

# BLUE HILL AVE TRANSPORTATION ACTION PLAN: MATTAPAN SQ

Oct 18, 2021



Public Works



Transportation

*Welcome!*

# Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Akeyi!

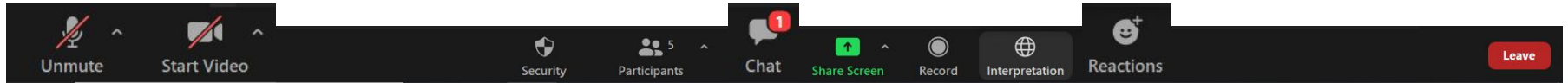
- Si hablas español y prefieres escuchar la reunión en esta lengua utiliza el botón de “Interpretation” (Interpretación) para acceder al canal de audio en español.
- *Si w pale Kreyòl Ayisyen e w prefere tande reyinyon an nan lang sa a tanpri sèvi ak bouton "Interpretation" (Entèpretation) pou w jwenn aksè ak chèn odyo pou Kreyòl Ayisyen an.*



# Welcome!

---

- Update your name in Zoom to include your preferred name and your pronouns.
- Your microphones are turned off to start. You will need to unmute to speak. Joining via phone? Press **\*6** to unmute.
- You can use non-verbal feedback options. Raise your hand or leave a message in the chat box if you have a question. If you called into the meeting, use **\*9** to raise your hand.



# Overview

---

## Background

- Recent Transportation Planning and Action in Mattapan Square
- Blue Hill Ave Transportation Action Plan

## Raise Grant Application

- What is the RAISE Grant?
- Basic Elements
- Timetable

## Shared Vision & Goals

- Center running bus lanes
- Minimize driver delay
- Improve conditions for people with disabilities and older adults
- High quality bike facilities
- Trees to reduce Heat Island effects
- Contribute to a thriving small business community and celebrate identity

# *Recent Transportation Planning and Action*

# 2016: Mattapan Square Beautification: *Rep Cullinane, PWD, BPRD*



## 2016: Mattapan Square Beautification: *Rep Cullinane, PWD, BPRD*

---





# 2017: Age Friendly Walking: Age Strong, WalkBoston, MFFC

---



# 2017: Neponset River Greenway Extended to Mattapan Sq: *DCR*

---



## 2018: Bluebikes in Mattapan: *Boston Bikes, MAPC, BCBS,*

---



*Mattapan Bluebike designed by Armani Thomas and Artists for Humanity*

# *Survey #1*

# Survey

---

Have you been on the Neponset Greenway?

- No
- Yes - once or twice
- Yes - many times
- Yes - every week

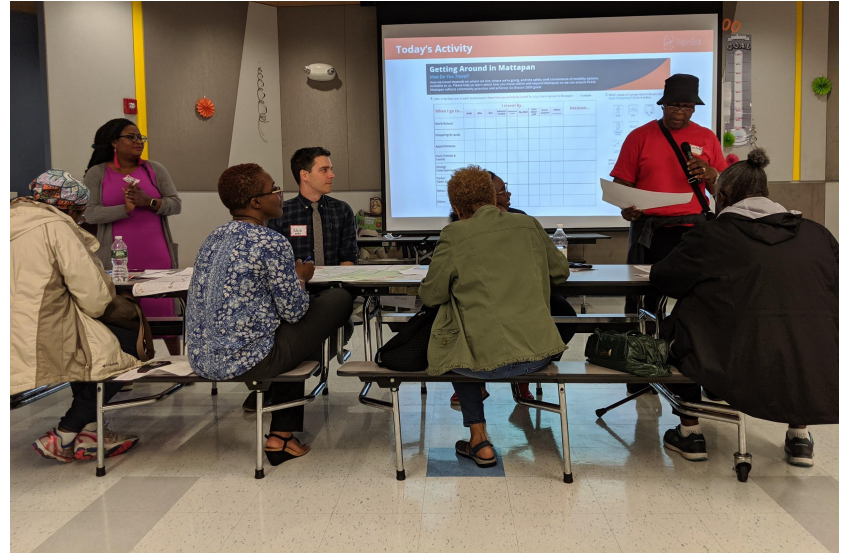
When you visit, do you usually walk or ride a bike?

- I've never visited
- Walk
- Ride a bike

Have you used a Bluebike?

- No
- Yes - once or twice
- Yes - many times
- Yes - every week

# 2018: PLAN: Mattapan Launched: *BPDA*



*Mural by Mattapan Teen Center, Jeremy Harrison; Site walk with Edgewater Neighbors*

## 2019: Fairmount Line Blue Hill Ave Station: MBTA

---



*Photo by Trea Lavery, Boston Banner*

# 2020: Fairmount Line Pilot: MBTA



## FAIRMOUNT LINE 2021 Spring Schedule Effective April 5, 2021

		Monday to Friday				
		Inbound to Boston				
		AM				
ZONE	STATION	TRAIN #	900	902	904	906
2	Readville	♻️	4:45	5:45	6:30	7:15
1A	Fairmount	♻️	f 4:49	5:49	6:34	7:19
1A	Blue Hill Ave	♻️	f 4:52	5:52	6:37	7:22
1A	Morton Street	♻️	f 4:55	5:55	6:40	7:25
1A	Talbot Ave	♻️	f 4:58	5:58	6:43	7:28
1A	Four Corners/Geneva Ave	♻️	f 5:01	6:01	6:46	7:31
1A	Uphams Corner	♻️	f 5:04	6:04	6:49	7:34
1A	Newmarket	♻️	f 5:07	6:07	6:52	7:37
1A	South Station	♻️	5:15	6:15	7:00	7:45

