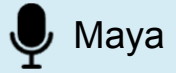


Blue Hill Avenue Transportation Action Plan!

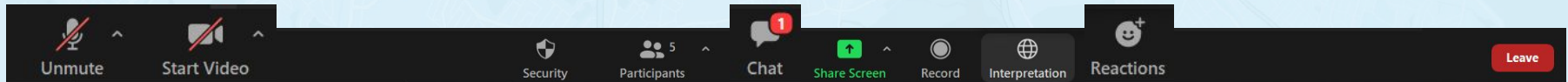
Community Meeting
April 25, 2023



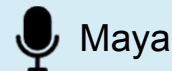
Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Bonjour!



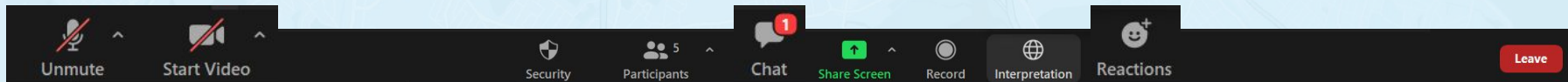
- This meeting **will be recorded**.
 - Esta reunión será grabada.
 - *Reyinyon sa a ap anrejistre.*
- Update your name in Zoom to include your preferred name and your pronouns.
 - Actualiza tu nombre en Zoom con tu nombre preferido y tus pronombres.
 - *Aktyalize non w sou Zoom pou w mete non prefere w ak pwonon w.*



Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Bonjour!



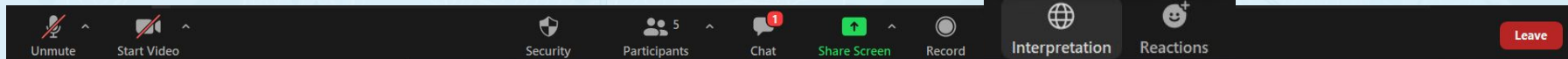
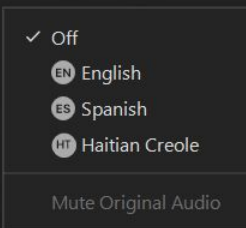
- Your microphones are turned off to start. You will need to unmute to speak. Joining via phone? Press ***6** to unmute.
 - Tu micrófono está apagado al empezar. Tendrás que reactivarlo para hablar. ¿Participando por teléfono? Presiona *6 para reactivar el micrófono.
 - *Mikwo w fèmen pou kòmanse. Ou pral bezwen ouvri mikwo a pou w pale. W ap konekte pa telefòn? Peze *6 pou ouvri mikwo a.*
- 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.
 - Puedes utilizar las opciones de reacción no verbales. O dejar un mensaje en el chat si tienes alguna pregunta. Si estás llamando por teléfono usa *9 para levantar la mano.
 - *Ou gendwa sèvi ak opsyon fidbak non-vèbal. Leve men w oswa kite yon mesaj nan bwat tchat la si w genyen yon kesyon. Si w konekte nan reyinyon an, sèvi ak *9 pou leve men w.*



Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Bonjou!



- 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.*





Charlotte

Welcome!

Blue Hill Avenue Transportation Action Plan

Community Meeting

April 25, 2023





Charlotte

Recordings of our past monthly Zoom meetings and other project materials can be found here:

boston.gov/blue-hill-avenue



Charlotte

Project Goals

Goal 1: Improve pedestrian safety along Blue Hill Ave

Goal 2: Expand transportation options and reliability

Goal 3: Connect infrastructure investments to the work of other City departments and State agencies (*including housing and development, business and economic development, environmental resilience, and public realm improvements*)



Charlotte

Meeting Goals

- Goal 1:** Orient residents to where this project came from, who is involved, and why this process is different
- Goal 2:** Provide updates about planning studies & engagement activities along Blue Hill Ave (BHA)
- Goal 3:** Respond to common questions about the Columbus Ave study
- Goal 4:** Share project updates about related initiatives along BHA
- Goal 5:** Provide an overview of upcoming engagement and how to get involved



Chavella

Ground Rules

1. Maintain respect for others in this space (*consultants, community members, and municipal agencies*).
2. Use “I” statements. If you are representing a neighborhood association or group, please share when speaking
3. Step up and step back.
4. There will be a good amount of time for reaction and discussion at the end, please try to limit your questions until then.



Charlotte

Tonight's Agenda

1. Meet the Team, Project Overview & Public Commitments
2. Responding to Common Questions: Columbus Ave
3. Project Updates: Green Infrastructure
4. How to Get Involved



Jeff

INTRO POLL

- 1. What is your main way of traveling along Blue Hill Ave?**
(walk, bike, car, public transit, other)
- 2. Why is this your primary way to get around?**
- 3. What is your home zip code?**

(If you can't get the poll to work, feel free to use the Chat)



Charlotte

Blue Hill Avenue

Meet the Team,
Project Overview &
Public Commitments





Charlotte

Public Sector Team

BOSTON TRANSPORTATION DEPT



Kirstie Hostetter
Project Manager



Maya Mudgal
Transit Planner



Graham Moitoso
Transit Co-op



Charlotte Fleetwood
Mattapan Square

OTHER PUBLIC DEPARTMENTS



Kenya Beaman
BPDA

Office of Housing
Office of Economic Opportunity & Inclusion
Boston Planning & Development Agency
Office of Neighborhood Services
Office of New Urban Mechanics
Office of Arts and Culture
Disabilities Commission
Age Strong Commission
Metropolitan Area Planning Council

MassDOT/MBTA



Andrew McFarland
MBTA Transit
Priority

Erik Scheier
MBTA Capital Delivery

Phillip Cherry
MBTA Transit Priority

Benjamin Muller
MassDOT District 6 (Blue Hill
Ave/Boston)



Stephen

Engagement Team

ENGAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Grayscale Collaborative



Stephen Gray



Anne Ning Lin



Caroline Filice Smith

Powerful Pathways



Allentza Michel



L Scully

Toole Design Group



Jeff Rosenblum

Consult LeLa



Ishmael D. Hazelwood



Chavella Lee-Pacheco

Real Talk for Change



Ceasar McDowell

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition
Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council
Morning Star Baptist Church
Mattapan Square Main Streets
Garrison Trotter Neighborhood Association

PUBLIC AGENCIES

Boston Transportation Department
Boston Planning & Development Agency
MBTA

SO FAR, STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS WITH:

