Roslindale Village is located in the Roslindale district of Boston, Massachusetts as shown in Map 1. It is bordered by 5 other Boston districts including Jamaica Plain, West Roxbury, Hyde Park, Mattapan and Roxbury.

Methodology

Public Transit

There are 14 MBTA bus routes that serve Roslindale Village, many of which stop at the Forest Hills Orange Line Station approximately one mile from the center of the Village. The Needham commuter rail line also has a station located directly in the Village. The bus routes and commuter rail line that service Roslindale Village are far-reaching and provide direct connections to many other Boston neighborhoods as illustrated in Map 2. These were determined by defining the study area and selecting the bus routes and rail lines that intersect it. Map 3 shows the routes and stops for the bus and commuter rail lines within Roslindale Village. As illustrated, there are over a dozen MBTA bus stops within the business district.

Vehicles & Parking

There is a perceived lack of parking in Roslindale Village, making an assessment of parking usage a valuable focus of study. An inventory of parking space in Roslindale Village yields a total of 1,662 spots: 1,076 on-street and 586 in parking lots (residential lots were not inventoried).

Map 4: Parking Occupancy Rates (%)

Conclusions

GIS proved to be a very effective tool in determining an inventory of transportation modes to access the Roslindale Village neighborhood. It was also valuable in illustrating and spatially analyzing the parking situation and pedestrian environment of the Village.

Overnight, the analysis of area parking proved that there is not a lack of available spaces in the Village, however, the spatial distribution of high occupancy areas is concentrated in the core of the neighborhood on-street parking spaces. Parking lots in general are highly underutilized.

The study results found that Roslindale Village is highly walkable. With a valuation providing an overall score range of 0 (least walkable) to 100 (most walkable), a majority of the streets in the district scored higher than 54. The core of the business district scored very well due to the presence of mixed-use development and recreational open space, as well as availability of public amenities and good sidewalk maintenance. Residential-only areas, mainly located on the edges of the analysis area, generally scored lower in this walkability assessment

Walkability

Roslindale Village is easily accessible distance-wise by foot to many area residents. Map 5 illustrates the pedestrian shed, or walkable area surrounding the Village. These areas were determined by performing a network analysis on the area road network using 4 key intersections within the Village as nodes, and distances of 1/4 and 1/2 mile.

In addition to determining the accessibility by distance of Roslindale Village, the Village itself was scrutinized for walkability using the Pedestrian Environment Data Scan (PEDS). This data collection instrument was developed in 2004 by a team led by Dr. Kelly Cliston of the University of Maryland, and consists of 40 criteria utilized to assess street segments. A standard evaluation system for PEDS has not been created, therefore, a unique rating system was developed for the 68 segments analyzed in this study. A 0-100 scale, 0 being least and 100 being most walkable, was developed by combining and normalizing these ratings. By joining the PEDS data to street segments, Map 6 was produced which shows the overall walkability ratings of the streets studied. Additional categories analyzed and mapped for this study not shown here include safety, ease and comfort of travel and aesthetics.

Map 6: Overall PEDS Scores

Overall Roslindale Village is highly walkable by multiple modes of transportation. One suggestion for further analysis is to do a more detailed analysis of public transit by incorporating schedule information. Additionally, the pedestrian shed could be assessed further by analyzing census block data within this area to get more detailed information about the population within walking distance.