



Welcome to the Early Action Public Meeting!

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Virtual Meeting Best Practices

Keep Microphone on Mute

- Please keep your microphone on mute at all times to avoid background noise and disruptions.

During designated Q&A time, raise your hand to ask a question:

- Use the "Raise Hand" feature in Zoom to indicate that you have a question. Wait to be called upon before unmuting.

Note: This meeting will be recorded.

Instructions for Interpretation

- Interpretation available during this meeting
- In your meeting controls, click the *Interpretation* icon (the small globe)
- Select the language you would like to hear
- Available languages:
 - Cape Verdean Creole: [Stephanie Veliz](#)
 - Spanish: [Bertolt Cantalice](#)
 - Vietnamese: [Vannga T. Tran](#)
 - Haitian Creole: [Paulette Paul](#)



Agenda

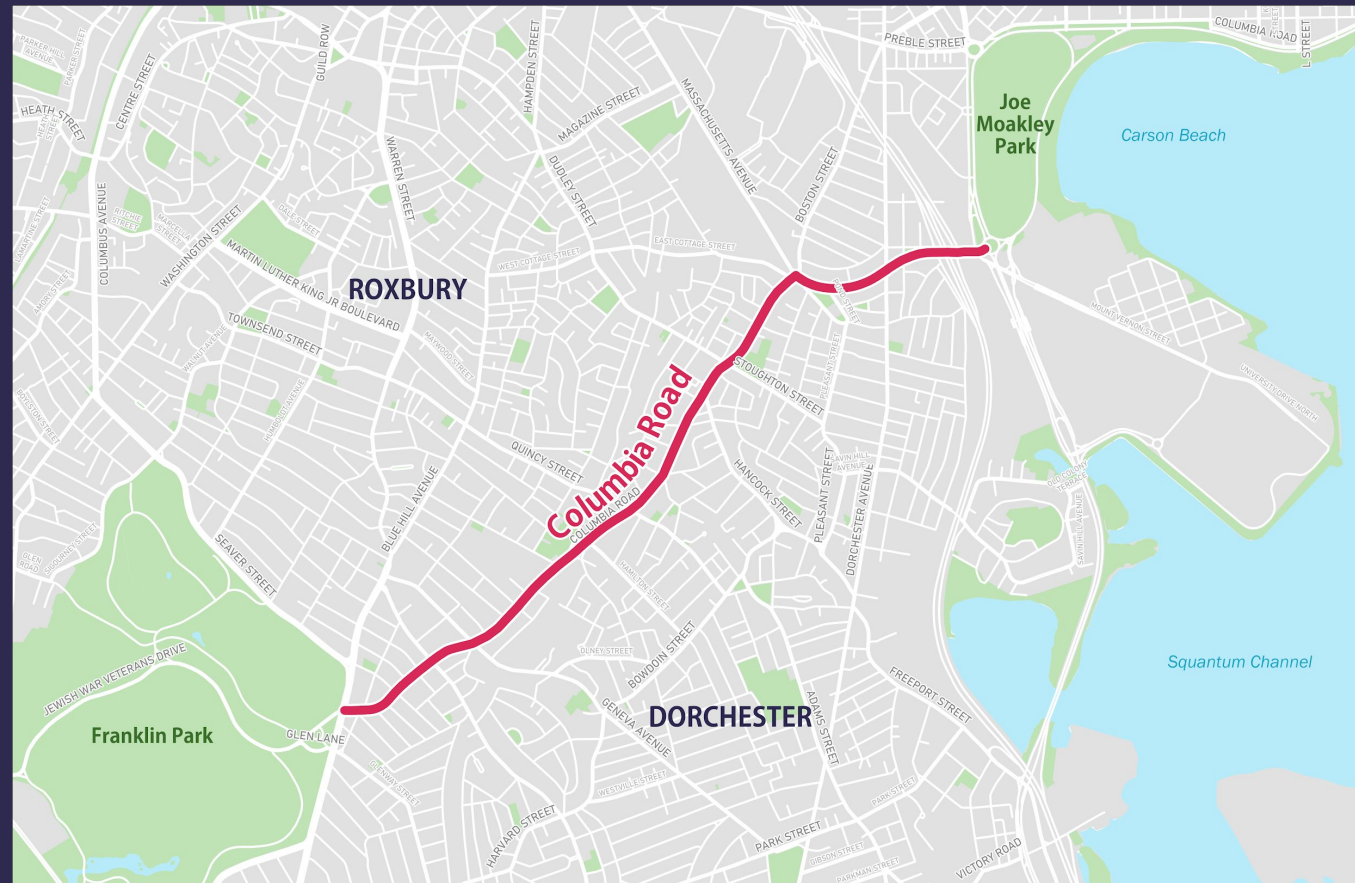
- **Welcome (5 min)**
- **Project Overview (20 min)**
- **Early Action Project (45 min)**
 - **Presentation (15 min)**
 - **Community feedback + Q&A (30 min)**
- **Corridor Redesign Process Overview (30 min)**
 - **Presentation (10 min)**
 - **Q&A (20 min)**

