

Blue Hill Avenue Transportation Action Plan!

Alternative Design Approaches
as of June 27, 2023



Background



History of transportation along Blue Hill Avenue



Blue Hill Ave at Arbutus St stop, 1929

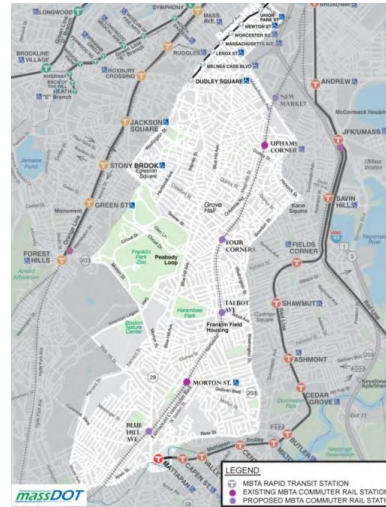
1890s-1930s:

Boston developers build dense housing along Blue Hill Ave to easily access the Avenue's electric trolleys.



1940s-50s:

As cars rise in popularity, streetcars are removed and replaced with bus service.



Left: Blue Hill Ave
Credit: Boston City Archives

Above: RDM study area
Credit: MassDOT

2009-11: The State announces the 28X project, marketed as bus rapid transit. *The plan is not implemented.*

2011-12: The MassDOT-led Roxbury Dorchester Mattapan (RDM) Transit Needs Study takes place in 10mi² study area not served by rapid transit. Study asserts the need for high-quality transit service in this area.

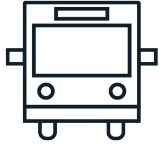
2013-19: Further studies take place to investigate transit improvements along Blue Hill Ave (ex. Go Boston 2030) and, in 2019, the City begins the Blue Hill Ave Transportation Action Plan.

Blue Hill Avenue Transportation Action Plan 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



Blue Hill Avenue is a lifeline for local residents



During morning and evening rush hour, **more than half of people traveling along Blue Hill Avenue are bus riders.**



Each weekday, **over 37,000 riders** get on and off buses on Blue Hill Avenue. **That's almost 2x the number of people who fit in TD Garden, and it is one of the highest ridership rates on any corridor in the MBTA system.**



Bus riders on Blue Hill Avenue lose **3,056 hours per weekday** to traffic and delays. **In that amount of time, someone could walk from Boston, MA to Anchorage, AK and back.**

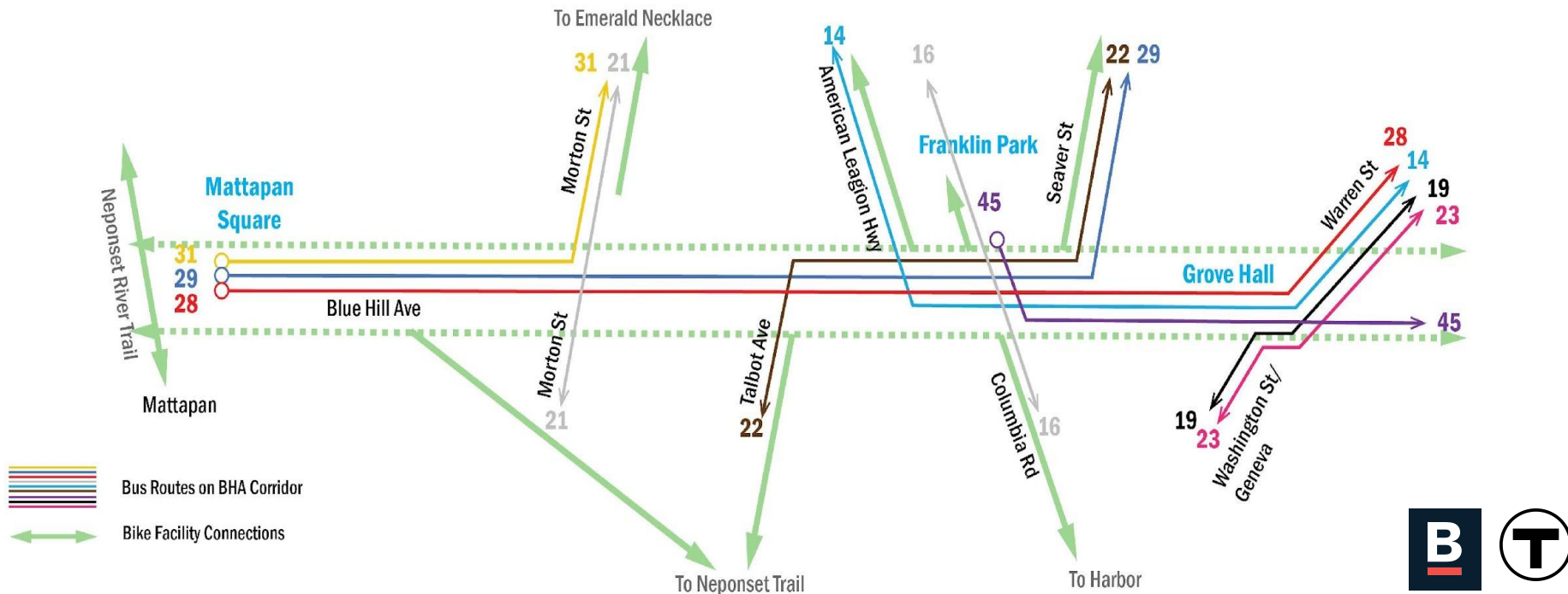


MBTA and City of Boston are working together to **substantially increase bus service** over the next five years. For example, **Grove Hall would see an increase of 193 bus trips per day.**

