January 08

Welcome to

SQUARES STREETS

Roslindale Square Draft Plan Release Public Meeting



Zoom Controls to Listen to Interpreters

(EN) Look for the interpretation icon **(globe)** at the bottom of your screen and select the language you want to hear.

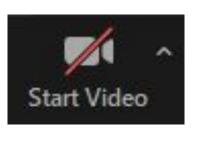
(Español) Busque el ícono de la interpretación **(globo)** en el borde inferior de su pantalla y seleccione el idioma en el que desea escuchar.



Zoom Meeting Info + Tips

- This meeting will be recorded and the recording will be posted on the Planning Department's webpage. If you do not wish to be recorded during the meeting, please turn off your microphone and camera.
- If you're joining by phone, **dial *9 to raise your hand** and wait to be called upon and **dial *6 to unmute and mute**.
- **Zoom controls are available at the bottom of your screen.** Clicking on these symbols activates different features.





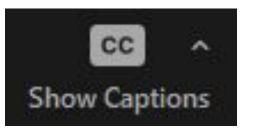
Turn video on/off



Use the chat feature to write questions and comments



Raise hand to get in line to ask a question or provide comment



Turn on captions

TODAY'S AGENDA

B

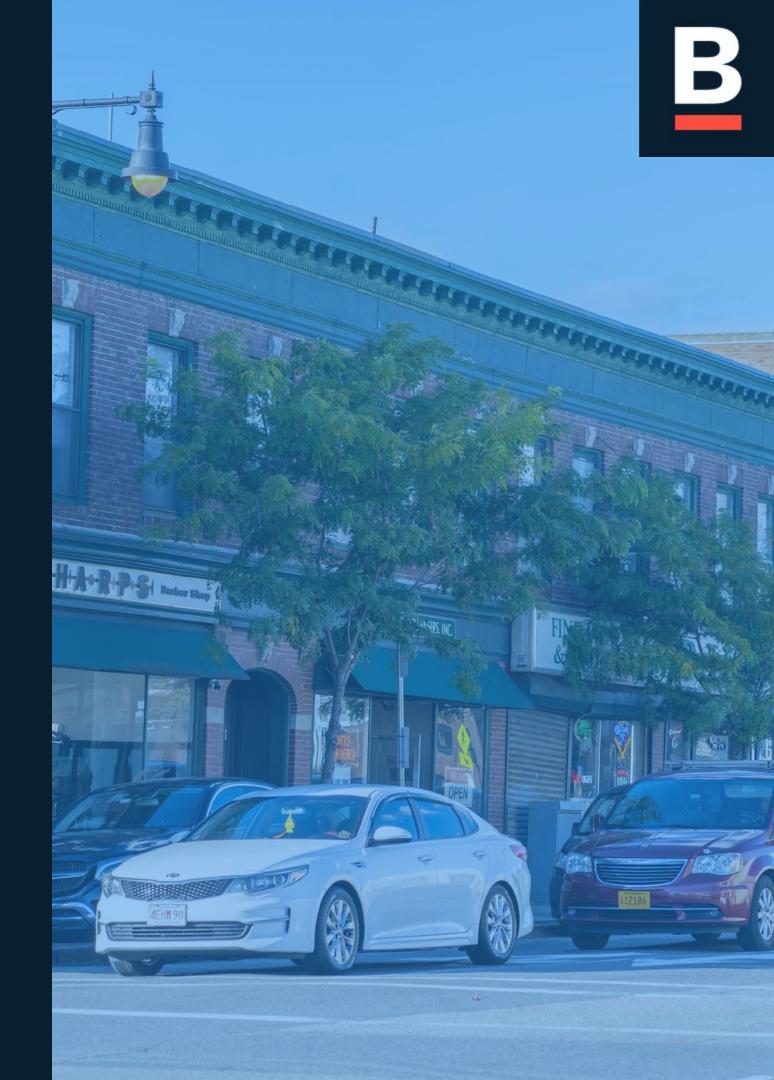
Today's meeting asks the community
to provide feedback on **draft**recommendations for the Roslindale
Square Squares + Streets Small Area
Plan. This input will inform a revised
set of recommendations in a final
draft Small Area Plan and zoning map
amendment

Introduction	6:03 pm- 6:05 pm
Engagement Summary	6:05 pm - 6:10 pm
Draft recommendations	6:10 pm - 6:35 pm
Q+A	6:40 pm - 7:50 pm
Closeout and next steps	7:50 pm - 8 pm

I. Introduction

A QUICK BRIEF:

- 1. What is Squares + Streets and why Roslindale Square?
- 2. Roslindale Square Study Area

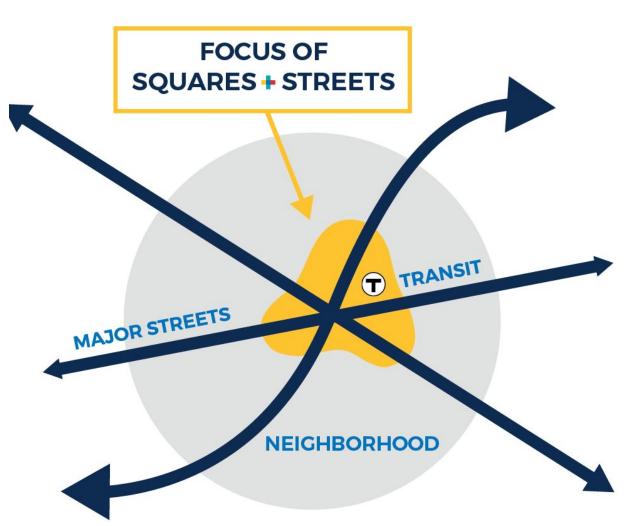


What Are Squares + Streets Areas?



Squares + Streets areas are focused on Boston's transit-served neighborhood centers outside of downtown, characterized by:

- Transit service: T stops, commuter rail stations, frequent bus service
- Commercial activity: walkable main streets districts and retail close to both transit and housing
- **Neighborhood centers**: central locations where neighborhood residents access local services
- **Mixed use context**: housing either directly above or directly adjacent to these businesses
- **Opportunity for growth**: context and market conditions that are suited for additional housing and economic growth
- Lack of recent planning: need for analysis of current context, investment needs, and how zoning matches built conditions



Why Focus on Squares + Streets?



- Provide more housing to support Boston's current and future residents
- Ensure every Bostonian has access to neighborhoods with everyday resources and services
- Pair housing growth with areas that supply an abundance of commercial, civic, cultural, and transportation resources to expand benefits beyond access to housing
- Focus on developing Plans that:
 - Deliver **zoning reform** to transit-accessible geographic hubs
 - Produce coordinated, impactful, and visible investments across City
 Departments that address a range of needs in a small geography

Why Roslindale Square?

