

# BUS STOPS

*& the reconstruction of Cummins Highway*

January 26, 2022



Public Works

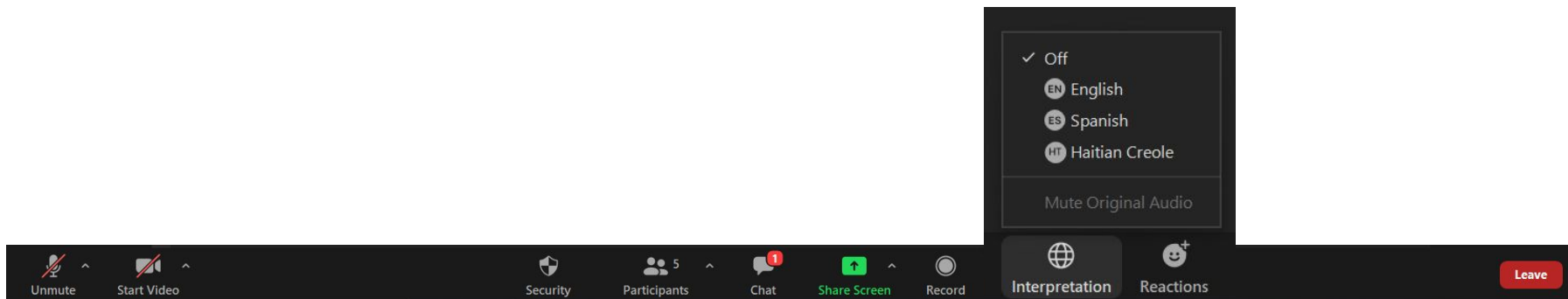


Transportation

# Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Akeyi!

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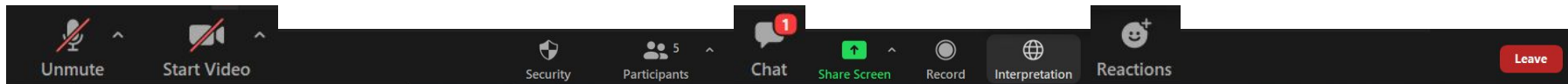
- Si hablas español y prefieres escuchar la reunión en esta lengua utiliza el botón de “Interpretation” (Interpretación) para acceder al canal de audio en español.
- *Si w pale Kreyòl Ayisyen e w prefere tande reyinyon an nan lang sa a tanpri sèvi ak bouton "Interpretation" (Entèpretation) pou w jwenn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



# Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Akeyi!

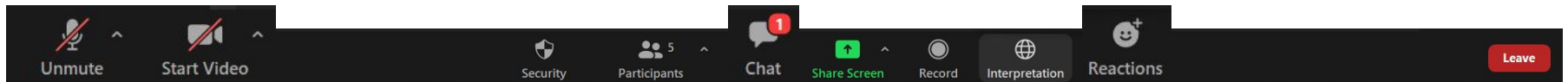
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- This meeting **will be recorded**.
  - Esta reunión **será grabada**.
  - *Reyinyon sa a **ap anrejistre**.*
- Update your name in Zoom to include your preferred name and your pronouns.
  - Actualiza tu nombre en Zoom con tu nombre preferido y tus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



# Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Akeyi!

- 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.*



# **DON'T** LOOK AT YOUR **SCREEN WHILE DRIVING**



**Hello! ¡Hola! *Bonjour!***

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**Jeffrey Alexis**

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Engineering,  
Public Works  
Department



**Kirstie  
Hostetter**

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Transit,  
Transportation  
Department



**Hannah Fong**

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Active Transportation,  
Transportation  
Department



**Stefanie Seskin**

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Active Transportation,  
Transportation  
Department



## Meeting Goals

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### **Learn about how the City and MBTA work together to design bus stops**

- What we consider when placing bus stops
- What makes a bus stop accessible
- Example bus stop design for Cummins Highway

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

- Goals of the reconstruction and opportunities
- Recap what we've done so far and next steps

# 2020-2021 Cummins Highway Temporary Redesign

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We ended the trial on Cummins Highway in October 2021. *Until construction begins, the street will be like it was before.*

During 2021, we collected data on traffic speeds, travel times, and your experience of one lane in each direction. Visit [boston.gov/cummins-highway](https://boston.gov/cummins-highway) to review the data we collected.

The data we collected will inform how we design the new Cummins Highway, but **your input is still crucial.**





# 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 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 **\$24 million** for reconstruction of Cummins Highway.





# 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*
- **Collaborate with residents to advance your goals:**
  - Awareness and participation in efforts that you care about
  - Confirm your vision for the future through our projects



# Designing bus stops for Cummins Highway





# We plan to completely rebuild Cummins Highway

- We will build new, concrete sidewalks.
- Sidewalks will be level and easier for walking or using an assistive device.
- All crosswalks will have new, accessible ramps.
- Every bus stop will be reconstructed, too.



## We work with the MBTA and with you to plan bus stops

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- In November and December, we met with the Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council.
  - We shared our initial plans for bus stop designs.
  - We talked to people waiting for the bus.
  - We made changes based on their feedback.
- In late 2021, we coordinated with the MBTA's service planning team. We shared ideas for their feedback.
  - We used the MBTA's *Bus Stop Planning and Design Guide* to inform our approach.

