Roslindale Village Walk Assessment

walkBoston

Walk Assessment

Introduce all participants

Discuss basics of walking infrastructure

Walk through Roslindale Village

Discuss observations and recommend improvements

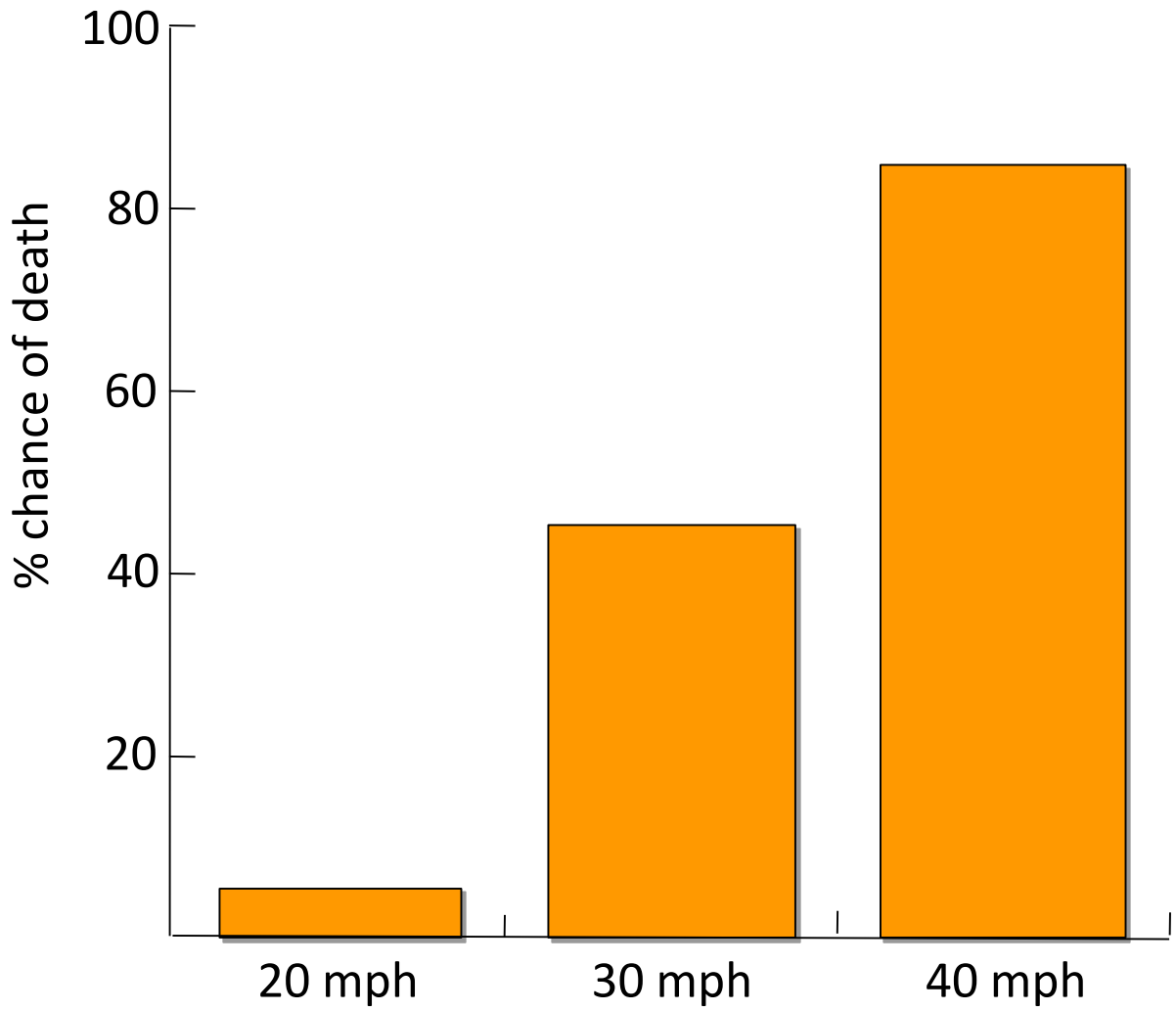
Next Steps:
Review report/submit comments