About the Project

- Identified as a key project in Go Boston 2030
- 2.4 mile corridor in Dorchester connecting Franklin Park and Moakley Park
- **Better connections, greener spaces:** enhance neighborhood mobility, safer crossings, repurpose medians & sidewalks, and add green spaces for all



Project Limits



Project Goals

The Columbia Road Transportation Action Plan will create a vision and a plan for the future:

1. More ways to get around
2. Safer street design
3. A greener experience



Project Goals

- 1. More ways to get around.** This project will take into account the needs of walkers, public transit users, bikers, and drivers.
- 2. Safer street design.** The project will increase safety for all users by adding interventions known to increase safety.
- 3. A greener experience.** This project will add more trees and landscaping, public art, benches and lighting to create prettier places to walk and sit along the road.

City of Boston

Boston Transportation Department

Community Advisory Team

- Dorchester Bike Kitchen
- Center for Teen Empowerment
- New England United 4 Justice
- Uphams Corner Main Streets
- VietAID
- Cape Verdean Association of Boston
- La Alianza Hispana
- DSNI
- Speak for the Trees

Consulting Team

Toole Design Group (Prime Consultant)

Technical Team

- Toole Design Group (Lead)
- Reed Hilderbrand Agency
- Kleinfelder
- Dawood

Engagement Team

- LivableStreets Alliance (Lead)
- Dorchester Bay EDC
- Fairmount Indigo CDC Collaborative
- Jaypix Belmer
- Grayscale Collaborative
- Design Studio for Social Intervention

Project Phasing

Phase 1

Near-term improvements

MARCH-AUGUST 2024

E.g. crosswalk/lane restriping,
patch paving, replacing signage

Phase 2

Early action project

JUNE-SEPTEMBER 2024

A community-driven “tactical urbanism” project that can be implemented in Fall 2024

Facilitate community conversation about safety, street design, green design, public realm

Design (July-Aug 2024) -
Implement (Sept-Oct 2024)

Phase 3

Corridor redesign concept

SEPTEMBER-JUNE 2025

A co-design process to develop a vision and conceptual design for a potential full reconstruction of the corridor in the future



Early Action Project

What is the Early Action Project?

- The early action project offers a chance to demonstrate impact of smaller scale design interventions in the larger context of the corridor
- This allows for a quicker turnaround on implementation, modification, and evaluation, ultimately providing valuable insights to guide later project phases

Goals of Early Action Project

- Engage community and encourage conversation about transportation
- Create temporary small-scale changes to the street
- Evaluate the small-scale project and gather feedback to inform larger corridor design



Shortlisted Locations for Early Action Project

How Intersections & Interventions Were Identified

How intersections were prioritized:

- Community input
- Analysis of data on car traffic, pedestrian counts, and bus ridership
- Engineering analysis of on the road possibilities

How intervention options were determined:

- Feasibility within the timeline and budget for this portion of the project

How Intersections Were Prioritized

- Using the 3 community-informed data sets, we built a list of the top 15 intersections identified by community members
- We then took this list of 15 intersections and further narrowed it using a rubric that evaluated intersections' street safety and usage

How Intersections Were Prioritized

3 sources of community input:



Bus Rider Surveys

281

Responses collected in person



General Surveys

88

Responses collected community events, during commuter rail canvassing and available via an online survey form on the project webpage.



