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# STREET LIGHTING

*Reconstruction of Cummins Highway*

September 21, 2021



Public Works

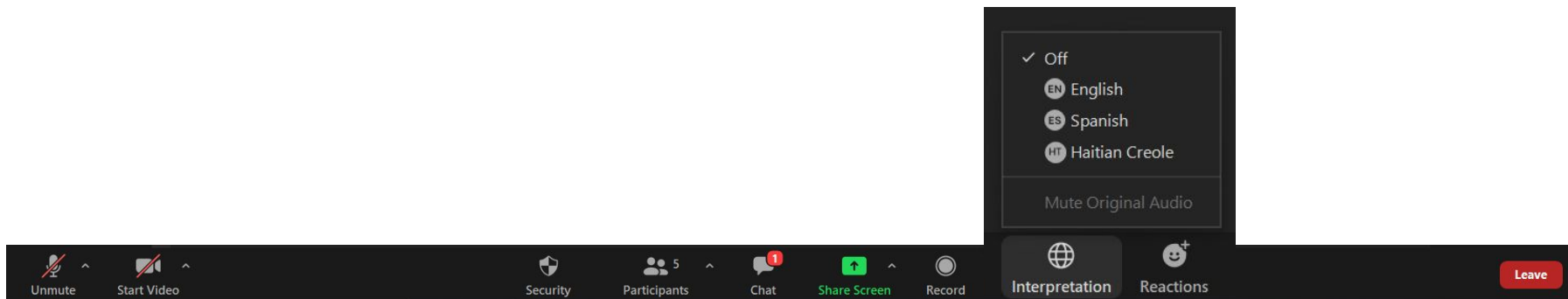


Transportation

# Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Akeyi!

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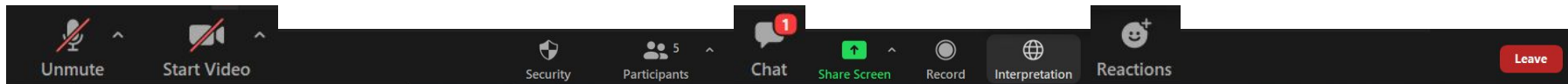
- Si hablas español y prefieres escuchar la reunión en esta lengua utiliza el botón de “Interpretation” (Interpretación) para acceder al canal de audio en español.
- *Si w pale Kreyòl Ayisyen e w prefere tande reyinyon an nan lang sa a tanpri sèvi ak bouton "Interpretation" (Entèpretation) pou w jwenn aksè ak chèn odyo pou Kreyòl Ayisyen an.*



# Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Akeyi!

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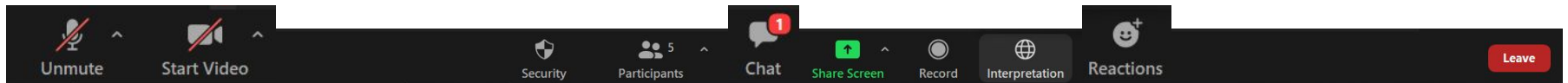
- This meeting **will be recorded**.
  - Esta reunión **será grabada**.
  - *Reyinyon sa a **ap anrejistre**.*
- Update your name in Zoom to include your preferred name and your pronouns.
  - Actualiza tu nombre en Zoom con tu nombre preferido y tus pronombres.
  - *Aktyalize non w sou Zoom pou w mete non prefere w ak pwonon w.*



# Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Akeyi!

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- Your microphones are turned off to start. You will need to unmute to speak. Joining via phone? Press **\*6** to unmute.
  - Tu micrófono está apagado al empezar. Tendrás que reactivarlo para hablar. ¿Participando por teléfono? Presiona **\*6** para reactivar el micrófono.
  - *Mikwo w fèmen pou kòmanse. Ou pral bezwen ouvri mikwo a pou w pale. W ap konekte pa telefòn? Peze **\*6** pou ouvri mikwo a.*
- You can use non-verbal feedback options. Raise your hand or leave a message in the chat box if you have a question. If you called into the meeting, use **\*9** to raise your hand.
  - Puedes utilizar las opciones de reacción no verbales. O dejar un mensaje en el chat si tienes alguna pregunta. Si estás llamando por teléfono usa **\*9** para levantar la mano.
  - *Ou gendwa sèvi ak opsyon fidbak non-vèbal. Leve men w oswa kite yon mesaj nan bwat tchat la si w genyen yon kesyon. Si w konekte nan reyinyon an, sèvi ak **\*9** pou leve men w.*





