

BLUE HILL AVE TRANSPORTATION ACTION PLAN: Mattapan Square Intersection Design

January 11, 2022



Public Works



Transportation

Overview

Background

- Transportation & Streetscape Improvements to Date
- Blue Hill Ave Transportation Action Plan
- RAISE Grant

October Meeting

- Traffic and Transit
- Walking and Biking
- Small business and cultural identity of Mattapan Square

Intersection Design

- Overview
- Pedestrian benefits
- Greenway connectivity
- Improvements to bus operations

*Transportation & Streetscape
Improvements to Date*

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



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



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

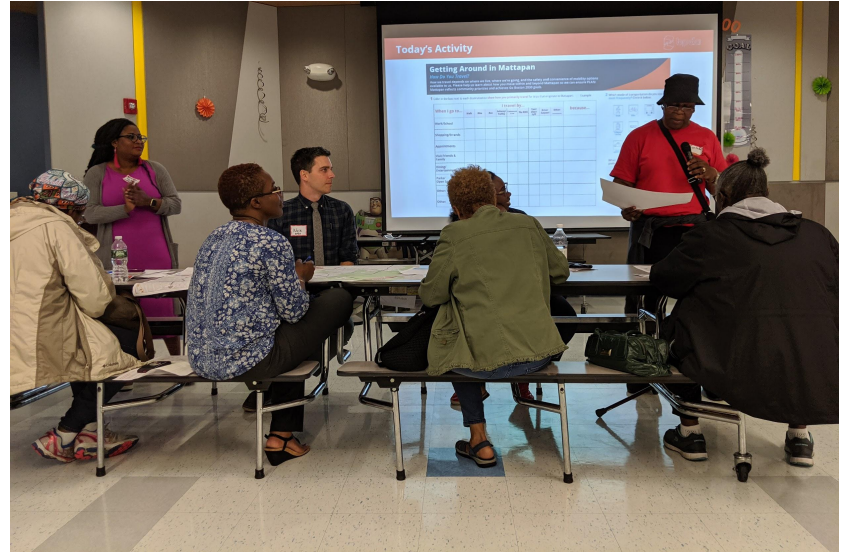


2018: Bluebikes in Mattapan: *Boston Bikes, MAPC, BCBS,*



Mattapan Bluebike designed by Armani Thomas and Artists for Humanity

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

ZONE	STATION	TRAIN #	900	902	904	906	908
2	Readville	♻️	4:45	5:45	6:30	7:15	8:00
1A	Fairmount	♻️	f 4:49	5:49	6:34	7:19	8:04
1A	Blue Hill Ave	♻️	f 4:52	5:52	6:37	7:22	8:07
1A	Morton Street	♻️	f 4:55	5:55	6:40	7:25	8:10
1A	Talbot Ave	♻️	f 4:58	5:58	6:43	7:28	8:13
1A	Four Corners/Geneva Ave	♻️	f 5:01	6:01	6:46	7:31	8:16
1A	Uphams Corner	♻️	f 5:04	6:04	6:49	7:34	8:19
1A	Newmarket	♻️	f 5:07	6:07	6:52	7:37	8:22
1A	South Station	♻️	5:15	6:15	7:00	7:45	8:30

Monday to Friday
Outbound from Boston

ZONE	STATION	TRAIN #	903	905	907	909	911
1A	South Station	♻️	5:45	6:30	7:15	8:00	8:45
1A	Newmarket	♻️	f 5:53	f 6:38	f 7:23	f 8:08	f 8:53
1A	Uphams Corner	♻️	f 5:55	f 6:40	f 7:25	f 8:10	f 8:55
1A	Four Corners/Geneva Ave	♻️	f 5:58	f 6:43	f 7:28	f 8:13	f 8:58
1A	Talbot Ave	♻️	f 6:01	f 6:46	f 7:31	f 8:16	f 9:01
1A	Morton Street	♻️	f 6:04	f 6:49	f 7:34	f 8:19	f 9:04
1A	Blue Hill Ave	♻️	f 6:07	f 6:52	f 7:37	f 8:22	f 9:07
1A	Fairmount	♻️	f 6:10	f 6:55	f 7:40	f 8:25	f 9:10
2	Readville	♻️	6:15	7:00	7:45	8:30	9:15

