

An aerial photograph of a city street grid, overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text 'Centre South Streetscape Design' is centered in white. A black square with a white 'B' and a red horizontal bar is in the bottom center. The date 'May 14, 2018' is in the bottom right.

Centre South Streetscape Design

B

May 14, 2018

Agenda

- Introduction
- Background
 - Go Boston 2030
 - Centre and South Streets Streetscape and Transportation Action Plan (2011)
 - Completed and Ongoing Projects
- Centre South Design Scope (2018)
 - Updating the “Design Palette”
- Discussion & Break out groups

Introduction

- **Design**
 - Engineered Concepts for Improvements
- **Public Process**
 - Open public meetings
- **Schedule**
 - Next public meeting Fall 2018
 - Complete designs Spring 2019



The Centre South Community

City Team

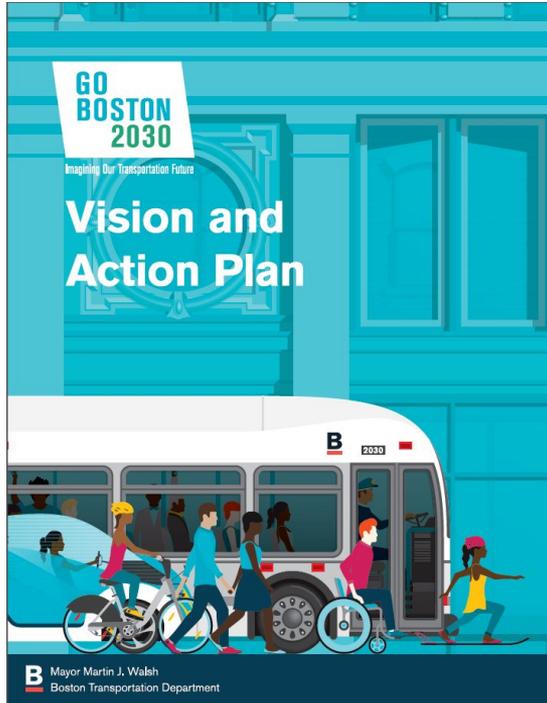
Boston Transportation Department
Public Works Department
Boston Planning and Development Agency
Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services
Disabilities Commission
Arts Commission
Parks Department
Water and Sewer

Consultant Team

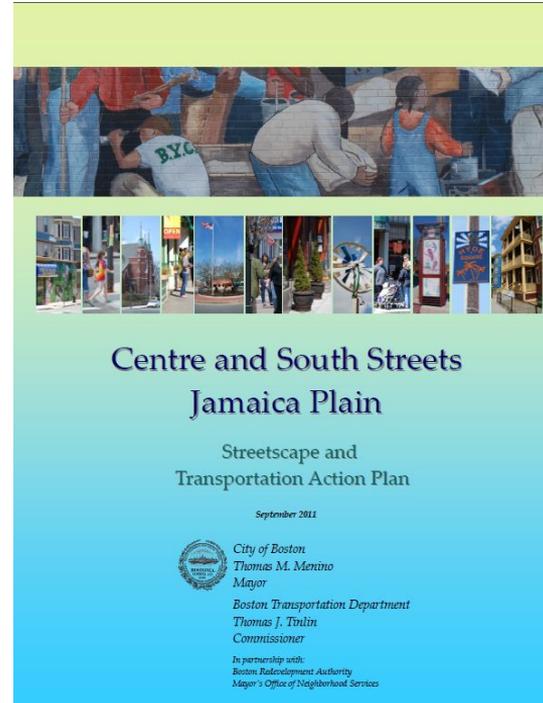
Nitsch Engineering
Kyle Zick Landscape Architects

Background

Two major relevant planning efforts:



Go Boston 2030



Centre South Transportation Action Plan (2011)



Key Aspirational Targets

Access

Every home in Boston within a 10 min walk of rail station or Key Bus Route, Hubway Station, *and* carshare

From **42%** of households to **100%**

Reliability

Bostonians' average commute to work time will decrease by **10%**

From **28.8** minutes to **25.9**

Safety

Eliminate traffic fatalities in Boston

From an average of **18** per year to **zero traffic deaths**

All households within a 5 minute walk of a protected bicycle facility or shared use path

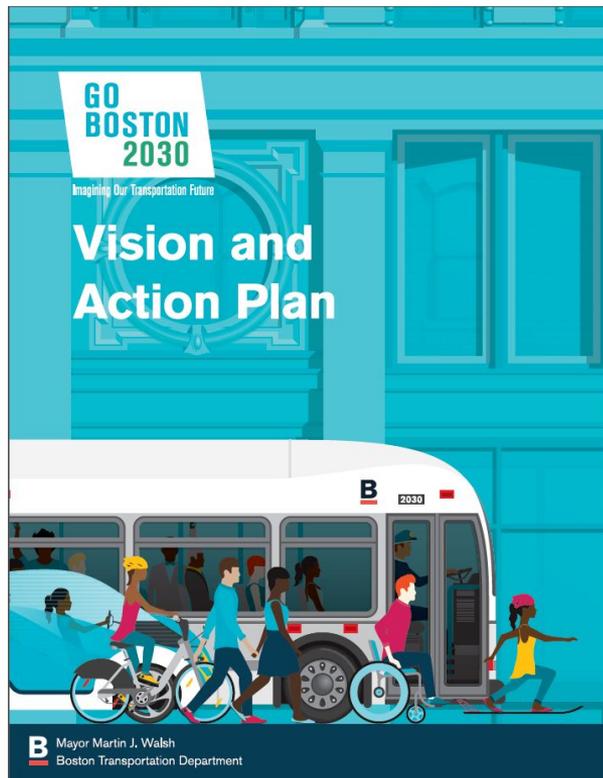
From **20%** to **100%**

Background: Go Boston 2030

How We Get to Work Today and Aspire to in 2030

Boston Commuters	Share Today	2030 Aspirational
Public Transit	33%	Up by a third
Walk	14.5%	Up by almost half
Bike	1.9%	Increases fourfold
Carpool	5.4%	Declines marginally
Drive Alone	40.6%	Down by half
Other, WFH	4.5%	Slight increase in WFH

Background: Go Boston 2030

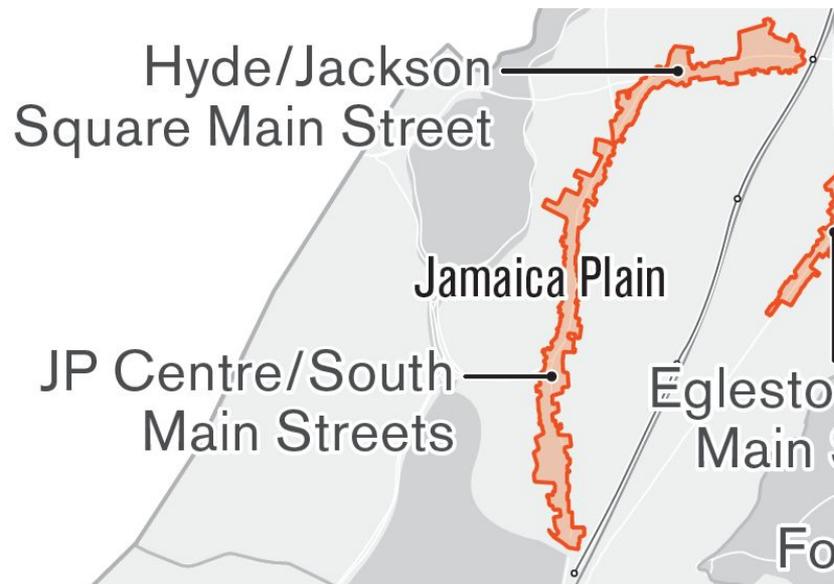


Go Boston 2030

Local

Walk- and Bike-Friendly Main Streets

Improvements to neighborhood commercial districts for people traveling on foot and by bike



