Pedestrian Accessibility
The Roxbury Neighborhood of Boston

Accessibility Factors

Dudley Square
Strengths
• Mix of Commercial and Residential uses
• Within ¼ mile of open space
Weaknesses
• Major intersection at Dudley St and Washington St acts as barrier
• Very High Density of Crime

Grove Hall
Strengths
• Mix of Commercial and Residential uses
• Some areas with low levels of crime
Weaknesses
• Major intersection at Bluehill Ave and Washington St acts as barrier
• Portions of area more than ½ mile from open space

Project Summary
The goal of this project was to identify areas with poor pedestrian accessibility. Pedestrian accessibility is important because it increases the likelihood that residents will walk, decreasing pollution. It is especially important as an equity issue, since residents in low-income communities often cannot afford cars or to always pay for transit.

Pedestrian accessibility can be influenced by a number of factors. Planners have argued that a mix of commercial and residential uses, open space, perceived safety, and pedestrian barriers all influence whether or not residents choose or feel comfortable walking. By combining these elements into one map (shown above) we can begin to see areas that may need improvements in accessibility. The map shows the results only on the street network, since pedestrians would most likely walk along here.

This analysis is only the first step in what ultimately must be a community process to define locations in Roxbury that have poor pedestrian accessibility. Community members can define factors they see as affecting accessibility and point out areas that they believe need improvement. From there solutions can be developed to increase overall accessibility, through the increase or improvement of open space, the elimination of major barriers, etc.

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