Saturday, Sunday & Holidays
Inbound to Boston

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

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



The Free Fare Pilot was extended and expanded by Mayor Michelle Wu

*Blue Hill Ave
Transportation
Action Plan*

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



BOOKLET CONTENTS

• **PUBLIC ART**

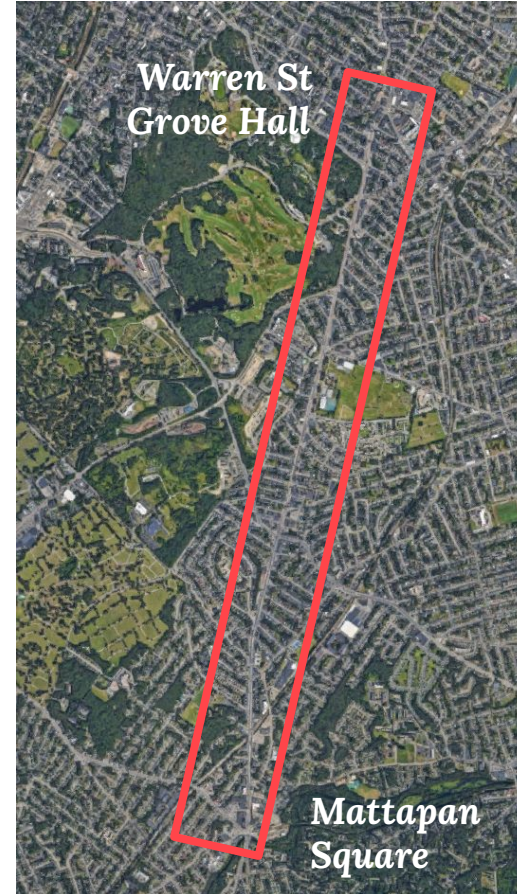
- Paintbox Program
- Artist Profiles
- Mural Sites

• **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 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.



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

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

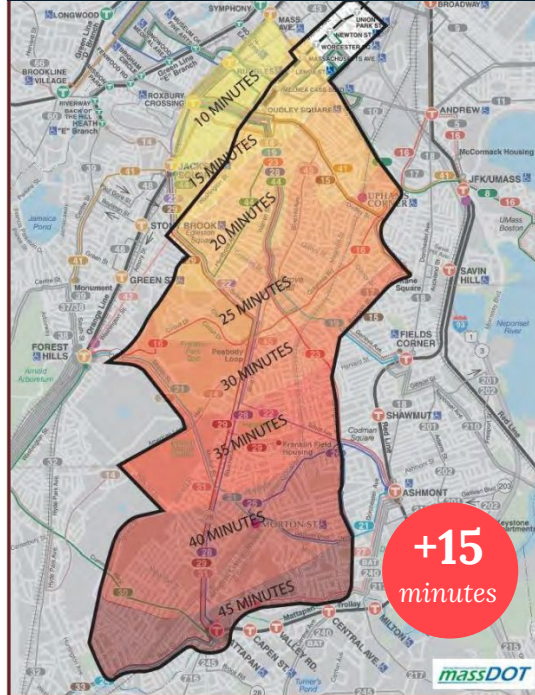
This investment will support economic opportunity along a corridor with heavy bus ridership but unreliable service, while—depending on the alignment—potentially improving other connections that lead into Dudley Square and Downtown as well. Cross-town connections from this part of the city are in high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

In the city's travel needs map, the downtown and neighborhood 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

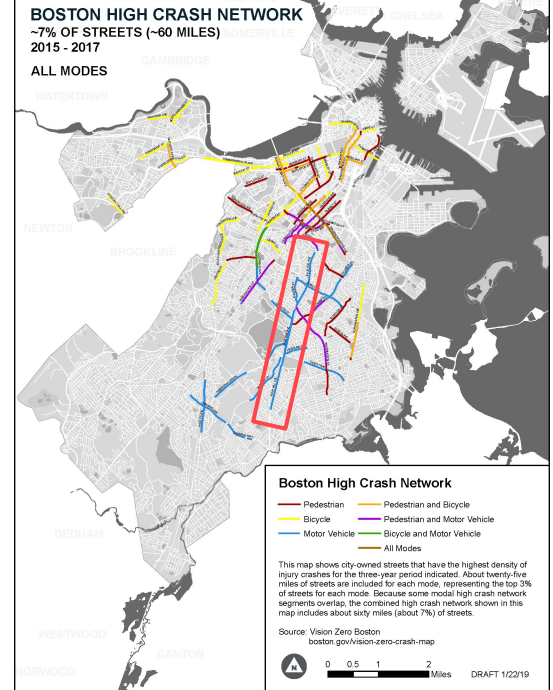
Travel Time Inequities



Safety Concerns

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

ALL MODES



Design the Road to Minimize Delay for Everyone



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



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

RAISE *Grant*

\$15M RAISE Grant: *US DOT, 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

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What is the RAISE Grant?