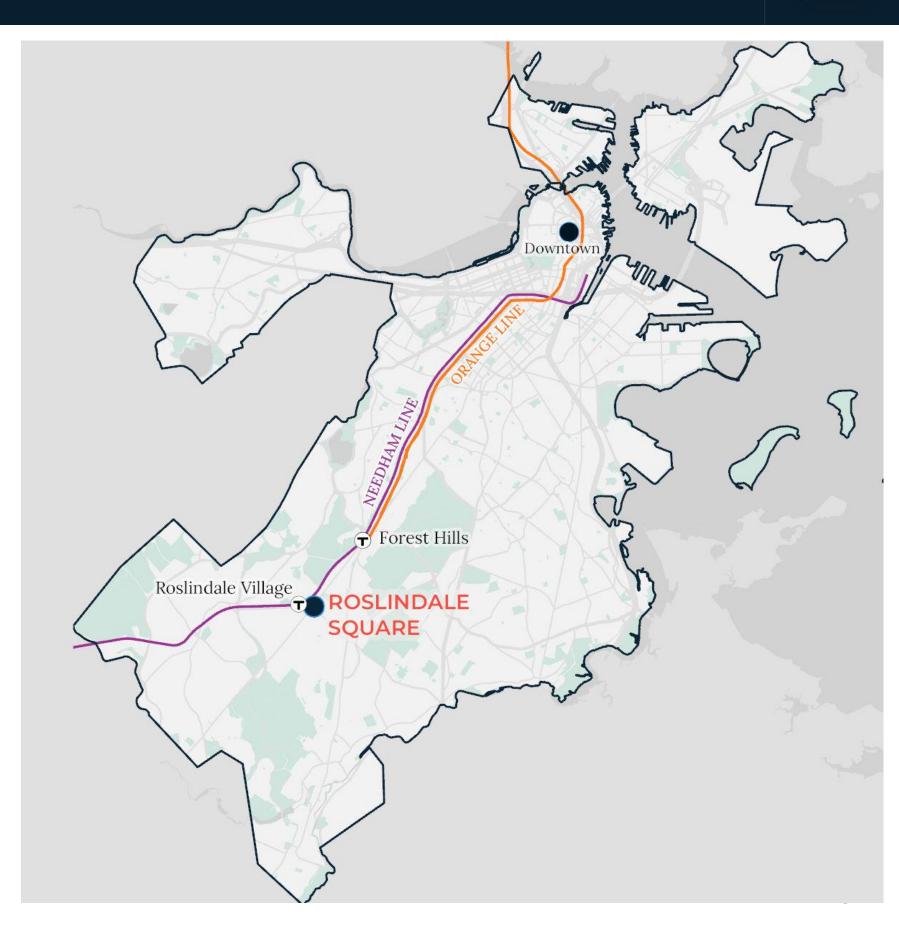
Roslindale Square is...

• A mixed-use neighborhood center

- o Approximately 6 miles south of downtown
- Commercial core supported by Roslindale Square Main Streets (RVMS)
- Walkable commercial areas from where people live

• Served by many transit options

- Roslindale Village station connects to Back Bay and South Station
- o 2 miles south of the Forest Hills Orange Line station
- 10 local bus lines that provide access to several places, including Cleary Square in Hyde Park, Mattapan Square, and the Dedham Mall.
- Relatively low population density compared to areas with similar transit service
- A racially and ethnically diverse community with opportunity to further integrate the neighborhood across demographic groups





A Quick Brief:

Small Area Plans are focused on a small geography that will receive a **short-term planning and engagement process**.

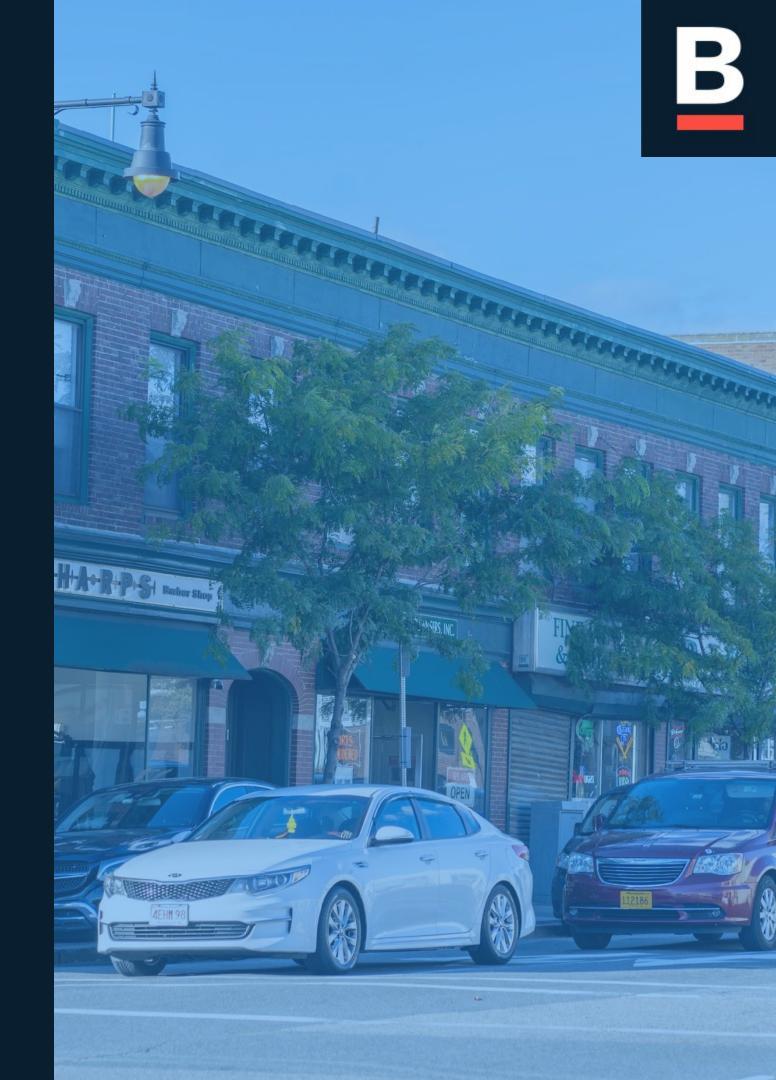
The general Roslindale plan area is a ¼ of a mile around the main intersecting streets of South Street and Poplar Street.

Proposed zoning map amendment will be based on the land use and design framework in the Plan

II. Engagement Summary

A QUICK BRIEF:

- 1. Engagement Activities and Methods
- 2. Engagement Participation and Equity
- 3. Major Themes, Strengths, and Challenges



PROJECT TIMELINE



Pre-launch Engagement Jan/Feb 2024

Listening and Learning March - April 2024

Visioning + Plan Drafting April - June 2024

Community Vetting July - Sept. 2024

Revising and Finalizing Plan

Dec. 2024 - Feb. 2025









Happening Now!

Facilitating Equitable Participation

В

Meetings with pre-registration tend to attract **few people** from low-income, Spanish- speaking, immigrant, and BIPOC communities.