Background: Centre South Transportation Action Plan (2011)

- Over a dozen well-attended meetings involving residents, the business community, and advocacy groups
- Recommended improvements designed to:
 - Improve safety and accessibility
 - Enhance the pedestrian environment
 - Promote bicycling
 - Improve traffic-flow
 - Manage parking
 - Facilitate access to transit

Vision Statement



Establish Centre/South as the area's **MAIN STREET**, drawing out new and existing connections while celebrating the diversity of its people and places.

*Diverse, and unified...Beautiful, and functional
Special, and ordinary...Connected, and stands alone
is the vision for Jamaica Plain's Centre/South Street corridor.
A place where all uses and users are functionally and aesthetically integrated in a safe, convenient
and accessible environment.*

Background: Centre South Transportation Action Plan (2011)

Build upon the corridor's identity to create a 21st century street with a Jamaica Plain character

- Create an environment and infrastructure that encourages people to choose car-free options
- Restore appropriate density along the corridor, with more mixed uses

- Create and utilize public realm behaviors to increase vitality (farmers Markets, rear doors, outdoor seating)

- Provide special places for people to be along the corridor
- Celebrate the rich



Bright colors and storefronts with high frequency add interest to the sidewalk environment.

Physical infrastructure

- Ensure a well-lit street environment, with fixtures and storefront lighting of appropriate scale
- Increase street trees/canopy with species appropriate to adjacent land uses



Murals combined with the other public art and historic structures, offer the foundation for an "arts and culture walk".



When combined with other public art and historic structures, offer the foundation for an "arts and culture walk".

Create a place for all uses and users



- Preserve adequate traffic flow throughout the district

- Optimize management of parking resources
- Factor in the operational needs of businesses and business functions
- Promote and enhance the neighborhood's transit system including the proposed improvements to the route 39 corridor, to serve Jamaica Plain's future and expand accessibility.

Professional sidewalk street clutter, with...
Employ sustainable design strategies for all installations

softscape and hardscape installations, to reduce the corridor's carbon footprint, increase energy efficiency, and promote sky lighting.

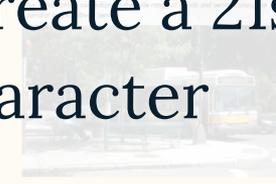
High bicycling interest and activity with a safe, convenient bicycling environment

- Develop a pedestrian friendly corridor with a focus on pedestrian nodes and continuous sidewalk paths



Pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles need to share the public realm, balancing the needs of all.

Reinforce the Centre/South corridors as the local & regional center of Jamaica Plain



differring needs of users, including children, elderly, and the disabled community



Public art, murals, and historic structures, offer the foundation for an "arts and culture walk".

- Create gateway locations to and on the corridor
- Enhance connections to open spaces
- Integrate connections to and management of side streets
- Maximize connections to public transportation



Public art, murals, and historic structures, offer the foundation for an "arts and culture walk".

Background: Centre South Transportation Action Plan (2011)

Sections include:

- Corridor-wide streetscape guidelines: a design palette
- Bicycle Network Plan
- Parking Analysis
- Transportation Nodes
 - Hyde Square
 - Monument Square
 - Jackson Sq to Mozart Park



Background: Completed and Ongoing Work

Centre and South Street
Bike lanes

First bike lanes in City - 2010.



