

Allston-Brighton Transportation Update

*May 8, 2023
via Zoom*

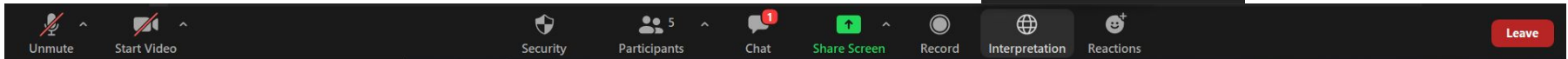
Welcome!

- ▶ We have interpretation in Spanish and Mandarin tonight.
- ▶ After this announcement, we will enable the interpretation function in Zoom. At that time, click “interpretation” and choose your language.

Listen In:

- ✓ Original Audio (Interpretation off)
- EN English
- CH Chinese
- ES Spanish

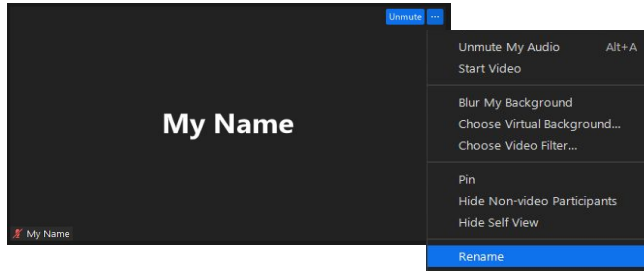
Mute Original Audio



The Zoom meeting control bar is located at the bottom of the screen. It contains several icons and labels: Unmute (muted), Start Video (video off), Security (shield icon), Participants (5 people icon), Chat (speech bubble icon with a red notification dot), Share Screen (green screen icon), Record (circular icon), Interpretation (globe icon), Reactions (smiley face icon), and a red Leave button on the far right.

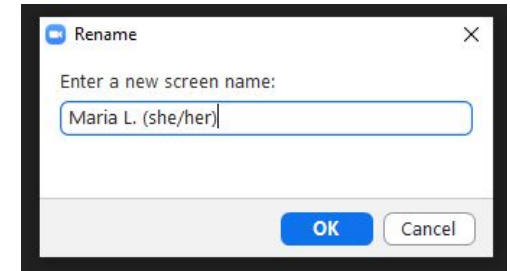
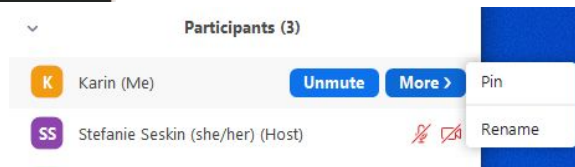
Welcome!

- ▶ This meeting will be recorded.
 - We will share the recording online.
- ▶ Please update your name in Zoom to your preferred name and include your pronouns.



Click the three dots in the top right of your video

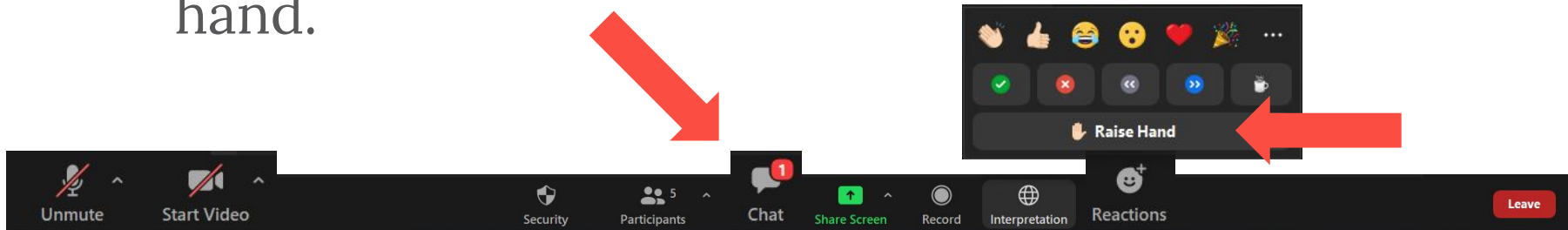
OR next to your name in the "participants" list



Add your pronouns after your name

Welcome!

- ▶ Your microphones are turned off. You will need to unmute to speak.
 - Joining via phone? Press ***6** to unmute.
- ▶ To ask a question, raise your hand in the “Reactions” menu or leave a message in the chat box.
 - If you called into the meeting, use ***9** to raise your hand.



A blue-tinted photograph of a city street scene. In the foreground on the left, there is a large stone pillar topped with an eagle statue. The pillar has the inscription "JOSEPH P. GOLDEN MEMORIAL" at its base. The street is lined with bare trees, and several cars are visible on the road. In the background, there are buildings, including one with a sign that says "SILVA".

Welcome!

*Allston-Brighton Transportation Update
May 8, 2023 via Zoom*

Hi!



Joe Blankenship
Sr. Transportation Planner
BPDA



Louisa Gag
Planner, Active Transportation
BTD



Sarah Davis
Planner, Active Transportation
BTD



Matthew Petersen
Planner, Transit
BTD



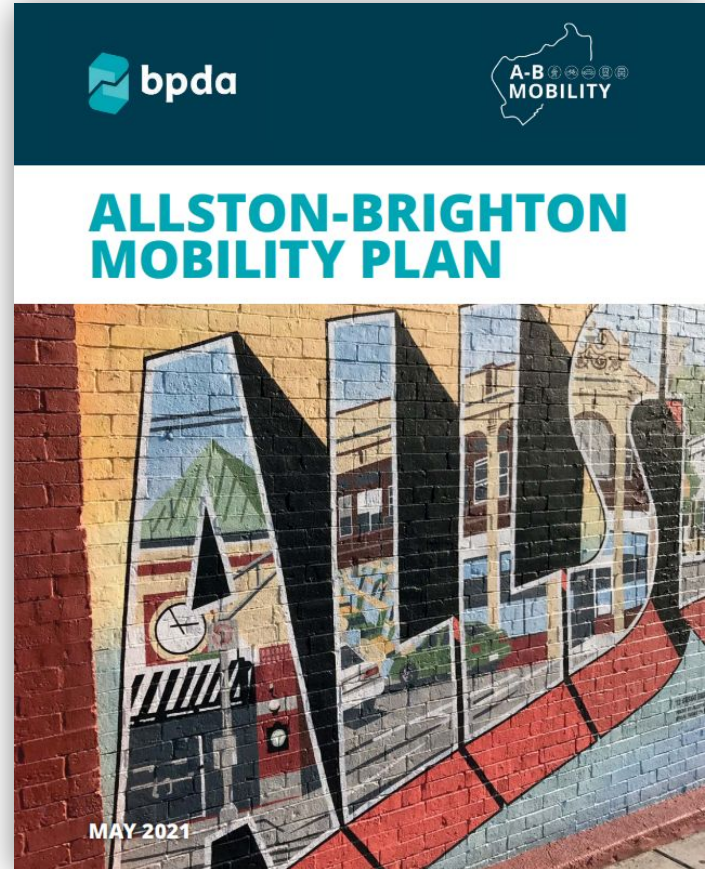
Hannah Fong
Planner, Active Transportation
BTD

What we're covering tonight

- ▶ Refresher on the Allston-Brighton Mobility Plan
- ▶ General updates on projects in the neighborhood, including some DCR projects
- ▶ Break-out rooms to discuss projects in design now:
 - A-B Transit Corridor and Route 57 Study
 - Western Avenue Corridor: development, bike lanes, and transitway study
 - North Beacon Street bike lanes
 - Winship Street and South Street bike lanes
- ▶ Conclude at 7:45

Allston-Brighton Mobility Plan

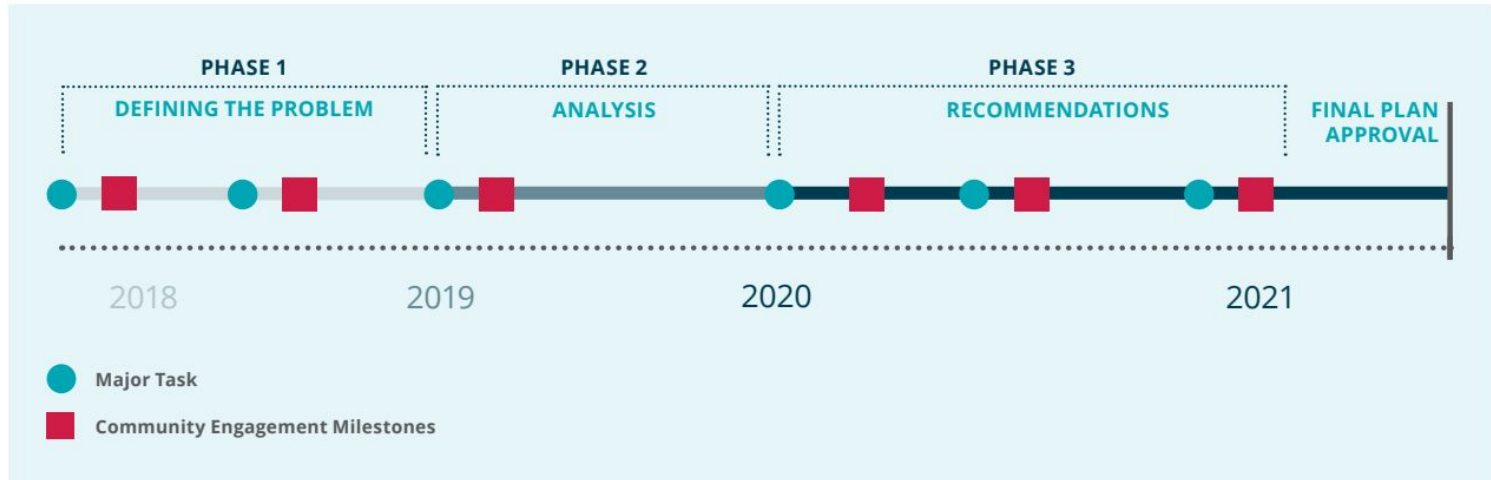
Adopted in May 2021, provides a **blueprint** for improving how people move around Allston and Brighton by making it safer and more efficient for all modes of transportation - **walking, bicycling, transit, and cars.**