# How do we think about bus stops?

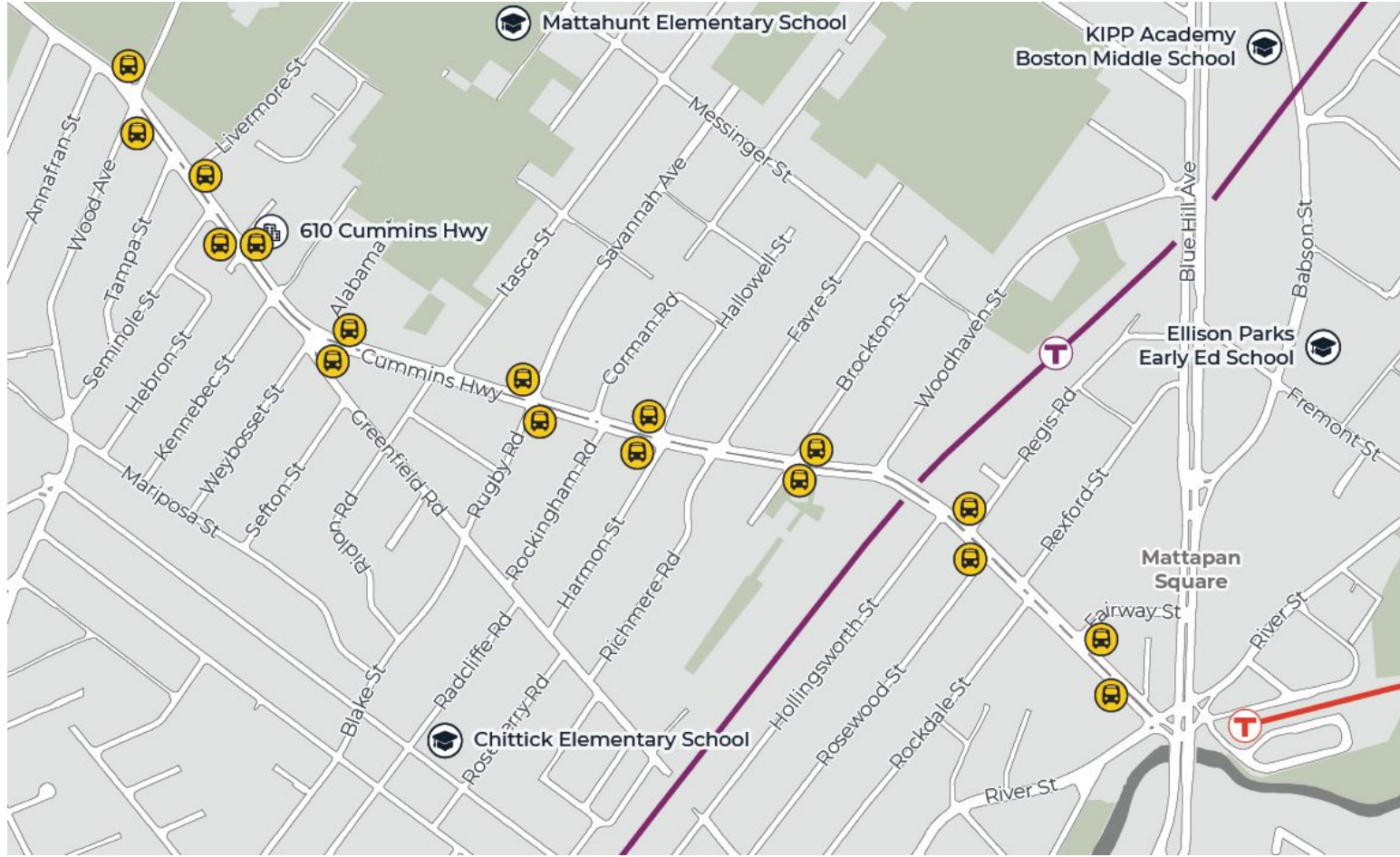
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- Bus stops need to be close to where people are, but not so frequent that the bus stops every block.
  - We reviewed Census data to understand where elders and youth live.
  - We measured the distance between bus stops.





# Existing bus stops on Cummins between Wood/Harvard and River:



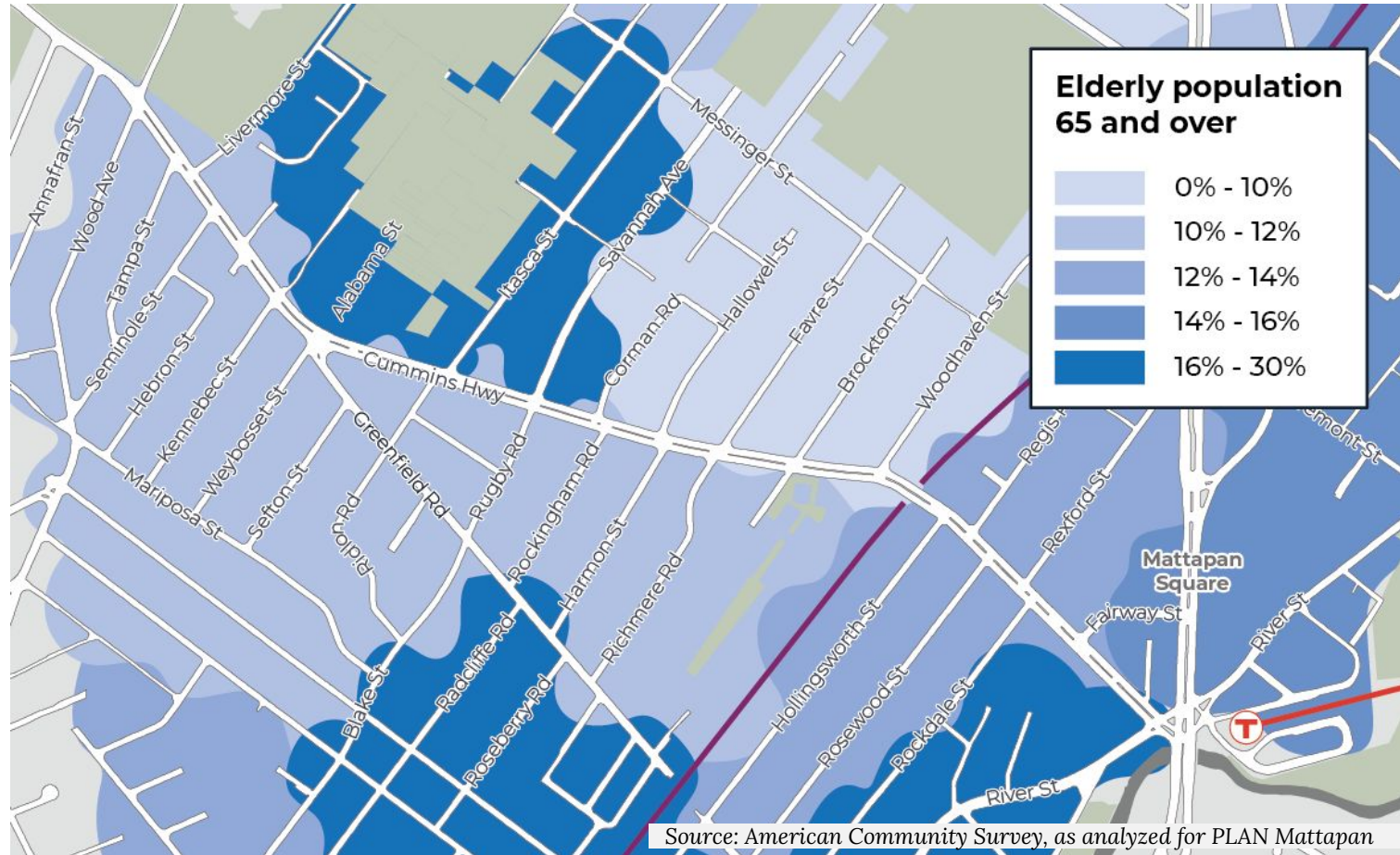
# Highest concentration of youth live south of Cummins, between Rugby Road and the Fairmount Line



