

Active Streets Bill – Sign On Letter for Municipal Leaders
(*Mayors, Town Managers, City Councilors, Selectmen*)

To sign on, please contact click here:

<https://mphaweb.wufoo.com/forms/active-streets-bill-municipal-leader-signon/>
or contact Maddie Ribble (mribble@mphaweb.org) or Rebecca Davis (rdavis@mapc.org).

Background:

- The Active Streets Bill (Senate Bill 68/House Bill 3091), filed by Representative Jason Lewis and Senator Harriette Chandler, would help support cities and towns to invest in “complete streets” infrastructure that supports walking, biking, and transit in their communities.
- “Complete streets” are streets designed to allow for more trips to be taken via active transportation such as walking and cycling. Complete streets support residents to lead more active, healthier lifestyles and promote economic development.
- The bill is modeled off the successful Green Communities Act, which currently has participation from 110 municipalities.
- Communities certified under the program would be eligible to compete for funding from a pool of \$10 million in dedicated state funding.
- Communities can be certified by this program by adopting five simple and low-cost policies and procedures that support complete streets.
- The Active Streets Certification Program will help the state reach the goal set by MassDOT to triple the number of walking, cycling, and public transportation trips while simultaneously decreasing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing physical activity.
- Learn more here: <http://www.mphaweb.org/documents/ActiveStreetsBillFactSheet.pdf>

For more information, contact Rebecca Davis at the Metropolitan Area Planning Council at 617-933-0708, rdavis@mapc.org or Maddie Ribble at the Massachusetts Public Health Association at 857-263-7072 x111, mribble@mphaweb.org.

Senate President Therese Murray
Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo
State House
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Inclusion of Active Streets Program in Transportation Bond Bill

Dear Madame President and Speaker DeLeo:

As you address the larger issue of transportation infrastructure within the transportation bond bill, we encourage you to include the Active Streets Certification Program as proposed in *S68/H3091 An Act Relative to Active Streets and Healthy Communities*.

This program would support cities and towns across the Commonwealth to implement “Complete Streets” policies by creating a grant program for which they would become eligible after taking simple steps to be certified, similar to the successful and popular Green Communities Act. “Complete Streets” are streets designed to allow for more trips to be taken via active transportation such as walking and cycling.

The Active Streets Certification Program will help the state reach the goal set by MassDOT to triple the number of walking, cycling, and public transportation trips by 2030 while simultaneously decreasing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing physical activity. We know that when communities invest in pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, that residents and visitors take advantage of it. This is true in rural, suburban, and urban areas alike, though the specific type of infrastructure differs by community type.

Complete Streets also contribute to quality of life in our cities and towns, encouraging residents and visitors to shop locally, helping to attract and retain workplaces and employees, and increasing real estate values.

Many cities and towns in Massachusetts have already taken steps to implement Complete Streets, but we face limited resources to move this important priority forward. This program would provide the necessary incentives and resources to support even more cities and towns to advance Complete Streets.

We ask for your support to include this proposal in the forthcoming transportation bond bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

cc: Senator Thomas McGee, Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Transportation
Representative William Straus, House Chair, Joint Committee on Transportation
Senator Brian Joyce, Chair, Senate Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets
Representative Antonio Cabral, House Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets