

Walnut Street Enhancements Project

Meeting #1: Brainstorm!

January 30, 2017



Tonight's Agenda

- **Flash Brainstorm**
 - Favorite Places
- **Introduction to the Project**
 - Scope, Goals, & Schedule
- **Relationship to Other Recent Efforts**
 - Beautiful Newtonville & Newtonville Area Council
- **Initial Impressions from the Team**
 - Opportunities and Constraints
 - Potential Tools in the Toolbox
- **Tabletop Session: Brainstorm**
 - Detailed Community Feedback
- **Next Steps**



40 minutes



50 minutes

Flash Brainstorm...

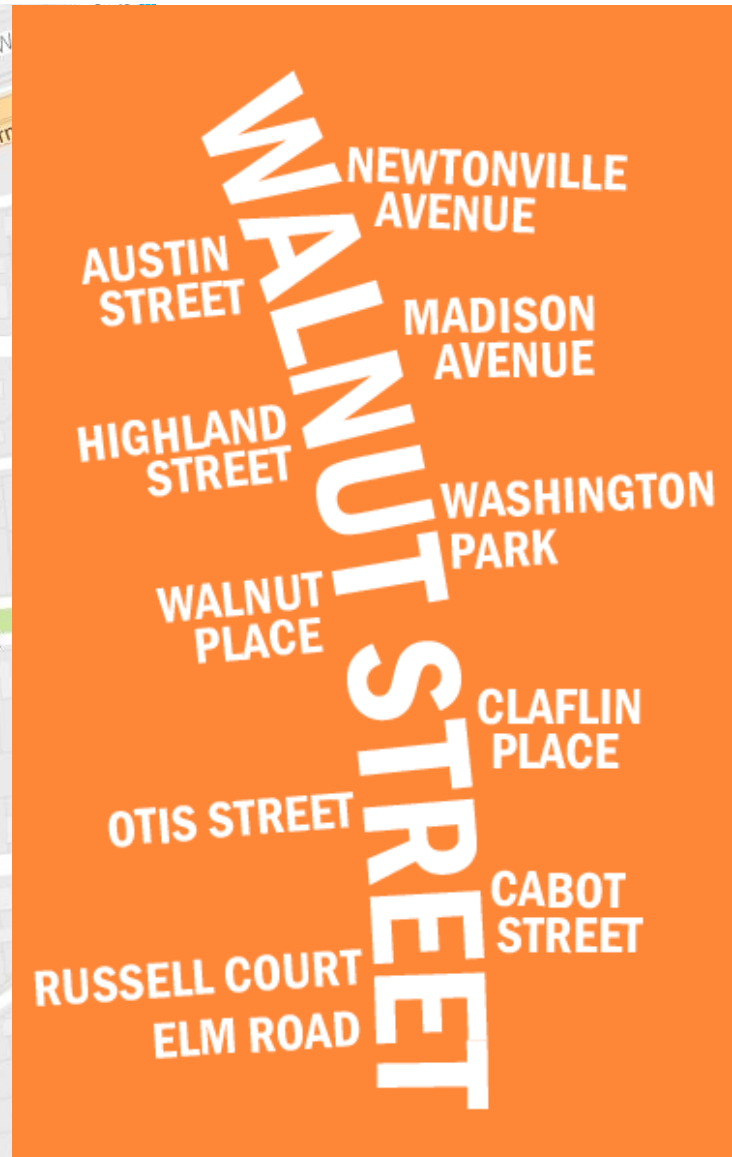
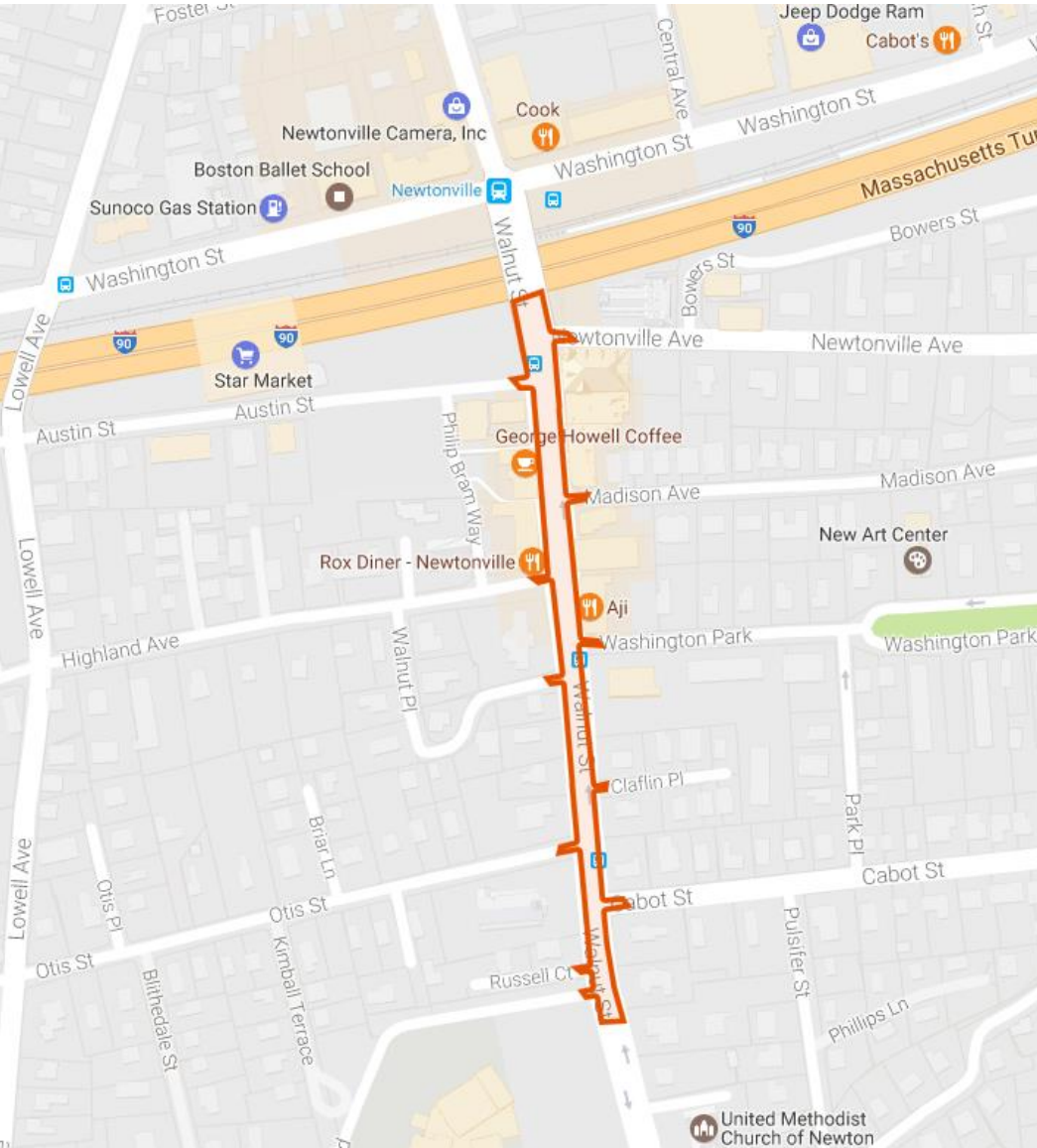
Get to know everyone at your table & ask...