Source: American Community Survey, as analyzed for PLAN Mattapan

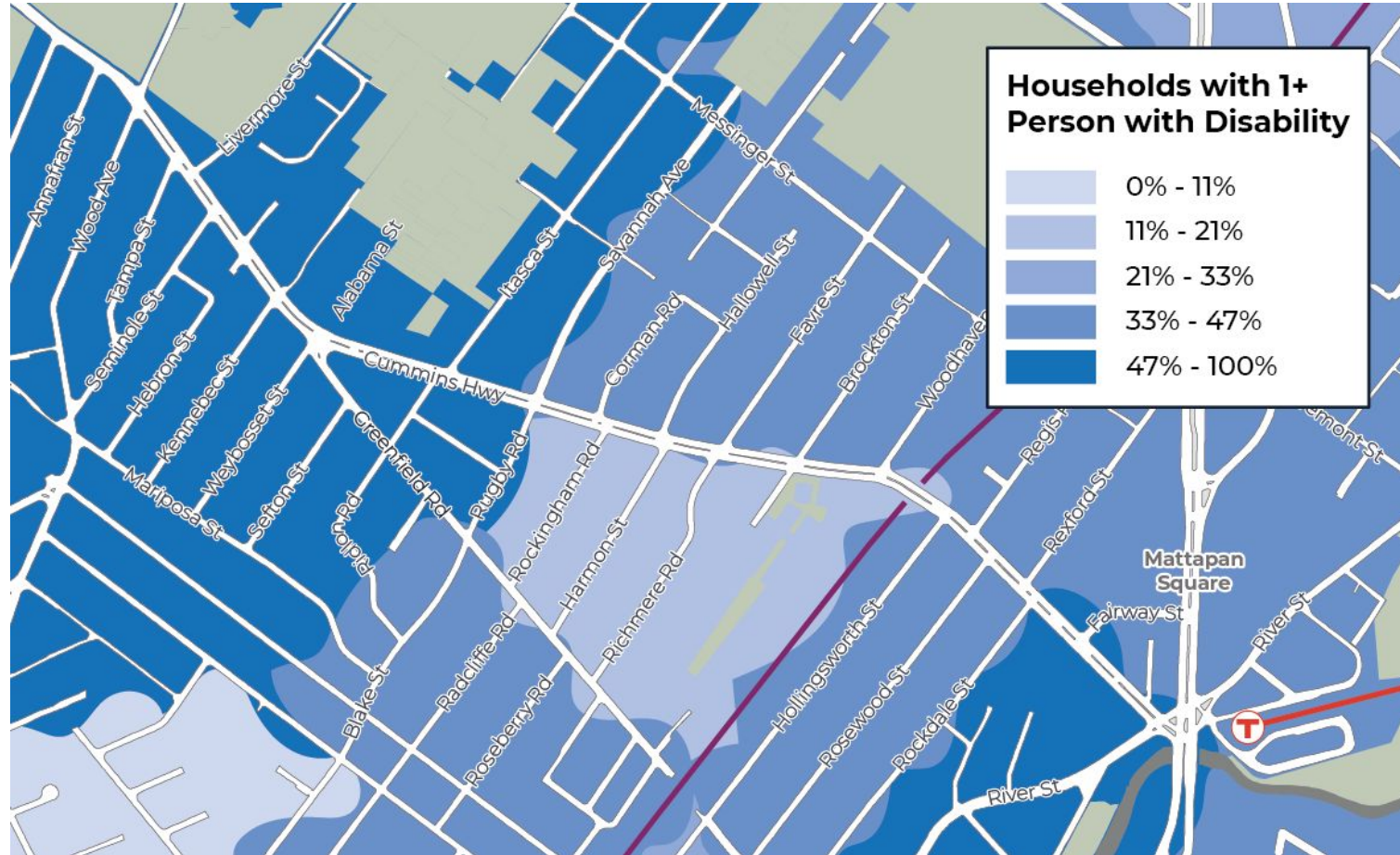


# Highest concentrations of elders (65 years old and up) live on the north side of Cummins St, south of Greenfield, and east of Rockdale



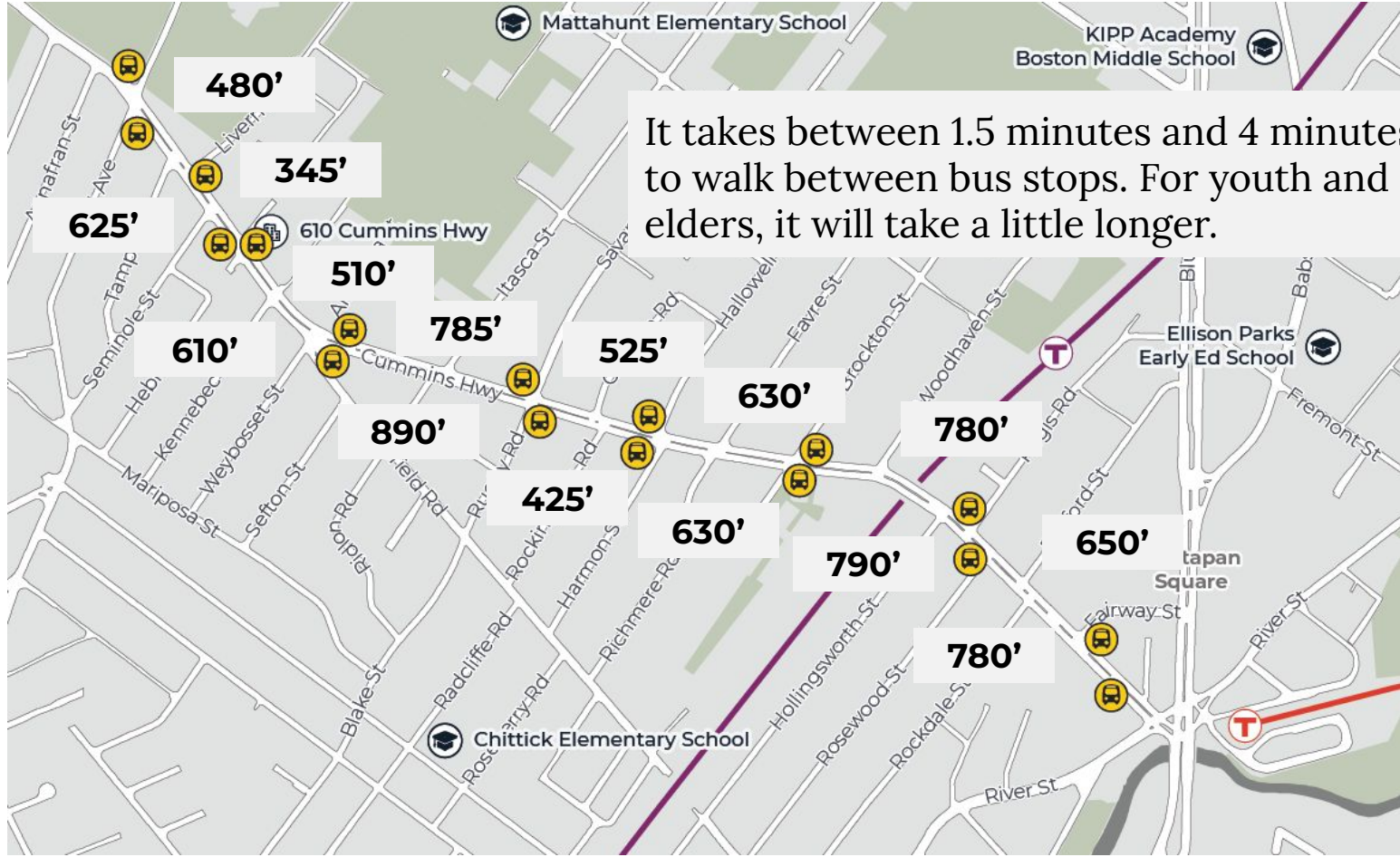
Source: American Community Survey, as analyzed for PLAN Mattapan

# Highest concentrations of people with disabilities live west of Rugby/Savannah and east of Rockdale





# Today, bus stops are between 345' and 890' apart



It takes between 1.5 minutes and 4 minutes to walk between bus stops. For youth and elders, it will take a little longer.



