## **Introduction: Program Purpose and Overview**

Complete Streets make travel safe, comfortable, convenient, and accessible for people of all ages, abilities, and travel modes. By designing streets for a wide range of users, streets become more than just links that people pass through. They can contribute to the safety, health, economic viability, and quality of life in a community by expanding transportation options between home, school, work, recreation, and retail destinations. Embedding Complete Streets principles in policy and practice help promote more livable and equitable communities.



Launched in 2016, the <u>MassDOT Complete Streets Funding Program</u> is a first-in-the-nation program that dedicates state transportation funds to plan and implement Complete Streets. After just five years of operation, MassDOT has seen the power of the dedicated funding program and has made the program permanent with more than half of Massachusetts communities involved in the program at some level. To view up-to-date program participation by municipality, visit the online <u>participation map</u>.

FIGURE 1: MEASURING PROGRAM SUCCESS, 2016 TO 2020

66%

of communities in the Commonwealth have adopted a local Complete Streets policy. 56%

of Massachusetts cities and towns have developed a Complete Streets Prioritization Plan. 41%

of Massachusetts
municipalities have
implemented a
Complete Streets
project using program
funding.

Local participation in the Complete Streets Funding Program is bringing on-the-ground changes that benefit people across the Commonwealth. Ultimately, MassDOT's goal is for all 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts to be actively engaged in the Complete Streets Funding Program and to integrate Complete Streets principles into all local transportation planning and design practices.

This Complete Streets Funding Program Guidance describes the goals, benefits, and requirements for participating in the program. After a review of the program's first five years of operation, this guidance document has been updated to respond to feedback provided by participating municipalities, municipalities that haven't yet enrolled in the program, and a broad stakeholder group. This updated guidance is simplified, more accessible, and more directly addresses the unique transportations needs of rural municipalities.