
LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION

The Reconstruction of Cummins Highway

August 17, 2021



boston planning &
development agency



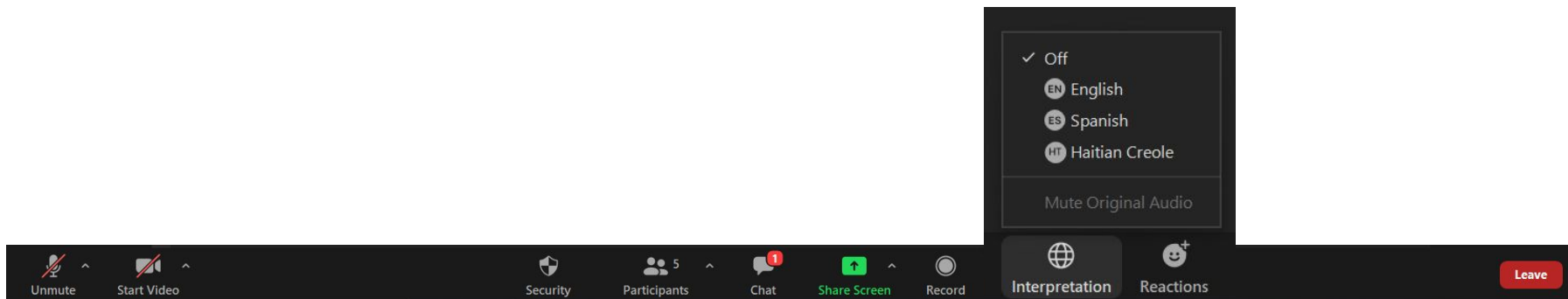
Public Works



Transportation

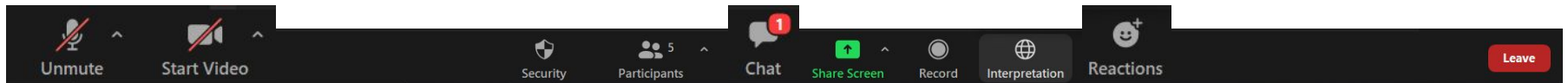
Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Akeyi!

- 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! ¡Bienvenidos!

- This meeting **will be recorded**.
 - Esta reunión **será grabada**.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.



Hello! ¡Hola! *Bonjour!*



Jeffrey Alexis

Public Works
Department



Jared Staley

Boston Planning
& Development
Agency



**Müge
Ündemir**

Boston Planning
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Agency



Sam Devine

Boston Planning
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Daniela Sánchez

Transportation
Department

Before we begin: ISD meeting happening this evening

COMMUNITY

MEETING

UNSANCTIONED BACKYARD EVENTS



LETS TALK

- Neighborhood impact
- Illegal sale of Alcohol
- Dangers of holding and attending illegal events
- City Officials and the community working together to build a safer community
- How to plan safe, legal and permitted events
- Resources: 311, 911, Inspectional Services, Licensing Board, Mayor Office...

Free Virtual
Meeting



Tuesday, August 17, 2021
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Please join us by visiting: <https://bit.ly/isdibe>
or scan the QrCode

Email jessica.thomas@boston.gov

Featured
Guest

Inspectional Services Department
Mayors Office of Neighborhood Services
Boston Police Department
Boston Fire Department

Tonight's Agenda

- Why are we meeting?
- Learn about PLAN:Mattapan and the work they do
- Review planning guidance that informs our work
- Hear about upcoming events and resources in Mattapan

Meeting Goals

Learn about the work of PLAN Mattapan.

- How does their work relate to transportation planning?
- How does Boston Planning and Development agency work with the Transportation Department and Public Works Department?
- How does decisions-making around land use impact transportation and mobility?

Learn about the Cummins Highway reconstruction project

- Guiding principles and the goals we are working to achieve
- How your input is utilized during a design process
- Upcoming opportunities to provide design specific input for Cummins

Cummins Highway Reconstruction

What you see on Cummins now is a temporary redesign to slow speeding drivers and improve safety for all users while we work on the design of the Cummins Highway Reconstruction.

Visit boston.gov/cummins-highway for more information on safety data and comments we have been collecting to inform this project.



We plan to reconstruct Cummins Highway

Cummins Highway hasn't been updated since the **spring of 1955**.

The street cars that ran along Cummins were removed in 1953 to make room for more cars.