**Hello! ¡Hola! *Bonjour!***

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**Jeffrey Alexis**

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Engineering,  
Public Works  
Department



**Mike Donaghy**

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Street Lighting,  
Public Works  
Department



**Daniela Sánchez  
Zamora**

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Active Transportation,  
Transportation  
Department

## Meeting Goals

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### **Learn about the work of the City's Street Lighting team**

- Meet the City's Street Lighting team and learn about their day to day
- Learn the goals of street lighting for the City of Boston

### **Learn about the Cummins Highway reconstruction project**

- Goals of the reconstruction and opportunities
- Understand how the reconstruction of Cummins Highway provides new opportunities for street lighting
- Recap what we've done so far and next steps

# Cummins Highway Reconstruction

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What you see on Cummins now is a temporary redesign to slow speeding drivers and improve safety for all users while we work on the design of the Cummins Highway Reconstruction.

Visit [boston.gov/cummins-highway](https://boston.gov/cummins-highway) for more information on safety data and comments we have been collecting to inform this project.



## We plan to reconstruct Cummins Highway

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Cummins Highway hasn't been updated since the **spring of 1955**.

The street cars that ran along Cummins were removed in 1953 to make room for more cars.

The street's layout reflects the priorities of the 1950's: enable non-residents to drive quickly through our neighborhoods.





# Cummins Highway Reconstruction

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During a reconstruction project we completely rebuild the street, including sidewalks, curbs, street lights, traffic signals, road pavement, and replace or update utilities as necessary.

The City has budgeted approximately **\$12 million** for reconstruction of Cummins Highway.





# Cummins Highway Reconstruction

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We cannot produce a design without your input. **You will help shape how Cummins should be for the next 70 years.**

Currently, we are doing community outreach to inform the final design. We have not begun the engineering work to design the corridor.



# Cummins Highway Reconstruction

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- **Advance Go Boston 2030 goals:**
  - Improving safety on our streets
  - Reducing emissions
  - Investing in communities to achieve equity in access to opportunities



# Cummins Highway Reconstruction

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- *Advance Go Boston 2030 goals*
- **Partner with other City departments to advance our collective plans:**
  - To inform residents of the work happening around the City
  - To improve collaboration in our work and achieve neighborhood and citywide goals





# Cummins Highway Reconstruction

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- *Advance Go Boston 2030 goals*
- *Partner with other City departments to advance our collective plans*
- **Collaboration with residents to advance your goals:**
  - Awareness and participation in efforts that you care about
  - Confirm your vision for the future through our projects



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# Our Street Lighting Team



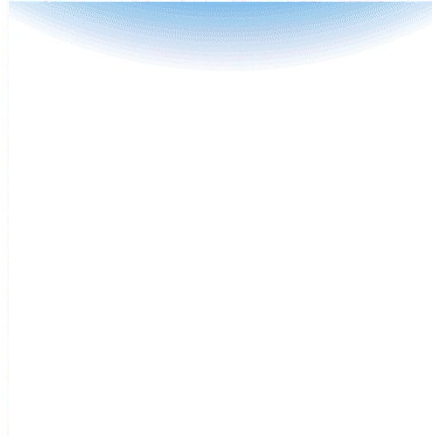


# Street Lighting Division

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**We take care of street lights in Boston**, excluding ones that are owned by other agencies such as DCR, MassDot, MBTA.

We also care for lights in many City parks and provide lighting for nearly 50 Christmas trees.



# Street Lighting Division

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That's **68,000** street lights,  
including 2,800 gas lights!



# Street Lighting Division

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We work from two locations:

- A building off of Morton Street at Canterbury, near Franklin Park.
- A facility on Frontage Road at W Fourth Street.

Our teams work throughout the week, and we have an on-call team available for emergencies.



# Types of street lights in Boston

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We use 19 different types of light fixtures throughout the City.

The most common are the pendant, aeriata, cobra head, and the acorn.

Our goal is to upgrade all major corridors to **pendant** lights.





# LED Upgrades

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*Starting in the fall of 2010, the City began converting streetlights to LED technology.*

As a City, we are replacing incandescent lamps with LED lamps.





## LED Upgrades

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We have upgraded over **55,000 street lights** to date - more than 80%.



# LED Lights

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LED lights create a better experience for residents:

- LED lights last much longer, *meaning fewer outages*
- The true white-light quality of the bulbs allows you to see colors more clearly.
- We can guide LED lights to spread more evenly.
  - Less light from the street comes into homes
  - Fewer dark spots on our streets
  - Upward light is limited, keeping our skies darker
- LED lights drop our energy use and carbon emissions by 60 percent



## “Small cells”

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Telecommunication companies maintain antennas across the City.