		Monday to Friday				
		Outbound from Boston				
		AM				
ZONE	STATION	TRAIN #	903	905	907	909
1A	South Station	♻️	5:45	6:30	7:15	8:00
1A	Newmarket	♻️	f 5:53	f 6:38	f 7:23	f 8:08
1A	Uphams Corner	♻️	f 5:55	f 6:40	f 7:25	f 8:10
1A	Four Corners/Geneva Ave	♻️	f 5:58	f 6:43	f 7:28	f 8:13
1A	Talbot Ave	♻️	f 6:01	f 6:46	f 7:31	f 8:16
1A	Morton Street	♻️	f 6:04	f 6:49	f 7:34	f 8:19
1A	Blue Hill Ave	♻️	f 6:07	f 6:52	f 7:37	f 8:22
1A	Fairmount	♻️	f 6:10	f 6:55	f 7:40	f 8:25
2	Readville	♻️	6:15	7:00	7:45	8:30

		Saturday, Sunday & Holidays					
		Inbound to Boston					
		AM					
ZONE	STATION	TRAIN #	2902	2904	2906	2908	2910
2	Readville	♻️	7:30	9:00	10:30	12:00	1:30
1A	Fairmount	♻️	f 7:33	f 9:03	f 10:33	f 12:03	f 1:33
1A	Blue Hill Ave	♻️	f 7:36	f 9:06	f 10:36	f 12:06	f 1:36
1A	Morton Street	♻️	f 7:39	f 9:09	f 10:39	f 12:09	f 1:39
1A	Talbot Ave	♻️	f 7:41	f 9:11	f 10:41	f 12:11	f 1:41
1A	Four Corners/Geneva Ave	♻️	f 7:44	f 9:14	f 10:44	f 12:14	f 1:44



# 2020: Blue Hill Ave Transportation Action Plan: *BTD Transit Team*



**BOOKLET CONTENTS**

• **PUBLIC ART**

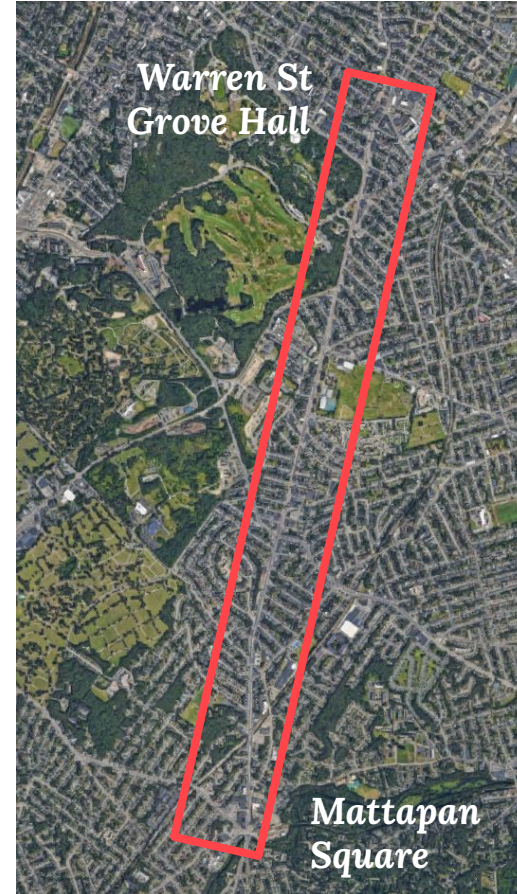
- Paintbox Program
- Artist Profiles
- Mural Sites

• **STREET LAYOUT**

- Design Guidelines
- Concept 1
- Concept 2
- Concept 3
- Concept 4

• **RELATED WORK**

- Fairmount Line Upgrades
- Other Projects
- Near-term Project Timeline



# 2020: Blue Hill Ave Transportation Action Plan: *BTD Transit Team*

## Community Priority

VISION People's Voice I Boston Today Goals and Targets **ACTION PLAN** People's Voice II Boston in 2030 Projects and Policies

### Cross-town

## Mattapan to LMA Rapid Bus

Faster transit connections to the medical district from southern Boston

### Project Score

- Access 1
- Safety 1
- Reliability
- Sustainability/Resiliency 1
- Sustainability/Resiliency 2
- Governance
- Access 2
- Safety 2
- Affordability
- Sustainability/Resiliency 2

#19 in weighted Boston-only public voting

### Project Description

A new transit line with high-quality stops, signal priority, all-door boarding, and some exclusive lanes will create direct transit connections for residents of Mattapan and southwest Dorchester to jobs and medical care in Roxbury, Mission Hill, and the Longwood Medical and Academic Area. This involves a rail-like bus service operating where excess roadway width exists today on one of several potential corridors that will be determined in conjunction with the community. Service would be high capacity and high frequency and could interline with the JFK/UMass to LMA rapid bus corridor (p176) and even the West Station to LMA connection (p203), connecting together southern Boston, the LMA, and Beacon Yards. Future upgrades could see tracks and streetcar service initiated as ridership grows.