The street's layout reflects the priorities of the 1950's: enable non-residents to drive quickly through our neighborhoods.



Cummins Highway Reconstruction

During a reconstruction project we completely rebuild the street, including sidewalks, curbs, street lights, traffic signals, road pavement, and replace or update utilities as necessary.

The City has budgeted approximately **\$12 million** for reconstruction of Cummins Highway.



Cummins Highway Reconstruction

We cannot produce a design without your input. **You will help shape how Cummins should be for the next 70 years.**

Currently, we are doing community outreach to inform the final design. We have not begun the engineering work to design the corridor.



Cummins Highway Reconstruction

- **Advance Go Boston 2030 goals:**
 - Improving safety on our streets
 - Reducing emissions
 - Investing in communities to achieve equity in access to opportunities



Cummins Highway Reconstruction

- *Advance Go Boston 2030 goals*
- **Partner with other City departments to advance our collective plans:**
 - To inform residents of the work happening around the City
 - To improve collaboration in our work and achieve neighborhood and citywide goals



Cummins Highway Reconstruction

- *Advance Go Boston 2030 goals*
- *Partner with other City departments to advance our collective plans*
- **Collaboration with residents to advance your goals:**
 - Awareness and participation in efforts that you care about
 - Confirm your vision for the future through our projects



Boston Planning & Development Agency

The Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) is the planning and economic development agency for the City of Boston.

The BPDA works with people and communities across all neighborhoods of Boston, to plan and build the future of the City. The planning department specifically works with the community to create long-term visions for places.

BPDA collaborates with many departments, including the Public Works Department and the Transportation Department. We work together to review developments that impact the road network, and plans to make sure that each street project is addressing community values and goals.



What is PLAN: Mattapan?

PLAN: Mattapan is a neighborhood-wide planning initiative that works closely with the community to review past planning efforts, and identify needs and opportunities for improvements which will support the long-term equitable growth and sustainability of the neighborhood.

PLAN: Mattapan will...

Strengthen the existing culture and stability of the community by supporting affordable housing, creating opportunities for businesses to thrive, and enhancing connections to improve the neighborhood's experience accessing jobs and spaces where people gather.

What do we study?

In Mattapan, we study housing, economic development, climate change, the environment, and mobility.

We do this through understanding existing conditions as well as community values and goals.

We then PLAN for the future of both the neighborhood and the City, linking values and goals to new policies, guidelines, and ultimately the implementation of PLAN: Mattapan.



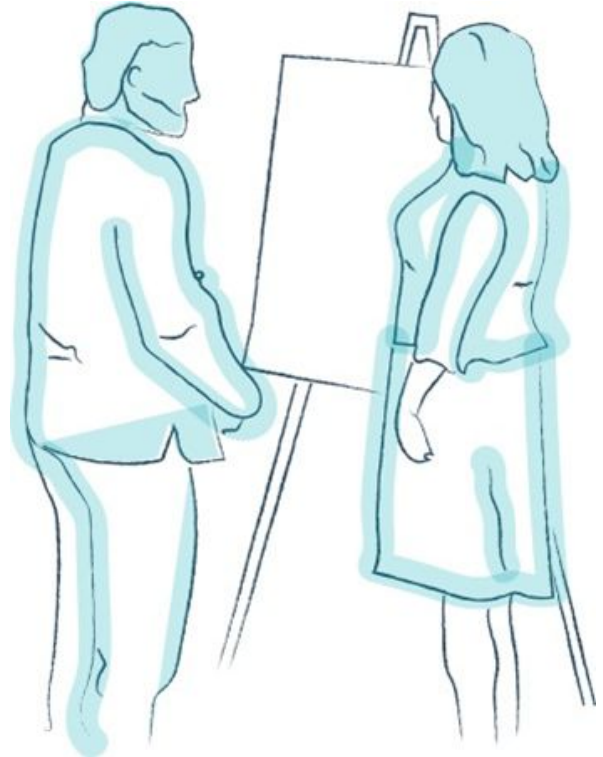
Who participates in PLAN: Mattapan?

Boston's Community (YOU)

City of Boston Departments including:

- Boston Transportation Department
- Public Works Department
- Department of Neighborhood Development
- Office of Economic Development
- Environment Department

State of Massachusetts (MassDOT, MBTA, DCR)



PLAN: Mattapan Goals

HOUSING

Encourage affordable, stable, and diverse housing options in Mattapan to reduce displacement and maintain homeownership levels.