Community Walk Survey

30

Responses collected via 3 in Person Community Walks & 1 Virtual Walk

How Intersections Were Prioritized

Analysis of car traffic, pedestrian data, bus and bike ridership



Walking

- 1-mile distance to schools, libraries, parks, & grocery stores
- Has higher than average number of young people (18 years and younger) and/or seniors (60+ years)²
- High number of pedestrians crossing at intersection³



Taking Public Transit

- Has bus stops serving 2+ bus routes
- High number of people getting on & off at bus stops¹



Biking

- Connection to bike lanes at intersecting streets



Driving

- Higher than average number of drivers at the intersection³

¹ MBTA Winter 2023 load profile for Bus #16

² City of Boston's myCensusViewer 2017-2021 ACS 5-year estimate

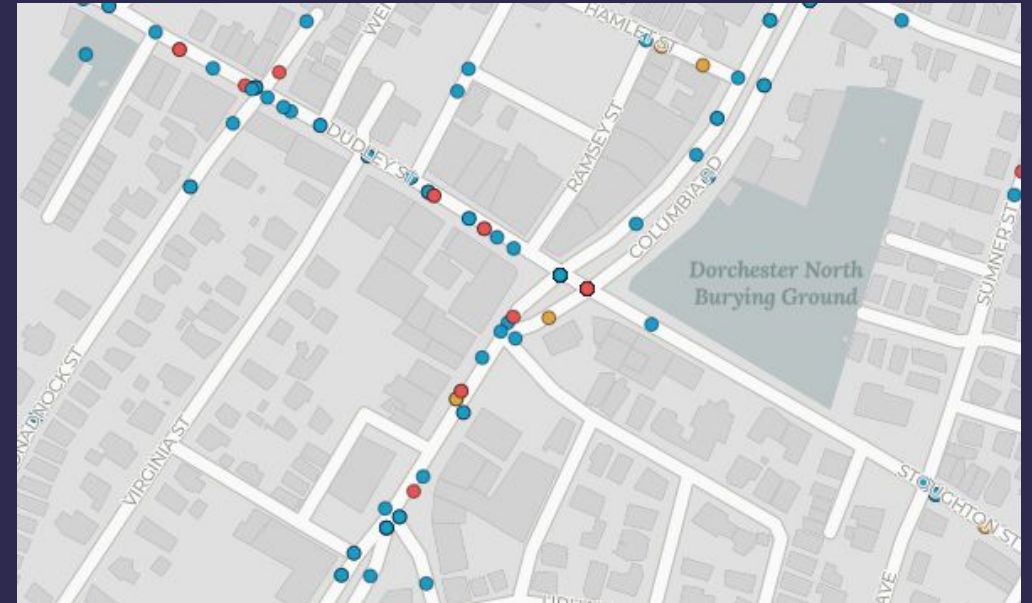
³ Turning movement counts (TMCs) for motorists and pedestrian counts collected June 2024

How Intersections Were Prioritized

Street Safety Data

Locations that are in the City of Boston Vision Zero Injury Crash map¹ (Jan 2019-Dec 2023) showing:

- Pedestrian crashes
- Bicyclist crashes
- Motor vehicle crashes



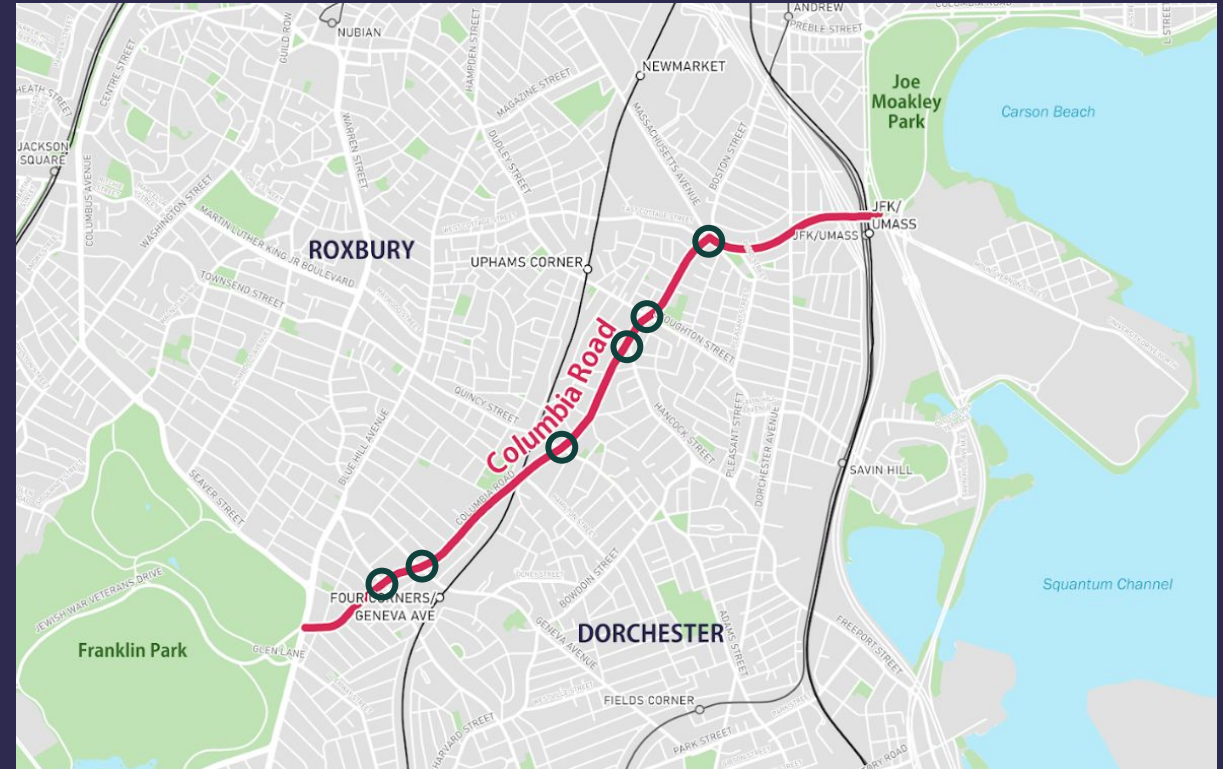
Note: Each dot may mean more than one crash