**What are your favorite
places to be outdoors on
Walnut St. and why?**

What is the Walnut Street Enhancements Project?

- **Public realm improvements**
 - Streets, sidewalks, landscaping, lighting
 - How they can look and function
 - How they can contribute to the Walnut Street you envision
- **Building on Previous Work and bringing in new voices**

Project Area



Project Goal: Enhance the safety, character and functionality of Walnut Street for all users

- **Maximize safety and convenience for all travel modes**
 - Improve the off-set intersection of Walnut St., Austin St., and Newtonville Ave.
 - Enhance safety at crosswalks and potential conflict points
- **Enhance Pedestrian Experience / Village Character**
 - Direct and rational pedestrian crossings and routes
 - Places to linger and socialize
 - Pleasant and maintainable streetscape and landscape elements
- **Benefit the Environment**
 - Encourage walking, biking, and transit use
 - Increase tree canopy to mitigate urban “heat island”
 - Assess green infrastructure to improve stormwater quality

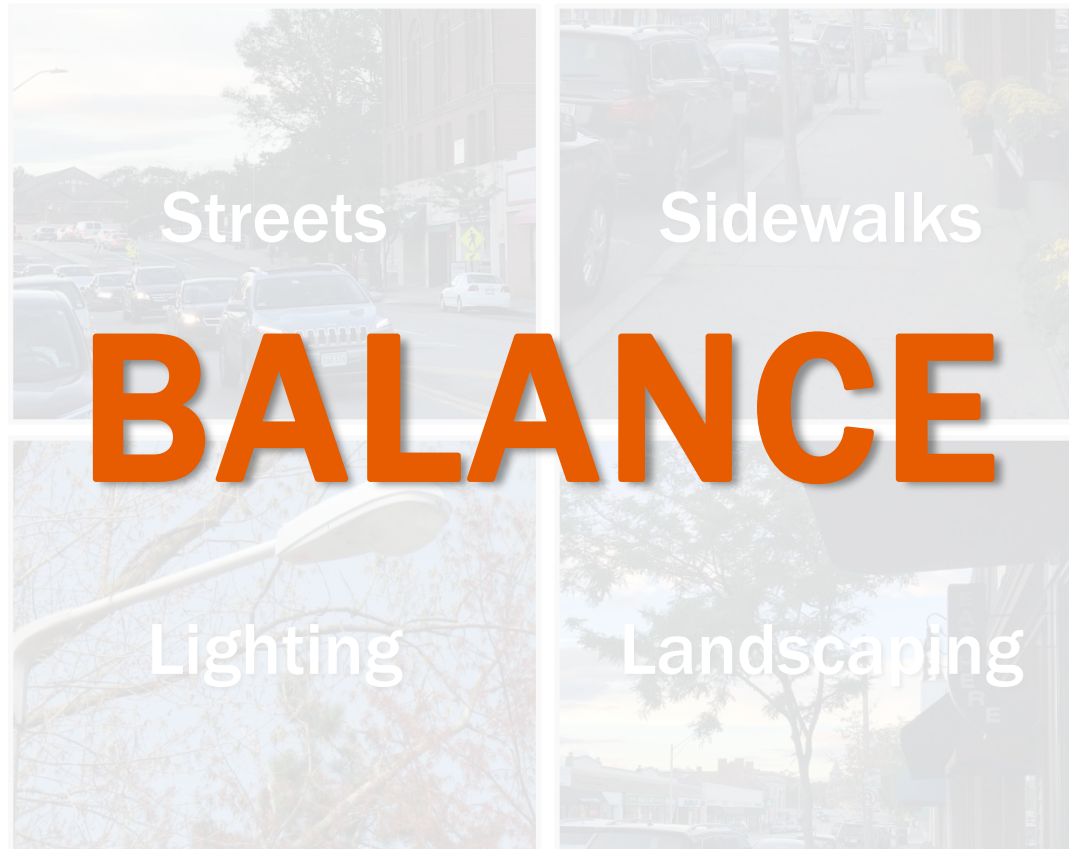
What will we work on?

- Use Complete Streets approaches to holistically enhance safety & vitality of Walnut Street in the heart of Newtonville



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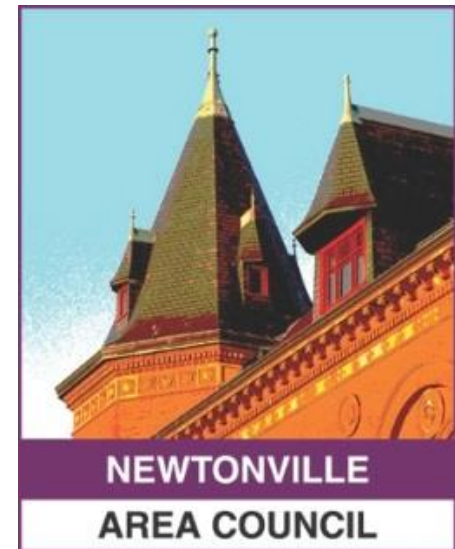


Build on previous work:

Beautiful Newtonville and Newtonville Area Council

Newtonville Improvements History

- Beautiful Newtonville survey of residents (2012)
- Workshop / Charette in NewArt Center (2013)
- Planning / Transportation presentation at Day Middle School (2013)
(initial designs for widening sidewalks & modifying streets)
- City Commitment to 2018 implementation (2015)
- Funding in C.I.P. of \$3 million for 2018 (2016)



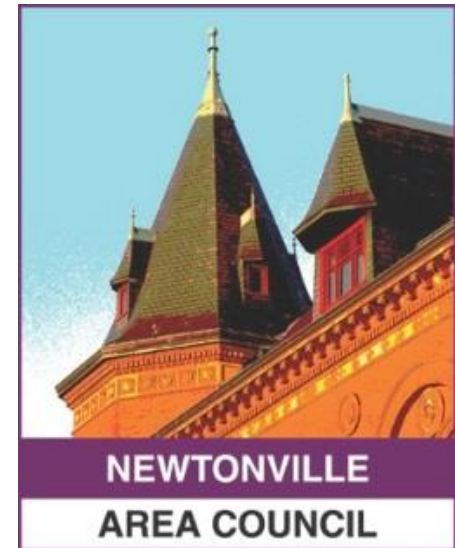
Build on previous work:

Beautiful Newtonville and Newtonville Area Council

Survey Results -

Top Resident Priorities:

- More diverse mix of retail shops
- Wider sidewalks / outdoor dining
- More restaurants / cafes / food to go
- More trees, landscaping
- More public space / benches