PEOPLE & PLACES

Guide new projects to contribute to strengthening the existing culture, and celebrating Mattapan's identity.

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

Improve quality of life by promoting healthy environments and preparing for Climate Change.

JOBS & BUSINESSES

Drive inclusive economic growth through support for local economies and increase access to opportunities within and external to Mattapan.

MOBILITY

Increase access to high-quality travel options so that people can safely and reliably connect to destinations within Mattapan and the rest of the City.

PLAN: Mattapan Mobility Goals

Adequate +
Consistent
Transportation
within Community

Create a
traffic +
Beautification
Plan for Blue Hill

Street
fairs.
- Family friendly
Block parties

make community aware
Better construction
schedules
Nstar 7:30
N'Grid to
Verizon interup
etc. traffic
so
much

buses that
run a time
more bus
stops with shelters

MOBILITY

Increase access to high-quality travel options so that people can safely and reliably connect to destinations within Mattapan and the rest of the City.

This goal comes directly from Go Boston 2030 and from what we heard from the community.

Land Uses and Mobility - Community

Through PLAN: Mattapan, we worked with the community to identify additional “nodes,” which are mixed-use areas where commercial, retail, and residential uses are located.

Nodes provide opportunities for people to gather and create a destination for the neighborhood.

They also create opportunities for residents to have multiple destinations, relying more on walking and biking.



Land Use and Mobility - Safety and Access

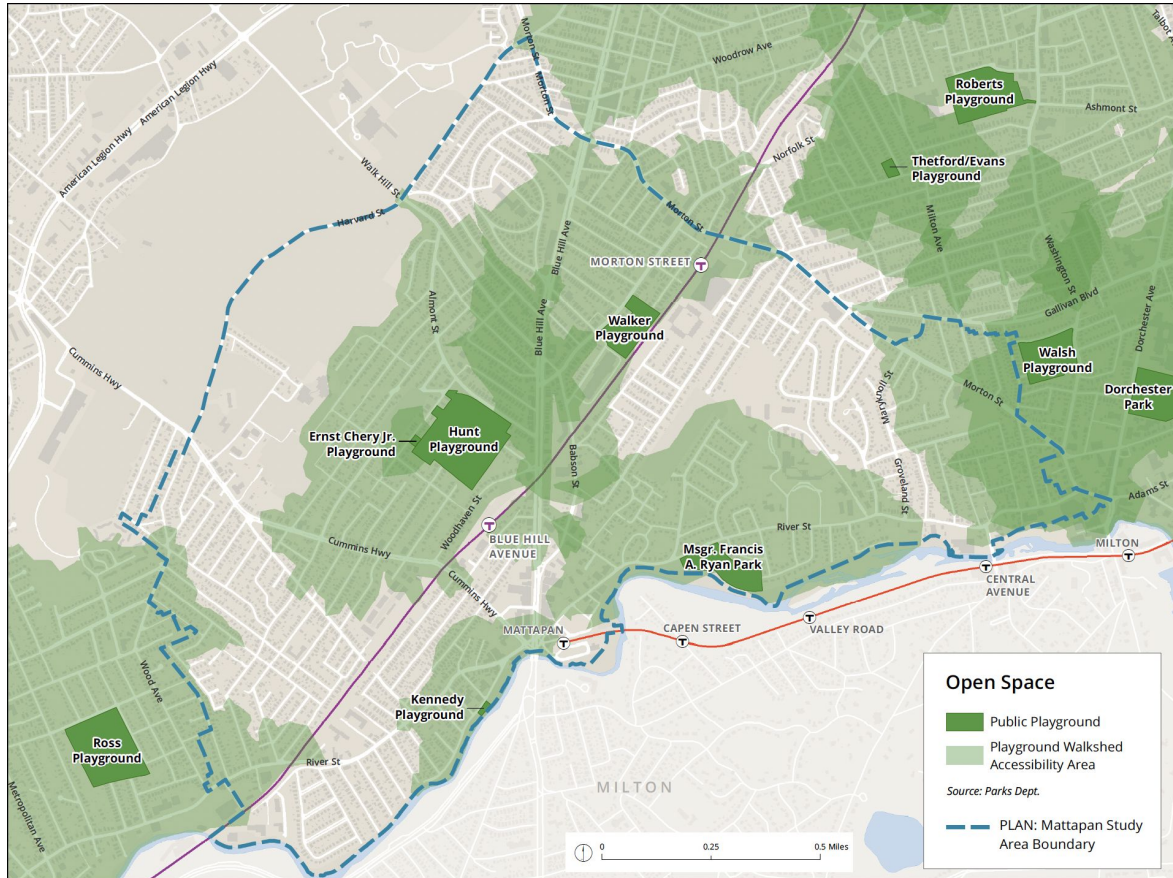
PLAN: Mattapan also looks at safety and access.

