

Action Implementation Blueprints



ACTION NAME

Improve availability, accessibility, and connections between bicycling and walking paths and sidewalks.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION

By improving access to and making biking and walking as safe, convenient, and carbon-free mobility options, Concord residents will be more likely to shift from driving to active transportation. The Town can continue to prioritize sustainable infrastructure projects in the right-of-way (such as dedicated/protected bike lanes, road marking, safe sidewalks, pedestrian bridges, etc.) and take advantage of opportunities to improve availability of and connections between key bicycling and walking paths and sidewalks.

CHAMPION

Concord Public Works, Department of Planning and Land Management (DPLM)

IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

TIME FRAME

KEY PARTNERS

1. Review Complete Streets Priority List and begin implementing projects that improve availability of and access to active transportation in public right-of-way, with focus on:
 - a. Considering all users (pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders, and drivers) in project design
 - b. Encourage multimodal transportation analysis instead of traffic analysis
 - c. Implement demonstration projects

2020-2022

- Concord Public Works
- Sustainability Division
- Department of Planning and Land Management
- Residents of Concord and neighboring towns
- Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Committee
- Concord bike groups

2. Evaluate existing regulations and bylaws for opportunities to integrate consideration of bike/pedestrian connections in new or redevelopment projects, public right-of-way projects, and capital projects.

2021-2023

- Sustainability Division
- Department of Planning and Land Management
- Concord Public Works

3. Explore potential funding and regional collaboration opportunities to facilitate feasibility study of multimodal transportation network, corridors, origin/destination study to find where bike/pedestrian transportation gaps exist. Identify opportunities to create improved connections between existing bike and walking trails based on destinations and frequently traveled routes.

2021-2025

- Trails Committee
- Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Committee
- DPLM
- Natural Resources Division
- MAPC/Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC)
- Complete Streets

4. Evaluate opportunities to create a more bike-friendly community, such as:
 - a. Safe Routes to School Program
 - b. Education and awareness on safe cycling
 - c. Enhance maps, way-finding, and marking
 - d. Consider bike parking options in new projects and at existing locations
 - e. Continue and expand bike sharing program

2021-2023

- Sustainability Division
- Concord bike groups
- Concord Recreation
- Schools
- Trails Committee
- Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Committee
- DPLM
- Natural Resources Division

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FINANCING RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

- MVP Action Grants
- Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) technical assistance
- MassDOT and DHCD Grants
- Private Sector Grants to 'Non-Profit' Bicycling Advocacy Group

TRADEOFFS (CHALLENGES/BARRIERS)

- In fully built out areas, adding additional transportation infrastructure (i.e. sidewalks, protected bike lanes) may require major restructuring within the right-of-way.
- Walking/biking needs are highly local.
- Limited funding.
- Abutters to under-utilized existing easements and rights-of-way may object to opening these areas to the public.

EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS

- Engage the community often to ensure projects enhance safety and have broad community support
- Evaluate existing infrastructure based on ADA accessibility and ensure all future projects require ADA accessibility

TRACKING SUCCESS

Outputs:

- Increase in miles of sidewalks/walking paths
- Increase in miles of bike lanes/paths
- Increased connectivity of existing walking and biking corridors

Outcomes:

- Decrease in % of trips made by car
- Decrease greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector
- Improved air quality
- More reliable (resilient) mobility options

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

- Utilize public surveys to understand the transportation needs of the broader public
- Take a regional approach—include members of other towns in the conversation and take advantage of regional planning agencies
- Follow any project installation with community education on opting out of driving and safe walking/biking practices