

Blue Hill Avenue Transportation Action Plan!

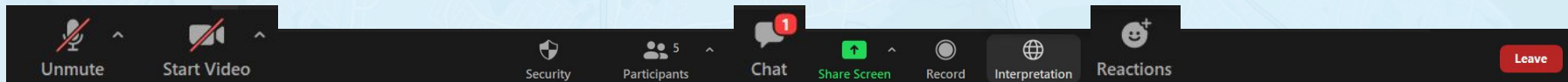
Community Meeting
July 25, 2023



Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Bonjour!



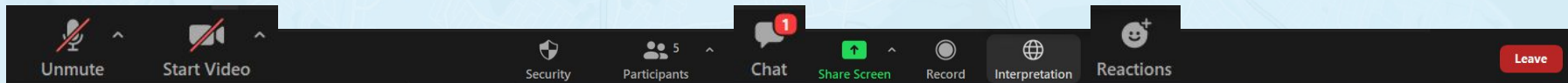
- This meeting **will be recorded**.
 - Esta reunión será grabada.
 - *Reyinyon sa a ap anrejistre.*
- Update your name in Zoom to include your preferred name and your pronouns.
 - Actualiza tu nombre en Zoom con tu nombre preferido y tus pronombres.
 - *Aktyalize non w sou Zoom pou w mete non prefere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



Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Bonjour!



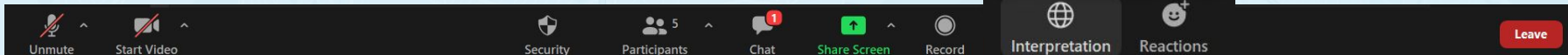
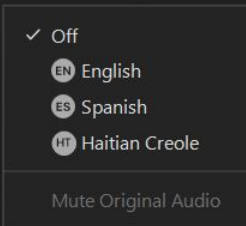
- Your microphones are turned off to start. You will need to unmute to speak. Joining via phone? Press ***6** to unmute.
 - Tu micrófono está apagado al empezar. Tendrás que reactivarlo para hablar. ¿Participando por teléfono? Presiona *6 para reactivar el micrófono.
 - *Mikwo w fèmen pou kòmanse. Ou 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.*





Maya

Welcome!

Blue Hill Avenue Transportation Action Plan

Community Meeting

July 25, 2023





Maya

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

boston.gov/blue-hill-avenue



Maya

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*)



Maya

Meeting Goals

- Goal 1:** Orient residents to where this project came from, who is involved, and why this process is different
- Goal 2:** Share updates on bus rider survey data and recap additional July engagement updates
- Goal 3:** Provide an overview of upcoming engagement and how to get involved



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.



Maya

Tonight's Agenda

1. Meet the Team, Project Overview & Public Commitments
2. Updates on bus rider survey
 - a. What was the background of the survey?
 - b. How did the team collect survey results?
 - c. What were the results of the survey?
3. How to connect with the project team in-person and how to stay up-to-date with the project



Kirstie

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)



Kirstie

Blue Hill Avenue

Meet the Team,
Project Overview &
Public Commitments





Kirstie

Public Sector Team

BOSTON TRANSPORTATION DEPT



Kirstie Hostetter
Project Manager



Maya Mudgal
Transit Planner



Charlotte Fleetwood
Mattapan Square

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)

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



Stephen

Engagement Team

ENGAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Grayscale Collaborative



Stephen Gray



Anne Ning Lin



Caroline Filice Smith

Powerful Pathways



Allentza Michel

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 Grove Hall Main Streets
Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council
Mattapan Square Main Streets
Garrison Trotter Neighborhood Association

PUBLIC AGENCIES

Boston Transportation Department
Boston Planning & Development Agency
MBTA

SO FAR, STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS WITH:

Project R.I.G.H.T. Inc.
Franklin Park Coalition
Mattapan Teen Center
Prince Hall Grand Lodge
Mattapan Community Health Center
Franklin Park Zoo
Morning Star Baptist Church



