

Blue Hill Avenue Transportation Action Plan!

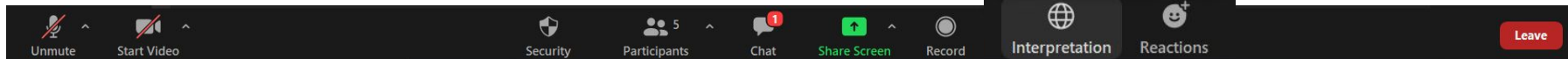
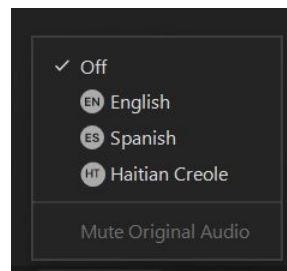
Community Meeting
November 15, 2022



Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Akeyi!



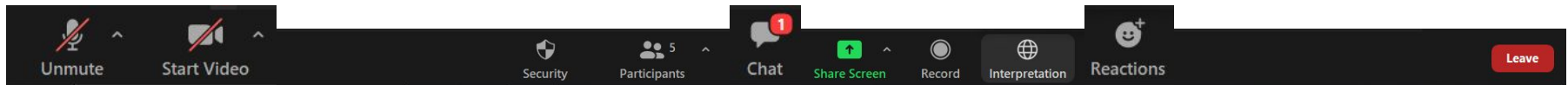
- Si hablas español y prefieres escuchar la reunión en esta lengua utiliza el botón de “Interpretation” (Interpretación) para acceder al canal de audio en español.
- *Si w pale Kreyòl Ayisyen e w prefere tande reyinyon an nan lang sa a tanpri sèvi ak bouton "Interpretation" (Entèpretation) pou w jwenn aksè ak chèn odyo pou Kreyòl Ayisyen an.*



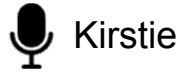
Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Akeyi!



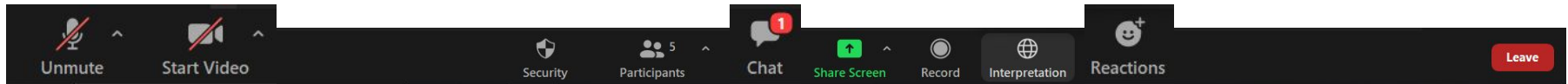
- This meeting **will be recorded**.
 - Esta reunión será grabada.
 - *Reyinyon sa a ap anrejistre.*
- Update your name in Zoom to include your preferred name and your pronouns.
 - Actualiza tu nombre en Zoom con tu nombre preferido y tus pronombres.
 - *Aktyalize non w sou Zoom pou w mete non prefere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



Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Akeyi!



- 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.*





Kirstie

Welcome!

Blue Hill Avenue Transportation Action Plan

Community Meeting
November 15, 2022





Kirstie

A recording of our October 25th meeting, and other project materials can be found here:

boston.gov/bluehillavenue



Kirstie

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 (*ex. housing and development, business and economic development, environmental resilience, and public realm improvements*)



Kirstie

Meeting Goals

- Goal 1:** Orient residents to where this project came from and why this process is different
- Goal 2:** Provide information about who is involved (*City of Boston, MBTA, Consultants, Community Partners*)
- Goal 3:** Provide meaningful opportunities for residents to engage as the project and process develops further
- Goal 4:** Collectively discuss questions and ideas that reflect the diverse perspectives of residents



Chavella

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.



Stephen

Tonight's Agenda

1. Meet the Team
2. What We've Been Doing and Where We Are Now
3. Recap & Responding to Questions from Meeting #1
4. Discussion
5. What's Next



Stephen

Blue Hill Avenue

Meet the Team





Stephen

Who is Involved?

City of Boston

Boston Transportation Department:
Kirstie Hostetter, Project Manager

Other City Departments

Office of Housing
Office of Economic Opportunity & Inclusion
Boston Planning & Development Authority
Office of Neighborhood Services
Office of New Urban Mechanics
Office of Arts and Culture
Disabilities Commission
Age Strong Commission

MassDOT/ MBTA

MBTA Capital Delivery:
Erik Scheier

MBTA Transit Priority:
Andrew McFarland & Phillip Cherry

MassDOT District 6 (Blue Hill Ave/Boston):
Benjamin Muller



Stephen

The Team (so far) for Engagement Decision-making

Engagement consultants

Grayscale Collaborative
Powerful Pathways
Consult LeLa
Toole Design Group

Community partners

(to be expanded)

Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition
Greater Mattapan Neighborhood
Council

Boston Transportation Department

So far, stakeholder workshops with:

Garrison Trotter Neighborhood Association, Greater Grove Hall Main Streets, Project R.I.G.H.T. Inc., Franklin Park Coalition, Mattapan Teen Center, Morning Star Baptist Church, Mattapan Main Streets, Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Mattapan Community Health Center, Franklin Park Zoo



Jeff & Allentza

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's your home zip code?

