

Town of Needham, Massachusetts Media Release

Office of the Town Manager Town Hall, 1471 Highland Ave, Needham, MA 02492

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT

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Town of Needham Seeks Input on Complete Streets Projects to Improve Transportation for All

Community Input Sought as Town Seeks State Funds to Make Streets More User-Friendly for Pedestrians, Bicyclists and Drivers

NEEDHAM – Wednesday, January 22, 2020 – The Town of Needham will host a public forum next month to seek feedback and input from the community on its <u>Complete Streets</u> priorities as it prepares to seek state funding for the construction of these critical infrastructure projects.

The community meeting will be held <u>Tuesday</u>, <u>February 4th in Powers Hall</u>, <u>Town Hall from 7 – 9 pm</u>.

Complete Streets make communities more livable, offering safe, healthy options for all modes of travel – walking, biking, public transit and motor vehicles. Complete Streets projects also help improve transportation options for people of all ages and abilities.

"We've got a really great opportunity to transform the way people move in and around Needham," said Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick. "Complete Streets funding would help us address some of our most problematic traffic areas while offering cleaner, safer alternatives for getting where we need to go. The public's input in this process is critical and we look forward to hearing people's feedback and ideas."

The Town submitted its <u>Complete Streets Policy</u> for approval to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation in 2018. Now, Town officials have developed a <u>preliminary list of projects</u> for funding across Needham including crosswalk reconstruction in high pedestrian traffic areas, new ADA-compliant ramps, new bike lanes, shared-use paths and other improvements.

Town officials are seeking input on these projects and others that members of the public may view as important for improving the health, safety and mobility of travelers in Needham.

Once the prioritization process is complete, officials will apply for a MassDOT Complete Streets Funding Grant by May 1. The Town may receive up to \$400,000 in funding for eligible projects.

Individuals who are interested in providing input may also do so by emailing selectboard@needhamma.gov

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