- Pedestrian crash
- Bicyclist crash
- Motor vehicle crash

¹ City of Boston Vision Zero Injury crash map

Shortlisted Intersections

- Columbia @ Dudley/Stoughton
- Columbia @ Mass Ave/E Cottage
- Columbia @ Washington
- Columbia @ Quincy
- Columbia @ Hancock
- Columbia @ Geneva





Early action project possible interventions and intersections

Early Action Project Intervention “Toolbox”

Clear corner

Art + planters inside a clear corner!



Clearing space ahead of a crosswalk or an intersection to: 1) make it easier for drivers to see people walking, and 2) shorten crossing distance.

Reduce curb radii



Reduce the radius of the curb at intersection corners: 1) to reduce drivers' speed as they turn, and 2) shorten crossing distance.

Painted median island



Provides space for people to pause while crossing multi-lane streets. Can also reduce driving speed by narrowing the travel lane and shifting drivers' path.

Early Action Project Intervention “Toolbox”

Traffic Signal Box Art



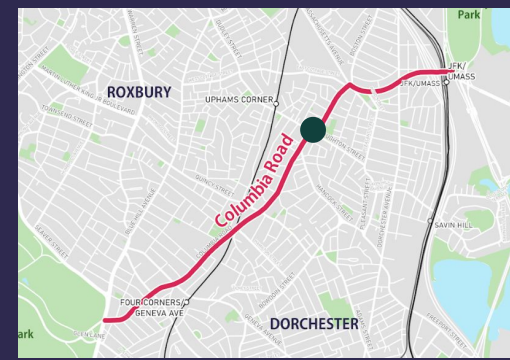
Traffic signal box art can help make the street look more appealing.

Parklet



Extend the sidewalk into on-street parking spaces to create a new community space. The space can include seating, plants, and other things that make it feel inviting to use.

