



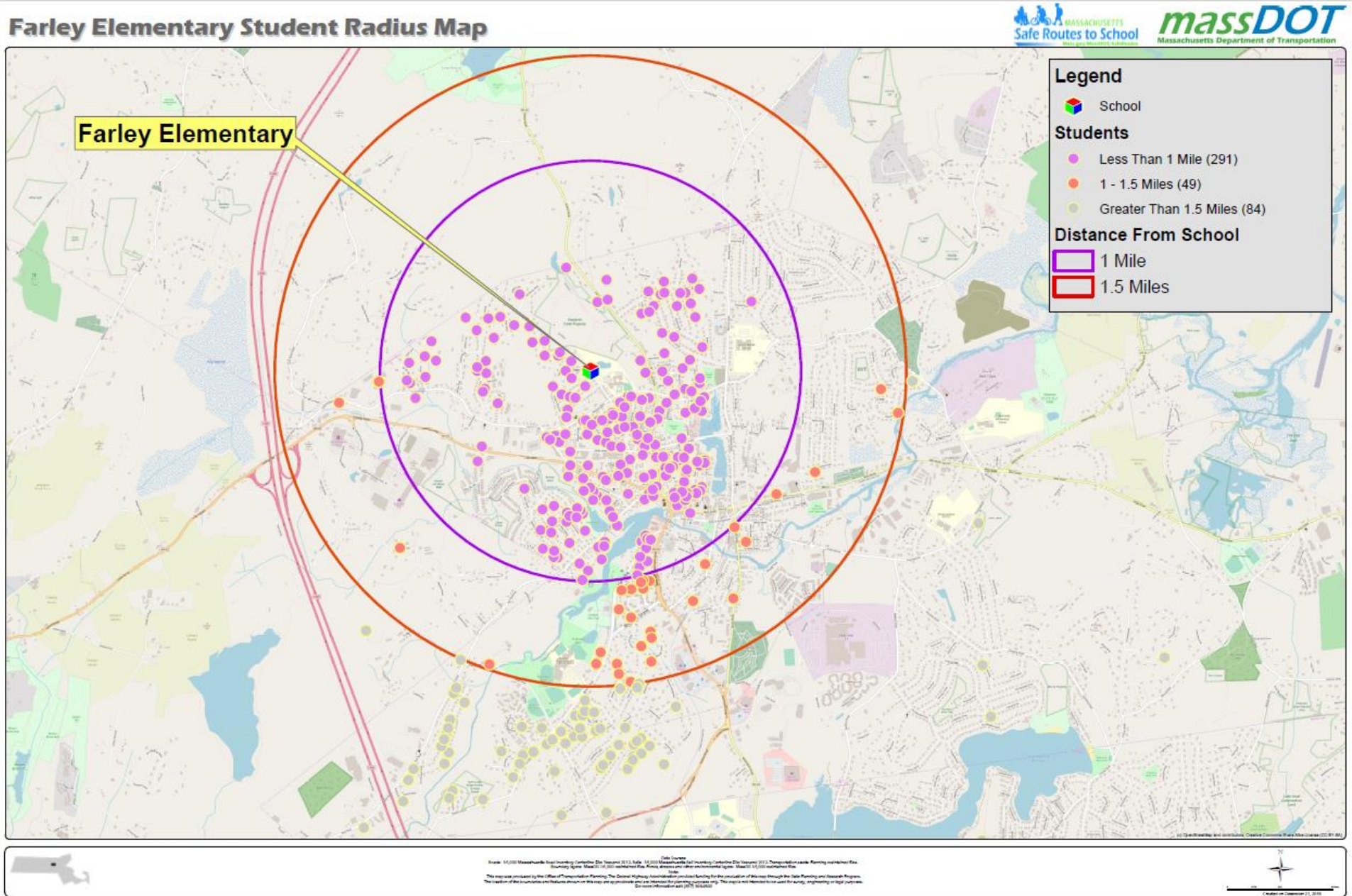
MA Safe Routes to School Walk Assessment Existing Conditions, Findings, and Recommendations

Farley Elementary, Forest Avenue Elementary, Mulready Elementary, and Quinn Middle Schools
Hudson Public Schools
155 Apsley Street, Hudson, MA 01749