U.S. DOT \$1 Billion Grant Program to Modernize and Create New American Infrastructure

- Highly competitive
- Boston awarded \$15M in November 2021

“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
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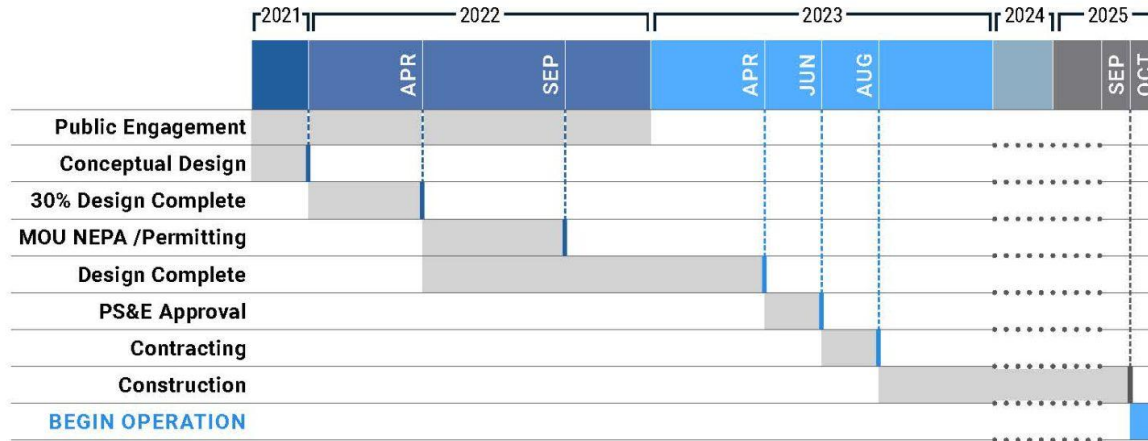
BLUE HILL AVE

Seaside Branch of the Boston Public Library

\$15M RAISE Grant: US DOT, City of Boston, with MBTA

Blue Hill Avenue Transportation Action Plan

PROJECT SCHEDULE



*October Meeting on
Mattapan Square*

What We Heard: Breakout on Traffic & Transit

- People would take the bus more if it was faster, more frequent, more reliable
- Double parking slows everyone down, causes weaving, and makes it hard to drive or ride a bike
- Buses can't reach the curb, making the bus stops inaccessible

“Buses don't run often enough, not fast enough. You can sometimes walk faster than the bus (not feasible in cold months)”

What We Heard: Breakout on Walking and Biking

- Reliability: When you walk or ride a bike, you can predict when you will arrive
- More Walking/Biking would alleviate traffic
- Better for health and environment
- Concerns about safety for cyclists on Blue Hill Ave.

“(biking is) not only healthy for people using the bikes, but ALSO healthy for the environment overall (the more bikes and walking, the better for all)”

