

Washington Street Pilot

75% Design Project Update



Public Meeting #2
April 11, 2024




HOWARD STEIN HUDSON
Engineers + Planners



HALVORSON
Tighe & Bond STUDIO

- **Welcome**
- **Project Update**
- **75% Design Overview**
- **Pilot Evaluation**
- **Next Steps**
- **Questions & Discussion**



Introductions: Project Team

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- **City of Newton**
 - **Planning and Development:** Barney Heath, Jennifer Caira, Olivia James, John Sisson
 - **Mayor's Office:** Jonathan Yeo
 - **Public Works:** Ned Codd, Nina Wang, David Koses, Isaac Prizant, Lou Taverna, Adrian Ayala
 - **Parks, Recreation, and Culture:** Luis Perez Demorizi, Ahron Lerman, Marc Welch, Derek Mannion
 - **ADA Coordinator:** Jini Fairley
 - **Advisory Group:** Councilor Susan Albright, Councilor Pam Wright, Mike Halle, John Pelletier
- **Consultant Team Leadership**
 - **Howard Stein Hudson:** Jessica Lizza, Valerie Chia, Emma Enteado
 - **Neighborways Design:** Jessica Mortell
 - **Halvorson Tighe & Bond Studio:** Bryan Jereb



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Washington Street Pilot Project Update

Winter -
Spring
2023

- Reviewed past work (Washington Vision Plan)
- Began coordination with ongoing and future area projects (Newton Crossing/Dunstan E. and Dog Park)
- Conducted existing conditions analysis: parking and traffic
- Initial public and business engagement survey
- Developed concept alternatives

Fall
2023

- Hosted Public Meeting #1 – Reviewed Existing Conditions + Pilot Concept Alternatives
- Collected Concept Alternatives Public Survey
- Reviewed feedback and selected preferred concept design

Winter
2024

- Presented at Public Facilities Meeting Jan 2024 – received approval to advance the preferred concept
- Washington St business flyering
- Developed DRAFT 75% Design Plans

Tonight!