- Access to parks and community amenities, to name a few
- Safety of pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users

We heard a lot about how getting around Mattapan is hard for all users but mostly unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists due to the speed of cars.



Land Use and Mobility - Healthy Environments



The health of the community and the environment are linked.

Streets, buildings, and the public realm directly impact health.

Healthy streets include trees, safe access for all users, places for people to gather, and reduced traffic congestion.

How does this impact the redesign of Cummins Highway?

The Cummins Highway Redesign is one opportunity to implement the values of PLAN: Mattapan, as communicated by residents and the goals of previous planning efforts.



Realizing the plan - PLAN: Mattapan Timeline



While the process is happening we meet bi-weekly to coordinate our work in Mattapan and share information, comments we receive, etc.

- Boston Transportation Department,
- Public Works Department,
- Department of Neighborhood Development
- Boston Planning & Development Agency

Cummins Highway Planning Guidelines

Fairmount Indigo Planning Initiative

- The study identified corridor wide opportunities for commercial and residential development, transit access, public realm enhancements, and community building initiatives.
- The community priorities and goals for public realm improvement on Cummins Highway include:
 - Improving the pedestrian connection between Mattapan Square and the Station entry
 - Improving pedestrian safety - sidewalk width, reducing and consolidating curb cuts and improving crossing
 - Visually reduce roadway width
 - Improve bicycle connections and safety



Cummins Highway Planning Guidelines

Go Boston 2030

- City of Boston's comprehensive transportation plan that includes our goals and targets as well as a list of projects and policies that will be implemented.
- *Cummins Hwy. specific recommendation:*
 - As a neighborhood connector it needs enhancements to improve travel safety, accommodate people biking, and make walking more comfortable.
 - A protected, multi-use trail extending the Southwest Corridor to the Neponset Greenway

Local

Neighborhood Complete Street Corridors

Enhancements to promote safe travel for those walking, on bikes, in buses, and driving cars

Project Name: East Boston - Bennington Street, Dudley - Egleston St, Dudley, Neponset/Greenway - Cummins Highway, Dudley - South End Ave, Tremont Street (South End) Bicycle Facilities

○○○○○ Access 1 ●●●●● Access 1
 ●●●●● Safety 1 ●●●●● Safety 2
 ●●●●● Accessibility ●●●●● Accessibility
 ●●●●● Sustainability/Healthier 1 ●●●●● Sustainability/Healthier 2
 ●●●●● Commuter

The project recommendations came out of community feedback and the Needs Assessment.

Project Description

Implementing Boston's *Complete Streets Guidelines*, the City will install enhancements along several neighborhood connectors that improve travel safety, accommodate people biking, and make walking more comfortable. These include East Boston's longest connector, Bennington Street; Washington Street between Egleston and Dudley Squares; Humboldt Avenue in Roxbury; Cummins Highway connecting Roslindale and Mattapan; and Tremont Street in the South End.

Benefits and Issues Addressed

Each of these connector neighborhood corridors experiences higher crash rates and greater vehicle speeds than most of the residential streets that feed into them, yet residents of these neighborhoods depend on these corridors for daily life. Making each a complete street will improve safety for all travelers and provide much needed bicycle accommodations where none exist. Once improved, these corridors can make it easier for residents to walk and bike to transit, neighborhood services, and their Main Street districts (p.44).

Best Practices

In 2008, NYCDOT released their Sustainable Streets plan. The plan laid out several transportation initiatives that would improve streets for all modes of transportation and increase safety for bicycles and pedestrians. www.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/sts_update_book.pdf

The City of Boston is currently designing Harrison Avenue in the South End with wide sidewalks and potential bike lanes with safer crossings for all.