Bus Riders on Blue Hill Avenue

Blue Hill Avenue serves 10 different bus routes:

- **56%** of bus riders on these routes are from low-income households
- **85%** of these bus riders consider themselves a racial or ethnic minority
- **52%** of these bus riders do not have access to a car
- **96%** of people using the buses on Blue Hill Avenue walk or bike to reach the bus



Trees and Greenery on Blue Hill Avenue

The condition of trees along Blue Hill Avenue varies widely:

- Near Grove Hall and in some other locations, trees in the median are flourishing
- In other areas, some of the median trees and vegetation have started to wither
- There are many empty tree pits throughout the corridor

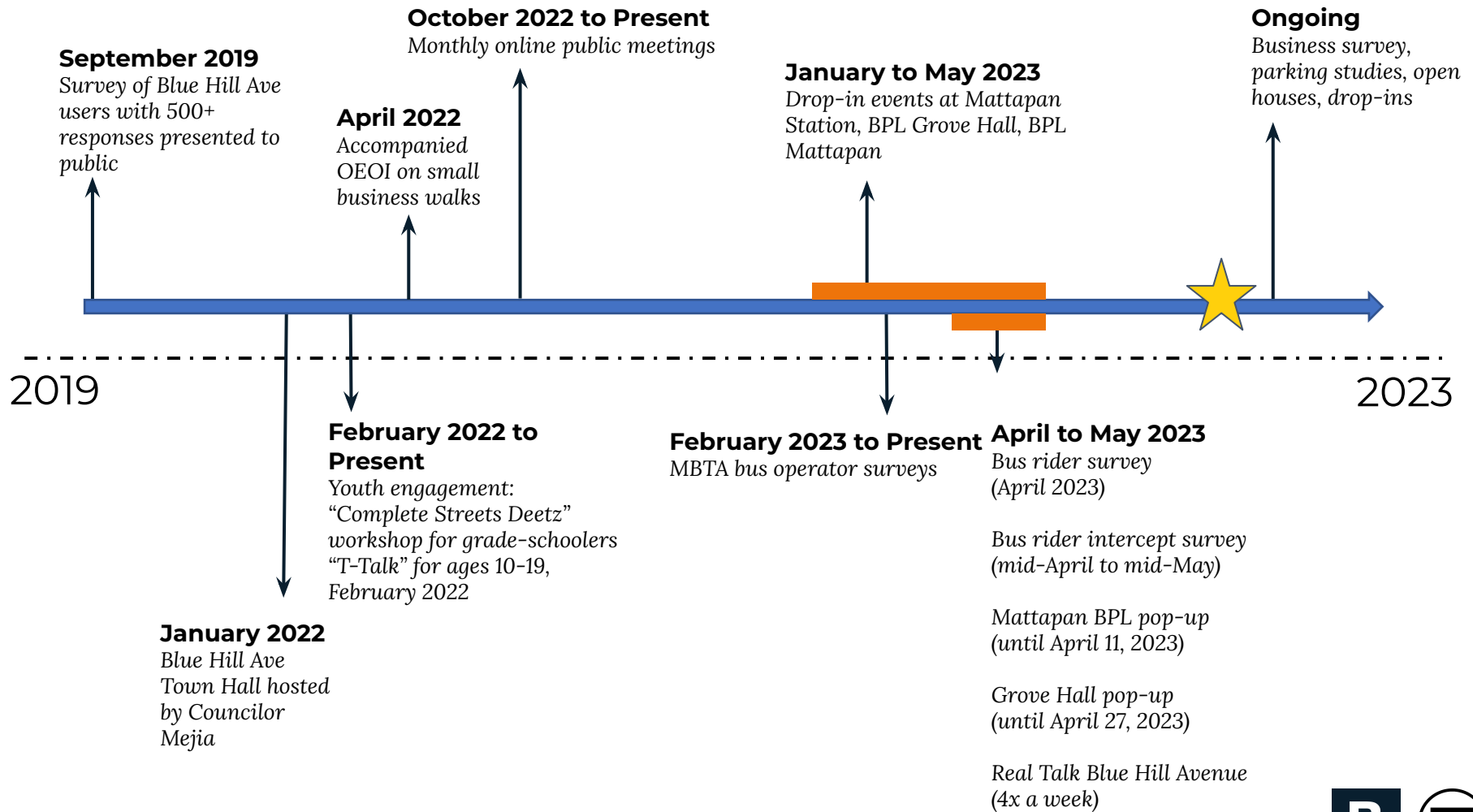
We are committed to making every effort to preserve healthy, mature trees along Blue Hill Avenue in our design. We are also committed to expanding the overall tree canopy on Blue Hill Avenue.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE RAIN GARDEN RENDERING



Source: NYC Environmental Protection

Engagement Timeline



What We've Heard: Challenges and Hopes

Current Challenges

- Traffic safety (including speeding)
- Double parking
- Lack of maintenance/neglect
- Crowded and infrequent buses
- Bus travel times
- Lack of lighting
- Cyclist safety
- Lack of parking

Hopes for the Future

- More reliable buses
- More frequent buses
- Safer driving speeds
- Greenery and trees
- Outdoor dining areas
- Less stressful driving
- Safer streets
- Safer biking
- Road repaving
- Better sidewalks
- More crosswalks

Blue Hill Ave is not a highway and should not look like one—or feel like one—but it does.