(If you can't get the poll to work, feel free to use the Chat)



Allentza

Blue Hill Avenue

What We've Been Doing &
Where We are Now

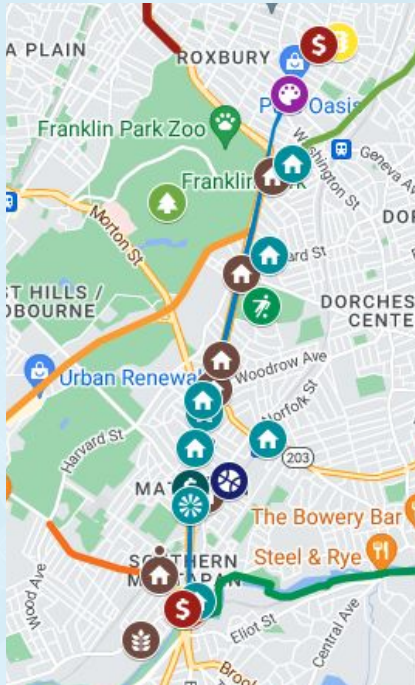




Allentza

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

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

Compiled by Powerful Pathways

How We Are Working Differently

Holistic Approach to Blue Hill Ave

not just transportation...

also public realm, housing & development, business & employment



Where We Have Been

Blue Hill Avenue Transportation Action Plan (BHA TAP) and Mattapan Square Transportation Engagement Activity Since 2019

Meetings

- 6/01/19** Launched Survey
- 6/29/19** PLAN: Mattapan
- 9/25/19** BHA TAP Project Kickoff
- 3/05/20** BHA TAP Paint Boxes and Murals
- 9/30/20** BHA TAP Concept Plan Update
- 6/15/21** BHA TAP Grant Opportunities
- 7/06/21** MS CL: Youth Survey Launched
- 10/18/21** BHA Mattapan Square
- 12/06/21** RAISE Grant Update
- 1/11/22** BHA Mattapan Square
- 1/25/22** Elected Officials Briefing
- 1/27/22** BHA Town Hall
- 2/15/22** BHA Mattapan Sq Intersections
- 4/16/22** RISE Gateway Sculptures
- 5/02/22** BHA Mattapan Square
- 5/07/22** RISE Gateway Sculptures
- 5/17/22** BHA Prelim. Stakeholder Meeting
- 7/11/22** Parking and Development

Pop Ups

- 6/18/21** Parklet @ Juneteenth
- 9/04/21** MS CL Popup
- 9/11/21** MS CL Popup
- 9/18/21** MS CL Popup
- 9/25/21** MS CL Popup
- 11/20/21** Columbus Ave Bus Lanes Visit
- 6/22** MS CL: Main Streets
- 6/24/22** MS CL: Mayor's Coffee Hour
- 6/30/22** MS CL Popup
- 7/16/22** MS CL Open Streets: BHA
- 7/28/22** MS CL + SPARKBoston @ Kay's Oasis

Walks

- 4/7/22** Grove Hall Business Walk & Listening Session
- 4/14/22** Blue Hill Ave Business Walk - Seaver St to Harvard St
- 7/15/22** Mattapan Square Business Walk

Workshops

- 8/21/19** Bus Priority Learn-a-thon
- 7/21** Complete Streets Deets: MFFC
- 7/21** Complete Streets Deets: BNB
- 7/21** Complete Streets Deets: SFTT
- 7-9/21** 7 Virtual Complete Streets Deets
- 8/13/21** Complete Streets Deets: Codman
- 11/01/21** Complete Streets Deets: MTC
- 12/17/21** Complete Streets Deets: Mildred
- 12/18/21** Complete Streets Deets: BNC
- 2/26/22** Youth T-Talk: BHA as a Place
- 6/09/22** T-Talk: Mattapan as a Place
- 6/16/22** T-Talk: Mattapan as a Place
- 7/22-8/22** MS CL: Youth Engagement Committee
- 8/3/22** MS CL: Youth-led Walk Audit



Where We Are Now

Feedback from Stakeholder Workshops on 8/23, 8/30, and 9/13

Who Should We Be Talking To?

