

Crosstown

Columbia Road Greenway

Create a neighborhood friendly street connecting to Franklin and Moakley Parks

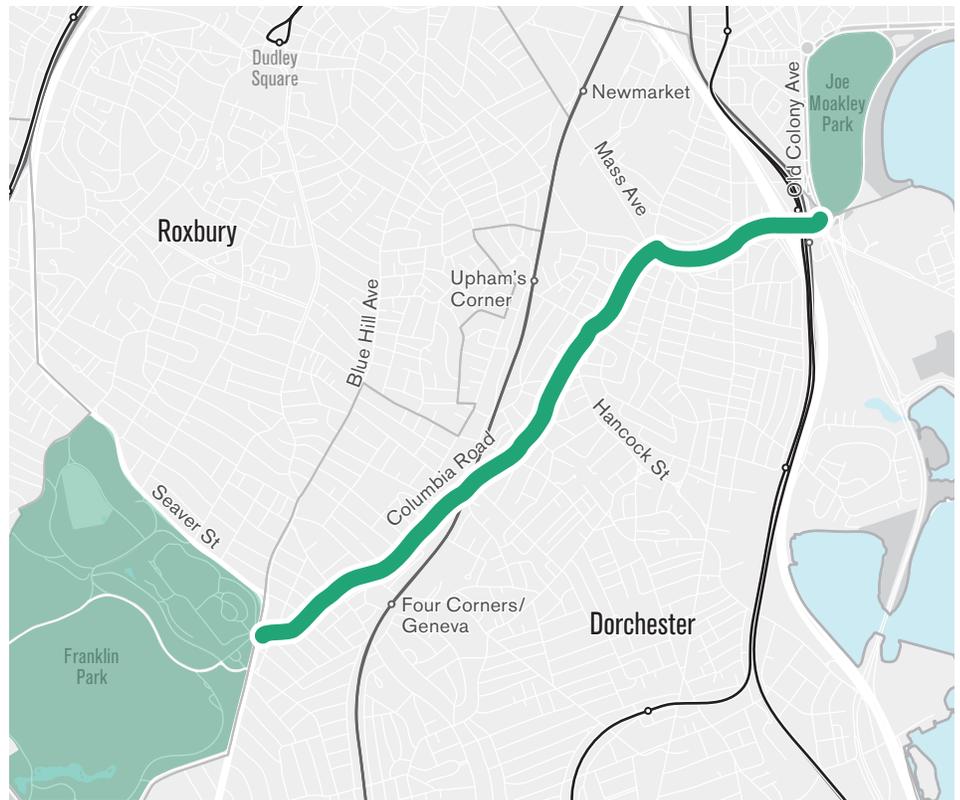
Project Score

- Access 1
- Access 2
- Safety 1
- Safety 2
- Reliability
- Affordability
- Sustainability/Resiliency 1
- Sustainability/Resiliency 2
- Governance

#17 in public voting

Project Description

With over 100-feet between building faces, Columbia Road is one of the widest streets in Boston. The proposed greenway would preserve vehicle travel in both directions while consolidating the median, sidewalks, and wider areas into a context-sensitive linear park stretching from Franklin Park to Moakley Park. The allocation of roadway space will be determined in conjunction with local residents and will include improved pedestrian paths and crossings, protected bike paths, and significantly more trees to transform this former boulevard into a vibrant green corridor that is connected to the *Blue Hill multiuse path to the south*, the *Fairmount Greenway*, *Dorchester Ave. Complete Street*, and the Carson Beach bike path, creating a continuous protected bicycling network into Downtown.



Benefits and Issues Addressed

The Emerald Necklace connects Boston Common to the Fenway, the Arboretum, and Franklin Park, but it is disconnected from Boston's waterfront and its other Olmsted Parks. Completing this piece of the Emerald Necklace with improved paths for walking and biking will connect residents of Roxbury and Dorchester to Boston Harbor and beyond. It will also provide a corridor designed to improve public health through active transportation opportunities and better air quality. The greenway also provides an essential last-mile connection for thousands of residents to the *Fairmount Urban Rail* at Four Corners Station and the Red Line at JFK/UMass Station, as well as becoming the central part of a continuous through connection from Dedham to Downtown, serving Hyde Park, Mattapan, Dorchester, and South Boston.

Best Practices

In Indianapolis, IN, the Cultural Trail runs along downtown streets connecting multiple cultural districts. Designed as a series of connected bicycle paths, the links provide both green spaces and places to walk and bike. As part of the trail, Indy's Massachusetts Avenue gained significant green space and a bicycle path. streetsblog.org/2007/10/15/indianapolis-paves-the-way-for-bikes-and-pedestrians/ and indyculturaltrail.org/



Photo credit: Flickr user Eric Fischer

Implementation

Planning Level Costs: \$17 million for design and construction
Potential Funding Sources: City capital budget, private contributions, Boston MPO TIP
Who's Responsible: BTM, Public Works, and Boston Parks
Time Frame: Within five to 15 years in conjunction with local community process

Public Input

"Columbia Road is a main transportation corridor in North Dorchester with car and bus congestion that inhibits walking and biking, creating an unsafe and unpleasant experience for getting to local schools, businesses and other community amenities. ... [Explore] the idea of a green, safe Columbia Road that restores the historic connection between Franklin Park and the Harbor, and has wide sidewalks, street trees, and a balance between people in cars, buses and on bicycles."

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