Staff connected with these groups through numerous venues, including:

- 100+ touchpoints at pop-ups and coffee hours at the Sumner School, BCYF, farmer's market, bus stops, library, and Archdale BHA
- 2 small business focus groups (virtual and in-person)
- **5 business walks** in the planning area (2 of which were conducted in Spanish)
- **4 ESL classes** with ABCD and Casserly House, reaching approx. 50 students who primarily spoke Haitian Creole and Spanish
- **Spanish-language meeting** at the Archdale Menino Center with approx. 15 attendees









Roslindale Square Engagement



What have we heard over the last year?

I love living in Roslindale Square because small **business owners make an effort to connect** with their customers - *Kick off event*

Improve traffic patterns
around Wash St/ Poplar/
Adams park for pedestrian
safety - Visioning session
comment

I would love to see the Square have more neighborhood activity over more hours of the day and night! - Spring survey

More street trees for shade please! - Visioning session comment

More public housing and section 8 rental units for **truly affordable housing!** - Housing and small business workshop

Keep it affordable for local business to stay in Roslindale - *Kick off event*

Learn more about all our previous engagement on at the **Engagement Story Map**

Roslindale Square Plan Goals

The themes we heard over the course of the engagement process led to the development of **3 main goals** of the Plan, each of which has specific outcomes supported by the Plan's recommendations.



Goal 1: Strengthen community connections



Goal 2: Activate public spaces to serve a diverse community



Goal 3: Encourage growth while supporting existing urban form and community assets

Outcomes

- → Improve transit service and pedestrian connections
- → Encourage retail that draws foot traffic along streets that connect to the Square
- → Create transitions with varying scales of buildings and expanded pedestrian spaces

Outcomes

- → Encourage a variety of active uses and housing types in the commercial core of Roslindale Square
- → Establish smaller commercial gateways at the edges of the Square
- → Uplift inclusivity through public art, diverse public programming, mixed-income housing, and more gathering spaces

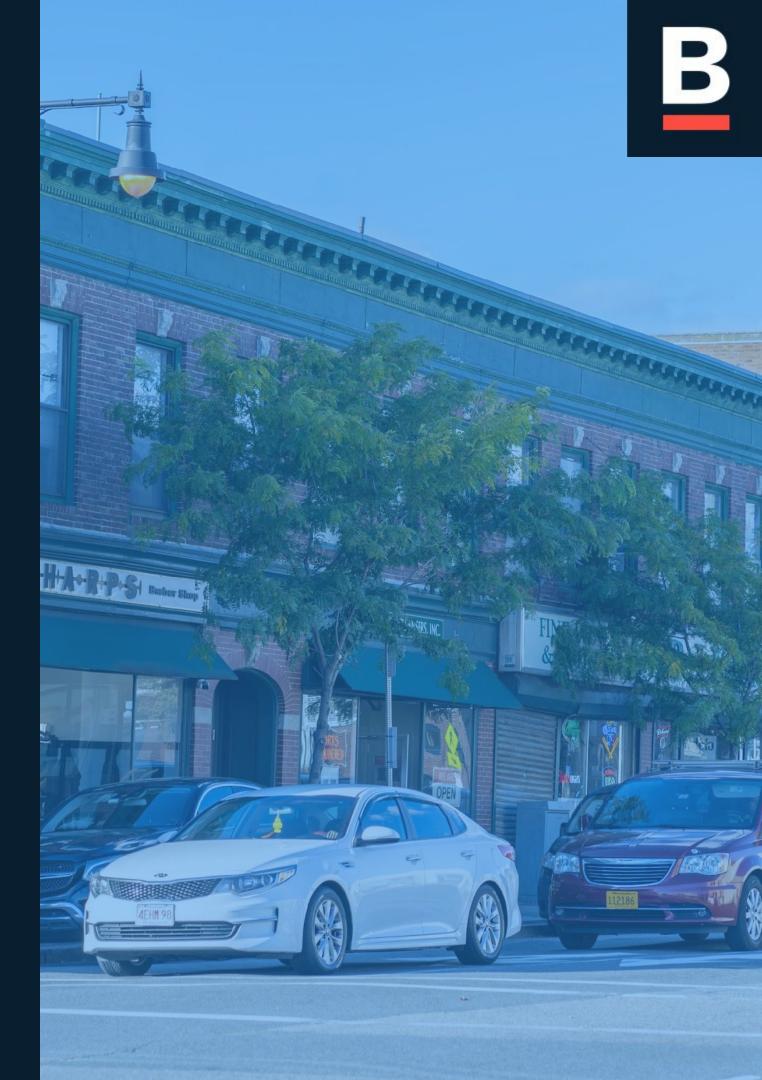
Outcomes

- → Identify sites for larger scale community-desired land uses like medium-scale entertainment, indoor gathering spaces, and mixed-income housing
- → Incentivize continued use/reuse of existing buildings that are socially and/or historically important, especially currently vacant spaces
- → Celebrate the design elements of existing buildings and storefronts, with attention to maintaining the 'local' feel of the business environment

III. Draft Plan Contents

A QUICK BRIEF:

- 1. How is the Plan organized?
- 2. Summary of draft recommendations

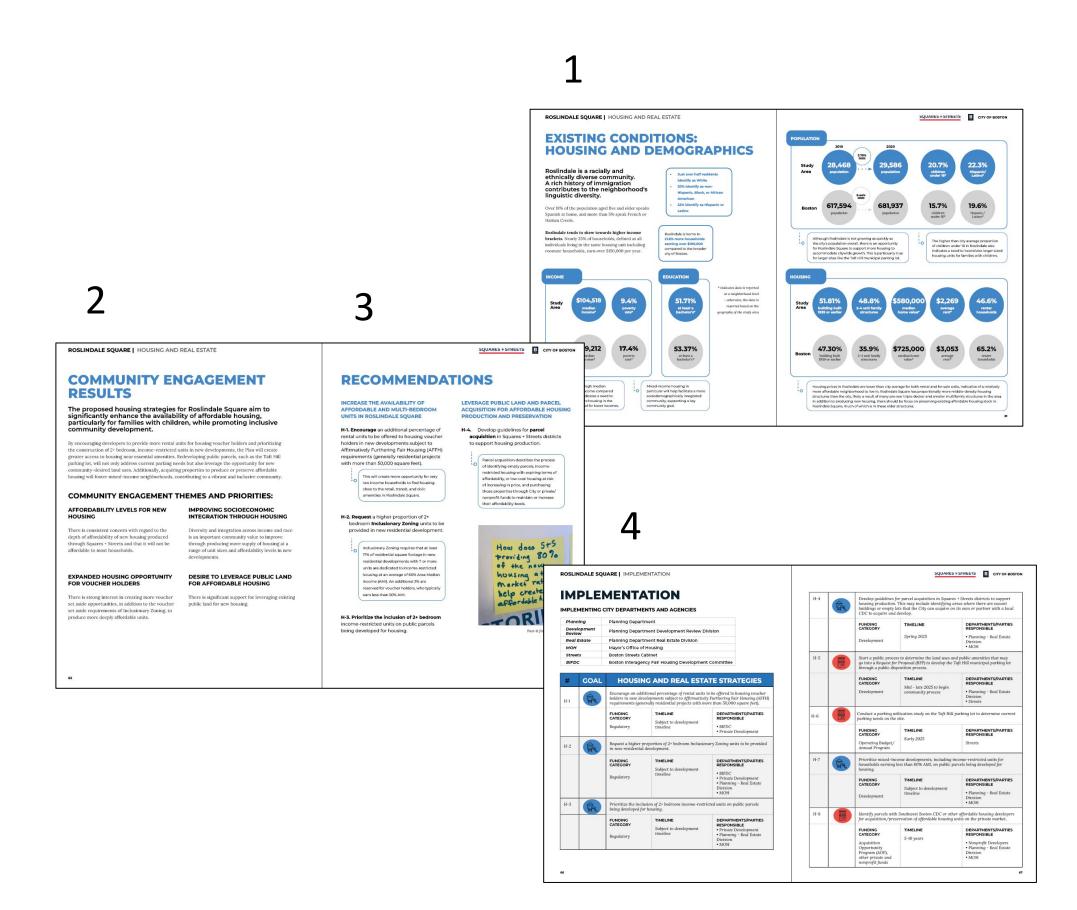


Recommendations focus on 5 topic areas:

- Land Use and Design Framework
- Housing and Real Estate Small Businesses
- Arts + Culture
- Transportation and Public Realm

Each Recommendation chapter contains the following information:

- Existing conditions summary
- 2. Community engagement results
- Recommendations
- 4. Implementation table (including timeline, responsible parties, and funding for each recommendation)

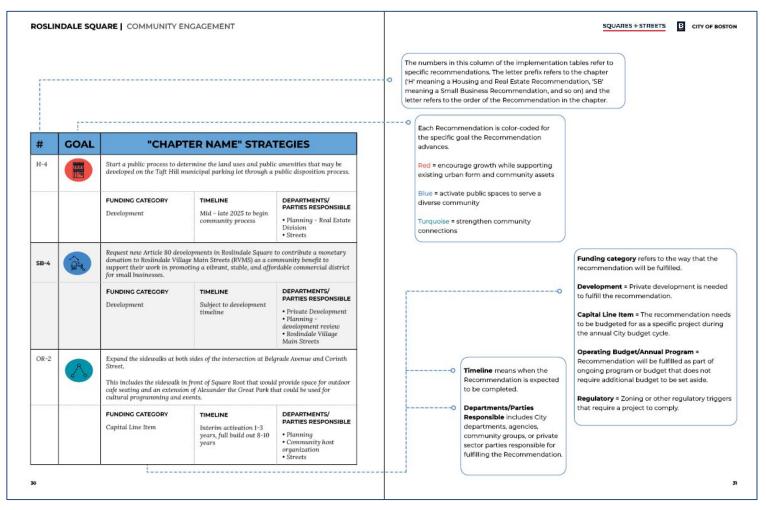


Most recommendations are fulfilled in the following ways:

- 1. Private development, which includes...
 - a. New construction or adaptation of existing buildings
 - b. Community benefits or mitigation through Article 80
- 2. Regulatory action, which includes...
 - a. Zoning map amendments
 - b. Regulatory triggers such as Inclusionary Zoning
 - c. Policy research and implementation
- 3. Capital line item, which includes...
 - a. Specific projects that are budgeted for during the annual City budget cycle (i.e. an intersection redesign or facility upgrade)
- 4. Operating Budget or Annual Program, which includes...
 - a. Ongoing City program or annual budget allocation for staffing that does not require additional budget to be set aside (i.e. Technical Assistance Program or administration of ongoing street or park improvements)

A Recommendation table in the Plan explains what each category in the implementation tables means



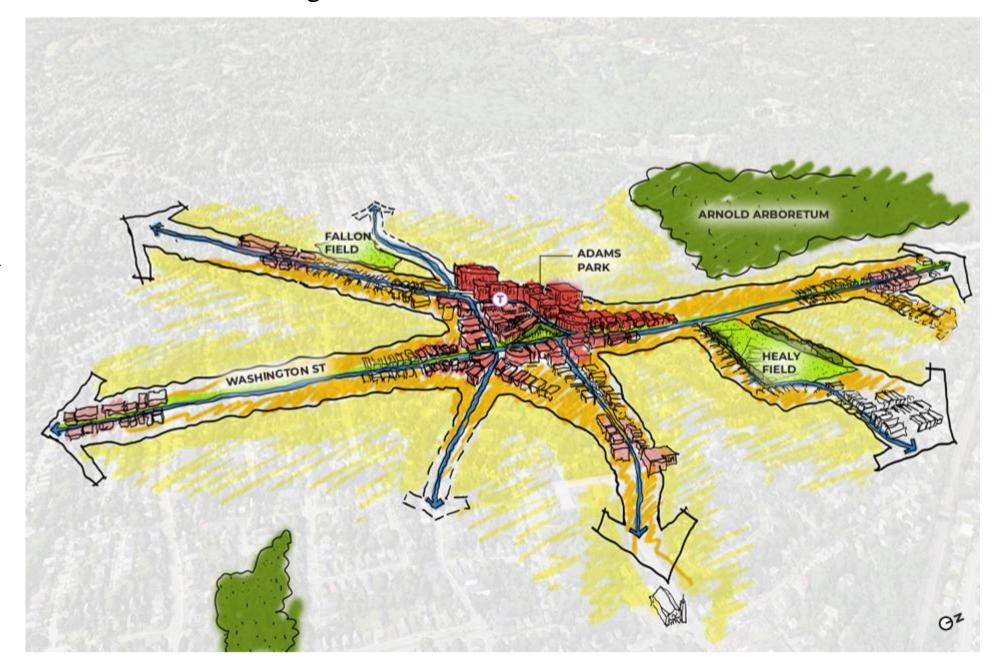


The draft land use and design framework recommends

- where future development should occur and
- what that development should look like

In Roslindale Square, the draft framework recommends future land uses, scales of new buildings, infrastructure and community amenities (i.e. outdoor amenity space)