### Implementation

**Approximate Cost:** \$55 million for design and construction with vehicle costs to be estimated  
**Potential Funding Sources:** City capital budget for

### Benefits and Issues Addressed

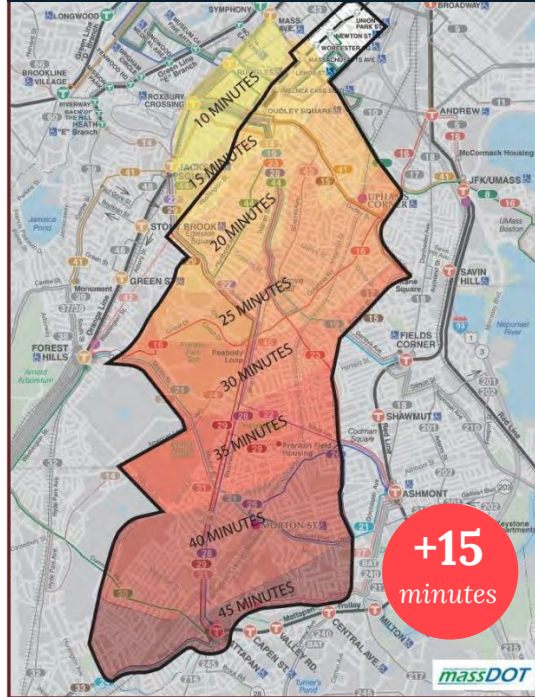
This investment will support economic opportunity along a corridor with heavy bus ridership but unreliable service, while—depending on the alignment—potentially improving other connections that lead via Dudley Square and Downtown as well. Cross-town connections from this part of the city are in high demand, as shown in the map below. This investment will provide a high-quality solution.

In the city's travel needs map, the downtown and neighborhoods region (e.g., through Industry Hill to Mattapan) is one of the highest in the city in terms of transportation demand.

## Go Boston 2030 Goals:

- Expand access
- Improve reliability
- Enhance safety

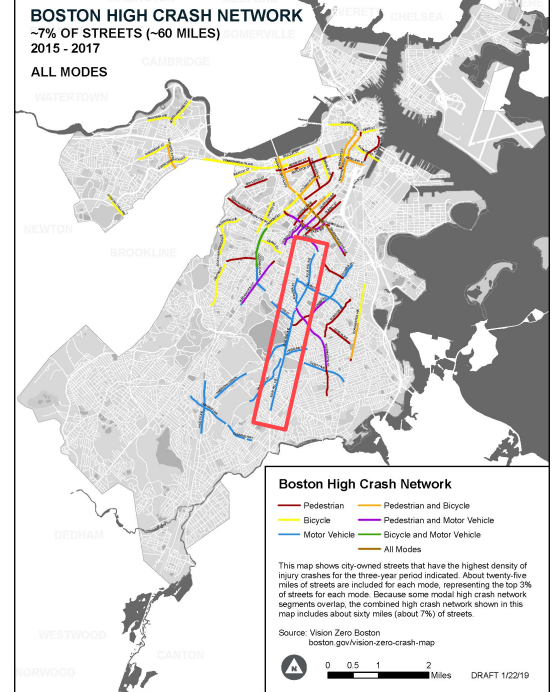
## Travel Time Inequities



## Safety Concerns

### BOSTON HIGH CRASH NETWORK ~7% OF STREETS (~60 MILES) 2015 - 2017

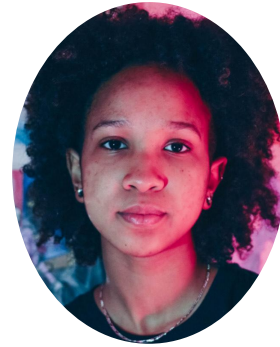
ALL MODES



# 2020: Blue Hill Ave Transportation Action Plan: *BTD Transit Team*

---





**Ananda Toulon**



**Mattaya Fitts**





**Mushen Kieta**




**Wilton Tejeda**



**Gary Chen**

# 2020: T-Talks: Mattapan Food and Fitness, Powerful Pathways, & others







## A History of Transportation and How it has Helped & Hurt Communities

Thursday, October 22, 2020 | 6:30-8:00pm ET

Our first T-Talk will focus on the history of transportation and its effects on communities of colour. There will be Q&A and discussion time.

Register at [bit.ly/T-Talks](https://bit.ly/T-Talks)

Organized by:   Supported by:  



## Transportation, Climate Change, and Racial Justice

Wednesday, December 9, 2020 | 6:30-8:00pm ET

Our second T-Talk will answer the questions of what is climate change and how it affects communities of colour. There will be Q&A and discussion time.

Register at [bit.ly/T-Talks2](https://bit.ly/T-Talks2)

Organized by:   Supported by:  



## Transportation, Displacement, & Solutions

Wednesday, February 24, 2021 | 6:30-8:15pm ET

Our third T-Talk will focus on community inspired strategies to stay in our communities. There will be breakouts, Q&A, and share outs.

Register at [bit.ly/T-Talks3](https://bit.ly/T-Talks3)

Organized by:   Supported by:  



## Active Transportation: Biking and Walking for Health & Wellness

Thursday, April 22, 2021 | 6:30-8:00pm ET

Our fourth t-talk will focus on how moving activities such as walking and biking supports your emotional, physical, and spiritual well being.

