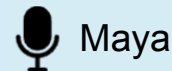


Blue Hill Avenue Transportation Action Plan!

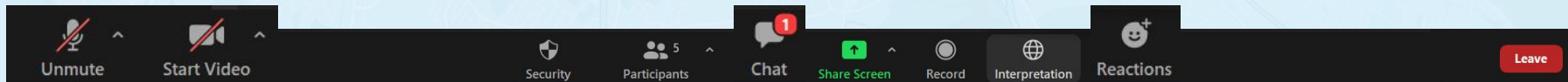
Community Meeting
June 27, 2023



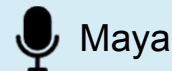
Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Bonjour!



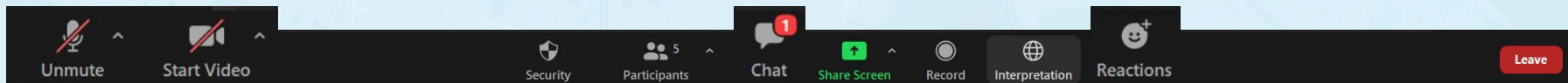
- This meeting **will be recorded**.
 - Esta reunión será grabada.
 - *Reyinyon sa a ap anrejistre.*
- Update your name in Zoom to include your preferred name and your pronouns.
 - Actualiza tu nombre en Zoom con tu nombre preferido y tus pronombres.
 - *Aktyalize non w sou Zoom pou w mete non prefere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



Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Bonjour!



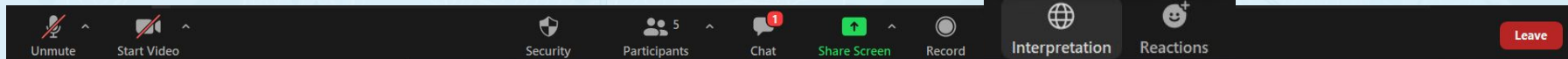
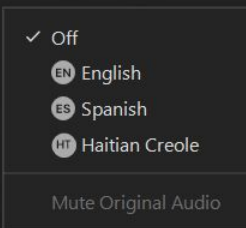
- Your microphones are turned off to start. You will need to unmute to speak. Joining via phone? Press ***6** to unmute.
 - Tu micrófono está apagado al empezar. Tendrás que reactivarlo para hablar. ¿Participando por teléfono? Presiona *6 para reactivar el micrófono.
 - *Mikwo w fèmen pou kòmanse. Ou 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.*



Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Bonjou!



- 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.*





Maya

Welcome!

Blue Hill Avenue Transportation Action Plan

Community Meeting
June 27, 2023





Maya

Recordings of our past monthly Zoom meetings and other project materials can be found here:

boston.gov/blue-hill-avenue



Maya

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



Maya

Meeting Goals

- Goal 1:** Orient residents to where this project came from, who is involved, and why this process is different
- Goal 2:** Provide updates on alternative design scenarios
- Goal 3:** Provide an overview of upcoming engagement and how to get involved



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.



Maya

Tonight's Agenda

1. Meet the Team, Project Overview & Public Commitments
2. Updates on alternative design scenarios:
 - a. What are the scenarios? How did we land on these?
 - b. What is the City's preferred approach, and why?
 - c. How will the City decide on an approach?
3. How to Get Involved



Kirstie

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 is your home zip code?

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



Kirstie

Blue Hill Avenue

Meet the Team,
Project Overview &
Public Commitments





Kirstie

Public Sector Team

BOSTON TRANSPORTATION DEPT



Kirstie Hostetter
Project Manager



Maya Mudgal
Transit Planner



Charlotte Fleetwood
Mattapan Square

MassDOT/MBTA



Andrew McFarland
MBTA Transit
Priority

Erik Scheier
MBTA Capital Delivery

Phillip Cherry
MBTA Transit Priority

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

OTHER PUBLIC DEPARTMENTS



Kenya Beaman
BPDA

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



Anne

Engagement Team

ENGAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Grayscale Collaborative



Stephen Gray



Anne Ning Lin



Caroline Filice Smith

Powerful Pathways



Allentza Michel

Toole Design Group



Jeff Rosenblum

Consult LeLa



Ishmael D. Hazelwood



Chavella Lee-Pacheco

Real Talk for Change



Ceasar McDowell

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition
Greater Grove Hall Main Streets
Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council
Mattapan Square Main Streets
Garrison Trotter Neighborhood Association