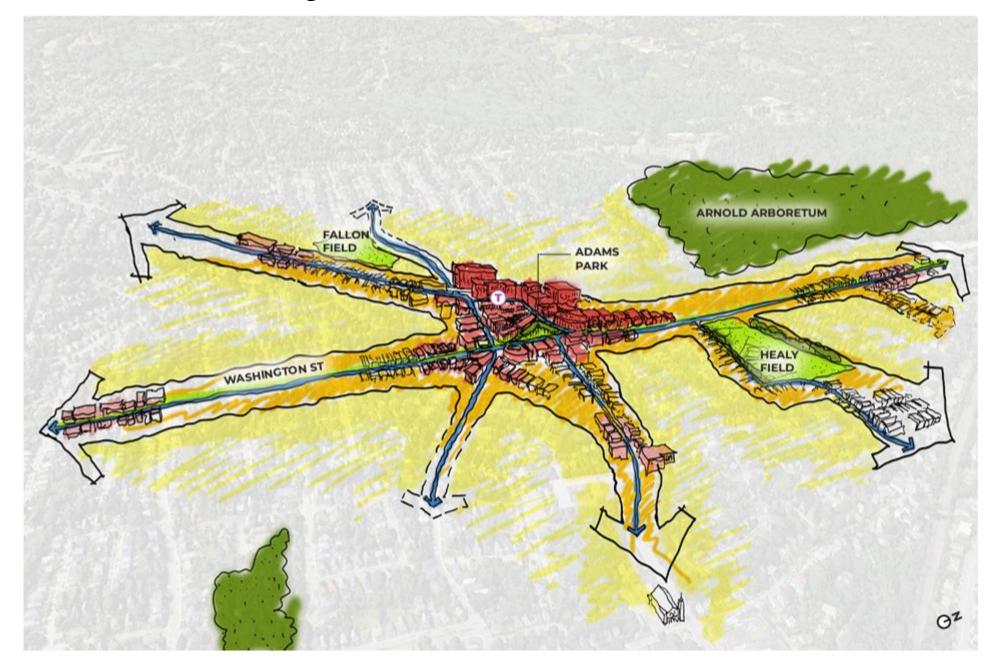
Draft Land Use and Design Framework



The Land Use and Design Framework will be **implemented** primarily through:

- 1. Zoning map amendment (to be released after the conclusion of the draft Plan comment period in early February 2025)
- 2. Design guidelines (to be applied in design review for all projects within a Squares + Streets zoning district)

Draft Land Use and Design Framework

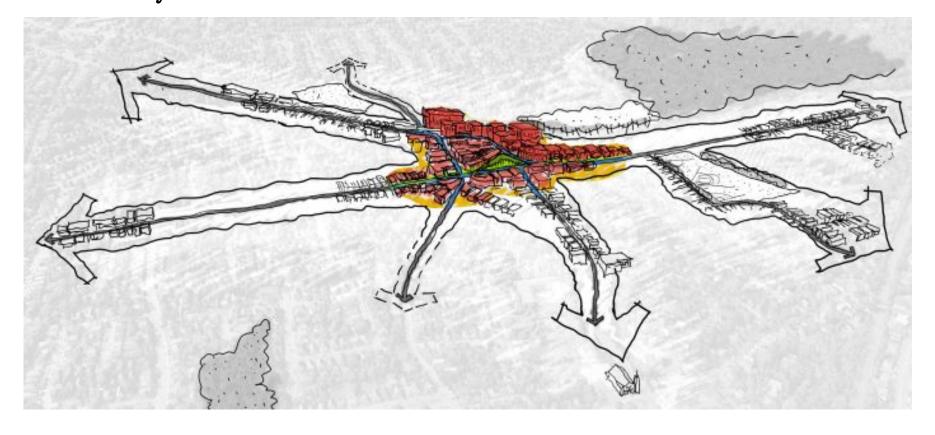


In Roslindale Square, the Land Use and Design Framework envisions:

A **community and commercial core** centered around Adams Park that enables:

- higher-density mixed-use housing growth,
- active ground floors,
- opportunities for public spaces such as outdoor seating, pedestrian connections, and publicly accessible open space.

Community + Commercial Core



Existing conditions today:





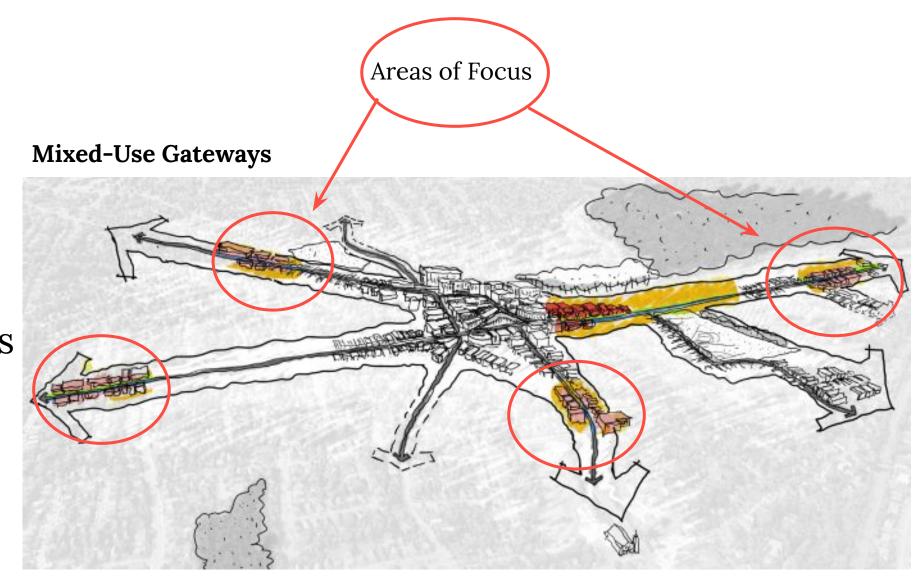


Area 2: Mixed-Use Gateways

In Roslindale Square, the Land Use and Design Framework envisions:

A series of **mixed-use gateways** at existing commercial clusters (listed below) at the edges of the Square that accommodate greater commercial flexibility than already there and further encourages small-to-medium scale housing options.

- Around the intersection of Archdale Rd/Washington St
- Around the intersection of Sycamore St/Cummins Hwy
- Around the intersection of Metropolitan Ave/Washington St
- Around the intersection of Walworth St/Belgrade Ave



Existing conditions today:







In Roslindale Square, the Land Use and Design Framework envisions:

An **active main street** between Adams Park and Healy Field that:

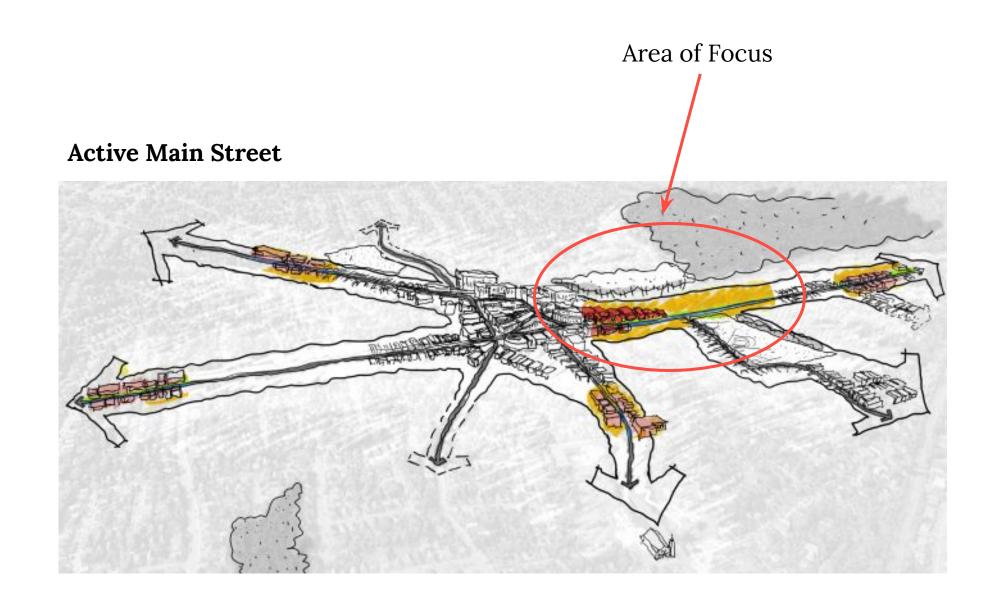
• strengthens the connection between Adams Park and Healy Field

