

Wellesley, Massachusetts

Town of Wellesley Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan



Wellesley is a town of nearly 30,000 people just west of Boston. As with many towns, Wellesley is interested in encouraging walking as an alternative to the automobile but the speed and level of automobile use on major thoroughfares, as well as the physical barrier of the MBTA Worcester Commuter Rail Line, act as significant barriers to pedestrian traffic. Moreover, the policies governing the pedestrian realm exist as fractured responsibilities across a number of departments, councils, and boards.

Working with a Walkways Task Force, Nelson\Nygaard held a number of meetings to direct the development of the Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan. After jointly establishing the project's goals and objectives, Nelson\Nygaard held a public workshop to gain public insight on both the general and specific needs in Wellesley. The remaining meetings were devoted to the development of a unified set of policy and operational guidelines to coordinate and direct all efforts affecting the pedestrian realm. Building on the input provided by the public, NN developed a Pedestrian Enhancements Best Practices Toolbox to provide Wellesley with a menu of physical infrastructure improvements and policy/operational practices that can be applied to current and future pedestrian needs.

The final outcome of the study was a report detailing the strategies and tools that the City can use to improve walkability in relation to stated

needs. A key piece of the report was a matrix linking objectives to strategies, organized by which governing bodies are able to execute each strategy, as well as best practices and examples of each strategy used in other communities. Taken together, this report provides the Town, residents, and businesses of Wellesley with a policy level guide to facilitate and coordinate future efforts to maintain and enhance the walking experience in Wellesley for years to come.

Project Duration: 2008 - 2009

Total Budget: \$10,000

For more information:

Town of Wellesley
Town Hall, 525 Washington Street
Wellesley, MA 02482

Contact:

Meghan C. Jop, AICP
Planning Director
(781) 431-1019 x 2232
mjop@wellesleyma.gov