Cover of adopted Allston-Brighton Mobility Plan (A-B Mobility)

Allston-Brighton Mobility Plan

- Responds to community concerns about impacts of land use changes on the neighborhood's transportation network
- Kicked off in 2018, adopted in 2021

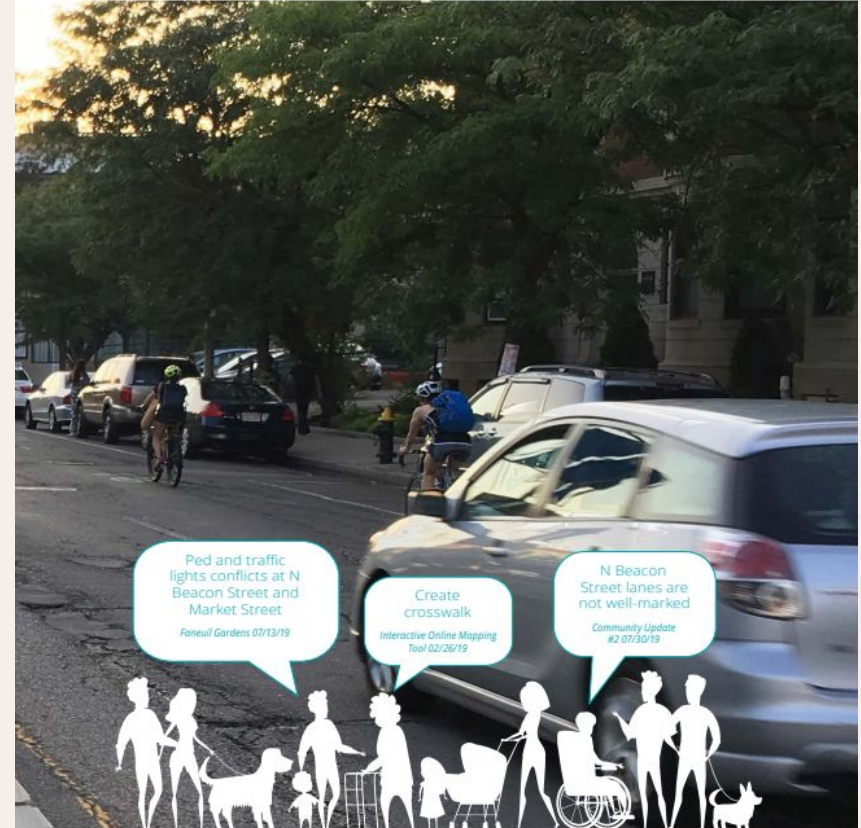


Allston-Brighton Mobility Plan

- Develop transportation recommendations that address development impacts
- Advance *Go Boston 2030* targets: reduce driving trips by half; increase transit, walking, and biking
- Key goals:
 - Expand the transit network
 - Complete the bicycle network
 - Increase walkability
 - Enhance the main street and neighborhood experience
 - Simplify intersections for all users

NORTH BEACON STREET

BETWEEN MARKET STREET AND CAMBRIDGE STREET



A-B Mobility network recommendations

FIGURE 11 TRANSIT NETWORK RECOMMENDATIONS

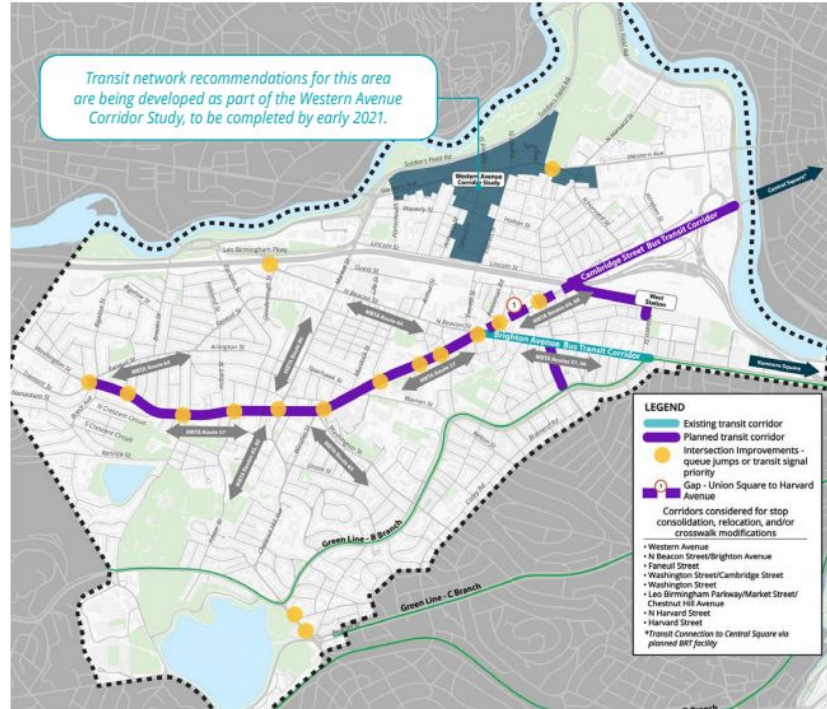
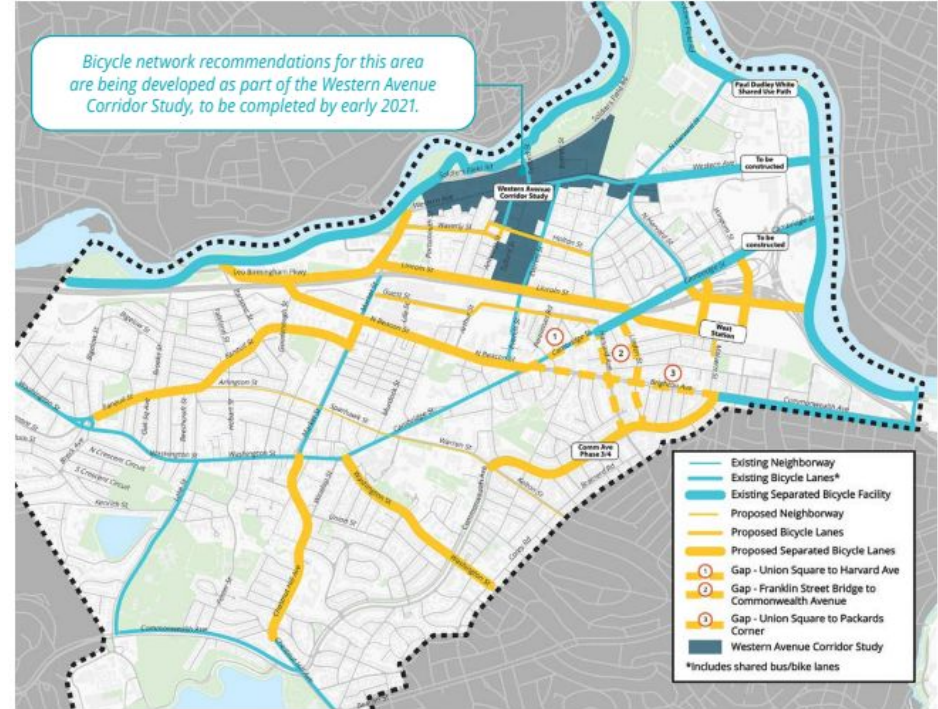


FIGURE 10 BICYCLE NETWORK RECOMMENDATIONS



Allston-Brighton Mobility Plan

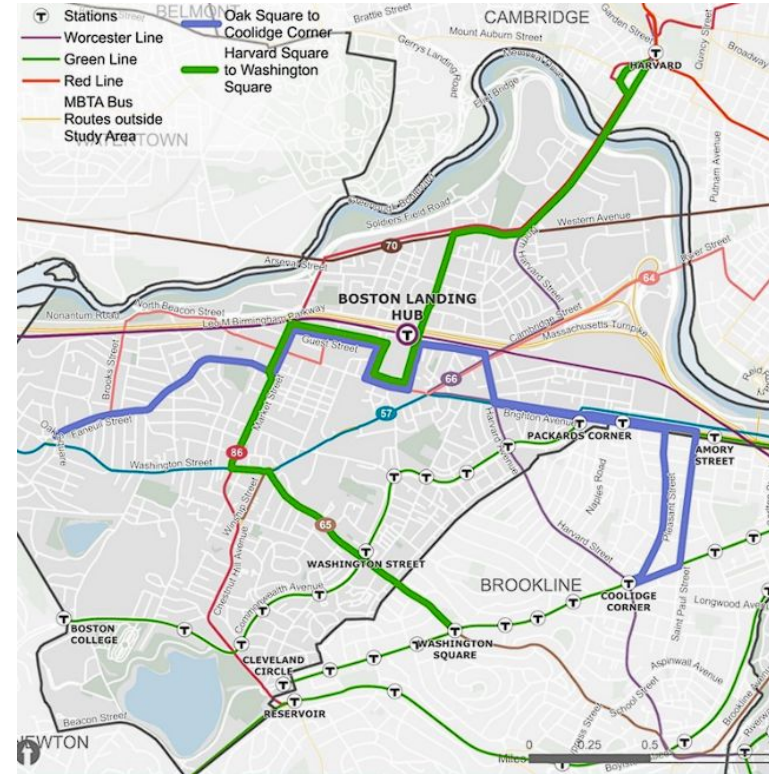
Work continues to actualize recommendations from the A-B Mobility Plan

Ongoing efforts include:

1. Coordinating development mitigation to implement A-B Mobility recommendations.
2. Coordinate project delivery with city and state agencies.
3. Work to ensure BTDA is able to fill new planner position to help implement the plan, which the BPDA is funding.
4. Adopt Western Avenue Corridor Zoning and Mobility recommendations.