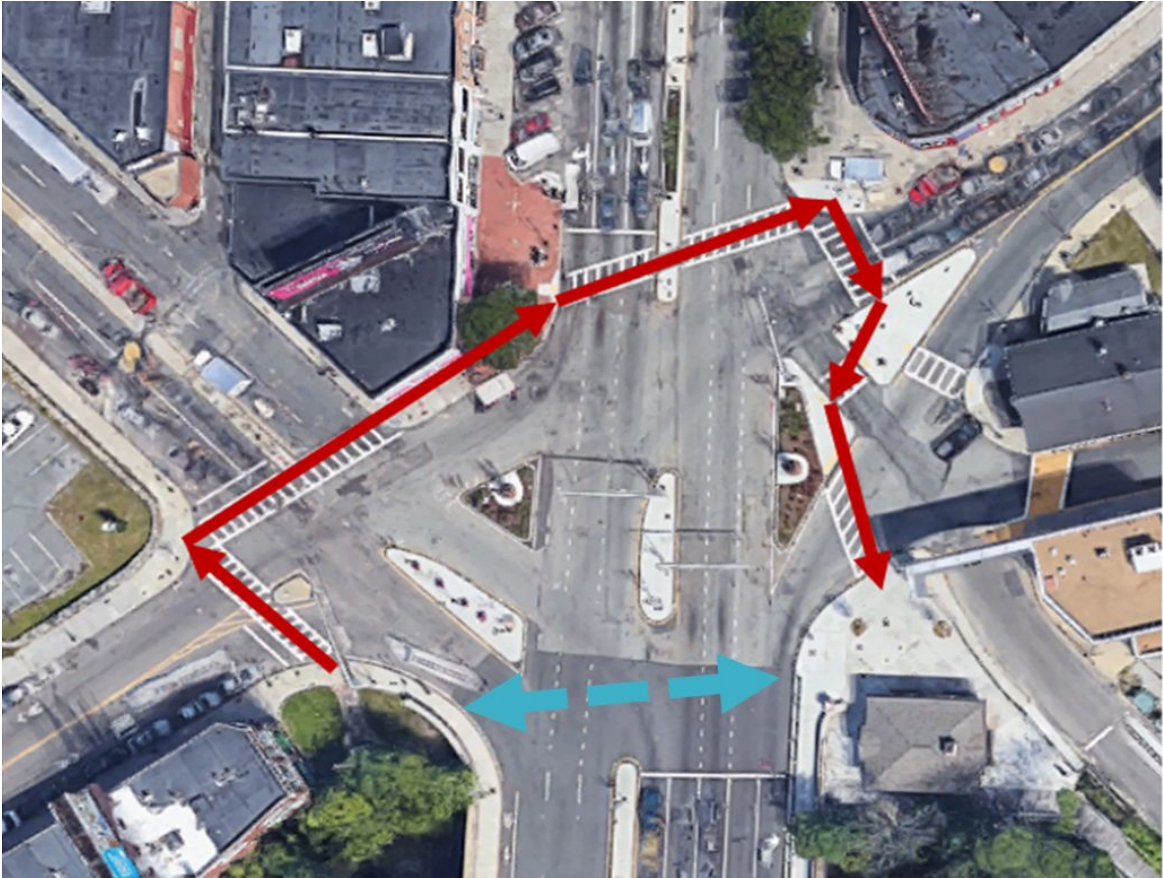
What We Heard: Breakout on Small Business and Cultural Identity of Mattapan Square

- Unique and vibrant
- A Caribbean culture that “feels like home”
- Hustle and bustle; crowded sidewalks; people bump into each other (good and bad)
- Would like more healthy food options, coffee shops and neighborhood gathering places
- Interesting historical buildings
- Needs more public space and trees

“I wish there was an initiative to showcase the Haitian cultural influence. An annual event to teach us about the culture ... (this) will make people want to come”

*Proposed Mattapan Square
Intersection Design*

Existing: Circuitous access to the Neponset Greenway



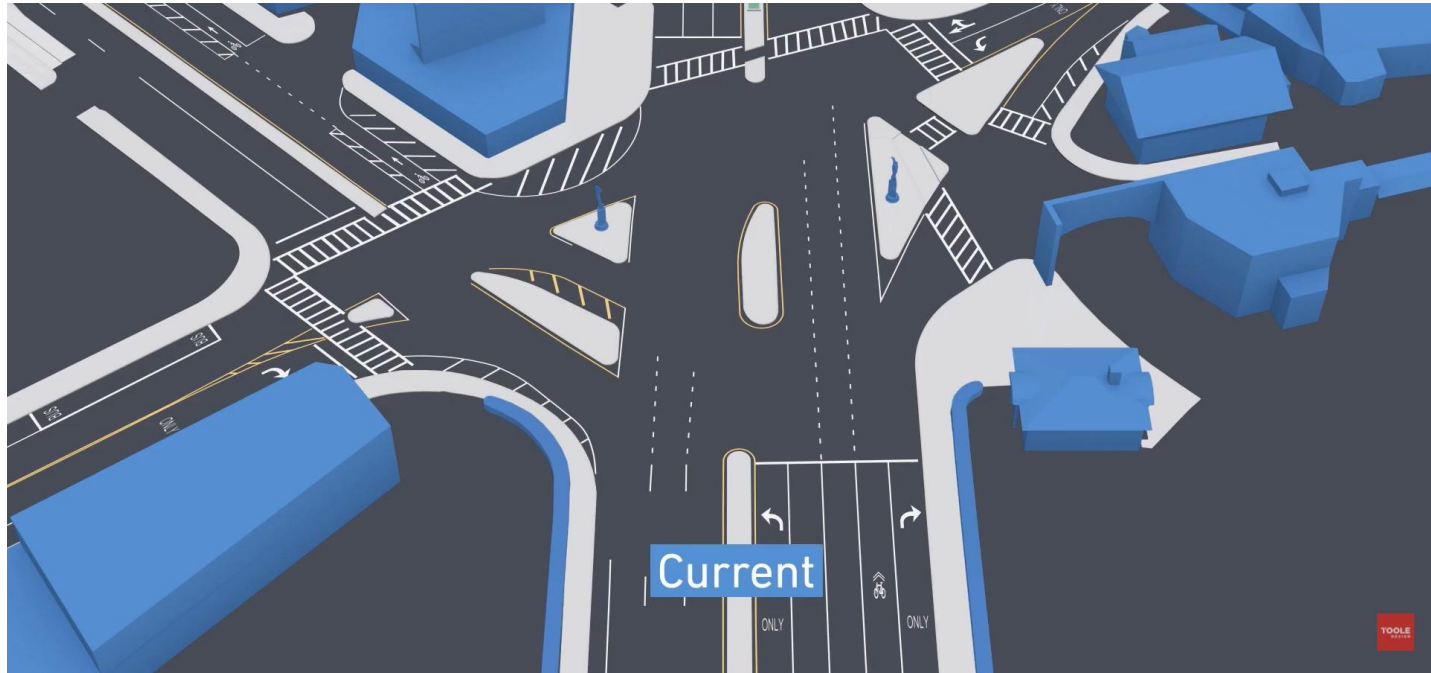
Existing: Sidewalk obstructions and pinch points