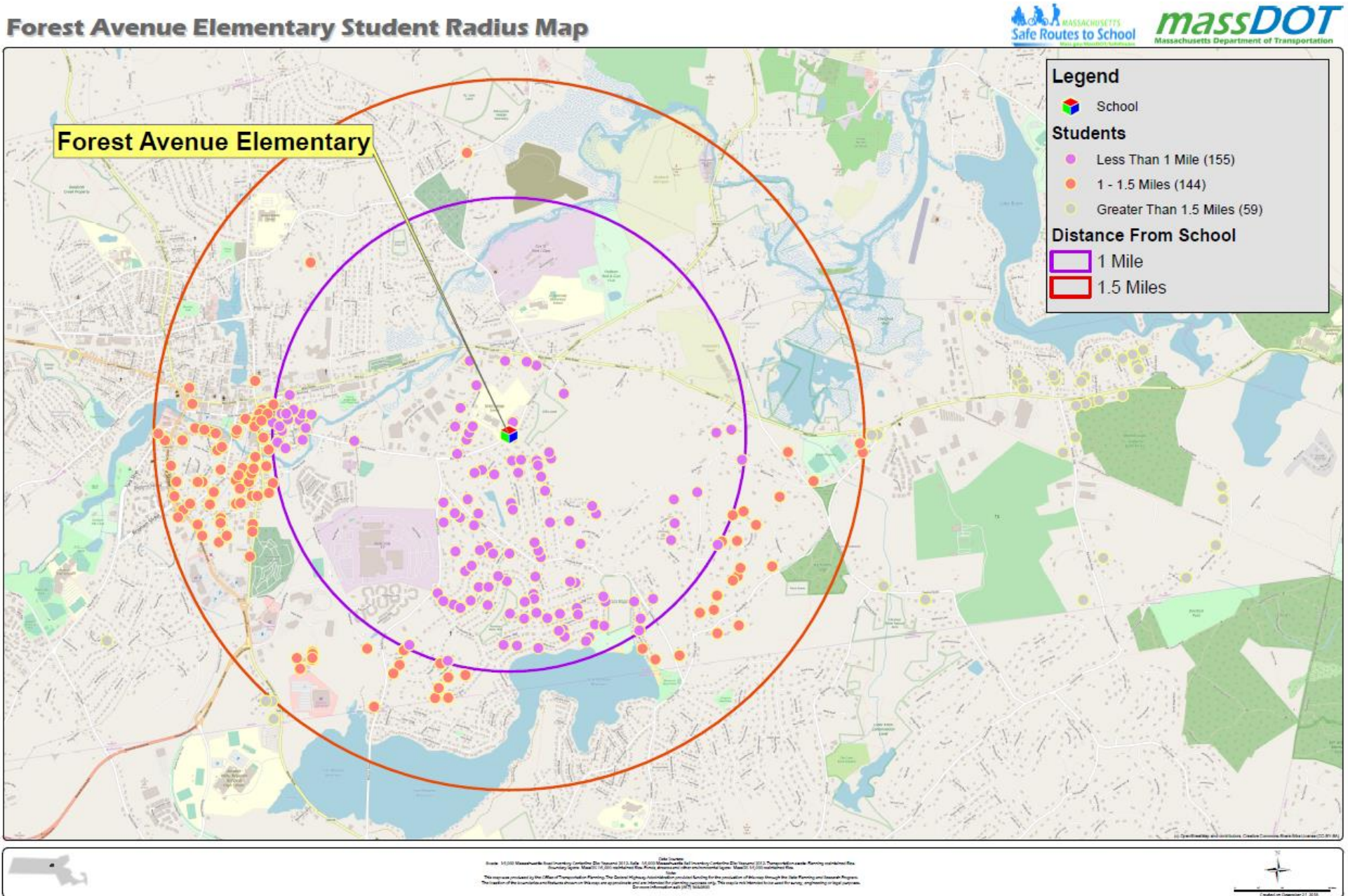
This report is for informational purposes only. These recommendations include components of the Massachusetts Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program. Your local SRTS outreach coordinator may facilitate or take part in discussions and provide direct program offerings. Please note that your SRTS outreach coordinator cannot advocate for state or municipal policy and/or infrastructure-related work. Furthermore, your SRTS outreach coordinator cannot make direct engineering or municipal planning recommendations.

