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FRAMINGHAM VOTES TO ACCEPT REVISED SITE PLAN REVIEW, INCORPORATING COMPLETE STREETS CONCEPTS

Framingham, MA – MetroWest Moves is pleased to announce that on May 12, 2015, the Town of Framingham voted during Town Meeting to accept a revised site plan review process. The purpose of site plan review is to protect the health, safety, quality of life, and general welfare of the community. Site plan review ensures that all projects provide the following: accessibility for all users; site design that promotes shared facilities, where feasible; opportunities for the implementation of Complete Streets, pedestrian, and bicycle amenities; access to open or community space; and preservation of historic buildings and neighborhoods. As part of this process, the Planning Board reviews project impacts on traffic, parking, municipal services and utilities, as well as the natural and built environment.

Specifically, Town Planners have made significant changes to Framingham's site plan review process such as adding requirements that bike racks, sidewalks, crosswalks, and an Urban Design Objectives Narrative be included in all new project applications. Parking, traffic, and environmental impact reports are also required.

Framingham, along with Hudson, Marlborough, and Northborough, formed MetroWest Moves, a Mass in Motion initiative to facilitate opportunities for people who live, work, and play in these communities to engage in healthy eating and active living. As part of its public health approach, MetroWest Moves is working to develop Complete Streets guidelines to ensure that transportation planning and development takes into account the needs of all road users: pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. Read about recent Complete Streets activities in these communities in MetroWest Moves' "Active Living Newsletters".

Benefits of community design standards such as Complete Streets include increased transportation choices, economic revitalization, creation of vibrant and livable communities, improved safety, and increased opportunities for daily physical activity.

MetroWest Moves is funded by the <u>Mass in Motion Municipal Wellness and Leadership Grant</u>

<u>Program</u>. For more information and to get involved in this exciting quad-community initiative, visit

<u>www.metrowestmoves.org</u> or the MetroWest Moves <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u> pages.