

Fact Sheet

- The sidewalks along 6A Main St in Brewster are 5' wide.
- The Town of Brewster permits people on bikes to use sidewalks for riding.
- Sidewalks in Brewster are technically shared user paths, most shared user paths are 10' wide.
- Walkers, cyclists, in-line skaters, skateboarders, people in wheel chairs, runners use the sidewalks in Brewster.
- The demand for access to multi-use paths dramatically increased after the pandemic began.
- Roads without sidewalks prioritize people driving cars and are unsafe for people using other modes of transportation.
- People on bikes require sidewalks at least 4' wide for safe usage.
- People on skateboards require sidewalks at least 5' wide for safe usage.
- People in wheel chairs require at least 36" sidewalks and room for bypass or turnaround every 200'. (ADA standard) These passing spaces must measure at least 60 inches on all sides, and must be located at least every 200 feet.
- Sidewalks may be located near obstructions, such as telephone poles, traffic signal cabinets or other utilities and infrastructure. Where such obstructions exist, the sidewalk must be constructed to allow the minimum width requirement of 36 inches between the edge of an obstruction and the edge of the sidewalk. In some cases, if a sidewalk cannot be constructed to comply with this guideline, the obstruction may need to be removed or relocated.
- Public entities such as city governments and transit agencies are required to construct facilities in accordance with [ADA standards](#).

- A sidewalk width of five feet (5') is needed for two adult pedestrians to comfortably walk side-by-side, and in most circumstances five feet (5') should be considered the minimum sidewalk width for local or collector streets.
- People using affordable housing are more likely to utilize varying modes of transportation to commute to work.
- Communities that are walkable and public transportation-friendly allow residents to access employment and amenities easily and effectively with less dependence on an automobile.
- Cyclists are legally allowed to use roads in Massachusetts, except highways.
- When roadways are too narrow, 5' Advisory Bike Lanes are permitted. Advisory Bike Lanes provide preferred space for bicyclists on roadways too narrow for a dedicated bike lane.
 - Typical context:
 - Low to moderate traffic volumes (<5,000 ADT)
 - Traffic speeds under 30 MPH
 - Two-way road that is too narrow to accommodate dedicated bike lanes.
- Cyclists are permitted to use the full travel lane.
- Incorporating room outside the travel lane allows cyclists to permit motorists to safely pass.
- The American disabilities Act (ADA) requires sidewalks to be at least 3' in width; however, if sidewalks are less than 5' wide, passing spaces/turnaround must be constructed every 200 feet.
- Street buffer zones make motorists and sidewalks users feel more comfortable and safer. Children especially may not feel as confident while riding next to traffic without a physical separation barrier.

- People in communities with sidewalks are 47% more likely to get regular physical exercise.
- Complete streets makes active living easier.
- Complete streets reduce vehicle-related injuries and fatalities.
- 23 percent of US population lives in rural areas, but 56 percent of all traffic fatalities occur in rural areas. (Smart Growth America, 2006)
- Complete streets in rural areas looks different.
- One size does not fit all.
- Complete streets create safer routes to school and safe routes for seniors.
- Complete streets creates safe routes for people biking/walking/driving.
- Complete streets create safe access to non-motorized transportation.
- All people start and end their trip as pedestrians. Complete streets is not just a state program, it is a total government program local, state, and federal.
- Complete Streets are streets designed and operated to enable safe use and support mobility for all users. Those include people of all ages and abilities, regardless of whether they are traveling as drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, or public transportation riders.