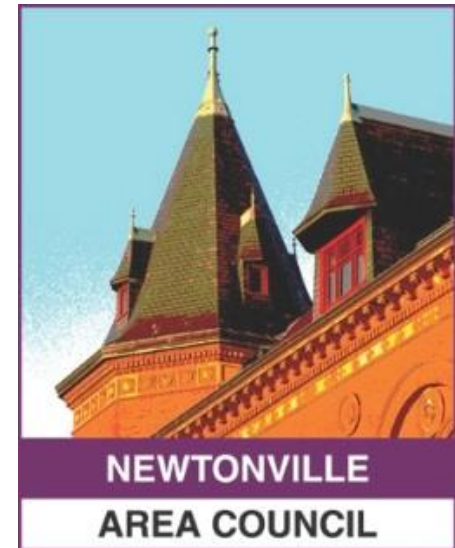
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Survey Results -

Top Business Priorities:

- More green space
- Improved parking
- Outdoor seating
- More small businesses



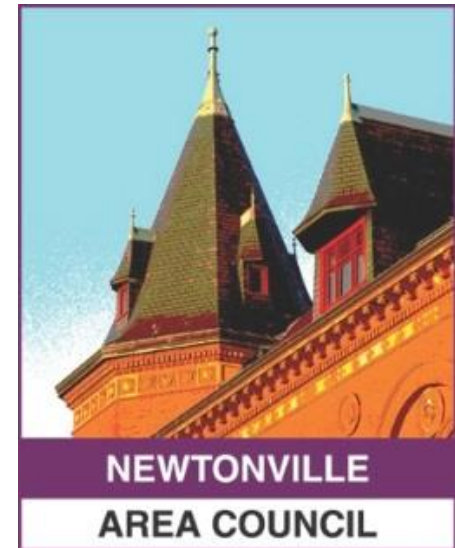
Build on previous work:

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Area Council Priorities

- Wider sidewalks for improved pedestrian experience
- Improved pedestrian safety
- Eliminate dangerous illegal loading zone in middle of roadway, and create safe business delivery plan
- Traffic calming with improved traffic flow
- Unified village look and feel
- Aesthetics: trees, benches, lampposts, etc.
- Improve problematic intersections
- Consider both Business and Resident concerns

* *No priority implied by order*



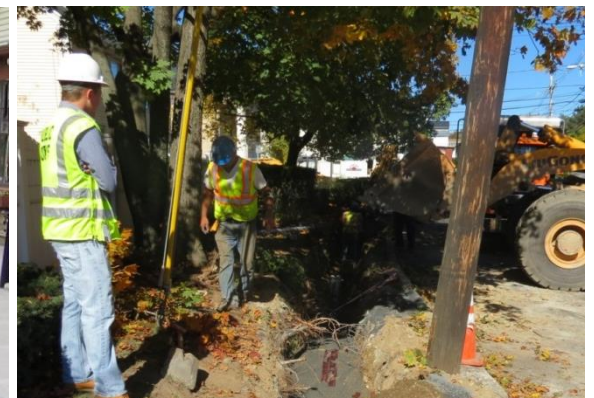
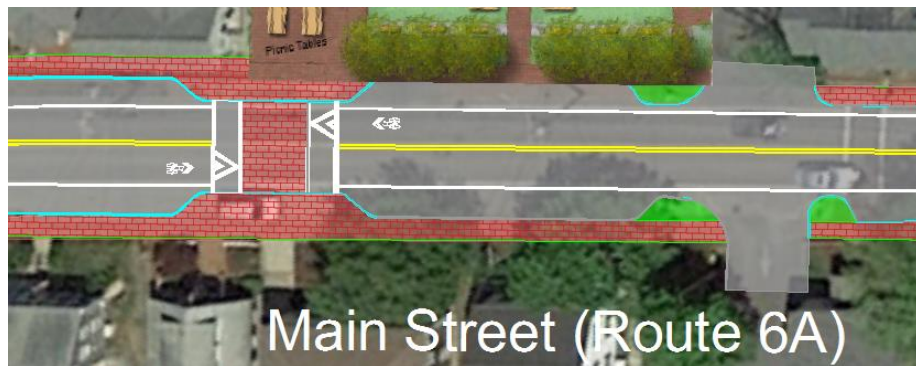
Consultant Team

Environmental Partners

GROUP

Transportation Engineering

- Traffic Studies & Design
- Complete Streets/Multi-Modal Roadway Design
- Geotechnical/Drainage
- Construction Phase Services



Consultant Team



Streetscape and Neighborhood Center Landscape Architecture

- Streetscape design
- Urban design for business districts
- Signage and wayfinding
- Streetlighting



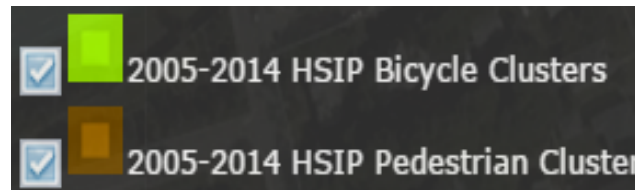
Existing Conditions

A Crash Hotspot



Walnut Street ranks as one of the 5% worst crash hotspots within the Boston metro area