January 2023, project inbox

Every operator has had a bad experience on Blue Hill Ave.

*February 2023,
bus operator
interviews*

Blue Hill Ave is in need of a major change. I'm frustrated by the long wait times at bus stops, and the buses are normally very crowded.

April 2023, Grove Hall drop-in hours

What We've Heard: Questions About Design



Will the project improve pedestrian access and safety?



Will parking spaces be preserved?



Will parking and traffic enforcement in the project area be evaluated?



Will bus ridership data be examined throughout the process?



Will the demand for and impact of bike lanes be examined?



Will the project create new spaces and develop green infrastructure?



Will the design connect into both existing and planned broader Boston transportation networks?

Design Approach: Multimodal Corridor



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Multimodal Corridor Design Approach: Mattapan Square to Morton Street



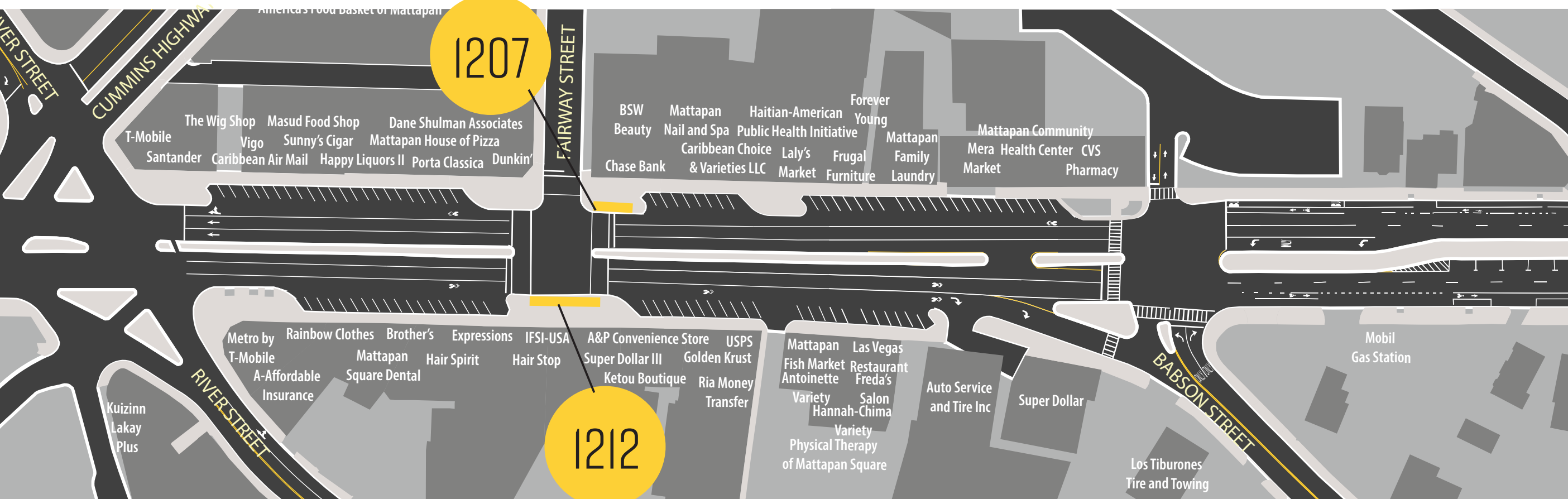
Rendering of the public realm in the vicinity of
Blue Hill Avenue and Walk Hill Street