Walk Assessment

Purpose of a walk assessment

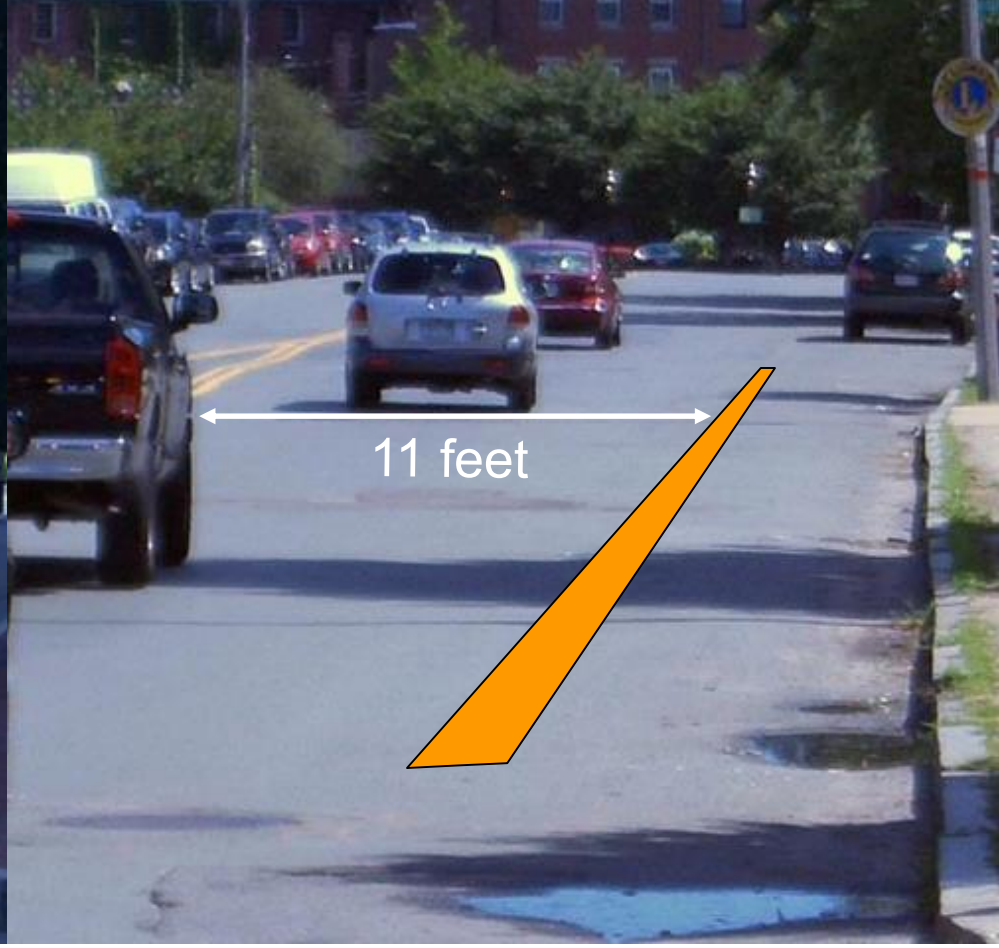
- Foster an awareness of the elements that contribute to the walking environment
- Evaluate the safety and quality of the walking experience
- Recommend improvements

Pedestrian probability of death



Road design methods to slow traffic

- narrow lane widths
- curb extensions
- raised crosswalks
- pavement markings
- parking buffers



Lane widths

- lanes should be no wider than 11 feet on main streets
- narrowing a travel lane from 11 feet to 10 feet reduces speed by 7 mph
- striping can cut a 16-foot lane down to an 11-foot lane

Curb extensions

- shorten crossing distance
- make walkers more visible
- provide larger waiting areas
- can provide informal public spaces



Crosswalks

- two parallel lines is standard
- ladder is much more visible and widely recognized: worth the extra cost
- should be repainted regularly: visibility is key to effectiveness

Safer crossings

- raised crosswalks (aka speed tables) are visual, acoustical and physical reminders to slow down
- in street crosswalk signs effectively warn drivers of mid-block crossings

