



safer streets for all in Dunstable Town Center

Public meeting #1 | 10/4/2023

Agenda | 10/4/2023

- 1 What is Walk Dunstable?
- 2 Why do a walk audit?
- 3 What we've heard so far
- 4 Let's walk!
- 5 Debrief & discussion

What is Walk Dunstable?

- A series of “walk audits” to study the walkability of Dunstable Town Center
- Individuals and teams observe and evaluate conditions
- Town will work with NMCOCG to gather observations and identify potential improvements.
- Town can then apply for grants to funds infrastructure changes such as crosswalks, sidewalks, and intersection redesign.

Project funded by a grant from AARP and NMCOCG technical assistance

Why do a walk audit in Dunstable?



Why do a walk audit in Dunstable?

- Gather input about infrastructure needs and investments needed
- Educate community about design elements that support safety for all
- Understand safety improvements that can be planned for residents age 8 to 80 (and beyond!)



Project Goals

Goal → Identify ways to enable people to “stop once” in the Town Center and get around without having to drive

Goal → Inspire development of safe streets for all users

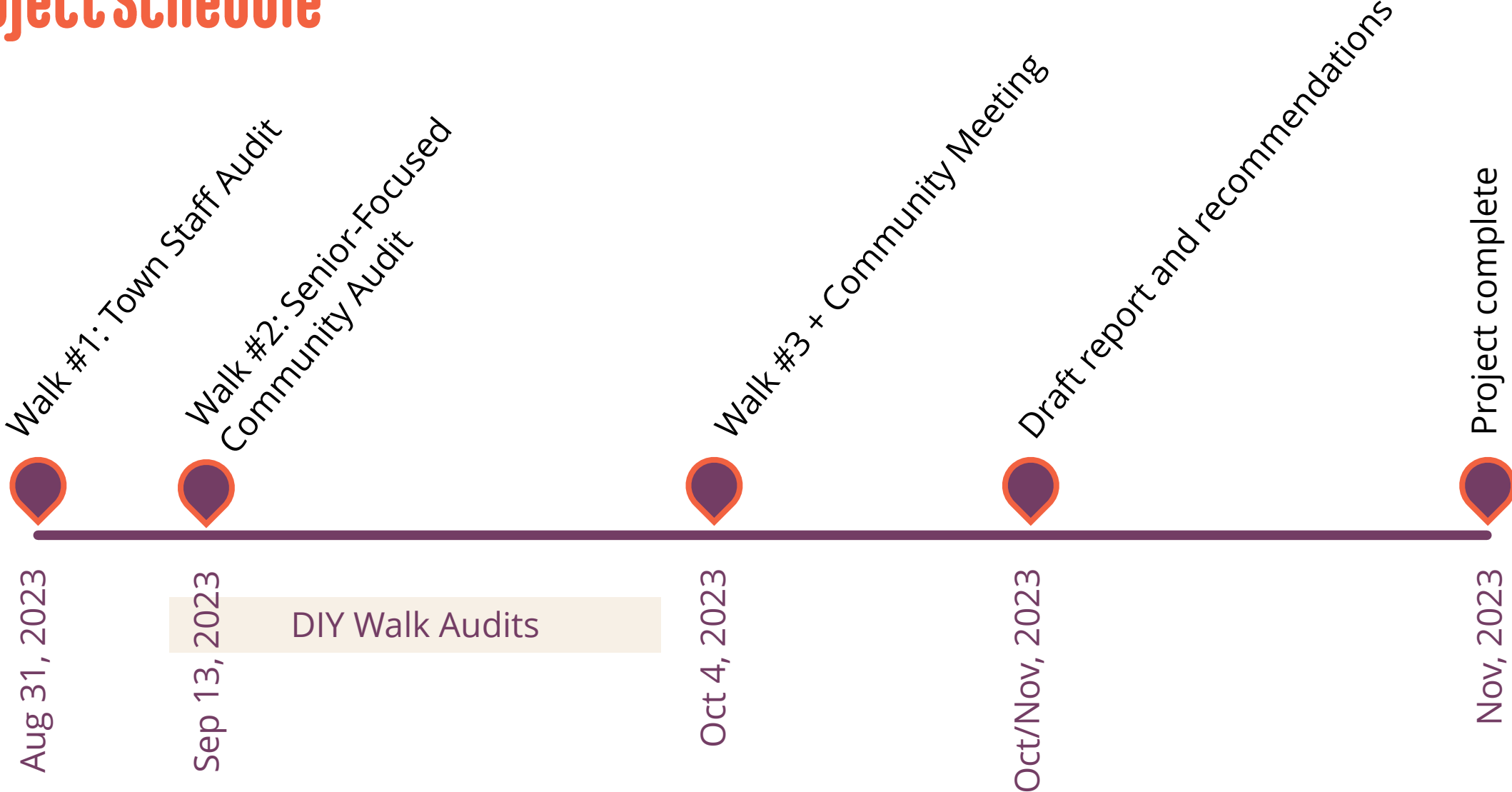
Goal → Increase exercise opportunities for people of all ages

Goal → Help reduce traffic congestion and pollution while increasing safety

NEW!

