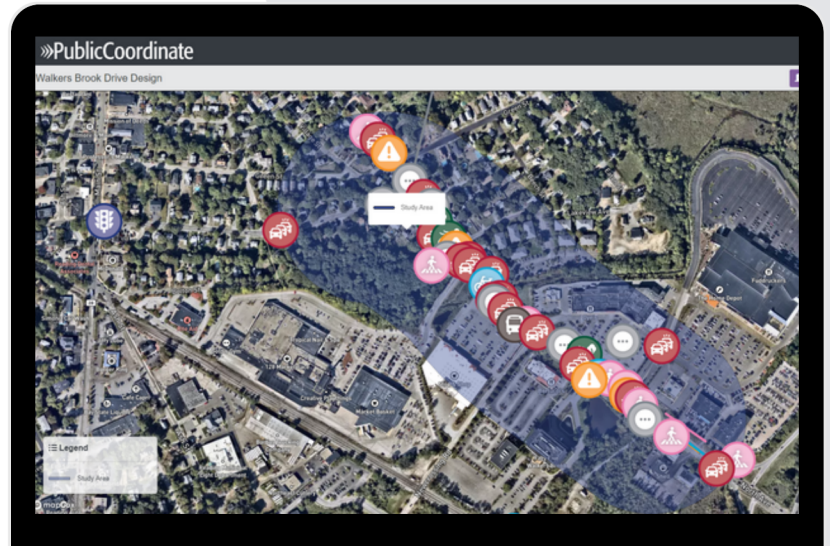


Walkers Brook Drive Public Coordinate Comments Summary

Sharing Your Insights Through Public Coordinate

The Public Coordinate interactive map provided visitors with a tool to view and provide feedback.



189

Comments Received

Through Public Coordinate 189 individuals provided feedback to transform the future of the Walker's Brook Drive Corridor!

A safe, labeled, and wide path for pedestrians, especially runners/joggers, to the top of lake Q would be great.

Even without a connection through to Wakefield better bike access would be important to access the shops and restaurants.

Add street and wayfinding signage (eg which way to downtown).

A modern roundabout would improve safety and flow, especially for left turns -- cars often come down the hill quite fast -- increasing the risk of collisions.

Shelter should be updated and more stops added

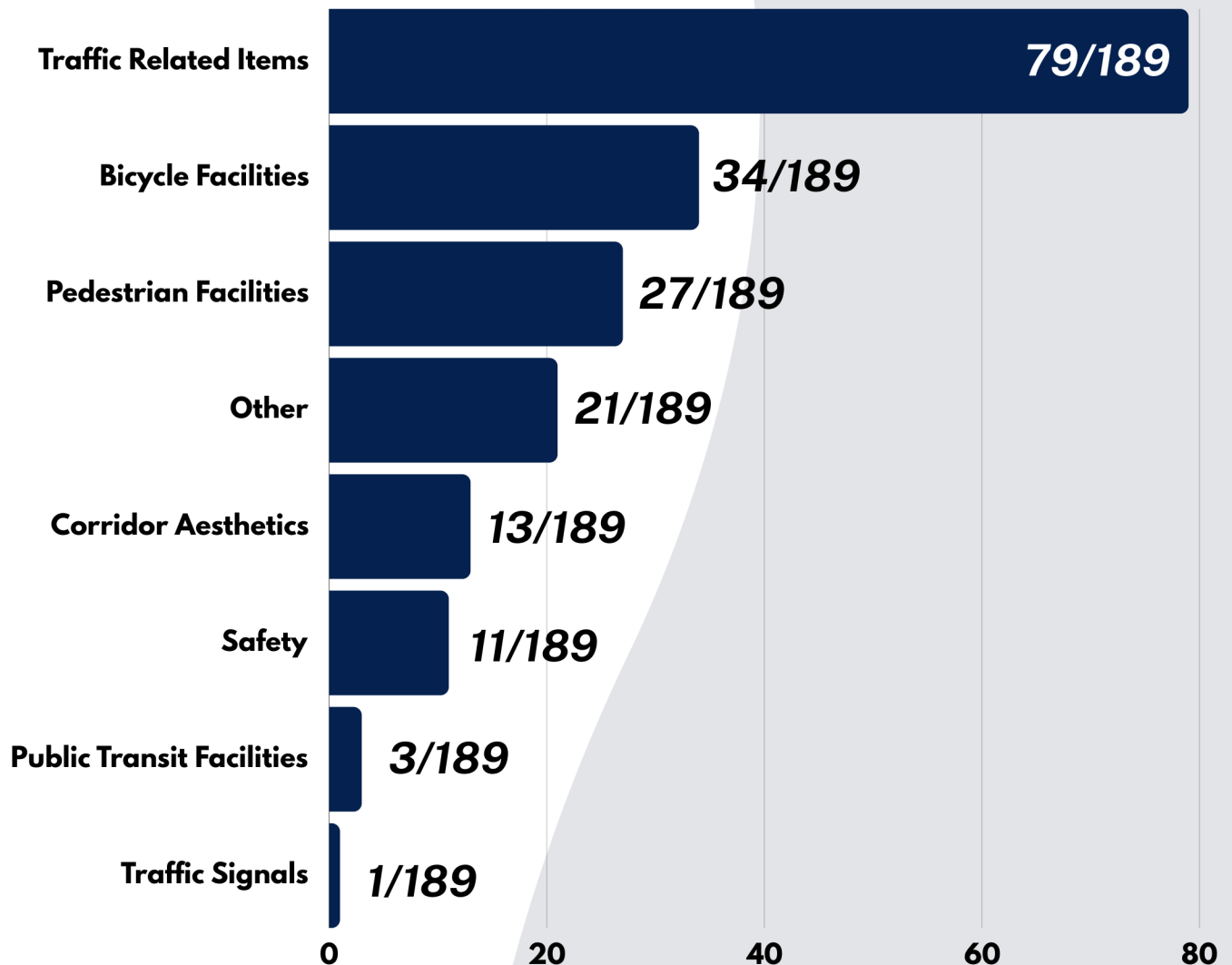
I think revising parking minimums, providing dedicated bike lanes, a safer pedestrian pathways, and more public transit would allow us to remove some of the parking and create more space for businesses and housing.