These antennas are known as "small cells." They improve cell phone and data service in Boston.

These antennae are installed primarily on streetlights and utility poles.



*On Blue Hill Avenue outside of the Mattapan Branch Library*



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# Lighting on Cummins Highway



# Street lighting on Cummins

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You've told us that street lighting on Cummins Highway needs to be better. **We agree!**

- Lighting is only on the median.
- It is dark at night, especially along the sidewalk.
- Wires are hanging everywhere.





# Why are the street lights on Cummins Highway the way they are?

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Cummins Highway has cobra head lights in the median, powered by overhead wires.

When the City took over Eversource lighting system in 2002, we inherited these lights -- designed per Eversource's equipment and spacing criteria.

These criteria were already 50+ years old!



# How we look at street lighting today

- Provide adequate lighting and improve safety.
- Update spacing between poles:
  - Direct burial poles: 100' - 150'
  - Pendant poles: 75' - 90'
- Make our lighting system easier to maintain.
- Beautify neighborhoods.



*Before and after: Neponset Avenue*

## How we look at street lighting today - Dark Sky

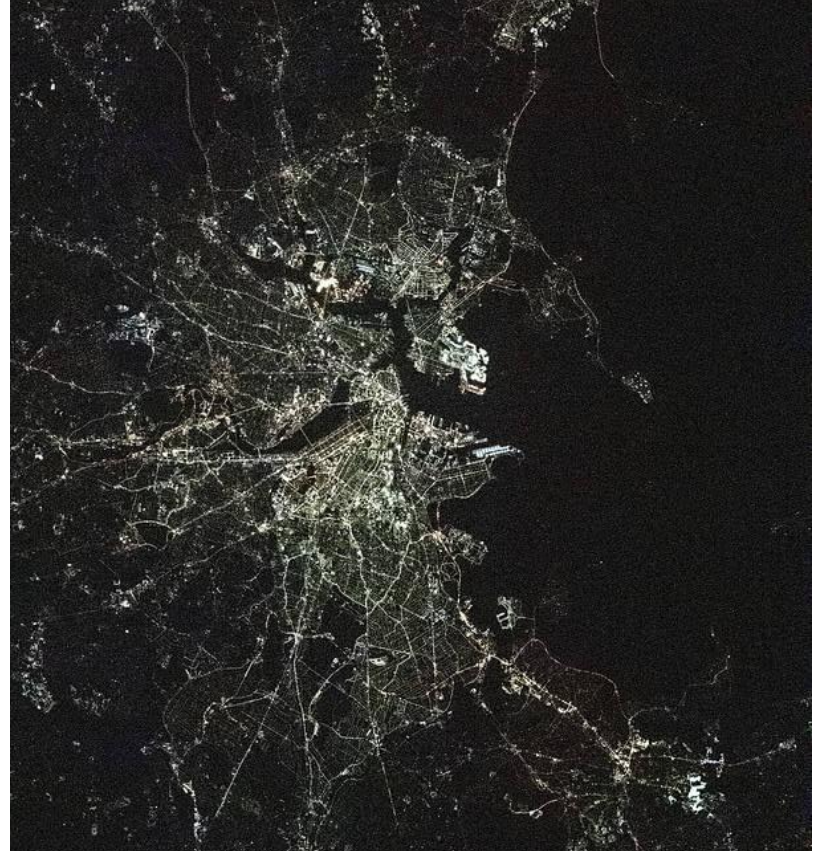
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A night sky without artificial light is vital to the proper functioning of natural ecosystems.

Light pollution can affect people, wildlife, and outdoor environments.

Since 2000, all lighting designed or modified in Boston is of the medium cut-off type.

- 95% of the light shines down toward the ground instead of up toward the sky.