**Report Delivered: February 25, 2020
Outreach Coordinator: Rachel O'Donnell**

Student Address Map: Farley Elementary



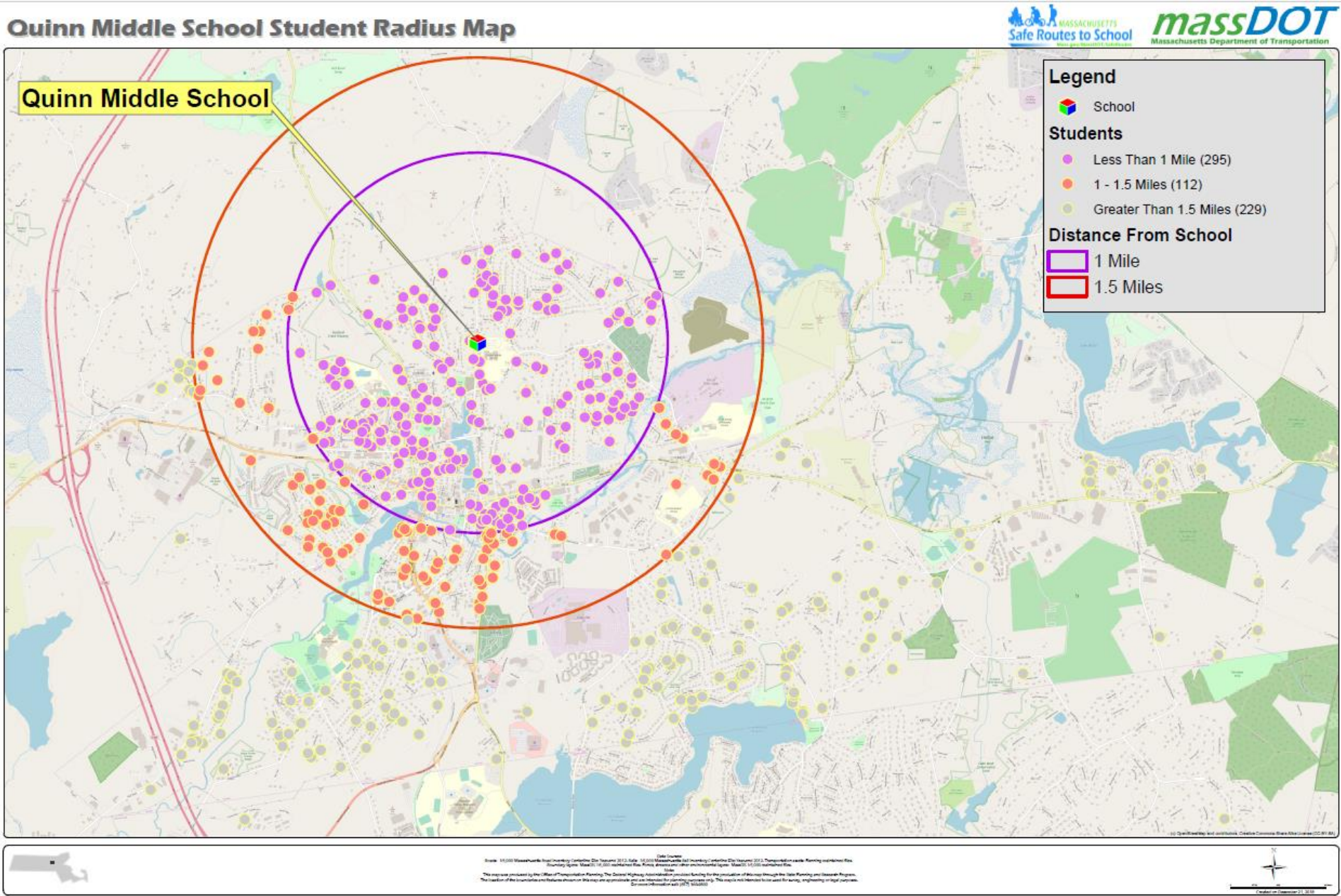
Student Address Map: Forest Avenue Elementary



Mulready Elementary Student Radius Map



Student Address Map: Quinn Middle



Observations

Lincoln Street (Route 85)

- Heavily traveled road (sometimes speeding)
- Telephone poles in the middle of the sidewalk & dirt piled around poles
- Faded stop lines on side streets

Cottage Street

- Cars were parked on the sidewalk
- No fog line separating the sidewalk from the driveway of PJ's Pub
- Sidewalk ends halfway down the road

Felton Street

- Sidewalks in poor condition
- No crosswalks and faded stop lines
- Beehives at the corner of Felton and Pearl

Observation Photos



Tripping hazard on sidewalk (on Apsley Street by Lincoln Street intersection)



Telephone poles in the middle of the sidewalk on Lincoln Street (not ADA compliant)



Sidewalk to nowhere on Cottage Street



No separation between road, sidewalk, and driveway of PJ's Pub

Observation Photos



Overgrown vegetation on Felton Street sidewalk



Faded or no pavement markings along Felton Street



Sidewalks in poor condition along Felton Street

Observations

Manning Street

- Bike lanes on both sides of the street by Quinn Middle School
- Traffic signal not pedestrian friendly (had to wait two cycles to cross)
- Recycling bins blocking sidewalk

Cox Street

- Cars able to take wide turns at higher speeds by Brothers Pizza (intersection not pedestrian friendly)
- Line of sight issues when crossing by Tower, Bennett, and Priest Streets
- No sidewalks in between Manning Street and Stratton Road

Forest Avenue

- Overgrown vegetation on sidewalk
- No connectivity to bike path
- No sidewalk on bridge going over Assabet River (can't connect to downtown)

