
PUBLIC HEALTH

Reconstruction of Cummins Highway

October 5, 2021

BOSTON
PUBLIC
HEALTH
COMMISSION



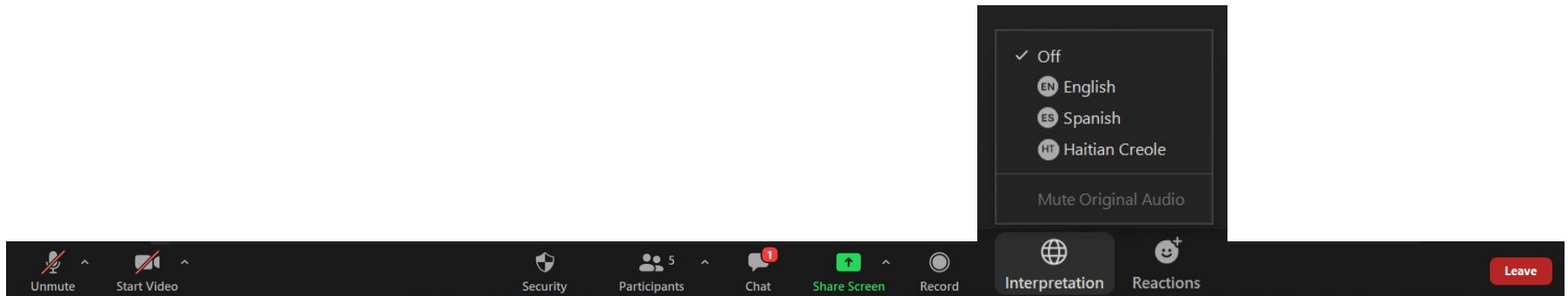
Public Works



Transportation

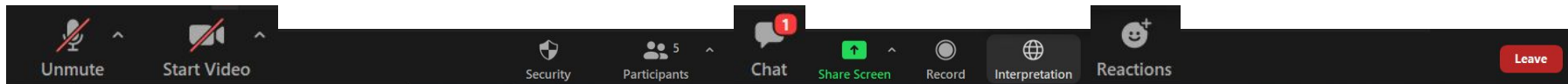
Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Akeyi!

- 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.*



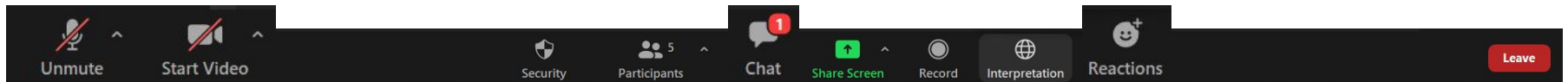
Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Akeyi!

- 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.*

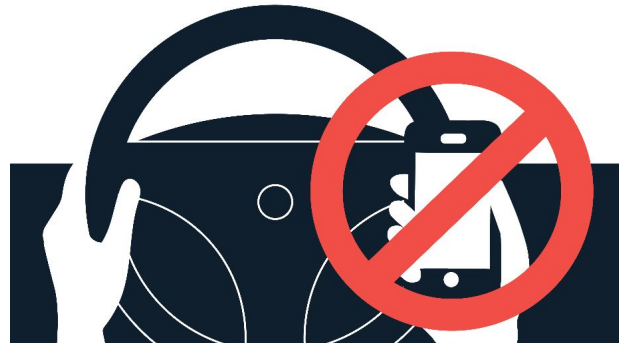


Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Akeyi!

- 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!*



Jeffrey Alexis

Engineering,
Public Works
Department



Mary Bovenzi

Boston Public
Health Commission



**Daniela Sánchez
Zamora**

Active Transportation,
Transportation
Department



Hannah Fong

Active Transportation,
Transportation
Department

Meeting Goals

Learn about the Boston Public Health Commission and why they work on street design

- The connections between street design, health and wellbeing
- Transportation and health equity

Inform the Cummins Highway reconstruction project

- Goals of the reconstruction and opportunities
- Your ideas for a “healthy streets” approach on Cummins
- Recap what we’ve done so far and next steps

Cummins Highway Reconstruction

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 for more information on safety data and comments we have been collecting to inform this project.



We plan to reconstruct Cummins Highway

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

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

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

- **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

- *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

- *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



Public Health



What is the Boston Public Health Commission?

The BPHC is City of Boston's local health department.