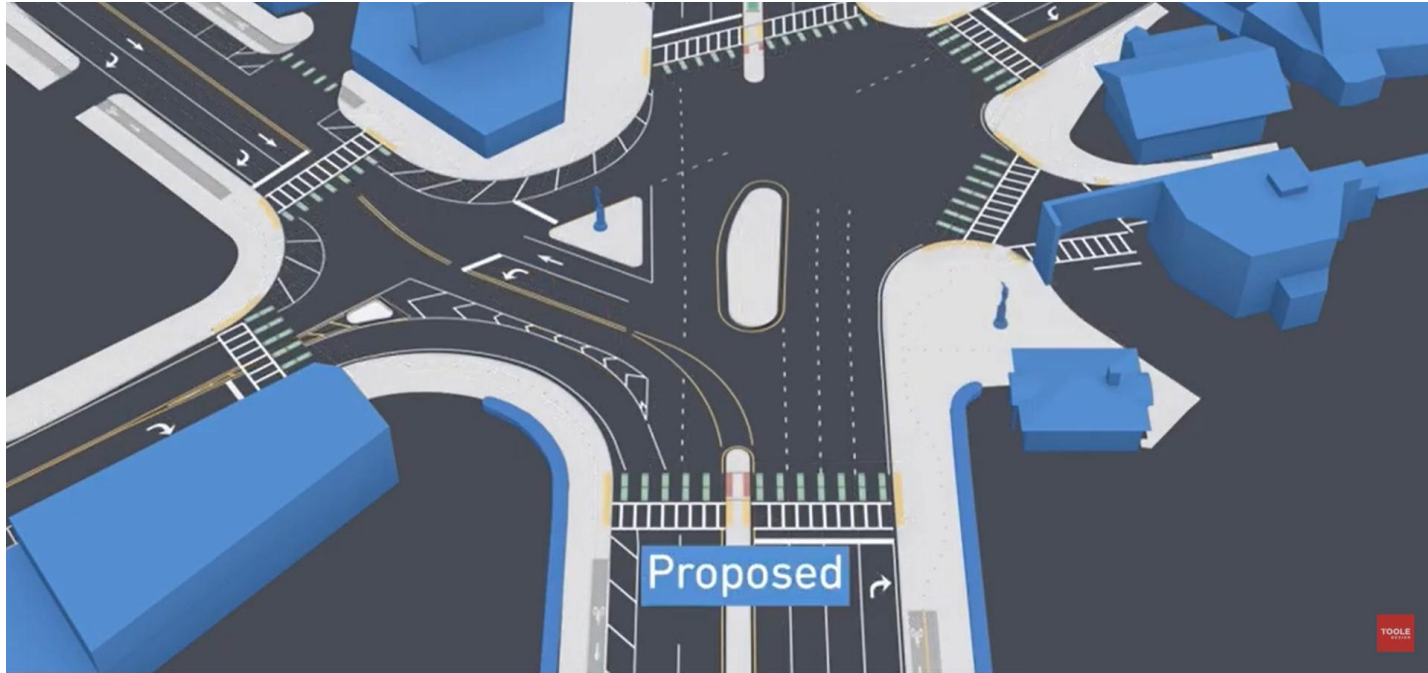
Existing: Circuitous bus route into the station