Background: Completed and Ongoing Work

Hyde Square
reconstruction
Completed 2018

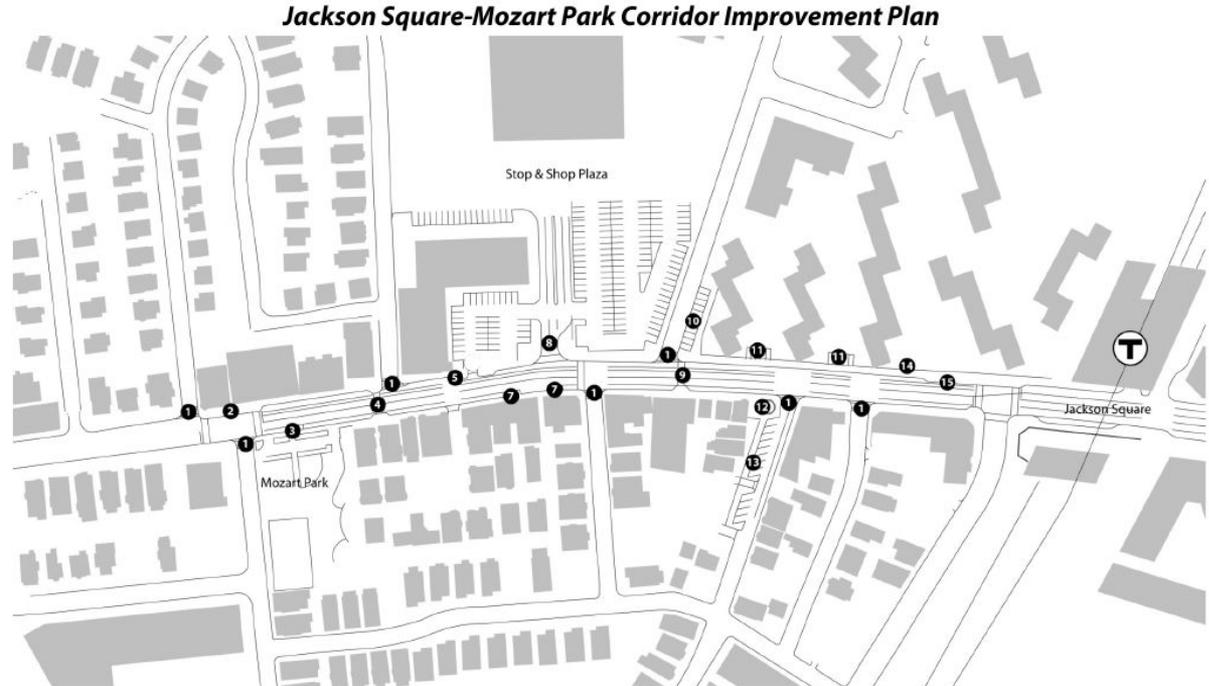


Background: Completed and Ongoing Work

Centre Street
repaving, 2018

*Jackson Square to
Hyde Square*

Detail from 2011 plan



Centre South Design: 2018

Detail from 2011 plan

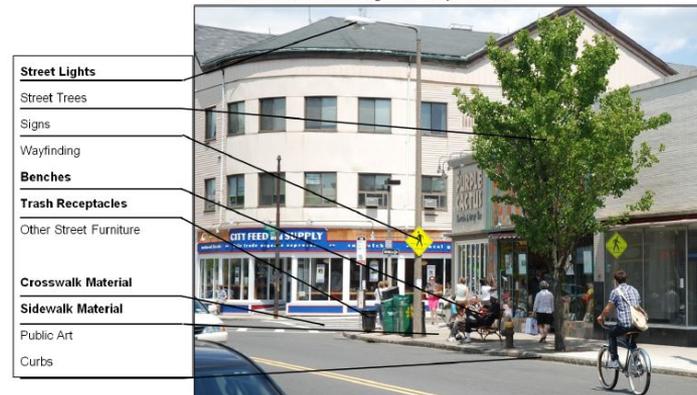
Update the “Design Palette”