# The Cummins Highway reconstruction means better lighting

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**We will install a totally new lighting system.**

- Controlled by multiple control cabinet
- Improved distance between lights post to improve light levels and overall safety
- Can have pendant lights for both the street *and* the sidewalk

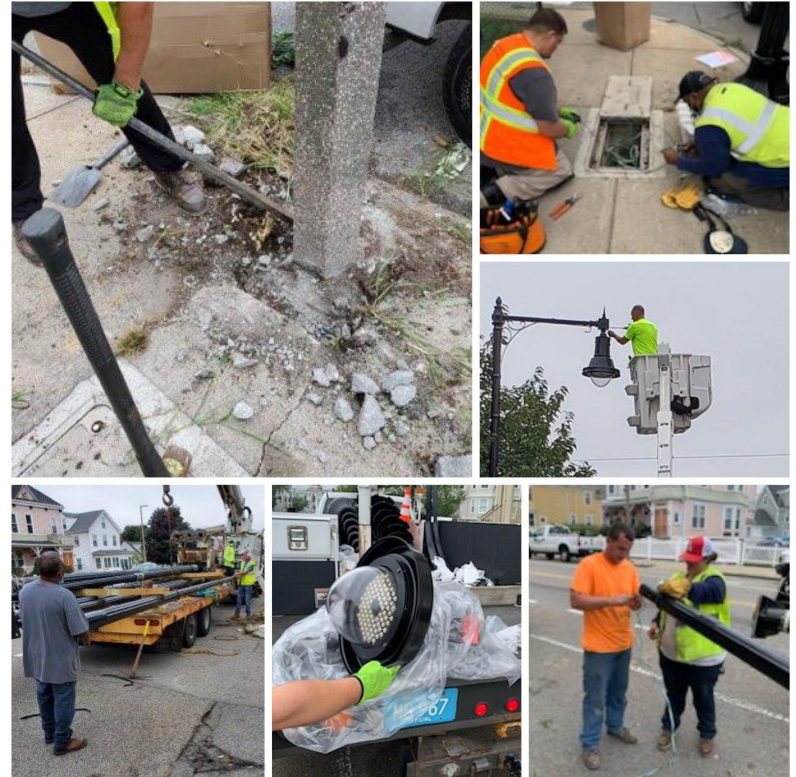


# Where can you see lights like this in Boston?

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Current and recent projects that upgraded street lights:

- Neponset Avenue (*just started!*)
- Charlestown's "Lost Village" neighborhood
- Nubian Square
- Ruggles Street (*coming soon!*)



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# The Future of Street Lighting



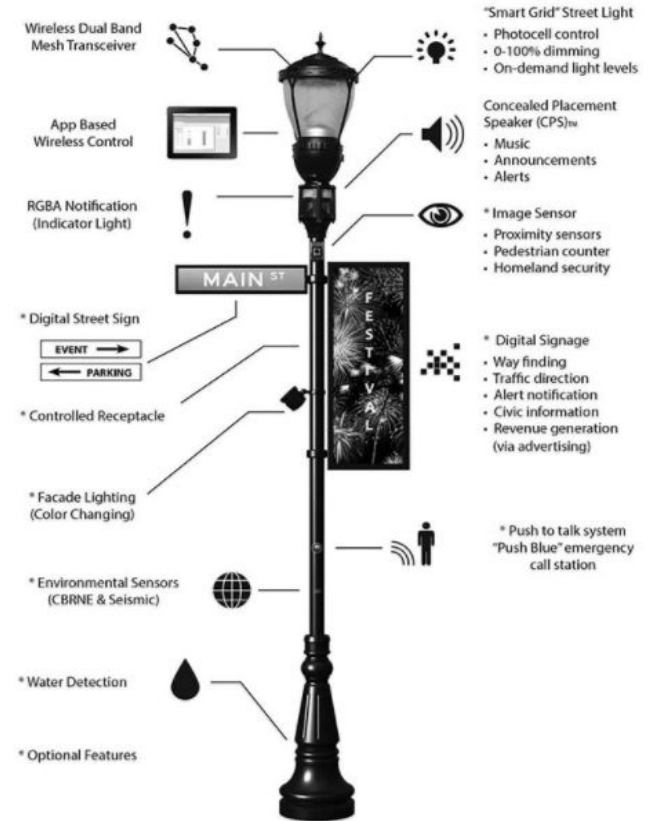


# Smart Streets in Boston

The City of Boston is using technology to re-imagine its streets. Our Smart Streets initiative is focused on using sensor data to prevent crashes.

However, there is a lot more to be explored using technology in the public realm. With technology, a light post can do much more than illuminate the night.

Learn more about our test projects:  
[boston.gov/departments/new-urban-mechanics/streets-lab](http://boston.gov/departments/new-urban-mechanics/streets-lab)



# The future of lighting is brighter and smarter

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Smart lights can optimize:

- Energy consumption
- Maintenance
- Asset management



*Illustration: Mckibillo*

# What we are looking into to

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Smart Lighting also has the potential to:

- Provide a 24/7 power source
- Do traffic counts
- Power sensors for things like air quality and temperatures
- Improve wireless connectivity



Illustration: Mckibillo



## Questions for you

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- What are the lighting issues you experience on Cummins?
- Is there a destination or area we should be especially aware of when looking at lighting improvements?
- Other than lighting, what else would you like to see incorporated in our street lights?