Observation Photos



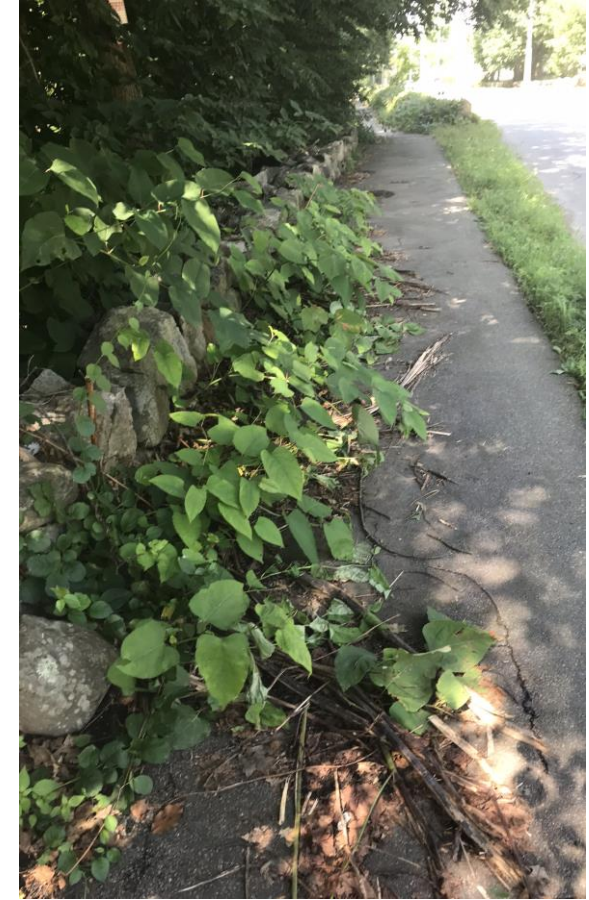
Bike lanes on Manning Street



Vegetation blocking signage at Manning and Cox Street intersection



Intersection of Cox Street, Old Bolton Road, and Old Stow Road



Overgrown vegetation on Forest Avenue

Comparisons: Signs and Lines

Crosswalks Near Schools



Two lines and ladder style next to each other

Crosswalks Downtown



Solid red crosswalks with white outlines

Pedestrian Signage Near Schools



Not as reflective, no extra signage below

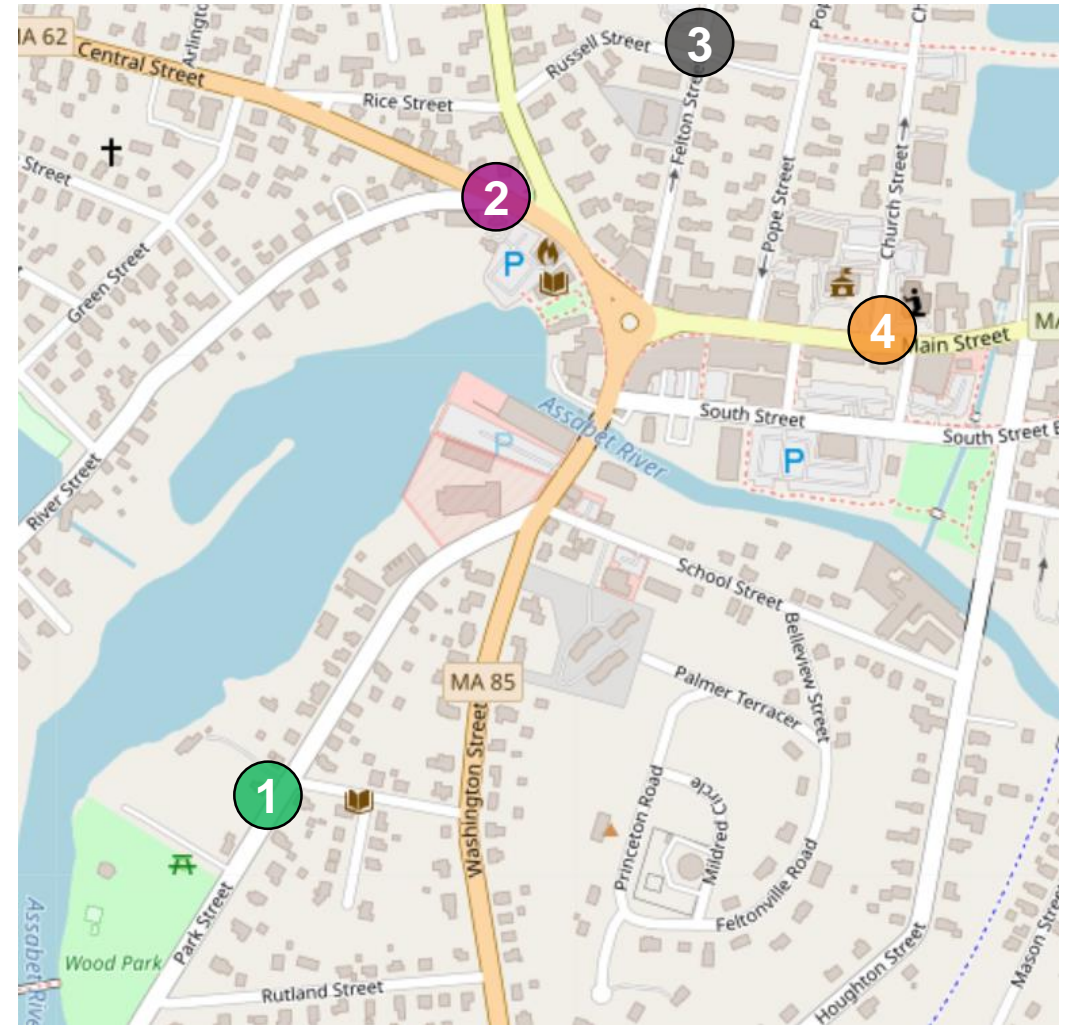
Pedestrian Signage Away from Schools



Brighter, extra signage on lower part (more visible)