1. Sidewalks
2. Crosswalks
3. Street Lights
4. Street Trees
5. Street Furniture
6. Safety at Traffic Signals

Recommended Elements



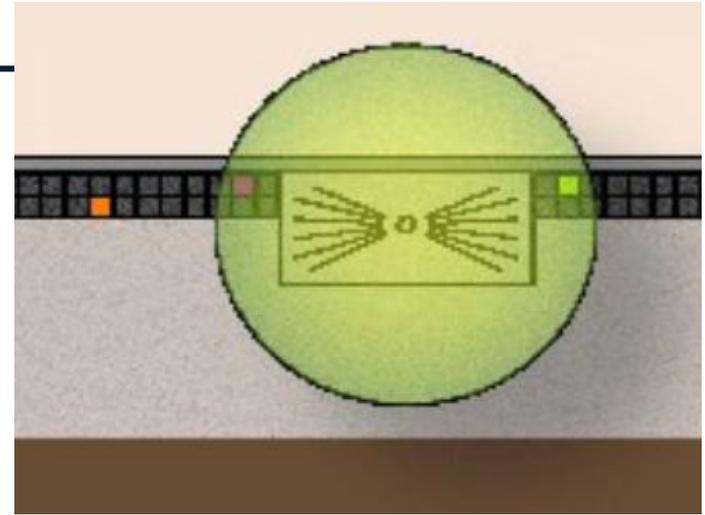
Elements of the Existing Streetscape Palette



Centre South Design: Sidewalks

2011 Plan:

- Widen where possible
- Curb extensions provide opportunities for street furniture
- Grey concrete is preferred material
- “Feature strip” of granite or concrete unit pavers, accented with colored glass inserts, in commercial or special areas



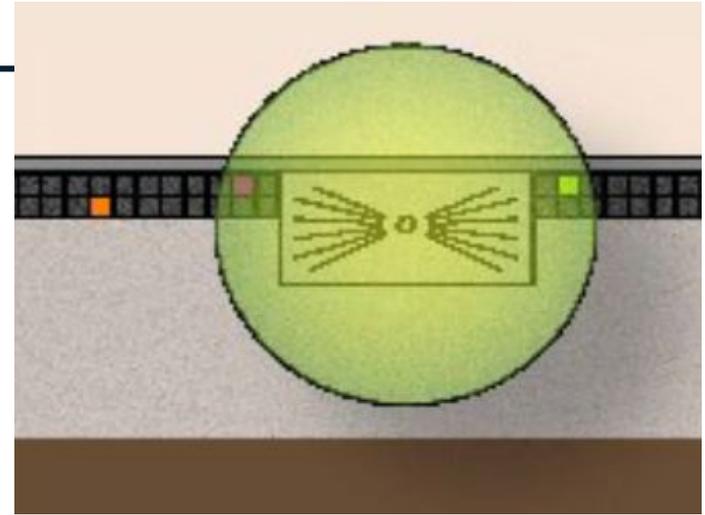
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2018 Scope:

- Evaluate sidewalk alignment & condition. Propose locations for expanded sidewalks
- Design a “feature strip”



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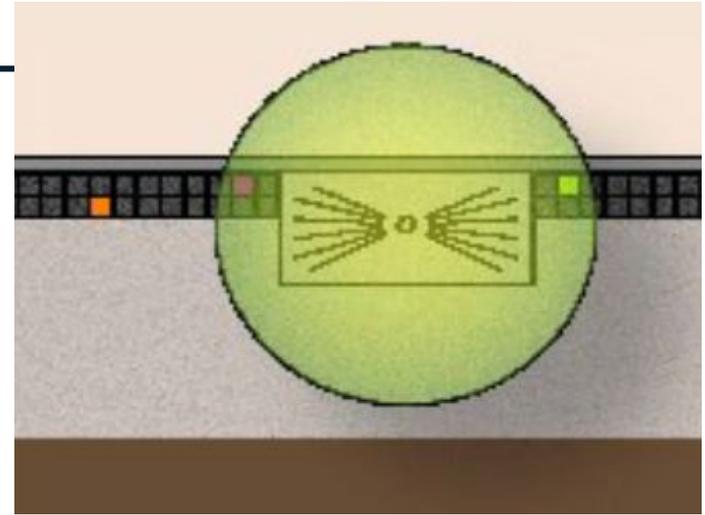
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Questions for today:

- Where is sidewalk too narrow?
- Where is sidewalk in bad condition?
- What would you like to see in a feature strip?