Implementation

Approximate Cost: \$40 million for design and construction
Potential Funding Sources: City capital plan for design and Boston MPO TIF for construction
Who's Responsible: BID, Public Works, and MassDOT
Time Frame: Ongoing and over 15 years

Public Input

"Threat Street 'Slow your Roll' Road Diet: Imagine if Tremont Street in the South End went on a diet. What could that mean for the neighborhood? Decreased average driving speeds, and increased safety for people on foot and on bikes? Yes."

The Cummins Highway reconstruction goal: safer, more accessible

Transform Cummins Highway into a ***tree-lined neighborhood street*** that is *safer* for families to walk, wait for the bus, ride bikes, or travel by vehicle.

It will *connect residents* to the City's network of *open spaces* and make it easier for elders to cross the street.

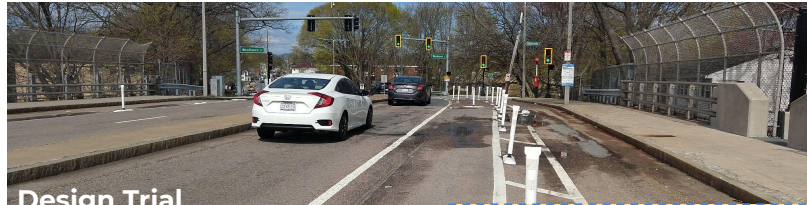


Timeline of Cummins Highway reconstruction project

Apr. 11, 2019 1st public meeting at Mattahunt

Feb. 27, 2020 3rd public meeting at Mattahunt

- ▶ *Presented design concepts*



**Design Trial
(Phase 2)**
October 2020 - ongoing

Jul., 2021 - Ongoing

Design for Cummins Reconstruction



**Design Trial
(Phase 1)**
Jul. - Oct.
2020

Oct. 29, 2019 2nd public meeting at Mattahunt

Jun., 2021 - Ongoing

Engagement for the design of Cummins Reconstruction

- ▶ *June: Special T-Talk - Arrested Mobility with Mattapan Food & Fitness*
- ▶ *July: Heat Resilience*
- ▶ *July: Air Quality*
- ▶ *August: Land Use*
- ▶ *September: Lighting*
- ▶ *October: Public Health*
- ▶ *November and beyond: trees, green infrastructure, roundabouts, pedestrian improvements*

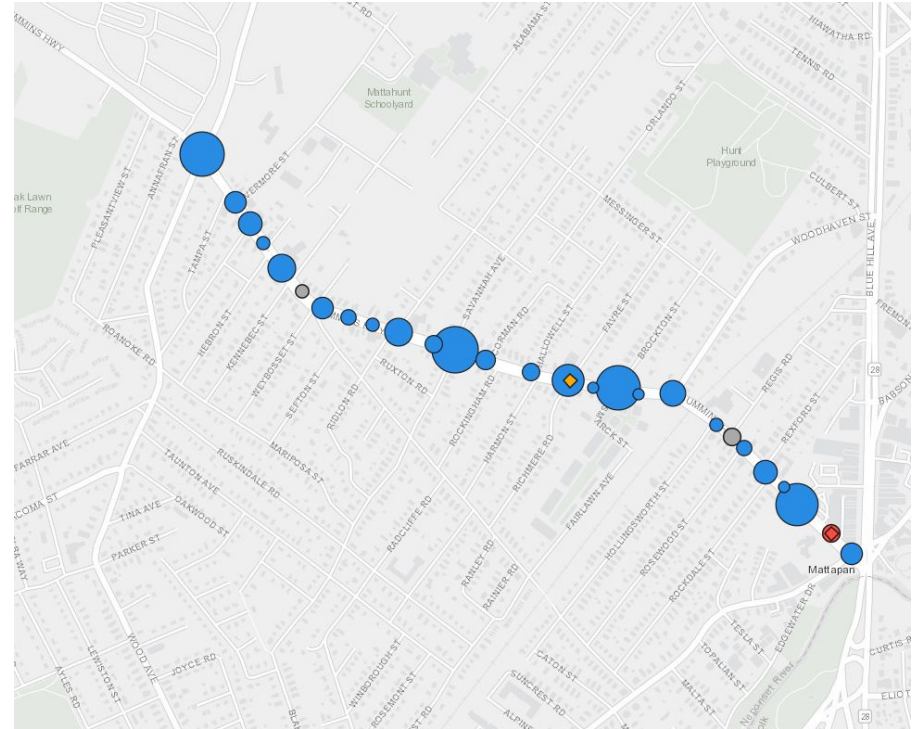
Input to inform the Cummins Highway reconstruction

Data collection and analysis:

- Our engineers collect traffic volumes and model traffic flow. They conduct observations and evaluate available crash data.

