Preferred and Minimum Widths for Sidewalk Zones

The width and design of sidewalks will vary depending on street typology, functional classification, and demand. Below are the City of Boston's preferred and minimum widths for each Sidewalk Zone by Street Type.									
Street Type	Frontage Zone		Pedestrian Zone*		Greenscape/ Furnishing Zone		Curb Zone	Total Width	
	Preferred	Minimum	Preferred	Minimum	Preferred	Minimum		Preferred	Minimum
Downtown Commercial	2'	0'	12'	8'	6'	1'-6"	6"	20'-6"	10'
Downtown Mixed-Use	2'	0'	10'	8'	6'	1'-6"	6"	18'-6"	10'
Neighborhood Main	2'	0'	8'	5'	6'	1'-6"	6"	16'-6"	7'
Neighborhood Connector	2'	0'	8'	5' (4')*	5'	1'-6"	6"	15'-6"	7'
Neighborhood Residential	2'	0'	5'	5' (4')*	4'	1'-6"	6"	11'-6"	7'
Industrial Street	2'	0'	5'	5' (4')*	4'	1'-6"	6"	11'-6"	7'
Shared Street	2'	0'	Varies	5' (4')*	N/A	N/A	N/A	Varies	Varies
Parkway	N/A	N/A	6'	5'	10'	5'	6"	16'-6"	10'-6"
Boulevard	2'	0'	6'	5'	10'	5'	6"	18'-6"	11'-6"

Notes

* 5' is the preferred minimum width of the Pedestrian Zone in the City of Boston. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) minimum 4' wide Pedestrian Zone can be applied using engineering judgement when retrofitting 7' wide existing sidewalks where widening is not feasible.

Frontage Zone

- ▶ Where buildings are located against the back of the sidewalk and constrained situations do not provide width for the Frontage Zone, the effective width of the Pedestrian Zone is reduced by 1', as pedestrians will shy from the building edge.
- ▶ The preferred width of the Frontage Zone to accommodate sidewalk cafés is 6'.

Pedestrian Zone

▶ Based on engineering judgment in consultation with PWD and the Mayor's Commission for Person's with Disabilities, the ADA minimum 4' Pedestrian Zone (plus 5'of width every 200') may be applied.

Greenscape/Furnishing Zone

- ▶ The minimum width of the Greenscape/Furnishing Zone necessary to support standard street tree installation is 2'-6".
- ▶ Utilities, street trees, and other sidewalk furnishings should be set back from curb face a minimum of 18".

Curb Zone

▶ Although the typical width of the Curb Zone is 6", widths may vary; additional width beyond 6" should be calculated as a part of the Greenscape/Furnishing Zone.