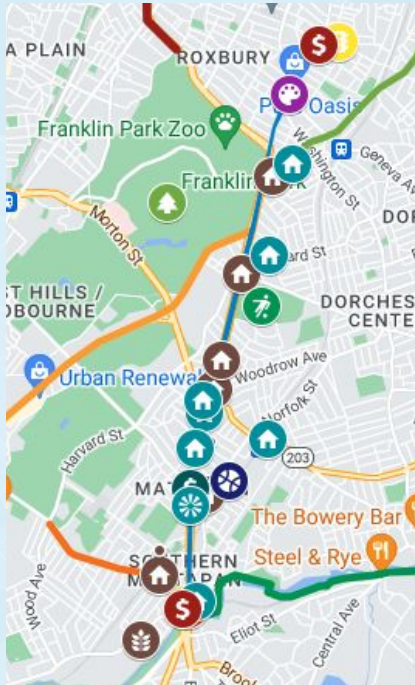
Garrison Trotter Neighborhood Association
Greater Grove Hall Main Streets
Project R.I.G.H.T. Inc.
Franklin Park Coalition
Mattapan Teen Center
Prince Hall Grand Lodge
Mattapan Community Health Center
Franklin Park Zoo



Stephen

There's lots going on around Blue Hill Ave

Existing and Ongoing Projects Inventory



Warren Street Bus Priority Corridor

Columbia Road Greenway

Harambee Park Improvements

PLAN: Mattapan

Cummins Highway Redesign

American Legion Highway Safety Improvements

Franklin Park Master Plan

Columbus Ave Bus Priority Corridor

Mattapan Square Redesign

Blue Hill Ave Action Plan

Neighborhood Slow Streets: Grove Hall/Quincy Corridor

Fairmount Line Service Enhancement

DPW Resurfacing Projects

Bike Share Expansion

Grove Hall Plaza Mural

Greater Grove Hall Main Streets Green Median

Bus Network Redesign

DCR Neponset River West

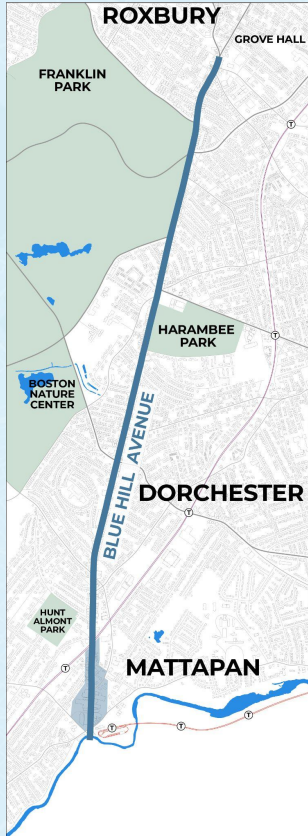
Mattapan Line Improvements

Bridge Replacement - Blue Hill Avenue over Railroad



Stephen

Where & How We Are Working



Since June 2019:

24 Public meetings about BHA or Mattapan Square

15 Workshop sessions

40+ In-person drop-ins

2 Mailers sent to ~23,000 homes 0.5-mi from BHA

4 Community walks

500+ Survey responses

How we are working differently:

Holistic Approach to Blue Hill Ave

- Not just transportation...
- Also public realm, housing & development, business & employment





Stephen

Public Commitments

- Commitment 1:** The City and engagement team are committed to making informed, data-driven decisions which respond to questions raised by the public.
- Commitment 2:** The City and engagement team are committed to improving pedestrian safety along Blue Hill Ave.
- Commitment 3:** The City and engagement team believe that the public funding for this project should be allocated based on public priorities.



Stephen

Feedback from Grove Hall Drop-ins

““

That would be sweet. (in response to the idea of a center-running bus lane)

Grove Hall Drop-in Hours, March 29, 2023

““

My main concern is about rent. It just keeps going up.

Grove Hall Drop-in Hours, April 5, 2023

““

Blue Hill Avenue is unsafe to drive on, and I have trouble finding parking when I come to the laundromat.

Grove Hall Drop-in Hours, April 5, 2023

““

Blue Hill Ave is in need of a major change. I'm frustrated by the long wait times at bus stops, and the buses are normally very crowded.

Grove Hall Drop-in Hours, April 5, 2023

““

If the City had maintained the trees on Blue Hill Avenue they would be in better condition. (talking about a pattern of disinvestment)

Grove Hall Drop-in Hours, April 12, 2023

““

There's bus lanes in a lot of other places. Why not here?

Grove Hall Drop-in Hours, April 12, 2023



Maya

Blue Hill Avenue

Responding to Common Questions





Maya

Q: What was the impact of the Columbus Ave center-running bus lanes on traffic?



Maya

Study Methodology

- General traffic data
 - StreetLight data platform
 - Collected by a third-party service provider
- Bus impact data
 - Bus travel times calculated from MBTA data
 - Ridership numbers from MBTA
 - Rider satisfaction data from an in-person survey
- Questions on methodology? Please reach out at transit@boston.gov

Today, the Columbus Ave
bus lanes are used by about

4,900
passengers
every weekday.



In a survey of people riding
the Columbus Ave bus lanes,

over 75%
were satisfied
with the new bus lanes.



During rush hour, the Columbus Ave bus lanes save bus riders about

**3-4 mins
each trip**

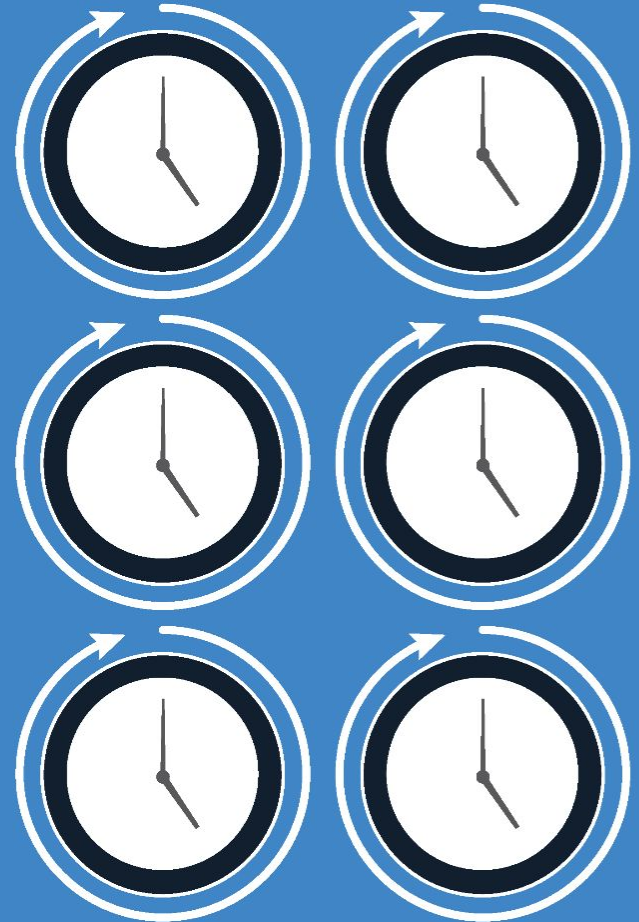
or about 7 mins a day,
which gives you extra
time to grab your morning
Dunkin'.



