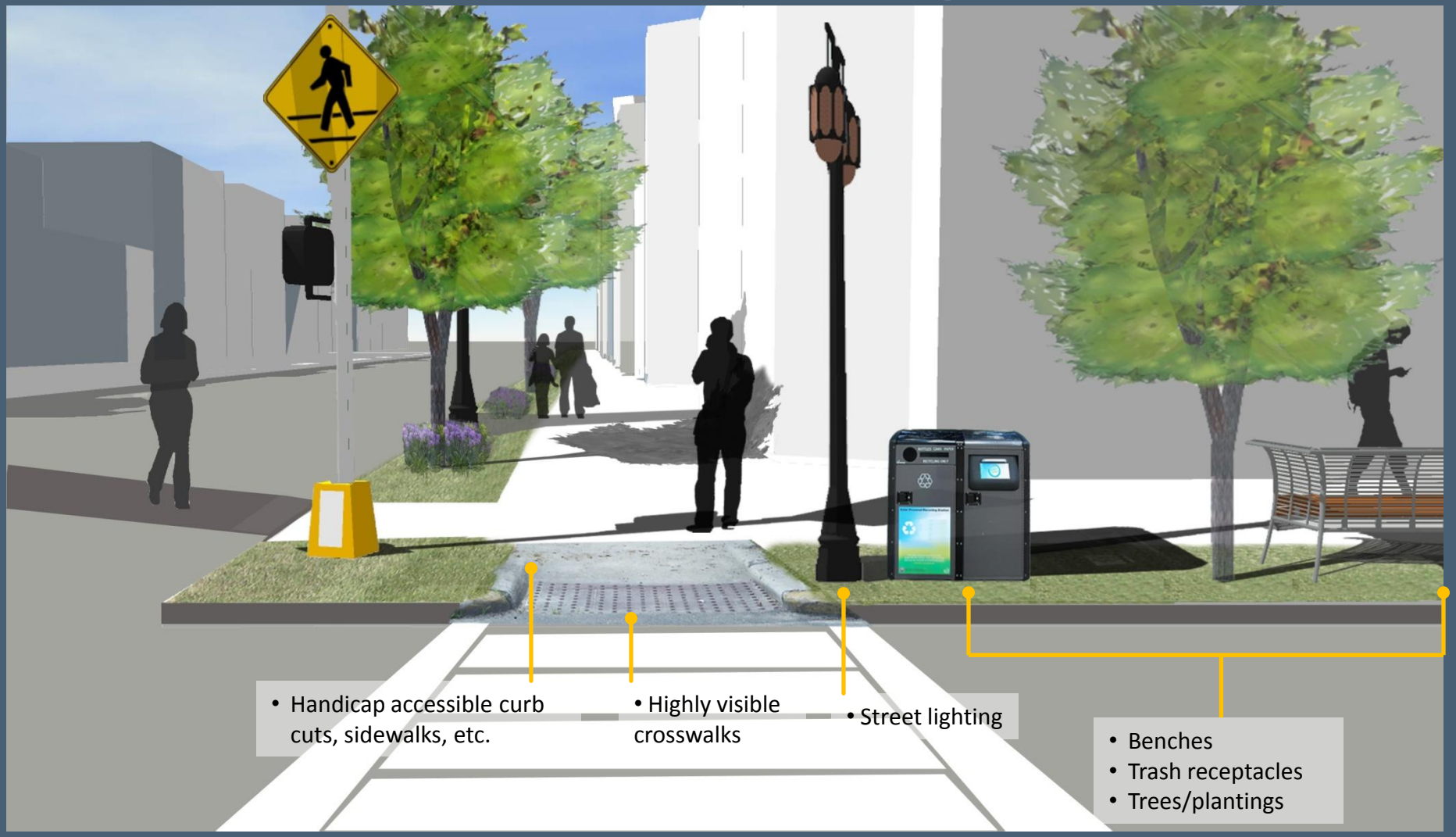
Potential Elements of a Complete Street



Complete Streets Overview

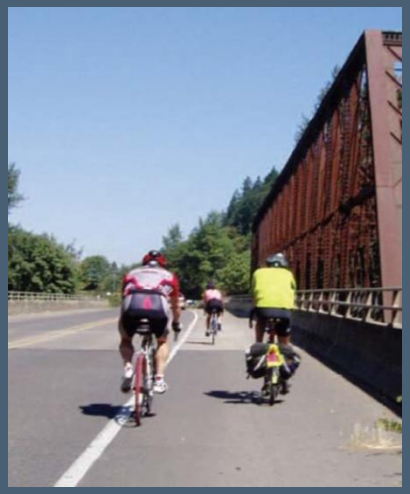
Potential Elements of a Complete Street

Complete Streets Overview

Potential Elements of a Complete Street

Bike lanes or buffered bike lanes

Bike racks



Wide shoulders

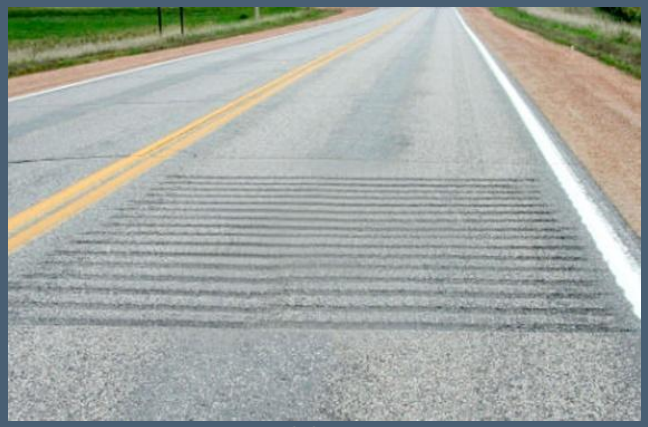
Markings for shared lanes

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:

- rdavis@mapc.org, 617-933-0708

Thank You!

Questions?

Doug Halley, Public Health Director-Transportation Coordinator

- dhalley@acton-ma.gov, 978-929-6632