



# A SAFER, SLOWER AMERICAN LEGION

*We heard you. Let's improve safety on American Legion between Blue Hill Avenue and Cummins Highway.*

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## YOU SAID:

- ▶ Drivers are speeding all the time.
- ▶ Drag racing keeps the neighbors up at night and causes a lot of damage.
- ▶ There are too many crashes on American Legion.
- ▶ Walking doesn't feel safe.
  - ▶ People avoid accessing neighborhood resources by foot, including shops, schools, parks, and the Nature Center.
  - ▶ Crossing the street is very difficult.
- ▶ Biking is too scary for most people.

### LIVABLESTREETS ALLIANCE SURVEY

During the summer of 2020, 459 people responded to a survey about American Legion. **Speeding** and **drag racing** were the top concerns for 66% of respondents. 51% wanted **more places to cross the street**, and 44% asked for physically-separated, continuous **bike lanes**.

# CITY OF BOSTON PLANNING



## Franklin Park Action Plan

The City of Boston's comprehensive transportation plan envisions a city where all residents have better and more equitable travel choices.

A connected network of park paths and low-stress corridors for people of all ages and abilities to navigate safely, sustainably, and enjoyably.

For over a century, Franklin Park has been a lively and beloved center of recreation, gathering, and discovery for the Boston community. Now, the City of Boston is planning ahead for the park's next century.

## PROJECT GOALS

### A SAFER STREET FOR EVERYONE

People will drive slower all day, and there will be fewer injury-causing crashes.

### COMFORTABLE AND WELCOMING

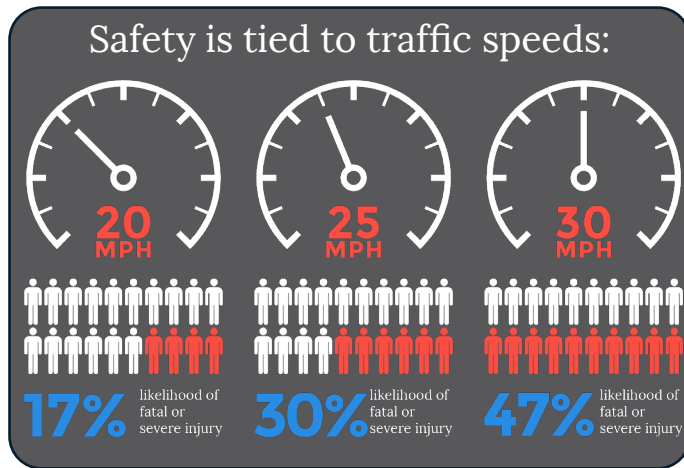
Families will feel comfortable walking, bicycling, and waiting for the bus.

### GREEN CONNECTIONS

We will enhance American Legion's role in connecting communities and open spaces across Mattapan, Roslindale, Dorchester, and beyond.

# IT'S TOO EASY TO SPEED ON AMERICAN LEGION

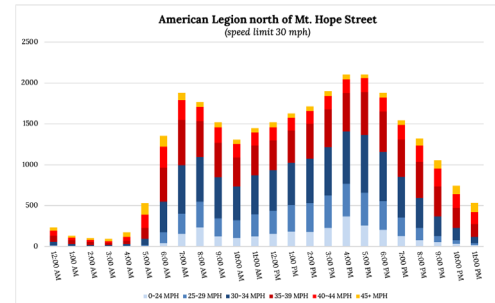
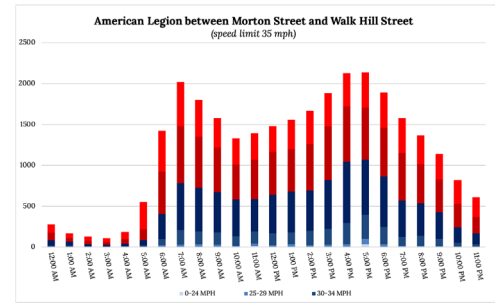
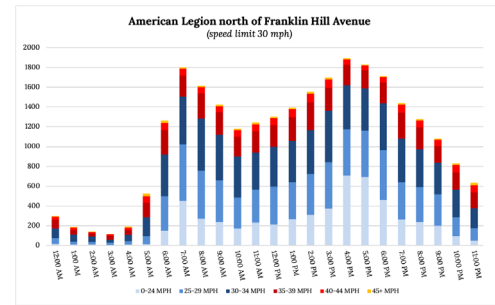
- ▶ At Franklin Hill Avenue, **23%** of drivers are traveling at 35 mph or more.
- ▶ Between Morton Street and Walk Hill Street, **59%** of drivers travel at 40 mph or more.
- ▶ North of Mt. Hope Street, **45%** of drivers are going 35 mph or more.