Engineering – Recommendations

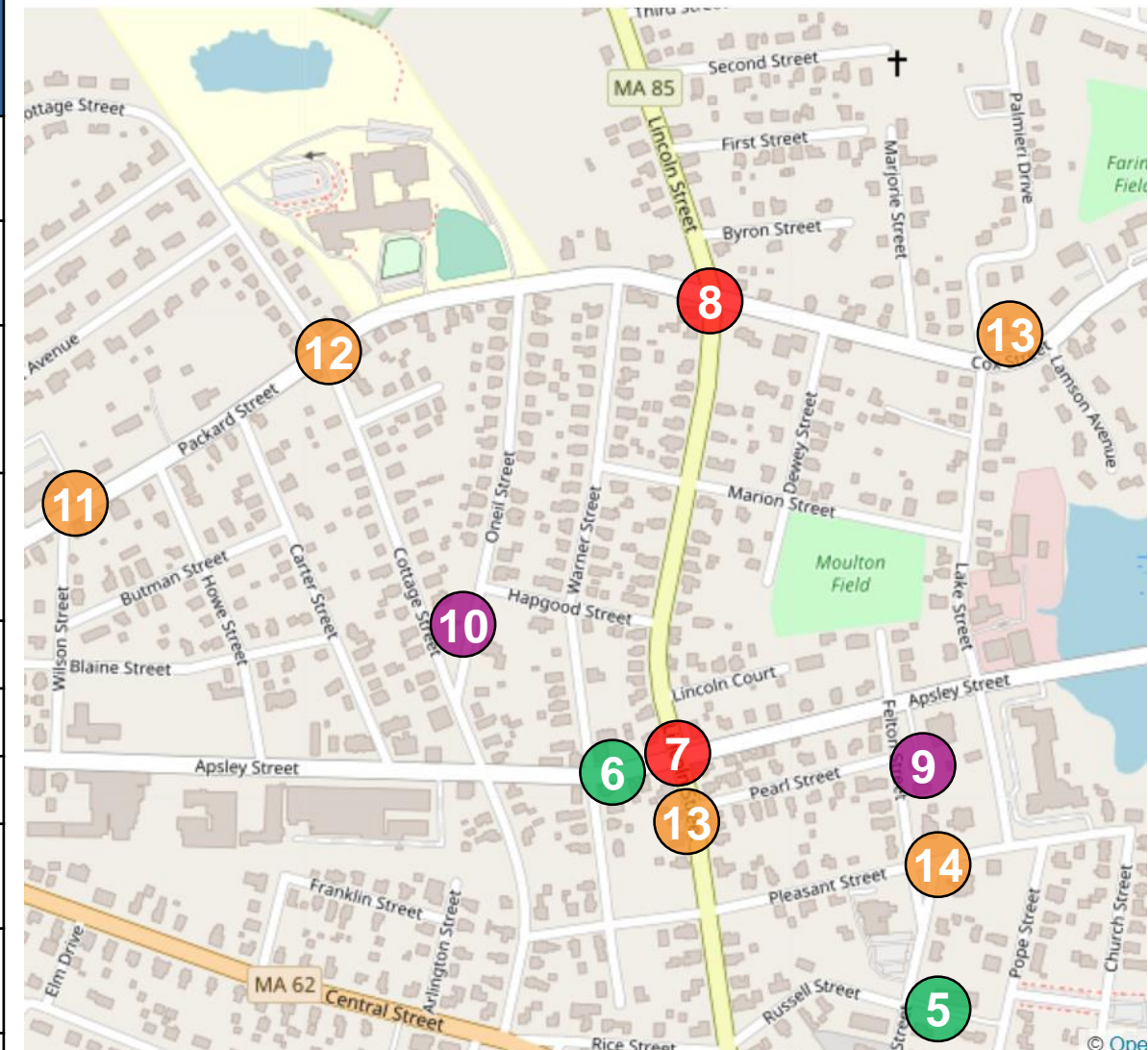
Map ID	Issue	Recommendation
1	Overgrown vegetation blocking sidewalk	Consider notifying residents or DPW to trim back vegetation
2	Sidewalk on River Street is narrow	Consider widening the sidewalk and make ADA compliant
3	Sullivan Optometry driveway used as a cut-through to Pope Street	Consider installing signage to prevent vehicles from using the driveway as cut-through between Felton and Pope Streets
4	Crosswalks in downtown Hudson differ in style compared to the rest of the town	Consider making all crosswalks the same style for consistency (ladder style is best)