PUBLIC AGENCIES

Boston Transportation Department
Boston Planning & Development Agency
MBTA

SO FAR, STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS WITH:

Project R.I.G.H.T. Inc.
Franklin Park Coalition
Mattapan Teen Center
Prince Hall Grand Lodge
Mattapan Community Health Center
Franklin Park Zoo
Morning Star Baptist Church



Anne

Public Commitments

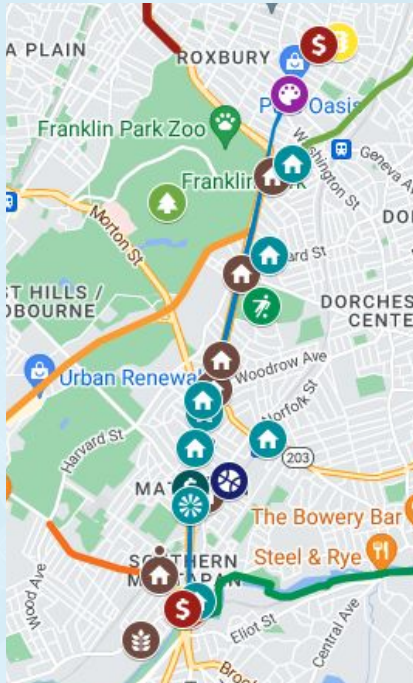
- Commitment 1:** The City and engagement team are committed to making informed, data-driven decisions which respond to questions raised by the public.
- Commitment 2:** The City and engagement team are committed to improving pedestrian safety along Blue Hill Ave.
- Commitment 3:** The City and engagement team believe that the public funding for this project should be allocated based on public priorities.



Anne

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

Blue Hill Ave Action Plan

Proposed Grove Hall Community Center

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

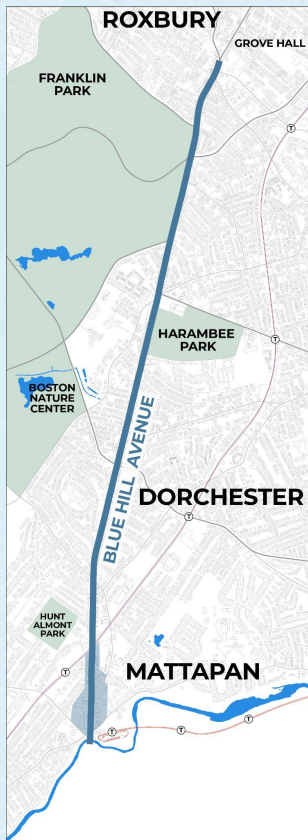
Mattapan Line Improvements

Bridge Replacement - Blue Hill Avenue over Railroad



Anne

Where & How We Are Working



Since June 2019:

32 Public meetings about BHA or Mattapan Square

23 Survey/interview dates

40+ In-person drop-ins

2 Mailers sent to ~23,000 homes 0.5-mi from BHA

6 Community walks/rides

1000+ Responses to multiple surveys

How we are working differently:

Holistic Approach to Blue Hill Ave

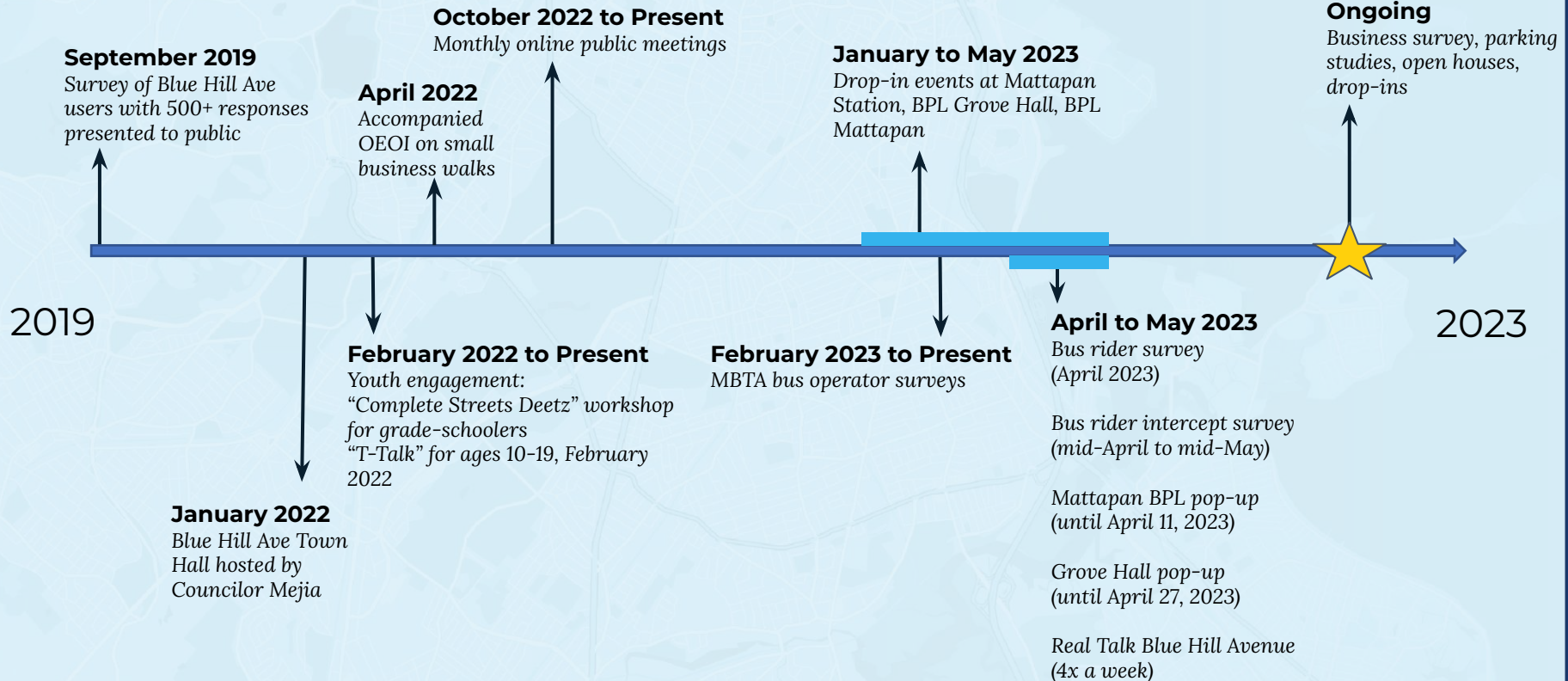
- Not just transportation...
- Also public realm, housing & development, business & employment





Anne

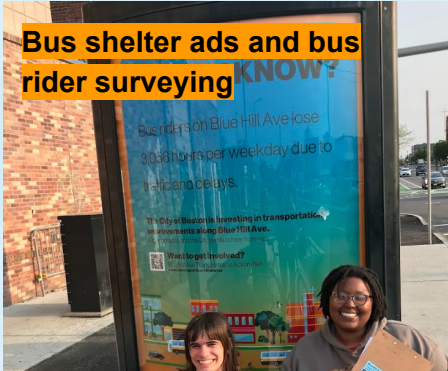
Engagement Timeline





Anne

Engagement Since Our Last Meeting



Bus shelter ads and bus rider surveying



Open House

- Bus rider surveys (May and June)
- Real Talk conversations with high schoolers who live or travel along BHA (May)
- Parking study surveys around Harvard Neighborhood Health Center (May and June)
- Meeting with Mayor and other electeds (June)
- Community Open House: Design (June)
- Topics covered at May Zoom meeting:
 - Meet the design team
 - Common questions about the design process
- **Topic for today:** Updates on alternative design scenarios
 - Sharing what was discussed with Mayor and electeds



Kirstie

Blue Hill Avenue

Updates on Alternative Design Scenarios





Kirstie

What are the scenarios?

1. **Multimodal corridor**
2. **Enhanced existing conditions**

How did the team land on these scenarios?