BLUE HILL AVENUE CORRIDOR -- MATTAPAN SQUARE TO MORTON STREET

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

EXISTING

LANE AT INTERSECTIONS

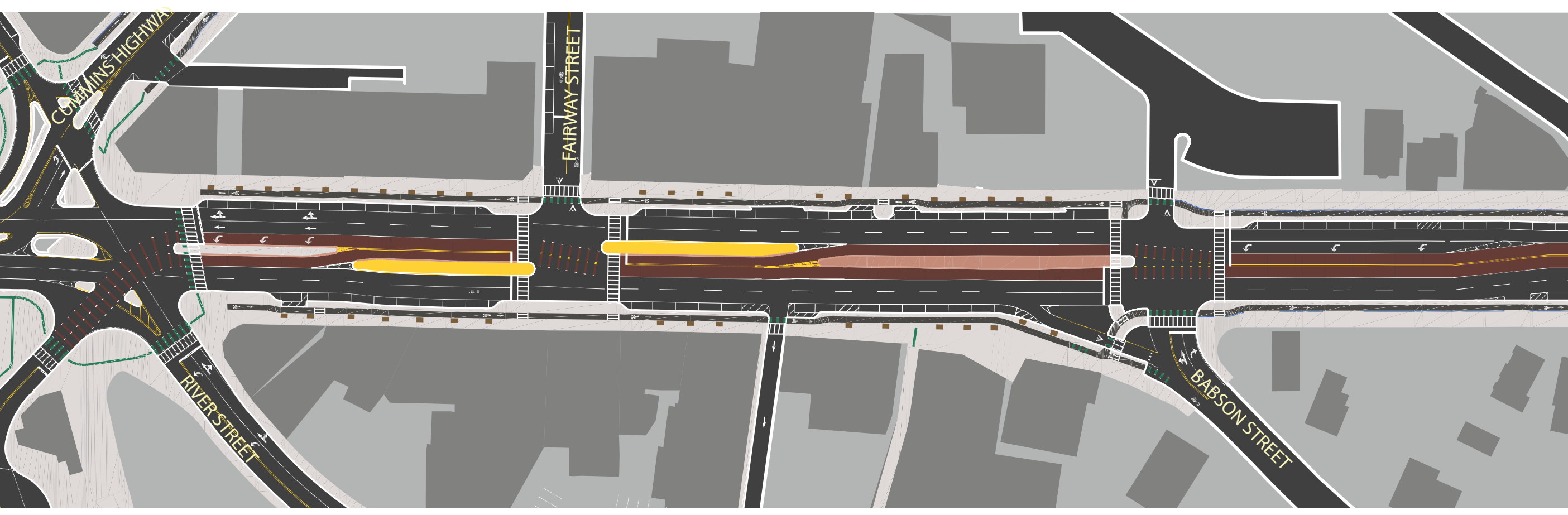


LANE AT INTERSECTIONS

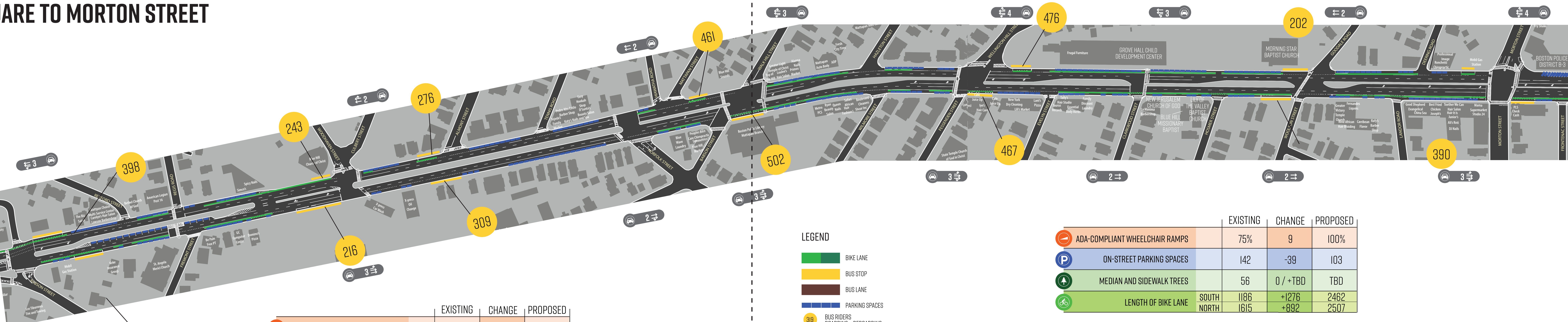
	EXISTING	CHANGE	PROPOSED
ADA-COMPLIANT WHEELCHAIR RAMPS	100%		100%
ON-STREET PARKING SPACES	94	-24	70
MEDIAN AND SIDEWALK TREES	28	0 / +TBD	TBD
LENGTH OF BIKE LANE			
SOUTH	25	-25	0
NORTH	0	+427	427

MULTIMODAL CORRIDOR

LANE AT INTERSECTIONS



LANE AT INTERSECTIONS



	EXISTING	CHANGE	PROPOSED
ADA-COMPLIANT WHEELCHAIR RAMPS	38%	4	100%
ON-STREET PARKING SPACES	115	-49	66
MEDIAN AND SIDEWALK TREES	43	0 / +TBD	TBD
LENGTH OF BIKE LANE			
SOUTH	1223	+1180	2403
NORTH	1655	+634	2289