More information about the data we are collecting:

boston.gov/cummins-highway#safety-on-cummins-highway



Injury-causing crashes on Cummins Highway, between River St and Wood Ave/Harvard St, from 2015-2021

Input to inform the Cummins Highway reconstruction

Data collection and analysis

Community input:

- Community input we receive is used to inform our understanding of the corridor and create the final design for the reconstruction.

When you provide input with an issue or idea we go out on the corridor to observe, collect data, and research what we can do in the design to address your need while also balancing the needs of others and the goal of the project.

Input to inform the Cummins Highway reconstruction

Data collection and analysis

Community input

Follow best practices:

- Follow design guidelines endorsed by the City, state, and/or federal agencies
- Consult with peers around the country for best practices

Focused conversations and input

We will continue to have conversations with you about the redesign of Cummins Highway. **Your input during these discussions will be used to inform the design of Cummins and will be shared with other departments to inform their work as well.**

In June we hosted a special edition of T-Talk with Charles T. Brown to discuss ways mobility of Black Americans is limited in the U.S. through police, policies, and polity.

In July we hosted two virtual meetings with the Environment Department.

Focused conversations and input

In July we hosted two virtual meetings with the Environment Department:

We talked about the City's heat resilience study and the redesign on Cummins. During this conversation we heard:

- You would like us to add more shade. We are looking into trees and shelters. Look for a community conversation in the coming months!
- You were concerned about the temporary redesign and its impact on emergency services and traffic.

We talked about air quality and how transportation policies and design influence air quality. During this conversation we heard:

- You were interested in us monitoring air quality on the corridor. We are looking at locations where air quality monitors can be located in the project area.
- You were concerned about the temporary redesign on Cummins Highway and how traffic is affecting air quality.

Next Steps

Stay tuned for when we announce those workshops on design elements:

- Street Lighting and the Cummins Highway redesign - **September 21**
- Public Health and the Cummins Highway redesign - **October 5**
- Green infrastructure and the Cummins Highway redesign - TBA
- Trees and the Cummins Highway redesign - TBA
- Roundabouts and the Cummins Highway redesign - TBA

Resources and staying engaged



Stay in touch:

PLAN: Mattapan

- Upcoming events:
 - TBD September: Corridors and Residential Fabric Workshop
 - Ongoing Temporary Public Art Activation
 - BPDA x MAPC Neponset Greenway Extension Work
- Visit our website: bit.ly/PlanMattapan
- For more information, please reach out to our community engagement manager, Kenya Beaman: kenya.p.beaman@boston.gov

Cummins Highway Reconstruction

- Street Lighting and Cummins Highway Reconstruction on September 21 at 6:30 p.m.
 - Register here: bit.ly/Cummins-Light
- Visit the project website: boston.gov/cummins-highway
- Chat with us: bit.ly/Cummins-15
- Reach out to Jeffrey Alexis: jeffrey.alexis@boston.gov

Mayor Janey's Mattapan Coffee Hour

A unique opportunity to speak directly with the Mayor and staff from City departments about open space and other features in their neighborhoods.

- **Almont Park (40 Almont Street)**
 - *Friday, August 27*
 - 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.



Park Summer Fitness Series

Boston Parks and Recreation, in partnership with Boston Public Health Commission and Blue Cross Blue Shield, is offering FREE in-person and virtual classes led by certified fitness instructors until October 2.

- **Almont Park** (40 Almont Street)
 - Tuesday's 6-7 p.m.: *Family Zumba with Carmen*

More info at boston.gov/fitness



Happening in Mattapan: Stay cool!