A-B Link

- ▶ Key goals of study:
 - Fill key neighborhood gaps in MBTA service
 - Connect neighborhood to the Boston Landing train station
 - Open existing consolidated shuttle service to the public
- ▶ Various routes and options:
 - Multiple A-B surveys and outreach opportunities to define routes
 - Harvard to Washington Sq. via Boston Landing
 - Oak Sq. to Amory St. and Coolidge Corner via Boston Landing
- ▶ Funding & operations are final steps in study



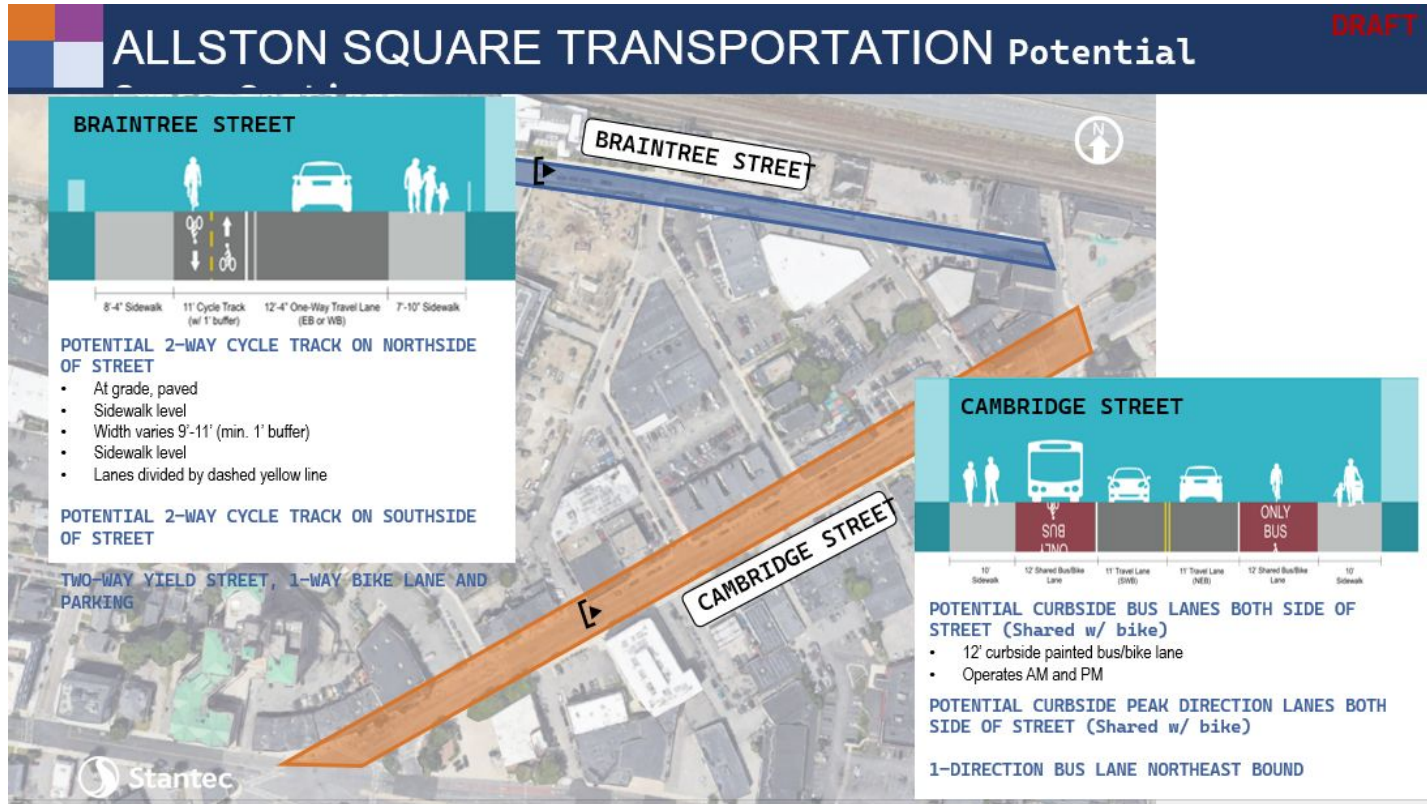
Allston Square/Cambridge St study

- Commitment from Allston Square development project to advance recommendations from the A-B Mobility Plan
- Key goals of study:
 - Conduct Transportation Network Alternatives Analysis
 - Create a 25% Braintree Street Design
 - Create Cambridge Street Multimodal Design Concept
- Seeks to have 25% design concepts for review by Summer/Fall 2023



Allston Square/Cambridge St study

Initial concepts under technical evaluation include:

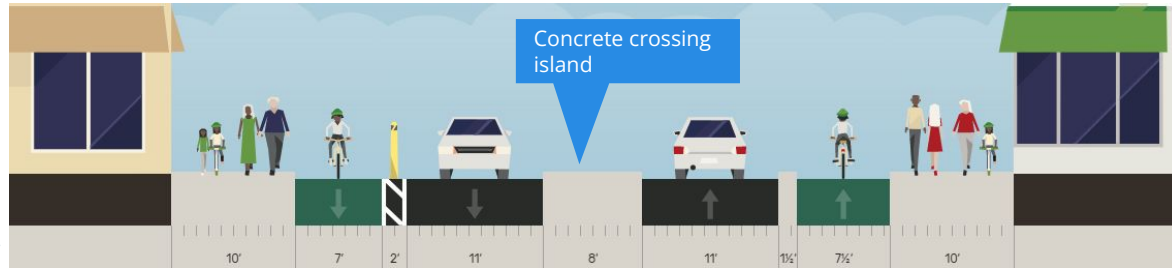


Washington St at Commonwealth Ave

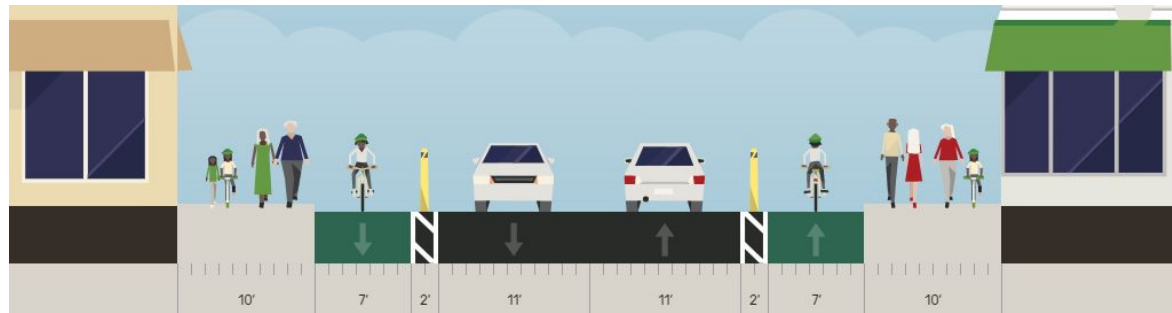
Short-term improvements being made in conjunction with development

In coordination with the 15 Washington Street development project:

- Improvements to calm traffic, make it safer to cross the street, implement better bike lanes, & improve the transit stop fronting the development between Corey Road & Comm. Ave.



Washington St at Allston St



*Washington St from
Allston St to Comm Ave*

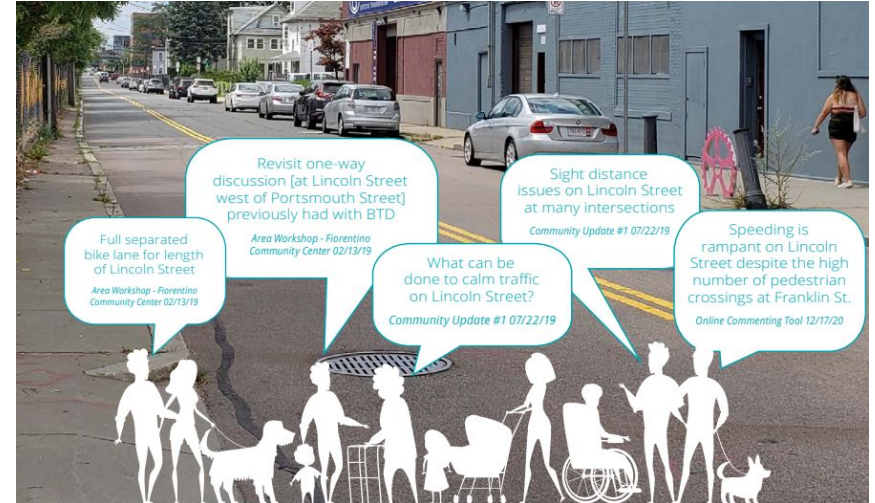
Cleveland Circle Improvements

- ▶ Improve the intersection for vulnerable road users
- ▶ Reduce confusion and clarify traffic flow
- ▶ **Open House on Thursday, May 11, 5-8 p.m.** at Eagle's Deli near Cleveland Circle
- ▶ Targeting design completion this year