The Columbus Ave bus lanes save an average of 2 minutes per bus trip, or

**about
6 hours**

of bus operating time every day.



The time savings from
the Columbus Ave bus
lanes could allow the
T to operate buses

**more
frequently**

with the same number
of operators



Added up across all riders, the bus lanes save the equivalent of

81 hours
each day

or the amount of time it takes to drive to Los Angeles and back again.

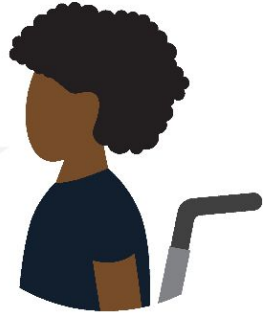




I love it! Love that I'm not stuck in that [pointing at traffic]. My only concern is about people crossing in the middle of the bus lanes.

Bus driver of 22 bus

More of it!
Bus lanes
should go all
the way to
Mattapan Sq.



I don't have to be guessing when the bus is coming.



VIP express to the
train station. I love it!



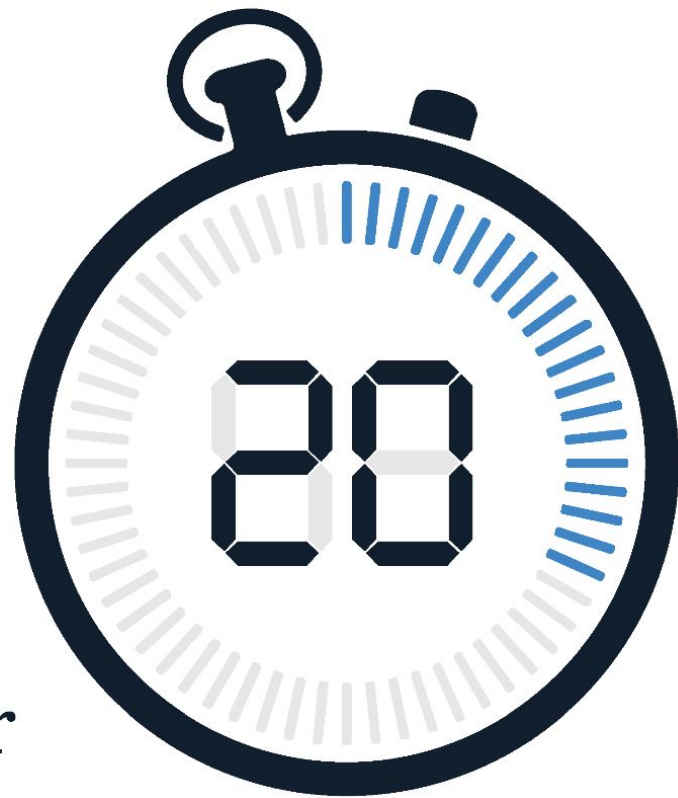
I heard the new bus lanes were coming, so I tried it out and it's much faster. I like it because it's much more economical. I'm headed to the doctor and if I took an Uber it would cost \$20.



**AFTER the Columbus Ave
bus lanes were built,** it takes
an average of about only

**20-30 more
seconds**

for people to drive the corridor



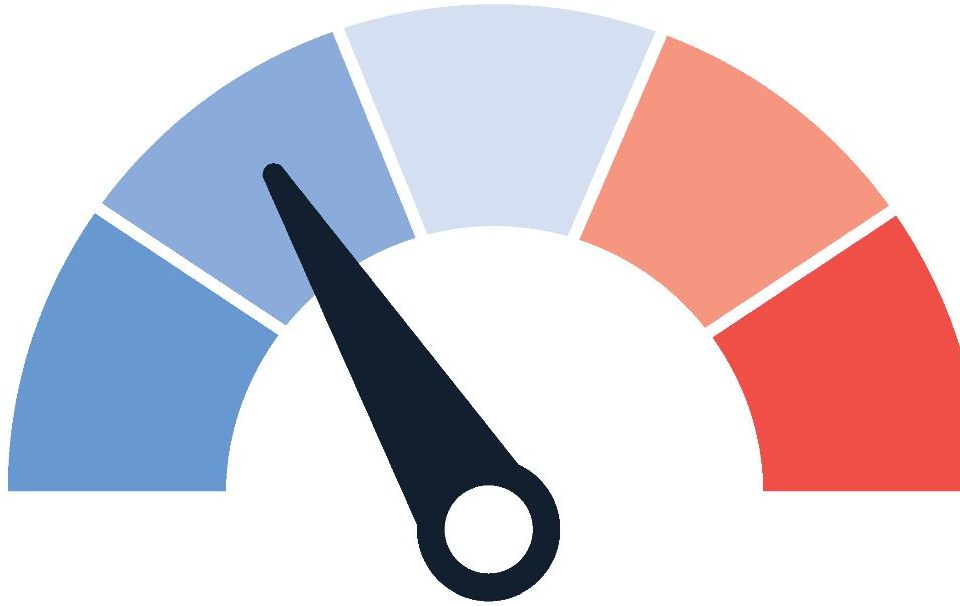
**The 20- to 30-second range shows that added time for people driving is greater during rush hour, and lower during non-rush-hour times.*