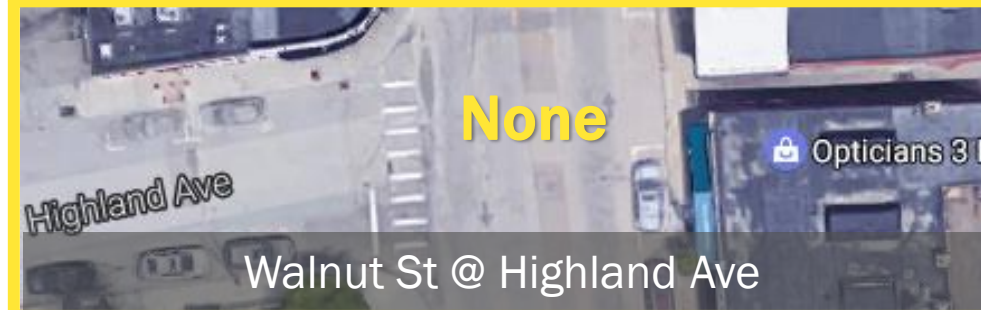
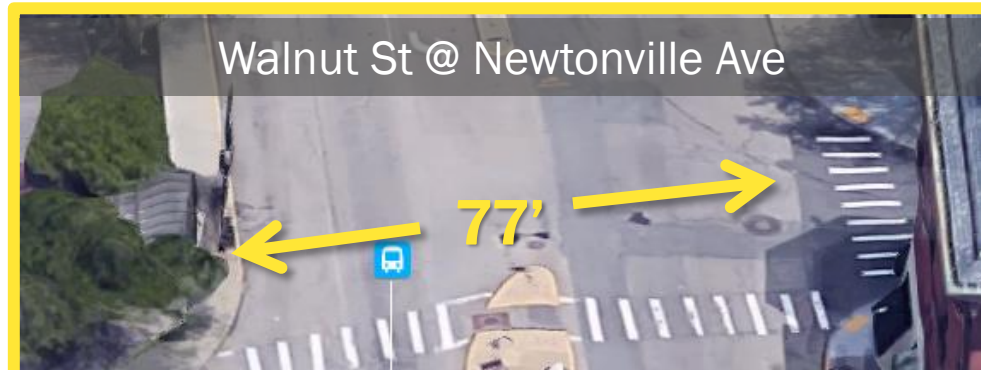
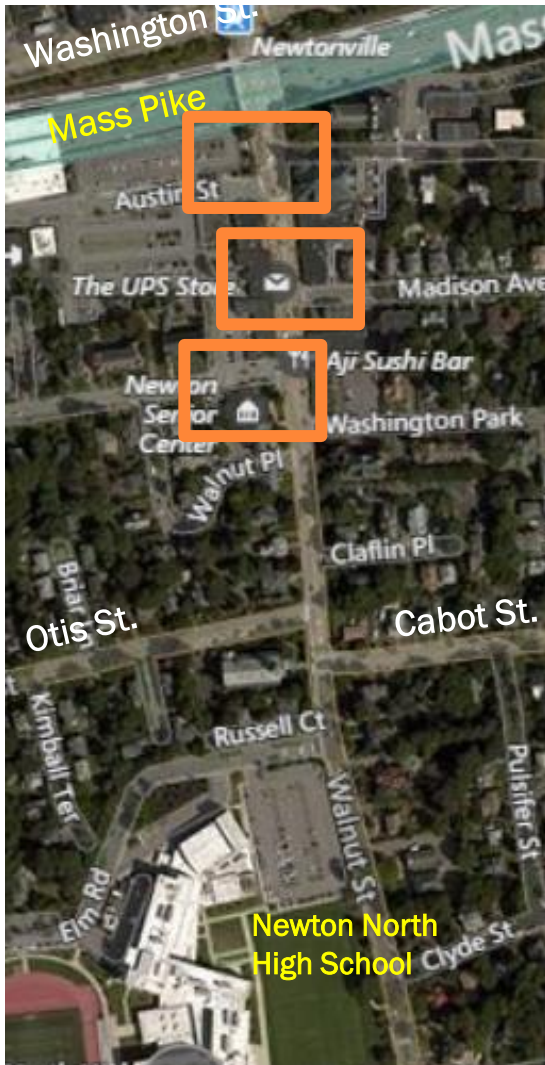
- 24 pedestrian crashes
(18 resulted in injury)
2005-2014
- 8 bicyclist crashes
(7 resulted in injury)
2004-2013



(MassDOT Interactive Crash Cluster Map, Highway Safety Improvement Program)