- **Public Meeting #2 - Review DRAFT 75% Design Plans**



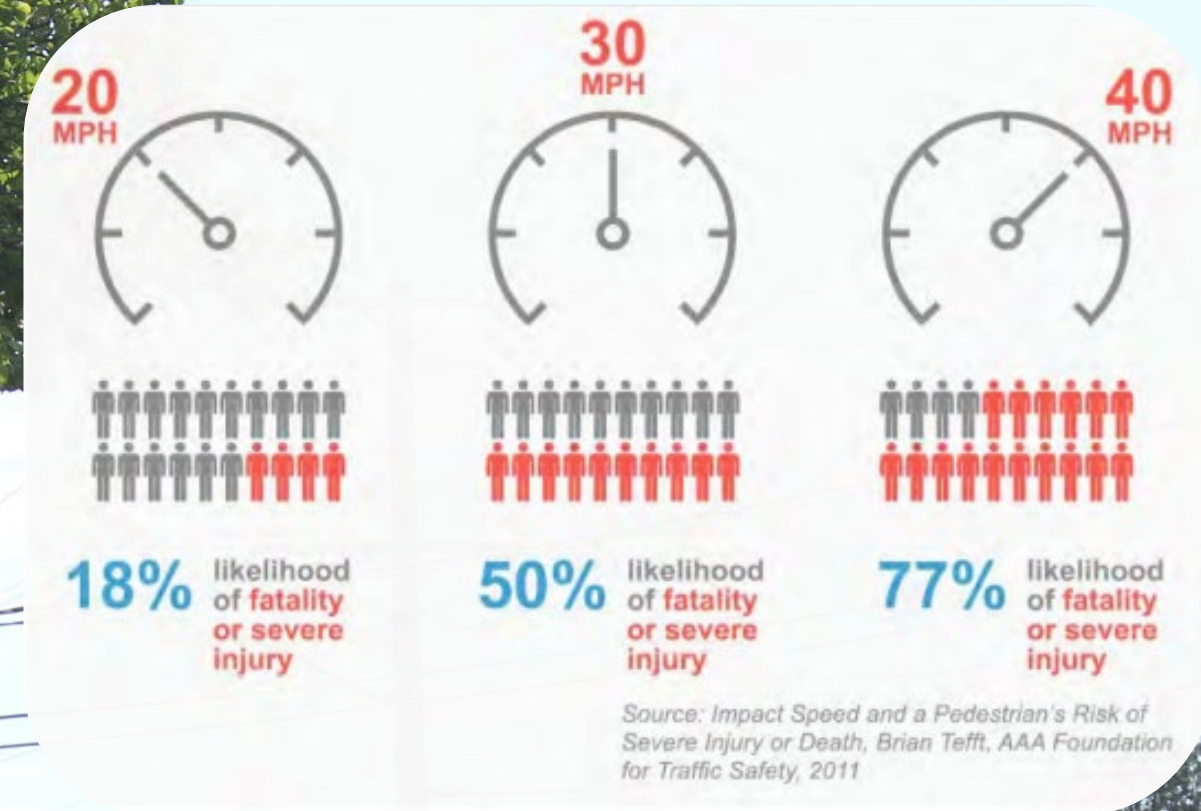
Project Area



Washington Street Pilot: Goals and Design Objectives

Create a safer, more attractive, friendly, and welcoming Washington Street for everyone: neighbors, visitors, and businesses.

- Reduce fatalities and serious injuries
- Reduce speeds and conflicts
- Provide two to three vehicle lanes
- Provide separated bicycle lanes
- Provide shared use path to address pedestrian gap on south side of road
- Improve pedestrian crossings, connectivity, and comfort
- Provide ample parking
- Increase greenery and landscaping
- Engage the community throughout the process



■ Temporary materials that we can change

- Pavement markings and signs
- Temporary curbing/bus stop platforms/curb separators
- Landscaping/planters



■ Not major construction

- Major streetscape redesign
- Repaving or reconstructing the roadway
- Moving curb-line or significant sidewalk reconstruction
- Significant intersection or traffic signal reconstruction
- Significant drainage or utility changes
- Property takings



Sample Temporary Floating Bus Stop with Bike Lane, Portland OR



What We've Heard: Summary of Feedback Themes to Date

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We've heard concerns about:

- **Safety**, including students walking and biking
- **Uncomfortable walking and biking**
- **Speeding** and aggressive driving
- Desire for **separated bike lanes**
- **Aesthetics** and attractiveness of Washington Street
- **Traffic congestion**, especially at West Newton Square and on nearby roads, and need for turning movements
- **Parking and business impacts**
- **Transitions** for people biking at limits
- **Bus accessibility**