- Overgrowth/Obstacles
- Sidewalk
- Pavement Markings
- Intersection
- Signage

Engineering – Recommendations

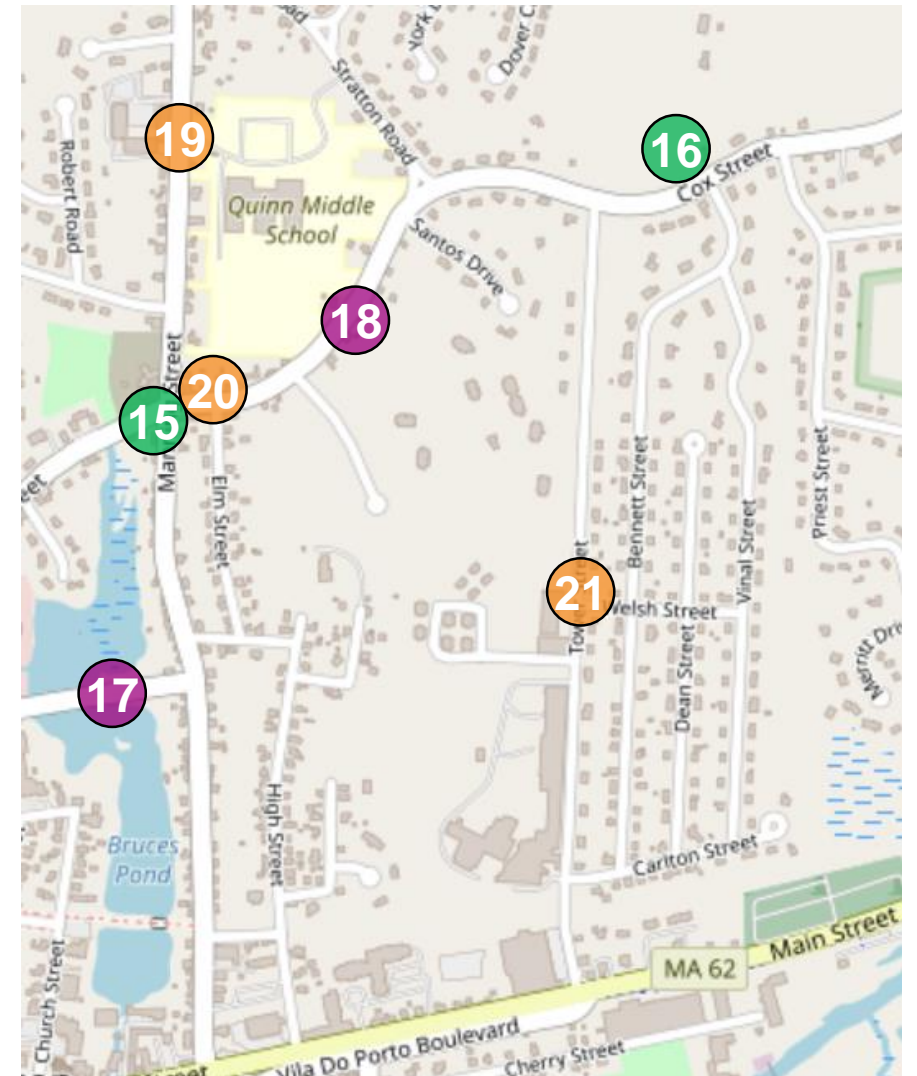
Map ID	Issue	Recommendation
5	Overgrown vegetation	Consider notifying residents or DPW to trim back vegetation
6	Remnants of a metal sign sticking up from sidewalk	Consider removing tripping hazard
7	Lower right pedestrian button (SE) does not work and signals are not uniform	Consider replacing signals to make them the same style and functional
8	4-way intersection where cars make wide turns and crosswalks only on two sides	Install curb bump-outs to improve visibility of pedestrians, reduce crossing distances, & calm traffic
9	Sidewalks in poor condition	Consider repairing sidewalks
10	Sidewalk ends abruptly	Consider extending sidewalk
11	No crosswalk	Consider painting a crosswalk
12	Crosswalk only on one side (students have to cross twice)	Consider adding another crosswalk
13	No fog lines at PJ's Pub & 7/11	Consider adding fog line to separate sidewalk & driveways
14	Lack of crosswalks & stop lines	Consider adding pavement markings