- Balancing **what we've heard** from a range of community members, elected officials, bus operators & riders (current challenges, hopes for the future)
- Based on **operational and cost considerations**



Kirstie

Design Approach: Multimodal Corridor

New, enhanced bus shelters

Center-running bus lanes

Public art (bus shelter example)

Enhanced lighting

Parking regulation updates

Protected bike lanes



Traffic signal retiming

Tree canopy expansion

Full sidewalk reconstruction

Significant green infrastructure

Pedestrian safety improvements

Full roadway reconstruction



Kirstie

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



Kirstie

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



Kirstie

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



Kirstie

Multimodal Corridor Design Approach: Morton Street to American Legion Highway

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

EXISTING

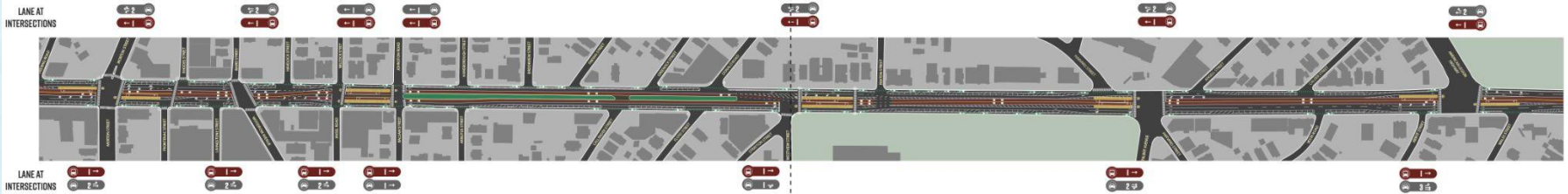


	EXISTING	CHANGE	PROPOSED	
ADA COMPLIANT WHEELCHAIR RAMPS	82%	3	100%	
ON-STREET PARKING SPACES	126	-49	77	
MEDIAN AND SIDEWALK TREES	61	-2 / TBD	TBD	
LENGTH OF BIKE LANE				
	SOUTH	145	+124	269
	NORTH	170	+604	234

- LEGEND**
- BIKE LANE
 - BUS STOP
 - BIKE LANE
 - PARKING SPACES
 - BUS ROUTE (SCHEDULED / UNSCHEDULED)

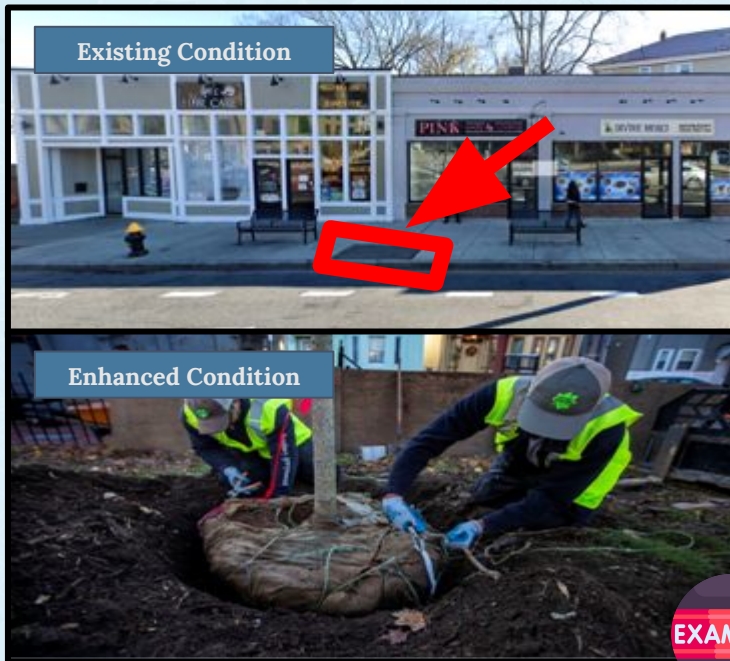
	EXISTING	CHANGE	PROPOSED	
ADA COMPLIANT WHEELCHAIR RAMPS	43%	10	100%	
ON-STREET PARKING SPACES	150	-58	92	
MEDIAN AND SIDEWALK TREES	25	-10 / TBD	TBD	
LENGTH OF BIKE LANE				
	SOUTH	360	+162	232
	NORTH	1480	+831	231