Centre South Design: Crosswalks

2011 Plan:

- Traditional ladder crosswalks
- Raised crosswalks across side streets



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- Raised crosswalks across side streets

2018 Scope:

- Evaluate and identify side street locations for raised crosswalks, considering drainage, etc

Questions for today:

- What streets along Centre and South should we look at for raised crosswalks?



Centre South Design: Street Lighting

2011 Plan:

- Hyde Square to Carolina Avenue
 - City's standard "acorn" street light
 - In scale with street and abutting uses.
- Hyde Square to Jackson Square; Carolina Avenue to Forest Hills
 - City's standard "pendant" style lights
 - Fit in with pattern on adjacent streets



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- Propose street lighting plan for corridor



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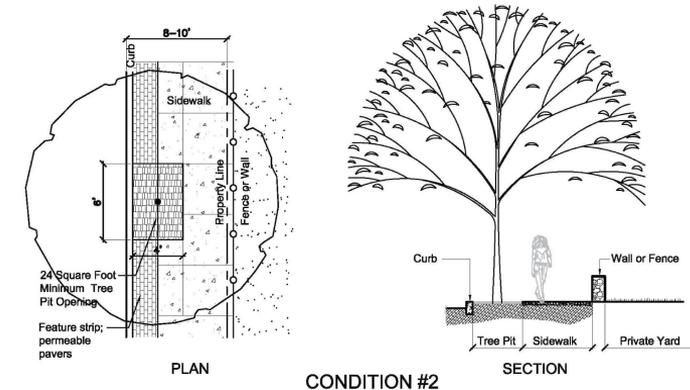
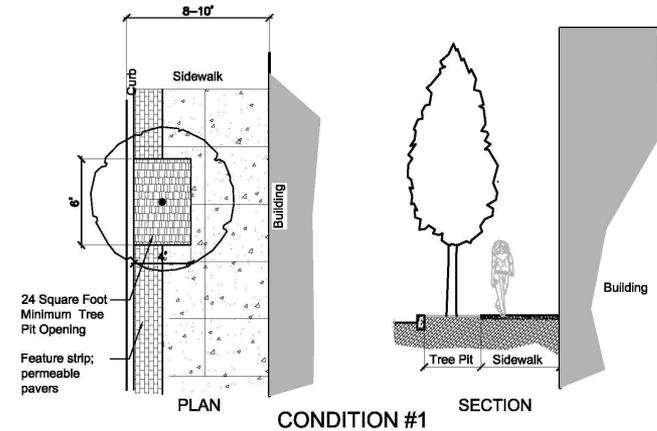
- Are these the right zones?
- Are there locations to consider for additional street lighting?



Centre South Design: Street Trees

2011 Plan:

- A “sense of green”
- Narrow sidewalks, especially in commercial areas:
narrow trees
 - Preserve sight lines to businesses
- Non-commercial areas, with wider sidewalks:
wide, spreading shade trees
 - Reduce heat island effect, improve air quality
- Encourage trees on private property