Our vision for a Healthy Boston: “The Boston Public Health Commission envisions a thriving Boston where all residents live healthy, fulfilling lives free of racism, poverty, violence, and other systems of oppression. All residents will have equitable opportunities and resources, leading to optimal health and well-being.”

**BPHC PROUDLY SERVES
ALL BOSTON RESIDENTS**



Health, well-being, and our neighborhoods

World Health Organization:

“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”

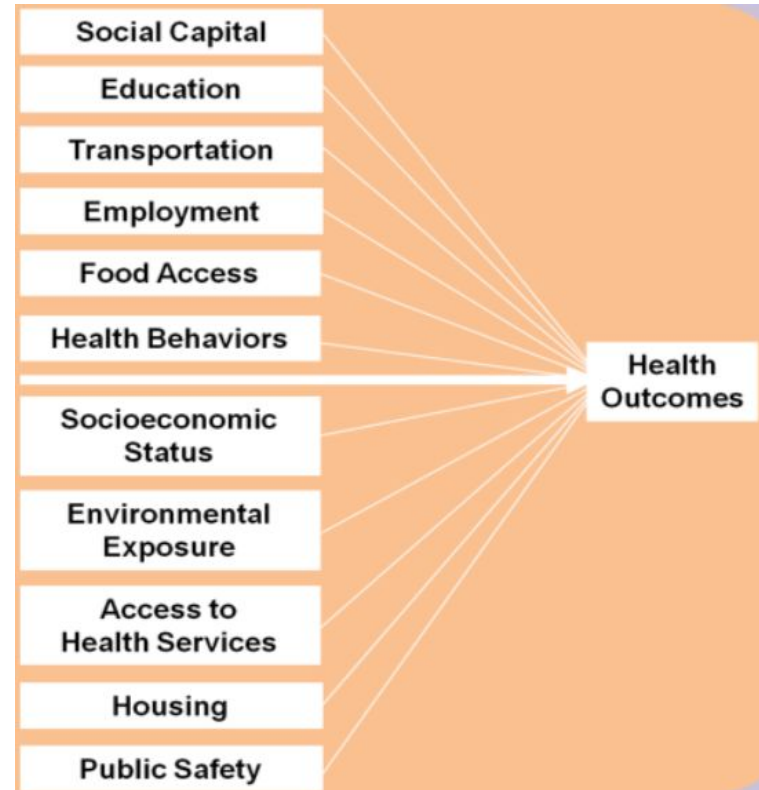


Health, well-being, and our neighborhoods

Our social and physical environments shape our health and well-being.

We call these “social determinants of health”. They are the **root causes** of health outcomes across populations.

- Economic stability
- Education access and quality
- Healthcare access and quality
- **Neighborhood and built environment**
- Social and community context



Public Health Goal for Neighborhood and Built Environment

Our goal is to create neighborhoods and environments that **promote health and safety**



Neighborhood and Built Environment

How do we achieve this goal?

- Use a “**Health in All Policies**” approach to integrate health into city policies and practices across sectors -- not just traditional public health policy.
 - Identifying policies and practices that positively or negatively impact health.
 - Identify who benefits and at what cost.
 - Reverse inequitable policies and practices and those rooted in racism.

More information about Health in All Policies: <https://www.cdc.gov/policy/hiap/index.html>

Neighborhood and Built Environment

How do we achieve this goal?

- Use a “*Health in All Policies*” approach
- **Design physical spaces** that make it easier to make healthy choices and create spaces for community



Neighborhood and Built Environment

How do we achieve this goal?

- *Use a “Health in All Policies” approach*
- *Design physical spaces that make healthy choices easier and create spaces for community*
- **Change the status-quo mindset** of “we’ve always done it this way.”
 - Ask yourself: Why it was done this way? Who benefited? At what cost? Has the world/context changed since? Should we adjust to the new context?

The built environment and health



The Built Environment: Street Design

How does street design impact health and well-being?



