



| ped advocacy 101

DURING THE NEXT 20 MINUTES

- who we are / what we do
- what makes a neighborhood walkable
- how you can make a difference

making communities more walkable

WalkBoston encourages walking throughout Massachusetts for transportation, health and vibrant communities. Our education and advocacy programs give voice to citizens to make their communities walkable.

What makes a neighborhood walkable?

- good sidewalk design
- good street design
- safe intersections & crossings
- clean streets & maintenance

1. sidewalks



FURNISHING ZONE

SHY ZONE

WALKING ZONE

Sidewalk zones

- Furnishing zone — attractive/useful amenities and infrastructure
- Walking zone — a clear walking path
- Shy zone — a two foot buffer since people can't walk right up against storefronts or benches



Furnishing zone

- trees, benches and cafes, mail boxes, trash cans, bike racks should be confined to this area



Pedestrian obstructions

- Cambridge Street, Boston MA: Au Bon Pain
- Eliminated “walk zone” obstruction



Walking zone

- Clear of mail boxes, trash cans, trees, benches, bus shelters, cafes, sign boards, signal/sign poles, etc.
- width is based on the number of people anticipated



Walking surfaces

- flat and smooth concrete or asphalt are best
- uneven surfaces trip walkers and cause vibrations for wheelchair users
- report if sidewalks are not well maintained



Curb Cuts

- driveways/entryways should be narrow with flat, continuous sidewalks
- limit the frequency
- slope should be moderate

