

October 1, 2009

Mission Statement

The mission of the League of Women Voters – Needham Transportation Group is to make Needham a place where residents are encouraged and rewarded for choosing safe, healthy and clean alternatives to cars for their local transportation needs.

Through research, public forums, and advocacy the Group will create and endorse a vision of mobility that balances our dependency on automobiles with public transit, walking, and biking alternatives. Areas of focus include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Improve public transportation options within Needham and to neighboring communities
- Support school programs that encourage safe, clean and efficient transportation
- Promote biking as a safe, clean and healthy alternative to cars
- Improve the number and quality of town sidewalks, crosswalks and off-street paths

The Group's efforts are consistent with other local efforts, such as the Green Streets Initiative in Cambridge (www.gogreenstreets.org), and national programs such as Complete Streets (www.completestreets.org). In the words of Complete Streets:

"The streets of our cities and towns are an important part of the livability of our communities. They ought to be for everyone, whether young or old, motorist or bicyclist, walker or wheelchair user, bus rider or shopkeeper. But too many of our streets are designed only for speeding cars, or worse, creeping traffic jams."

According to the 1995 Nationwide Personal Transportation Survey, 25% of all trips are made within a mile of the home, 40% of all trips are within two miles of the home. These are walkable and bikeable distances. Furthermore, 50% of the working population commutes five miles or less to work. And yet nationally more than 82% of trips five miles or less are made by personal motor vehicle.

The goal of the LWVN Transportation Group is to reduce the number of trips made by cars in Needham.