This traffic light takes an long time to allow right turns.

Traffic-calming measures (really needed on many residential streets in town).

Walkers Brook Drive Public Coordinate Comments Summary

189 people provided feedback through Public Coordinate and shared their thoughts about specific areas of improvement and modification in regard to the Walkers Brook Drive Corridor Redesign. The chart below depicts the number of comments provided in each category.



In the pages that follow is a summary of the community stakeholder feedback and priorities related to the re-design of the Walkers Brook Corridor broken down by category.

Traffic Related Items

Top Priorities (79/189)

- **Installation of Roundabouts**
- **Unsafe Left-Turns**
- **Synchronization of Traffic Lights**



Community members have shared key concerns and ideas about local traffic issues. They are keen on trying roundabouts, especially one near the expressway, to improve traffic flow and safety.

Many are worried about the risky left-turn lanes, especially near the main shopping area and at General Way and Walkers Brook Drive. They suggest more dedicated left-turn lanes to ease congestion and increase safety.

There is also a strong call for better synchronized traffic lights. Frequent red lights are causing delays and disrupting traffic flow. Synchronizing these lights could reduce stops and keep traffic moving smoothly.

Residents are also concerned about John Street being used as a shortcut. The street is hard to access, and speeding cars make it worse. They want measures to discourage cut-through traffic and ease congestion at intersections.

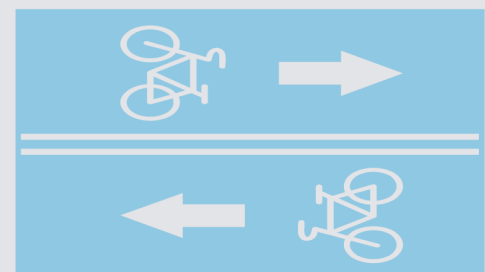
Another issue is the heavy truck traffic on narrow streets like John, Village, and Washington Streets. These areas struggle with regular traffic, and trucks add to the problem. People are calling for truck traffic restrictions on these streets.

In summary, residents want safer, more efficient traffic management, with a focus on making local streets better suited for handling traffic.

Bicycle Facilities

Top Priorities (34/189)

- **Add Infrastructure to Support Safe Cycling**
- **Necessity for Separate or Protected Lanes for Cyclists**
- **Impacts to Traffic Due to Narrowing the Roadway**



Opinions are split on adding bike facilities in the area. Some residents want them for better access to shops and restaurants, noting the current lack of safe cycling infrastructure. They argue for separate bike lanes, believing this would encourage more people to cycle by providing a safer environment.

On the other hand, some community members do not see these facilities as necessary. They worry about the space they would take up, potentially making roads narrower and less safe for both cars and bikes. They question whether there is enough interest in cycling to warrant these changes.

In short, the community is divided on the issue of bicycle facilities. Balancing the need for safe cycling spaces with concerns about road space and safety is a complex issue needing more discussion to find the best solution for everyone.

Pedestrian Facilities

Top Priorities (27/189)

- **Safe, Labeled and Wide Sidewalks**
- **Upgrades to Existing Pedestrian Equipment**
- **Sidewalks on Both Sides of Walkers Brook Drive**



Community members agree on the need for safe, clearly marked, and wide sidewalks, especially between Lake Quannapowitt and the town center. They believe these improvements are crucial for pedestrian safety in high-traffic areas.

There is also a strong call for updating old pedestrian facilities. Residents want to modernize these structures to ensure everyone's safety and convenience. They suggest having sidewalks on both sides of roads for better accessibility and to promote walking.

However, opinions differ regarding residential streets like John Street. Some feel sidewalks aren't needed there due to lower pedestrian traffic. This highlights the need to tailor solutions to each area's specific requirements.

