

# CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

CITY COUNCIL POLICY No. 2013 – 03

## WALK FRIENDLY COMMUNITY POLICY

**WHEREAS**, the City Council recognizes the benefits of walking as a key element of a healthy, efficient, socially inclusive and sustainable community, and

**WHEREAS**, all people should be able to walk safely and to enjoy high quality public spaces in the City of Portsmouth anywhere and at any time; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council is committed to reducing the physical, social and institutional barriers that limit walking activity;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the City Council adopts the following policy:

Municipal decision-making, practices and processes shall be carried out in order to further the following objectives:

- Provide clean, well-lit sidewalks free from obstruction, and with sufficient opportunities to cross roads safely and directly;
- Ensure seating is provided in outdoor public spaces in quantities and locations that meet the needs of all users;
- Provide protection for pedestrians from weather and climate elements with landscaping and facilities as appropriate (for example shade or shelter);
- Provide coherent and consistent information and signage systems to support exploration and discovery on foot;
- Build and maintain high-quality networks of connected, functional and safe walking routes between residential areas and local destinations;
- Provide an integrated, extensive and well-equipped public transportation service with vehicles which are fully accessible to all potential users and public transport stops and interchanges with easy, safe and convenient pedestrian access and supportive information;
- Encourage a pedestrian-friendly driving culture with targeted campaigns and enforcement of road traffic laws;
- Maintain reduced motor vehicle traffic speeds in residential areas, shopping areas, around schools, and in other areas with a high frequency of pedestrian traffic;

- Reduce the impact of busy roads by installing sufficient safe crossing points, ensuring minimal waiting times and enough time to cross for the slowest pedestrians;
- Ensure that facilities designed for cyclists and other non-motorized modes do not compromise pedestrian safety or convenience;
- Involve all relevant agencies at all levels to recognize the importance of supporting and encouraging walking and to encourage complementary policies and actions;
- Actively encourage all members of the community to walk whenever and wherever they can as a part of their daily lives.

This policy shall take effect upon the passage by the City Council.

Adopted by the Portsmouth City Council on: **October 7, 2013.**

Ratified by the Portsmouth City Council on: January 13, 2014.

Ratified by the Portsmouth City Council on: January 11, 2016.

Ratified by the Portsmouth City Council on: January 16, 2018.

Ratified by the Portsmouth City Council on: January 8, 2020.

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Kelli L. Barnaby, MMC, CMC, CNHMC  
City Clerk