**AFTER the Columbus
Ave bus lanes, about
10% more vehicles are
obeying
the speed
limit**



**AFTER the Columbus
Ave bus lanes,** average
auto speeds have
declined by

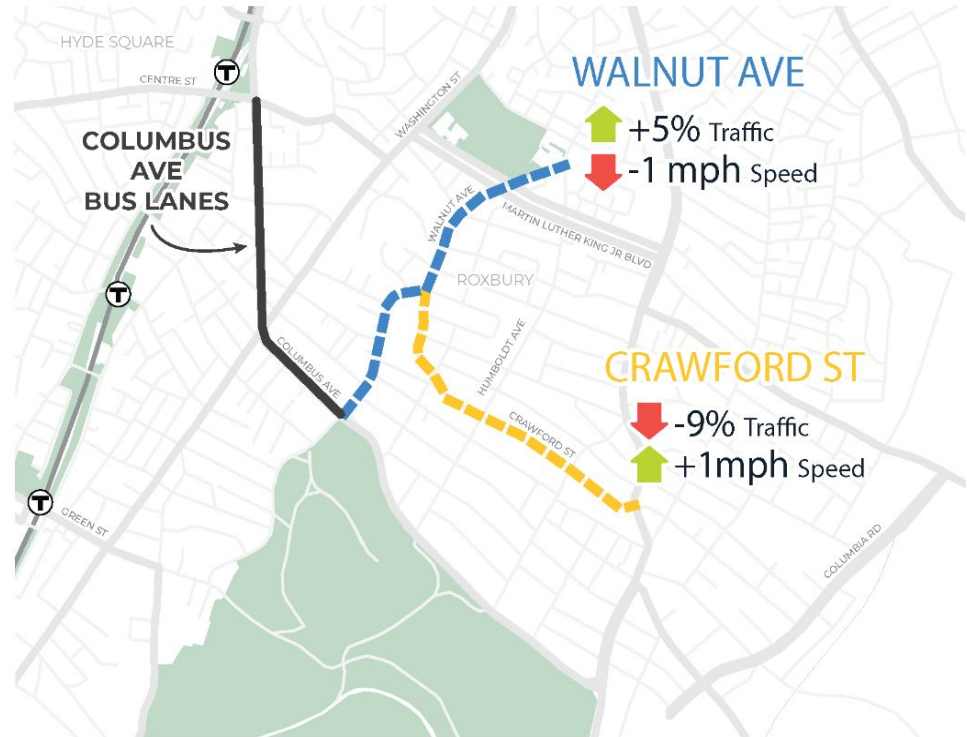
1.5 mph



The bus lanes may have caused some people to avoid Columbus Ave when driving.

AFTER the Columbus Ave bus lanes...

- On Walnut Ave, traffic increased at a rate about five percentage points more than the neighborhood average.
- Speed data show that where traffic increased on neighborhood streets, auto speeds went down, and vice versa.



WALNUT AVE

COLUMBUS AVE
BUS LANES

Walnut Ave at Crawford St and Holworthy St
Walnut Ave at Cobden St
Walnut Ave at Westminster Ave
Walnut Ave at Ruthven St

Humboldt Ave at Munroe St

Wolf Square
Crispus Attucks Children's Center

Bridge Boston Charter

Boston Latin Academy

Higginson Lewis K-8

Ellis Elementary

Trotter K-8

Egleston Square Library

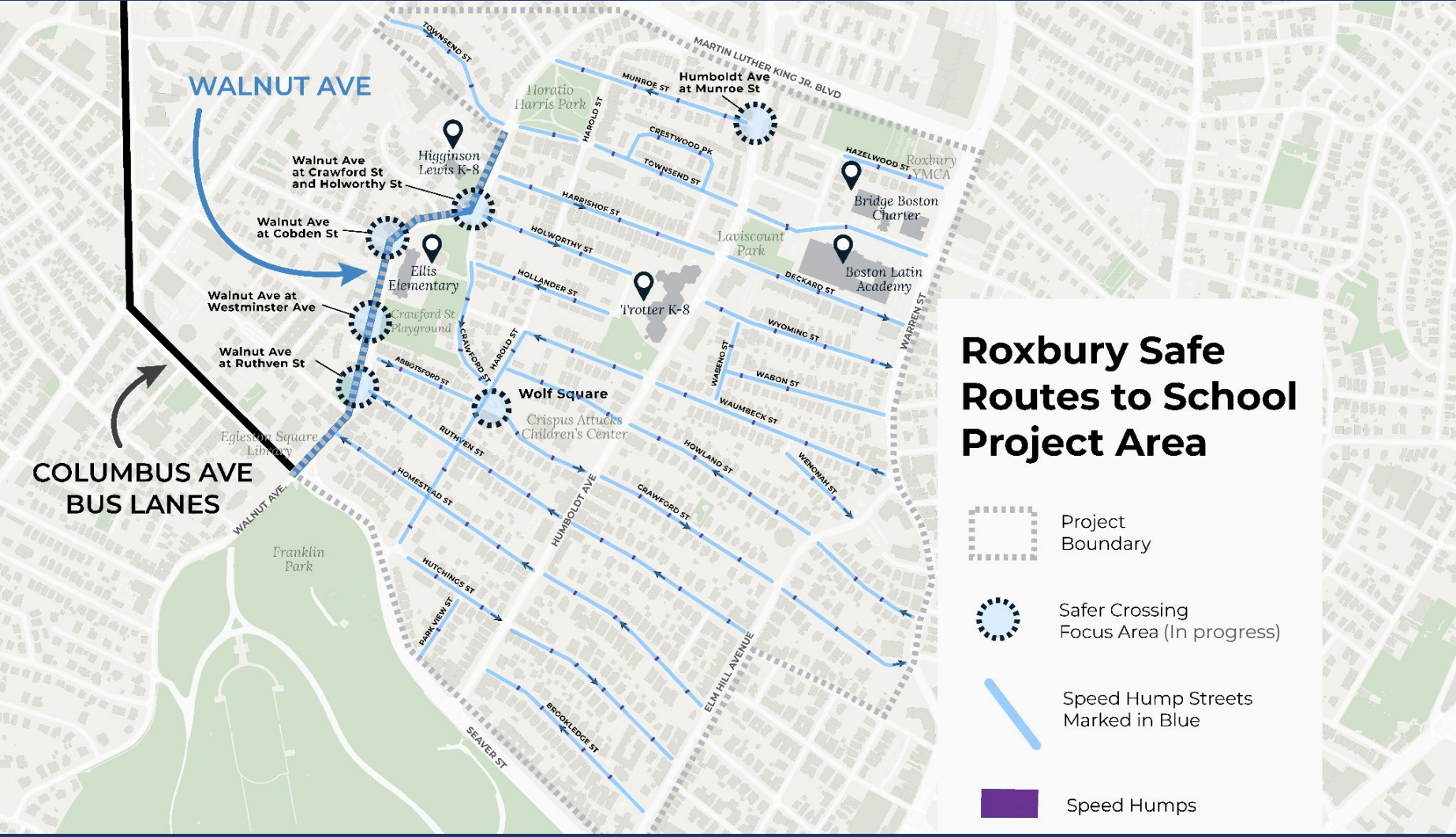
Crawford St Playground

Laviscourt Park

Horatio Harris Park

Roxbury YMCA

Franklin Park



Roxbury Safe Routes to School Project Area

-  Project Boundary
-  Safer Crossing Focus Area (In progress)
-  Speed Hump Streets Marked in Blue
-  Speed Humps