In summary, the community largely agrees on the need for improved pedestrian facilities, such as better sidewalks and updated infrastructure. Yet, they also recognize that not all areas, like quieter residential streets, might need these upgrades. Finding a balance to address these varying needs is key to enhancing pedestrian facilities for the community.

Other Comments

Top Priorities (21/189)

- **Establish Public Parking on John Street**
- **Challenging to Access Shopping and Services without a Vehicle**
- **Reduction in Car-Centric Infrastructure**



Residents have shared a variety of concerns and ideas about the area's infrastructure and transportation that do not fit into specific categories.

A major issue is the narrowness of John Street, which people find unsuitable for public parking. They want more public parking spaces to help visitors, as there's a shortage right now.

A common view is that the area is too focused on cars, making it hard to reach shops and services without one. To fix this, there's a suggestion to manage access better, making it easier to move between businesses and creating a more walkable area.

Many also want to change parking rules to focus less on cars. They suggest making space for bike lanes, improving pedestrian paths for safety, and expanding public transport. These steps could lessen the need for parking, freeing up space for businesses and housing.

In short, these various comments show a desire for more sustainable transportation and infrastructure. People want less reliance on cars and better facilities for walking, biking, and public transport, aiming for a community that's lively, easy to access, and eco-friendly.

Corridor Aesthetics

Top Priorities (13/189)

- Rejuvenate Underused Spaces
- Installation of Wayfinding Signage
- Creation of Green Space



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Safety

Top Priorities (11/189)

- Institution of Traffic Calming Measures
- Improved Sight Lines
- Enhanced Pedestrian Safety Infrastructure



Residents have voiced several safety concerns and suggestions for the Walkers Brook Drive Corridor, focusing on road and pedestrian safety.

A major issue is the high speed of vehicles, especially in residential areas. People widely support traffic calming measures, like speed bumps, to slow down cars and enhance safety.

Visibility problems when turning left from John St. onto Walkers Brook Drive towards Main St. are also worrying. Poor sightlines make these turns risky for drivers and pedestrians.

Pedestrian safety is a big concern. Issues include access to walk signals and the responsiveness of traffic lights. A proposed solution is building a pedestrian bridge for safe crossing near the Market Basket area.

In short, public comments emphasize slowing down traffic with speed bumps, improving visibility at intersections, and boosting pedestrian safety with better infrastructure. These points are crucial for future plans in the area, aiming to protect both residents and visitors.

Public Transit

Top Priorities (3/189)

- **Improved Transportation Options**
- **Regional Connectivity**
- **Updated Infrastructure**
- **Increased Accessibility**



The community is interested in enhancing public transit services to better connect and serve the area.

People want more bus routes from the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) to meet changing community needs and improve transport options.

A key idea is to create bus routes linking various shopping plazas in the town. This would make shopping more accessible and support local businesses.

There is also a desire to connect neighboring towns like Reading, North Reading, Stoneham, and Woburn with new bus routes. This would make traveling between these areas easier.

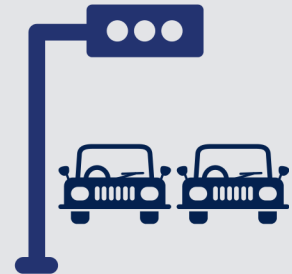
Concerns have been raised about the condition of current bus shelters, seen as outdated. Residents suggest installing new shelters and adding more bus stops for greater comfort and convenience.

Overall, the community wants better public transit facilities, with a focus on increased connectivity, modern infrastructure, and improved accessibility, making public transport more appealing for residents.

Traffic Signals

Top Priorities (1/189)

- **Efficient, Reliable and Synchronized Traffic Signal System**
- **Reduced Wait Times for Right Turns**
- **Smoother Traffic Flow**



Residents have shared concerns about traffic signals, focusing on improving traffic flow and reducing delays.

A major issue is the long wait for right turns at some traffic lights, causing frustration, delays, and congestion.

Another problem is traffic light malfunctions in the early mornings, crucial for safe and efficient commuting. These lights sometimes do not work or have very long wait times, leading to inconvenience and safety risks.

Synchronizing traffic lights is also a key concern. People are frustrated by encountering multiple unsynchronized red lights, which increase travel time and contribute to congestion.

In short, the community wants more efficient and reliable traffic signals. They hope for shorter wait times for right turns, dependable lights in the early mornings, and better synchronization to smooth out traffic flow. These improvements are seen as essential for safer and more efficient roads and transportation systems.

Walkers Brook Drive Public Coordinate Comments Summary

Project Goals

This project offers an opportunity to bring the community together and, through a collaborative process, develop its vision to create a vibrant and inviting street that enhances neighborhood connections. The desired outcome is to reach a community consensus for a preferred solution for the corridor that will increase mobility options to enhance access to community destinations.

- Provide the community and key stakeholders with design alternatives for the Walkers Brook Corridor. Design alternatives will include a variety of pedestrian, cyclist, and vehicular improvements while preserving the commercial use of the corridor by abutting businesses.
- Initiate a community engagement program to showcase alternatives and gather feedback.
- Solidify an overall community vision for Walkers Brook Drive and future implementation efforts for the corridor.

Design Process