## FREQUENT CRASHES WITH SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES

We reviewed all available information about crashes on American Legion between September 1, 2018 and August 30, 2020:

- ▶ Crashes involving pedestrians: 100% injury rate
- ▶ Crashes involving bicyclists: 100% injury rate
- ▶ Crashes involving motorists only: 57% injury rate



*Our engineers have collected traffic volumes and modeled the traffic flow. They conducted observations and evaluated available crash data.*

# SAFETY TOOLS FOR AMERICAN LEGION

## CHANGES THAT CAN BE MADE THIS FALL:

### MORE TIME TO CROSS THE STREET

- ▶ We will update the traffic signals to provide more time for pedestrians.

### REALLOCATE TRAVEL LANES

- ▶ Traffic flow is controlled by signals and the pace of other drivers around you. By reducing the number of travel lanes, drivers will need to travel slower between signals.
  - ▶ *Strategic reduction of travel lanes can reduce the number of crashes by up to 47%.*

### PROTECTED BIKE LANES

- ▶ We can create space for cycling that is separate from vehicles and from people walking. These bike lanes will generally be wide enough to ride side-by-side with family.

### SAFER TURNS

- ▶ At some intersections, drivers can take turns fast – which means they may not see a person walking. We will make these turns safer.
- ▶ We will look to restrict turns in some locations. Drivers will need to use a signalized intersection instead.

### PEDESTRIAN PROTECTION ISLANDS

- ▶ In the short term, we can use temporary materials to protect people from turning cars.



## CHANGES THAT CAN BE MADE IN FUTURE YEARS:

### ACCESSIBLE, FRIENDLY BUS STOPS

- ▶ Bus stops need to be accessible to people with disabilities. Stops also need to be comfortable for people waiting.
- ▶ We will work with the MBTA on bus stop locations and build accessible stops. We will explore buying benches.

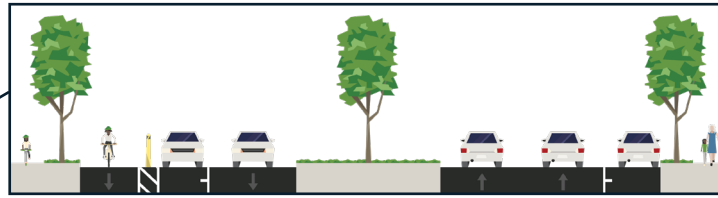
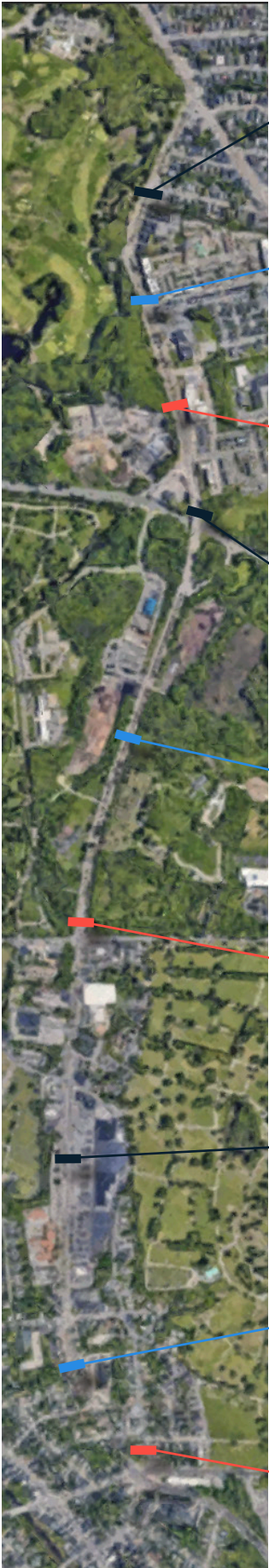
### NEW CROSSWALKS

- ▶ We will add crosswalks at key locations on the corridor: near Circuit Drive and at Stella Road. We can study other locations, such as near the Haley Pilot School.

### PEDESTRIAN PROTECTION ISLANDS

- ▶ We can build permanent islands.

# What could this look like?



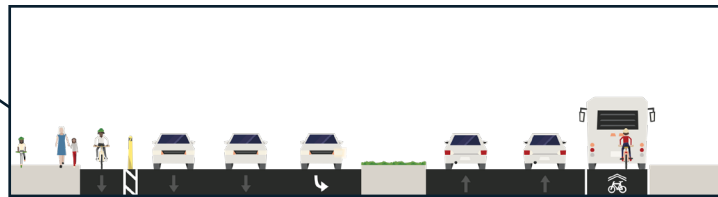
New accessible parking spaces along Franklin Park edge



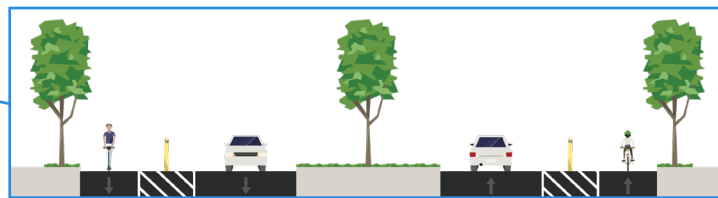
Two-way bike lane for easy biking to and from Franklin Park