## We can plan for better bus stops

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Today, some bus stops are too short.

- In some places, it is difficult for bus drivers cannot pull to the curb. The bus sticks out into the street.
- In other places, the back of the bus blocks the side street behind the bus stop.

Some bus stops are not accessible.

- The sidewalk may be in poor condition.
- Nearby crosswalks may not have accessible curb ramps.



## **We can plan for better bus stops**

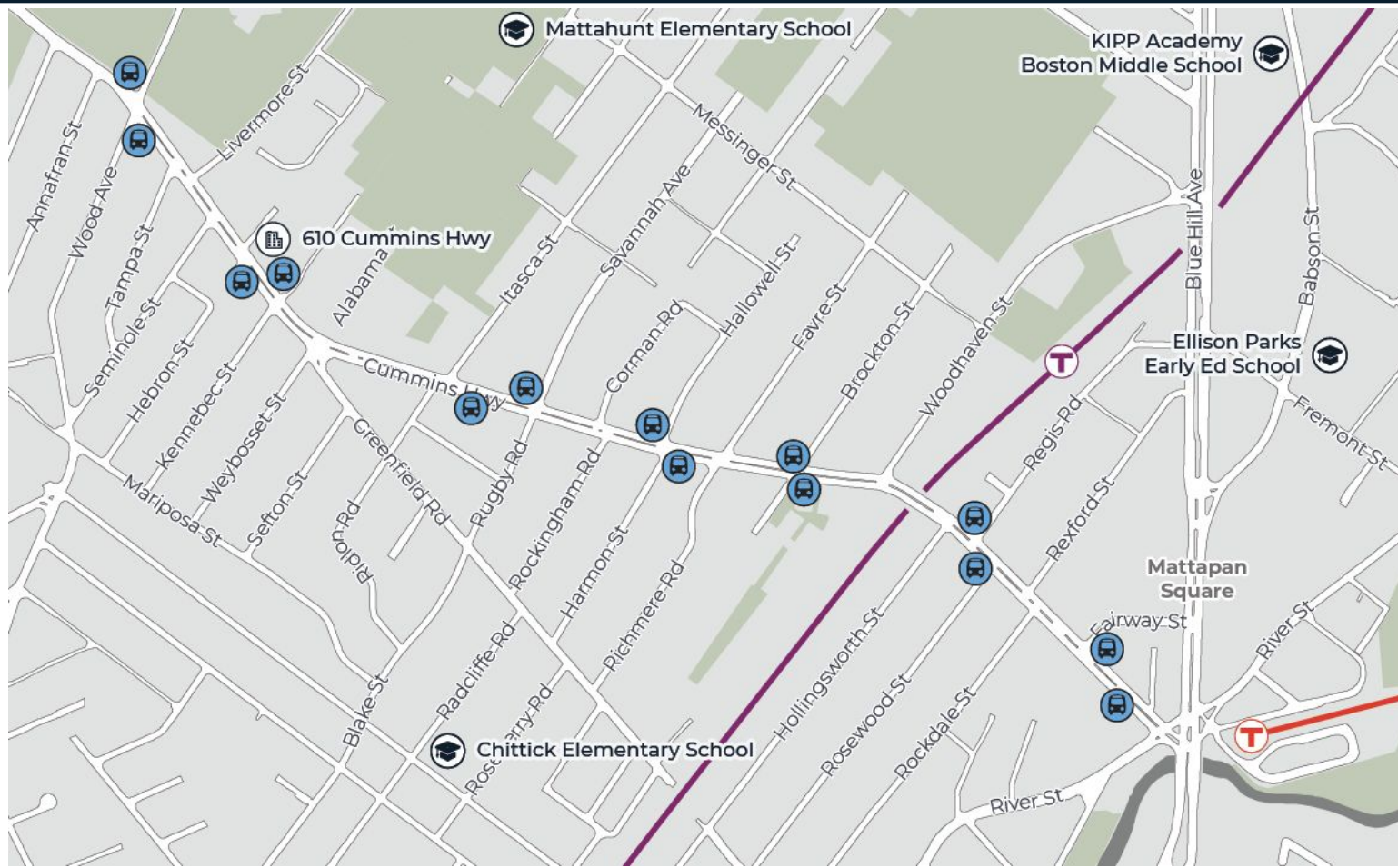
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With the reconstruction of Cummins Highway, we will build bus stops that are the right size for buses.

- We will provide space for 60' buses to pull to the curb and for passengers to access all doors.
- Buses will be able to pull into the bus stop fully. They should not block side streets.