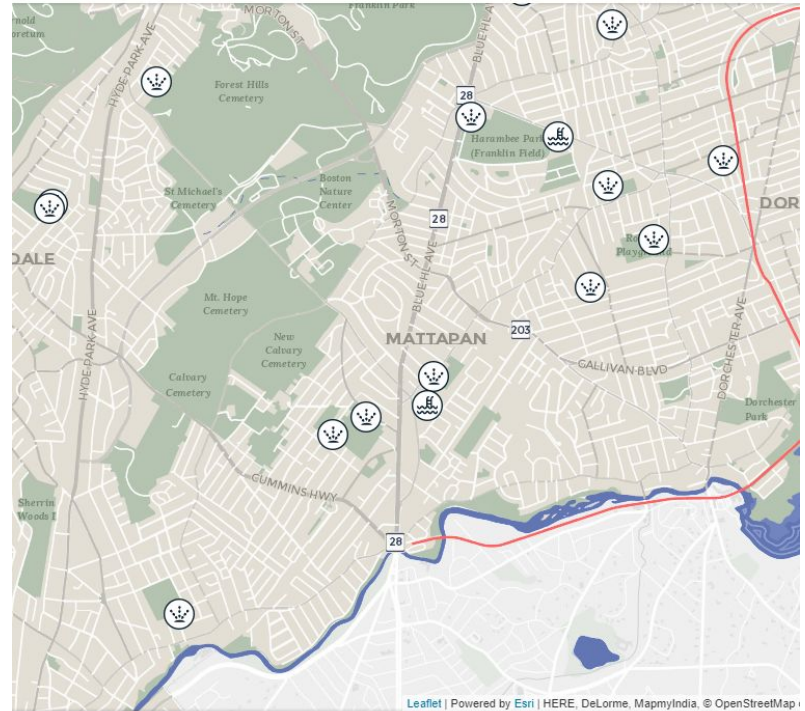
Pools and tot sprays open to keep cool in the heat:

- Hunt Playground (40 Almont Street)
- Ernest Chery Jr. Playground (64 Orlando Street)
- BCYF Mildred Avenue (5 Mildred Avenue)
 - *In addition to the pool and tot sprays. Also offers:*
 - Arts Classes
 - Aquatics
 - Computer Literacy
 - Cooking and more

More info at [boston.gov/summer-boston](https://www.boston.gov/summer-boston)

POOL AND TOT SPRAY LOCATIONS

Search for your address... 



POOL



TOT SPRAY

Happening in Mattapan: New playground construction

Walker Playground

- Construction project is underway. Started at the beginning of June.
- Work is progressing through demolition and utility work.
- For more information, contact Lauren Bryant:
 - 617-961-3019
 - lauren.bryant@boston.gov



Happening in Mattapan: BPL Outdoor Wi-Fi Zone Pop-up

Outdoor Wi-Fi zone pop-ups provide seating, shade, and lighting 24 hours a day at Boston Public Libraries:

- **Mattapan Library** (1350 Blue Hill Ave)
 - Tuesday and Thursday, 9 - 11 a.m.
 - Nutritious breakfast and lunch at no cost to youth 18 and under.
 - Tuesdays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 - Office hours for the Rental Relief Fund



Happening in Mattapan: Nearby Vaccination Sites

Gallivan Community Center (61 Woodruff Way)

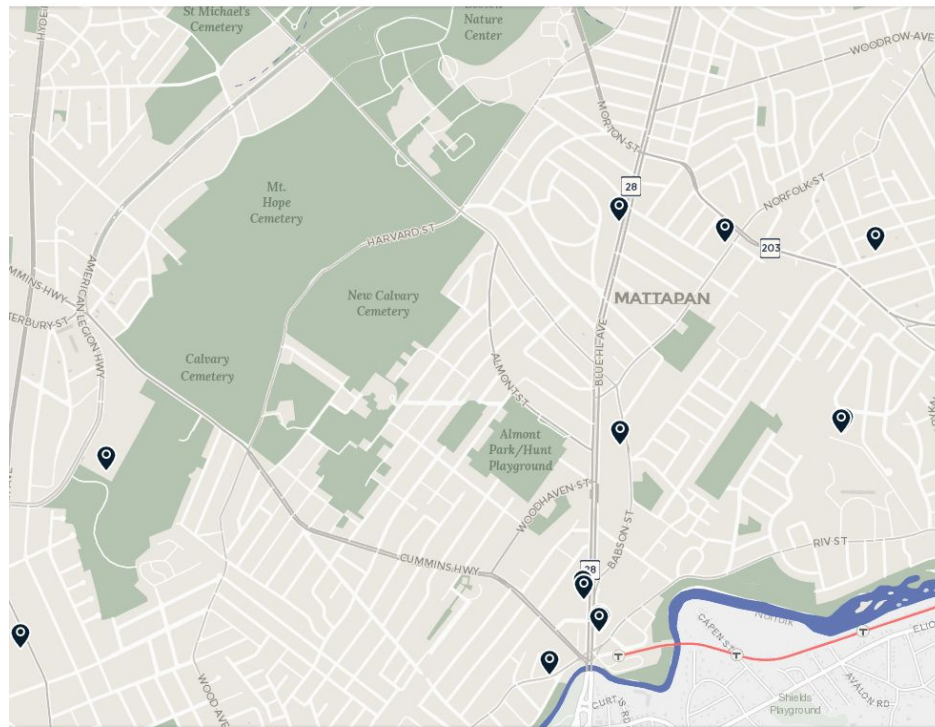
- Saturday, August 28, 2 - 5 p.m.
- Walk-ins welcome!