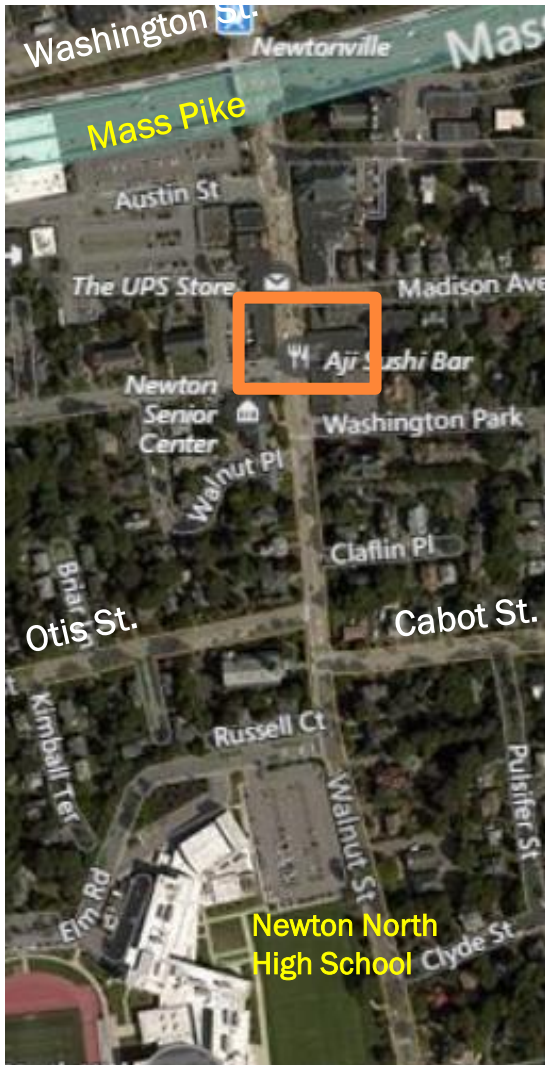
Existing Conditions

Difficult Crossings



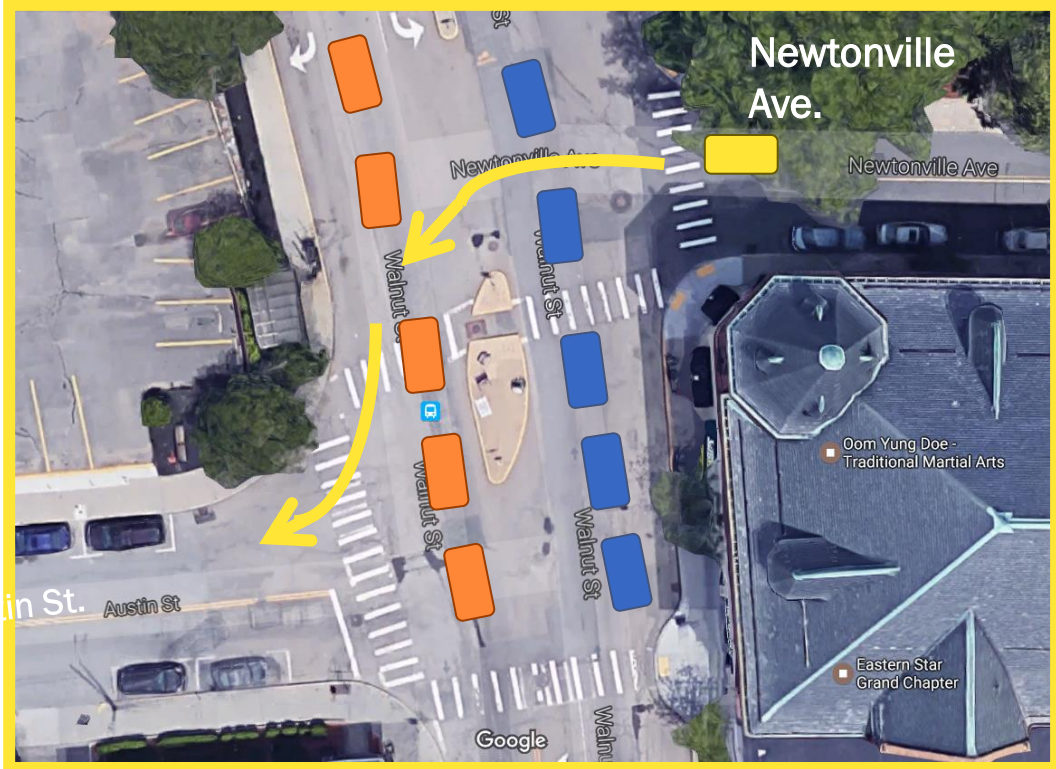
Existing Conditions

Confusing Layout



Existing Conditions

Difficult Turns



Existing Conditions

Visual Clues for Motorists



Geometry of the roadway encourages speed. There are few visual clues to alert motorists to where people might be crossing .

