

2010

New Auburn Walkable Audit Report



Prepared by:

Androscoggin Transportation

Resource Center

Introduction

The Androscoggin Transportation Resource Center (ATRC), in cooperation with Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) conducted a Walkable Community Audit Workshop at the Barker Arms Mill on Mill Street in New Auburn on October 6, 2010.

Purpose

This report helps summarize the physical conditions, needs and opportunities for pedestrian facilities within and surrounding New Auburn village. By the close of the 19th century New Auburn was a thriving walkable community with numerous local factories, updated utilities, and established transportation routes.

Decades later, much has changed in New Auburn; many commercial businesses have closed their doors and industrial businesses have left the area. New Auburn may never be industrially successful again but the city feels confident that success can be found in mixed uses of residential, office space, small scale commercial and retail businesses.

With changes in economic opportunities, an evolution of the current landscape will be needed to make the community more pedestrian friendly. The information contained in this report will provide the City of Auburn and its residents with priority projects towards becoming a more pedestrian friendly community.

Methodology

Several hours of pre-audit work was conducted prior to holding the community walking audit. Work began with correspondence between ATRC staff, city employees and neighborhood representatives to determine the most appropriate area of the community to conduct an audit. Once the audit area was selected staff visited the neighborhood to walk the focus area and gain familiarity. The pre-audit walk involved taking pictures of good and bad examples of a pedestrian-friendly environment. The pictures were then downloaded into a PowerPoint presentation to educate workshop attendees about pedestrian design, safety, education, and enforcement.

Representatives from the City of Auburn posted fliers throughout the community announcing the upcoming Walkable Community Workshop asking for participation towards making New Auburn more pedestrian-friendly. The workshop was sponsored by MaineDOT and administered by ATRC staff; there were 9 participants consisting of citizens, municipal representatives, area businesses and civic organizations. It is presumed that participation at this workshop would have been greater if not for the heavy rain that day.

The workshop lasted four hours and included the PowerPoint presentation discussing pedestrian design, safety, education, enforcement, and encouragement. The workshop concepts were explained through specific examples relating to trail, path, and sidewalk conditions and pedestrian-scale safety and development standards. After the PowerPoint presentation, the group went outside and walked the focus area, stopping along the way to discuss existing amenities, identify obstacles to walking, and potential short and long-term solutions. Following the walk, participants were asked to write comments of what is needed within the project focus area on maps of the neighborhood.

The report has been submitted to the community for comments or changes prior to the report being finalized. Recognizing that some improvements are cost-prohibitive, improvements should be incorporated into larger public projects when possible.

This report includes a set of recommended improvements for the focus area and city-wide, a list of workshop attendees, and the promotional flier for the workshop. Recommended improvements include a timeframe for implementation and responsible party(ies) for implementing each recommendation. Timeframes include Short-Term (1-2 years), Medium-Term (3-5 years), Long-Term (6-10 years), Ongoing (trying to incorporate into public projects but no set time for implementation), and LCP (likely cost-prohibitive).

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Recommendations:

Crosswalks and Sidewalks		
Issue	Priority/Timeframe	Implementation
Improve sidewalks from Roak Street to Walton School	Short-Term	City of Auburn
Bury utilities to prevent pedestrian obstruction	LCP	City of Auburn, utility companies
Broad and Mill Street crossing needs to be analyzed for pedestrian safety	Short-Term	City of Auburn/ATRC
Broad Street and South Main Street crossing needs to be analyzed for pedestrian safety	Short-Term	City of Auburn/ATRC
Mill Street and South Main Street intersection needs to be analyzed for pedestrian safety	Short-Term	City of Auburn/ATRC
Develop bike paths	Ongoing	City of Auburn
Add greenspace between Main Street and Route 136	Long-Term	City of Auburn
Incorporate bike lanes	Ongoing	City of Auburn
Improve signage along store fronts at a pedestrian scale	Ongoing	City of Auburn/Property Owners
Improve sidewalks on Dunn Street	Long-Term	City of Auburn
Improve sidewalks on Mary Carroll Street	Short-Term	City of Auburn
Improve sidewalks on Mill Street	Medium-Term	City of Auburn

Improve sidewalks on Brook Street	Long-Term	City of Auburn
Focus on beautification through reuse and development	Ongoing	City of Auburn
Bike racks along the street and clearly marked trails or paths within the community	Modify Ordinance = Short-term Implementation = Long-term	City of Auburn
Add pedestrian scale lighting and incorporate benches within the landscape	Ongoing	City of Auburn
Widen sidewalks, relocate poles for ADA, and assess pedestrian crossing signals for accuracy	Ongoing	City of Auburn
Visual facelift of the east-west and north-south entrances into New Auburn	Long-Term	City of Auburn
Add landscaping to soften the appearance of New Auburn	Ongoing	City of Auburn/Property Owner
Speak with property owners to encourage maintenance of buildings and homes through vegetation, paint, etc.	Short-Term	City of Auburn
Implement New Auburn Master Plan	Ongoing	City of Auburn
Crosswalk improvement (paintings)	Short-Term	City of Auburn
Prune vegetation within the crosswalk	Short-Term	City of Auburn
Smooth crosswalks for ADA accessibility and pedestrian movement	Short-Term	City of Auburn
Remove/improve dilapidated buildings	Ongoing	City of Auburn
Promote/stripe on-street parking between Riverside Drive and pawn shop, and in front of Larochelle's	Short-Term	City of Auburn
Start road painting/maintenance earlier	Short-Term	City of Auburn
Add/maintain sidewalks near the schools	Ongoing	City of Auburn
Rollerdrome should be encouraged to add signage on Route 136 side	Short-Term	City of Auburn/Property Owner
Businesses on Riverside Drive should be encouraged to incorporate landscaping	Ongoing	City of Auburn/Property Owners
Sidewalk ramps need to include truncated domes to meet ADA	Ongoing	City of Auburn

requirements		
Improve civic pride in the community through contact with absent/out-of-town property owners	Ongoing	City of Auburn
Sidewalk improvements on Second Street	Medium-Term	City of Auburn
Improve building at the intersection of Broad Street and Second Street	Ongoing	City of Auburn/Property Owners
Add 'Welcome to New Auburn' signage near Rollerdrome and Mill Street across from Second Street	Medium-Term	City of Auburn/United New Auburn Neighborhood Association
Incorporate sidewalk on the southeast/southwest side of Gill Street	Long-Term	City of Auburn
Incorporate sidewalks on Sixth and Seventh Streets to Walton School	Medium-Term	City of Auburn
Add pedestrian-scale lighting up South Main Street and Broad Street	Long-Term/Currently Reducing	City of Auburn
Develop a connecting walking bridge over the Little Androscoggin River connecting Bonney Park to privately eased properties along the river	LCP/Long-Term	City of Auburn
Incorporate a walking bridge from the current park to Barker's Arm Trail	LCP/Long-Term	City of Auburn

Attendance Sheet:

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Attendance Sheet (Walkability Audit)

Maurice Fournier

STEPHEN J. MARTELLI

Larry Pelletier

Ray DesRube

Jean Walton

Ken Akhail

Gene Costlow

Jeannie David

Tammy Cummings

Walking Audit Flier:

NEW AUBURN WALKING WORKSHOP

October 06, 2010

1:00 - 5:00pm

Barker Mill Arms

143 Mill Street

Community Room



Who Should Attend?

Business owners, citizens, municipal officials, public safety officials, and others interested in learning how to make New Auburn an “active community environment”
(Bring your walking shoes - rain or shine)