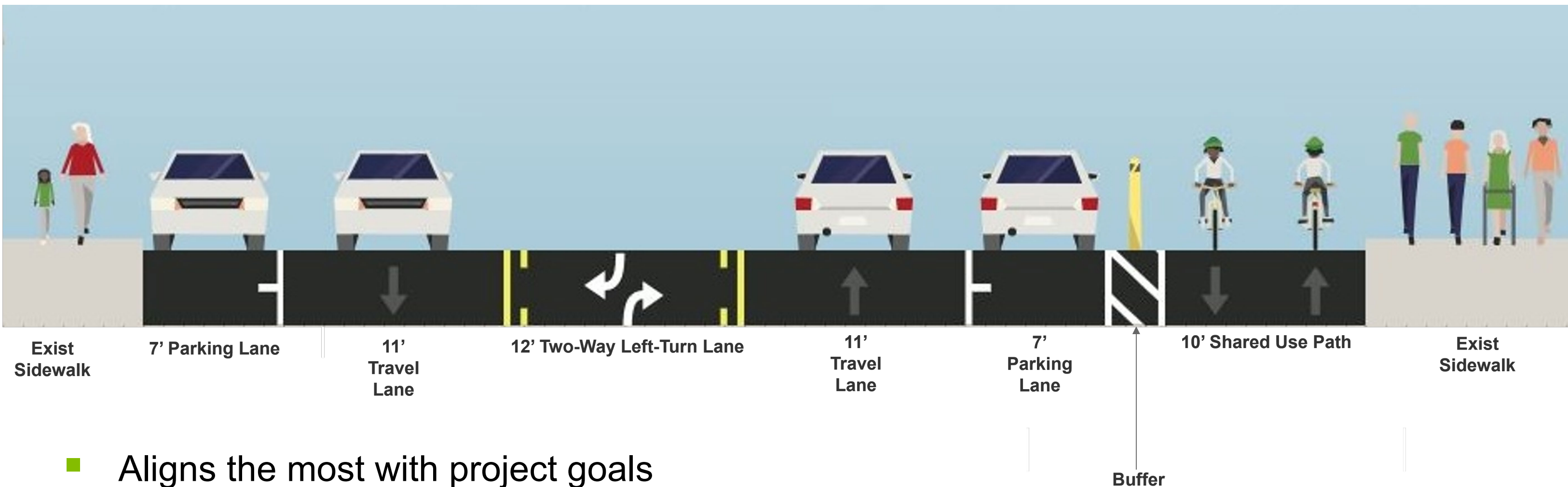


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75% Design based on City Council Endorsed Concept

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- Aligns the most with project goals
- Addresses pedestrian “gaps”
- Provides continuous separated bicycle connection with minimal conflicts
- Improves parking accessibility on south side
- Preserves most on-street parking
- Allows for landscaping elements



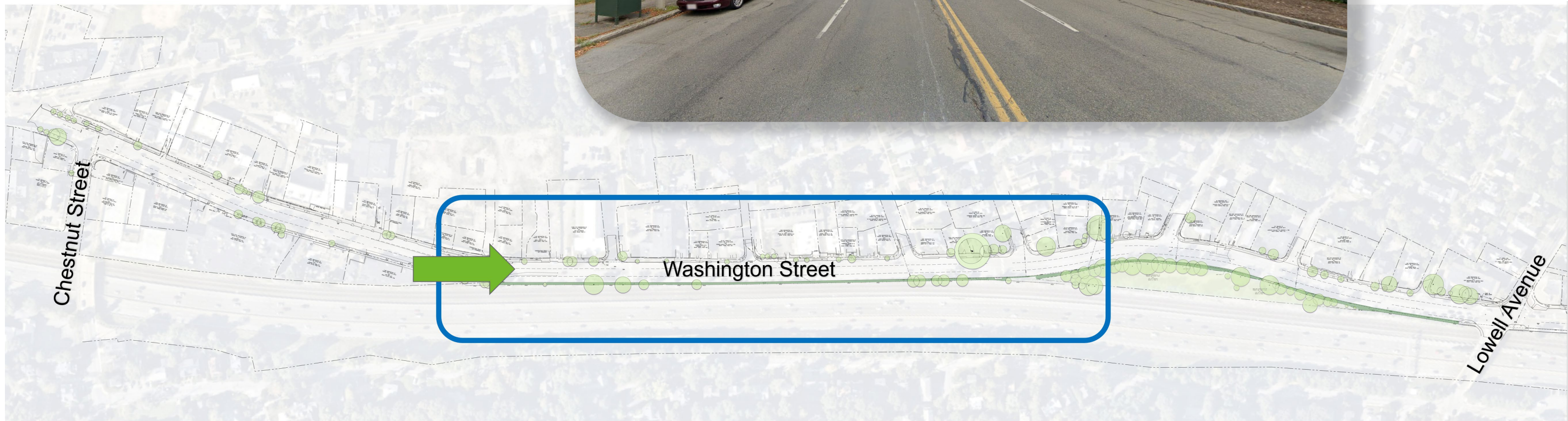
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South Side Two-way Shared Use Path + Turn Lanes