Kate

Blue Hill Avenue

Project Updates: Green Infrastructure

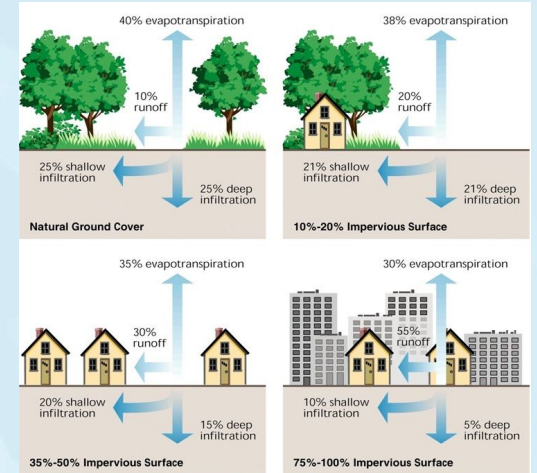


An aerial photograph of a city street intersection. The image is split horizontally. The top half shows a dense urban area with multi-story brick and stone buildings. The bottom half shows a street intersection with green-painted bike lanes and crosswalks. A semi-circular green landscaped area is visible on the left side of the intersection. Several cars are visible on the road, and a few pedestrians are walking on the sidewalks. The text "Stormwater & Green Infrastructure" is overlaid in white on a dark horizontal band across the middle of the image.

Stormwater & Green Infrastructure

What is Stormwater?

- Stormwater is generated when rain falls on hard surfaces, like roads, roofs, driveways or sidewalks and “runs off,” rather than absorbing into the ground.
- Catch basins in our roadways capture stormwater and convey runoff through the storm drain system to our water bodies.



So, what's the problem?

Quality

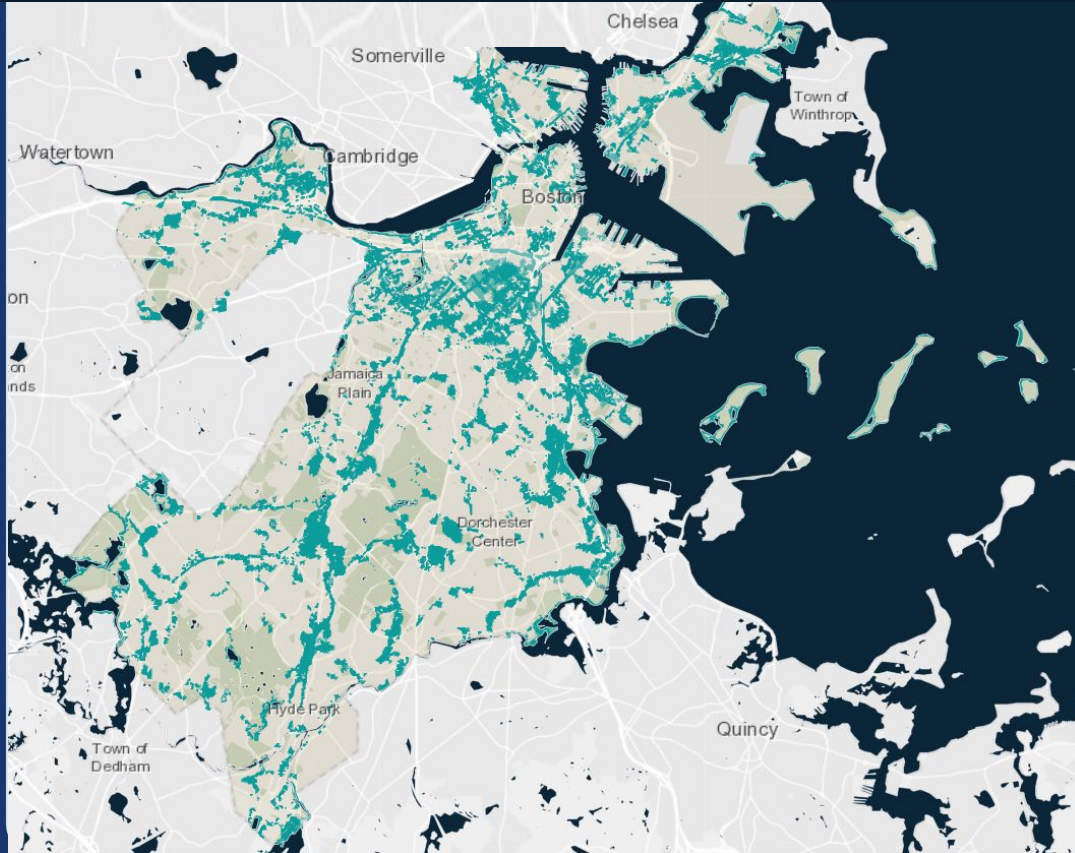
- As stormwater travels along hard, impervious surfaces, it picks up pollutants and litter along the way.
- Storm drains then release pollutant laden stormwater into receiving waters, which creates impaired water bodies and damages ecosystems.

Quantity

- During “typical” storm events (~1”), stormwater is largely captured and conveyed by storm drains.
- During large storm events, the storm drain system can become overwhelmed and outfalls can be blocked by storm surge and higher than normal tides, resulting in stormwater flooding.



Expected Stormwater Impacts

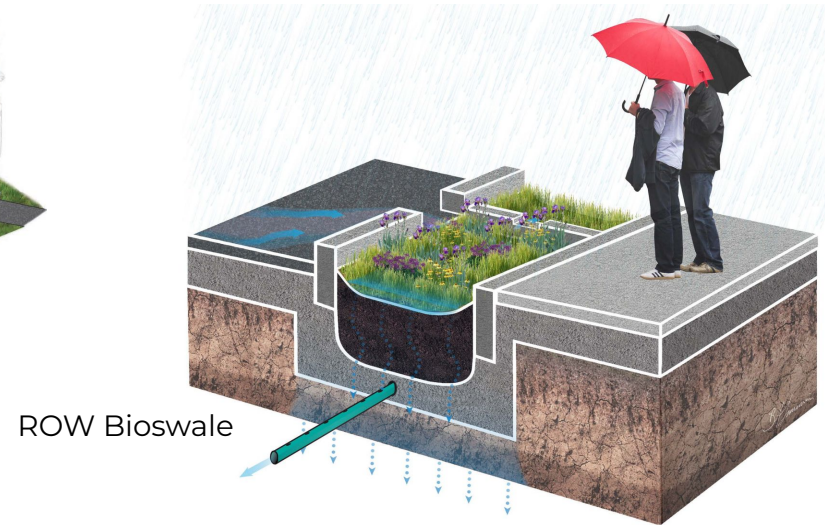


- Stormwater Inundation Mapping shows the Long Term Impacts of Stormwater (10 year storm, 24-hour storm event)
- Flooding in every neighborhood
- This affects us all!