- Overgrowth/Obstacles
- Intersection
- Sidewalk
- Signage
- Pavement Markings

Engineering – Recommendations

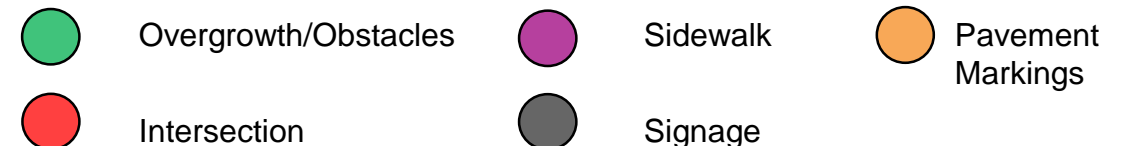
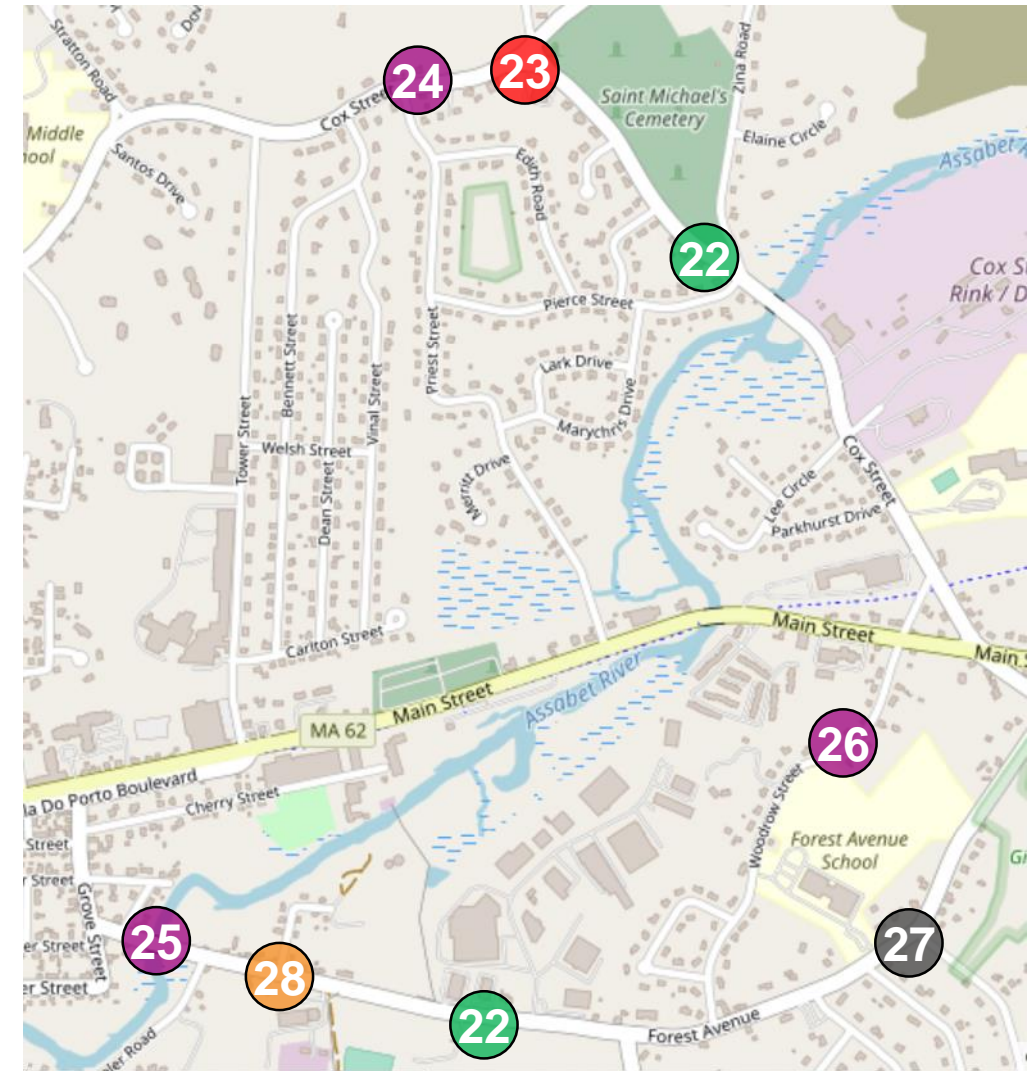
Map ID	Issue	Recommendation
15	Overgrown vegetation blocking pedestrian signal	Consider notifying residents or DPW to trim back vegetation
16	Overgrown vegetation on Cox Street sidewalk	Consider notifying residents or DPW to trim back vegetation
17	Sidewalk on Apsley Street doesn't continue to Manning Street	Consider extending sidewalk on Aspley street to connect to Manning Street
18	No Cox Street sidewalk in between Stratton Road and Manning Street	Consider adding a sidewalk on Cox Street to help with connectivity issues
19	No crosswalk connecting apartment building and middle school (crossing guard stationed there)	Consider adding a crosswalk to connect the apartment complex and Quinn Middle School (crossing guard can be utilized elsewhere)
20	"All Walk" signal but crosswalk not on all sides	Consider adding crosswalks to all four sides of the intersection
21	No crosswalk connecting neighborhood off Welsh Street and sidewalk on Tower Street	Consider adding crosswalk to help with connectivity issues



- Overgrowth/Obstacles
- Sidewalk
- Pavement Markings
- Intersection
- Signage

Engineering – Recommendations

Map ID	Issue	Recommendation
22	Overgrown vegetation blocking sidewalk	Consider notifying residents or DPW to trim back vegetation
23	Intersection with wide turns, high speeds, and long crosswalks	Install curb bump-outs to improve visibility of pedestrians, reduce crossing distances, and calm traffic
24	Cox Street sidewalk (south side) only exists between Priest and Bennett Streets	Consider adding sidewalk along south side of Cox Street so it is on the same side as the neighborhoods (can cross with crossing guard at Tower Street and avoid crossing intersection at Point 23)
25	Forest Avenue sidewalk disconnected at bridge over Assabet River	Consider adding a pedestrian bridge or adding the sidewalk to help with connectivity issues
26	Sidewalks do not extend down the entirety of Woodrow Street	Consider adding sidewalks along Woodrow Street to help connect Forest Avenue Elementary with the bike path
27	Lack of highly reflective pedestrian signs along a semi-blind turn	Consider installing more reflective pedestrian crossing signs to alert drivers of the approaching crosswalk
28	No crosswalk connecting Forest Avenue sidewalk (moves to the other side)	Consider adding a crosswalk at Stowe Court to help with connectivity issues



