

Draft Transportation Plan Update Vision, Goals, and Actions – Town of Harvard, MA; October 2021

Vision

Harvard will work to develop a safe and sustainable transportation system that serves all residents and other local stakeholders, allowing them the mobility to travel to work, school, commerce, and social and cultural activities. Such a system should ultimately be consistent with the Town's climate action goals and be accessible, affordable, safe, convenient, reliable, and comfortable.

Goals and Objectives

1. Create or enhance walkability and Bikeability throughout Harvard and connect system to region.
2. Develop and execute a transportation facilities maintenance assessment program and connect to a capital improvements plan.
3. Enhance safe, secure, and interconnected transportation facilities and modes within Harvard
 - a. Identify road segments and intersections requiring traffic calming and enhanced safety measures.
 - b. Work to ensure that all transportation projects are increasing safety and calming traffic
 - c. Integrate alternative transportation modes into Harvard as opportunities and development patterns emerge.
4. Create sufficient and convenient parking for destinations throughout Harvard.

Goal 1: Create or enhance walkability and Bikeability throughout Harvard and connect system to region.

Objective 1.1: Make sidewalk and bicycle facility improvements in the Town Center in conformance with the Town Center Circulation Plan (TCCP) and the Complete Streets Prioritization Plan (CSPP), as each may be amended.

Recommended Action(s)
Implement Complete Streets projects in the Town Center according to the Complete Streets prioritization list, as amended.
Review and update the TCCP and CSPP regularly, as necessary/

Objective 1.2: Enhance trails and other bicycle and pedestrian facilities throughout Harvard to enhance connectivity within and external to Harvard.

Recommended Action(s)
Complete a trail from the Town Center to Depot Road Fields
Complete a trail from Depot Road Fields to McCurdy Track
Work with DEC, MassDevelopment, and MRPC to establish bikeway connection to Devens via Old Mill Road
Explore bicycle and pedestrian facilities, appropriate to the location, for all road projects where feasible, but not impacting scenic road elements.
Work to connect Harvard trails and bike routes to regional facilities in cooperation with the NRG group.
Implement Complete Streets projects throughout Harvard according to the Complete Streets prioritization list, as amended.

Goal 2: Develop and execute a transportation facilities maintenance assessment program and connect to a capital improvements plan.

Recommended Action(s)
Develop and enhance a transportation facilities evaluation tool and framework and apply to prioritize improvements.
Consider the development of a 20-year town-wide capital improvements plan with a five-year programming timeline.
Continue systematic road maintenance based on priority projects.

Goal 3: Enhance safe and secure transportation facilities within Harvard.

Objective 3.1: Identify road segments and intersections requiring traffic calming and enhanced safety measures.

Recommended Action(s)
Develop and execute traffic solution for the Ayer Road/Poor Farm Road/Gebo Lane Area.
Develop engineering plans for comprehensive traffic and pedestrian improvements for Ayer Road within the C District (100% Town funds required for design)
With TIP funding, implement comprehensive traffic and pedestrian improvements for Ayer Road within the C District
Prepare engineering plans for comprehensive circulation improvements for the Town Center
With TIP funding, implement comprehensive circulation plan for the Town Center
Continue to implement the Town Center Action Plan and the 2016 update prepared by MRPC

Objective 3.2: Work to ensure that all transportation projects are increasing safety and calming traffic

Recommended Action(s)
Transportation Advisory Committee shall review and comment on all proposed transportation projects
Transportation Advisory Committee shall review site plans, special permits, comprehensive permits, and other projects that may impact traffic and transportation.

Objective 3.3: Integrate alternative transportation modes into Harvard as opportunities and development patterns emerge.

Recommended Action(s)
Develop a commuter rail shuttle service with assistance from MRPC and MART.
Identify all MART paratransit services and market their availability to the public

Goal 4: Create sufficient and convenient parking for destinations throughout Harvard.

Objective 4.1: Establish one or more commuter park and ride lots within Harvard to, among other purposes, serve as a pick up and drop off location for a commuter rail shuttle service.

Recommended Action(s)
Establish a park and ride lot on public land
If Action 1 is not feasible, seek to establish a park and ride lot on private land through a lease or shared use agreement

Objective 4.2: Establish public parking facilities to serve key nodes and destinations in Harvard.

Recommended Action(s)
For Mass Ave street parking, eliminate spaces from Library Walk to Pond Road and within 50' of the entrance to the Bromfield School. Retain the remainder as striped spaces.

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