- Residents of public housing
- Seniors
- Families with young children
- Youth/Students
- Businesses + Shoppers
- Churches
- Health Centers
- Developers and building owners
- Bicyclists/Drivers/Bus Riders

What Would Success Look Like?

- Center quality of life, health, and safety (heat islands, air quality, pedestrian safety, green space)
- Ensure this project makes it convenient and reliable to access businesses, services, and cultural centers
- One size doesn't fit all for Blue Hill Ave. How can we tailor change to the needs of particular locales?



Kirstie

Blue Hill Avenue

Recapping Our October
Community Meeting &
Responding to Questions





Kirstie

Who attended?

- 144 people attended
- 60 people contributed to the discussion
- 12 people were responsible for more than half of the discussion

Types of transportation people said they use:

- 76% Drive
- 54% Bus/Train
- 41% Walk
- 27% Bike
- 3% Other

Changes people said they would like to see:

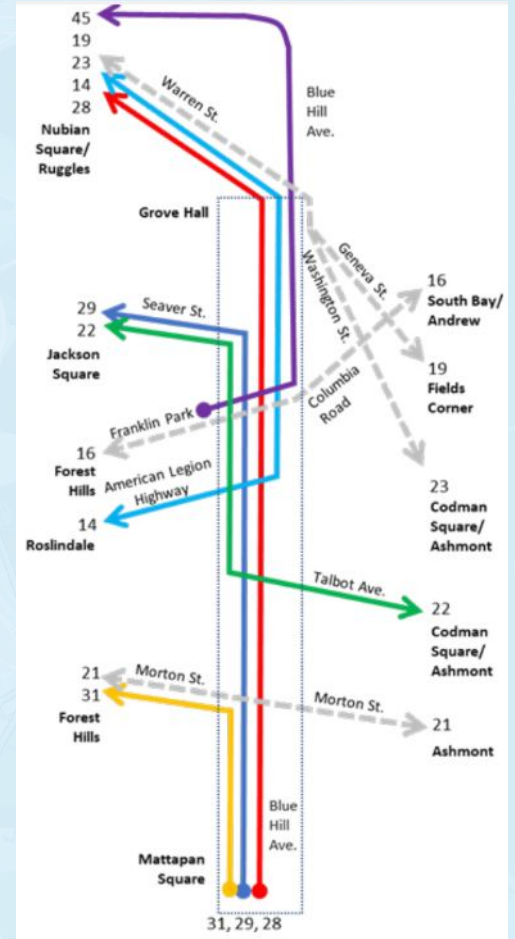
- More lighting
- New sidewalks
- More crosswalks
- More trees
- Better bus stops
- Support for small businesses on Blue Hill Ave



Kirstie

Q: What is bus ridership?

- More than 50% of the travelers on Blue Hill Ave are in buses during rush hour
- Route 28 is one of the highest utilized bus routes in the MBTA system.
- Black bus riders spend, on average, 64 more hours per year aboard MBTA buses compared to fellow White passengers. (“State of Equity” report, MAPC, 2017)