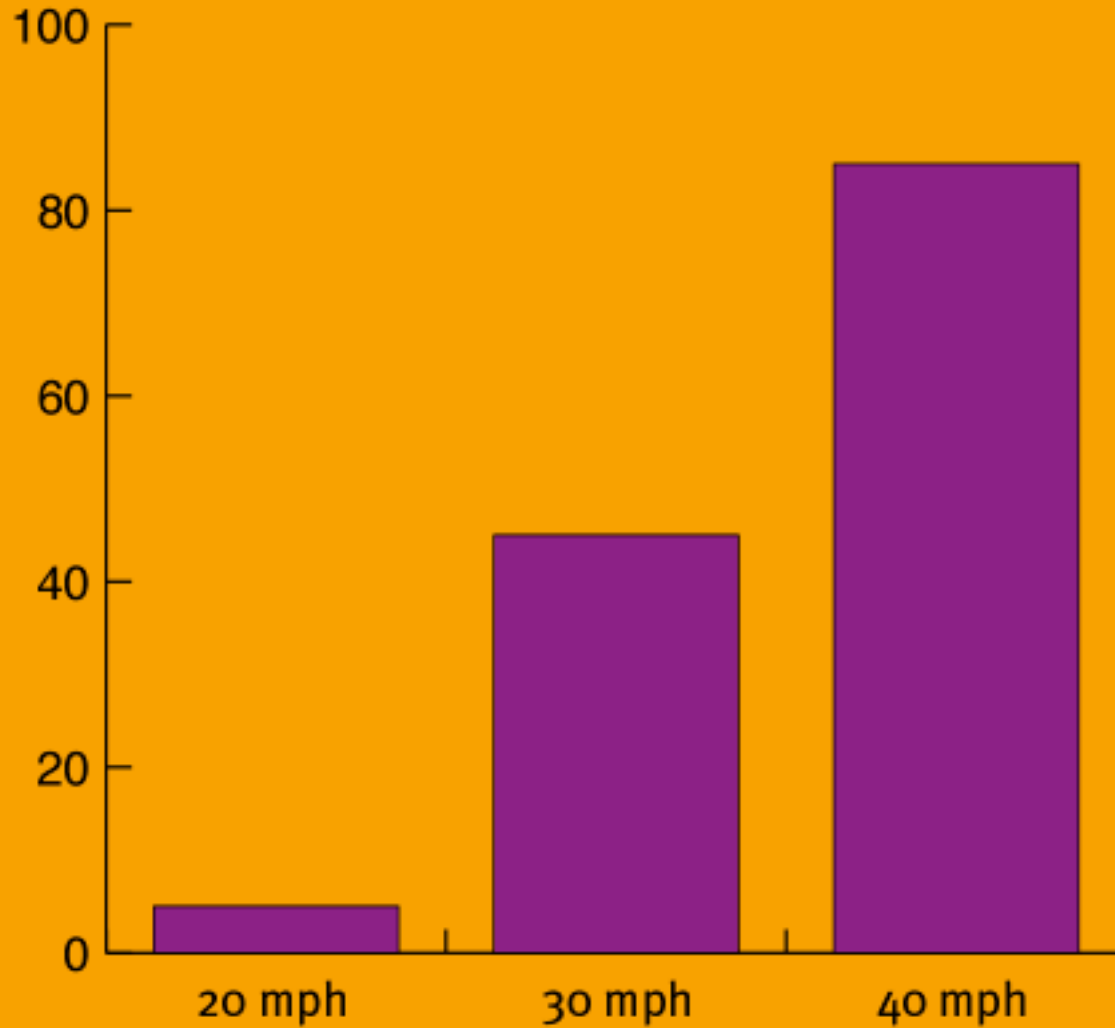


Continuous sidewalks

- Boston, MA Intercontinental Hotel
- peds shouldn't have to walk out of their way, sidewalks are not for cars

2. street design

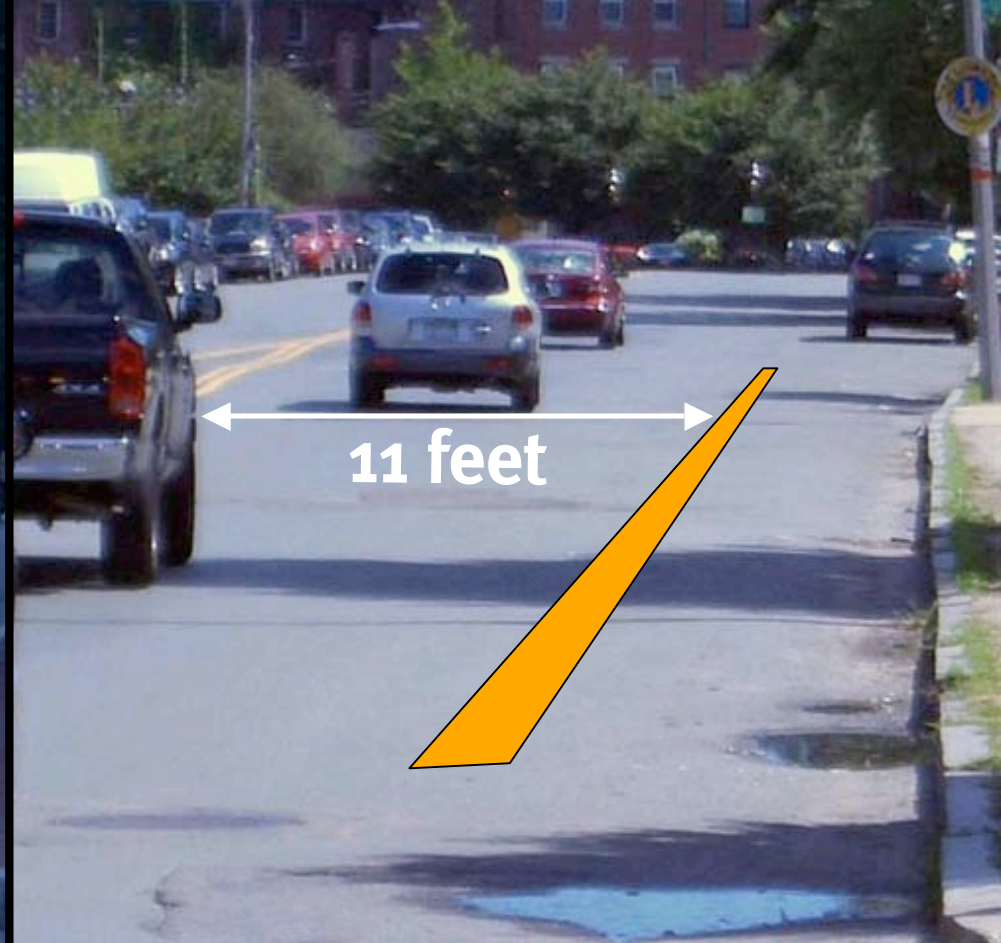
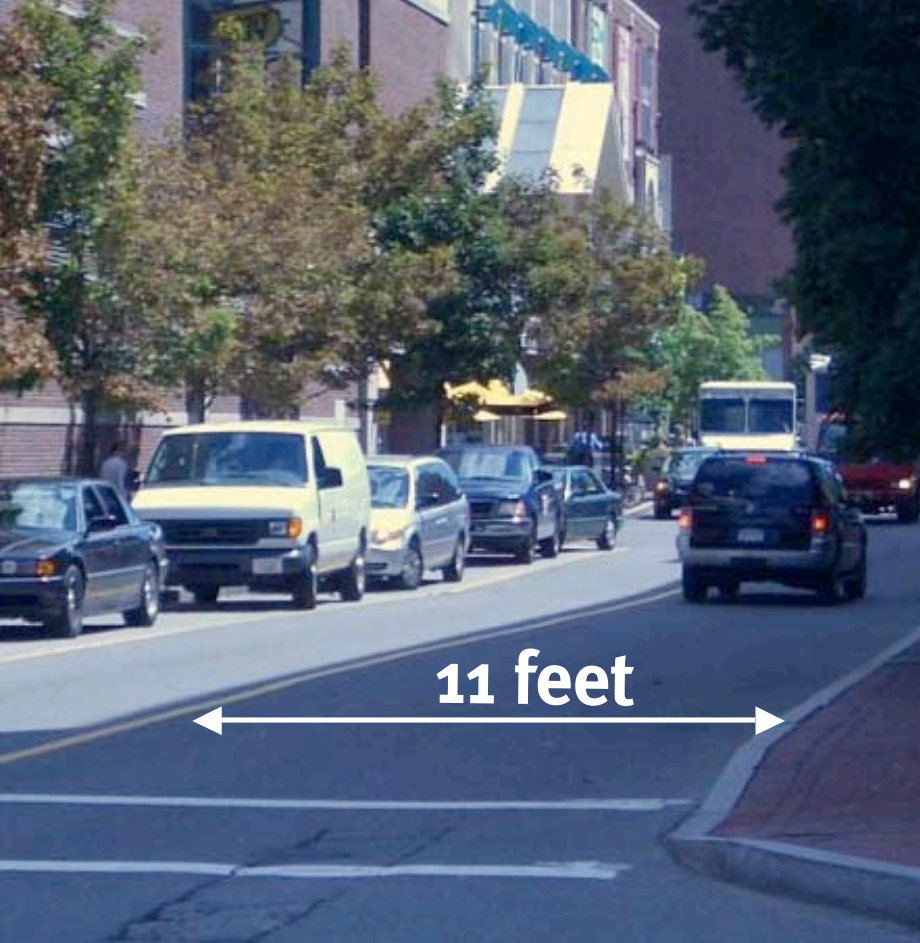
Pedestrian probability of death