Goal → Create a sense of place and arrival by visually defining Town Center

Project schedule



Project Area



Project Area



Wickham & Willoughby

Town Hall

1

Dunstable Free Public Library

Farmhouse Cafe

Police Department

Dunstable Evangelical Congregational Church / Maple Village Preschool

Swallow Union Elementary School

Fire Department

West Auto Repair

old town well field & scales

town common & fields

HILAND ST

HIGH ST

MAIN ST

HILCREST ST

WESTFORD ST

ST

ST

Project Area



1

Dunstable Free
Public Library

Farmhouse Cafe

Police Department

Fire Department

West Auto Repair

old town
well field
& scales

town common
& fields

Dunstable Evangelical Congregational Church /
Maple Village Preschool

Swallow Union
Elementary School

Wickham &
Willoughby

Town Hall

2

MAIN ST

HILLCREST ST

WESTFORD ST

brook

ST

ST

HILLCREST ST

What we are studying

- Where are there crosswalks, and where are crosswalks needed?
- Are drivers alerted to crossing locations?
- Are there places to sit, shaded areas, shelter?
- Is signage and lighting well-placed and pedestrian scaled?
- Is the speed limit suitable (and obeyed by drivers)?
- Are pedestrians safe from moving vehicles?

Sidewalks, Streets & Crossings

Posted speed limit(s): _____

Do the motorists appear to be obeying the speed limit(s)? _____

Total number of vehicle lanes: _____

If more than one lane: Does the roadway have _____ The street is: on on

The street has: no sidewalk a median and/or no sidewalk partial sidewalk sidewalks

no sidewalk but needs two a sidewalk on one side of the street sidewalks

THE STREET

1. Has traffic lights and/or stop signs at intersections and pedestrians
2. The traffic lights and/or stop signs are clearly visible and pedestrians
3. Has crosswalks
4. The crosswalks are well marked and clearly visible and pedestrians
5. Has signage alerting drivers to the presence of pedestrians
6. Has a designated bicycle lane
7. Has a pedestrian crossing signal, also called a _____ (if yes, complete the next section)

THE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SIGNALS

YES | NO | OTHER *Skip any statements that don't apply*

1. Are working
2. Have a "push-to-walk" mechanism, meaning _____ vehicle traffic
3. Have audible prompts for people with visual impairments
4. Are placed in appropriate locations (if not, indicate the amount of time provided: _____)
5. Provide enough time to cross (indicate the amount of time provided: _____)
6. Provide suitable opportunities to cross (indicate the amount of time pedestrian in order to cross: _____ minutes)

Build A Better Block

Would the safe walkability and appeal of the walk audit by any of the following features? Select those you think could be added.

1. Sidewalks (because there aren't any at all)
2. Sidewalk repairs
3. Wider sidewalks
4. Safety barriers between the sidewalk and street (landscaping, bollards, etc.)
5. Decorative sidewalks (because there aren't any at all)
6. Crosswalks
7. Raised crosswalks
8. Artistic crosswalks
9. Pedestrian "bulb-outs" at intersections or crossings
10. Pedestrian Island(s)
11. Pedestrian-friendly lighting
12. One-way rather than two-way traffic
13. Decorative and/or directional furnishings for public use (benches, tables, parklets, etc.)
14. Outdoor seating and directional (also called "wayfinding") signage
15. Public art (sculpture, wall murals, banners)
16. More street-level/street-facing shops and businesses
17. Shelter from the elements (awnings, outdoor umbrellas, etc.)
18. Green space (such as a small park or "pocket park")
19. Street trees and landscaping
20. Improved landscape maintenance
21. Drinking fountains
22. Public restrooms (or, if already present, better maintenance)
23. Litter removal
24. Graffiti removal
25. Trash receptacles
26. Security features (cameras, call-boxes, etc.)
27. Management of off-leash dogs
28. Repair or removal of vacant or rundown buildings
29. On-street parking
30. Parking garage or structure

AARP Walk Audit Tool Kit Worksheet

Examples of Issues



With such a large intersection and no crosswalks or pedestrian beacons, walking here is difficult and dangerous