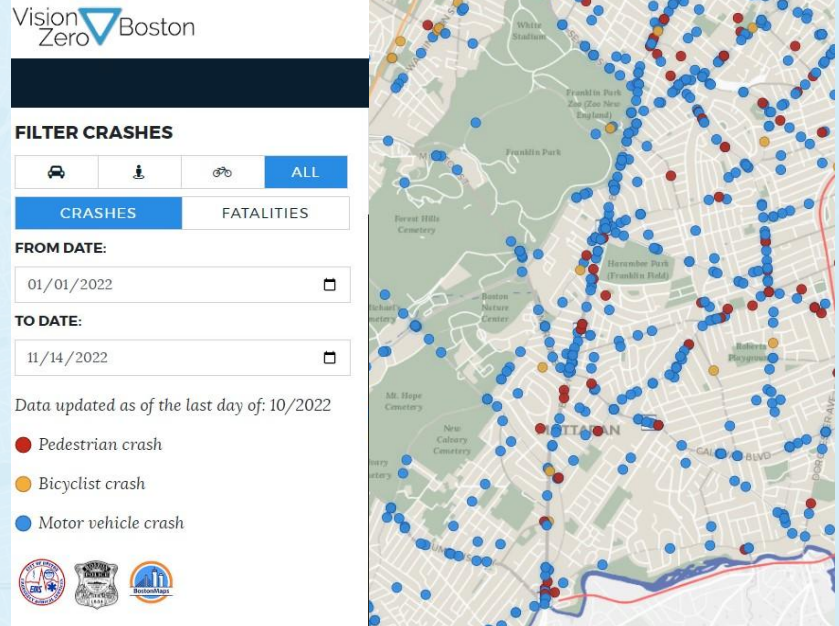




Charlotte

Q: What are the crash statistics?

- Blue Hill Ave is part of the High Crash Network; the number of motor vehicle crashes per half-mile is in the top 3% of Boston streets
- In 2022, a crash severe enough to cause an EMS response took place in the Blue Hill Ave project area every 3 days (on average)
- See the Vision Zero crash map for individual crash locations:
<https://apps.boston.gov/vision-zero/>





Kwame

Q: Did the Columbus Ave project do anything to improve sidewalks or crosswalks?

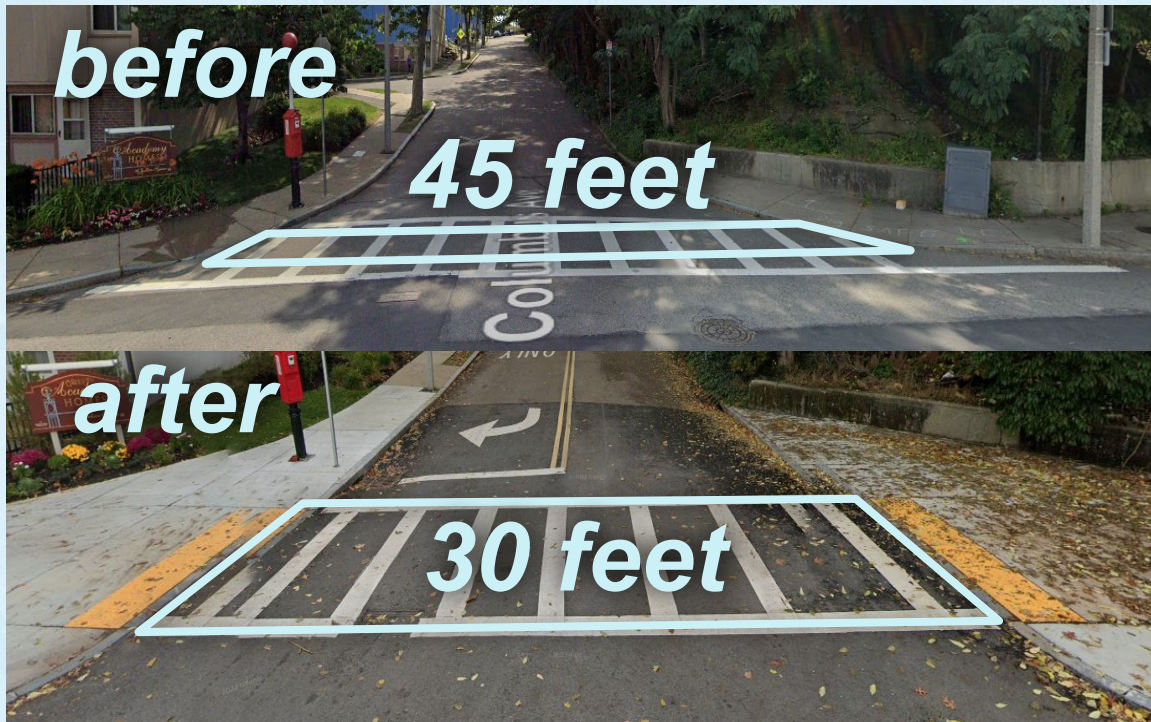


45 fully accessible, reconstructed curb ramps



Kwame

Q: Did the Columbus Ave project do anything to improve sidewalks or crosswalks?



**Larger
sidewalks at
crossings
and shorter,
raised
crosswalks**



Kwame

Q: Did the Columbus Ave project do anything to improve sidewalks or crosswalks?



Created a
new
crosswalk at
Bray St



Kwame

Q: Do bus riders have to walk farther to catch the bus now?