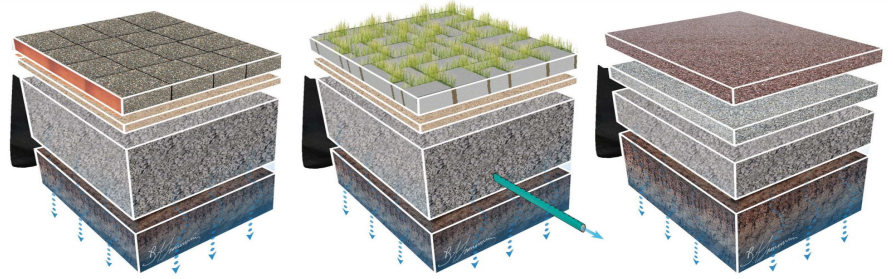
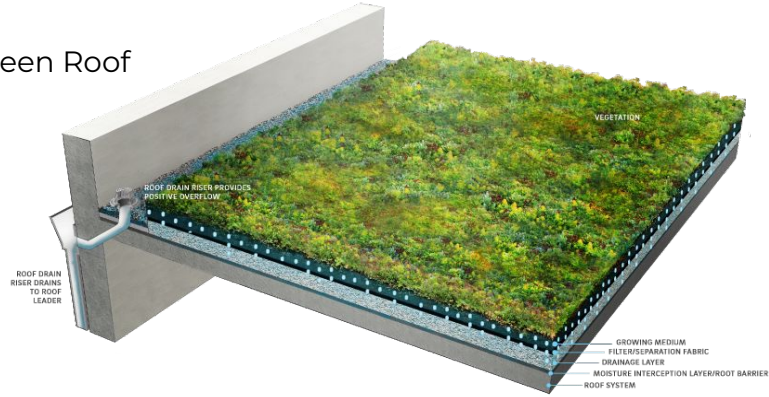
Source: *Climate Ready Boston Map Explorer*

What is Green Infrastructure?

- Green Infrastructure (“GI”) is an approach to water management that restores or mimics the natural water cycle.
- GI features features, like rain gardens and right-of-way bioswales, utilize natural hydrologic processes to capture, purify and infiltrate stormwater back into the ground.

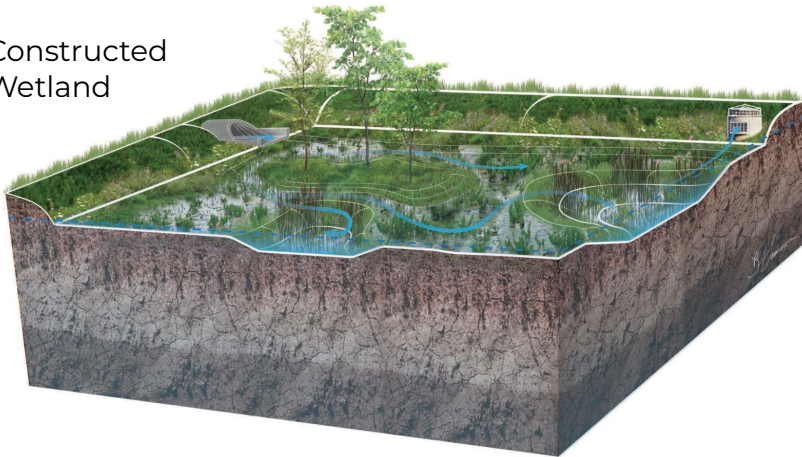


Green Roof

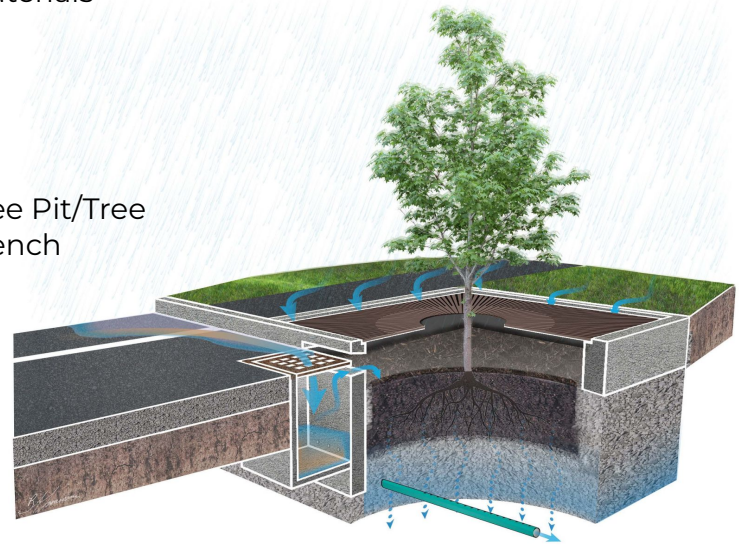


Porous Paving Materials

Constructed Wetland



Tree Pit/Tree Trench



Co-Benefits

- Increased urban green space / tree canopy
- Reduced urban heat island effect
- Slower streets / improved pedestrian & cyclist safety
- More biodiversity / pollinator habitat
- Reduced energy usage
- Improved Environmental Justice
(e.g. air quality, access to nature, food security, etc.)
- Opportunities for environmental education



First Green Infrastructure Policy: Curb Extensions

Three (3) components:

1. Five (5) Design Alternatives
 - a. ROW Bioretention
 - b. Infiltration Tree Pit/Tree Trench
 - c. Porous Paving
 - d. Subsurface Infiltration Area
 - e. One-time Seeding
2. Two (2) Maintenance Contracts
 - a. Regenerative Air Vacuum Sweeping
 - b. Landscape Maintenance
3. Volunteer Program