MULTIMODAL CORRIDOR



Design Approach: Enhanced Existing

Trees



EXAMPLE

Longer bus stops



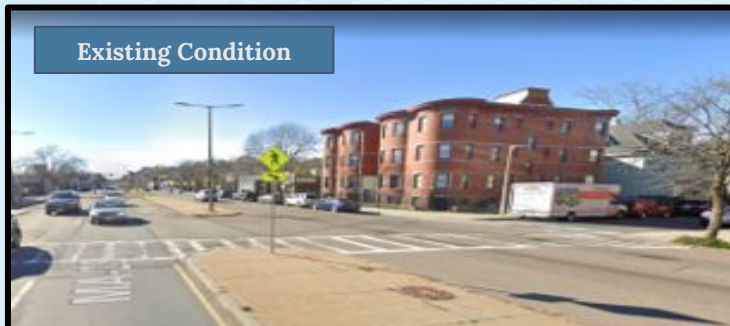
EXAMPLE



Kirstie

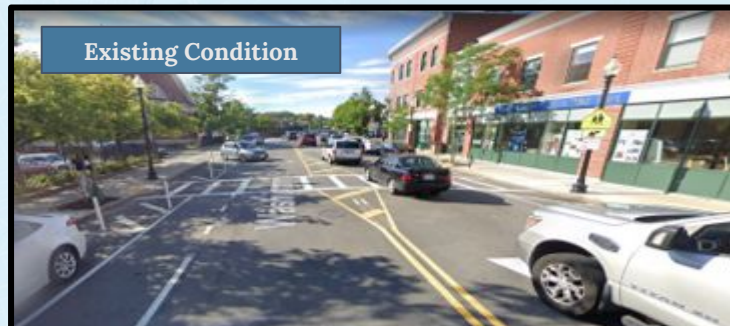
Design Approach: Enhanced Existing

Safer mid-block crosswalks: rapid flash beacons



EXAMPLE

Safer mid-block crosswalks: curb extensions



EXAMPLE



Kirstie

Design Approach: Enhanced Existing

Accessible curb ramps



EXAMPLE

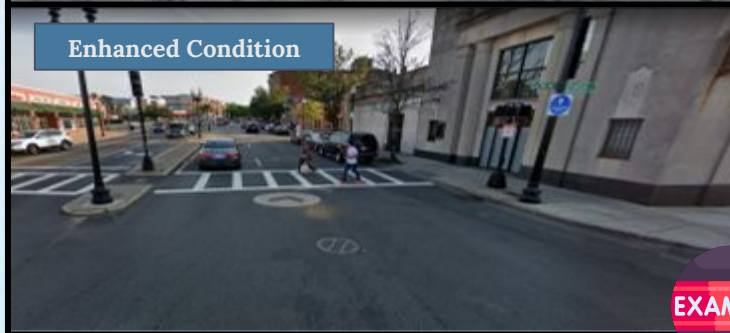
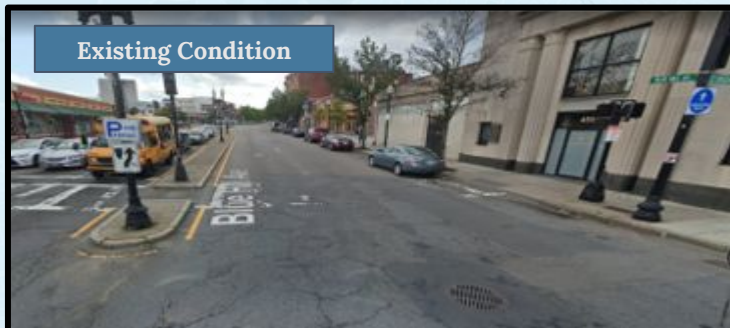
Accessible crossings