60 feet to reach southbound bus stop, 60 feet round-trip



Kwame

Q: Do bus riders have to walk farther to catch the bus now?

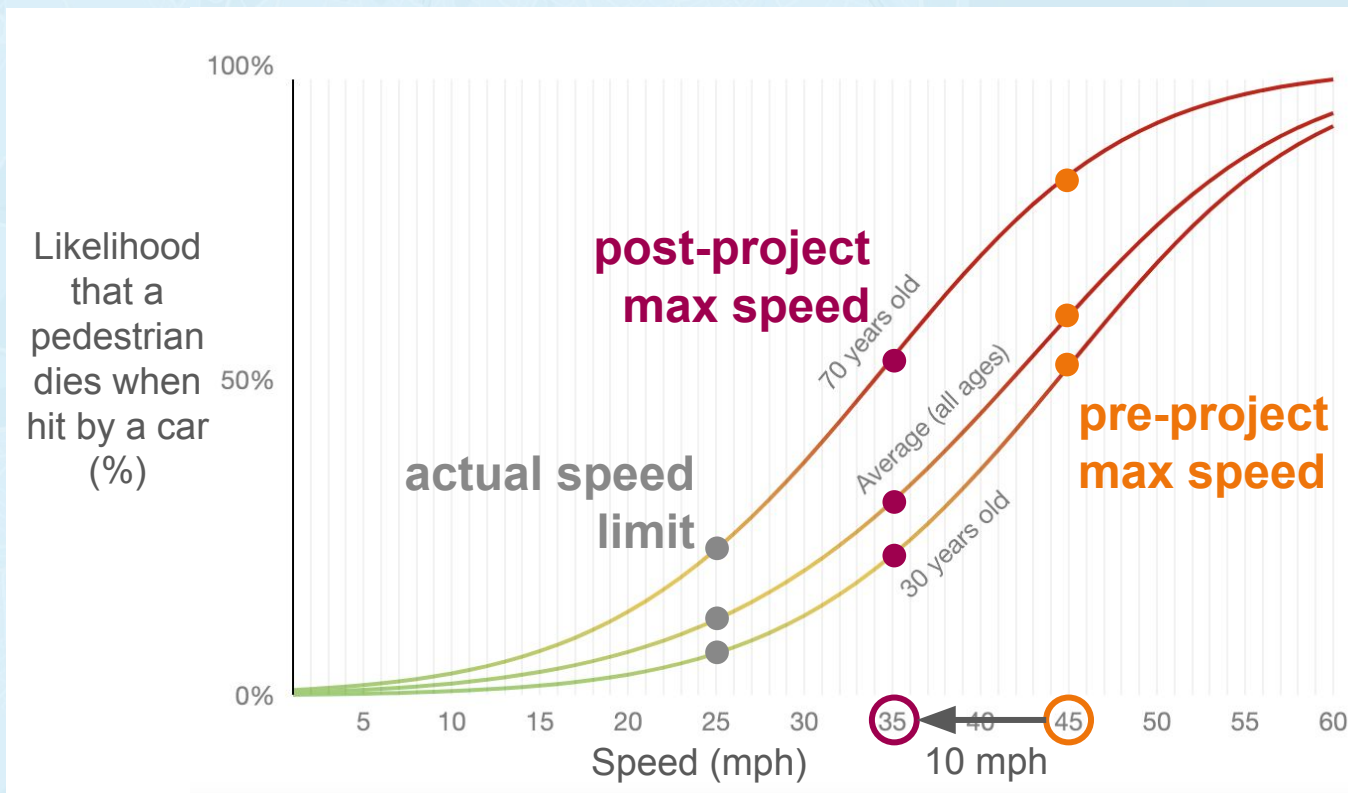


33 feet to reach southbound bus stop, **45 feet** roundtrip



Kirstie

Q: Was speeding reduced on Columbus Ave?



Source: <https://www.propublica.org/article/unsafe-at-many-speeds>



Kirstie

Q: What do bus riders think of the Columbus Ave project?

82%

of riders feel safer reaching the bus platforms

78%

of riders are satisfied with the bus lanes

74%

of riders say their trips are faster

74%

of riders say their trips are more consistent

11%

of riders say they are making trips by bus that they previously would have made by car

183 respondents took the survey from December 1 to 11, 2021

Source: [boston.gov/departments/transportation/columbus-avenue-bus-lanes#rider-survey](https://www.boston.gov/departments/transportation/columbus-avenue-bus-lanes#rider-survey)



Kirstie

Q: What have the City and MBTA learned from the Columbus Ave project?