 allows for desired larger-scale land uses, such as entertainment uses and indoor recreational spaces

 provides opportunity for mixed-use growth, especially housing above active ground floor

commercial spaces







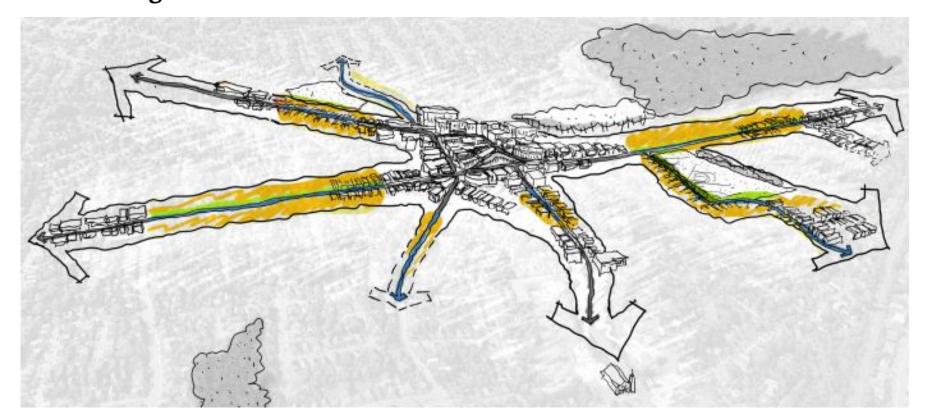


In Roslindale Square, the Land Use and Design Framework envisions:

Strengthened **connecting streets** (such as Belgrade Ave, Cummins Highway, and Washington Street) that:

- affirm the existing residential character of multi-unit homes
- allow greater flexibility for small-scale, low-impact commercial uses.

Connecting Streets



Existing conditions today:







Draft Recommendations: Housing + Real Estate



Recommendations primarily rely on **regulatory triggers** and **private development** to accomplish the following:

Yield greater affordability and larger incomerestricted housing units in new housing developments

Recommendation:

Request more 2+ bedroom
Inclusionary Zoning (IZ)
units and more units
marketed to housing
voucher holders

Initiate a framework to purchase or develop underused or vacant parcels for housing

Recommendation:

Start a public process to determine land uses and public amenities on the **Taft Hill municipal parking lot**

Taft Hill municipal parking lot



Multifamily housing located off Washington Street



Support the creation of mixed-income housing and preservation of existing affordable income-restricted and market housing

Recommendation:

Use tools in forthcoming citywide AntiDisplacement Action Plan to identify opportunities for acquisition of affordable housing

Recommendations primarily rely on **operating budget/annual programs** and **private development** to:

Encourage desired commercial uses that create opportunities for gathering space in new development or in existing vacant spaces

Recommendation:

Desired commercial uses in new or currently vacant spaces include: affordable food retail, cafes/eateries and sit-down restaurants

Fornax Bakery on Corinth Street



Vacant commercial property on South St



Increase visibility and customer foot traffic in Roslindale Square, while taking policy action to address commercial vacancies

Provide targeted programmatic investments to support long-term stability of existing independently-owned businesses

Recommendation:

Develop citywide **tracking for commercial vacancies** +
support businesses in filling
vacant spaces

Recommendation:

Engage with business owners to provide Technical Assistance for **cooperative models of ownership** (like Village Market!)

Draft Recommendations: Arts + Culture

Recommendations primarily rely on **regulatory action** and **private development** to:

Facilitate more activities such as live music and movie nights in existing public spaces

Incorporate public art that reflects community diversity and contributes to a sense of place Involve community groups and organizations in creating and maintaining public art and running events in public spaces

Recommendation:

Issue a location-specific entertainment license to Birch Street Plaza to make programming easier and more frequent

Recommendation:

Establish a **public art maintenance fund** with
Roslindale Village Main
Streets to commission and
maintain new public art (i.e.
murals, interactive
sculptures, etc.)

Recommendation:

If Washington Street is restored to 2-ways, provide more opportunity for **community-led activation of Poplar Street** as an extension of Adams Park

Birch Street Plaza (Summer 2024)



Summer Farmers Market in Adams Park



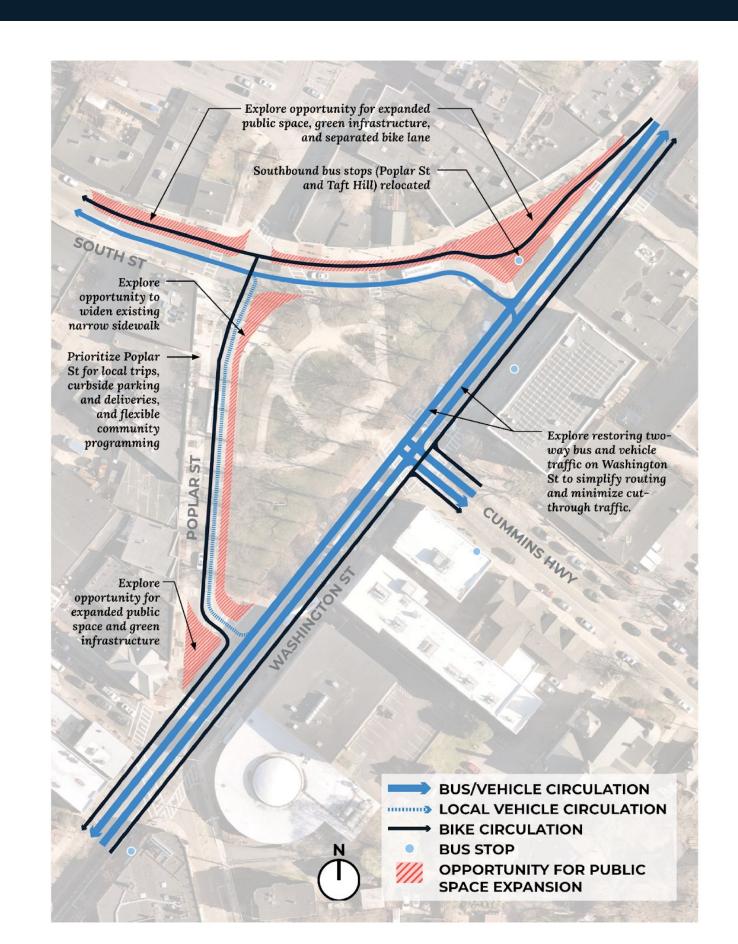
Recommendations primarily rely on **grants**, **capital line items**, and **private development** to:

* The Streets
Cabinet procured an engineering contract to advance further design work for this recommendation beginning in early 2025

Redesign unsafe intersections to expand the pedestrian realm, provide more space for greening, and simplify bus and traffic routes

Recommendation:

Explore restoring 2-way operations on Washington Street between South Street and Poplar Street*



Recommendations primarily rely on **grants**, **capital line items**, and **private development** to:

Expand green infrastructure and trees, particularly in areas that experience urban heat island and excess stormwater runoff



If Washington Streets is restored to 2-ways...Allow for Poplar Street to be a shared street, allowing for local traffic and business loading/operations while allowing for more greening



Draft Recommendations: Transportation + Public Realm

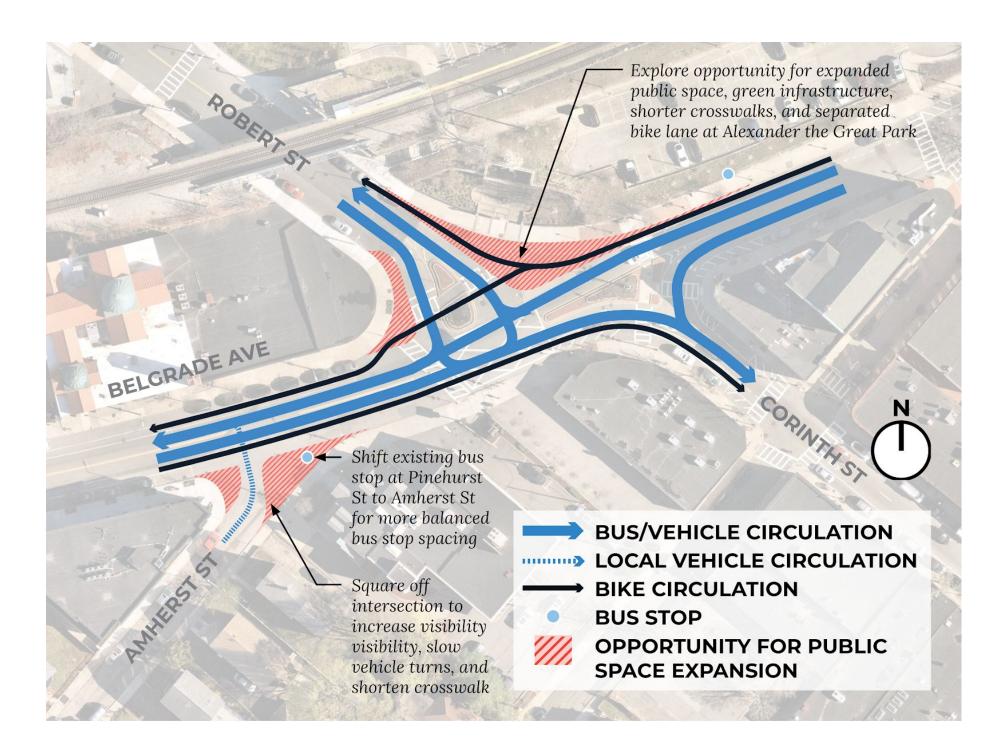
Recommendations primarily rely on **grants**, **capital line items**, and **private development** to:

* The Streets
Cabinet procured an engineering contract to advance further design work for this recommendation beginning in early 2025

Redesign unsafe intersections to expand the pedestrian realm, provide more space for greening, and simplify bus and traffic routes

Recommendation:

Reconfigure the Belgrade/ Robert St/Corinth St intersection to shorten crossings and better protect pedestrians*



Recommendations primarily rely on **grants**, **capital line items**, and **private development** to:

Expand green infrastructure and trees, particularly in areas that experience urban heat island and excess stormwater runoff



After the
Belgrade/Roberts/Corinth
Street redesign...provide
additional green
infrastructure, wider
sidewalks, and additional
public space at this
intersection



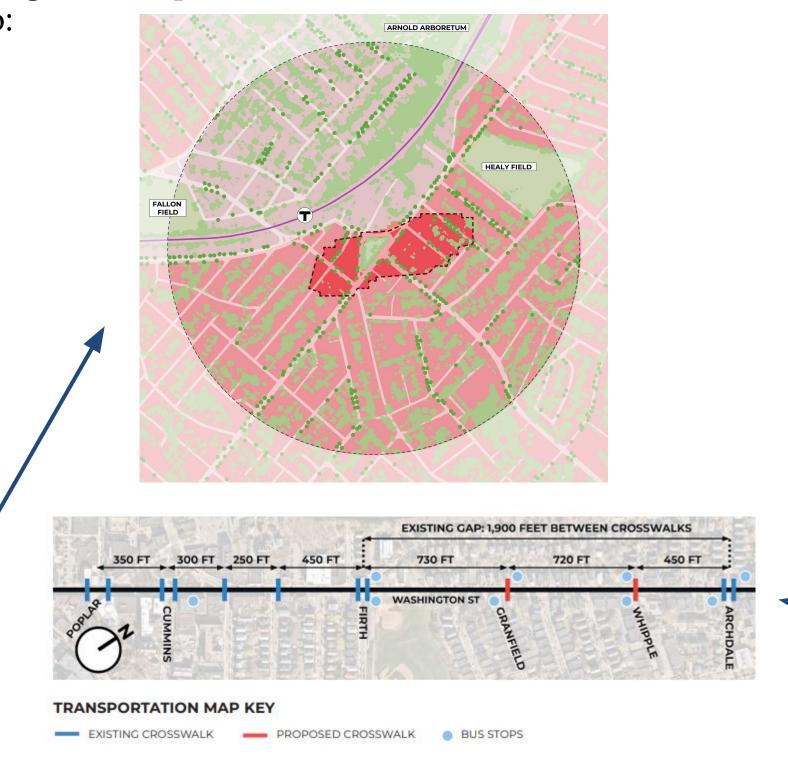
Recommendations primarily rely on grants, capital line

items, and private development to:

Expand green infrastructure and trees, particularly in areas that experience urban heat island and excess stormwater runoff

Recommendation:

Prioritize heat resilient strategies such as trees and cooling pavement materials in priority zones identified in the Urban Forest Plan (dark red on map)



