



## TOWN OF ARLINGTON

MASSACHUSETTS 02476

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### DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING and COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Selectmen  
Adam Chapdelaine, Town Manager  
From: Laura Wiener, Assistant Director of Planning  
Date: April 4, 2016  
RE: Complete Street policy

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The State recently created a Complete Streets Program, to encourage communities to adapt their streets to better accommodate pedestrians, bike riders, and transit users of all ages and abilities. The current thinking in transportation planning is that the way to reduce congestion is not to build more roads, but to encourage people to drive less, by making it safer and more convenient to walk, ride a bike and take transit. This is also called "Healthy Transportation", because it includes exercise, social interaction, and reduces pollution.

The State program provides financial support to communities that adopt a Complete Streets policy and implement it in future street design. This year, the State will provide grants of up to \$400,000 for construction of a complete street, to communities that have been certified by MassDOT. In order to become certified, the Town must adopt a Complete Street policy that meets the state criteria, and then adopt a prioritization plan for implementation.

Attached you will find a Complete Streets policy for your review, comment, and ultimate adoption. It was developed by a Working Group of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), and endorsed by the full TAC board. DPW Director Mike Rademacher also participated in the Working Group. The Town also included "Adoption of a Complete Streets Policy" as a Best Practice in its Community Compact application. This will help us in getting certified by MassDOT.

I will be at your meeting on April 4, along with Mike Rademacher (DPW Director) and Scott Smith (TAC Working Group Chair), to answer any questions you may have.