Register at [bit.ly/T-Talks4](https://bit.ly/T-Talks4)

Organized by:   Supported by:  



## Arrested Mobility: Limits on Black Mobility in the U.S.

Tuesday, June 1, 2021 | 6:30 - 8:00p.m.  
Register at: [bit.ly/ttalk-june1](https://bit.ly/ttalk-june1)

Thursday, June 3, 2021 | 6:30 - 8:00p.m.  
Register at: [bit.ly/ttalk-june3](https://bit.ly/ttalk-june3)

This talk will highlight the adverse social, political, economic, and health impacts of racial disparities in transportation and mobility. We will explore the ways in which our research, planning, policy, and design can and must be reimagined. Doing so will help us achieve greater mobility, health, and quality of life for Black Bostonians. *This is a free event and open to all.*

Interpretation services are available. Contact [daniela.sanchez@boston.gov](mailto:daniela.sanchez@boston.gov) by May 21, 2021 to request interpretation.



## Transportation + Bike Share Equity

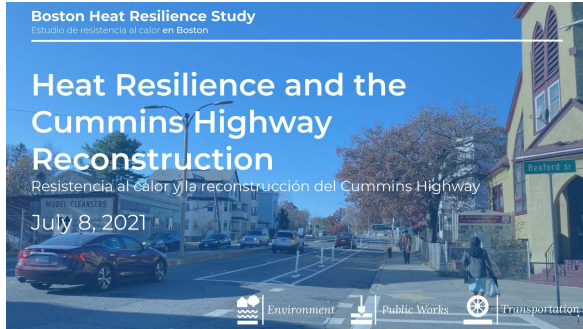
Wednesday, June 23, 2021 | 6:30-8:00pm ET

Our 5th T-Talk will focus on equity in biking, barriers to biking, and bike infrastructure in communities of color. There will be Q&A and discussion time.

Register at [bit.ly/T-Talks5](https://bit.ly/T-Talks5)

Organized by:   Supported by:  

# 2021: Cummins Hwy Topical Conversations: *BTD, PWD & others*



***PLUS: Upcoming conversations on stormwater, trees, bus stops***

# 2021: PLAN: Mattapan's Transportation Guide



**boston planning & development agency**

## A Guide to PLAN: Mattapan's Transportation Planning and the Development Review Process



2021

### Street Design

#### How Are Streets Designed?

Boston's approach to street design is centered on people, whether they walk, bike, take transit, or drive. Designers use proven tools to address specific transportation needs identified during planning.

#### Boston uses a "Complete Streets" approach.

Complete Streets is a design approach that considers walking, biking and transit as important as cars. Complete Streets also considers the surrounding land use and context, so that design tools are tailored to their surroundings. You want to learn more about specific design tools and why they are used, see the [Boston Complete Streets Design Guidelines](#).

#### Have you considered that different modes take different amounts of space on the street?

The comparison below shows the amount of space needed for 50 people to ride in a bus, ride bikes, or ride in cars. Simply put, Boston streets cannot fit all residents and visitors in an car.



Source: Cycling Promotion Fund and Urban Forms

A Guide to PLAN: Mattapan's Transportation Planning & Development

### Street Design

#### How Can Biking Be Made Safer?

Many Bostonians want to bike but don't feel comfortable in traffic. That's why the City is designing neighborhood streets that calm traffic and bike lanes that better separate drivers and bicyclists.

#### The City is providing comfortable, safe places for biking that make streets safer for all.

On Boston 2030 process, City residents expressed their love for bikes. Residents asked for safer, more comfortable bike lanes that connect you to where you want to go. The jobs, schools, and open space (blue line design) on vary depending on each street's unique conditions, but the City strives to provide the most comfortable conditions for each project. These designs are shown below.

#### What is a separated bike lane? Dedicated paths for use only in those situations that require the most level of safety.

It may seem strange, but separated bike lanes make streets safer for pedestrians and drivers, too. That's because everyone has their own space, which makes the street more predictable, and pedestrian crossings shorter, which means people crossing are less exposed to traffic.



Least comfortable

Most comfortable

### Street Design

#### How Can Streets Be Places?

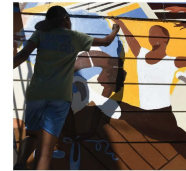
Movement of people and goods is the primary use for streets, but streets are fundamentally a public space. Boston is creating new public spaces on streets through experimental design approaches.

#### Streets can create more socially connected and economically resilient communities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that streets should have a broader role than just transportation. Many restaurants may not have survived the pandemic without outdoor dining, an initiative to support businesses with outside seating by reclaiming some parking spaces. Cites across the world, including Boston, are redefining streets and seeking opportunities to add more public space, trees, public art, and strategies to address a changing climate.

#### Do you know that 50% of city-owned park is streets?

**Re-designing** Boston is experimenting with its streets, creating new plazas, mini-parks, and cafes with low-cost materials. Public space can be created by closing unneeded lanes, reappportioning parking, or changing irregular intersections. City streets can also be canvases for public art, as seen below on Blue Hill Avenue.



### Street Design

#### How Can The Bus Be More Reliable?

Most Mattapan transit riders are bus riders, but all Mattapan bus routes are unreliable. Boston will improve reliability by prioritizing bus travel to reduce delays, speed up trips, and make space for more shelters, benches, and amenities.

#### Better bus service is possible when buses have their own lanes and priority at signals.

Bus lanes move buses out of most traffic and can be located along the curb, like on Massachusetts Street in Back Bay, or in the center of the street, like on Columbus Avenue in Downtown Crossing. Center bus lanes help improve bus reliability by moving buses away from double-parked drivers. Sometimes traffic signals can be programmed to give buses a head start before the green light for other vehicles.