Stephen

Public Commitments

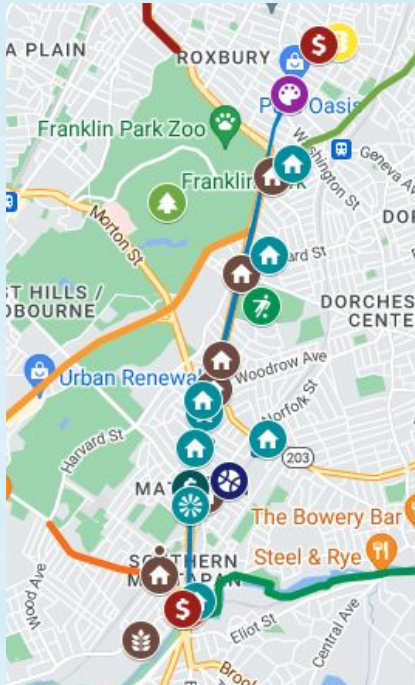
- Commitment 1:** The City and engagement team are committed to making informed, data-driven decisions which respond to questions raised by the public.
- Commitment 2:** The City and engagement team are committed to improving pedestrian safety along Blue Hill Ave.
- Commitment 3:** The City and engagement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



Stephen

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

Proposed Grove Hall Community Center

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

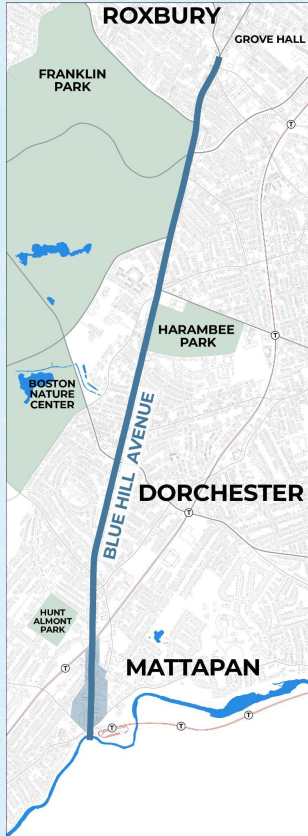


Stephen

Where & How We Are Working

We are interested in a holistic approach for Blue Hill Ave.

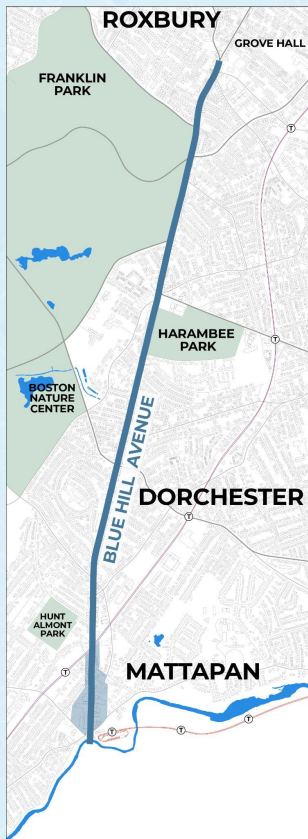
- Not just transportation...
- Also public realm, housing & development, business & employment, and more





Stephen

Where & How We Are Working



Since June 2019:

33 Public meetings about BHA or Mattapan Square

25 Survey/interview dates

40+ In-person drop-ins

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

7 Community walks/rides

1000+ Responses to multiple surveys

How we are working differently:

Holistic Approach to Blue Hill Ave

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

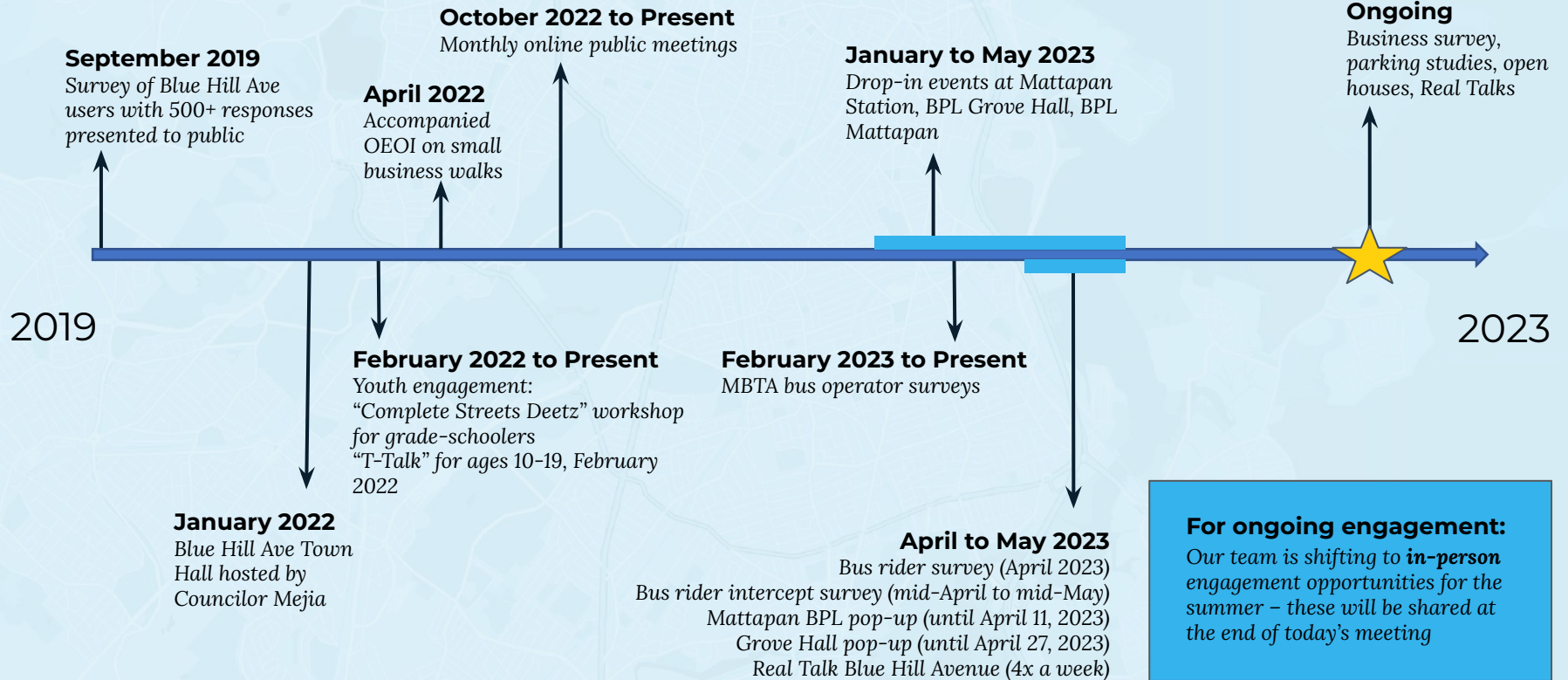


Outreach and Empowerment



Stephen

Engagement Timeline





Stephen

Engagement Since Our Last Meeting



- **Senior Real Talk conversations** with Neighborhood Network Center (Grove Hall)
- Real Talk youth and adult **community facilitator training**
- **Street outreach and tabling** at neighborhood events
- **Mattapan Square Stroll of the District**
- Business surveying
 - **Our engagement team is going door-to-door to each business along Blue Hill Ave** to talk about parking and delivery needs with each business
- **Topics covered at June Zoom meeting:**
 - **Meet the design team**
 - **Updates on alternative design scenarios (sharing what was discussed with the Mayor and electeds)**



Makayla

Blue Hill Avenue

Updates on Bus Rider Survey





Makayla

Background

- From Apr 18-Jun 3, **LivableStreets Alliance** led a team of Street Ambassadors to engage bus riders and gather feedback on their experience of Blue Hill Avenue → **interacted with ~700 bus riders & collected 520 surveys.**
- As a token of appreciation, the Street Ambassadors also distributed **\$5 gift vouchers** from two local businesses, *Ali's Roti* and *Cafe Juice Up*, to 200 bus riders who participated in the initiative.





Makayla

Outreach Locations

Street Ambassadors conducted surveys at the busiest bus stops of Blue Hill Ave during weekdays & weekends in the morning and evening peak hours. Some of the bus stops covered during the shift of the Street Ambassadors include:

- Mattapan Square
- Blue Hill Ave @ Morton St
- Blue Hill Ave @ Ellington
- Blue Hill Ave @ Angell St
- Blue Hill Ave @ Castlegate Rd
- Blue Hill Ave @ Franklin Park Rd
- Blue Hill Ave @ Harvard
- Blue Hill Ave @ Warren St