- Include traffic calming on surrounding neighborhood streets
- Work with the surrounding community on urban design, learn from residents' comments about the feel and look of the bus lanes and stations to keep improving
- Include more green infrastructure elements wherever possible (*ex. trees, rain gardens, etc.*)
- Partner with businesses and institutions to formalize new pick-up, drop-off, and delivery spaces where needed
- Collect more feedback from bus operators and other MBTA staff to help inform the street design



Jeff & Allentza

Blue Hill Avenue

Discussion





Poll

What are Your Ideas & Desires for Blue Hill Ave?

- As a person who walks or bikes, what improvements would you like to see along Blue Hill Ave? If you are a driver, what changes would you make? If you rely on the bus, what would make your experience better?
- When you think about Blue Hill Ave, what are the primary topics you think the City should focus on? What would you like to change, and what would you like to see instead?
- What do you think would make Blue Hill Ave a better place?

Examples: changes to sidewalks, trees, parking, crosswalks, benches, lighting, etc.



Jeff & Allentza

Q: What are Your Ideas & Desires for Blue Hill Ave?

- The commute in the morning is much slower and frustrating to get kids to school and adults to work. Less lanes cause more traffic and more frustrated drivers
- I understand these changes are made with safety in mind but it's extremely flawed, as this may be making the Main Street more safe it's just causing more accidents on side streets because drivers are avoiding this extremely flawed system
- fix all the pot hole along blue hill ave and make the lights work better for the traffic flow.
- Are there any plans for re-timing the lights on BHA, specifically the 3 or 4 between Seaver and ALH? I commute every day along Columbus and Seaver onto BHA, and the longest part of the commute is always that area. Any ideas on how to improve that stretch of traffic?
- Have the police officers tickets the double park cars on Blue Hill Ave. Clean the streets often, fix the bumpy bumps on Blue Hill Ave. Clean up the vacant lots and make it more attract with green space or make them open parking spaces.
- I don't like the idea that was developed on Columbus Ave, and not for it on Blue Hill Ave. Traffic is already congested and this will make it worse. As a person who drives the City everyday, this will add time onto my commute and unfortunately I drive the City for my current employment and have no choice.
- more reliable and more frequent bus transportation. lights are good crosswalks are good. I don't recommend a bike lane because there is parking on both sides. maybe a bike lane on warren which is mostly parallel to BHA
- open more lanes so traffic moves consider small business and parking
- Synchronize the traffic lights so that traffic can flow faster. When one traffic light turns green, all traffic lights for at least a quarter mile or longer should turn green. The left turning and right turning streets from/to Blue Hill Avenue should also be synchronized for efficiency. Mattapan to Roxbury should be only 10 minutes maximum.
- I walk and bike on Blue Hill Ave. I would love to see wider sidewalks where businesses can open up to their customers to add some vibrancy to The Ave. I'd also like to see more bike parking. Folks who bike and don't own a car have disposable income that can be used in businesses. I don't want to leave my neighborhood to get a cup of coffee!!
- Center bus lanes



Jeff & Allentza

Q: What are Your Ideas & Desires for Blue Hill Ave?

- 02126 - the speed definitely needs to be reduced in addition to synchronizing of the lights so that the flow is better. Some lights are shorter and others longer. Pedestrian safety is paramount and must be addressed.
- Blue Hill Ave could use better lightening, crosswalk, bus information, bus booths and benches. please try not to make the sidewalks so wide
- I would not change the Blue Hill Ave bus route, but crosswalk line painted and other old signs replaced.
- I would like to see separated bus lanes along with separated bike lanes and pedestrian walkways. Please some greenery! Trees and plantings and benches are desperately needed. Also a plan for maintenance: watering the greenery planted and litter pickup can make a huge difference in the way a street looks and is used. Lighting at night
- I would like to see Blue Hill Ave be like J.P. Center Street plenty of stores that are not chained up at night also the street is always clean. At one time when I was growing up on Blue Hill Ave. in the 50's you did not have to go downtown for anything! Everything you wanted was right on the Ave. Even Movie theaters! Do you get my idea?
- I want Blue Hill Ave to continue to grow and thrive as a commercial space. Increase number of businesses and see folks from the neighborhood employed there.
- I would love to see the center-running bus lanes, separated bike lanes, and lots of trees.
- marked parking
- improve the traffic flow. more parking for the small businesses. planning for snow with particular focus on pedestrian safety. enhanced bus service to make it easier and more timely for riders.
- improved traffic enforcement. too many cars double and triple parked along the roadway
- to ensure that pedestrians can cross safely in Grove Hall with the median strip
- I would be great if Blue Hill Ave could mirror the VFW Parkway corridor that cuts through Brookline, Newton and Hyde Park. Would also like to see it be more accessible to pedestrians. There should be a way to strike a balance for pedestrian safety and beautification.
- More benches, more time to cross streets, more parking in Mattapan Square, outside dining
-