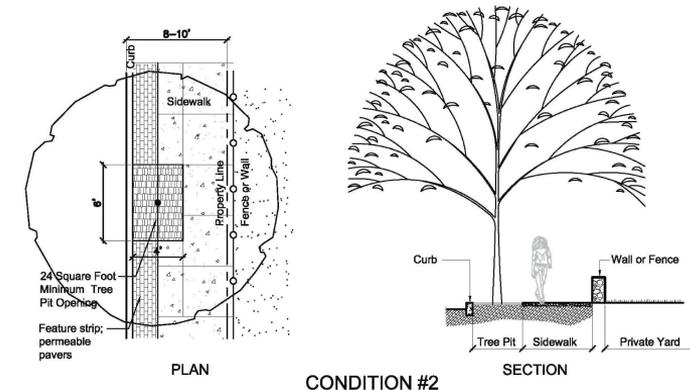
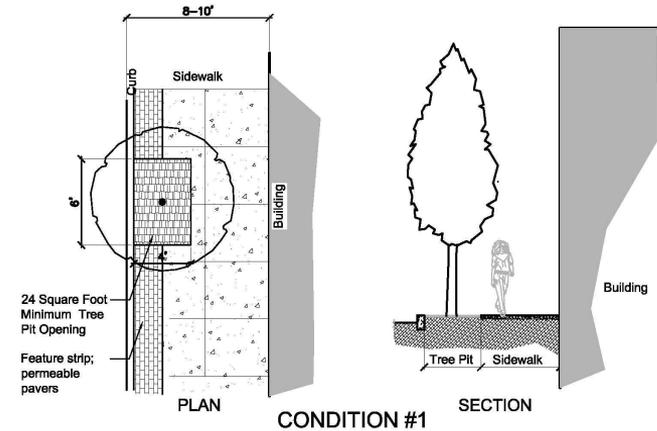
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2018 Scope:

- Review location and condition of existing street trees, working with Parks
- Propose street tree plan based on City guidelines



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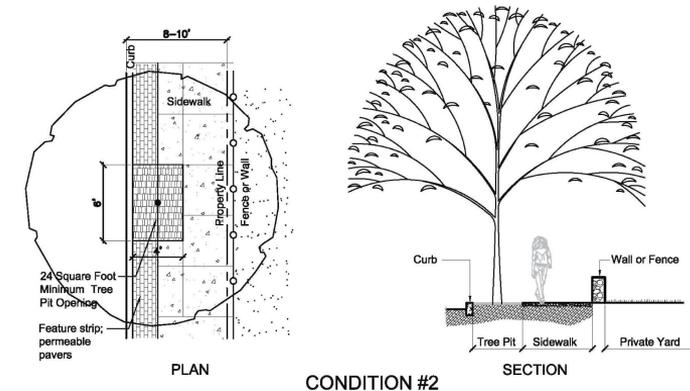
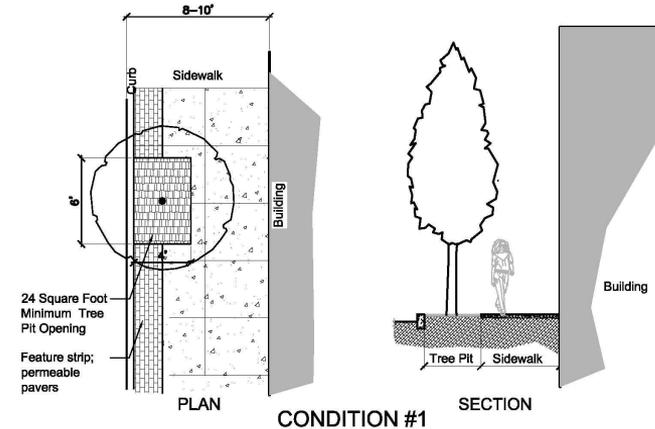
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Centre South Design: Street Furniture

2011 Plan:

- Black-finish steel benches with center armrest
- Solar compactor trash disposals
- City standard bike racks should be ubiquitous
- Newspaper boxes should be grouped
- Coordinate wayfinding
- Identify locations for public art



Mural "Gods of the Taino Peoples" by Rafael Rivera Garcia 1984

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2018 Scope:

- Evaluate distribution of street furniture & propose street furniture plan
- Propose potential locations for public art



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Questions for today:

- Is this still the right palette?
- Are there locations to consider for benches, bike racks, public art, etc.?
- What should wayfinding point to?