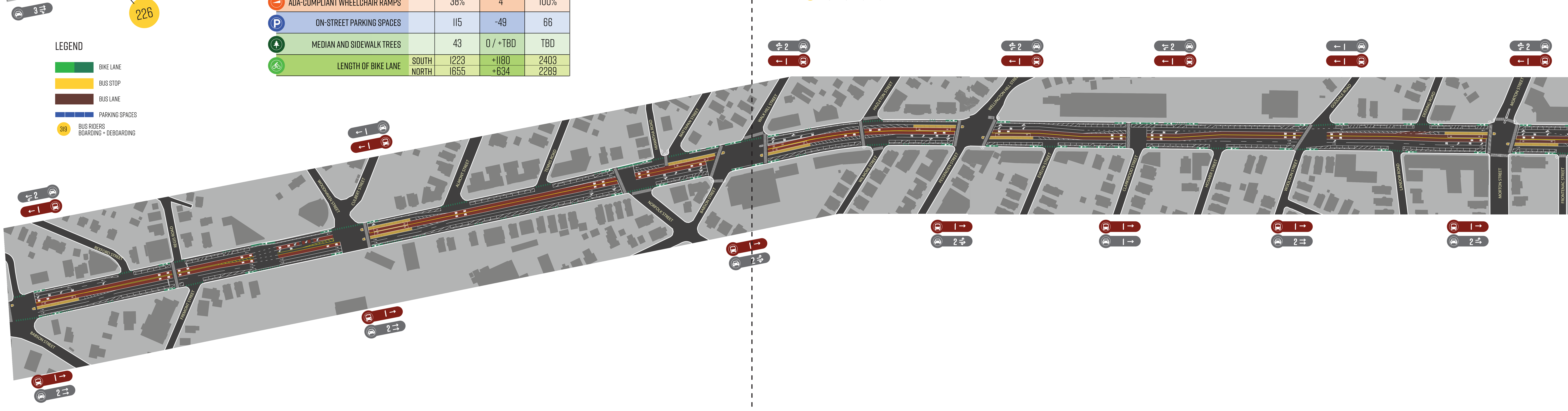
LEGEND

- BIKE LANE
- BUS STOP
- BUS LANE
- PARKING SPACES
- BUS RIDERS BOARDING + DEBOARDING

LEGEND

- ADA-COMPLIANT WHEELCHAIR RAMPS
- BIKE LANE
- BUS STOP
- BUS LANE
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	EXISTING	CHANGE	PROPOSED
ADA-COMPLIANT WHEELCHAIR RAMPS	75%	9	100%
ON-STREET PARKING SPACES	142	-39	103
MEDIAN AND SIDEWALK TREES	56	0 / +TBD	TBD
LENGTH OF BIKE LANE			
SOUTH	1186	+1276	2462
NORTH	1615	+892	2507



Multimodal Corridor Design Approach: Morton Street to American Legion Highway



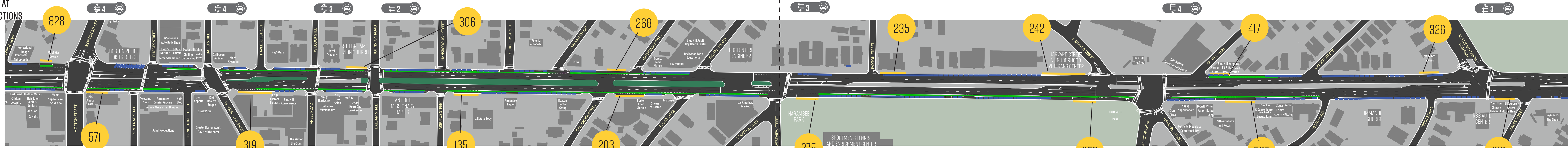
Rendering of the public realm in the vicinity of
Blue Hill Avenue and Harvard Street/Talbot Avenue

BLUE HILL AVENUE CORRIDOR -- MORTON STREET TO AMERICAN LEGION HIGHWAY

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

EXISTING

LANE AT INTERSECTIONS



LANE AT INTERSECTIONS

	EXISTING	CHANGE	PROPOSED
ADA-COMPLIANT WHEELCHAIR RAMP	82%	3	100%
ON-STREET PARKING SPACES	126	-49	77
MEDIAN AND SIDEWALK TREES	81	-2 / +TBD	TBD
LENGTH OF BIKE LANE	SOUTH 1145	+1247	2392
	NORTH 1730	+604	2334

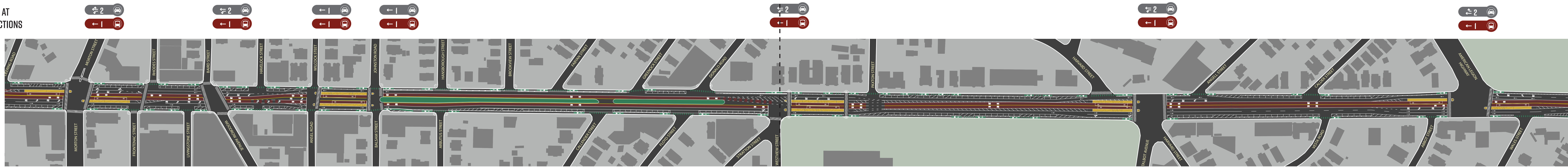
LEGEND

- BIKE LANE
- BUS STOP
- BUS LANE
- PARKING SPACES
- BUS RIDERS BOARDING + DEBOARDING

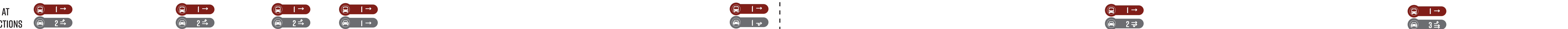
	EXISTING	CHANGE	PROPOSED
ADA-COMPLIANT WHEELCHAIR RAMP	43%	10	100%
ON-STREET PARKING SPACES	150	-58	92
MEDIAN AND SIDEWALK TREES	25	-10 / +TBD	TBD
LENGTH OF BIKE LANE	SOUTH 360	+1962	2322
	NORTH 1480	+831	2311