Parking

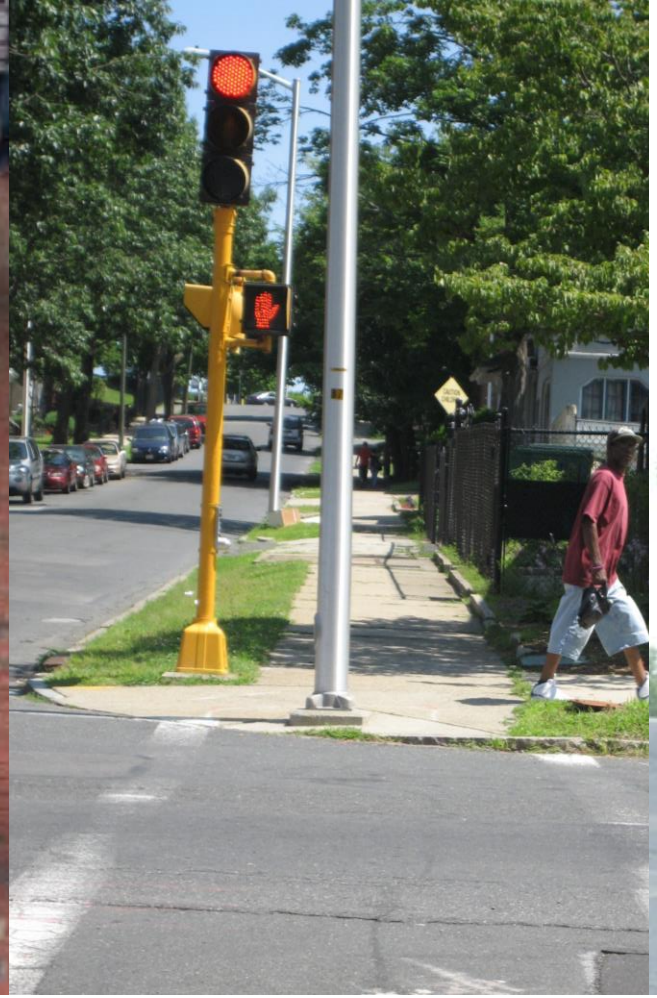
- slows traffic
- buffers walkers from traffic

Pedestrian elements that improve safety and comfort:

- pedestrian countdown signals
- wide, continuous, smooth sidewalks
- few curb cuts; tight curb radii
- separation from curb (verge)
- street furnishings (trees and benches)

Signal timing

- studies show that when countdown lights are installed at a high accident intersection, pedestrian accidents drop by 50%
- eliminating push buttons guarantees walkers always get a WALK signal


Passable sidewalks

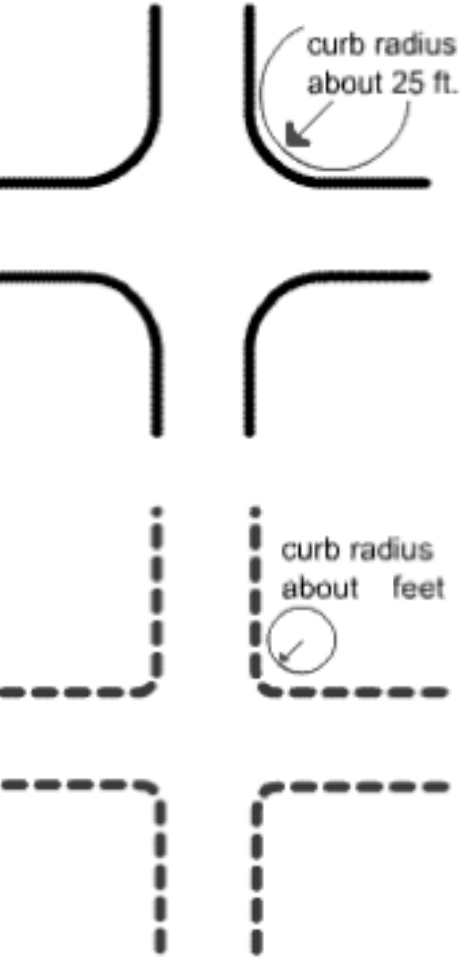
- sidewalks should be continuous, unobstructed and clear
- hedges and trees should be trimmed

Curb cuts and continuous sidewalks

- driveways/entryways should be narrow with flat, continuous sidewalks
- limit frequency: sidewalks are the pedestrian zone
- slope should be moderate and minimized as much as possible

Continuous sidewalks across driveways

- Continuous slope and material across driveway delineates pedestrian path



Tight curb radii

- Requires drivers to slow down when turning into the driveway
- Can be temporary installation or more permanent solution

Separation between the walkway and moving traffic

- trees or landscape strip
- parking/pavement change delineates sidewalk edge

Trees, benches, trash receptacles

- pedestrian scale elements that make people feel like they belong
- add vibrancy to downtown center