New England Avenue



NEW ENGLAND AVE
↔
TWO WAY

SOUTHERN AVE
↔
TWO WAY

COLONIAL AVE
←
ONE WAY

MALLARD AVE
←
ONE WAY











SOUTHERN

NEW ENGLAND RD



NO RIGHT TURN

New England

© 2022 Google



SOUTHERN AVE

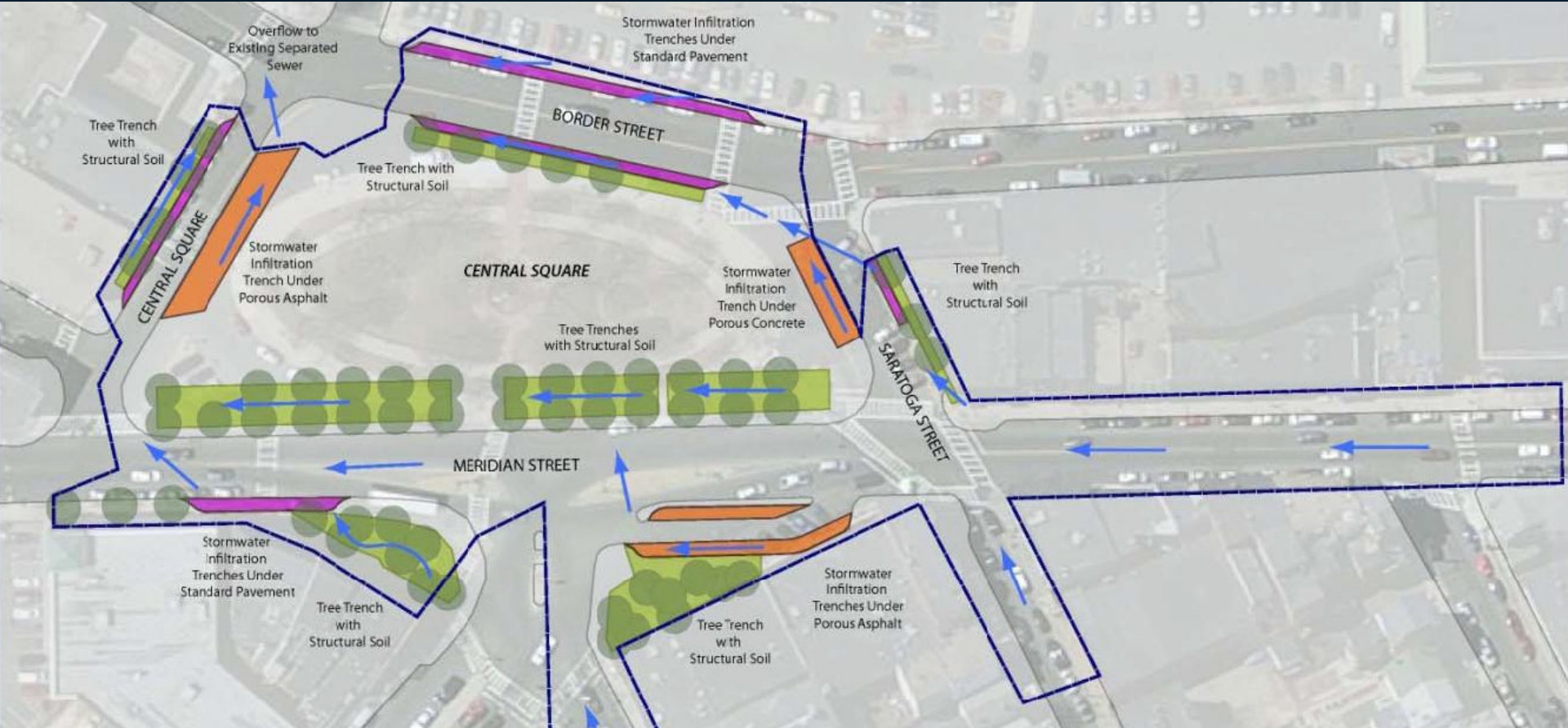
**JUST
VOTE**

A VOTELESS PEOPLE IS A POWERLESS PEOPLE
VOTE YOUR POWER. VOTE YOUR INTERESTS. JUST VOTE!
THENEWDEMOCRACYCOALITION.ORG

RUTHZEE

CULPEPPER

Central Square









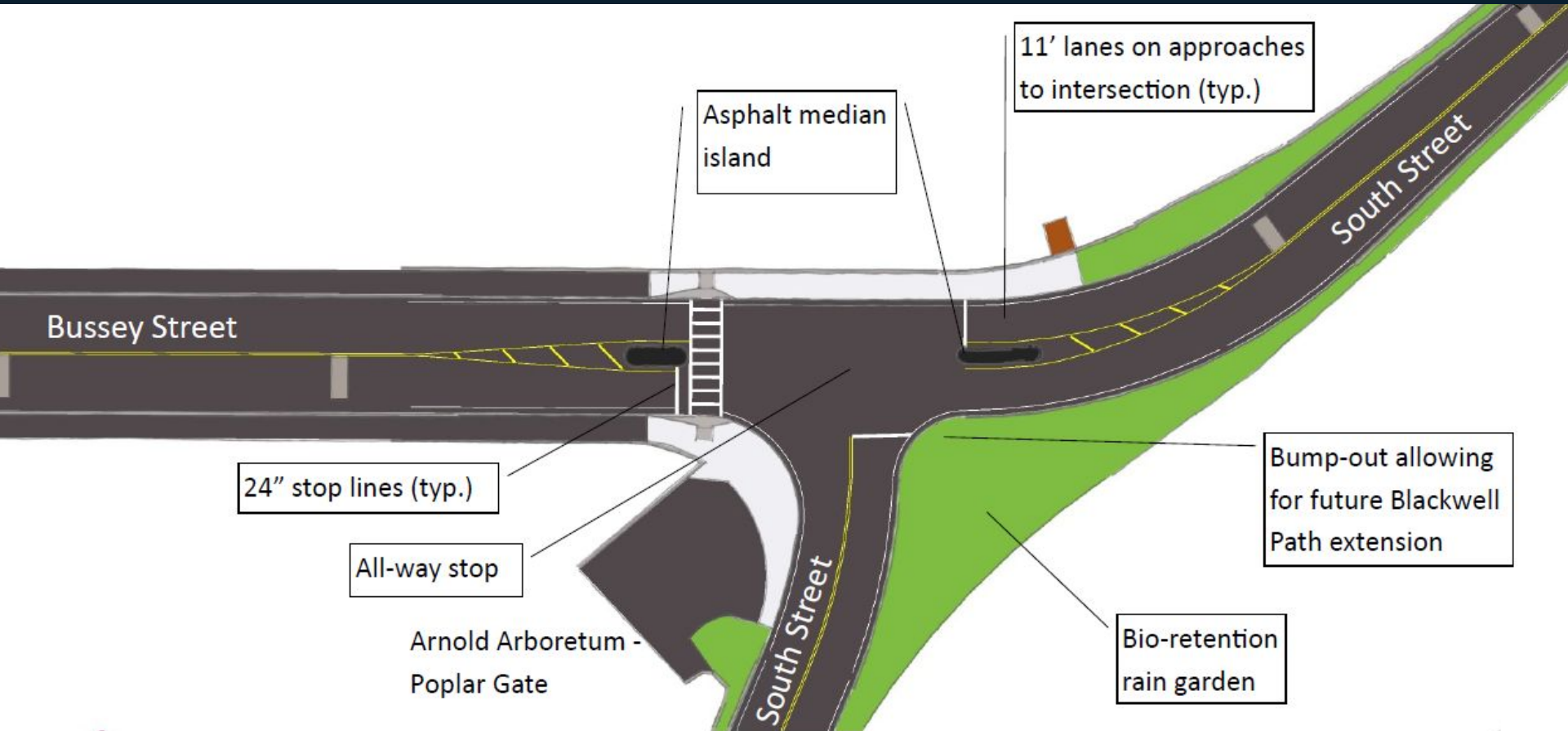


CITY OF
EAST BOSTON
OFFICE OF THE
CITY MANAGER
100 WATER STREET
EAST BOSTON, MA 02128





South Street & Bussey Street





South Street & Bussey Street (Jamaica Plain)