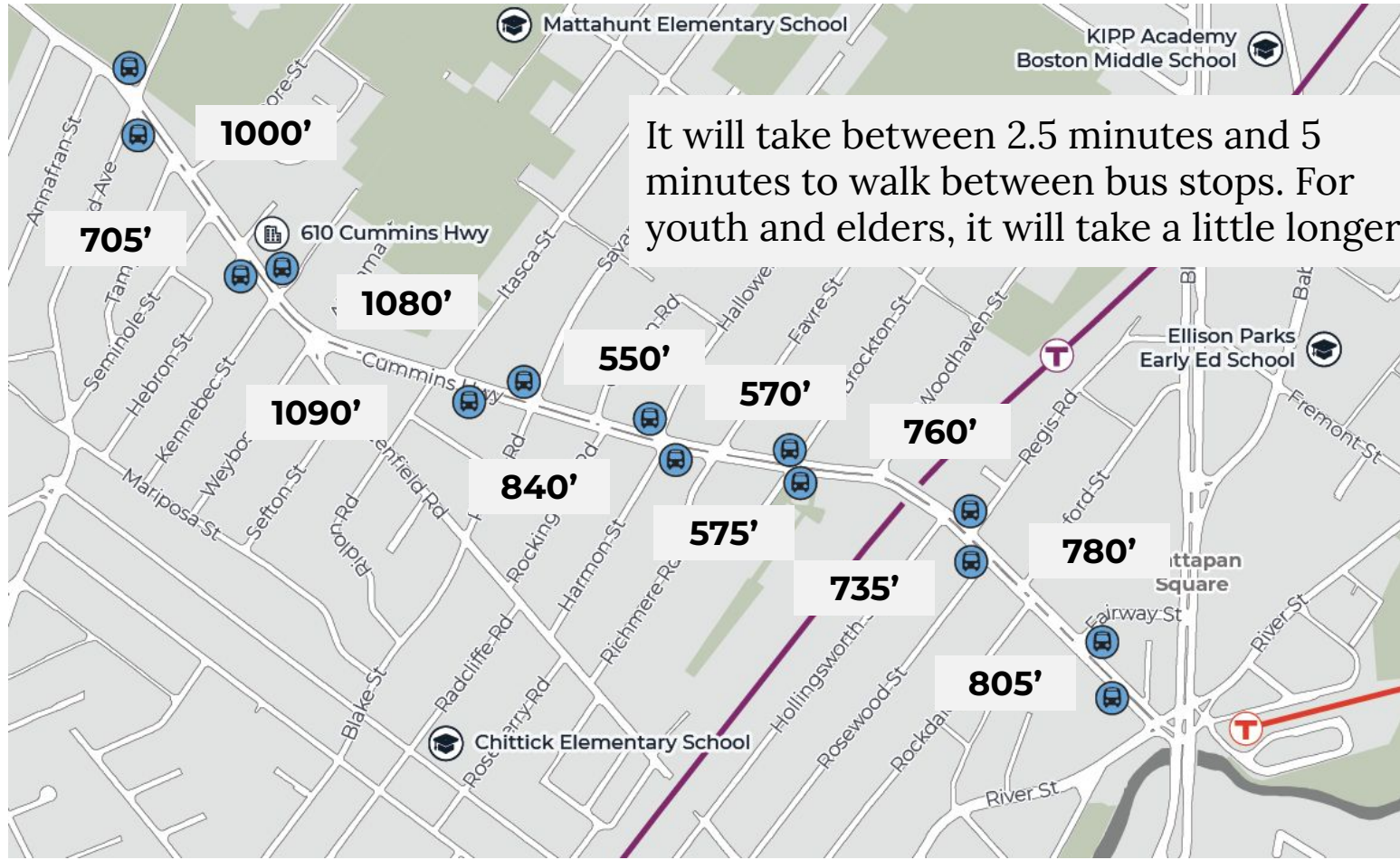
**This means we will move some bus stops to a better location.**

# With the reconstruction project, we propose the below bus stops:





# Bus stops will be spaced more evenly, between 550' and 1090' apart



It will take between 2.5 minutes and 5 minutes to walk between bus stops. For youth and elders, it will take a little longer.

# Designing accessible bus stops



## We can plan for better bus stops

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The new bus stops will be better for passengers, too.

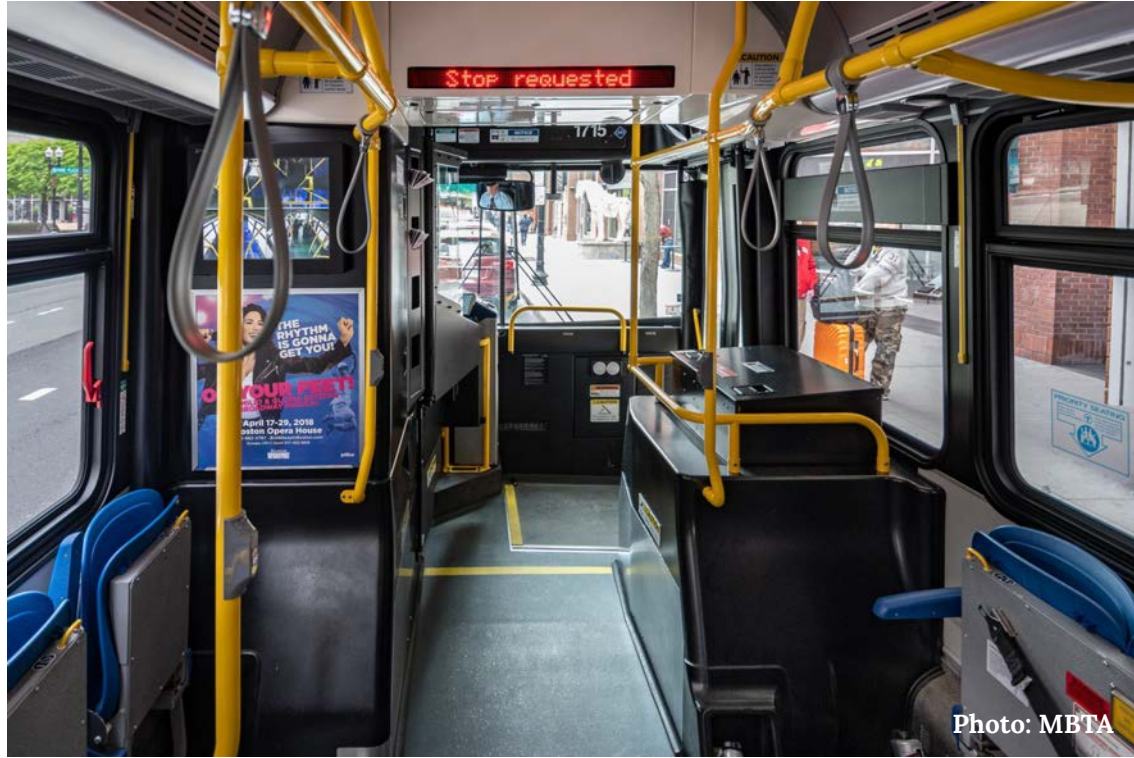
- Every bus stop will have accessible crosswalks nearby.
- We will have space for amenities, such as benches or shelters.



# Every MBTA bus is accessible

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- Buses can be lowered for easier boarding and exiting
- Ramps available at the front door
- Two spaces for wheeled mobility devices to be secured
- Digital displays and automated announcements share route and stop information





# Bus shelters

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- Bus shelters provide refuge from the weather and a place to sit
- We will design Cummins Highway so there is room for bus shelters.
- We are still working out the details!
  - Type of bus shelter
  - Maintenance
  - How many bus stops will have shelters





# Real-time information

- MBTA began testing solar-powered “e-ink” signs in 2017. These signs provide real-time arrival information.
- You can see e-ink signs at some bus stops in Boston today.
- These signs require a good amount of sunlight, so cannot be placed everywhere.

We would like to include these signs in the Cummins Highway reconstruction project. We do not yet know how many or which bus stops will have these signs. We will continue to work with the T on this.

