



Policy: P-13-0001

Date: September 9, 2013

## **HEALTHY TRANSPORTATION POLICY DIRECTIVE**

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**Secretary of Transportation and Chief Executive Officer**

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**Highway Division Administrator**

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**MBTA General Manager and Rail and Transit Administrator**

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**Aeronautics Division Administrator**

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**Executive Director, Office of Transportation Planning**

### **I. Healthy Transportation Policy Directive:**

This directive formalizes MassDOT's commitment to the implementation and maintenance of transportation networks that serve all mode choices for our customers and that was memorialized in our Mode Shift Goal announced October 2012.

### **II. Goal:**

To further MassDOT's GreenDOT Implementation Plan, the Commonwealth's Healthy Transportation Compact and statewide Mode Shift Goal, this *Healthy Transportation Policy Directive* is issued to ensure all MassDOT projects are designed and implemented in a way that all our customers have access to safe and comfortable healthy transportation options at all MassDOT facilities and in all the services we provide. This directive builds on other existing directives and guidance that addresses such issues. Healthy Transportation modes as defined by GreenDOT are walking, bicycling and taking transit.

### **III. Implementation:**

#### *1) Project Reviews*

In order to ensure that healthy transportation modes are considered equally as potential solutions within project design, this *Healthy Transportation Policy Directive* requires the following:

- 1A. All MassDOT funded and or designed projects shall seek to increase and encourage more pedestrian, bicycle and transit trips. MassDOT has established a statewide mode shift goal that seeks to triple the distance traveled by walking, bicycling and transit by 2030, promoting intermodal access to the maximum extent feasible will help the agency meet this goal.
  
- 1B. The MassDOT Highway, Rail & Transit, and Aeronautics Divisions shall undertake a review process to evaluate all projects currently under MassDOT design oversight for conformance with the specifications and spirit of this *Healthy Transportation Policy Directive*. This process must be completed by January 1, 2014 and submitted to the Secretary and CEO for review. Projects programmed for federal and state funding within the next four fiscal years should be reviewed as a priority. For projects under the Highway Division, the emphasis should be on those projects that entered the design review process before the adoption of the *2006 Project Development and Design Guide*. Projects should not advance in the design process until they have undertaken this review.
  
- 1C. MassDOT funded and or designed projects that fail to provide facilities for healthy transportation modes, as identified by the aforementioned reviews, shall require signoff by the Secretary and CEO of Transportation prior advancing additional design work. For the Highway Division, this shall not apply to roadway facilities that already prohibit bicyclists and pedestrians, such as limited access highways, or Interstates.
  
- 1D. Projects under contract for construction, currently under bid review, or advertised for construction on the date of this policy adoption, do not need to undergo major modifications. However, each MassDOT Division shall submit a list of these projects to the Secretary and CEO of Transportation by October 1, 2013 highlighting healthy transportation design opportunities.
  
- 1E. MassDOT construction projects shall include provisions of off-road accommodations (shared use path, or bridge side path) or clearly designate safe travel routes for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users along existing facilities, including customers that fall under the protection of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

#### *2) Project Design Process*

- 2A. All design notices and public communications for projects shall clearly state the following: 1) existing walking, bicycling and transit facilities/routes that are within the project site area to educate the community on their options for attending public meetings or hearings, and 2) walking, bicycling and transit facilities/routes that are within the project site area that are proposed in the project.

- 2B. All proposed project scopes of work and associated budgets being prepared by the Highway Division shall clearly detail walking (along with identified deficiencies in ADA compliance), bicycling and transit facilities/routes that are within the project site area at the time of project number issuance. In addition, existing or proposed networks within a 2-mile radius of the proposed project, critical connections to downtowns or transit facilities, and all Bay State Greenway routes shall be clearly identified.
- 2C. All MassDOT facilities shall be responsive to adjacent land uses and site context. Wherever adjacent land uses include commercial development or residential development of greater than five units per acre, a sidewalk should be provided along the roadway adjacent to the use. The potential for walking, bicycling and transit activity increases due to existing or planned land uses such as: schools, public parks and playgrounds, hospitals, retail centers, senior centers or housing, multi-family housing, or community centers. Design features to consider shall include, but not limited to: wider sidewalks, street trees, landscaped buffers, benches, lighting, frequent crossing opportunities and strong intermodal connectivity to transit. All project proposals being reviewed or designed by MassDOT shall provide a project site context map with basic information about the site location, and land use (commercial, office, institutional, educational, etc.).
- 2D. MassDOT shall initiate road safety audits of known clustered incident sites where healthy transportation users are involved, to improve customer safety for more vulnerable users. This effort shall have an initial emphasis on healthy transportation users in Environmental Justice communities. By December 31, 2014 the Highway Division shall identify and conduct road safety audits for all high crash location clusters for healthy transportation users along MassDOT owned facilities where that cluster falls in areas where two of three, or all Environmental Justice community thresholds are exceeded (low-income, minority or limited English proficiency). By June 30, 2015 the Highway Division shall have developed a process to implement safety projects to address the locations identified. This process shall include the development of metrics for success and identify a reasonable completion date.
- 2E. For projects along non-limited access rights-of-way in urbanized areas, sidewalks shall be provided on both sides of roadway rights-of-way with added attention to ADA compliance. Every bridge, overpass or underpass shall provide sidewalks on both sides of the road, even if comparable facilities do not yet exist on the abutting road segments, unless pedestrian travel is already prohibited along the roadway.
- 2F. All project proposals being reviewed or designed by MassDOT including new design, retrofits and maintenance shall not remove existing pedestrian or bicycle facilities unless those are replaced by facilities providing equal or better Level of Service. They shall also seek to add facilities that increase and encourage healthy transportation for pavement restoration and resurfacing projects including opportunities to meet ADA compliance. These plans shall be signed off on by the District Highway Engineer and electronic copies provided to the Office of Transportation Planning.
- 2G. The MassDOT Highway and Rail & Transit Divisions shall establish a guide for use by communities that propose Shared Use Paths on or along rail beds. The guide shall be written to assist communities in understanding the design standards (including ADA compliance) for such paths, especially along active rail lines, and acquiring rights of way with the intention of accelerating the design of Shared Use Paths, especially those facilities that are an element of the Bay State Greenway and/or provide critical connections to downtowns or transit facilities. The MassDOT Highway and Rail & Transit Divisions shall permit Shared-Use Paths to be installed along active or future railroad rights-of-way (Rails with Trails) provided appropriate fencing separates the two uses.

2H. For the design of bicycle facilities MassDOT shall consider, but not be limited to, the *AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities* (2012) and the *NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide* (2012) as supplements to the *Project Development and Design Guide* (2006), except for pavement markings not approved by MUTCD. MassDOT should utilize other guides as they emerge and evolve from NACTO, AASHTO, and/or the US Department of Transportation.

2I. For the design of bus stop facilities MassDOT shall consider, but not be limited to, guidelines of the MBTA Bus Stop Planning and Design Guide (2013) and guidance on ADA compliance. MassDOT should utilize other guides as they emerge and evolve from NACTO, AASHTO, and/or the US Department of Transportation.

2J. Upon completion of all healthy transportation facilities, the location, description, and length must be submitted to the appropriate MassDOT offices to facilitate asset management activities.

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