The Built Environment: Street Design

A “Complete Street” design makes it easier and safer for residents to move and breathe

- Encourages walking, bicycling and using public transit (active transportation)
- Support us to be more physically active
- Prevents injuries and death
- People are better connected in the neighborhood which supports lower stress levels and better mental health
- Can make public transit more reliable
- Fewer cars, less idling and better traffic flow leads to fewer emissions, better air quality
- More green space and trees leads to better air quality, lower temperatures, nicer to be outside



Complete Streets considers the needs of many users

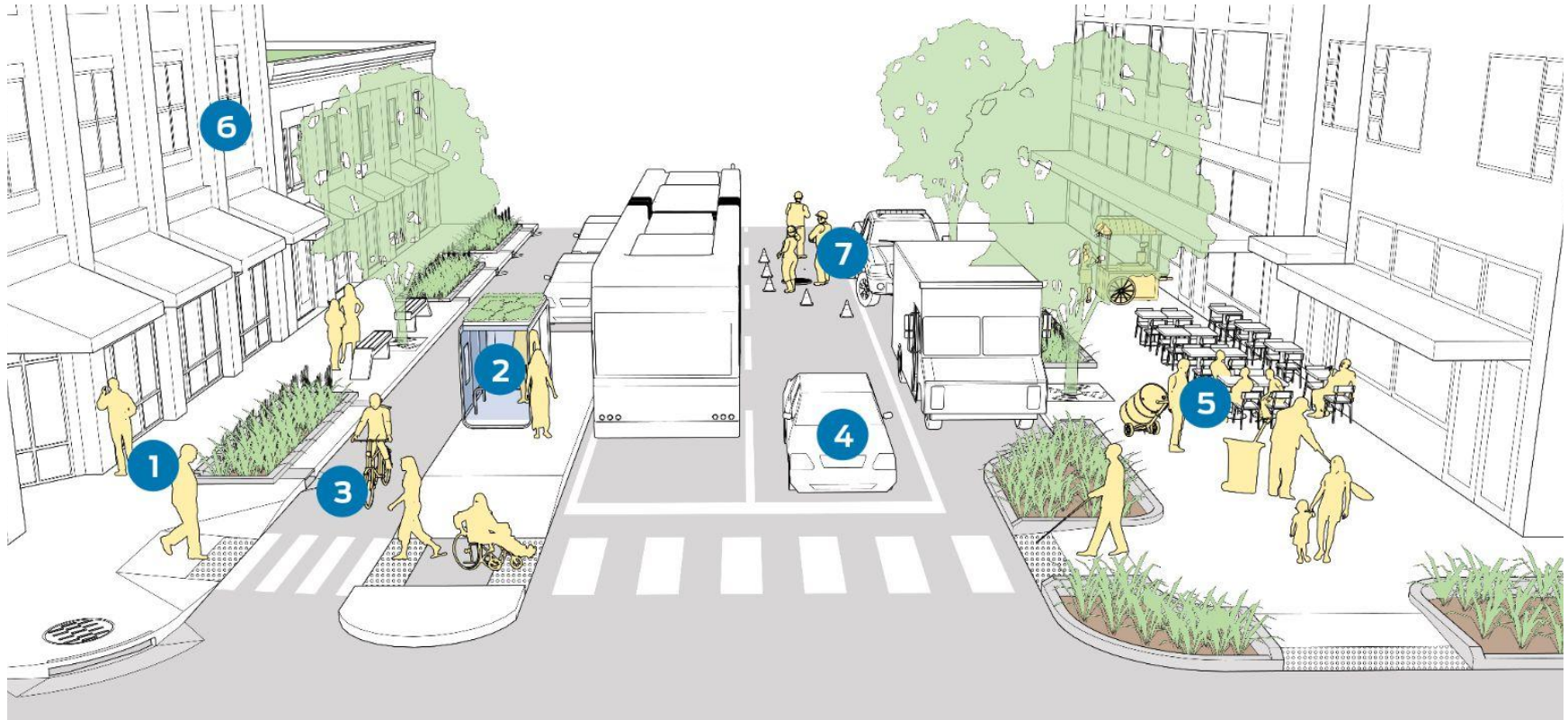


Image: National Association of City Transportation Officials

Complete Streets is a national movement



WHAT ARE Complete Streets?

Space for PEOPLE

Curb ramps, crosswalks, and curb extensions to make it easy for pedestrians to cross streets and access destinations

Space for BIKES

Designated connected routes and low-stress facilities that support people riding bikes, e-bikes and scooters

Space for CARS

Traffic calming measures and design cues to encourage slower speeds and driver awareness of vulnerable road users

Space for MASS TRANSIT

Bus pullouts, shelters, transit-only lanes, and signal priority to create transit-friendly roadways

Space for SHARED MOBILITY

Designated curb-side space for shared bike and scooter parking that separates users from traffic, and keeps sidewalks clear and safe