MULTIMODAL CORRIDOR

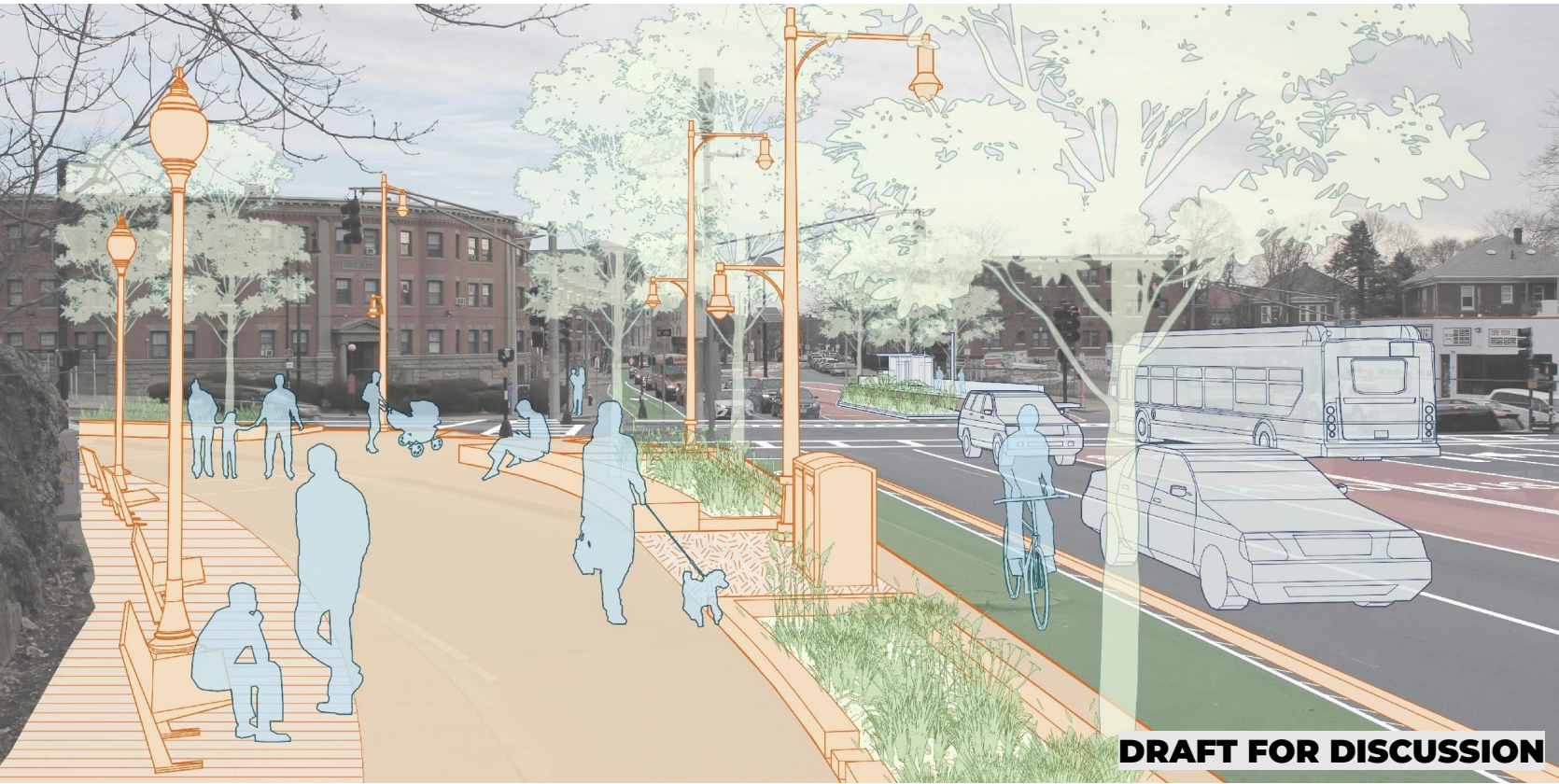
LANE AT INTERSECTIONS



LANE AT INTERSECTIONS



Multimodal Corridor Design Approach: American Legion Highway to Grove Hall

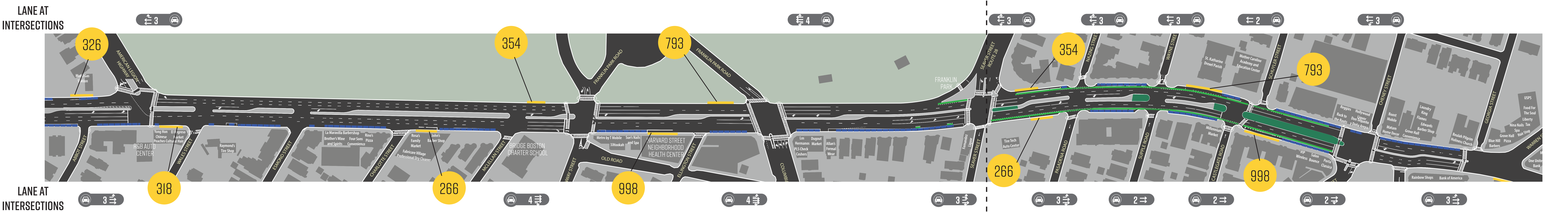


Rendering of the public realm in the vicinity
of Blue Hill Avenue and Seaver Street

BLUE HILL AVENUE CORRIDOR -- AMERICAN LEGION HIGHWAY TO GROVE HALL

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

EXISTING



	EXISTING	CHANGE	PROPOSED
ADA-COMPLIANT WHEELCHAIR RAMPS	71%	8	100%
ON-STREET PARKING SPACES	72	-36	36
MEDIAN AND SIDEWALK TREES	28	-4 / +TBD	TBD
LENGTH OF BIKE LANE			
	SOUTH	0	+1765
	NORTH	0	+2349