Makayla

Survey Questions

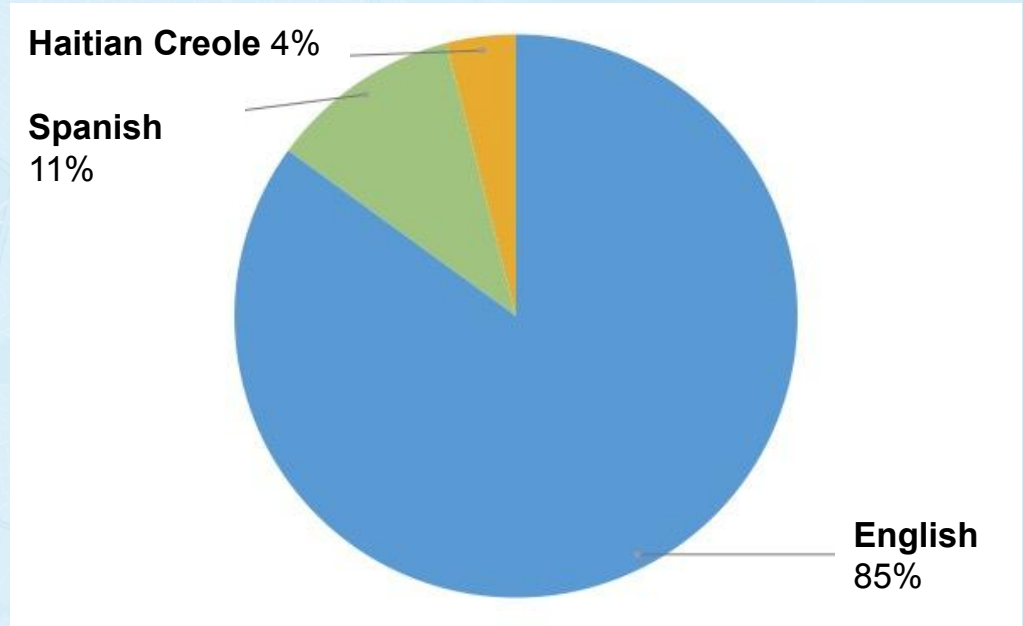
1. In the last week, **how have you traveled along Blue Hill Ave?**
2. In the last week, **why did you choose to take the bus?**
3. **Where** in Greater Boston are these places located [*follow-up to Q2*]?
4. What would make your trip along Blue Hill Ave **more ideal?**
5. While you are walking to the bus stop along Blue Hill Ave **are there specific crosswalks or other locations that feel unsafe to cross?**
6. **Are there any improvements** you would like to see along Blue Hill Ave?
7. Would you be interested in receiving **updates about the project?**
8. Would you be interested in paid opportunities to share your experience about taking the bus along Blue Hill Ave with the City?
9. What is the nearest cross-street of your home address?
10. What is the zipcode of your home address?



Makayla

Languages of Survey Responses

- We conducted the surveys in 3 languages:
 - **English** - 364
 - **Spanish** - 46
 - **Haitian Creole** - 17





Makayla

Q1: In the last week, how have you traveled along Blue Hill Ave?

(responses = 425)