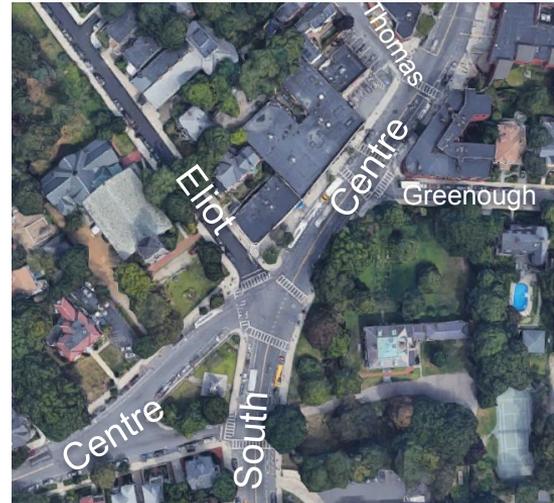



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Centre South Design: Safety at Traffic Signals

2011 Plan:

- Well-timed traffic signals will add to safety



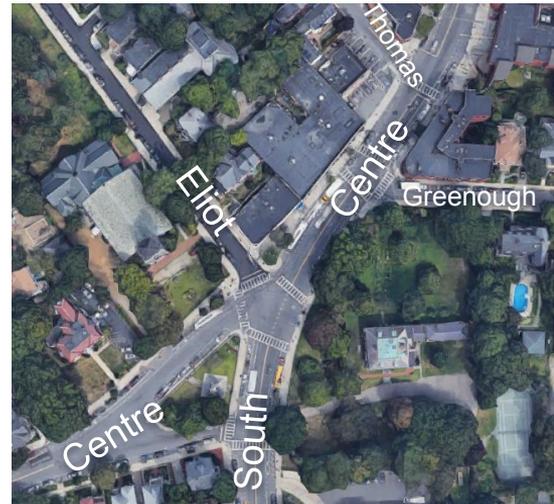
Centre South Design: Safety at Traffic Signals

2011 Plan:

- Well-timed traffic signals will add to safety

2018 Scope:

- Develop conceptual designs:
 - Centre Street at Stop and Shop
 - Centre Street between Monument Square and Thomas Street



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2018 Scope:

- Develop conceptual designs:
 - Centre Street at Stop and Shop
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Questions for today:

- What do you think about these locations?



Centre South Planning: Scope

Sidewalks

- Evaluate sidewalk alignment & condition. Propose locations for expanded sidewalks
- Design a “feature strip”

Crosswalks

- Evaluate and identify side street locations for raised crosswalks, considering drainage, etc

Street Lighting

- Evaluate existing lighting locations and fixture types, working with PWD
- Propose street lighting plan for corridor

Street Trees

- Review location and condition of existing street trees, working with Parks
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Street Furniture

- Evaluate distribution of street furniture & propose street furniture plan
- Propose potential locations for public art

Safety at Traffic Signals

- Develop conceptual designs:
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Centre South Planning: Going Forward

- **Tonight:**
 - Update “Design Palette”
 - Help us focus on locations
- **Fall 2018:**
 - Meet to share proposed concept plans and designs
- **Spring 2019:**
 - Final concept engineered plans and designs

Centre South Planning: Tell us tonight

Sidewalks

- Where is sidewalk too narrow?
- Where is sidewalk in bad condition?
- What would you like to see in a feature strip?

Crosswalks

- What streets along Centre and South should we look for raised crosswalks?

Street Lighting

- Are these the right zones?
- Are there locations to consider for additional street lighting?

Street Trees

- Are these the right zones?
- Are there locations to consider for additional street trees?

Street Furniture

- Is this still the right palette?
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- What should wayfinding point to?

Safety at Traffic Signals

- What do you think about these locations?

Centre South Planning: Tell us tonight

- Please work through each question as a group at each table.
- Each table will have a City staff member who will moderate.
- Each table will look for a volunteer to take notes and present the discussion to the group.

6:00 - 6:45 Presentation

6:45 - 7:30 Break Out

7:30 - 8:00 Report Back