Speed
well-designed
neighborhood
streets keep
motorists at
20 or 25 mph

Elements that keep pedestrians safe

- slowing traffic speeds
- narrow lane widths
- parking buffers
- vertical elements
- raised crosswalks



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



Re striping

- member Gus Bailey: Watertown, MA [along riverway]
- one lane of traffic removed, bicycle lane and parking added



Parking

- buffers walkers from traffic
- slows down traffic

3. crossings & intersections

Fact:

54% of pedestrian/vehicle crashes occur at intersections. Repainting, reshaping, retiming make a big improvement.



Crosswalks

- two parallel lines is standard
- ladder is better and worth the extra cost
- repainted regularly to maintain safety and effectiveness



Safer crossings

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



Curb extensions

- shorten crossing distance
- make walkers more visible
- provide larger waiting areas



Access to crosswalks

- keep free of street furniture, light poles etc. [infrastructure]
- these things belong in the furnishing zone with other amenities
- if there are more than 5-10 news boxes, call to have them removed



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

4. making a difference



Clean streets

- Residents, merchants and municipalities can work together to keep streets and sidewalks free of debris and graffiti
- solar bins need emptying 2x's daily, traditional ones up to 15x's per day



Crosswalk maintenance

- request repainting regularly to maintain visibility and safety
- this is something you can get done easily and can ask for right now



Snow clearance

- municipalities, property owners and residents are responsible for clearing snow from sidewalks & crossings
- clear adequate width for pedestrians & wheelchairs
- clearing curb ramps is essential



Passable sidewalks

- Sidewalks should be continuous, unobstructed and clear
- Be sure to keep your hedges and trees trimmed



Sidewalk Repair

- ask the Public Works Department to repair broken sidewalks
- be sure to give them a specific address [eg. 123 Elm Street]

Steps you can take over the next few weeks

- **Call/write** Transportation or Public Works Dept. with your request. Attach a photo to your letter. Specify an intersection or a specific address
- **Follow up by phone.** Keep a written record of names and dates when you speak with people
- **Boston/ Mayor's Hotline: 617.635.4500**
Somerville: 311
Other cities & towns: check web for contacts

Steps you can take right now

- reporting form - download it, fill it out, mail it in
- brochure - read it to learn how to advocate effectively
- walking audit - we can conduct one for you
- trash - don't litter and pick it up
- drive courteously - yielding to pedestrians
- walk home with your neighbor today - make plans to do it again

...and support WalkBoston

For more information

- more info at www.walkboston.org
- we can help you take action in your community
- we can connect you to professionals
- we can provide support materials



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