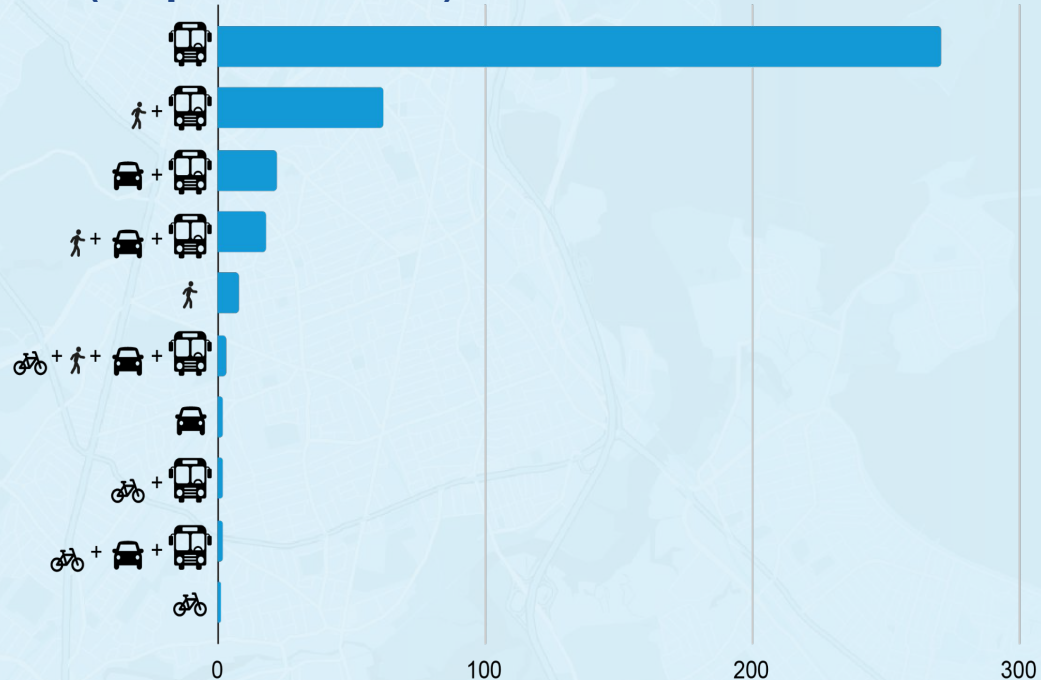
307 bus only

62 bus + walk

22 bus + drive

18 bus + drive + walk

8 walk only





Makayla

Q2: In the last week, why did you choose to take the bus?

(responses = 422)

- **33%** of respondents used the bus **to get to work**
- **18%** - **to get to school** (Grade school and college campuses)
- **17%** - **to visit family + friends**
- **11%** - **to get to the grocery store**
- **9%** - **to get to a doctors appointment**
- **6%** - **to attend church service**

***Note:** The remaining 6% of riders shared other activities such as running errands, going to restaurants, etc.



Makayla

Q3: Where in Greater Boston are these places located?

(responses = 153)

- For all the reasons why people used the bus listed in Question 2, respondents noted that these places were located in:
 - **Mattapan** - 37 responses
 - **Downtown Boston** - 26 responses
 - **Roxbury** - 23 responses
 - **Dorchester** - 16 responses
- In the remaining 51 responses riders mentioned Forest Hills (9), Hyde Park (7), Nubian(7), Ashmont (5), Ruggles (4), South End (4), Back Bay (3) , Cambridge (3), Franklin Park (3), Jamaica Plain (3) + Madison Park (3)



Makayla

Q4: What would make your trip along Blue Hill Ave more ideal?

(responses = 408)

32%

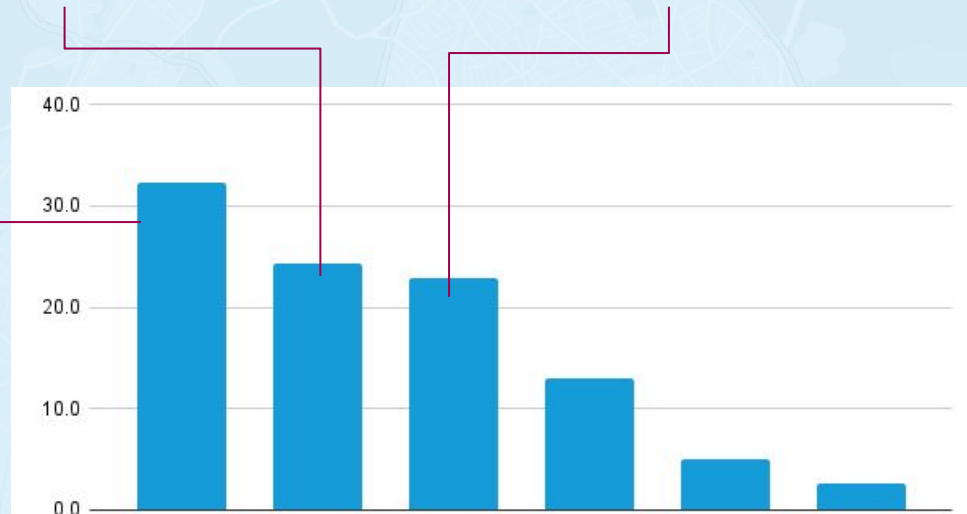
More consistent buses

24%

Trips less affected by traffic

23%

Know when bus is coming



13%

Cleaner bus stops

5%

No response / fine

3%

Less crowding

Q5: While you are walking to the bus stop along Blue Hill Ave are there specific crosswalks or other locations that feel unsafe to cross?

(responses = 153)

“Generally crossing the street Warren and Grove Hall. There are too many cars coming from different directions.”

