

# Burton Entrance Pedestrian Hospitality

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In February 2002, the Grand Rapids Center for Independent Living (GRCIL) submitted an accessibility report to the Campus Accessibility Advisory Committee. The campus has implemented many of the suggestions of the report but there are still some changes that could really improve the accessibility of the campus for the disabled, hard of hearing, and blind. This is especially important at the Burton entrance given the proximity to Raybrook, a retirement community whose tenants frequently visit Calvin..

## Propositions

1. Expand the current bus shelter on the Westbound/Northbound side of Burton.
2. Build a bus shelter on the Eastbound/Southbound side of Burton, especially by the Raybrook/Burton interchange..
3. Add sound to the traffic signal, so people who are blind can cross safely.
4. Heated walking path to bus stop to make path more maneuverable during winter months.
5. Change the grade of the slope of the path by the seminary pond.

## Supporting arguments

1. According to the GRCIL report the existing shelter on the Westbound/Northbound side of Burton is not wide enough for wheelchairs. There are bus shelters, such as the one in Gas Light Village at the Public Library, that allow for wheelchairs as well as other riders.

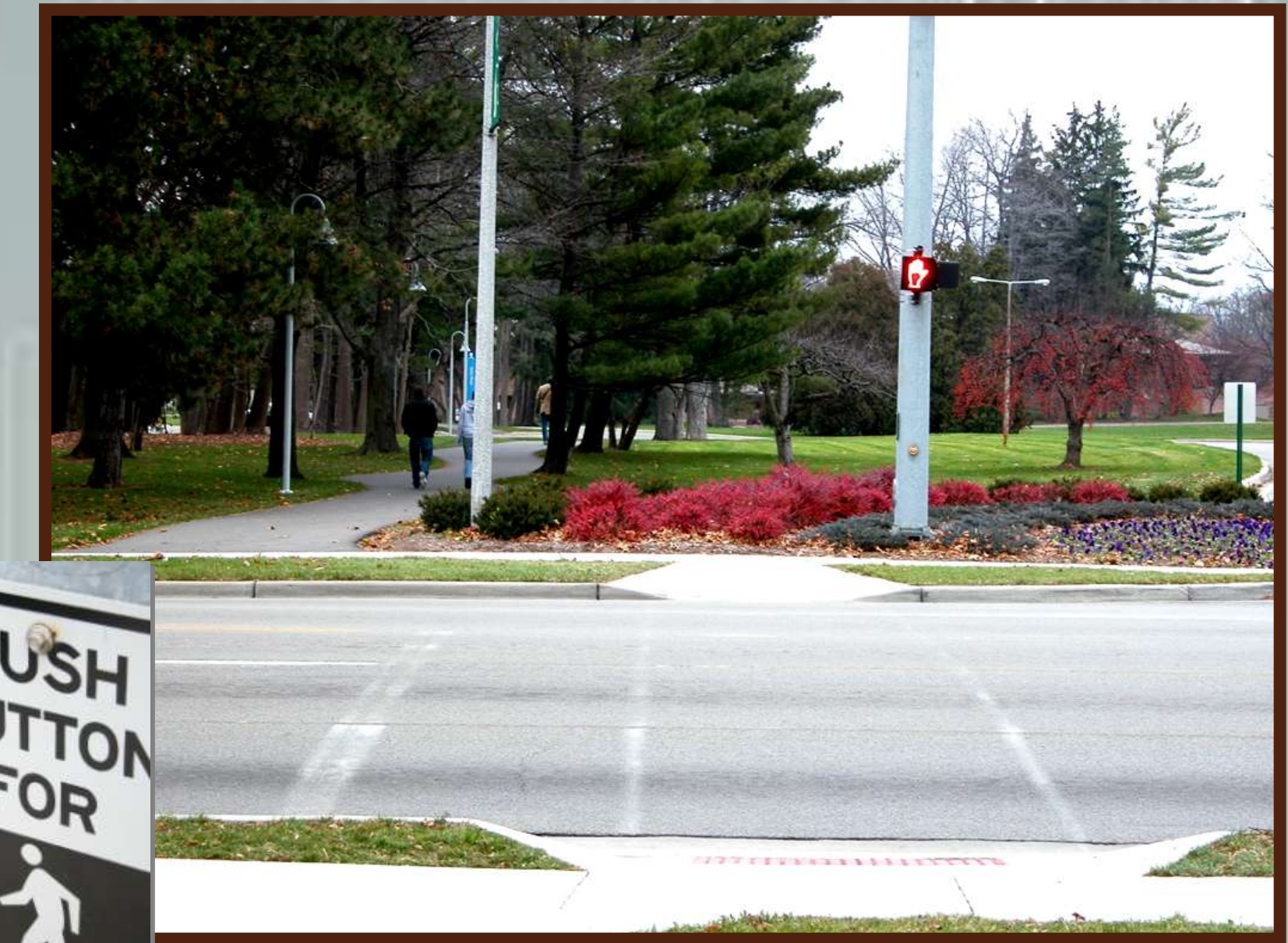


2. Many of the people who use the Raybrook/Burton interchange are elderly, and require more protection from the weather. Bus shelters on both sides of the road would improve their safety.

3. Currently, there is no sound from the crossing signal. This is not a high pedestrian traffic area, so blind people cannot follow the flow of other pedestrians. Talking crosswalks would improve the safety and independence of the visually impaired.



5. The GRCIL report deemed the walking path by the Seminary Pond the safest way to walk from the Burton/Raybrook bus stop. However, the path is very hilly. When resurfacing the path, re-grading will increase the wheelchair accessibility of the campus from the Burton entrance.



4. One of the changes that the report suggested was adding a walking path alongside the Burton entrance, so bus riders do not have to walk on the narrow road. While this path is a great addition, many paths on campus melt the snow to make it less dangerous. Such measures are even more important on less traveled paths such as this one.



## Conclusions

By implementing the remaining suggestions of the GRCIL, the campus could become much more accessible. This is important, not only for those who are handicapped and hard of hearing at Calvin, but also for the larger community, particularly the Raybrook residents. By increasing the accessibility of Calvin, we are acknowledging the value and independence of all people and are allowing them to further enhance the Calvin community.