# The Cummins Highway reconstruction goal: safer, more accessible

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Transform Cummins Highway into a ***tree-lined neighborhood street*** that is *safer* for families to walk, wait for the bus, ride bikes, or travel by vehicle.

It will *connect residents* to the City's network of *open spaces* and make it easier for elders to cross the street.

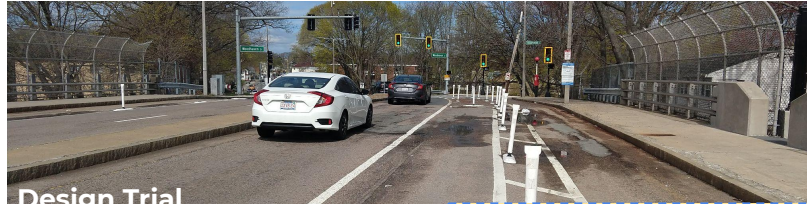


# Timeline of Cummins Highway reconstruction project

**Apr. 11, 2019** 1st public meeting at Mattahunt

**Feb. 27, 2020** 3rd public meeting at Mattahunt

▶ *Presented design concepts*



**Design Trial (Phase 2)**  
October 2020 - ongoing

**Jul., 2021 - Ongoing**

Design for Cummins Reconstruction



**Design Trial (Phase 1)**  
Jul. - Oct. 2020

**Jun., 2021 - Ongoing**

Engagement for the design of Cummins Reconstruction

- ▶ *June: Special T-Talk - Arrested Mobility with Mattapan Food & Fitness*
- ▶ *July: Heat Resilience*
- ▶ *July: Air Quality*
- ▶ *August: Land Use*
- ▶ *September: Lighting*
- ▶ *October: Public Health, Green Infrastructure*
- ▶ *November and beyond: trees, roundabouts, pedestrian improvements*

**Oct. 29, 2019** 2nd public meeting at Mattahunt

## Focused conversations and input

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We will continue to have conversations with you about the redesign of Cummins Highway. **Your input during these discussions will be used to inform the design of Cummins and will be shared with other departments to inform their work as well.**

*In June* we hosted a special edition of T-Talk with Charles T. Brown to discuss ways mobility of Black Americans is limited in the U.S. through police, policies, and polity.

*In July* we hosted two virtual meetings with the Environment Department.



## Focused conversations and input

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*In July* we hosted two virtual meetings with the Environment Department:

**We talked about the City's heat resilience study and the redesign on Cummins.** During this conversation we heard:

- You would like us to add more shade. We are looking into trees and shelters. Look for a community conversation in the coming months!
- You were concerned about the temporary redesign and its impact on emergency services and traffic.

**We talked about air quality and how transportation policies and design influence air quality.** During this conversation we heard:

- You were interested in us monitoring air quality on the corridor. We are looking at locations where air quality monitors can be located in the project area.
- You were concerned about the temporary redesign on Cummins Highway and how traffic is affecting air quality.

## Focused conversations and input

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*In August* we hosted a virtual meeting with the Boston Planning and Development Agency:

**We talked about the PLAN Mattapan, how their work related to transportation, and how our departments collaborate.** During this conversation we heard:

- That Cummins is part of a network, therefore we need to take a look at the traffic on side streets too.
- You want us to be proactive and make sure we are working with MBTA, trash removal trucks, and school buses on traffic management before the a new design is implemented.

## Next Steps

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Participate in upcoming focused conversations:

- Public Health and the Cummins Highway redesign
  - **October 5 at 6:30 p.m.**
  - [bit.ly/Cummins-Health](https://bit.ly/Cummins-Health)
- Green infrastructure and the Cummins Highway redesign
  - **October 20 at 6:30 p.m.**
  - [bit.ly/Cummins-Green](https://bit.ly/Cummins-Green)

Stop by the Mattapan Farmers Market to talk with us:

- Saturdays in October, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Set an appointment for one-on-one discussion with the project team:

- [bit.ly/Cummins-15](https://bit.ly/Cummins-15)

# Resources and staying engaged





## Stay in touch:

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### Cummins Highway Reconstruction