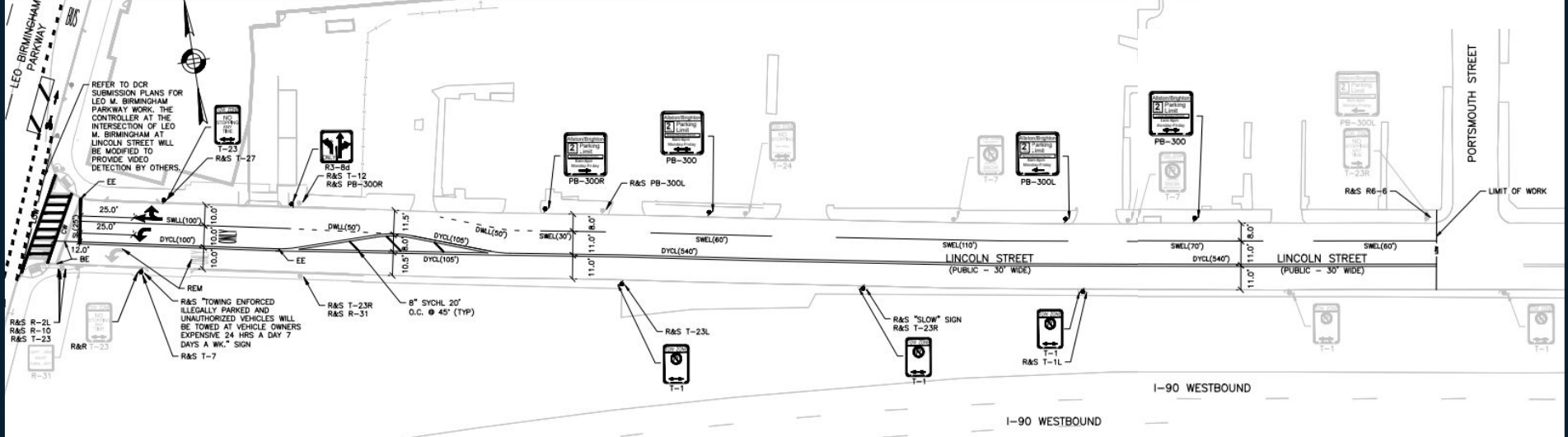
Lincoln Street: Two-Way Conversion

- ▶ Identified in the A-B Mobility Plan
- ▶ Intended to improve vehicular circulation and potentially reduce neighborhood traffic

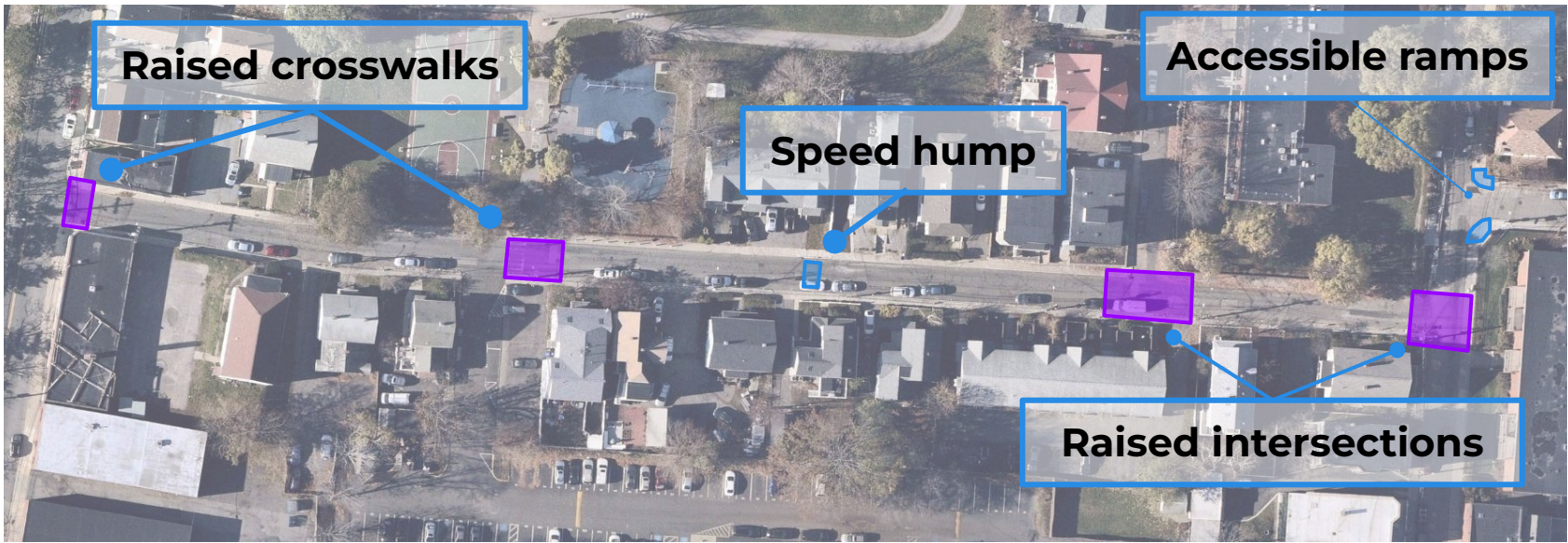


Lincoln Street: Two-Way Conversion

- ▶ To be implemented by the 70 Leo Birmingham project this spring
- ▶ Coordinated with DCR
- ▶ Upon final approvals from DCR, improvements will take 4-6 weeks to mobilize



Portsmouth Street: Traffic Calming



Design plans are final and is being scheduled for construction this year.



Brighton Avenue: Parking and Curb Access Changes

- ▶ Frequent double parking blocks the bus lane
- ▶ Delays everyone using the street and creates unsafe conditions
- ▶ Parking occupancy is at 100% or greater on blocks near Harvard Ave
- ▶ Vehicles parked well beyond the 2 Hour parking limit



Image: Google Streetview

Brighton Avenue: Parking and Curb Access Changes

- ▶ **PROPOSED:** Combination of metered parking, 15 Min pick-up/drop-off & delivery zones
- ▶ **PROPOSED:** Regulations Monday-Saturday, 8am-8pm
- ▶ Changes pending additional field work and coordination with BTD meter shop
- ▶ Likely to be implemented by winter 2023

Harvard Ave. Municipal Lot: EV Charging Stations

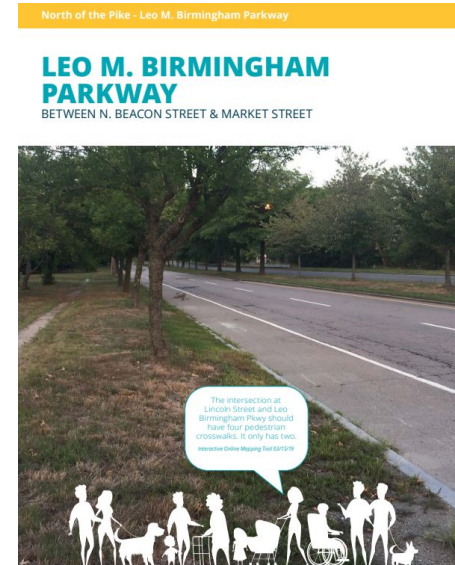
- ▶ Increasing access to EV charging for those who do not have off-street private parking, and those visiting businesses
- ▶ We aim to install 1 level III DC fast charging station and up to 6 level II EV charging plugs in 2023



Ongoing Coordination w/ DCR Projects

- ▶ Leo Birmingham Pkwy
 - 25% design for north carriageway to become multi use path consistent with A-B Mobility recommendations
- ▶ Herter Park Master Plan
 - Plan complete, evaluation of Soldiers Field Road “road diet” to take place
- ▶ Leo Birmingham Pkwy / Western Ave / Market St
 - \$9M received from state to implement 2017 plan recommendations
- ▶ Nonantum/N. Beacon/Soldiers Field Road rotary
 - Design RFP will be out to bid in May
- ▶ Allston-Brighton Pool
 - Conceptual design complete

- ▶ Contact for all projects: mass.parks@mass.gov



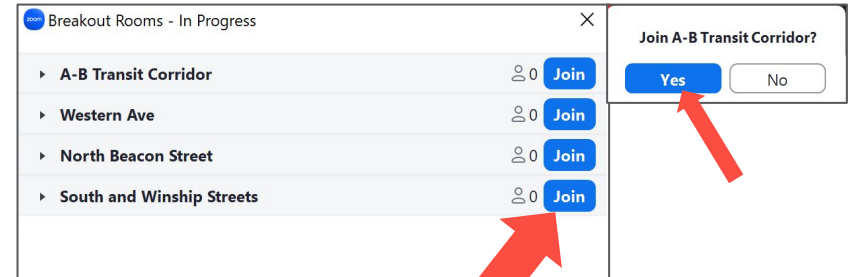
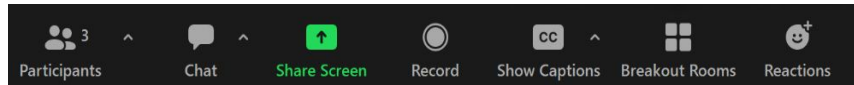
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Clarifying Questions?

Breakout rooms

- ▶ We will run **3 sessions** of break-out rooms. Each session will be **15 minutes**. After a brief presentation, staff will facilitate discussion and answer questions.
- ▶ If you need interpretation in a break-out room, please raise your hand.

Click the Breakout Rooms button on the bottom of your screen.



Choose the room you want to join. Press "yes" to join.