Immigrant and Family Services Institute and
Brigham Health/ Brookside Community Health
Center (1626 Blue Hill Avenue)

- Fridays in August, 8:30 - 11:45 a.m.
- No appointment needed!

More information at [boston.gov/covid-19](https://www.boston.gov/covid-19)

COVID-19 VACCINE LOCATIONS



Happening in Mattapan: Beginner-friendly Bike Rides

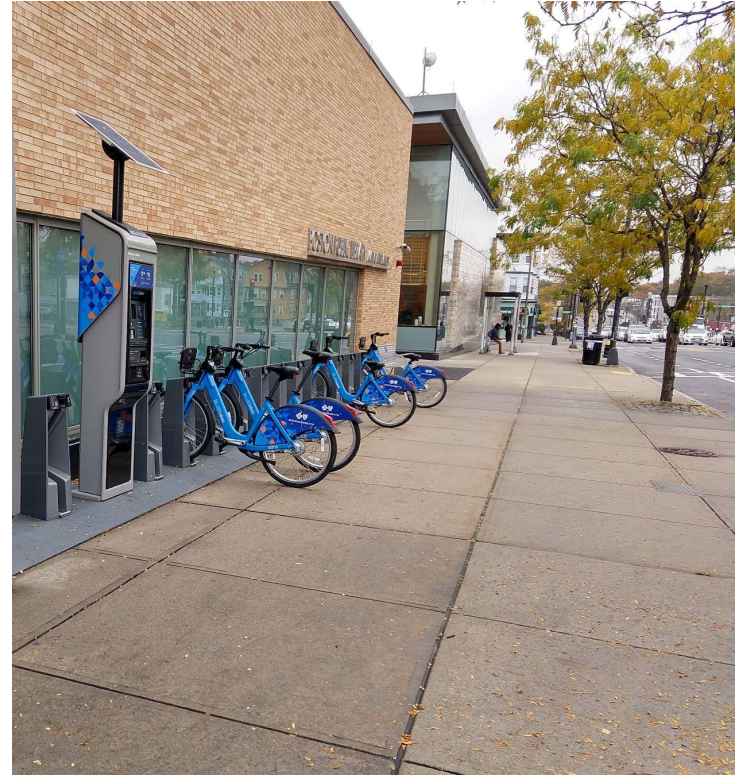
- Beginner-friendly bike rides on the Neponset River Greenway
 - Meet at Mattapan Square T stop.
 - *Monday nights at 5:30 p.m.*

- Women-led beginner ride with Women on Wheels and BTB
 - *Sunday, August 29, 2021 at 11 a.m.*
 - meet at Neponset Trail Parking lot on Hallet Street (at Pope John Paul II Park on Hallet St)



Happening in Mattapan: Free Bluebikes passes on Mondays in August

- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts ("Blue Cross") is offering complimentary Bluebikes rides on "Mindful Mondays" throughout August
 - **August 23:** BlueCrossMindful0823
 - **August 30:** BlueCrossMindful0830
- Residents can access free rides by downloading and opening the Bluebikes app on a mobile device and selecting "Adventure Pass," and entering the appropriate code for each Monday in August.



Happening nearby: Free learn-to-bike workshops for adult women

Women's Learn to Ride ([boston.gov/women-bike](https://www.boston.gov/women-bike))

- Basic Skills
 - August 25 at 6 p.m., Franklin Park Playstead
 - September 11 at 10 a.m., Boston Water & Sewer
 - September 25 at 10 a.m., Boston Water & Sewer
- Street Skills
 - September 11 at 12 p.m., Boston Water & Sewer
 - September 25 at 12 p.m., Boston Water & Sewer

