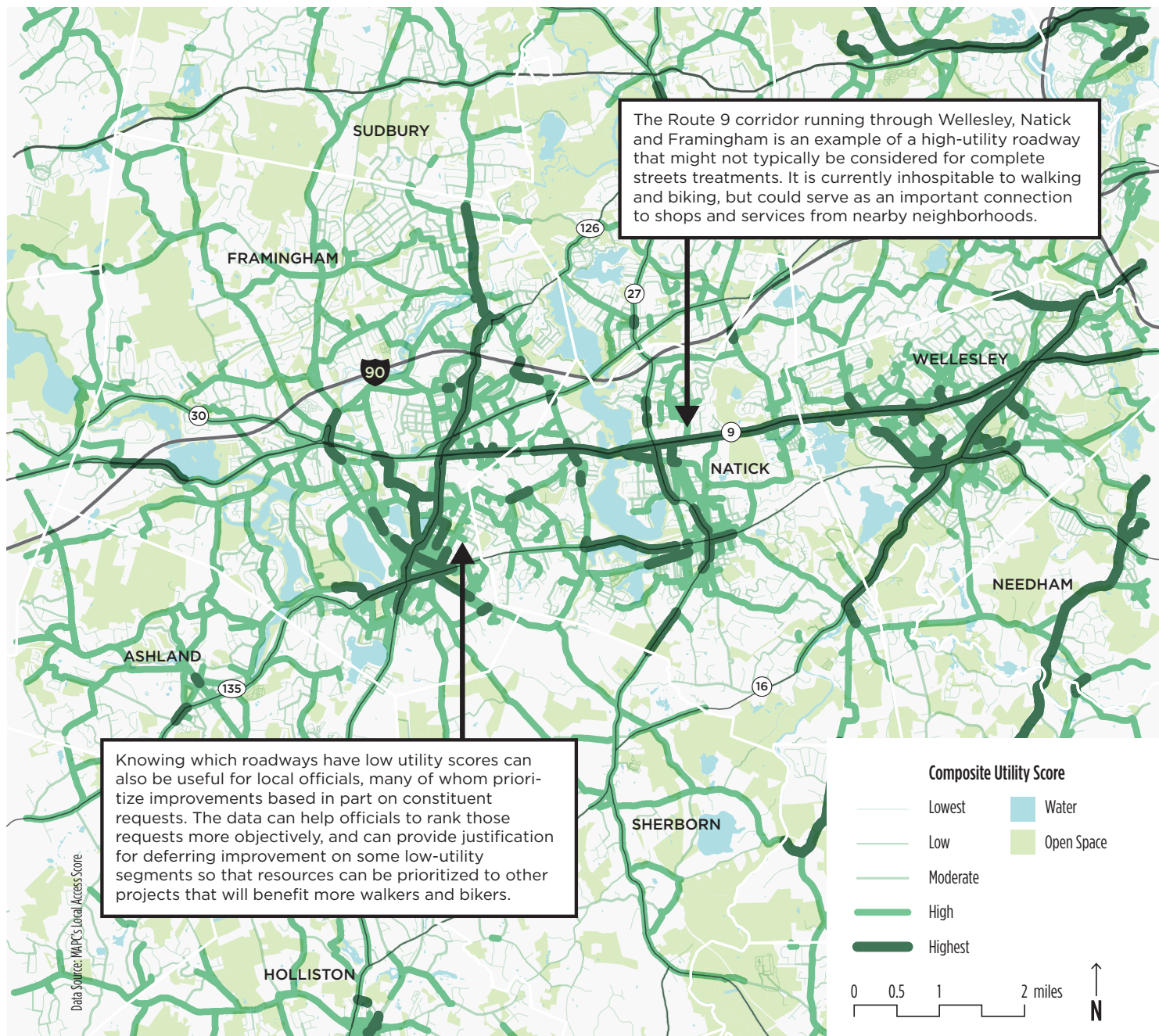




LOCAL ACCESS SCORES

Across the Commonwealth, communities are looking for ways to make walking and biking a safer, healthier, and more convenient way to get around. It is increasingly clear that the need for new sidewalks, wheelchair ramps, bike lanes, and protected infrastructure like cycle tracks is great. Resources, however, remain limited. Municipalities pursuing a “Complete Streets” approach—making roads accessible to all users, whether walking, biking, driving or riding transit—face the challenge of setting priorities among a long list of capital and programmatic needs.

How does a community determine which improvements would have the most utility for walkers and bikers? For a given segment of roadway, how many people would find it a useful route between points A and B? MAPC’s “Local Access Score” estimates how useful each street segment would be for connecting residents with schools, shops, restaurants,

parks, and transit stations, if safe and convenient pedestrian and bike facilities were available. By overlaying this data with information on sidewalk conditions, crashes, and available rights-of-way, communities can use the Local Access Score to inform and set priorities among Complete Streets projects, as well as road and sidewalk maintenance, snow clearance, and vegetation management.

Local Access Scores are available via an interactive online map and data download, and have been used by many cities and towns to support successful complete streets funding applications. To view this new tool, visit

LOCALACCESS.MAPC.ORG.