#### Do you know that the City is studying center bus lanes as part of the long-term vision for Blue Hill?

**Re-designing** These bus lanes, along with additional transit, would also allow travel out of Blue Hill from its half between Mattapan Square and Huban Square during rush hours. This means a 25-minute bus trip instead of today's 50-minute bus trip.



Columbus Avenue dedicated bus lanes, under construction in early 2021. Source: Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)

A Guide to PLAN: Mattapan's Transportation Planning & Development



## 2021: Route 28 Free Fare Pilot: *Mayor Kim Janey*

---



# 2021: RAISE Grant Application: *City of Boston, with MBTA*

 2021 RAISE GRANT APPLICATION  
**BLUE HILL AVENUE  
MULTIMODAL CORRIDOR**

**RAISE Funding Request**  
\$25M

**Total Project Cost**  
\$39.5M

**Local Matching Funds**  
\$6.2M Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority  
\$8.3M City of Boston  
\$14.5M Total Match

**MAYOR KIM JANEY**  
CITY OF BOSTON  
1 City Hall Square, Suite 500  
Boston, MA 02201-2013  
(617) 635-4500  
mayor@boston.gov



# *Survey #2*

# Survey

---

Have you taken the Fairmount Line from the Blue Hill Ave Station?

- No
- Yes - once or twice
- Yes - many times
- Yes - every week

Were you aware of the Fairmount Pilot before this meeting?

- Yes
- No

Does the pilot make you more likely to ride the Fairmount Line?

- Yes
- No

Have you taken the Route 28 Bus in Mattapan Square?

- No
- Yes - once or twice
- Yes - many times
- Yes - every week

Were you aware of the Free Fare Pilot for the 28 Bus before this meeting?

- Yes
- No

Does the Pilot make you more likely to ride the 28 Bus?

- Yes
- No

*What's the RAISE Grant and  
what's in the application?*

# What is the RAISE Grant?

## U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg Announces Availability of \$1 Billion to Modernize and Create New American Infrastructure

- Highly competitive
- Maximum amount is \$25 million

“evaluated based on merit criteria that include *safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, economic competitiveness, state of good repair, innovation, and partnership*...the Department will prioritize projects that can demonstrate *improvements to racial equity, reduce impacts of climate change and create good-paying jobs.*”

**2021 RAISE GRANT APPLICATION**  
**BLUE HILL AVENUE MULTIMODAL CORRIDOR**

**RAISE Funding Request**  
\$25M

**Total Project Cost**  
\$39.5M

**Local Matching Funds**  
\$6.2M Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority  
\$8.3M City of Boston  
\$14.5M Total Match

**MAYOR KIM JANEY**  
CITY OF BOSTON  
1 City Hall Square, Suite 500  
Boston, MA 02201-2013  
(617) 635-4500  
mayor@boston.gov

Images: Aerial view of the Blue Hill Avenue corridor, a street sign for Blue Hill Ave, and a person painting a mural on a utility box.

# What's included in the RAISE Grant Application?

---



# What's included in the RAISE Grant Application?

---





# What's included in the Raise Grant Application?

---



# What's included in the Raise Grant Application?

---



*Photo of Nubian Square from Streetsblog Mass 9/23/2021*

# Shared Vision and Goals

---

The Blue Hill Ave. Transportation Action Plan seeks to improve quality of life for local residents in partnership with corridor users to address inequities and reimagine how the corridor functions.

- **Improve bus reliability and reduce travel time inequities** by creating center-running bus lanes
- **Minimize driver delay**
- **Improve conditions for older adults and persons with disabilities** by creating safe, comfortable, and accessible bus stops, sidewalks and street crossings
- **Incorporate high quality bike facilities** so that people can choose biking as a safe, convenient, and healthy travel mode
- **Reduce heat island effects** by preserving mature trees and planting new ones
- **Contribute to a thriving small business community** and identify opportunities to incorporate local art and programming

# *Shared Goal*

*Improve bus reliability and  
reduce travel time inequities*

# BLUE HILL AVE - BY THE NUMBERS

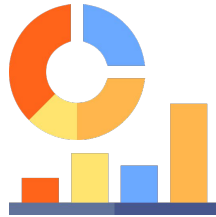
---



---

**20,000**

*Weekday Daily Bus Riders*



---

**52%**

*Portion of peak-period roadway users on buses*



---

**25 mins**

*Peak-period bus riders are experiencing delays of up to 25 minutes in either direction*

## BLUE HILL AVE - Route 28

---



- *The states busiest route (pre-pandemic)*
- *Lowest decrease in ridership (during the pandemic)*
- *Could have more trips with same number of buses and drivers if not stuck in traffic*