Jeff & Allentza

Q: What are Your Ideas & Desires for Blue Hill Ave?

- better infrastructure for all mode of transportation. making modes other than driving easier, safer, more affordable will benefit drivers too
- The Blue Hill Ave road way needs to be repaved. It is quite bumpy in different sections Definitely more trees Can empty lots be used for parking? (No more liquor stores)
- be successful at limiting all traffic to 20mph. Pay more attention to abutters and shops that/who line BHA
- More cross walks, not increase traffic, more lighting
- Cleaner streets and easier flow of traffic is my wish. Not sure it's wide enough for bike lanes. I haven't experienced any positive impact of the bike lane design on columbus ave so im worried about implementation of that on blue hill ave
- To Mainatance two lanes, with an express lane for buses.
- minimize double parking
- Ideas for the future of the ciy as seen by a intergenerational group of community. SI kthat everyones needs and wants can be properly addressed. a consistentt and clearly marked bike and walking lanes.
- Protected bike lanes. More trees / shade. Traffic calming measures.
- A safe and well maintained roadway. It should be attractive and has shade. It should also be safe to cross.
- I would like to see a safe implemented. As someone who bikes, I only use the Greenway. I don't feel comfortable riding my bike on Blue Hill Avenue or any of the surrounding side streets. Fixing the sidewalks is a plus; I hope that there has been some testing done on the sidewalk ramps for drainage of the puddles that gathers after it rains.
- more greenery, trees, flowers etc safer place to walk, and drive room to get around especially when driving, cannot look like American Legion Highway, that is a nightmare. Bike lanes aren't really necessary, not many people use them. more crosswalks would be nice better roads so fixing potholes is a must
- My hopes for Blue Hill Ave is that the community and the City Hall will be in close communication throughout this entire process. Communication is essential, and if all parties are not on the same page this could lead to disaster. My hopes in terms of infrastructure change is that there will be a parallel parking options to minimize crashes.



Jeff & Allentza

Q: What are Your Ideas & Desires for Blue Hill Ave?

- More spaces for artist to paint on. For example a empty wall in Blue Hill Ave to put community art on. (Or a local artist)
- Have more trees along the sidewalks,
- For the City and State to work together to find a way to make it safer and more enjoyable to navigate
- I would like to see the street have more trees and greenery. I do not want cars to be forgotten in this work. Small businesses need support; they will need customers who can come from afar (in a car) . I hope BHA below Grove Hall will be seen as a space that is narrow and needs to be supported as its specs are different than upper BHA.
- Bike lane, bike lane similar Columbus Ave, Egleston Square
- repave blue hill, create safer lanes of access for emergency vehicles to pass through traffic (center bus lanes), restructure timing of traffic signals (they seem to be the biggest issue for slowness of traffic), possibility of roundabouts at harvard/blue hill and other intersections.



Poll

What are Your Current Concerns about Blue Hill Ave?

Are there specific locations of concern? If so, please let us know!

What we have heard so far:

- Unsafe sidewalks that are difficult to navigate
- Lack of access to health facilities due to traffic congestion
- Double and triple parking
- Not enough parking for persons with disabilities
- Commuters using business and resident parking spots
- New developments creating visual barriers for traffic
- Limited public realm areas, some “green” medians are the only green spaces in the area
- Air quality, particularly around busy intersections
- Commuters from outside of Boston using Blue Hill Avenue to access the city and avoid I-93 and the traffic that comes with that



Jeff & Allentza

Q: What are Your Current Concerns about Blue Hill Ave?



Jeff & Allentza

Q: What are Your Current Concerns about Blue Hill Ave?