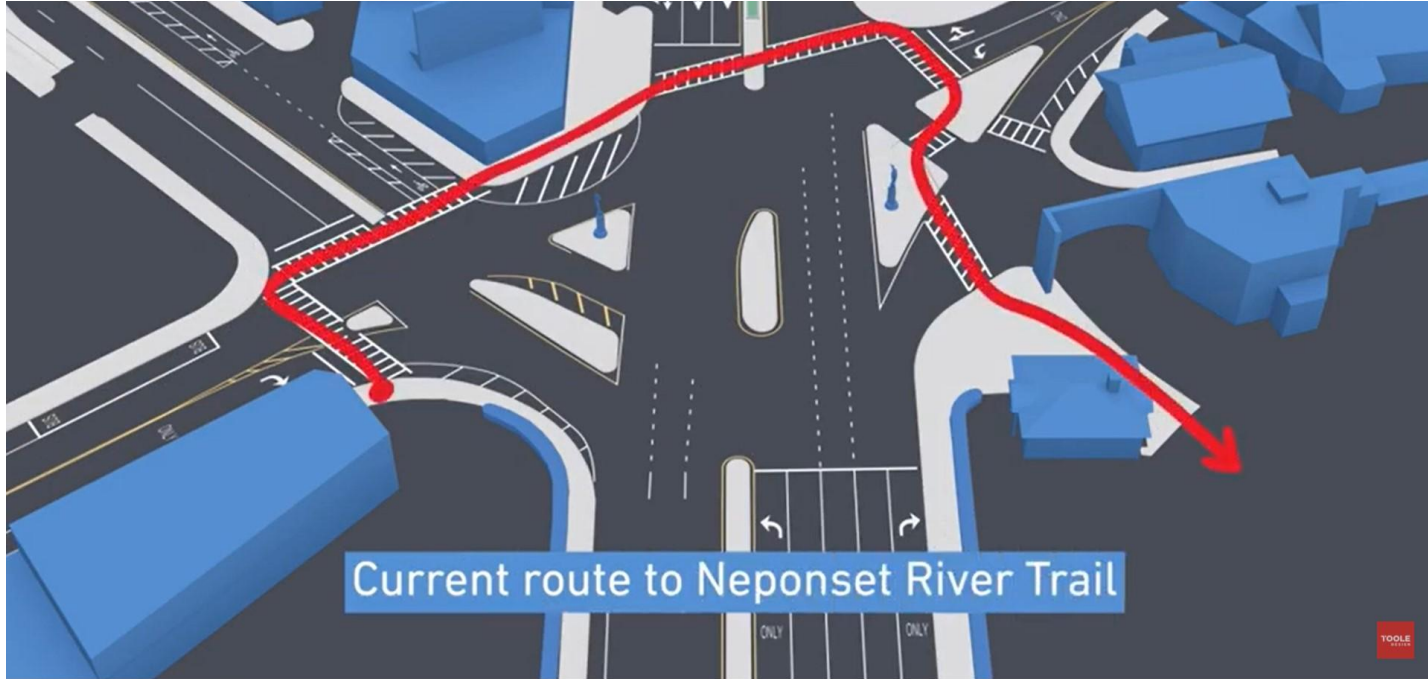
Current Design



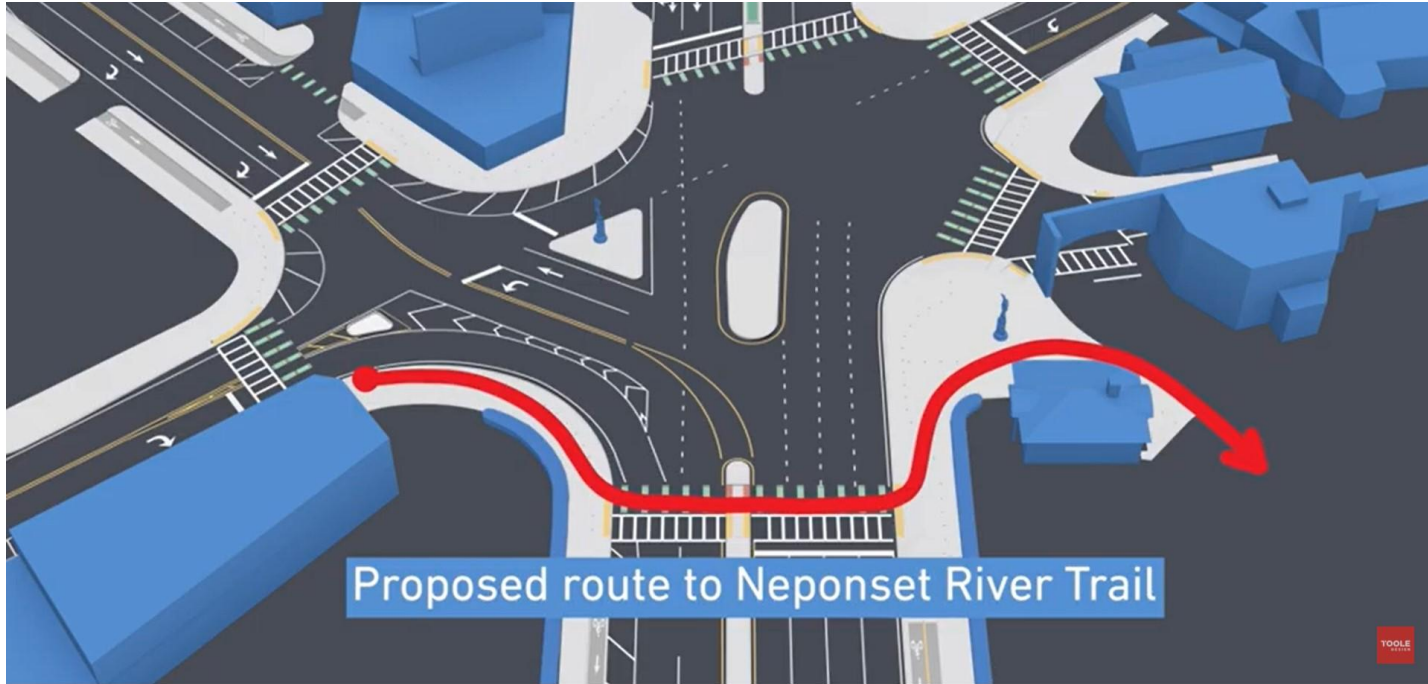
Proposed Design



Current Design



Proposed Design

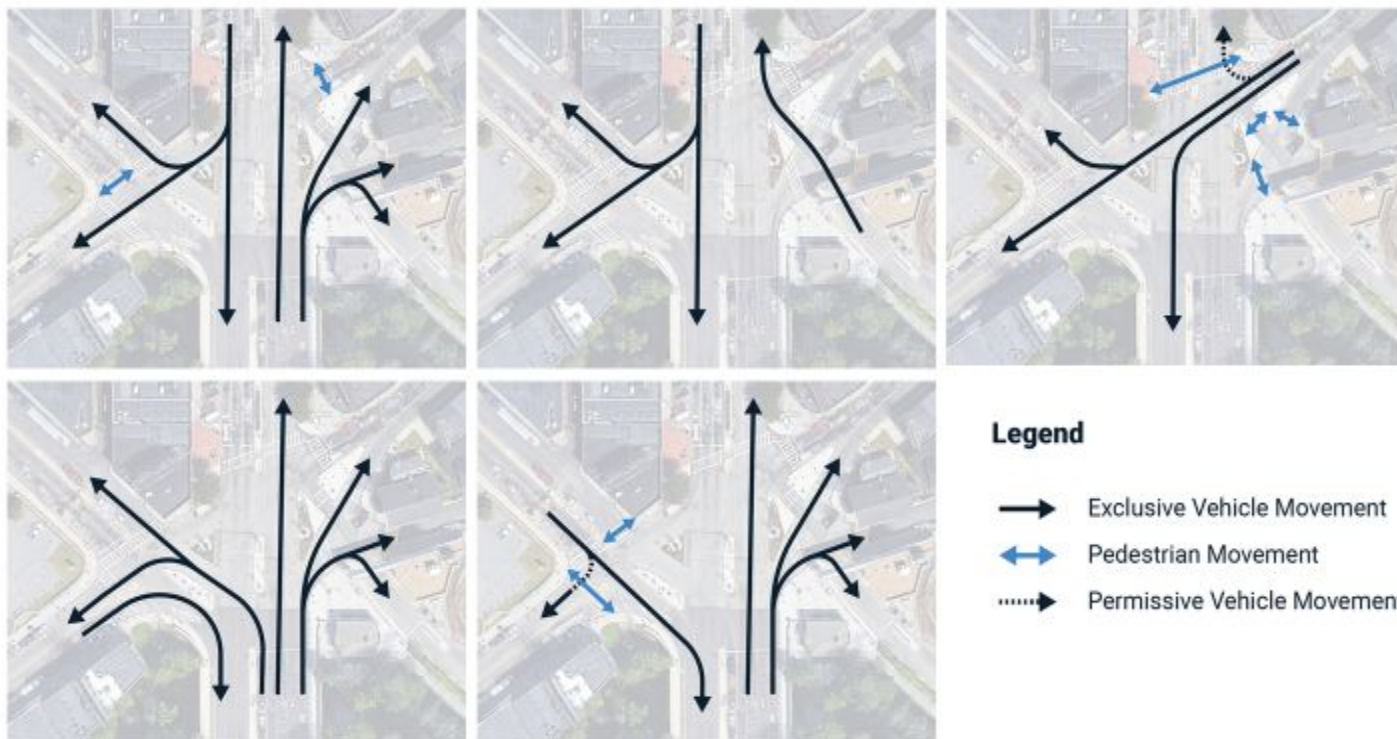


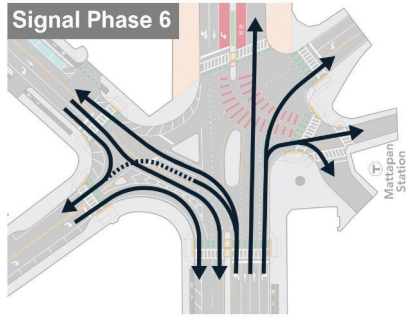
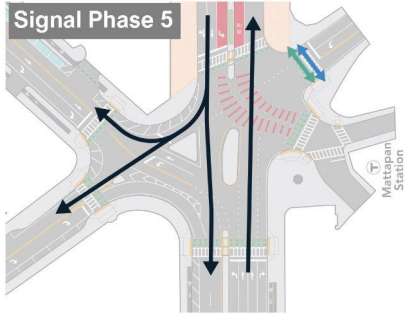
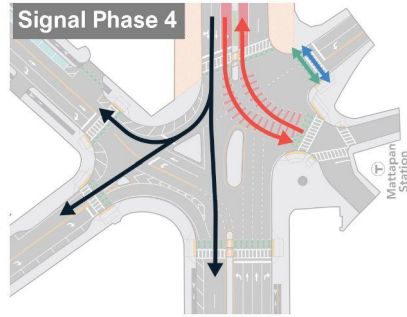
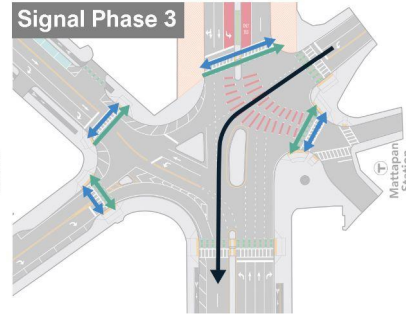
