Proposed North Brookline District Designated for Enhanced Pedestrian Friendly Features

BrooklineCAN Livable Community Advocacy Committee
Brookline Age-Friendly City Committee

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Contact:
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Proposed North Brookline District
designated for
Enhanced Pedestrian Friendly Features

BrooklineCAN’s Livable Community Advocacy Committee and the Age-Friendly City Committee propose that Brookline establish a district in North Brookline that is designated to receive enhanced pedestrian-friendly features. The major emphasis will be on sidewalks and cross walks. The underlying principle is that sidewalks and crosswalks that are most extensively used should receive the most supportive attention from the Town.

The nominations of public rights of way for pedestrian enhancements were based on presumed volume of pedestrian traffic. The district includes commercial areas, the Civic Center, multi-family residential buildings, public transportation lines, and routes to schools. The premise is that pedestrians are traveling from their residences to destinations in commercial areas, the Civic Center, public transportation stops, public parks, and schools. Some are also walking (or running) from one commercial center to another. Some are walking between the Civic Center and commercial areas.

A four-fold classification of rights of way is proposed. Those with the least pedestrian traffic are nominated for Standard (S) treatment. Those with the most pedestrian traffic are classified AAA. Rights of way with AAA ratings are to receive the most enhancements. Other rights of way are classified as AA and A. They are to receive enhancements but at lower levels than AAA rights of way. A chart is attached that lists potential enhancements and indicates how enhancements might be allocated among the tiers. Maps are attached showing how rights of way might be classified.

The proponents are asking the Town to recognize the district and adopt a classification of the rights of way within the district. Once established, the classification system will guide the Town in its capital expenditure and allocation of services to support walking within the district.
The WalkUP Wake-Up Call:

Boston

By Christopher B. Leinberger & Patrick Lynch

The George Washington University School of Business
Aims on behalf of pedestrians:

- Efficient access to varied destinations
- Safety
- Protection from summer sunlight
- Visibility at night
- Opportunities for resting
- Positive experiences that motivate walking and jogging for exercise
Key Elements of North Brookline Pedestrian-Friendly District:

- Strong public transportation
- Vibrant commercial clusters
- High residential density
Strong Public Transportation on Major Transportation Corridors:

• Beacon Street and Green line (C)
• Green Line (D)
• Harvard Street and Route 66 bus
• Washington Street and Route 65
Commercial Areas Near Public Transportation Stops

• Coolidge Corner
• Brookline Village
• St. Mary’s
• Washington Square
• JFK Crossing
Large Multifamily Residential Buildings Surrounding Commercial Areas
Schools Within the District:

• Devotion
• Pierce
• Lawrence
• St. Mary’s (parochial)
• Driscoll
Walking Destinations
Sidewalk Enhancements:

- Greater width
- Benches
- Proactive enforcement of slippery sidewalk and vegetation bylaws
- Painted crosswalks at intersections
- Plowing after snowstorms
- Inspection frequency
- Street trees
- Superior street lighting
### Sidewalk classification KEY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AAA (red)</td>
<td>Highest priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AA (green)</td>
<td>Second tier for priority treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A (blue)</td>
<td>Third tier for priority treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Standard</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### SAMPLE: Sidewalk Enhancements and Sidewalk Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enhancements</th>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>AA</th>
<th>AAA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extra width</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benches</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parklets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proactive enforcement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snow plowing</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>Painted crosswalks</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Lighting / Sidewalk Illumination</td>
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<td>Inspection</td>
<td>Bi-annual</td>
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<td>Bi-annual</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
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<td>Street trees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Compliance with ADA requirements</td>
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</tr>
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</table>
OVERVIEW: NORTH BROOKLINE, MA
Detail: BROOKLINE VILLAGE
Detail: WASHINGTON SQUARE
Detail: JFK Crossing
Detail: ST. MARY’S
How comfortable is your route?

EXISTING CONDITIONS ANALYSIS

Bicycle Level of Comfort

1 2 3 4 5
high comfort low comfort