Learn more about this MBTA project:  
[mbta.com/projects/solar-powered-e-ink-signs](https://www.mbta.com/projects/solar-powered-e-ink-signs)



Photo: MBTA

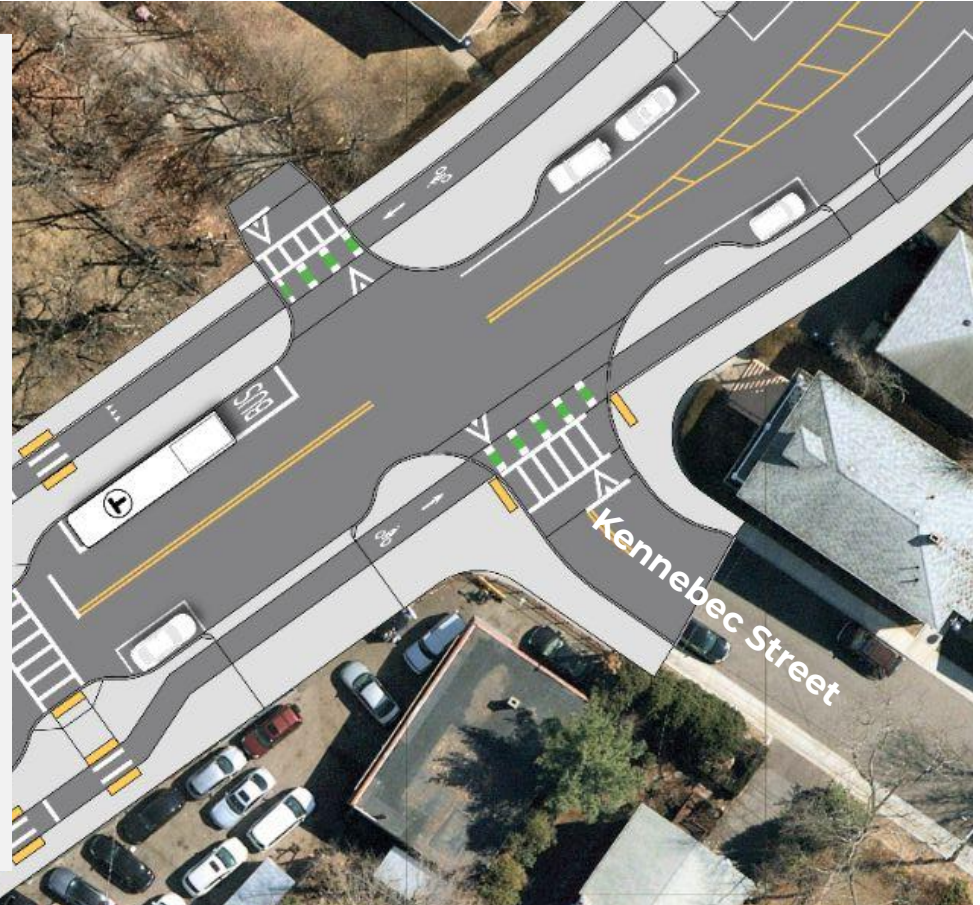
E-ink sign on Warren Street in Roxbury

## Bus stop design - example design

**This graphic does not represent the final design.**

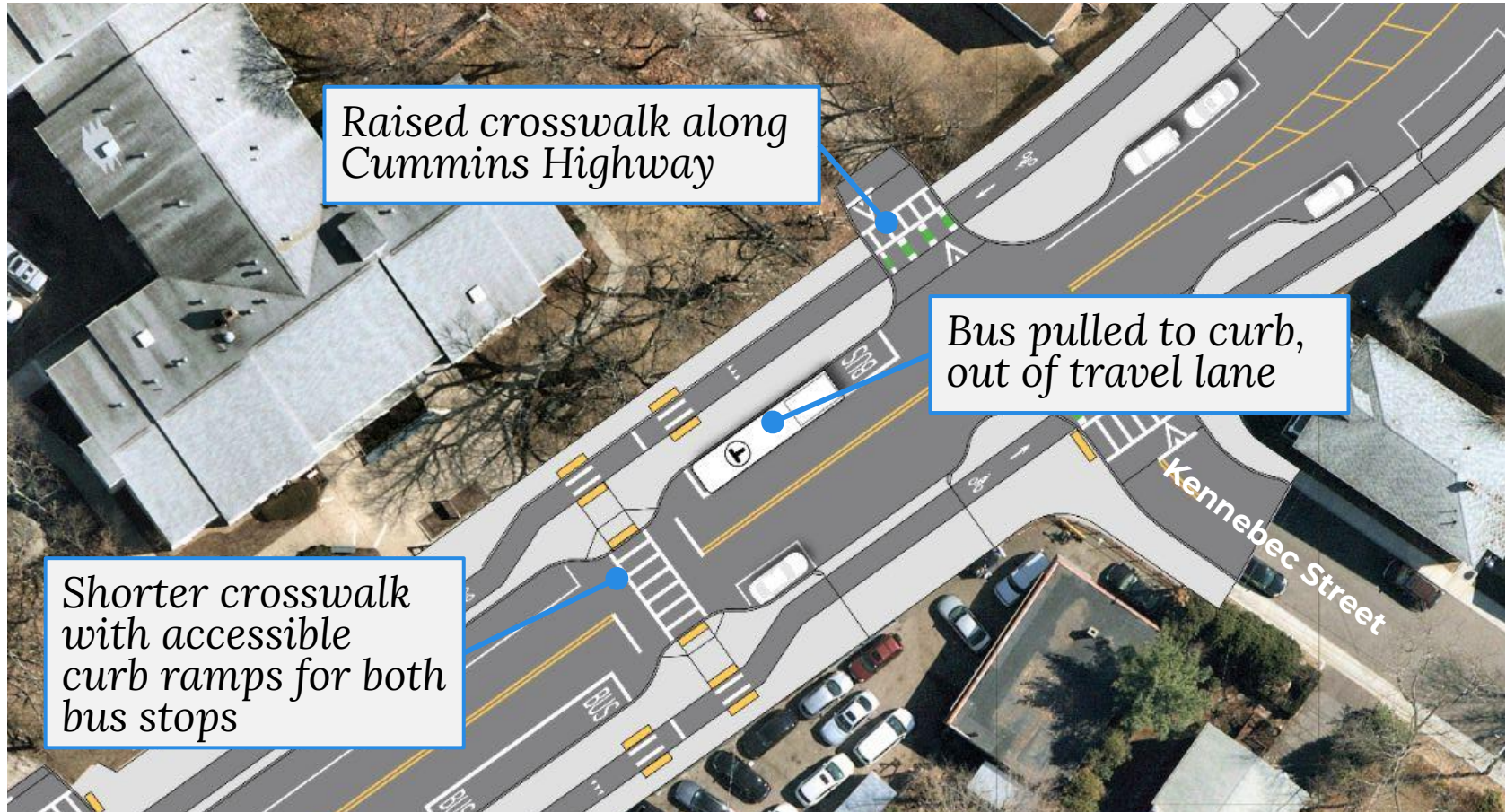
It does not include many important features, including street trees.