- Upcoming chats
  - Public Health and Cummins Highway Reconstruction on October 5 at 6:30 p.m.
    - Register here: [bit.ly/Cummins-Health](https://bit.ly/Cummins-Health)
  - Green infrastructure and Cummins Highway Reconstruction on October 20 at 6:30 p.m.
    - Register at: [bit.ly/Cummins-Green](https://bit.ly/Cummins-Green)
- Visit the project website: [boston.gov/cummins-highway](https://boston.gov/cummins-highway)
- Chat with us: [bit.ly/Cummins-15](https://bit.ly/Cummins-15)
- Reach out to Jeff Alexis: [jeffrey.alexis@boston.gov](mailto:jeffrey.alexis@boston.gov)

# Youth Focused Transportation Workshops

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Young people (ages 10-21) are invited to help guide the City's transportation planning and processes.

*Gift cards valued at \$10 (limited) will be provided for your participation.*

**The final workshop will be on September 20 from 5 to 7 p.m. [Sign up](#) or connect with Shavel'le (shavelleolivier@yahoo.com) for more information.**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING TO MATTAPAN'S STREETS?

We want to imagine the future of Blue Hill Ave together!

The streets are being redesigned to make them more accessible for those who walk, bike, scoot, take the bus/train, and drive. As the City of Boston plans Blue Hill Ave and Mattapan Square we want to make sure youth voices (ages 10-21) are included.

- 1) Register for a 90 minute workshop
- 2) Attend the workshop
- 3) Complete the survey
- 4) Receive your \$10 gift card in the mail

SCAN HERE  
TO REGISTER



If you have any questions please contact Shavel'le via email at [shavelleolivier@yahoo.com](mailto:shavelleolivier@yahoo.com)

# You can now ride route 28 FOR FREE

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Route 28 bus rides are now able to board buses at all doors without paying a fare *until November 29, 2021*.

More information at [boston.gov/28bus](https://boston.gov/28bus).



# Park Summer Fitness Series Through October 2

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FREE in-person and virtual classes led by certified fitness instructors until October 2.

- **Almont Park** (40 Almont Street)
  - Tuesdays 6-7 p.m.: *Family Zumba with Carmen*

More info at [boston.gov/fitness](https://boston.gov/fitness)





# Happening in Mattapan: New playground construction

## Walker Playground

- Construction project is underway. Started at the beginning of June.
- For more information, contact Lauren Bryant:
  - 617-961-3019
  - [lauren.bryant@boston.gov](mailto:lauren.bryant@boston.gov)



WALKER PLAYGROUND

BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
BOSTON, MA

PLAYGROUND DESIGN  
APRIL 2021

## Happening at Mattapan Branch Library

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- Outdoor Wi-Fi zone with seating, shade, and lighting
- Free nutritious breakfast and lunch for youth 18 and under.
  - Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 – 11 a.m.
- Rental Relief Fund office hours
  - Tuesdays, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.



# Bike Month with Mattapan Food & Fitness Coalition

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Celebrate Bike Month in Mattapan at the Mattapan Square Farmer's Market (888 Cummins Highway)

**On Saturday, September 25 from 10AM-1PM**

Bike Parts & Helmets Giveaway

- *Helmets provided by Breakstone, White, & Gluck*

10:30AM-12PM Musical performance by Lechuga Fresca

## SEPTEMBER IS BIKE MONTH

Join MFFC for fun and exciting bike activities  
at the Mattapan Square Farmers Market  
888 Cummins Highway, Mattapan

9/4 Bike Part & Helmet Give -a-way

9/11 Bike Part, Bike & Helmet Give -a -way

9/18 Kids Bike Rodeo w/ Safe Routes to School

9/25 Bike Part & Helmet Give -a-way

**Complete Streets Pop Ups Every Saturday!**





# Happening in Mattapan: Beginner-friendly Bike Rides

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- Beginner-friendly bike rides on the Neponset River Greenway
  - *Monday nights at 5:30 p.m.*
  - Meet at Mattapan Square T stop.
  
- Women-led beginner ride with Women on Wheels and BTB
  - *Sunday, September 26, 2021 at 11 a.m.*
  - Meet at Neponset Trail Parking lot on Hallet Street (at Pope John Paul II Park on Hallet St)





## Ride Bluebikes at a discount!

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Discounted passes for our public bike share.

People who participate in public assistance programs or otherwise have a qualifying income can receive the discount.

Discounted passes are only **\$50 a year** or **\$5 a month** with no annual commitment. Include unlimited one-hour trips.

More info: [boston.gov/discounted-bluebikes](https://boston.gov/discounted-bluebikes)