Existing Conditions

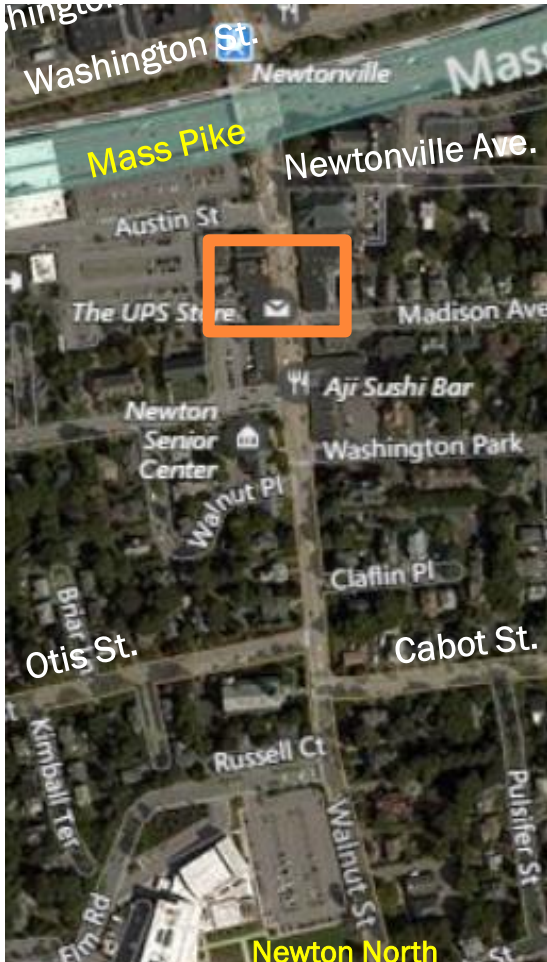
Gateways and Transitions are Identity Opportunities



The transitions from the highway bridge, side streets, and passageways are unfulfilled opportunities to strengthen the identity of the area.

Existing Conditions

Limited space for sidewalk life



The sidewalk environment is not consistently “user friendly” for patrons of the businesses along Walnut Street.

Existing Conditions

Distinctive Landscape Assets



The mature trees and open landscapes are distinctive assets that the streetscape can complement