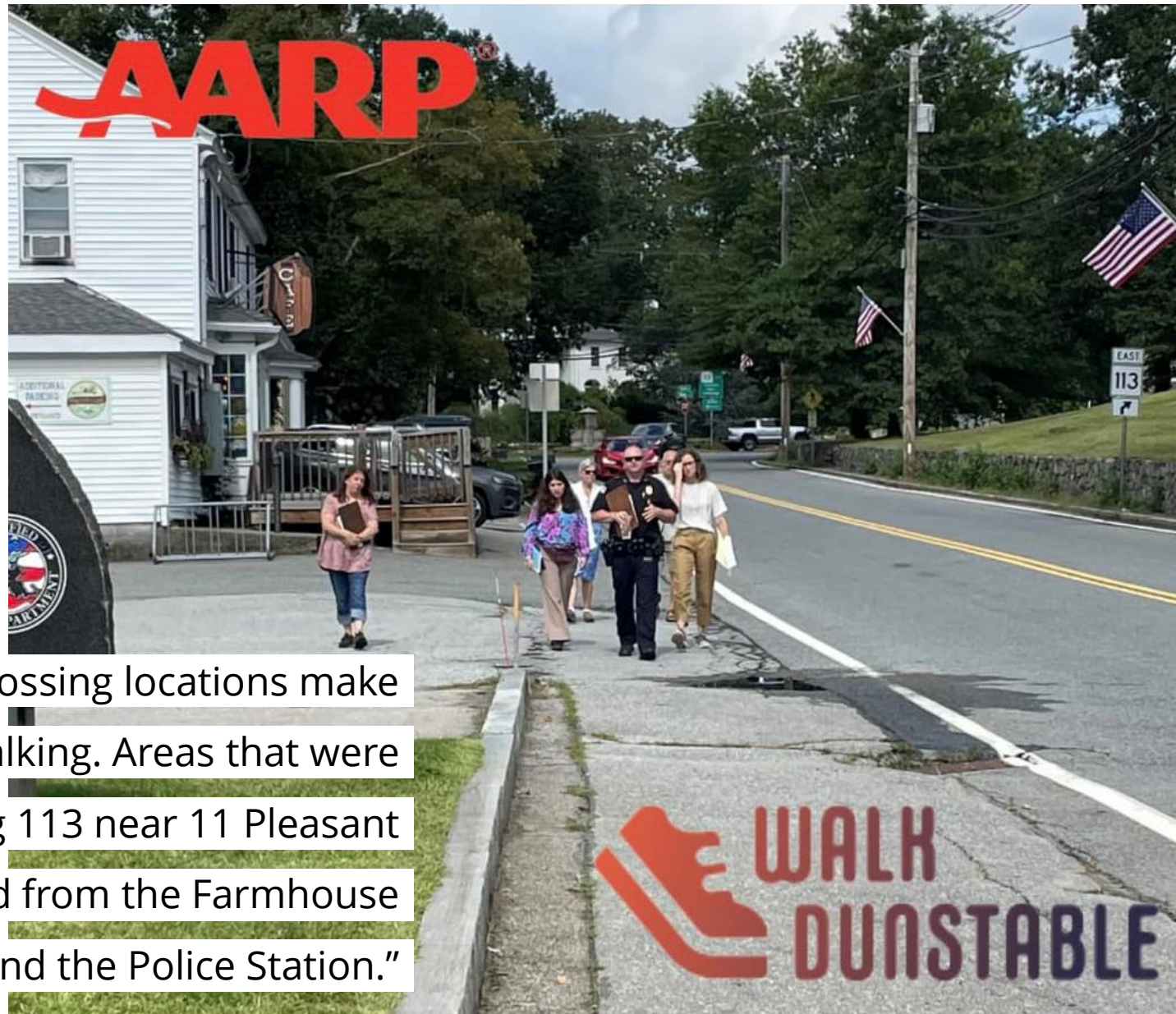
Children can't safely cross this street to travel between their homes (in a development on the left) and the elementary school (seen on the right).

What we've heard

Safe and beautiful, just not for pedestrians

- High speed traffic
- Trip hazards
- Lack of sidewalks and crosswalks

"Lack of sidewalks and safe crossing locations make this area unsafe for walking. Areas that were particularly unsafe were crossing 113 near 11 Pleasant and crossing to the playground from the Farmhouse Café and the Police Station."



What we've heard

Real opportunities...

- Sense of arrival and place
- Highlight historic Town Center
- Creating walking loop
- Access to recreation areas

“Having sidewalks from the center of town down to the library on Main Street and down Pleasant Street to Pond Street would greatly improve the walkability of the area. It would also define and update the town center as well as improve safety for pedestrian traffic.”



What We've Heard



- Improve crossing, slow down traffic at Library
- Create sidewalk from Center to Library
- Crossing at Main/Pleasant
- Highlight historic sidewalk, make accessible
- Improve walking for students
- Create sidewalk from Center to Shaw Conservation Area
- Improve seating and access
- Potential for walking loop?

Examples of Solutions



Pedestrian-scaled lighting



Pedestrian island



Flashing traffic signs



Curb extension or bulb-out



Artistic crosswalks

Examples of Solutions



Protected bicycle lanes and sidewalks



Tree canopy



Parklets



Road diet

Let's Talk (and/or walk)!



Discussion Questions



1

What is your experience of getting from place to place in the Town Center?



2

What are your biggest challenges to getting around Dunstable Town Center on foot?



3

Which local destinations might you want to be able to access by walking?



4

Are there unofficial “pathways” people use for walking on that could be made into sidewalks?

Wrap-up