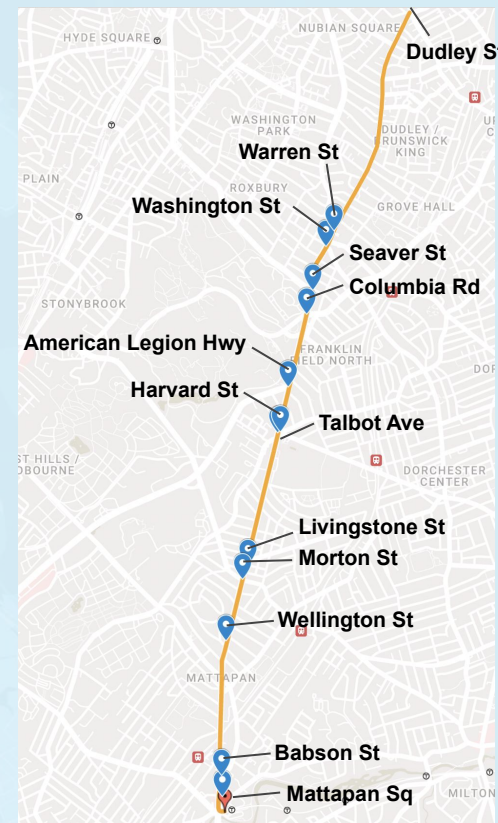
“I need more time to cross the street.”

“I feel the least safe around Dudley St.”

“BHA + Talbot is a headache to cross.”

“Feels unsafe at night or at rush hour when there are too many cars.”

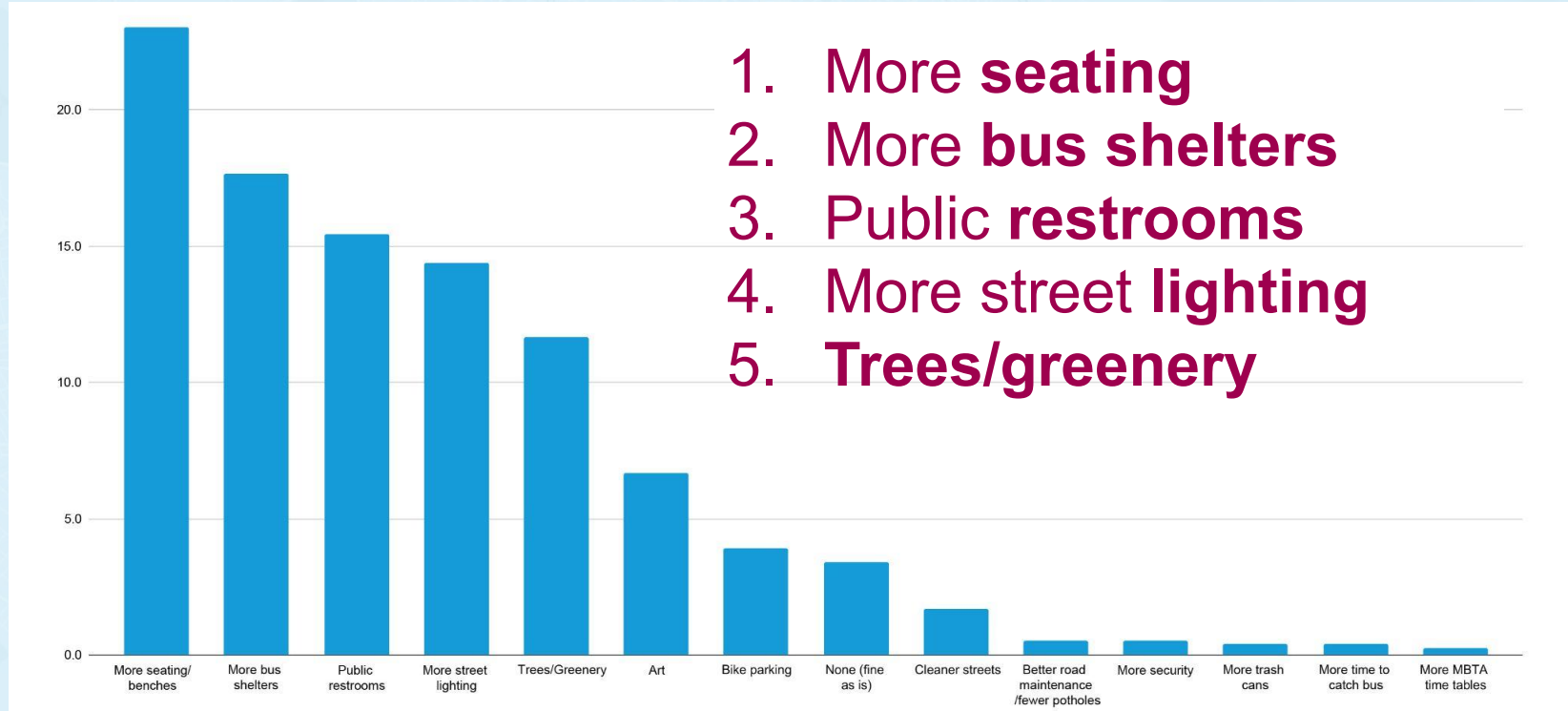
Out of 427, **136 people expressed that they felt unsafe** crossing a street on Blue Hill Ave. **274 had no answer** to this answer and **17 people noted they felt okay/safe** walking across Blue Hill Ave.





