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Locations for new benches on Beacon Street

BrooklineCAN and Brookline Age-Friendly City Committee

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Beacon Street is important for pedestrian transportation. The flow of pedestrian traffic is particularly great between the St. Mary's and Coolidge Corner commercial districts. Benches are highly valued amenities. For pedestrians with limited energy, benches provide welcome opportunities for rest stops. In good weather, the availability of benches makes walking more attractive. The importance of benches is recognized in Brookline's Complete Streets policy.

Beacon Street is well served with benches in its commercial districts. Currently, however, there are no benches on the north side of Beacon between St. Mary's Commercial area and Pleasant Street. On the south side, there are no



Benches on the North Side of Beacon Street

Beacon at Winchester



This location is important because it would serve Senior Center (SC) traffic. Many users of the Senior Center walk on Winchester Street between Beacon and the Senior Center. The SC is 2.5 blocks away. For those walking to the SC, the bench would provide a resting place before the final portion of their journey to the Senior Center. Currently, there are no benches in the block between Winchester and Centre Street.

1110 Beacon at Powell - Medical Office Building



The location is valuable because it is roughly equidistant between the two commercial districts. A bench at this location will serve both passing pedestrians and users of the office building who are waiting to be picked up. The bulb out provides ample room for a bench.

Benches on the South Side of Beacon Street

1317 Beacon, in front of Trader Joes



Currently, all of the Coolidge Corner benches on the south side of the street are west of Harvard Street. This is an exceptional location because of the width of the sidewalk and the high volume of foot traffic in and out of the store. It is likely that the desirable bench location near the building is on private property.

Temple Ohabei Shalom - Beacon & Kent Streets



Both sides of the temple entrance provide excellent opportunities for benches. The location invites benches contoured to fit the space. Because this is private property, involvement of the temple would be essential. The Adirondack chairs in front of the United Parish church on Harvard Street provide a precedent for outdoor furniture for pedestrians provided by a religious congregation. Barely visible in the photo is a cement urn on the left side. The urn prevents pedestrians from climbing the stairs along the retaining wall.

1101 Beacon at Hawes Street—Medical Office Building



The location is valuable both because it is between the two shopping districts and it can serve those waiting to be picked up after a visit to a medical office. Because of limited space, only a narrow bench servicing one person is likely to be possible here.

