



Newton School Site Planning Panel Discussion
February 25, 2015

Walkable Campus Planning Principles (DRAFT)

A **walkable campus** considers the needs of walkers first when organizing the movement of people, bicycles, cars, and buses on the school grounds.

Safe Streets

- Ensure safe walking routes from neighborhoods to schools
 - connected sidewalk network
 - slow traffic speeds
 - well-marked street crossings

Safe Crossings

- Make all crosswalks leading to the school campus safe and child-friendly
 - Signal protected crosswalks
 - Short crossing distances
 - Clear lines of sight
 - Signs warning drivers of crosswalk ahead
- Minimize crossings to the front door once on school grounds
- Paint crosswalks boldly and maintain them regularly

Safe Drop-off Zones

- Separate walkers primary path to the front door from bus and vehicle drop-off lanes
- Consider closing neighborhood street during school arrival and dismissal times rather than dedicating campus green space to drop-off zones

Car drop-off

- Design simple approach that leaves little room for driver interpretation
 - Curb striping and pavement markings
 - Signs
 - One-way circulation pattern
- Locate the student loading/unloading area at the far end of the lane to maximize vehicle storage
- Allow adequate distance between drop-off area and sidewalks to protect walkers from approaching vehicles and opening passenger doors
- Do NOT encourage more parents to drive students to school

Bus Drop-off

- Designate exclusive “bus only” lane or driveway separate from car drop-off
- Ensure that design does not require students to walk between buses
- Locate pedestrian crossings outside of bus-loading zone; buses should not straddle crosswalks
- Locate bus area so that buses exit upstream of cars and gain priority

Safe Parking Lots

- Locate parking lots and access drives away from walking routes
- Avoid driveways that facilitate shortcuts through parking lots
- Reduce the number of parking spaces or share parking with neighboring uses; plan for daily use, not the worst case scenario

Safe Front Doors

- Give the school building a presence on the street and make it multi-story
- Locate building entrances along obvious pedestrian desire lines
- Design the façade to be welcoming

Safe Spaces

- Use site design principles that promote “eyes on the street”
 - Locate walkways and gathering spaces in areas that are visible and central to school activity
- Install good lighting throughout campus
 - Walkways
 - Parking lots
 - Building entrances
 - Playfields
- Located outdoor play spaces where children can reach them without crossing active driveways
- Reclaim space previously dedicated to cars for outdoor education and play