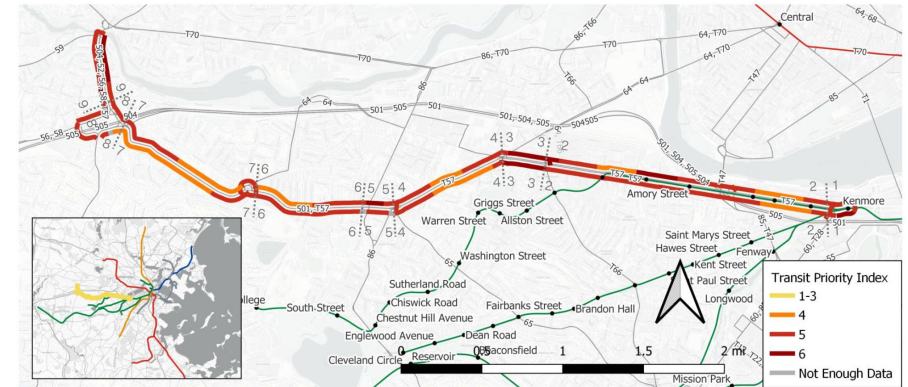
A-B Transit Corridor and Route 57 Study

Project Background

- ▶ May 2021: The BPDA Allston-Brighton Mobility Plan identified the corridor traveled by the Route 57 bus as the “Allston-Brighton Transit Corridor” and recommended peak-hour bus lanes.
- ▶ The MBTA has identified the corridor as having moderate to high need for transit priority, based on very high ridership and extreme delay along the corridor.

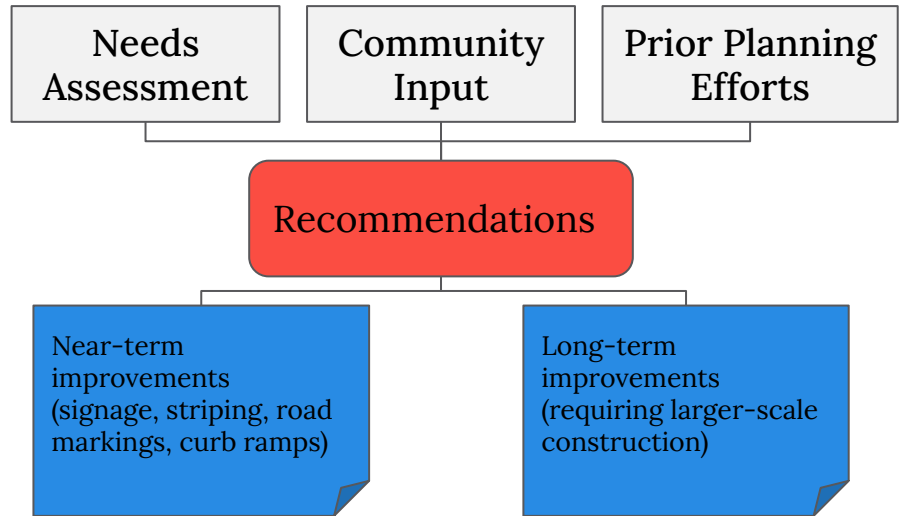


Kenmore to Watertown Sq



Current Efforts

- ▶ City is working on two Transit Priority Corridors this year
 - Route 39
 - **Route 57**
- ▶ Scope includes:
 - Outreach and engagement
 - Assessing needs
 - Concepts for near-term (within 1-3 years) and long-term (beyond 3 years) improvements



Current Efforts

- ▶ Engagement kicking off this spring and summer
 - Pop-ups
 - Open houses
 - Surveys
- ▶ Examining existing conditions and preparing for concept development
- ▶ Possibility of near-term implementation late summer/early fall 2023

Toolkit for Concepts:

- ▶ Crosswalk and safety improvements
- ▶ Bus lanes
- ▶ Signal timing changes
- ▶ Bus stop enhancements
- ▶ Curb use changes

Western Avenue

*Near-term bike lanes, on-going
development, and transitway study*

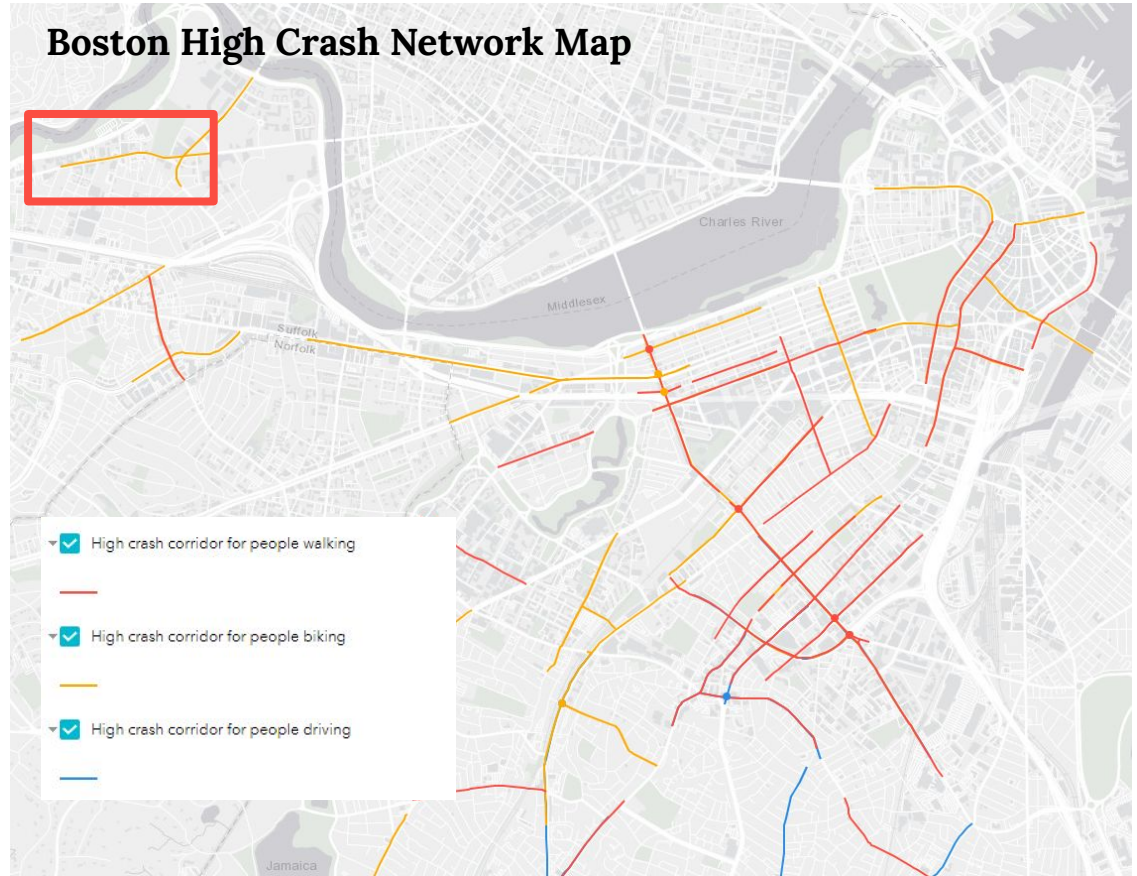
Western Avenue bike project area

The project includes Western Avenue between North Harvard Street and Leo Birmingham Parkway.



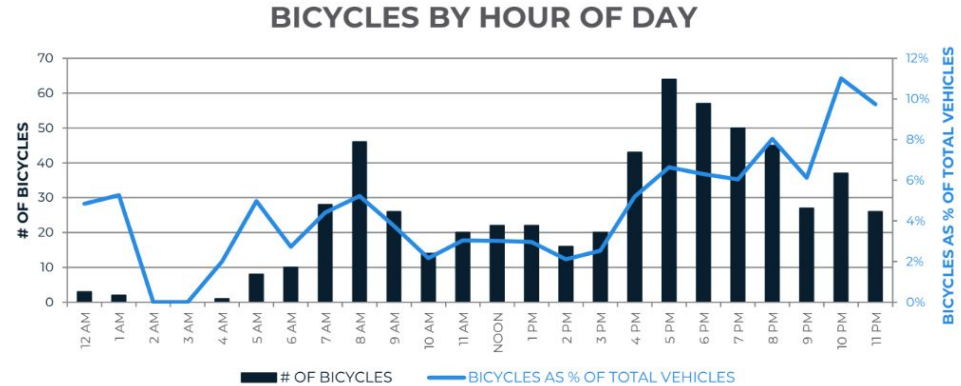
Project background

- ▶ This section of Western Ave. has one of the highest crash rates for people biking in the City



Western Avenue needs continuous separated bike lanes

There are no separated facilities west of North Harvard Street, but people on bikes are still 5-6% of traffic during peak hours.

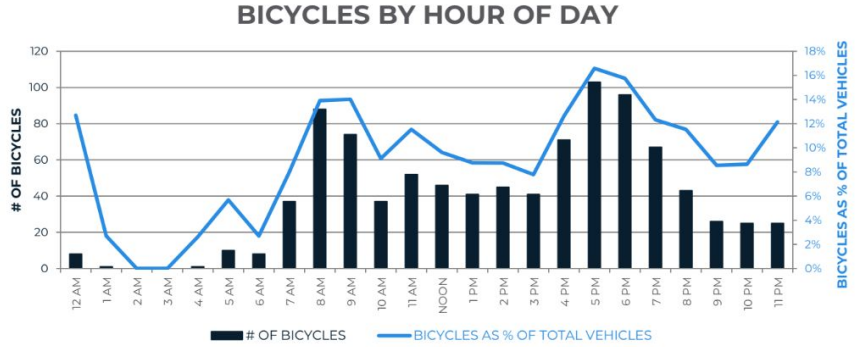


More people are riding where there are separated bike lanes

- ▶ Separated bike lanes were installed on Western Avenue east of N. Harvard Street in both directions.
- ▶ On this section, the bicycling almost doubles, representing 13%-17% of all traffic at peak times.