Makayla

Q6: Are there any improvements you'd like to see along Blue Hill Ave?





Makayla

Quotes from Blue Hill Ave bus riders:

"This is my worst nightmare, a 30-40 minute wait on 31, when it says a minute it takes 15 minutes."

Bus rider who works in West Roxbury & rides the bus everyday.

"There's more violence on the T than in the past. We're scared to take the bus"

Older adult riding the bus.

"My kids have to tell me or text me the times that the bus will come. They have to track it for me."

Bus rider without cellular data on their phone.

"I feel like going Downtown the snow removal is better than here. I'm older and it's difficult to get over snow banks to get on the bus."

Rider goes to the doctor downtown.

"I just have to be cautious because the drivers always think they have the right of way."

Bus rider at Blue Hill Ave opp Warren St



Kirstie

POLL

MORE INFO IN PROJECT FAQs:



bit.ly/bhaFAQs

What questions do you have about this project?

- Respond in the poll on your screen, in the chat, or by using our question form (more information on the next slide)



Kirstie

Blue Hill Avenue

How to Get Involved





Kirstie

Project FAQs

MORE INFO IN PROJECT FAQs:



bit.ly/bhaFAQs

WANT TO ADD A QUESTION?



bit.ly/bha-question

This is not a complete list of all of the important questions we have received from members of the community. **As we receive more questions and are able to answer them, we will update this document.**



Kirstie

How this work is continuing

In-person and virtual engagement (see *next few slides!*)

- **Large public events:** existing community festivals/meetings, Not Your Average Public Meeting, open houses
- **Individual office hours:** one-on-one conversation with BTD

Ongoing analyses to inform policy and decisions

- **Parking study:** parking usage and demand - duration, occupancy rates, and travel origin
- **Housing study**
 - What are the key housing issues that may be impacted by transportation improvements? (e.g., affordability, homeownership opportunities)
 - What are the citywide and regional forces driving these issues?
 - What policies can be put in place to increase housing stability, enhance housing opportunities, and foster transit usage?



Kirstie

Upcoming Engagement: Design Scenarios

DATE: THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023 | TIME: 6PM-8PM

NOT YOUR AVERAGE MEETING



PUBLIC MEETING:
DORCHESTER

Mattapan Square + Blue Hill Ave are being redesigned.

Eats made by Maggie's Grill

Gift Cards from local businesses

William J. Devine Golf Course
at Franklin Park Function Room
1 Circuit Drive Dorchester, MA 02124
[HTTPS://BIT.LY/NYAPMDOR](https://bit.ly/nyapmdor)



Upcoming Open House & Public Meetings

Our team will present the analysis of the alternative design options at upcoming events:

- **Not Your Average Public Meeting**
 - This will be hosted by the Consult LeLa team at the Franklin Park clubhouse this coming Thursday, July 27th from 6-8pm
- **Carter Post Open House**
 - Date and time to be announced



Kirstie

Upcoming Engagement: Design Scenarios

SCAN TO SIGN UP



bit.ly/bhatap-office-hours

Kirstie's August Virtual Office Hours

- Chat with Kirstie for 15 minutes about the project, process, or design options:
 - Tuesdays, 4-6pm
 - Wednesdays, 1-2pm
- Google Meets will include info to join a video call or a phone call at the selected time
- Sign up using the link on this slide



Kirstie

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