

**Newburyport Livable Streets
Toppans Lane Walk Audit Notes
Date of Audit -- Friday, March 3 2pm-3pm**

Photos -- [Toppans Lane photos](#)

General Concerns/Observations

- Need to confirm if there is a crossing guard in the afternoon on High Street end, seems there is a need for one
- Confusion of car drop off during school arrival and dismissal at NHS and Nock/Molin (both observed and reported), haphazard nature of this at both ends of Toppans Lane and not a clear delineation of drop off areas

Sidewalk Observations

- Sidewalk only on one side of the street for most of the road
- No separation/buffer between sidewalk and the roadway between Low to Summit
- In section from Summit to High School driveway, there is little to no curb reveal and there are places the sidewalk is at grade or nearly flush with the street
- Conditions -- some surface changes (concrete to asphalt), but overall generally good conditions. Issue areas observed:
 - On west side near High School, condition issues, uneven surface, steep grade where brick surface begins
 - On east side near north of Summit, conditions deteriorate with significant cracks in pavement (likely due to parking on sidewalk)
- Crosswalk across Highland Ave -- there is a crosswalk and landing pad, but no sidewalk connecting to this
- Though sidewalk meets minimum width (3'+) in most places, it generally seems too narrow for a sidewalk that is only located on one side of the street, particularly without a buffer between the sidewalk and street and at locations next to walls. Difficult for people to walk two abreast and/or navigate a stroller or wheelchair.
- On section near high school from baseball field wall to crosswalk at Highland Ave, cars park on the sidewalk (both observed and reported)
- Noted a private stormwater drain draining onto sidewalk (33 Toppans)
- Utility pole located in sidewalk at Summit Place

Crosswalks

- Intersection of Low/Toppans only has crosswalk on two legs (Toppans and NW side of Low). SE corner of Low, there is no crosswalk and no place to cross to (no landing pad on Hale Street corner)
- Dated traffic signals (particularly ped signals) at Low St end, not audible either
- Crosswalk across Summit is faded
- Crosswalk across Toppans at Highland is not City high visibility standard
- No overhead lighting at Highland crosswalk

- Striping on either side of Highland crosswalk to delineate no parking on either side is faded
- Long crossing distance across Toppans at High Street end (3 lanes)
- Crosswalk across High St at Toppans seems far from signal button

Signage

- Parking signs were confusing and inconsistent
- Some were too low and facing the wrong direction
- Lack of appropriate guidance (signage) and staging areas for pick-up/drop-off
- Obstructed signage in some places

Potential Solutions

- Evaluate location at pedestrian path connecting from Toppans to Nock/Molin property to address safety issues created by parents dropping off kids in undesignated drop off location.
- Evaluate pick-up and drop-off procedures at NHS to improve safety at Toppans/High intersection.
- Consider prohibiting parking between HS driveway and High St (could also serve as a drop off spot for MEVA bus).
- Add curb extension at Highland Ave crosswalk (to replace existing striping)
- Consider adding ped activated lights at Toppans (High Street end) and Highland St
- Add overhead lighting at Highland crosswalk
- Raise curb and sidewalk along Toppans between Summit and High School to prevent people parking on the sidewalk
- Stripe parking lane (move or remove center line) along Toppans next to sidewalk between Summit and High School
- Widen the sidewalk from Summit to High
- Add landing pad on missing segment of Low St (and crosswalks on all legs)
- Consider adding sidewalk on west (north) side of Toppans between Highland and Low Street
- Add crosswalk at Summit (in conjunction with sidewalk on west side)