Image: Google Streetview



Near-term concept design

- ▶ Concept developed via BPDA's Western Avenue Corridor & Rezoning Study
- ▶ Add a separated bike lanes in both directions in the parking lane



Upcoming Events

▶ **Western Avenue Drop-in Session**

Tuesday, May 23, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Drop by our table at the corner of South Campus Drive and Western Avenue

▶ **Western Avenue Drop-in Session**

Tuesday, June 27, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Drop by our table at the corner of Richardson and Western Avenue

▶ **Western Avenue Drop-in Session**

Sunday, July 30, 11:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Drop by our table at the corner of South Campus Drive and Western Avenue

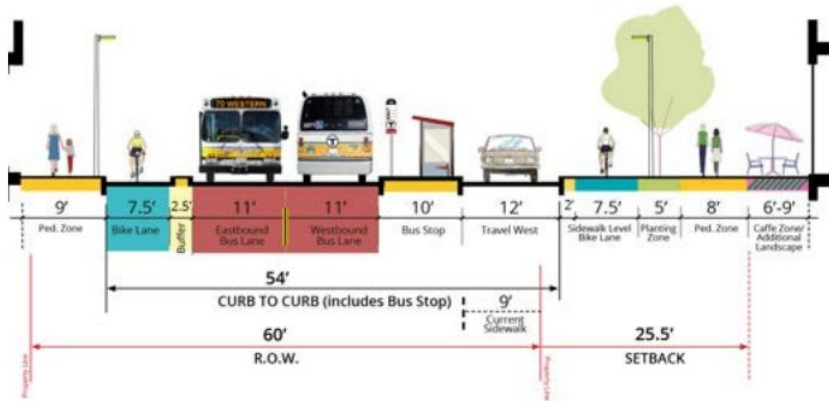
▶ **Virtual Office Hours**

Every other Wednesday, 3 - 7 p.m.

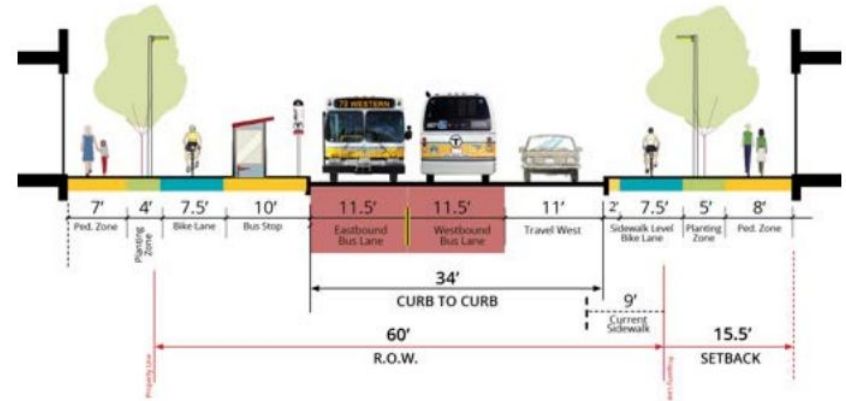
Chat one-on-one with a member of the project team. Sign up for a 15-minute appointment at bit.ly/bbb-apt

Long-term coordination

- ▶ Western Avenue Corridor & Rezoning Study made long-term recommendations for future of Western Ave
- ▶ Additional evaluation needed to implement long-term vision of Transitway and low-stress bike lanes



Proposed: typical street section containing a floating bus stop



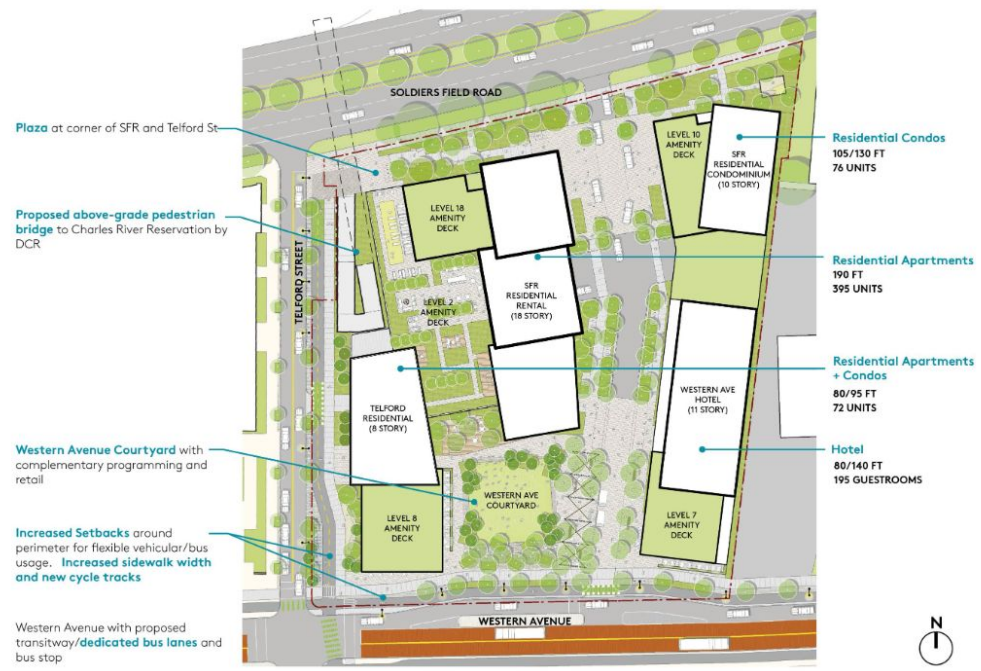
Proposed: typical street section containing a curbside bus stop

Development along the corridor

- ▶ Long-term vision of Western Ave also coordinated with active development projects
- ▶ Additional setbacks gained to make multimodal improvements

SITE PLAN

1234 - 1240 SOLDIERS FIELD ROAD / MARCH 2023



More information:

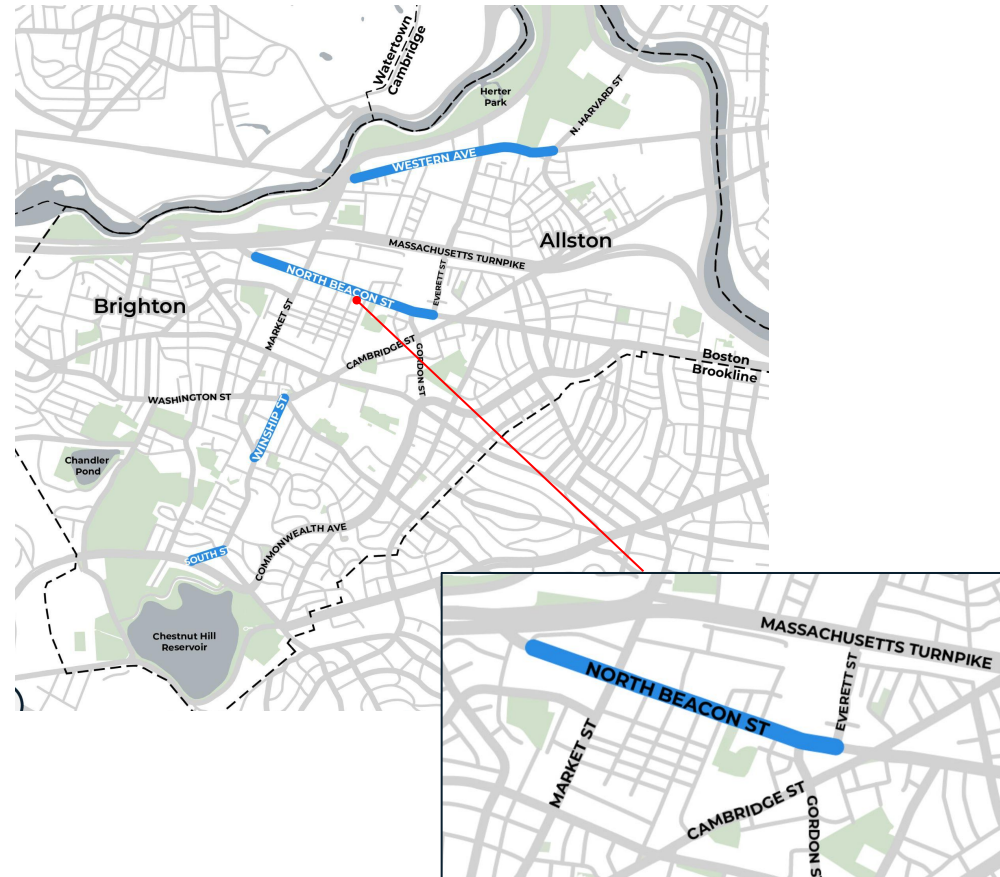
- ▶ boston.gov/western-ave
- ▶ better-bike-lanes@boston.gov
- ▶ 617-635-4574

