

APPENDIX A – Walking Audit Flyer and Handout

WALK GROTON!

Are you interested in making Groton a more Walkable community? Come join us as we "Walk Groton" on April 21st and learn how you can help!



When: APRIL 21, 9:00 AM (Rain Date 4/22) **Where: GROTON TOWN HALL**

By walking the streets of downtown Groton we can identify positive and negative aspects affecting pedestrian travel and prioritizing specific solutions that will increase safety and accessibility for pedestrians. Potential solutions could include addressing missing sidewalk links, intersections, crosswalks, signage and traffic calming. Come let us know how Groton can be more pedestrian friendly!

Agenda

9:00-9:15 – Introduction & project overview

9:15-10:45 – Walking audit

11:00-11:45 – Review findings, come up with possible solutions, wrap up

**All Groton residents, business owners, public officials,
young & old! All are welcome!**



What to look for while conducting a Walkability Audit:

Sidewalks – Are there sidewalks within the study area? Is the width/condition acceptable (at least 4 feet wide)? Do they have handicap access ramps at each crossing & crosswalk? Are there large cracks, bumps, dips, etc. present?

Roadways – Are the current roadways in good condition? Is speeding a problem? Are large trucks an issue? Are drivers able to see pedestrians in crosswalks – is there adequate sight distance?

Crosswalks – Are the current crosswalks adequate? Do you feel safe while crossing at the crosswalks? Are vehicles parked closer than 10 feet to the crosswalks? Are there no parking zones near crosswalks? Is the striping on the crosswalk visible?

Trails – Are the trails in the area accessible to the study area? Are there guide signs to help people navigate to those trails & trail parking areas?

Parks/Public Gathering spots – Are these located nearby? Are they accessible? Is the number of parks/gathering spots adequate for the area?

Shade Trees/Benches – Are there sufficient areas to take a rest? Will you be walking in the sun most of the time or are there shaded areas to cool off in the summer?

Parking – Is there ample parking available within the study area? Are parked cars a problem within the study area? Are there guide signs to show where the parking areas are?

Attractions – What are the local attractions or key destinations that you walked by? (ex. library, parks, shops) Is there a local attraction guide or signs for visitors?

Other questions to consider-

1. What are the positive aspects of your walking route?
2. Would this walk be adequate for a young child, elderly person, or a disabled person?
3. What would make this area more walkable for all users?
4. What would encourage more walking in the area? What's missing?
5. What are the concerns regarding walking within the study area?
6. Are the neighborhoods in the area considered mixed income? Is there a variety of housing types in the area?
7. Did you see other people out walking within the study area?

APPENDIX B – Walking Audit Comments

Groton Walkability Notes

Positives-

(Numbers 1-7 are listed by priority from the stars on the poster board)

1. Good places to go – businesses, food, recreation, etc
2. There ARE sidewalks – most of the study area has a sidewalk that's in good condition
3. There are historic buildings/areas in the town center
4. Many gardens/foliage along walking routes – aesthetically pleasing
5. The sidewalks are plowed in the winter
6. There are many rail trail access points
7. The town center includes a good mix in housing/income
8. The crosswalks are painted and visible
9. The sidewalk widths were adequate
10. There is an abundance of stores/shops
11. The existing sidewalks are relatively flat and easy to walk on
12. Good playground/Library access

Negatives & Issues-

(Numbers 1- 15 are listed by priority from the stars on the poster board)

1. Missing sidewalk along Route 119 to CVS/Johnson's
2. Missing sidewalk along Route 119 to Mill Run Plaza
3. Advanced warning signs are needed to show speed limits, designated town center/residential areas, crosswalks, parking, etc.
4. The speed limit on Route 119 is too high – the roadway is narrow due to on street parking
5. Parking too close to crosswalks – no buffer
6. Broadmeadow & Main St – dangerous intersection
7. Water station to refill water bottles (other than the water fountain at town hall)
8. Rail trail is not marked (Broadmeadow Road in particular)
9. Sidewalks needed along Route 40 to Gibbet Hill
10. Entering/Exiting vehicles from plazas (ex. Dunkin Donuts) – too many curb cuts & conflict points
11. Bump outs along crosswalks may help slow vehicles

12. Sidewalks needed along Groton Common
13. Speeding is a problem through the town center
14. Distracted drivers/pedestrians
15. Municipal parking lot needed
16. Sidewalks needed on Willowdale Road to the Willowdale Elderly facility
17. Drivers are passing other drivers who are stopped for pedestrians
18. U-Turns on Route 119
19. Sidewalks across driveways
20. Sight distance problems (ex. Coming out of Playground Road)
21. Lacking sidewalk connectivity along side streets
22. Potential college locating in Groton may add to number of walkers
23. Dangerous stretch of road in front of Library (blind turn)
24. Groton School/Lawrence Academy students walking
25. School St & Legion Road lack curbing
26. Should put utilities underground/beautify the area
27. Cars parked on roadside create blind spots
28. Pedestrians assume drivers see them
29. Speeding on Broadmeadow –used as a cut through & intersects with Rail Trail but no advance warning signs exist.
30. Poor lighting at crosswalks
31. No trash barrels available within the study area
32. Mixed crosswalk types, not consistent
33. Parking spaces along Route 119 are not marked
34. Lack of consistent sidewalks/curbing
35. Not all crosswalks have curbed sidewalks on each side
36. Raised crosswalks might help with visibility and slow down traffic