# Center Running Bus Lanes

---



# Improve Bus Reliability and Reduce Travel Time Inequities





# Improve Bus Reliability and Reduce Travel Time Inequities

---



*Shared Goal*  
*Minimize Driver Delay*

# Minimize Driver Delay



# Minimize Delay for People Who Need to Drive



# *Breakout #1:*

*Traffic and Transit*

*10 minutes*

# Traffic and Transit Breakout

---

**How do you travel on Blue Hill Ave?**

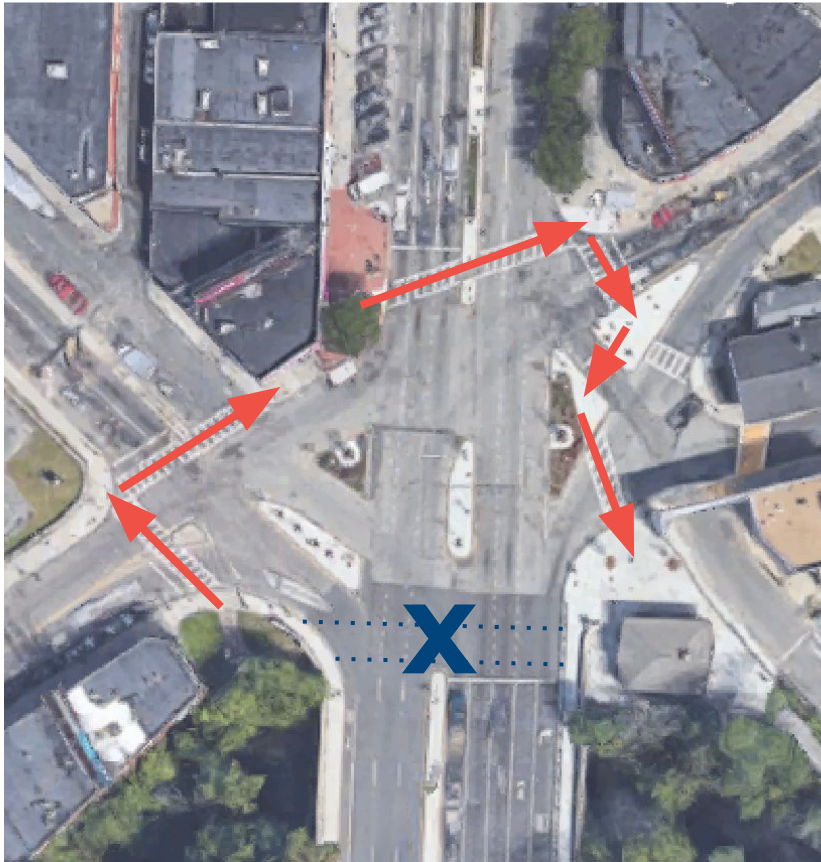
**For trips that you take by car, are there other ways you could take them?**

**What changes would make you want to take transit more often?**

# *Shared Goal*

*Improve conditions for older adults and  
persons with disabilities*

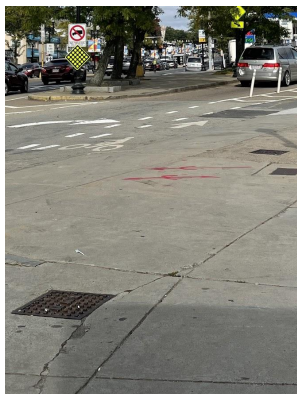
# MATTAPAN SQUARE - Shorter, direct crossings