Columbia @ Dudley/Stoughton St



Santander Bank

Clear corner possible here in front of bank

Possible Interventions

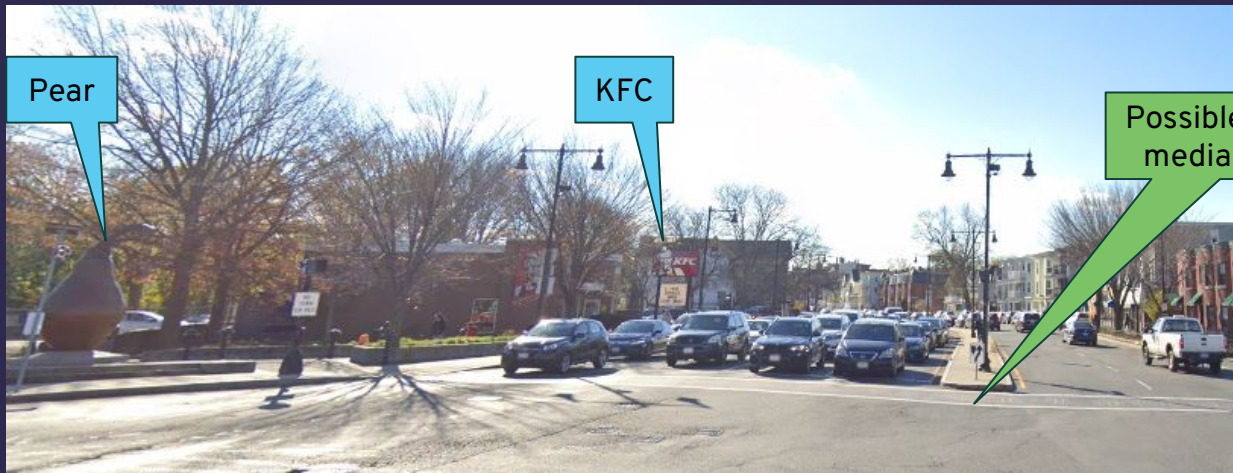
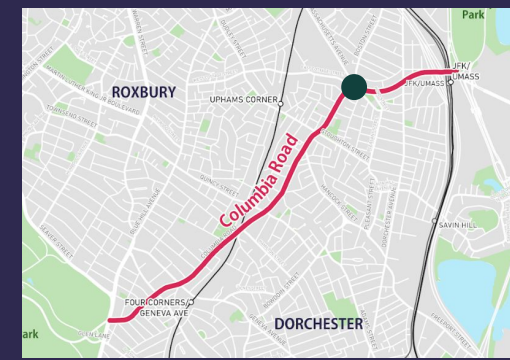
Clear corner