Enhance transit access and efficiency for buses and the commuter rail

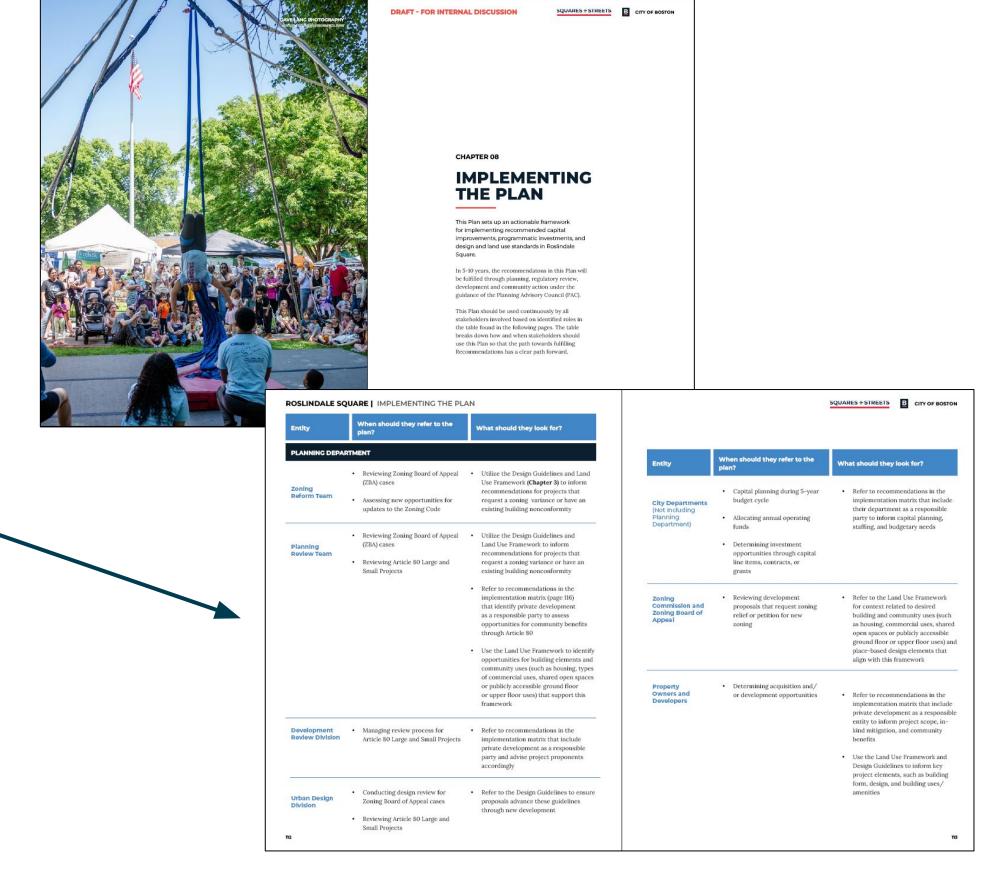
Recommendation:

Refresh bus lanes and install additional crosswalks on Washington Street

All recommendations are intended to be completed in **5-10 years** through a combination of public funding, private development, grants, and community action.

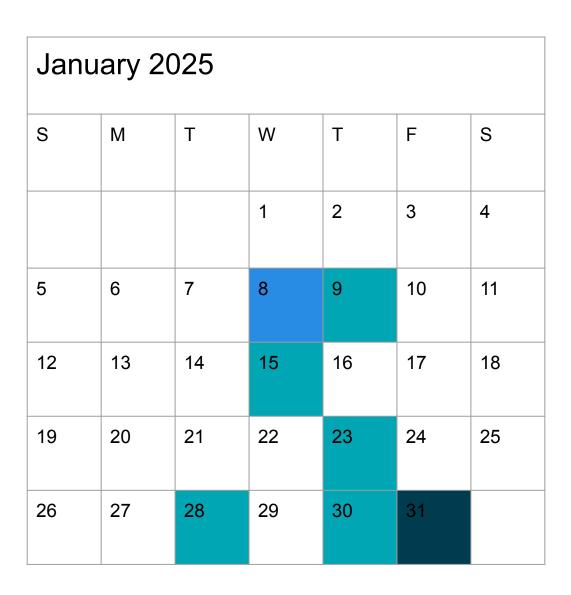
The Planning Department will work with the **Planning Advisory Council** (PAC) to track implementation of the Plan recommendations and report on progress to the public.

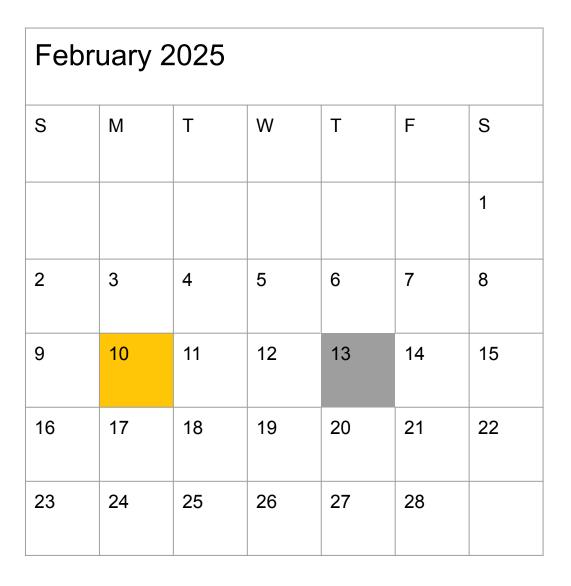
The final chapter of the Plan, "Implementing the Plan", contains a table that outlines when to refer to the Plan and what information to look for depending on one's role (Planning Department staff, private developers, community members, etc.)



A brief look ahead...

December 2024							
S	M	Т	W	Т	F	S	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30	31					





Draft Plan released



Office hours (sign up on our <u>website</u> under 'Get Involved')



End of draft Plan comment period (submit comments via the <u>public comment form</u> or email <u>squaresandstreets@boston.gov</u> or <u>eileen.michaud@boston.gov</u>



Draft zoning map amendment released



BPDA Board (Plan only)

What kind of feedback are we looking for?



As you are reviewing the draft Plan, ask yourself:

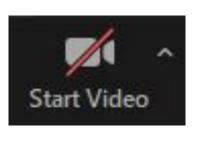
- 1. Does the language make sense to me? Can I easily interpret what it means?
- 2. Is there a recommendation that I agree/do not agree with and why?
- 3. Is there missing information that should inform or help me better understand the recommendations?

We will incorporate feedback from this public meeting, office hours, one on one discussions, emails, and comment letters to:

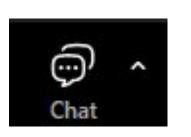
- 1. **Modify recommendations** that reflects community priorities and needs
- 2. **Add context** that helps inform and support recommendations
- 3. **Clarify language** to make it more accessible

- If you're joining by phone, dial *9 to raise your hand and wait to be called upon and dial *6 to unmute and mute.
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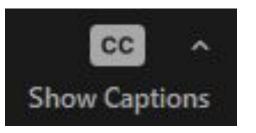
Turn video on/off



Use the chat feature to write questions and comments



Raise hand to get in line to ask a question or provide comment



Turn on captions

The public comment period for the Plan is open until Friday, January 31st!

Here are the ways to provide your feedback:

- <u>Public comment form</u> on our website
- Email <u>squaresandstreets@boston.gov</u> or <u>eileen.michaud@boston.gov</u>
- Attend office hours (virtual and in-person) sign up on our <u>website</u> under 'Get Involved'

Project Contacts

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