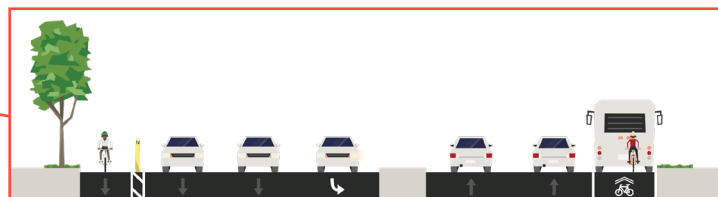
One-way separated bike lanes on each side of American Legion



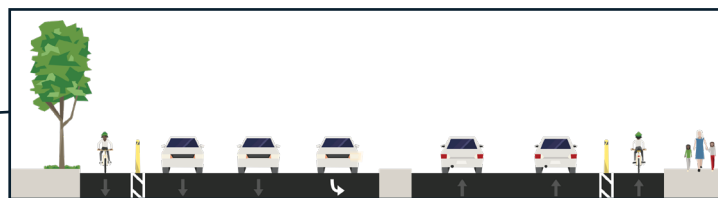
At bus stops, buses pull into the bike lane and against the curb



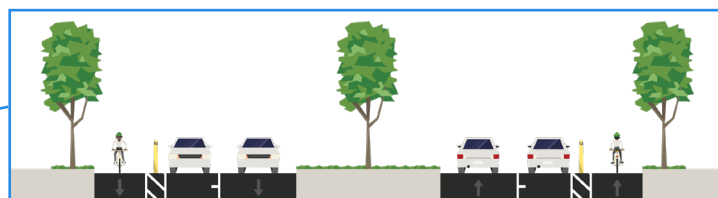
One general travel lane in each direction



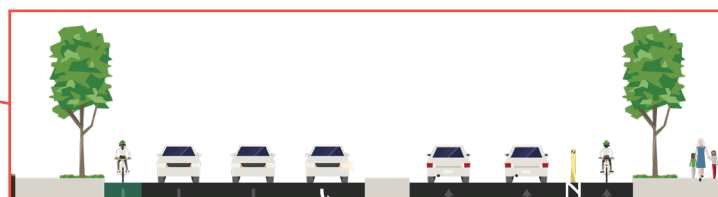
At bus stops, buses pull into the bike lane and against the curb



One-way separated bike lanes on each side of American Legion



One general travel lane in each direction with parking



Retain existing traffic capacity at signalized intersection

# BUILDING A CONNECTED BIKE NETWORK



Cycling to Franklin Park from the south, cross American Legion at Franklin Hill Avenue. Continue northbound to Circuit Drive and enjoy your park!



# OTHER CITY PROJECTS

## BLUE HILL AVE. TRANSPORTATION ACTION PLAN

We want to improve transit equity and quality of life by re-imagining how Blue Hill Ave functions.

▶ [boston.gov/blue-hill-ave](https://boston.gov/blue-hill-ave)

### VIRTUAL MEETING

September 30, 2020  
[zoom.us/j/93554886779](https://zoom.us/j/93554886779)



## Let's shape the future of Franklin Park together!

Boston Parks and Recreation Department is beginning a master plan process for Franklin Park to help shape the future of the park and connections to the surrounding neighborhoods.

RUNNING THROUGH 2025, the master plan will include many opportunities for your engagement and input. The plan will establish community goals and recommendations for park investments in the coming years.

VISIT [franklinparkmasterplan.com](https://franklinparkmasterplan.com) to learn more and sign up for updates about future events and other ways to participate.



## FRANKLIN PARK ACTION PLAN

It's your opportunity to help shape the future of the park and connections to the surrounding neighborhoods. You will be able to review recommendations later this fall!

▶ [franklinparkactionplan.com](https://franklinparkactionplan.com)

## CUMMINS HIGHWAY COMPLETE STREETS

With the help of the community, we will redesign Cummins Highway to create a safe, green, and comfortable street.

▶ [boston.gov/cummins-highway](https://boston.gov/cummins-highway)



# STAY IN TOUCH

## TALK WITH US IN PERSON

Come by at any point during our upcoming drop-in sessions. Stay as long as you need.

- ▶ Tuesday, September 22  
*Stella Road at American Legion*  
7 - 9 a.m.
- ▶ Thursday, September 24  
*Shandon Road at Fermoy Heights*  
4:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- ▶ Saturday, September 26  
*Franklin Park Playground at American Legion*  
12 - 3 p.m.
- ▶ Tuesday, September 29  
*Stella Road at American Legion*  
4 - 7 p.m.

## VISIT THE WEBSITE

Read summaries from virtual meetings, review materials, and sign up for the email list.

- ▶ [boston.gov/american-legion](https://boston.gov/american-legion)

## CONTACT

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