

CONNECT

Canton will support a safe, efficient, and convenient multimodal transportation system that serves the Town's residents and businesses as well as neighboring communities.

Canton's proximate location in the Greater Boston region to transportation networks makes it a desirable place to live and work; however, it also exposes Canton to a great deal of traffic, making it challenging to balance regional and local access needs.

Connectivity supports economic development, recreational and open space access, housing choice, and public infrastructure and it is in the Town's best interest to enhance and broaden transportation choices in Canton. **CONNECT** focuses on the transportation framework in Canton at three scales:

Neighborhood Connections: Facilitate safe walking and biking connections to support these modes as alternatives to traveling alone by car and provide personal and public health benefits to the community.

Town-wide Connections: Improve alternative transportation options to open opportunities to create a healthier community in which travel between places where people live, work, and play is more comfortable, convenient, and safe. The majority of existing town-wide connections within Canton are focused on automobile travel, which has shaped how the community functions today.

Regional Connections: Support existing regional connections via interstates and highways, and the MBTA commuter rail system, to grow employment, recreational, and tourist opportunities for surrounding communities and make Canton an accessible destination by multiple travel modes.

Neighborhood Connections

Address Walking and Biking Safety

Through its Complete Streets Prioritization Plan, the Town has already evaluated roadways town-wide and determined which need immediate attention to improve walking and biking safety. The objective is to support the creation of a connected network of paths. Moving forward, the Town will:

1. Advance preliminary design for Complete Streets projects to take advantage of using existing local and state funding sources, such as Chapter 90 funds, development mitigation, Safe Routes to School, Housing Choice Infrastructure grants and MassWorks Infrastructure Program grants.
2. Advance final design and construction for prioritized Complete Streets Projects through the funding sources outlined above, as well as construction funding through the State Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and MassDOT Complete Streets Funding program.
3. Monitor the performance of completed projects to evaluate multimodal benefits and impacts and to ensure projects meet stated goals.

Improve Accessibility for All Ages and Abilities

The Town recognizes the importance of identifying and removing barriers and making safety improvements that expand access for those with disabilities, which in turn benefits users of all ages and abilities. Moving forward, the Town will:

1. Identify funding sources to improve transportation services to people with disabilities.
2. Conduct an ADA audit of key corridors in town to identify locations in need of improvements such as curb ramps, crosswalks, and accessible pedestrian signals, especially in relation to schools, bus stops, and commuter rail stations.

Continue to Participate in the Safe Routes to School Program

Increasing its participation in the Safe Routes to Schools Program will help the Town promote safety, a walking culture, and pedestrian linkages through residential neighborhoods, schools, and open space. Moving forward, the Town will:

1. Pursue Safe Routes to Schools Program Funding for educational programs and pedestrian infrastructure upgrades.
2. Identify potential locations for off-road connections to schools and conduct feasibility studies for designating or establishing off-road multiuse paths (consider land ownership, environmental conditions, etc.).

Connect New Development with Existing Places

Integrating new development with existing transportation networks helps build connections into these new places and provides opportunities to establish missing links. Moving forward, the Town will:

1. Promote connections between new development and redevelopment projects and existing neighborhoods (e.g., large development sites to residential cul-de-sacs) by amending the zoning code to require on-site pedestrian circulation and linkages that build on existing networks.
2. Review the zoning code to ensure parking regulations for new projects are consistent with Town goals (i.e. not too much, not too little), promote alternative modes of transportation, and reduce "drive alone" trips. This can include parking maximums, shared parking, spaces dedicated to carshare or electric vehicle charging stations, designated shared ride pick up/drop off zones, and required bicycle parking. Also see **DOWNTOWN**.
3. Consider the connection between transportation needs and land use for future development to manage traffic and parking demand. Integrate traffic impact studies and peer reviews of traffic studies for planned developments. Assess parking regulations and adopt policies that encourage shared parking among two or more land uses and facilitate shared parking agreements where appropriate. An example could be in Downtown Canton where a day-time office or retail store could share parking with restaurants that have the highest demand in the evening.

Build Non-Vehicular Connections Between Destinations

The Town recognizes that to get people out of their cars, commercial, employment, and recreational areas need to connect with better walking and biking amenities to encourage daily trips such as commuting and shopping/errands. Moving forward, the Town will:

1. Identify destinations that do not adequately accommodate non-drivers and evaluate options for providing walking and biking connections, such as the relationship to Complete Streets Projects, schools, or opportunities to incorporate new sidewalks or bicycle facilities. Potential areas to consider are Canton High School via Sherman Street through the Hellenic Center and Dan Road through Lincolnshire Drive.



What's missing?