Design elements will change.



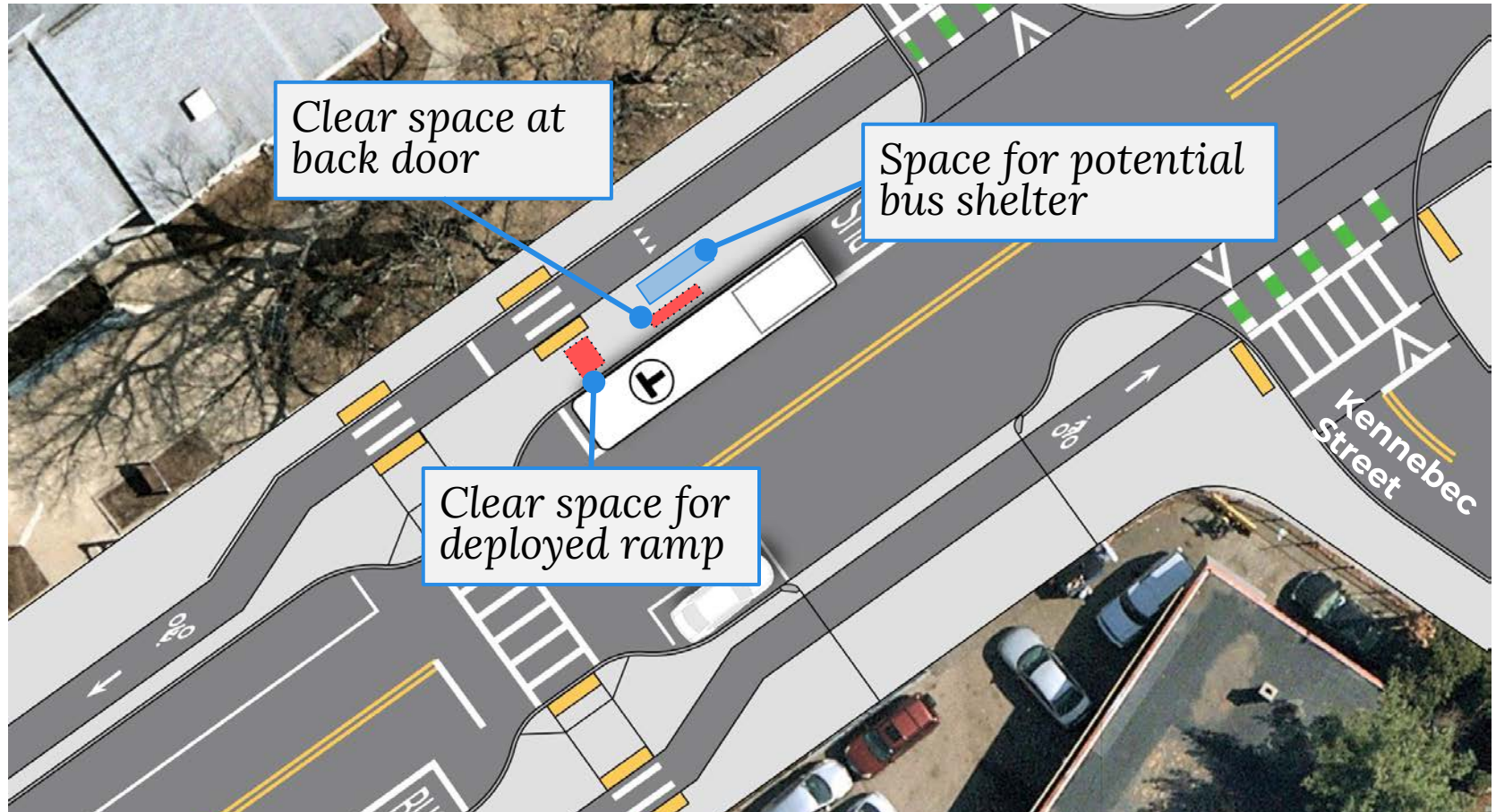


## Bus stop design - example design





# Bus stop design - accessibility and comfort

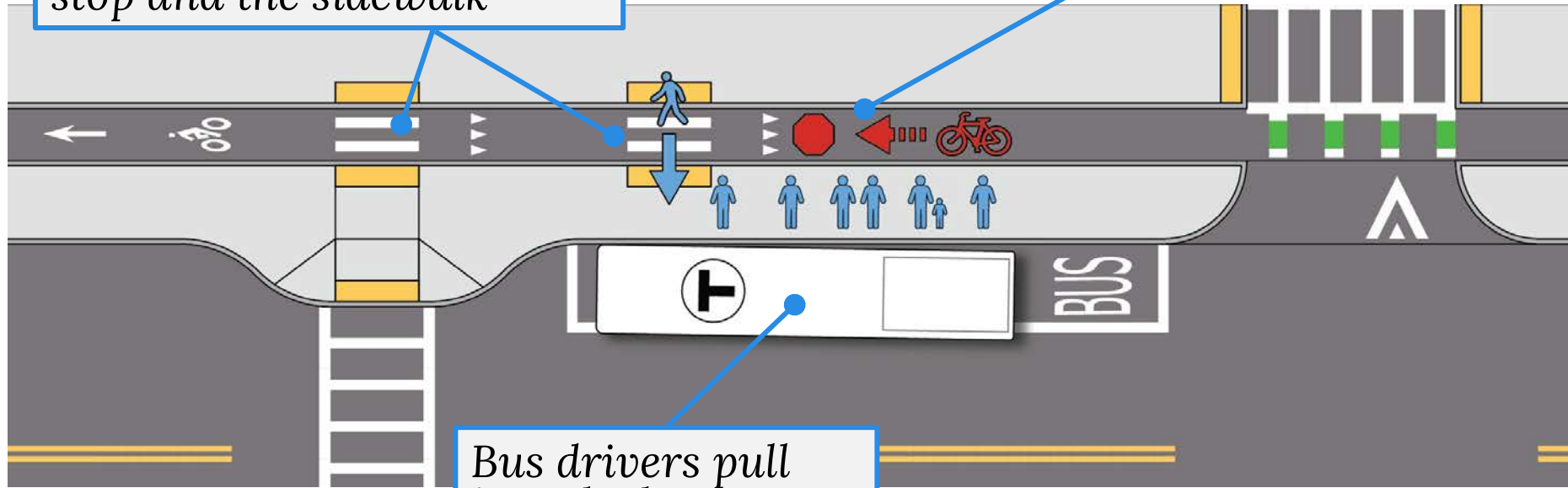




## Bus stop design - crossing the bike lane

People use the crosswalks to travel between the bus stop and the sidewalk

People on bikes stop for pedestrians



Bus drivers pull into the bus stop, next to the curb

**This graphic does not represent the final design.** It does not include many important features, including street trees.