Clear corner possible here

Cricket

Columbia @ Mass Ave/E.Cottage St



Possible Interventions

Painted median island



Traffic box art



Traffic box art

Columbia @ Hancock St



Pilgrim Congregational Church

Possible clear corner

Traffic box art

Possible parklet in front of church

Possible Interventions

Clear corner



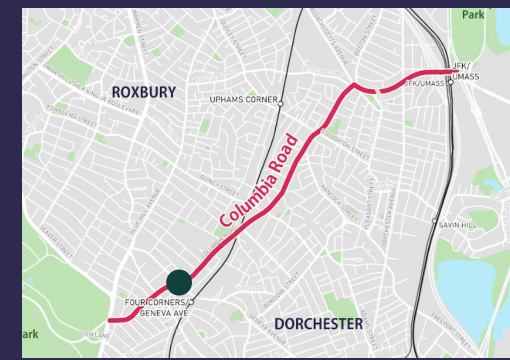
Parklet



Traffic box art



Columbia @ Geneva Ave



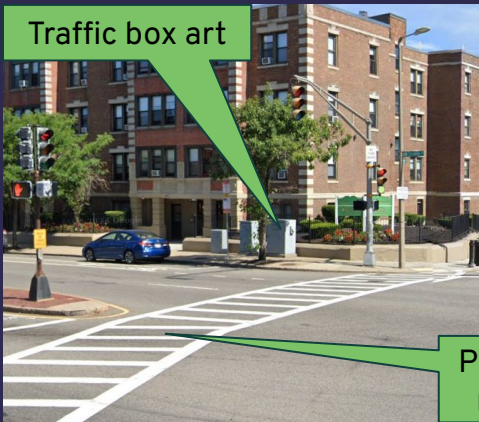
Proposed interventions



Clear corner



Reduce curb radii



Possible painted median island

Painted Median Island

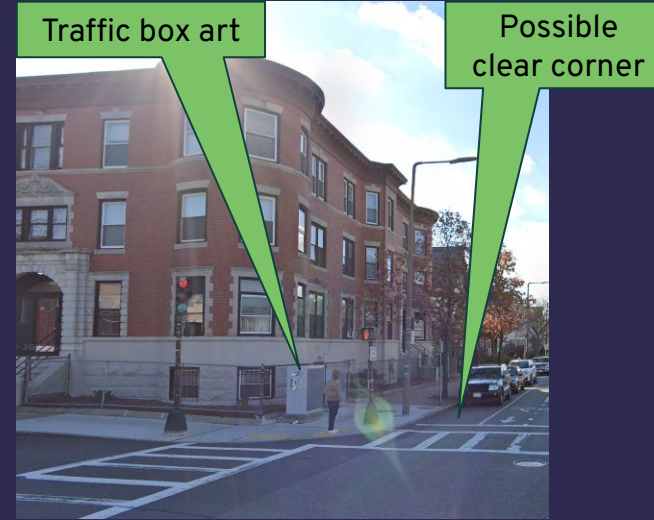
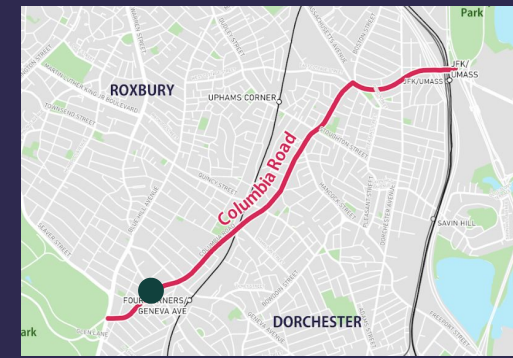


Possible clear corner

Traffic box art



Columbia @ Washington St



Possible interventions

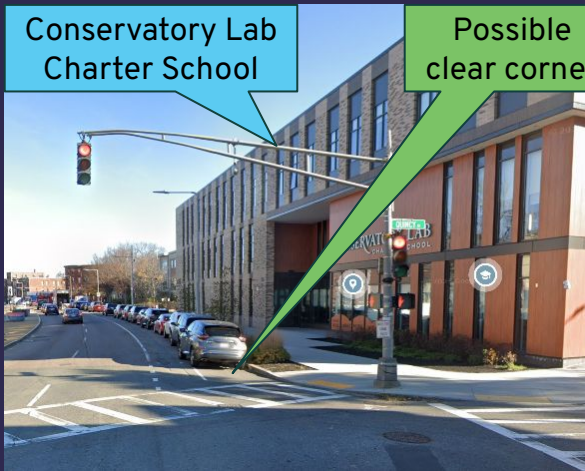
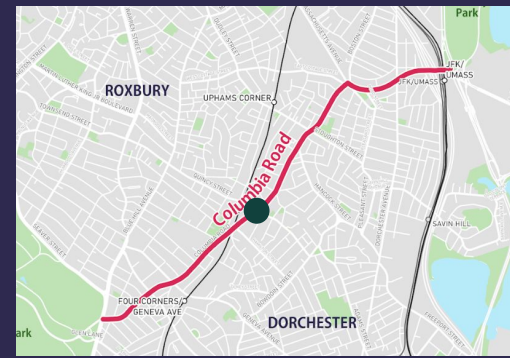
Clear corner



Traffic box art



Columbia @ Quincy St



Possible Interventions

Clear corner



Traffic box art



Community Feedback

- Share via our feedback form:
 - Which, if any, possible locations and interventions are you most excited about?
 - Which, if any, possible locations and interventions are you least excited about?
 - What type of art or greenery would you be excited to see as part of these interventions?



Other Questions About Early Action Project

Please raise your Zoom hand if you have questions about early actions!



Corridor Redesign

Corridor Co-design Process

- **Step 1:** Develop a set of options (Aug-Dec 2024)
- **Step 2:** Evaluation of the options (Jan-Mar 2025)
- **Step 3:** City of Boston selects a design direction (Apr 2025)

Step 1: Develop a Set of Design Options

August-December 2024

- By the end of 2024 the project team builds a set of street design options based on community input and existing city policies
- Community members will have opportunities to share input on:
 - How to share road space among walkers, bikers, drivers, and buses
 - Options for increasing green Infrastructure (i.e. trees, shade, stormwater management)
 - Beautification and public space design (lighting, greenery, furnishings)

Step 2: Evaluate Design Options

January-March 2025

- Community members will have opportunities to weigh in on a set of design options for Columbia Road
- Community members will have opportunities to consider pros and cons of the various design options and share their preferences for how walkers, buses, bicyclists, vehicles and green space are accommodated on Columbia Road

Step 3: Finalize Preferred Design Option

April-June 2025

- The City of Boston will select a final design option for Columbia Road
- After the design is finalized, the city can seek funding (as needed) for implementing the design.

Learn More & Stay Involved

- Project webpage: boston.gov/columbia-road
- Email: columbiaroad@boston.gov
- Sign up to our newsletter to get regular updates about the project
- Fill out the general survey on the project webpage
- Columbia Road Office Hours- every Tuesday from 10am-12pm

Q&A About Corridor Redesign