EXAMPLE

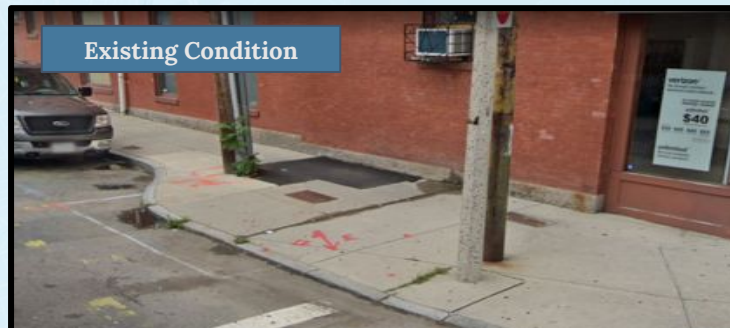
Design Approach: Enhanced Existing

Street repaving



EXAMPLE

Sidewalk spot repairs and maintenance



EXAMPLE



Kirstie

What is the City's preferred approach?

The City prefers a **multimodal corridor approach**.

Why?

- **Designing Blue Hill Avenue as a multimodal corridor will address the fundamental design of the road to make it safer.** A full redesign is more likely to reduce reckless speeding while not relying on law enforcement officers to be present 24/7.
- **A full street redesign means we would have room to plant a healthier, more substantial tree canopy and create comprehensive green infrastructure investments.** We would use the latest techniques in green infrastructure design. These techniques create happier, healthier trees that grow bigger and survive longer without breaking up the sidewalk.
- **A multimodal corridor would give Boston residents multiple safe, reliable options for traveling along Blue Hill Avenue – regardless of income, ability, or age.**



Kirstie

Why center-running bus lanes?

We expect that a center-running bus lane could get riders from Grove Hall to Mattapan Square in 15 minutes - even during rush hour - saving them about 30 minutes in each direction per day.

Center-running bus lanes are more separated from regular traffic than side-running lanes, reducing conflicts and saving significantly more time for bus riders. Center-running lanes:

- Make it less likely that people park in bus lanes or bus stops, which means they are largely self-enforcing.
- Reduce conflict between cars and buses by moving buses away from parking spots, driveways, loading zones, and right turns. Left turns can often be made at signalized lights, which separate movements are therefore safer for cars and buses.

Center-running lanes create a better bus rider experience:

- There is more space for passenger platforms and amenities on center boarding platforms, and this frees up more space on the sidewalk for other uses.
- Platforms match the height of the bus, so it is easier for riders to step or wheel on and off.



Kirstie

How will the City make the decision?

- Mayor Wu's administration will make the final decision in consultation with local electeds.
- Project team **will provide a comprehensive overview of feedback collected** during the entire engagement process in order to help them make this decision.
- Broader City goals of **vibrancy, resiliency, equity, and inclusivity** will also play a role.
 - These goals are outlined in city-wide planning documents, such as Imagine Boston 2030, Go Boston 2030, Boston's Climate Action Plan, and Boston's Urban Forest Plan.
- To date, **there have been a lot of competing priorities** in what we are hearing.
 - For example, some people want less traffic congestion and delays.
 - Others want it to be safer to cross the street.
 - These goals are in opposition to each other because to lessen delays, we must build bigger and wider roads. While those roads may have a lot of cars on them during rush hour, at other times of the day they become a wide open expanse that encourages speeding. Speeding drivers are more likely to kill or severely injure a pedestrian if they hit them.
 - This means a decision about design will have to prioritize certain needs and concerns over others.
- Once the City does make a decision on what design to move forward after continued engagement, **we will release a report outlining what the decision is, and how and why it was made.**



Kirstie

POLL

MORE INFO IN PROJECT FAQs:



bit.ly/bhaFAQs

What questions do you have about this project?

- Respond in the poll on your screen, in the chat, or by using our question form (more information on the next slide)



Kirstie

Project FAQs

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 this document.



Kirstie

Blue Hill Avenue

How to Get Involved





Kirstie

Upcoming Engagement: Design Scenarios



Upcoming Open House & Public Meetings

Our team will present the analysis of the alternative design options at in-person and virtual meetings:

- Not Your Average Public Meeting
- Carter Post Open House

There will be additional meetings and events in the summer!



Kirstie

How to Stay Connected

Contact Information

Phone: [617-635-3944](tel:617-635-3944)

Website: [boston.gov/blue-hill-avenue](https://www.boston.gov/blue-hill-avenue)

Email: bluehillave@boston.gov