



TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Arlington Planning Department, 730 Mass Ave,
Arlington MA, c/o John Alessi

Date: May 8, 2024

To: The Select Board

From: The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Subject: Gray St Crosswalk Request

Summary and Recommendations

The Transportation Advisory Committee was asked to evaluate possible pedestrian crosswalk locations at either Endicott Rd and Gray St or Valley Rd and Gray St in March of 2023. A Tac working group made several site visits and took pedestrian counts on three separate occasions.

Our recommendations are:

- No Action to adding a crosswalk in these locations.
- Repaint the white edge lines from Bartlett Ave to Endicott Ave to have a consistent lane width.

Background

TAC has previously evaluated Gray Street from Pleasant Avenue to the Crusher lot in 2013 as a part of a large study of pedestrian safety along the Gray St corridor in conjunction with DPW, Brackett Safe Routes To School, and the director of transportation for Arlington Public Schools. TAC made several recommendations to lower speeds and add a new crosswalk. At the time Valley Road was evaluated as a potential crosswalk location, but too few pedestrians crossed at this location to warrant a crosswalk.

In 2023 TAC members made pedestrian counts to see if pedestrian traffic had increased in these locations at several possible peak periods: weekday mornings before the 8:00 start of school to try and count school children crossing and a Saturday afternoon to count pedestrians headed to Menotomy Rocks Park for leisure.

Traffic seemed orderly and there were many gaps for pedestrians to safely cross. It is noted that the road widens from around 24' to around 34' at Valley Road, which can lead to drivers subconsciously increasing their speed. A white painted edge line had been previously painted from Endicott Ave to Bartlett Ave and is now barely visible.

Some Observations from these visits are:

- Gray Street is very wide at Valley Road, and it is a long way to cross (about 34').
- There is good sight visibility at Valley Road between a vertical curve to the east and another to the west.
- There is no sidewalk on the south side of Gray St from Churchill Ave to Valley Rd.
- Four school children cross Gray Street at Valley Rd to access a school bus stop.
- Most children headed to Ottoson Middle School did not cross Gray St along this stretch.
- Many of the people crossing near Valley Rd were adults walking dogs and did not always cross at intersections.
- There were few vehicles parked along Gray St that could obscure a pedestrian trying to cross.

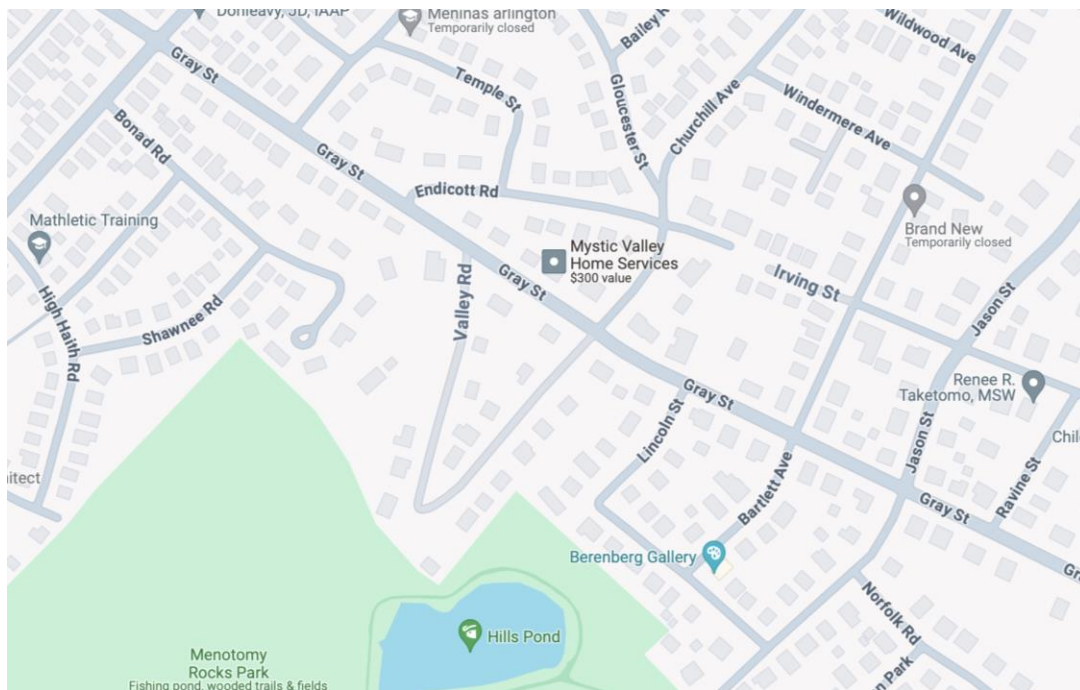


Figure 1 : Map of Gray St

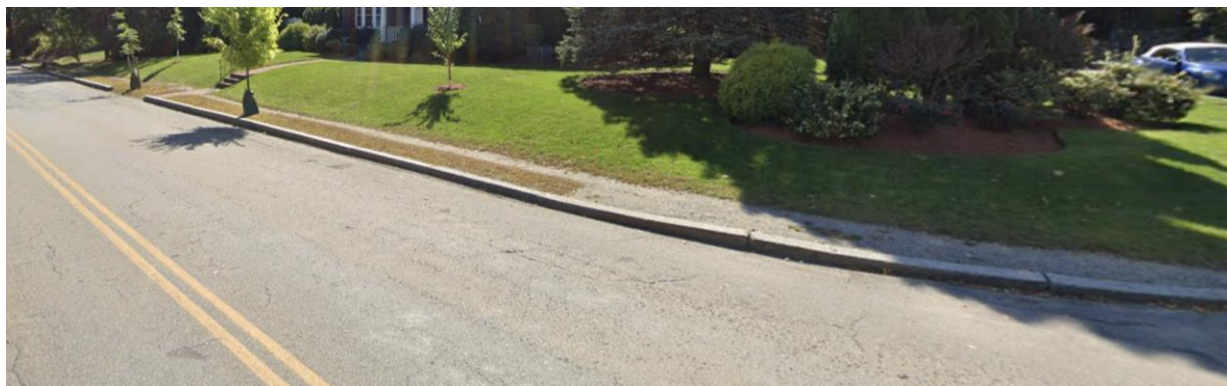


Figure 2: White Edge line along Gray St is no longer visible from some angles

Results

The pedestrian counts were adjusted to find hourly rates at three intersections along Gray St (See Appendix A).

Date	Time	Pedestrian crossings: hourly rate		
		Endicott	Valley	Churchill
4/28/23	Weekday AM Peak	0	4	0
5/6/23	Weekend PM Peak	1	1	15
2/2/24	Weekday AM Peak	2	12	2

Conclusion

There are not enough pedestrians crossing at one location to warrant a crosswalk at this time. Adults accessing the park are unlikely to go a block or more out of their way for a crosswalk in this area.

Repainting this edge line to have a consistent lane width will act as a visual cue for drivers to maintain their speed and can act as a passive traffic calming measure.

Appendix A: Pedestrian Counts