Kirstie

Blue Hill Avenue

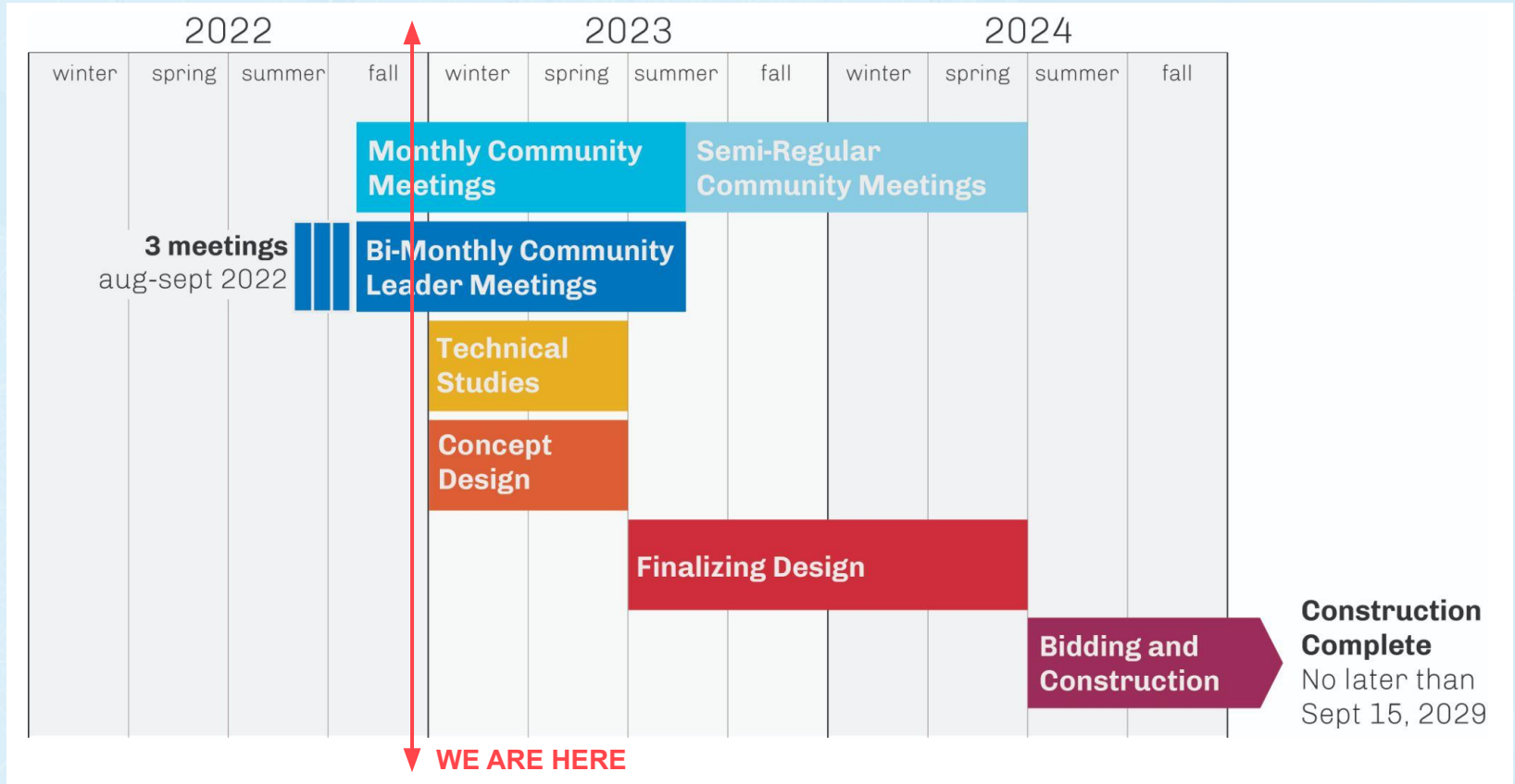
What's Next





Kirstie

Where We Are Going Next





Kirstie

Ways To Stay Involved

Contact Information

Phone:

617-635-3944

Website:

boston.gov/bluehillavenue

Email:

bluehillave@boston.gov

What other questions do you have?

[Let us know using this form!](#)

Upcoming Community Meetings

Meetings will be held every 4th Tuesday

January through July from 6:30-8:00pm

(1/24, 2/28, 3/28, 4/25, 5/23, 6/27, 7/25)

Next meeting: January 24, 2023

JANUARY 2023						
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JULY 2023						
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