



Norfolk Center Framework Plan
Existing Conditions: Issues & Opportunities

TRAFFIC ISSUES

Route 44 is a state highway whose wide layout and steep grades make it hard for drivers to adhere to the 25 MPH speed limit. As a result, crosswalks feel unsafe and sightlines from intersecting roads are inadequate. The sweeping curve of Rt. 44 at the Village Green (1) keeps drivers moving quickly, and the sound of truck air brakes shatters the peace of the village as they head downhill.

PARKING LIMITATIONS

There are some 362 public parking spaces downtown, but most are along roadsides and not well-marked. Station Place has parking (2), but during busy events marked parking fills up and confused drivers circle the block. There is additional parking at Town Hall (3), at the Village Green and outlying streets, but it's not easy for visitors to find.

WAYFINDING NEEDS

There is little sense of arrival to Norfolk Center which, combined with the speed of Route 44, makes it easy to miss it entirely. With separate focus areas at the Village Green (4) and Station Place (5), it can be hard for visitors to see how everything is connected. Roads radiate out from the center, but don't connect well within it, and limited signage makes it that much more difficult to get around.

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE CIRCULATION

Sidewalks exist through many areas of the village, but don't connect well to outlying neighborhoods. Varying in design and condition, many need to be replaced or upgraded to provide safe, accessible accommodation (6). Missing or inadequate connections between City Meadow, Station Place and the Town Hall greatly diminishes pedestrian use of these areas (7). Bicyclists have to fend for themselves.

ISOLATION OF THE BATTELL-STOECKEL ESTATE

The Yale Summer Chamber Music Festival brings extraordinary talent and activity to Norfolk Center, but the Estate is isolated from the rest of the center by the barrier of Route 44, topographic challenges, and the need for safety and security for Music Festival faculty, staff and students. This creates a missed opportunity for visitors to take advantage of all that Norfolk has to offer.