# MATTAPAN SQUARE - safe, comfortable, and accessible sidewalks & bus stops

---



# MATTAPAN SQUARE - Remove obstructions and pinch points

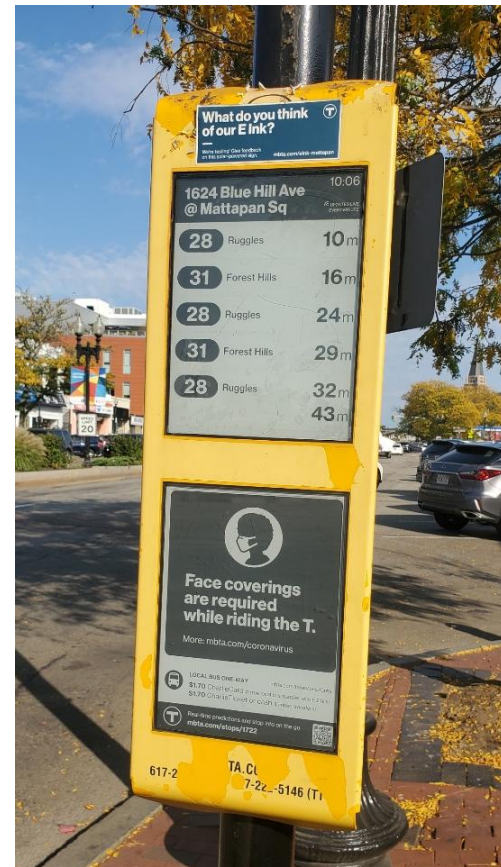


# MATTAPAN SQUARE - safe, comfortable, and accessible sidewalks & bus stops

---



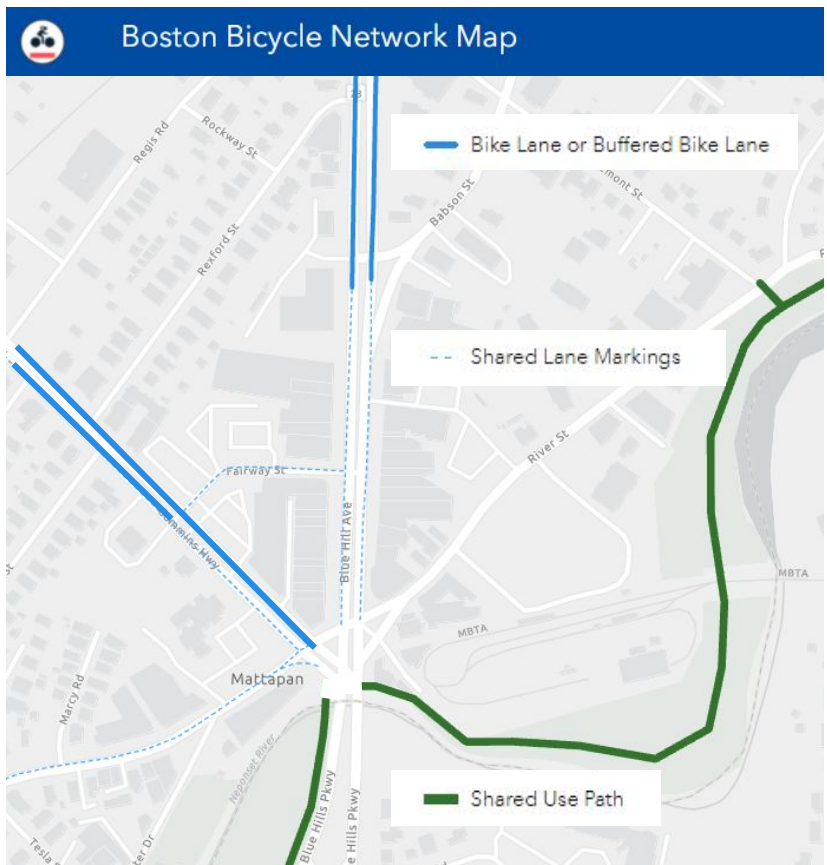
# MATTAPAN SQUARE - safe, comfortable, and accessible sidewalks & bus stops