South Street & Bussey Street (Jamaica Plain)



South Street & Bussey Street (Jamaica Plain)

A wide-angle photograph of a university campus walkway. The scene is dominated by large, mature trees with green and yellowing leaves, suggesting an autumn setting. A paved walkway runs through the center, flanked by green lawns and several metal park benches. In the background, a street with parked cars and a building with a sign that says "106 1st" are visible. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. A dark blue semi-transparent banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the word "Questions?" in white text.

Questions?



Jeff

POLL

What would you like to see more of? Please select up to four options.

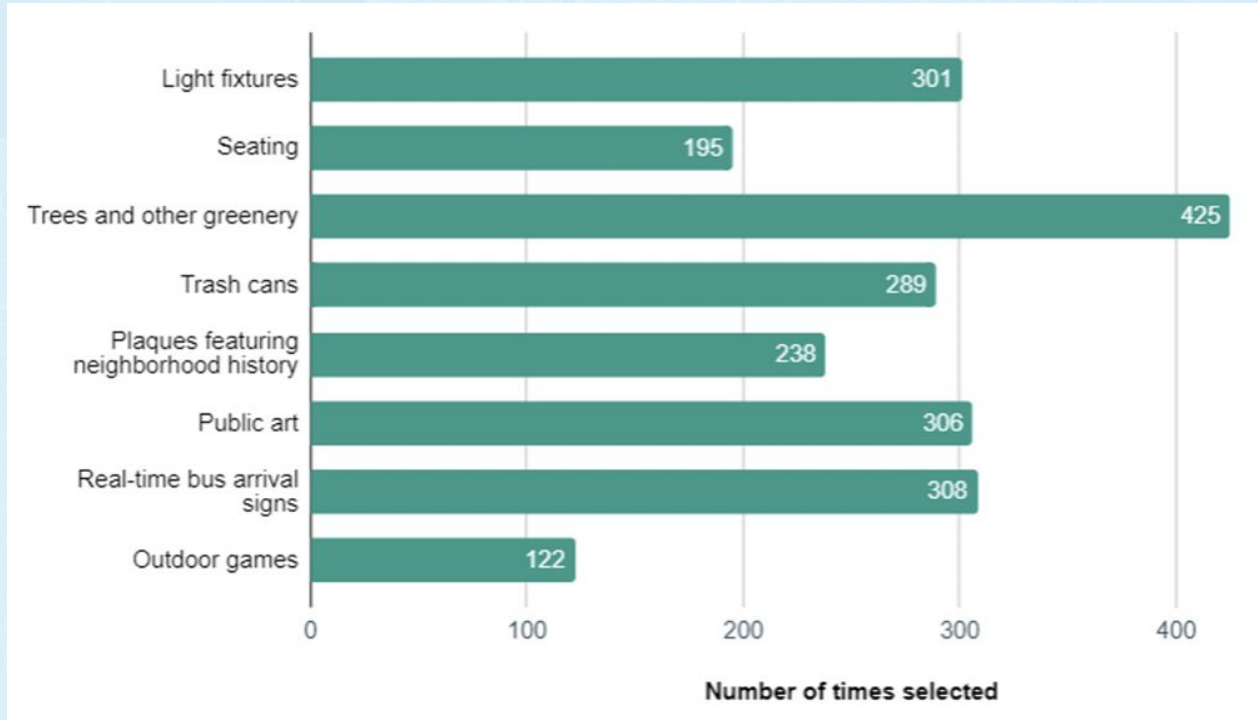
- Light fixtures
- Seating
- Trees and other greenery
- Trash cans
- Plaques featuring neighborhood history
- Public art
- Real-time bus arrival signs
- Outdoor games
- Other (please write it in the chat)



Jeff

Poll Results from 2019

Desired public space enhancements



Survey
included 589
respondents



Stephen

Blue Hill Avenue

How to Get Involved





Stephen

Upcoming Engagement: Real Talk

Here's how Real Talk works...

- Real Talk for Change amplifies the voices of residents currently underrepresented in existing engagement conversations
- These are facilitated conversations between 4-8 community members



If you would like to participate, **please scan the QR code to the left.**

Or fill out the RSVP form here:

<https://forms.gle/mZEgx9ydyir3HHDK8>



Stephen

Upcoming In-Person Engagement

Blue Hill Ave
Transportation Action Plan!
Plan de Acción de Transporte!

Guide the City's investments along Blue Hill Ave
Dirige las inversiones de la Ciudad en Blue Hill Ave

The graphic features a blue map of a city street grid with a prominent blue line representing Blue Hill Ave. To the right, an illustration shows four diverse people sitting around a yellow circular table, engaged in a meeting. One person is using a laptop, and another is holding a smartphone. A small circular logo with colorful dots is in the top right corner of the graphic.

Pop-up exhibition: April 2023

- April 17-29 Grove Hall Library -
 - Open House Thursday, April 27th 6-8pm

Consult LeLa - Not Your Average Public Meeting

- Thursday, April 27, 6-8 PM (Kay's Oasis)



Charlotte

POLL

Please use the Zoom poll to indicate your interest level in getting involved with other engagement activities.

If you select “Yes” or “Maybe,” the team may reach out to you with more info about upcoming engagement.

(If you can't get the poll to work, feel free to use the Chat).

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

- **“Real Talk” sessions - in-depth, intimate conversations about Blue Hill Ave**
- **Pop-up exhibit open house**
 - Grove Hall library - Apr 27, 6-8pm
- **Not Your Average Public Meeting** at Kay's Lounge on Apr 27, 6-8pm
- **Grove Hall drop-in hours** at Grove Hall Public Library every Wednesday from 10am-12pm through May 31
- **Monthly public meetings** through July
- **Bus rider surveys** on routes along BHA
- **Business surveys** along BHA
- **Youth-focused** learning & engagement workshops



Charlotte

How to Stay Connected

Contact Information

Phone: 617-635-3944

Website: [boston.gov/blue-hill-avenue](https://www.boston.gov/blue-hill-avenue)

Email: bluehillave@boston.gov

What other questions do you have? [Let us know using this form!](#)