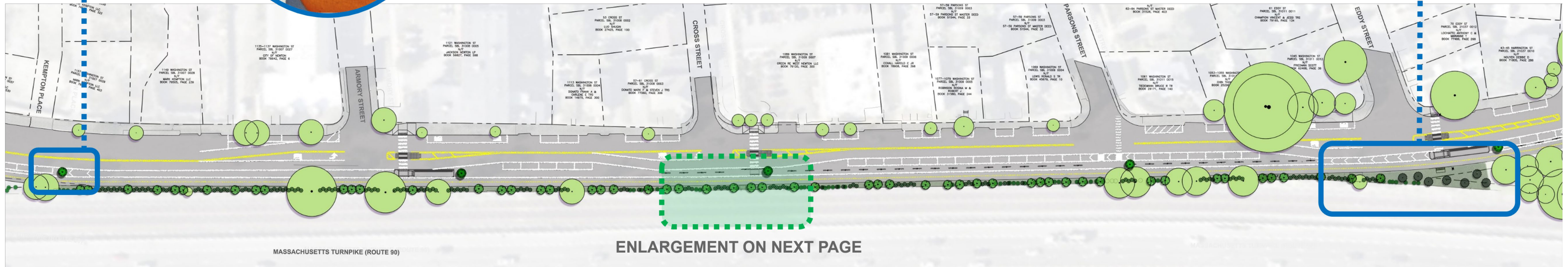
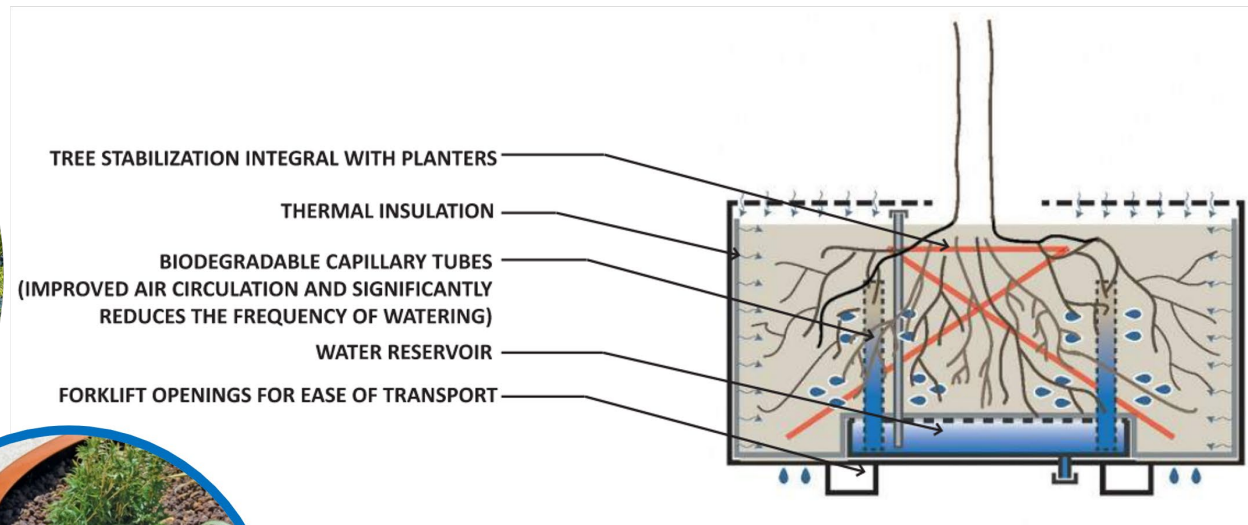
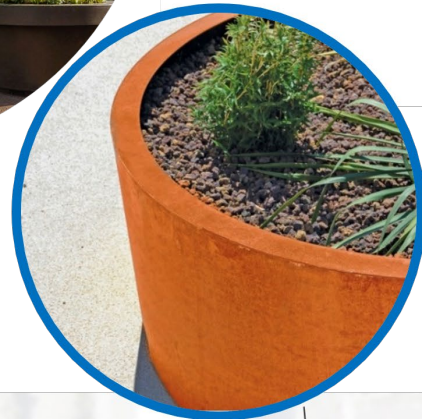