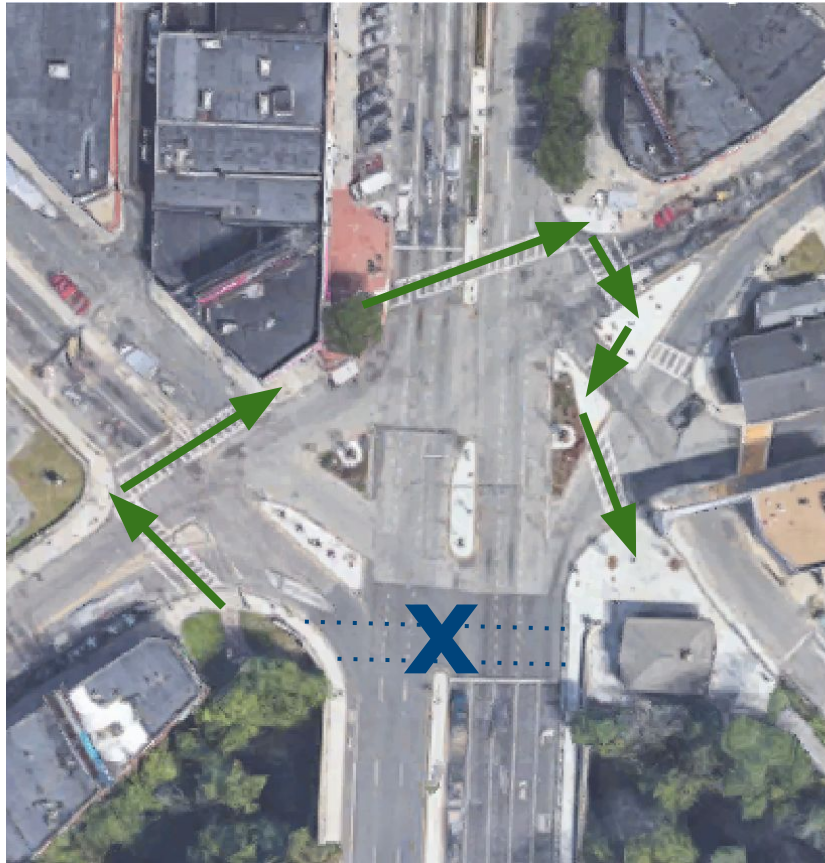
# *Shared Goal*

*Incorporate high quality bike facilities*

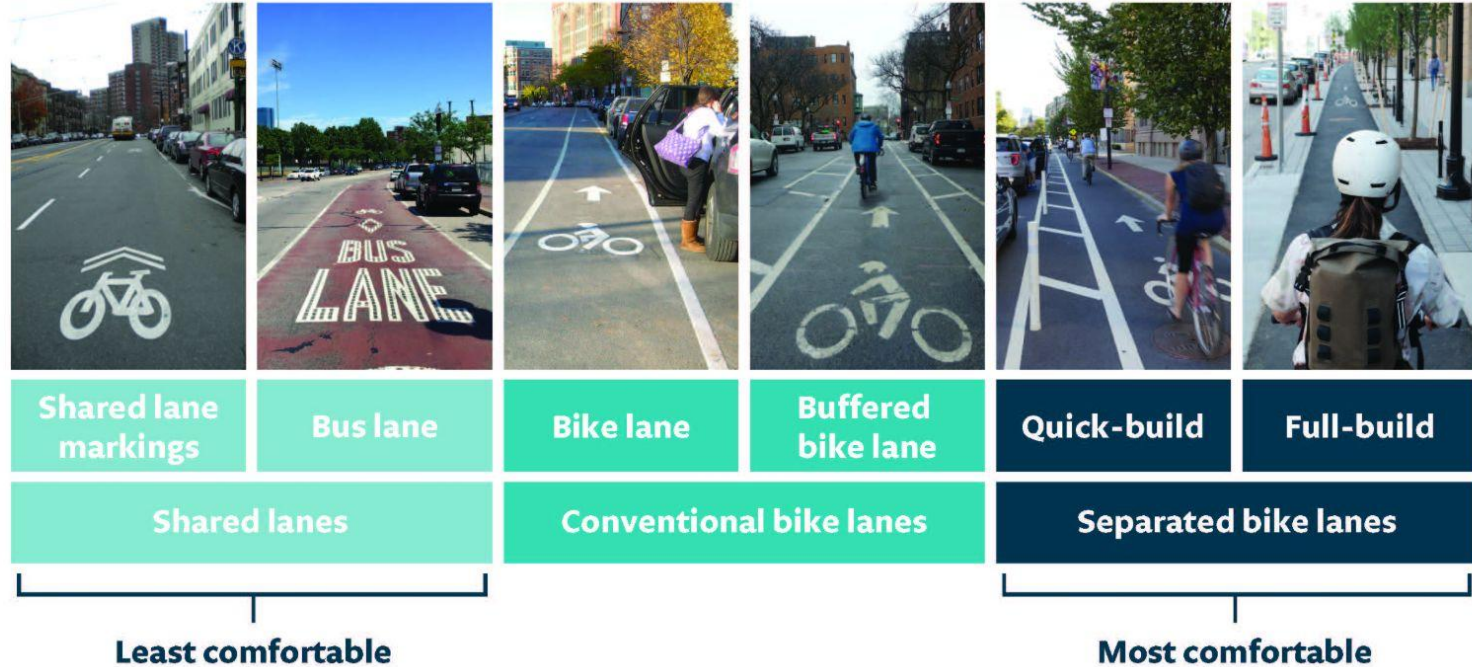
# MATTAPAN SQUARE - Bike facilities



# MATTAPAN SQUARE - crossing issues



# MATTAPAN SQUARE



Graphic from BPDA PLAN: Mattapan's Transportation Guide



# *Breakout #2:*

*Active Transportation/Walking and Biking  
10 minutes*

# Active Transportation Breakout

---

**What are the benefits of walking and biking vs other modes of travel?**

**If the facilities were different, would you consider walking or riding a bike as a way to get to work or school? What would that take?**

# *Shared Goal*

*Reduce heat island effects*

# Health Places Initiative: Heat Resilience Study and Urban Forest Plan

The city is developing solutions to reduce urban heat and heat risk and prepare for the long-term impacts.

The Study will identify:

- Heat adaptation strategies
- Metrics for heat risk and reduction
- Where strategies will have the greatest impact
- Implementation timeline

“By 2050 Boston’s summers may be as hot as **Washington, DC’s**, summers are today, and by the end of the century, they may be hotter than **Birmingham, AL** are today.”

- *Climate Ready Boston*

Our urban forest is made up of all the trees in Boston



IN YARDS



ON STREETS



IN PARKS

These trees provide different values to different people including:



GIVING US SHADE



IMPROVING  
OUR HEALTH



CAPTURING  
RAINWATER



BUILDING  
COMMUNITY

We will begin to understand the urban forest through:



STAKEHOLDER AND  
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



EXISTING CONDITIONS  
ASSESSMENT



EVALUATION  
AND ANALYSIS

Which will help create strategies and goals that make up the Urban Forest Plan, guiding future action.

# Factors Contributing to Elevated Heat Exposure in Boston

---

**Wide roads and paved areas with less tree canopy heat up during the day**



Blue Hill Avenue, Mattapan

# Factors Contributing to Cooler Streets in Boston

---

**Narrow streets with significant tree canopy and multifamily homes stay cooler**



*Trees help shade sidewalks and roads*

*Less roadway pavement to absorb heat*

Washington Street, Dorchester

# Think about your experience on a hot summer day...



Hi, I'm Fatima from Mattapan and this is my Boston Heat Experience

## Morning



How was your experience influenced by your neighborhood?

## Afternoon



## Night



<https://experience-comic.web.app/>

# Mattapan Square Street Trees, Median Plantings

---





# *Shared Goal*

*Contribute to a thriving  
small business community and  
celebrate identity*

# Mattapan Square Main Streets: Juneteenth Festival 2021



# Mattapan Square Main Streets: Juneteenth Festival 2021



# Mattapan Square Main Streets: Restaurants, takeout

---



# Mattapan Square Main Streets: Retail, barber shops, hair braiding...

---



# *Breakout #3:*

*Reducing Heat Island and  
Thriving Business Community  
10 minutes*

# **Small Business and Cultural Identity Breakout**

---

**What's special or unique about Mattapan Square?**

**How can we better celebrate the cultural identity of Mattapan Square through public space improvements?**

**What amenities would encourage you to spend more time and do business here?**

# *Share back from Breakouts*

*10 minutes*



# Next Steps

---

## **This Fall/Winter:**

- Find out if we received the RAISE Grant
- Share concept design

## **Next Spring:**

- Create the final concept

## **Remainder of 2022-spring 2023:**

- Complete design, seek funding for construction

## **STAY INVOLVED**

### **Visit our website: [boston.gov/blue-hill-mattapan](https://boston.gov/blue-hill-mattapan)**

- Join our mailing list
- Make an appointment to chat with a planner
- Hear about upcoming meetings, popup event

### **Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council, Public Services Committee**

Meetings on the first Tuesday each month, 6:30 PM

[g-mnc.org](https://g-mnc.org)