

Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee
2024 Report on Comprehensive Plan Implementation

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TABLE									
Action	Action Summary	Lead Agency	Ongoing	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term	High Priority	2024 Updates	Future Updates
Town Centers									
TC11	Sidewalk, crosswalk, lighting enhancements to Town centers.	Select Board, Public Works, Ped/Bike Com.	X				X	The Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee (Ped/Bike Committee) participates in all Planning Board EIDR hearings for Town centers and advocates for any Ped/Bike issues. The most recent was the 22 Everett Street project. The Ped/Bike Committee was disappointed that a direct pedestrian path to the Islington Railroad Station was not created as part of that project.	The Ped/Bike Committee will continue to strongly advocate for the Gay Street sidewalk to connect the two Town centers.
Economic Development									
E11	Maintain street and sidewalk program.	Public Works, Ped/Bike Com.	X					The Ped/Bike Committee is pleased to report that the DPW has been following the Town's Complete Streets Policy and repaving or replacing all sidewalks where street repaving is carried out as part of its yearly road improvement program.	The Ped/Bike Committee will continue to advocate for both the Gay Street sidewalk and the Canton Street project to connect all three economic centers.
Natural & Cultural Resources									
NC26	Continue to utilize Westwood Community trails program.	Recreation, Public Works, Ped/Bike Com.		X				Westwood Community Trails has been conducting monthly hikes which are well attended and appreciated by residents and others. An Earth Week cleanup is also organized each year. An adopt-a-trail program has not been started, and an annual leadership training session needs to be started.	Implement the adopt-a-trail program and leadership training.

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NC27	Establish trail & sidewalk program to Blue Hills Reservation.	Ped/Bike Com., Select Board, Planning Board				X		<p>Because the Canton Interchange has not been completed by MassDOT over the past twenty-five years, a reasonable connection from Westwood to the Blue Hills Reservation is not possible.</p> <p>A key connection that the Planning Board oversees and has not been completed is the path from the Marriott Courtyard Hotel to the railroad station where the conversion of an emergency exit into to an entranceway is necessary.</p> <p>A new connection has been created by the MassDOT Dedham Street Corridor Project which has recently been completed. From University Avenue, pedestrians can walk under Dedham Street on a boardwalk to connect to University Road and the Trustees' Signal Hill Reservation.</p>	<p>Continue to advocate for the funding of the Canton interchange.</p> <p>The Planning Board needs to insure the completion of the path to the railroad station.</p> <p>The new connection under Dedham Street should be publicized.</p>

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Community Facilities									
CF11	Prioritize pedestrian improvements through Sidewalk Prioritization Plan.	Pedestrian & Bike Safety Committee, Public Works	X					<p>Several years ago, the DPW completed a study of all pedestrian crossings in Town and implemented its recommendations. Many crosswalks were upgraded with improved markings, signs, and flashing lights. The Ped/Bike Committee needs to review those improvements to look for anything that may have been overlooked or needs further improvement. Also, any concerns from residents made to the Ped/Bike Committee need to be further investigated, and advocating for any necessary improvements needs to be prioritized by the Ped/Bike Committee.</p> <p>The Ped/Bike Committee is a member of the Canton Street Citizen's Working Group and is encouraging the improvement of pedestrian and bicycle accommodations for the Canton Street Reconstruction Project. The Committee recognizes the importance of this project in connecting that neighborhood and University Avenue to Islington, thereby completing a key link in the Town's pedestrian and bicycle network. Then, the only remaining major missing link would be Gay Street.</p>	<p>Review the crosswalk improvements for any further needs and investigate any concerns of residents for additional improvements.</p> <p>Continue to work on the Canton Street project and advocate for the Gay Street sidewalk.</p>
CF24	Devote staff to website updates and communications.	Town Administrator, All Depts.			X			The Ped/Bike Committee has no staff, but a very dedicated volunteer from the committee has recently worked with various Town staff to update and correct all website information about the committee.	Update the Town website as needed.
Transportation									

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T7	Work towards implementing recommendations of the Dedham-Westwood Pedestrian Connection Plan.	Select Board, Public Works, Ped/Bike Com.			X			The Ped/Bike Committee is working with the Dedham Active Transportation Group to review ped/bike connections between Westwood and Dedham. Also, the Ped/Bike Committee is participating as a member of the Canton Street Citizen's Working Group to complete the elements of that plan in the Canton Street area. The recent completion of the Dowey Street sidewalk project provides an important connection that along with the Canton Street project would implement an almost town-wide network as explained in Action CF11.	Continue to work with other groups to advance towards the completion of a sidewalk and trail system throughout the Town and connecting to Dedham.
T9	Pursue contiguous trail network.	Conservation, Ped./Bike Com.				X		The Ped/Bike Committee is pursuing two important elements of the sidewalk and path system that would also connect elements of the trail network, namely, the Gay Street sidewalk and the Canton Street mixed-use path.	Continue to work for the completion of an integrated sidewalk and trail system throughout the entire Town.
T19	Participate in Safe Routes to School, encourage walking to school.	School Dept., Public Works, Ped/Bike Com.	X					The Ped/Bike Committee continues to advocate for the Gay Street sidewalk which the Ped/Bike Committee believes would be a necessary and substantial improvement to safe access to the Pine Hill Elementary School and would greatly encourage walking to that school.	Encourage participation by the schools with the Ped/Bike Committee to implement Safe Routes to School programs and policies. Continue to advocate for the Gay Street sidewalk.
T22	Continue to use the Pedestrian/Bike Safety committee as initial forum for resident concerns, public safety and traffic problems .	Pedestrian & Bike Safety Com.	X					Residents do come to the Ped/Bike Committee with their concerns, but it is still not clear in many instances whether residents should first go to the Ped/Bike Committee or the Select Board. The support from ex-officio Town staff members is not consistent from meeting to meeting.	The Town needs to make it clear that the Ped/Bike Committee is the initial forum for residents' concerns. A written report or attendance should be consistently provided by the ex-officio Town staff members at each meeting.
T34	Consider traffic calming measures to address speeding and safety.	Select Board, Ped/Bike Com., Public Works, Police	X					The Ped/Bike Committee hears from residents concerning speeding and safety problems, confers with the ex-officio police officer(s) attending the meetings, and makes recommendations as appropriate.	Encourage more participation by residents to bring these issues to the Ped/Bike Committee.
Sustainability & Resiliency									

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S2	Consider climate change in all Town decisions.	Town Administrator, Select Board, All Departments	X				X	Everything the Ped/Bike Committee does to improve and encourage pedestrian and bicycling use contributes in a positive way to climate change.	