# What's next for Cummins Highway?



# 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 - October 2021

**Jul., 2021 - Ongoing**  
Design for Cummins Reconstruction



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

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

**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*
- ▶ *October: Green infrastructure*
- ▶ *January: Bus stops*
- ▶ *February: Street trees*



## 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 2021, 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.*

 [twitter.com/ctbrown1911](https://twitter.com/ctbrown1911)

 [equitablecities.com](https://equitablecities.com)

## Focused conversations and input

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*In July 2021, 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 2021, we hosted a virtual meeting with the Boston Planning and Development Agency:*

**We talked about 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. We conducted traffic counts.
- 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.



## Focused conversations and input

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*In September 2021, we hosted a virtual meeting with the City's Street Lighting Division:*

**We talked about the goals of the city for street lighting and the opportunities for the Cummins Reconstruction.** During this conversation we heard:

- You were concerned about the brightness and color of the light, we will work with you to find the appropriate brightness and color that can help improve visibility.
- You wanted to know where you can see lighting similar to the one Public Works is proposing.
  - River Street from Cummins Highway to Hyde Park (Way St)
  - Nubian Square

## Focused conversations and input

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*In early October 2021, we hosted a virtual meeting with the Boston Public Health Commission:*

**We talked about the connection between street design, health, and wellbeing.** During this conversation we heard:

- You were concerned about the traffic during the trial and the effect on side streets. We conducted traffic counts in September on side streets. We are scheduling new traffic counts on side streets now that the trial has ended.
- You wanted to know more about how we are engaging residents of the community in the process for the redesign. We went over some of the other ways people are receiving information and engaging with our project.

## Upcoming public meetings

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We will continue to have community conversations about the design of Cummins Highway. Our next meeting:

### **Street trees** and the Cummins Highway redesign

- Wednesday, February 23
- 6:30 p.m.
- Register: [bit.ly/Cummins-Trees](https://bit.ly/Cummins-Trees)

Stay tuned for upcoming meetings:

- Roundabouts and intersections
- Street design for people with disabilities
- *and more...*



## Chat with us!

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- Sign up for a 15-minute phone call or virtual meeting with the project team:
  - Every other Wednesday from 3 to 7 p.m.
  - [bit.ly/Cummins-15](https://bit.ly/Cummins-15)
- Check our website for information about the project and to sign up for email updates
  - [boston.gov/cummins-highway](https://boston.gov/cummins-highway)
- If you see us walking on Cummins Highway, say hi!
- Send an email to Jeff Alexis: [jeffrey.alexis@boston.gov](mailto:jeffrey.alexis@boston.gov)

# Resources and staying engaged



## You can ride Route 28 bus FOR FREE

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Route 28 bus riders are able to board buses at all doors without paying a fare *until February 28, 2022*.

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





# Mattapan Square intersection design

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Help inform the design of  
Mattapan Square!

- Public meeting
- February 15
- 6:30 p.m



Learn more about this project:

[boston.gov/departments/transportation/blue-hill-avenue-mattapan-square](https://boston.gov/departments/transportation/blue-hill-avenue-mattapan-square)



## Save the date for the next T-Talk!

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- *Blue Hill Avenue: As a Place*
- Youth-focused T-Talk
- Saturday, February 26
- 11 a.m.

Check out past T-Talks:  
[mattapanfoodandfit.org/  
transportationtalks](https://mattapanfoodandfit.org/transportationtalks)



# Blue Hill Avenue Town Hall

Join the conversation about Blue Hill Avenue

Co-sponsored by Councilor Julia Mejia and Notorious V.O.G.

- Thursday, January 27
- 9:30-11 a.m.
- Notorious in the Morning  
Boston 87.7 FM
- Streamed on Zoom

[rebrand.ly/bluehillave](https://rebrand.ly/bluehillave)



The poster features a blue background with a city street scene. At the top right is the 'JULIA MEJIA' logo in an orange box. The main title 'BLUE HILL AVENUE REDESIGN TOWN HALL' is in large blue letters. Below it is a paragraph of text explaining the collaboration with Morning Star Baptist Church, Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council, and Boston 87.7FM Radio. A photo of Councilor Julia Mejia is on the left. The event details 'JANUARY 27TH THURSDAY, 9:30-11AM' and 'DOORS OPEN AT 9, MASKS REQUIRED' are in bold blue text. The RSVP link 'REBRAND.LY/BLUEHILLAVE' is at the bottom. Logos for VOG, 87.7 FM, GMNC, and Morning Star Baptist Church are at the bottom, along with a large white 'B' logo.

**JULIA MEJIA**  
COUNCILOR OF COUNCILOR AT LARGE

## BLUE HILL AVENUE REDESIGN TOWN HALL

We are excited to collaborate with Morning Star Baptist Church, the Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council, Boston 87.7FM Radio, and our partners at City Hall to create a space to gather community feedback on the redesign proposal and have a solutions oriented discussion on how to better engage the community on projects like this. We hope you will join us by filling out the RSVP form below!

**JANUARY 27TH THURSDAY, 9:30-11AM**

**DOORS OPEN AT 9, MASKS REQUIRED**

**RSVP HERE: REBRAND.LY/BLUEHILLAVE**

VOG

BOSTON 87.7 FM

GMNC

B

MORNING STAR BAPTIST CHURCH

## Ride Bluebikes at a discount!

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Discounted passes are available for our public bike share.

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

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

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



## Rental Relief Fund

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City of Boston is dedicating federal funds to help Boston residents who have been economically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and are having difficulty paying their rent.

For more information about eligibility, resources, and to apply:

[boston.gov/rental-relief](https://boston.gov/rental-relief)



## Blue Hill Avenue housing

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On December 15, 2021, the Public Facilities commission voted to designate DVM Consulting LLC and Habitat for Humanity Greater Boston for 8 of the 10 parcels included in the Blue Hill Avenue Action B1 Parcels RFP.

More information:

<https://www.boston.gov/buildinghousing/blue-hill-ave-action-plan-b1-sites>

# Walker Playground construction update

We have had some delays, but we look forward to re-opening the full park to the public!

- We are waiting for a piece of play equipment. Once it is installed and the weather permits, we can install rubber surfacing in the playground.
- The field will be closed until late spring/ early summer to allow the grass time to establish.
- Pedestrian lighting will be installed this winter/spring.
- The courts will remain open.



BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
BOSTON, MA

PLAYGROUND DESIGN  
APRIL 2021

For more information, contact Lauren Bryant: 617-961-3019 or [lauren.bryant@boston.gov](mailto:lauren.bryant@boston.gov)

## Stay in touch:

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### Transit planning and design in Boston

- Learn more how the City works to improve transit rider experience in Boston
- Reach out to Kirstie Hostetter: [kirstie.hostetter@boston.gov](mailto:kirstie.hostetter@boston.gov)

### Cummins Highway Reconstruction

- Visit the project website: [boston.gov/cummins-highway](http://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)