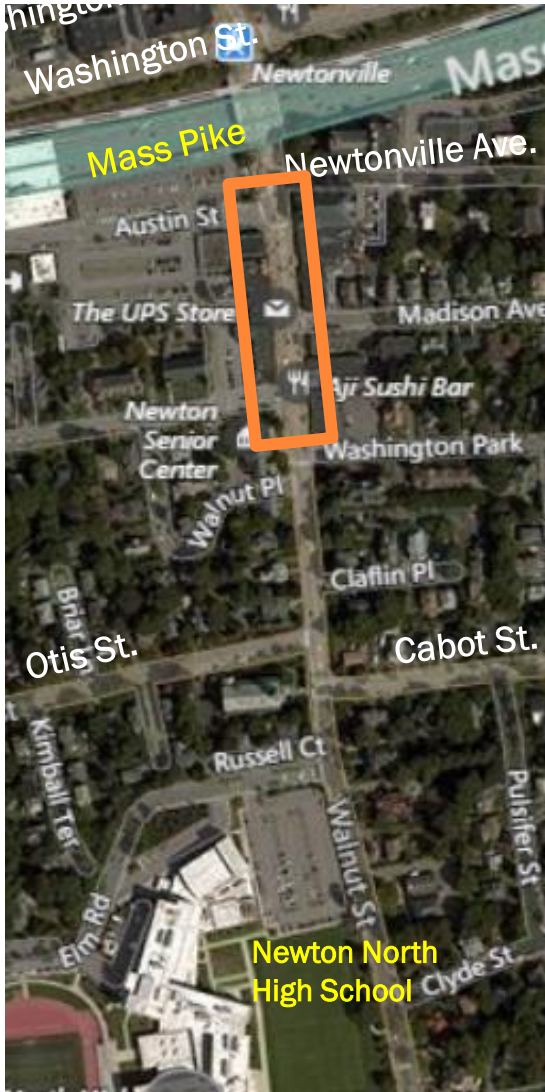
Existing Conditions

An 8 – 80 Neighborhood



Existing Conditions

Village Days & Committed Neighbors



Ideas

Sidewalks for a Prime Retail Street



Falmouth, MA

Frontage Zone

Walking Zone

Furniture Zone

Ideas

Sidewalks for a Prime Retail Street



Falmouth, MA



Washington D.C. - KMDG

Ideas

Sidewalks for a Prime Retail Street



West Hartford, CT

Ideas

Sidewalks for a Prime Retail Street



Ideas

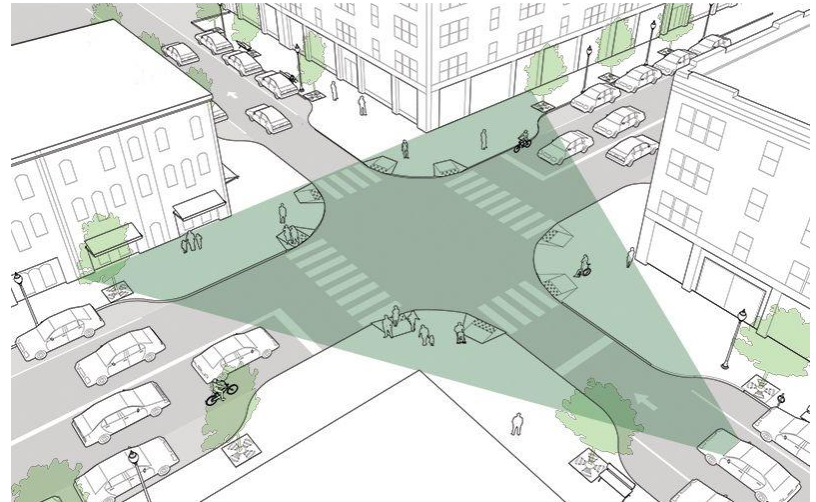
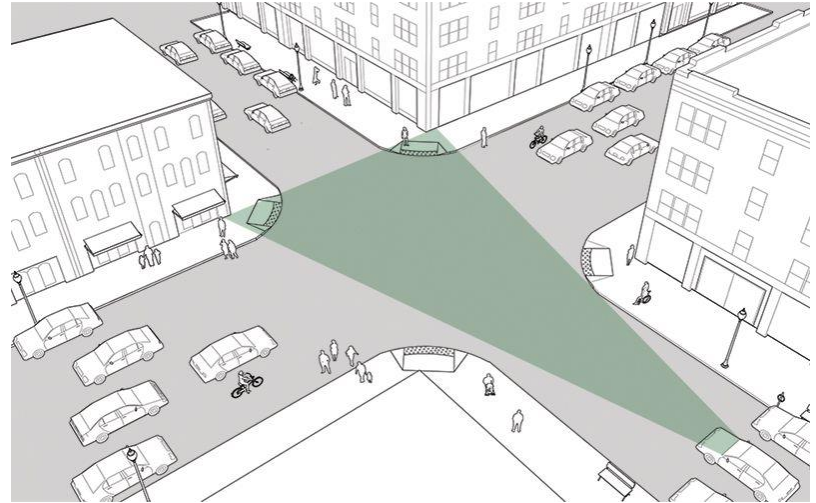
Sidewalks for a Prime Retail Street



Space for temporary or permanent art

Ideas

Safer Crossings



Establish visibility between pedestrian & driver | Shorten crossing distances

Ideas

Safer Crossings



Curb extensions can serve as expanded sidewalk areas or landscape features
In this case it serves as a part of the stormwater collection system

Ideas

Safer Crossings



Safe pedestrian refuges can be created on landscaped medians or small islands

Ideas

Clearer Routes



Ideas

Clearer Routes



Ideas

Clearer Routes



Ideas

Clearer Routes



Before



After

Brainstorm more ideas...

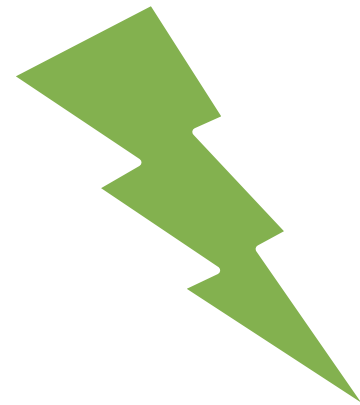
- What do you want to highlight and maintain on Walnut Street?
- What do you want to improve and change on Walnut Street?



Draw



Describe



Construct

Next steps: Concept Development

(1)

Data Collection & Brainstorming

- Meeting #1: Brainstorm! TODAY
- Site Walk: February 8th, 2017, 8:30-9:30am & 5:30-6:30pm

Snow Date: Feb 16th 2017

(2)

Develop Design Concepts

- Meeting 2: Present & Discuss Design Concepts
~ April 2017

(3)

Preferred Concept

- Meeting 3: Present & Discuss Preferred Concept
~June/July 2017

(4)

Present to Council

Next steps: Full Schedule

[1]

Data Collection & Brainstorming

- Meeting 1: Brainstorm Workshop – January 30, 2017
- Site Walk – February 8th, 2017, 8:30-9:30am & 5:30-6:30pm

Concept Development
Jan-Aug 2017

Detail Design
Sept 2017-Jan 2018

Construction
Starting Spring 2018

[3]

Preferred Concept

- Meeting 3: Present & Discuss Preferred Concept
~June/July 2017

[4]

Present to Council

Thank you!

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