

# “Near Miss” Portal



**BrooklineCAN Livable Community  
Advocacy Committee**  
January 13, 2025  
Amy Ingles, Transportation Administrator



# What is a Traffic Crash?

- A traffic crash is an incident with ANY MODE(S) where:
  - two or more road users collide
  - a road user collides with personal/public property, causing damage and/or injury
- Typically police are not called unless:
  - A motor vehicle is involved
  - Property is damaged
  - Someone is injured
- If police are called, they may or may not:
  - Create a full report
  - Issue citation(s)



# What is a Near Miss?

- A Near Miss is an incident where:
  - a crash nearly occurs (but doesn't)
  - no property is damaged
  - no injuries occur
- Examples:
  - Vehicle nearly hits pedestrian crossing street
  - One vehicle is nearly hit while another makes a turn
  - A bicycle nearly hits an obstruction on a shared use path

There is no mechanism for recording such events



# What's the big deal?

- No record of an incident means
  - There may be a infrastructure deficiency that the Town is unaware of (e.g. faded crosswalk)
  - There may be behavioral problems that the conditions of a certain street/intersection allow or encourage (e.g. street design encourages speeding)

Mere seconds separate a Near Miss from a crash, so Town staff are missing a potentially helpful data point.

The point is to gather information!



## What kind of information is helpful in a Near Miss report?

- Location
  - Street or address
  - At an intersection or midblock?
  - In a sidewalk, crosswalk, bike lane, travel lane, parking spot, etc.?
- Mode
  - What mode were you using?
  - What other modes were involved (directly or indirectly) in the incident?



## What kind of information is helpful in a Near Miss report?

- Context
  - What were you doing?
    - Crossing the street
    - Biking in the bike lane
  - What was the other party doing?
    - Vehicle turning didn't yield
    - Scooter going through stop sign
  - Were there any other users whose actions played a role?
    - Bicyclist in bike lane swerves to avoid debris and nearly hits another bicyclist



## What kind of information is helpful in a Near Miss report?

- Context/Relevant Environmental or Infrastructure Details
  - Inadequate lighting
  - Blind driveway
  - Confusing signage
  - Pothole



# Near Miss Portal Link



- Try the Near Miss Portal:
  - <https://arcg.is/0TDC900>
  - Share your own experience or enter "Test" in the submission.
  - Provide feedback on the process to help us improve.
  - The portal will be live for the public soon.