LEGEND

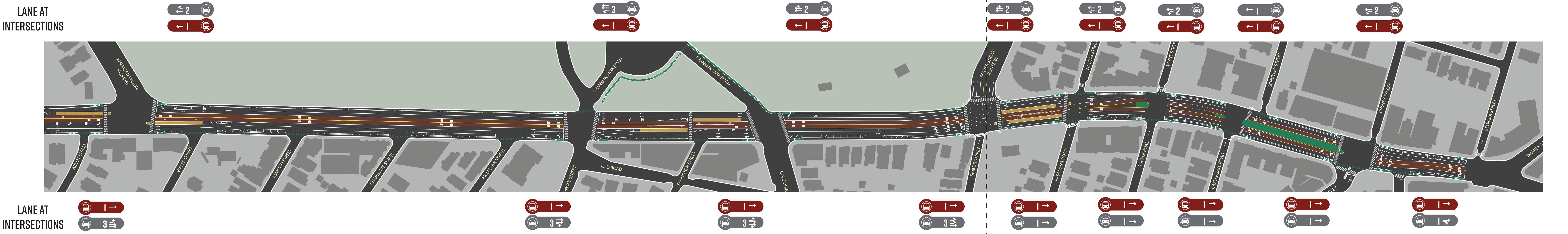
- BIKE LANE
- BUS STOP
- BUS LANE
- PARKING SPACES
- BUS RIDERS BOARDING + DEBOARDING

	EXISTING	CHANGE	PROPOSED
ADA-COMPLIANT WHEELCHAIR RAMPS	73%	4	100%
ON-STREET PARKING SPACES	71	-39	32
MEDIAN AND SIDEWALK TREES	48	-2 / +TBD	TBD
LENGTH OF BIKE LANE			
	SOUTH	1002	+134
	NORTH	368	+500