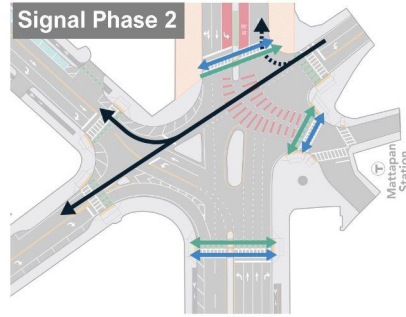
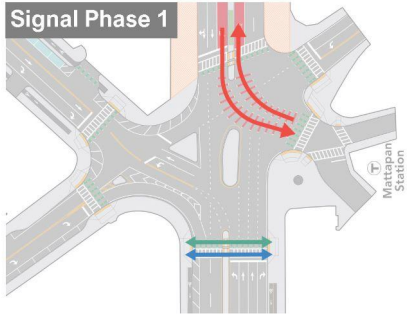
Buses Have Direct Access to Mattapan Station



Expanded Plaza with RISE Sculpture












**Mattapan Square
Proposed Signal Phasing**



Legend

-  Exclusive Vehicle Movement
-  Exclusive MBTA Bus Movement
-  Pedestrian Movement
-  Bicycle Movement
-  Permissive Vehicle Movement

Next Steps

January 2022:

- Town Hall later this month (stay tuned!)

February 2022:

- City hosted public meeting on Mattapan Square intersection
- T-Talk aimed at youth and teens (by MFFC and Powerful Pathways)

Remainder of 2022-spring 2023:

- Complete design, seek funding for construction

STAY INVOLVED

Visit our website: 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