See Roll Plans

Landscape – Existing Condition



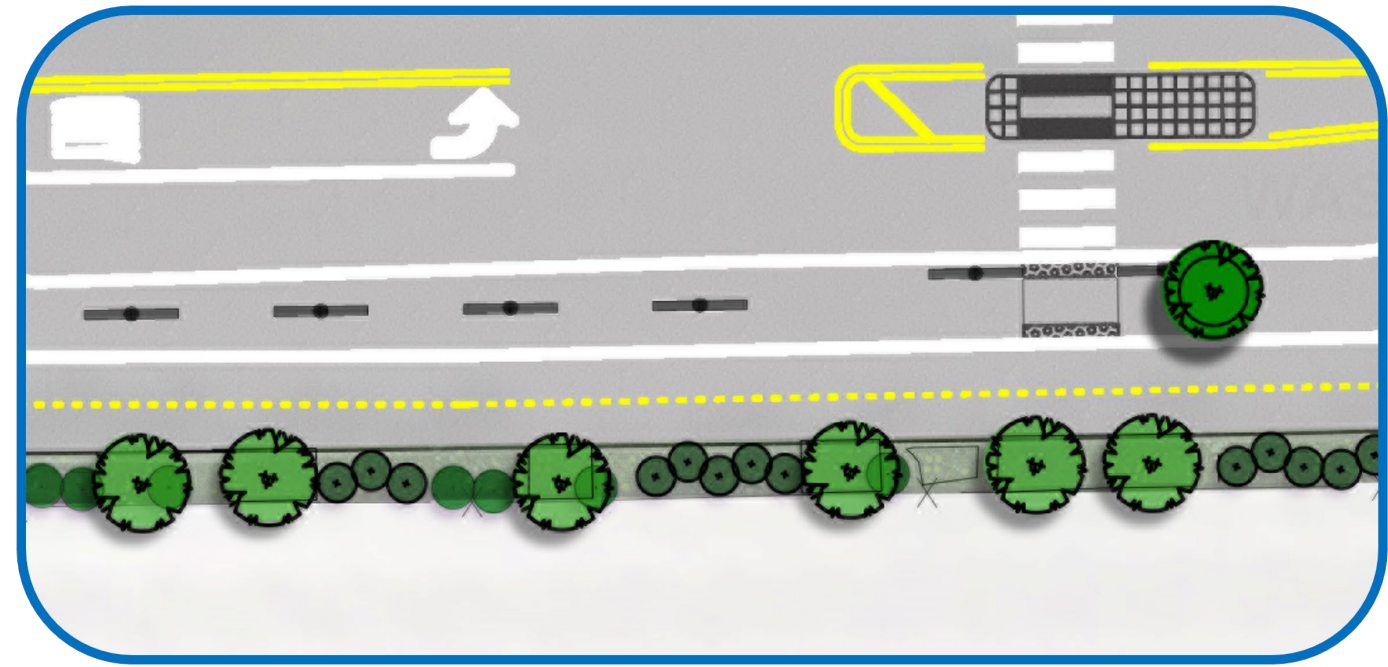
Landscape – Proposed Condition



Proposed Trees and Shrubs

70 New Trees
160 new shrubs

Landscape – Proposed Condition at Washington St and Cross St



Landscape – Proposed Condition (cont.)



- Data Collection during the pilot:
 - Crash data
 - Vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian volumes
 - Volumes on adjacent roadways (Watertown St and Austin St)
 - Vehicle speeds and turning movement counts
 - Parking utilization
 - Public feedback
 - Feedback from Fire and Police

- Annual monitoring and evaluating success
 - Are crash rates falling?
 - Are people driving at slower speeds?
 - Are more people walking, biking, and riding transit?
 - Do people walking and biking feel safer and more comfortable?
 - Is area traffic flowing at acceptable levels?
 - Is parking supply and demand balanced?



Where we go from here

Spring –
Summer 2024

- Public Meeting tonight
- Public Facilities Meeting (Tentatively scheduled Wednesday, May 15th)
- City Council
- Refine design with City departments

Fall 2024

- Bid documents
- Hire contractor by 12/31/24

2025- 2026

- Implementation and evaluation



Improving safety for everyone traveling on Washington Street.



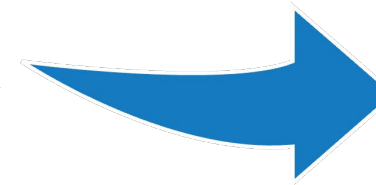
Project Email

WashingtonStreet@NewtonMA.gov



Project Website

NewtonMA.gov/WashingtonStreet



Thank You