LEGEND

- BIKE LANE
- BUS STOP
- BUS LANE
- PARKING SPACES
- BUS RIDERS BOARDING + DEBOARDING

MULTIMODAL CORRIDOR

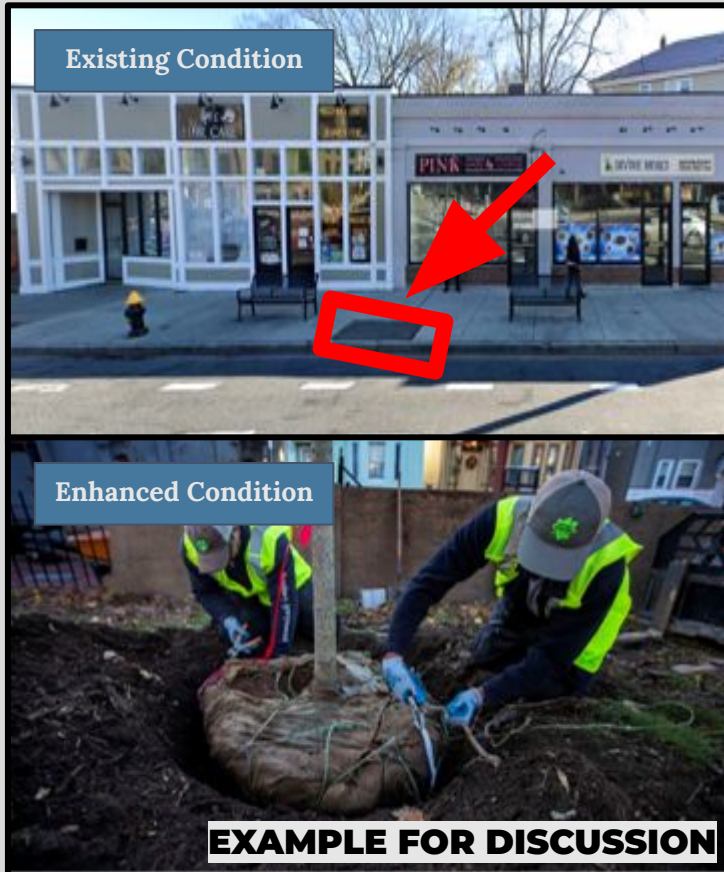


Design Approach: Enhanced Existing Conditions

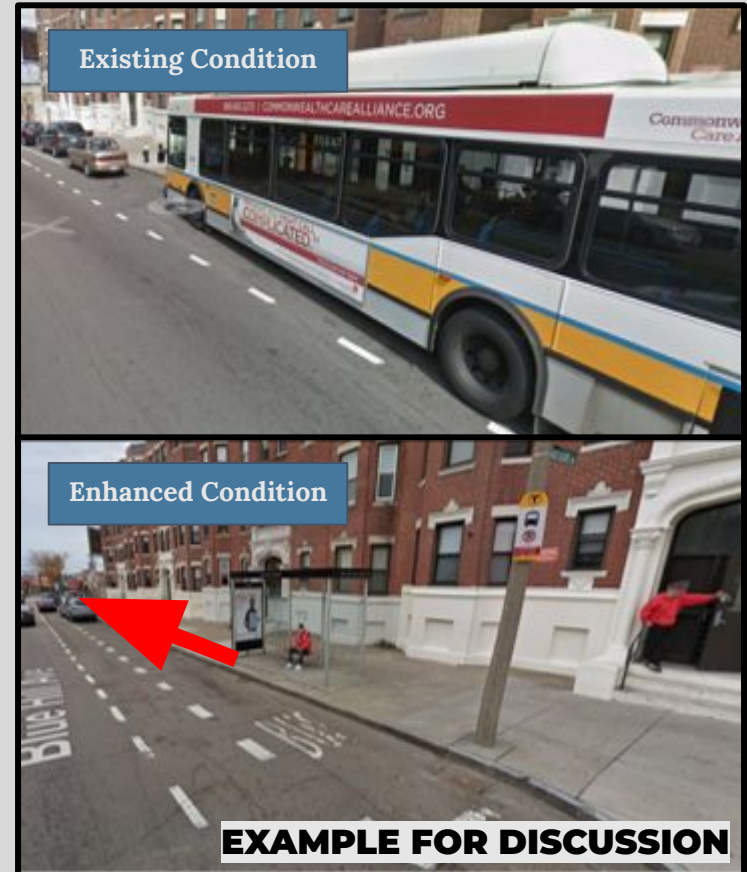


Design Approach: Enhanced Existing Conditions

Trees



Longer bus stops

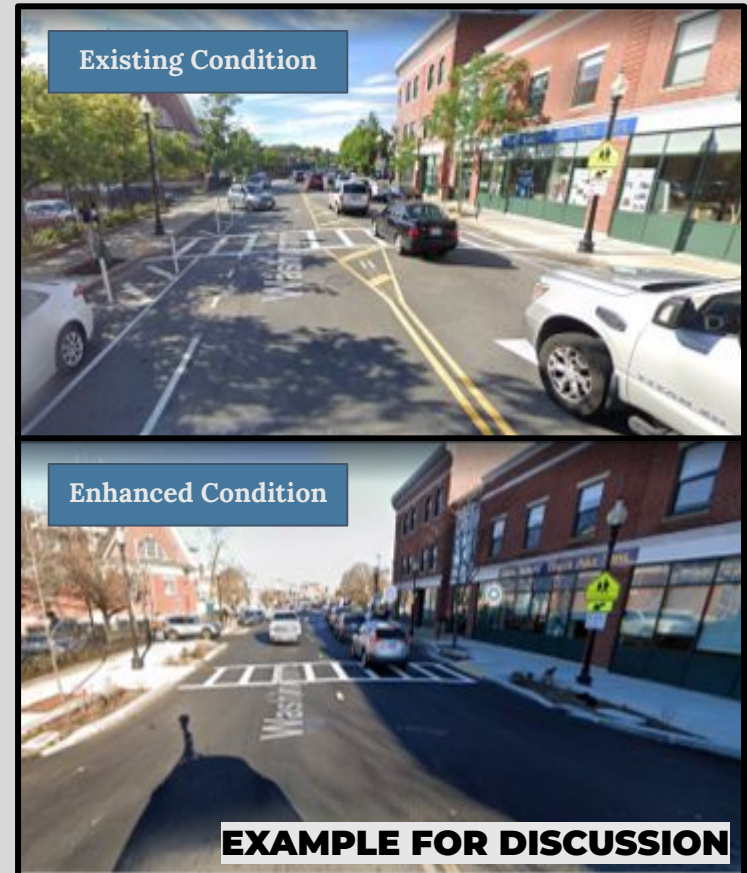


Design Approach: Enhanced Existing Conditions

Safer mid-block crosswalks: rapid flash beacons

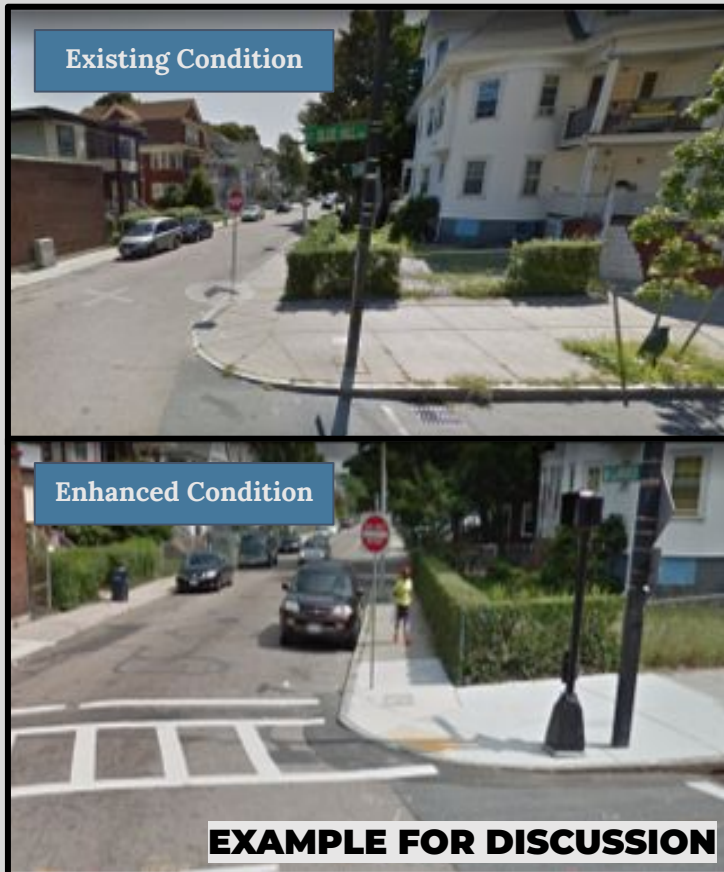


Safer mid-block crosswalks: curb extensions



Design Approach: Enhanced Existing Conditions

Accessible curb ramps



Accessible crossings



Design Approach: Enhanced Existing Conditions

Street repaving



Sidewalk spot repairs and maintenance



Have questions or feedback?



Check out our FAQ document!

**MORE INFO IN
PROJECT FAQs:**



bit.ly/bhaFAQs

**WANT TO ADD A
QUESTION?**



bit.ly/bha-question

This is not a complete list of all of the important questions we have received from members of the community. As we receive more questions and are able to answer them, we will update the FAQ document.

Get in touch with the project team!



Email us at bluehillave@boston.gov



Call us at (617) 635-3944