North Beacon Street

Better Bike Lanes

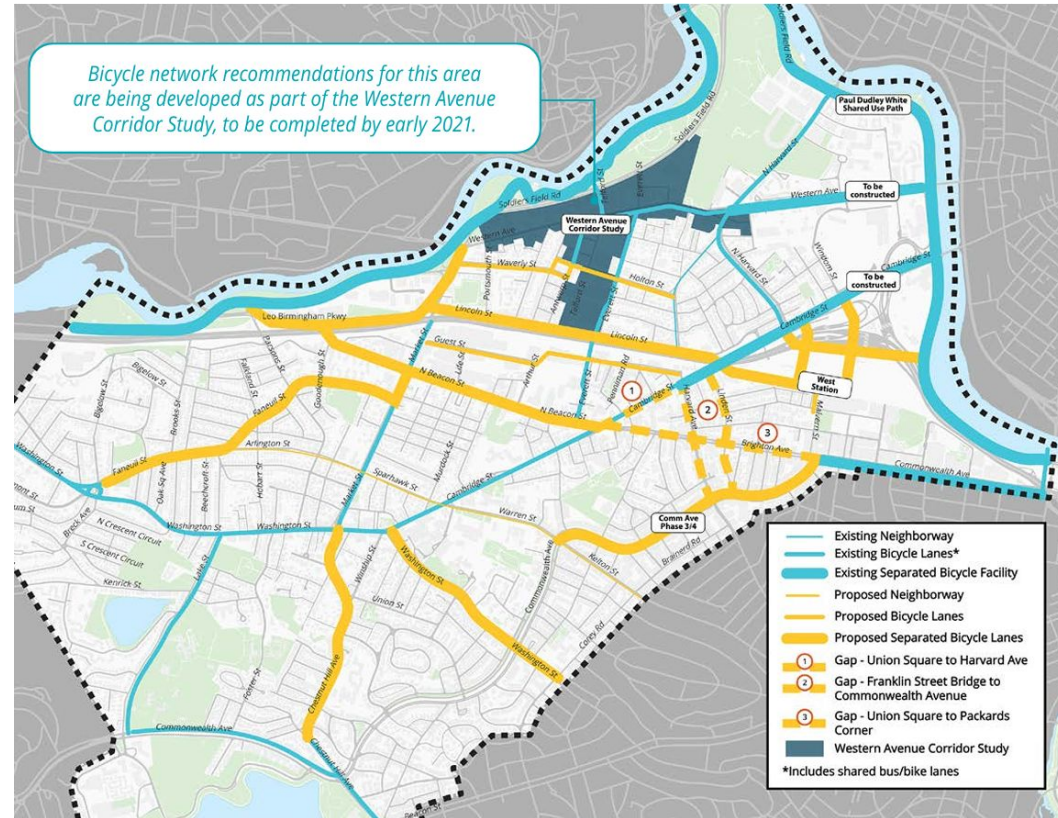
North Beacon Street project area

The project includes North Beacon Street between Vineland Street and Everett Street.



Project background

- ▶ Residents identified North Beacon Street as a priority for improved biking through the BPDA-led Allston-Brighton Mobility Plan.
- ▶ North Beacon Street is part of a future continuous bicycle connection between Oak Square and Union Square via Faneuil Street, Market Street, and North Beacon Street.

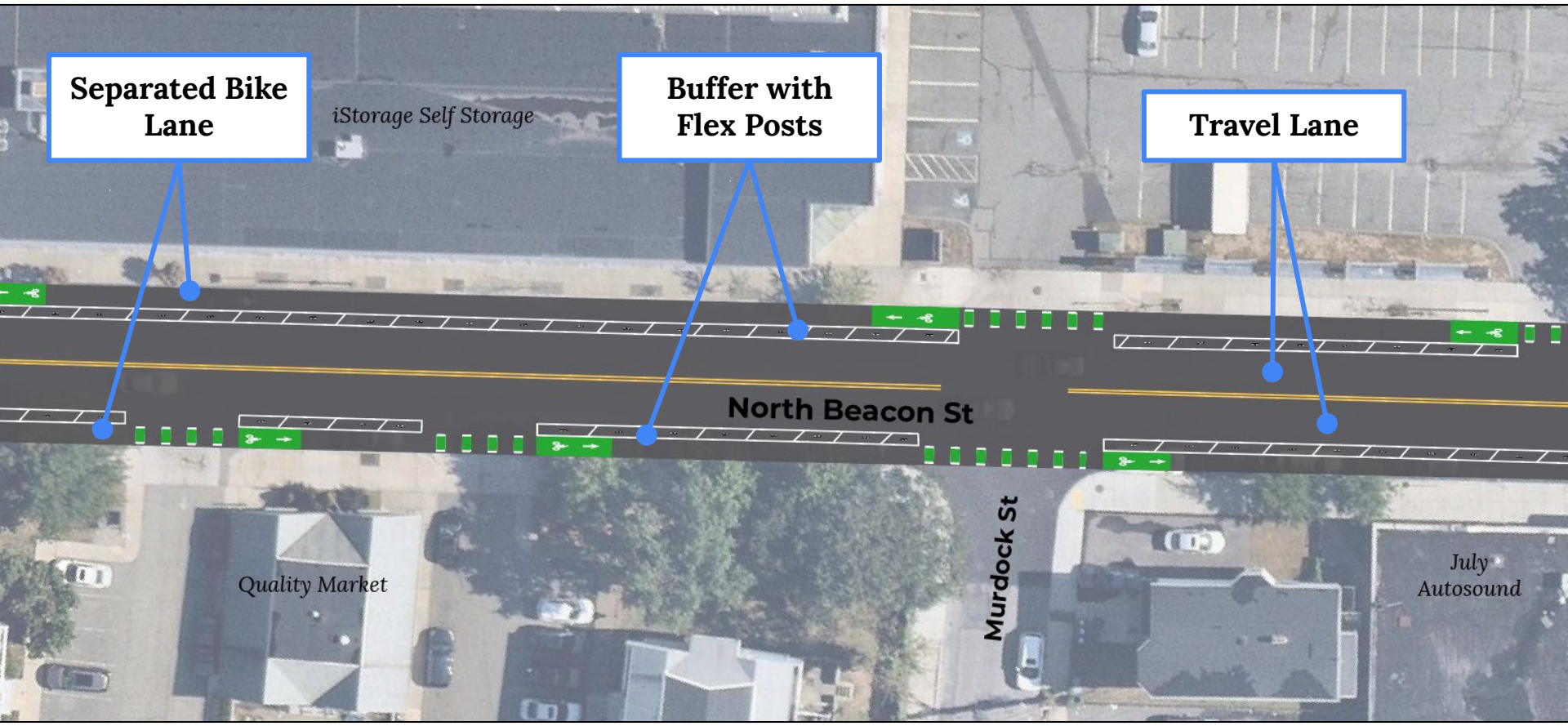


Concept design

- ▶ Add a separated bike lane on each side
- ▶ More clearly define travel lanes



Concept design



Upcoming Events

▶ **North Beacon Street Drop-In Session**

Thursday, May 25, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Drop by our table at the corner of North Beacon Street and Cambridge Street anytime.

Mandarin/Cantonese interpretation available.

Rain date: Wednesday, May 31, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.

▶ **North Beacon Street Drop-In Session at Faneuil Gardens**

Tuesday, May 30, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Drop by the Faneuil Gardens Community Center, 55 Faneuil Street.

Spanish interpretation available.

▶ **Virtual Office Hours**

Every other Wednesday, 3 - 7 p.m.

Chat one-on-one with a member of the project team. Sign up for a 15-minute appointment at bit.ly/bbb-apt

More information:

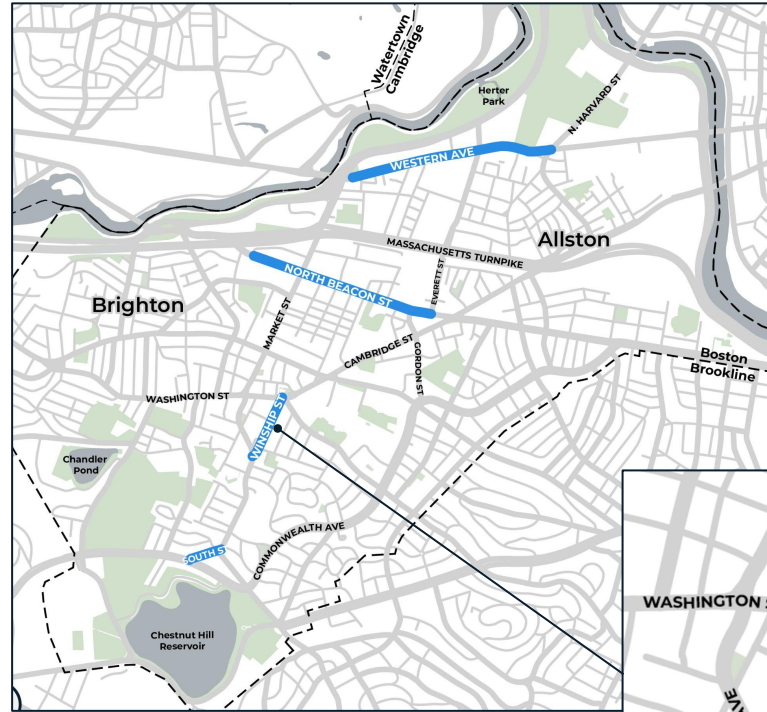
- ▶ boston.gov/north-beacon
- ▶ better-bike-lanes@boston.gov
- ▶ 617-635-4574

Winship and South Streets

Better Bike Lanes

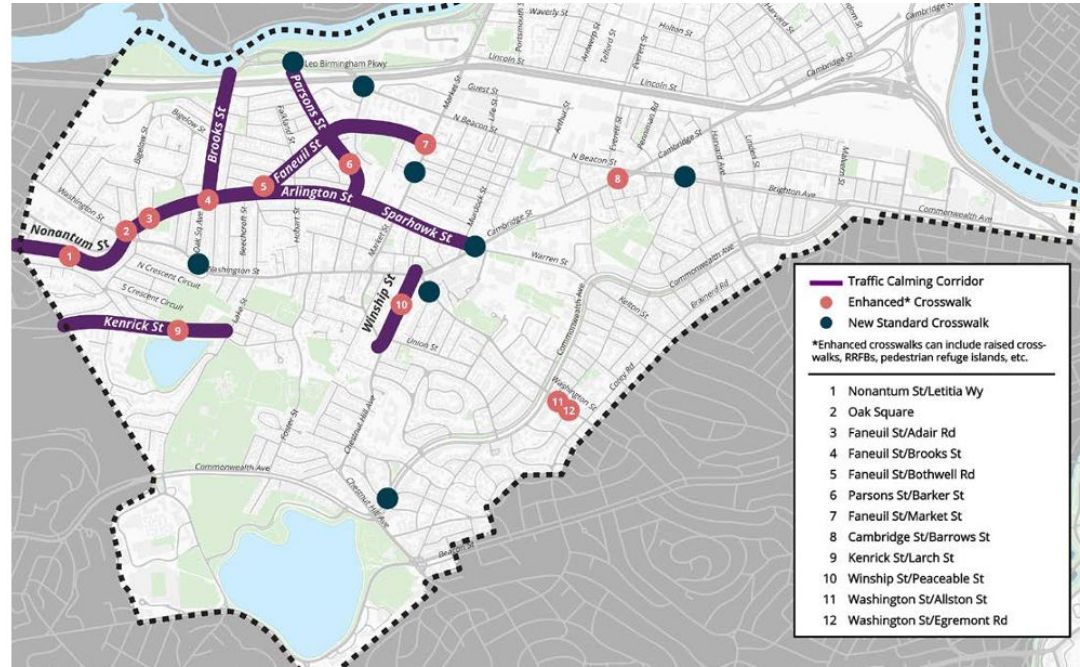
Winship Street project area

The project includes Winship Street between Chestnut Hill Avenue and Washington Street.



