

Tree Canopy Impacts and Improvements

August 2020

MELNEA CASS BOULEVARD

We began the Melnea Cass Blvd Design Project in 2010 to rebuild Melnea Cass Blvd from Columbus Ave to Massachusetts Ave in order to make the corridor a safe, comfortable street for people of all ages and abilities to walk, bike, take a bus, or drive. Safety Improvements were prioritized for the most vulnerable users while transforming this urban arterial, currently bisecting Roxbury and the South End, into a more connected and neighborhood-friendly street.

In the original Complete Streets focused design concepts, over **200** trees in good condition were designated for removal. In response to public input and a stakeholder driven iterative design process, impacts to the existing trees were substantially reduced to deliver a project that balances the safety and accessibility needs of all users while also purposefully installing infrastructure to build a more climate change-resilient corridor. To make all the safety, accessibility, and climate change resiliency improvements included in the final design, **105** trees must be removed and replaced.

Trees along Melnea Cass Blvd today:

514

Trees along Melnea Cass Blvd after this project is complete:

613

10

species of trees will be planted to rejuvenate and enhance the existing urban tree canopy.

26

dead trees will be replaced to invest in long-term canopy growth.

6

at risk trees are in such poor condition today that they are recommended for immediate removal and will be replaced with new trees.

11

additional trees in poor condition will be removed and replaced.

Trees removed:

105

Trees planted:

204

Trees relocated:

14

15

trees in fair condition will be replaced with new trees.

47

of the trees that we need to replace are in good condition.

0

trees that will be removed are older than 50 years old.



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To learn more, visit: boston.gov/transportation/melnea-cass

WHY ARE WE REMOVING AND REPLACING TREES ALONG MELNEA CASS BLVD?

- To provide fully protected intersections along the length of the Blvd to make it safer and easier for pedestrians and cyclists to cross the street by shortening crossing lengths at crosswalks
- To calm vehicle traffic along Melnea Cass Blvd and to all connecting residential streets to reinforce the corridor as a neighborhood street
- To reduce conflicts between people walking, driving, and biking by adding dedicated left turn lanes at intersections
- To provide equitable access on both sides of Melnea Cass Blvd to bike facilities for residents of Roxbury and the South End
- To provide ADA accessible and compliant pedestrian facilities for residents of Roxbury and the South End
- To increase accessibility, user safety, and bus route efficiency by creating far-side floating bus stops. New bus stops will also make it more comfortable for bus users, especially during the winter
- To improve climate change resiliency and reduce flooding through new, environmentally-friendly stormwater management infrastructure
- To reconfigure the Albany Street at Melnea Cass Blvd intersection to provide a focal point for safety and accessibility for students, parents, teachers, and employees of the Orchard Gardens K-8 School

105

trees are being removed and replaced to make Melnea Cass Blvd a safer and more accessible multi-modal corridor that can be enjoyed by all residents and visitors to the neighborhood.

HOW DOES THIS PROJECT SUPPORT THE CITY OF BOSTON'S CLIMATE RESILIENCY AND TRANSPORTATION GOALS?

- This project will add **125** living trees to the corridor's existing tree canopy which will help improve long-term climate change resiliency and reduce average surface temperatures
- Over $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of porous bike lanes, over 100 underground leaching galleys, infiltration trenches, and bioretention infrastructure will be installed to reduce flooding and support groundwater recharge
- Low spots along Melnea Cass Blvd will be elevated to support flood mitigation efforts
- Melnea Cass Blvd is heavily traveled by single occupancy vehicles which contributes to congestion and carbon emissions. We want to reduce congestion and carbon emissions and encourage people to get out of their cars by making it safer and more enjoyable for people to travel along the Melnea Cass Blvd using more environmentally-friendly modes of travel



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