MassDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Awareness and Enforcement Program
in partnership with published 12/07/2015

Dennis is one of 18 communities participating in the MassDOT multi-disciplined program to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety in Massachusetts. One of the components of the MassDOT program is to conduct walk and bike assessments that identify infrastructure challenges to biking and walking, and recommend short- and long-term improvements. These assessments are also a means of building local knowledge of the importance of well-designed bicycle and pedestrian facilities. WalkBoston and MassBike conducted assessments along Route 6A between Old Bass River Road and Nobscusset Road, and at three Cape Cod Rail Trail road crossings near the South Gages/Great Western Road intersection.

**Route 6A: Old Bass River Road to Nobscusset Road**

**Corridor - wide Recommendations:**

1. Provide a complete network of sidewalks along Route 6A with safe, comfortable, and frequent crossing opportunities.
2. Consider providing shared lane markings on Route 6A to increase awareness of bicycles until improved bicycle accommodations can be provided along or adjacent to Route 6A.
3. Provide pedestrian crossings at Old Bass River Road intersection.
4. Clarify parking configurations and signage on all approaches to the Old Bass River Road/Route 6A intersection to improve safety for all road users.
5. Reconstruct the Nobscusset Road/New Boston Road intersection to provide a modern roundabout with crosswalks across all five legs.

**Cape Cod Rail Trail (CCRT): South Gages Way/Great Western Road Crossings**

**Trail - wide Recommendations:**

1. Increase visibility of CCRT road crossings with high visibility signage and pavement markings on South Gages Way and Great Western Road.
2. Improve sight lines at all road crossings by trimming or removing vegetation.
3. Implement a system of etiquette and wayfinding signage to encourage respectful behavior among trail users and direct trail users to major landmarks, town centers and other recreational areas.
4. Study realignment of CCRT to eliminate crossing points and improve safety for trail users.
5. Study the feasibility of designing the trail crossings to be geometrically consistent with each other. Include a geometric design element to slow bicyclists.
Route 6A: Nobscusset Road to Old Bass River Road

Old Bass River Road/Hope Lane Intersection

Priority Improvements

Short-term:
1. Proceed with the proposed project to install a new crosswalk and curb extension across Route 6A at Old Bass River Road.
2. Relocate the detectable warning panels at the corner of Route 6A and Old Bass River Road to meet ADA requirements.
3. Install crosswalk warning signs at the crosswalk in front of the US Post Office, if crosswalk remains. Perform pedestrian counts to determine if the crosswalk should remain once the curb extension and second crosswalk is constructed.
4. Update parking signage to accurately reflect existing conditions on Route 6A.
5. Trim vegetation along existing sidewalks.
6. Reconfigure the parking and/or crosswalk between the fire station and the library to provide more visibility of pedestrians in the crosswalk.

Long-term:
A. Reconstruct the intersection to provide improved geometry and crosswalks across all four legs.

Nobscusset/New Boston Road Intersection

Priority Improvements

Short-term:
1. Construct a sidewalk along the south side of Route 6A.
2. Install a new crosswalk and rectangular rapid flashing beacon (RRFB) across Route 6A northeast of Nobscussett Road.
3. Add an RRFB at the existing crosswalk south of the intersection
4. Install broken edge line striping on Route 6A westbound and curve delineation signing through the intersection.

Long-term:
A. Reconstruct the intersection to provide a modern roundabout with crosswalks across all five legs.
B. Reconstruct the sidewalk northeast of Nobscussett Road to provide a buffer between the curb and the sidewalk.
Cape Cod Rail Trail (CCRT): South Gages Way/Great Western Rd crossings

South Gages Road Crossing

Priority Improvements

Short-term:
1. Install yield line markings and signage at the trail crossing.
2. Clear vegetation at the west trail approach to improve sight distance.
3. Construct a sidewalk extension to connect the sidewalk on the east side of South Gages Way with the CCRT.

Long-term:
A. Reconstruct the northeast corner of Gages Way at Great Western Road to reduce the radius or provide a mountable apron.
B. Consider constructing a trail wayside east of South Gages Way.

Driveway Crossing (183)

Priority Improvements

Short-term:
4. Remove the STOP signs on the trail approach and install a STOP sign on the driveway approach.
5. Install R10-15(modified) signs instructing turning vehicles to yield to pedestrians and bicyclists.

Great Western Road Crossing

Priority Improvements

Short-term:
6. Install yield lines in advance of the crosswalk.
7. Turn the STOP sign on the eastbound trail approach.

Long-term:
C. Install a rectangular rapid flashing beacon or pedestrian hybrid beacon.
D. Construct a curb on Great Western Road between the trail crossing and the driveway.