Project background

- ▶ Winship Street is a key connector between Brighton Center and Chestnut Hill Avenue
- ▶ The BPDA-led Allston-Brighton Mobility Plan identified Winship Street for traffic calming



Concept design

- ▶ Add a separated bike lane going in the uphill (SB) direction from Washington Street to Chestnut Hill Avenue
- ▶ Narrow travel lanes while accommodating MBTA bus routes



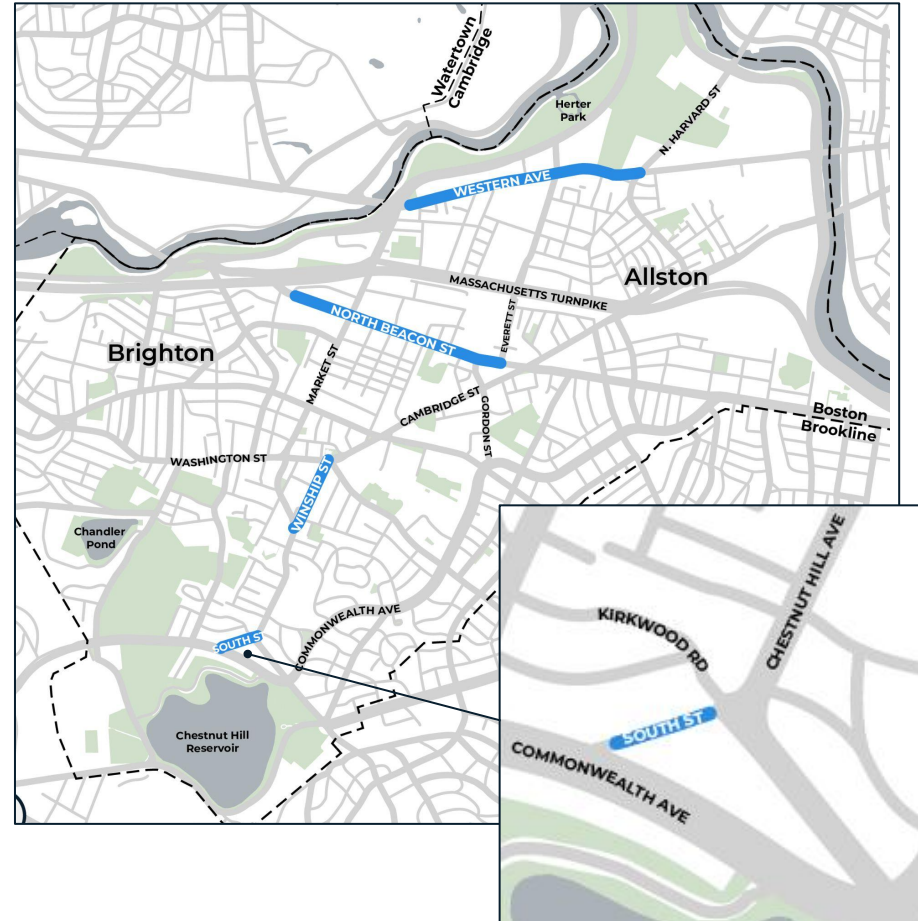
New crosswalk at Peaceable Street

- ▶ Some residents have asked us to look into adding a new crosswalk at Peaceable Street
- ▶ Requires removal of at least one parking space
- ▶ Requires new ramps



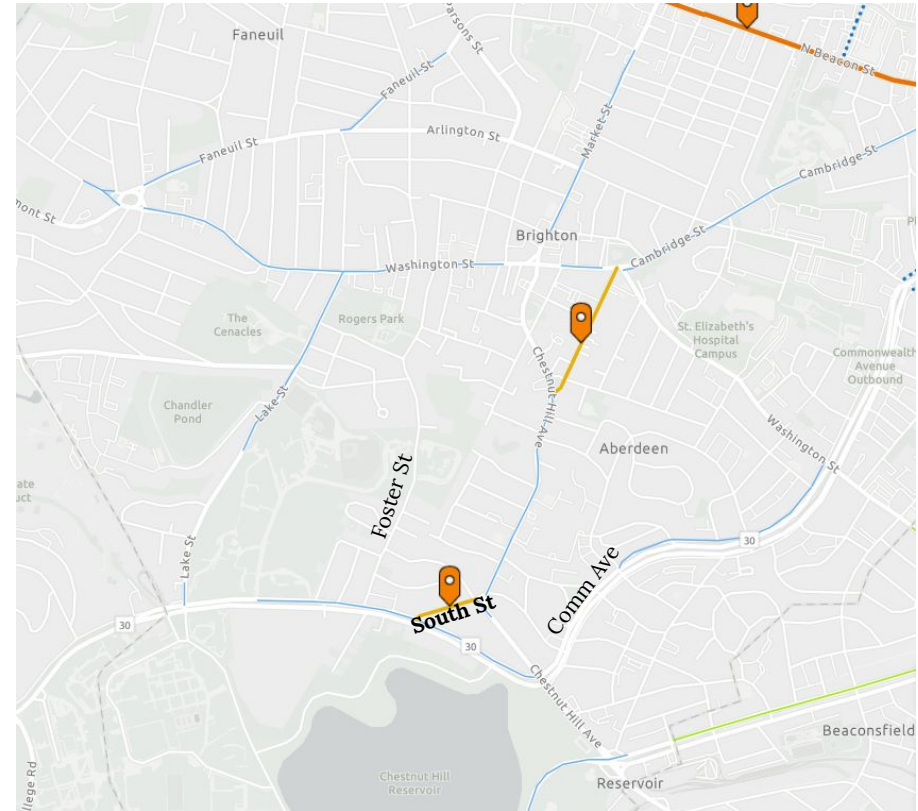
South Street project area

The project includes South Street between Comm Ave and the intersection of Chestnut Hill Avenue and Kirkwood Road.



South Street is a gap in our bike network

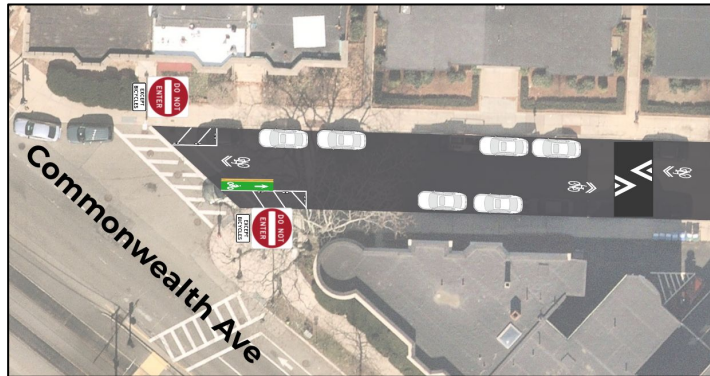
- ▶ South Street is a short, low-volume, one-way street going WB from Chestnut Hill Ave to Comm. Ave.
- ▶ Calming traffic and allowing bike riders to ride in both directions ensures they can travel while avoiding hills on Lake Street, Foster Street, and Comm. Ave.



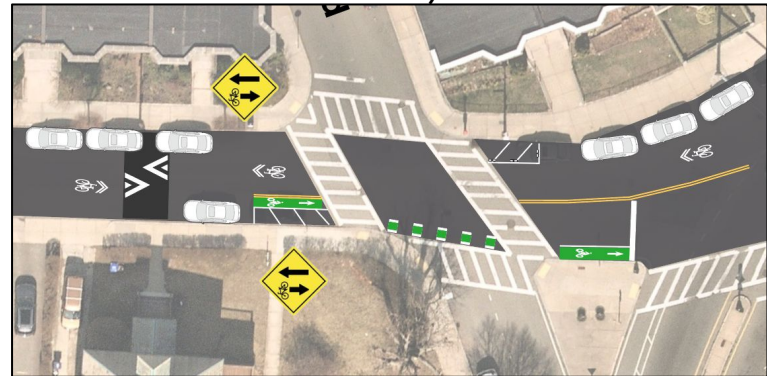
Concept design



South Street at Comm Ave



South Street at Kirkwood Rd/Chestnut Hill Ave



Upcoming Events

▶ **Winship Street Drop-In Session**

Wednesday, May 10, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Drop by our table at the corner of Winship Street and Washington Street anytime. Spanish interpretation available.

Rain date: Monday, May 15, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

▶ **Virtual Office Hours**

Every other Wednesday, 3 - 7 p.m.

Chat one-on-one with a member of the project team. Sign up for a 15-minute appointment at bit.ly/bbb-apt

More information:

- ▶ boston.gov/winship-street
- ▶ boston.gov/south-street-brighton
- ▶ better-bike-lanes@boston.gov
- ▶ 617-635-4574