Hudson-Specific Recommendations

- Continue utilizing “ALL WALK” intersections
- Enforce snow removal on residential sidewalks
https://www.townofhudson.org/sites/hudsonma/files/uploads/snow_parking_ban.pdf
- Enforce no parking on sidewalks
- Continue working with MA SRTS to update walking school bus routes and sidewalk prioritization plans
- Consider using wayfinding techniques around Hudson to help students get to school
- Consider tactical urbanism strategies to help with traffic calming in large intersections
- Consider making all major intersections with pedestrian signals more sensitive to the pedestrian button
- Consider making pedestrian signage as visible near the schools as they are away from the schools (reflective strips and addition “Yield to Pedestrians” piece)
- Consider repainting stop lines on streets where there isn’t a stop sign

SRTS Program Recommendations

Education

1. Offer Pedestrian and Bike Safety Training.
2. Integrate pedestrian and bike safety lesson plans into the school curriculum.
3. Collaborate with SRTS to host summer safety training workshops.
4. Incorporate SRTS-provided information about walking and biking to school in communications with parents/guardians.
5. Distribute SRTS safe driving information. Include directions on a revised pick-up/drop-off policy.
6. Add SRTS policy language to existing wellness and/or transportation policies.

Enforcement

1. District leadership can work with the police department to provide periodic parking and traffic enforcement near the school.
2. School leadership can provide crossing guards with SRTS training guide and video resources.
3. Facilities staff can receive free “No Idling” signs via the MassDEP Green Team.
4. Consult MA Complete Streets website for strategies to improve accessibility for all modes.
5. Review Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for strategies to improve accessibility for all modes.

Evaluation

1. Conduct Student Travel Tallies to get baseline data of student travel patterns and then conduct a second round at the end of the year to assess program effectiveness.
2. Conduct Arrival/Dismissal Observation to gain overview of current school conditions and travel mode split.
3. Conduct a Parent/Guardian Travel Survey to gauge how and where students travel to/from school.
4. Request a walkshed map based on spreadsheet of (anonymous) student addresses and zip codes. This is a useful step in selecting potential walking/biking routes.

Equity

1. Incorporate resources and opportunities for students of all abilities to participate in MA SRTS.
2. Provide SRTS resources in different languages.
3. Utilize SRTS evaluation methods regularly to help focus SRTS efforts.
4. Promote events and encouragement programs schoolwide and in multiple languages (as needed). Communicate online, via paper, and in-person.
5. Reach out to key stakeholders to create sustainable change.

Encouragement

1. Participate in annual flagship events.
2. Create unique activities to get students walking and biking (e.g. Walking Wednesdays, Footloose Fridays, Park and Walk). Students can record their progress using the SRTS-provided
3. Walk Across America and Walk Across Massachusetts maps.
4. Establish a frequent walker / bicyclist program that rewards students who walk/bike to school a certain amount of times. Rewards may be stickers or extra recess.
5. Support student participation in the SRTS Annual Yard Sign Contest.
6. Complete the SRTS Activity Checklist and attend the awards ceremony.

Resources

Massachusetts Safe Routes to School

<https://www.mass.gov/safe-routes-to-school>

Safe Routes to School National Partnership

The Safe Routes Partnership is a national nonprofit organization working to advance safe walking and rolling to and from schools and in everyday life, improving the health and well-being of people of all races, income levels, and abilities, and building healthy, thriving communities for everyone.

<https://www.saferoutespartnership.org/>

MassDOT Municipal Resource Guide for Walkability

MassDOT created this Guide to help municipalities address some of the most common questions and challenges regarding walkability.

https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/09/17/MunicipalResourcesGuideForWalkability_2018-08-24.pdf

MassDOT Complete Streets Program

The MassDOT Complete Streets Funding Program provides technical assistance and construction funding to eligible municipalities. Eligible municipalities must pass a Complete Streets Policy and develop a Prioritization Plan. All Program news, guidance, and registration information are available through an online Portal.

<https://www.mass.gov/complete-streets-funding-program>

Manual Uniform Traffic Calming Devices

The Federal Highway Administration's guide to traffic control devices for all public streets, highways, bikeways, and private roads open to public travel.

<https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/>

Traffic Safety Grants

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/traffic-safety-grants>

Mass DEP Green Team

THE GREEN TEAM is an interactive educational program that empowers students and teachers to help the environment through waste reduction, recycling, composting, energy conservation and pollution prevention. Participating classes receive certificates of recognition and are eligible to win awards.

<https://thegreenteam.org/>

Massachusetts Anti-Idling Law

This state law outlines that any vehicle idling for more than five minutes is excessive. Many Massachusetts communities have stricter local by-laws.

<https://malegislature.gov/laws/generallaws/parti/titlexiv/chapter90/section16a>

Massachusetts Handsfree Law

<https://malegislature.gov/laws/generallaws/parti/titlexiv/chapter90/section12a>

Massachusetts Bicycle Laws

These laws require following rules of the road and helmet use for youth aged 16 or younger.

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-law-about-bicycles#massachusetts-laws->

MassTrails Grants

MassTrails provides matching grants to communities, public entities and non-profit organizations to design, create, and maintain the diverse network of trails, trail systems, and trails experiences used and enjoyed by Massachusetts residents and visitors. Applications are accepted annually for a variety of well-planned trail projects benefiting communities across the state.

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/masstrails-grants>