Space for REFUGE

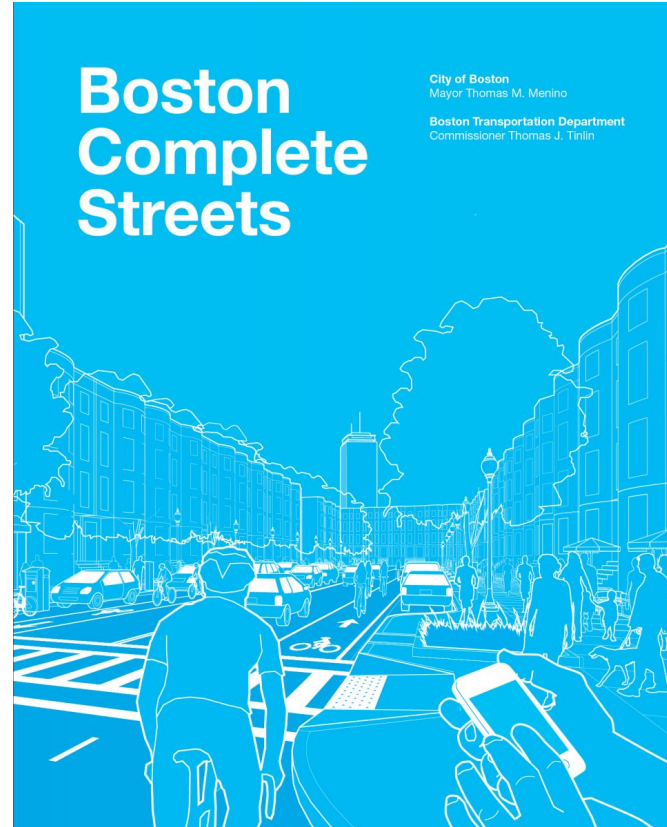
Street furniture, parks, lighting, and public green spaces that promote gathering and social interaction



CALBIKE
CALIFORNIA BICYCLE COALITION

Boston Complete Streets

In 2013, the City of Boston adopted *Boston Complete Streets*. With these guidelines, we are directed to consider all types of people and their needs when designing a street.



How does street design impact our health?

Chronic conditions:

- Asthma
- Cancer
- Diabetes
- Disability due to injury
- Heart disease and high blood pressure
- Mental health and well-being

Health behaviors:

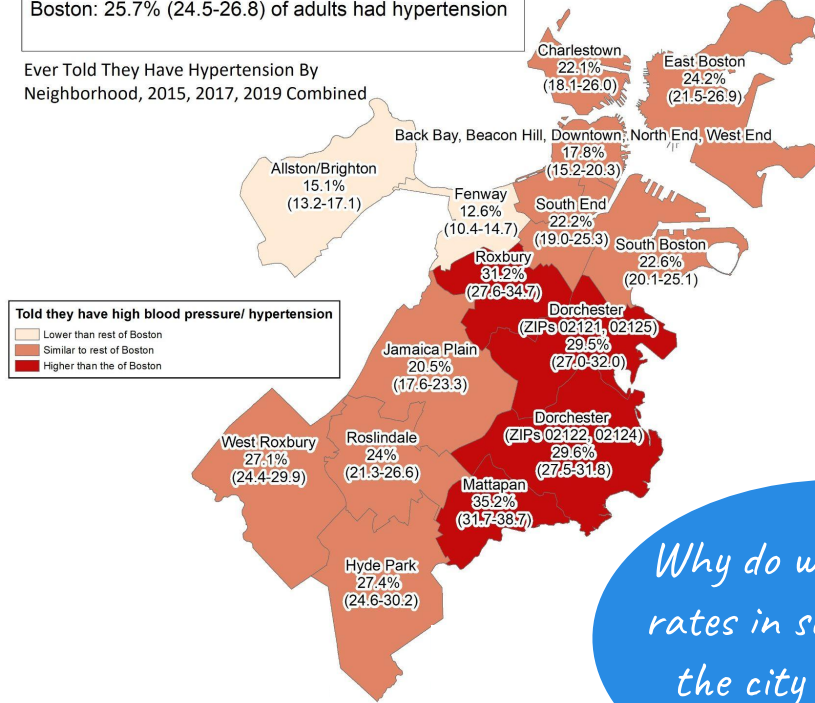
- Physical activity
- Pedestrian safety
- Vehicle driver safety



Two examples of the health outcome trends we see in Boston

Boston: 25.7% (24.5-26.8) of adults had hypertension

Ever Told They Have Hypertension By Neighborhood, 2015, 2017, 2019 Combined

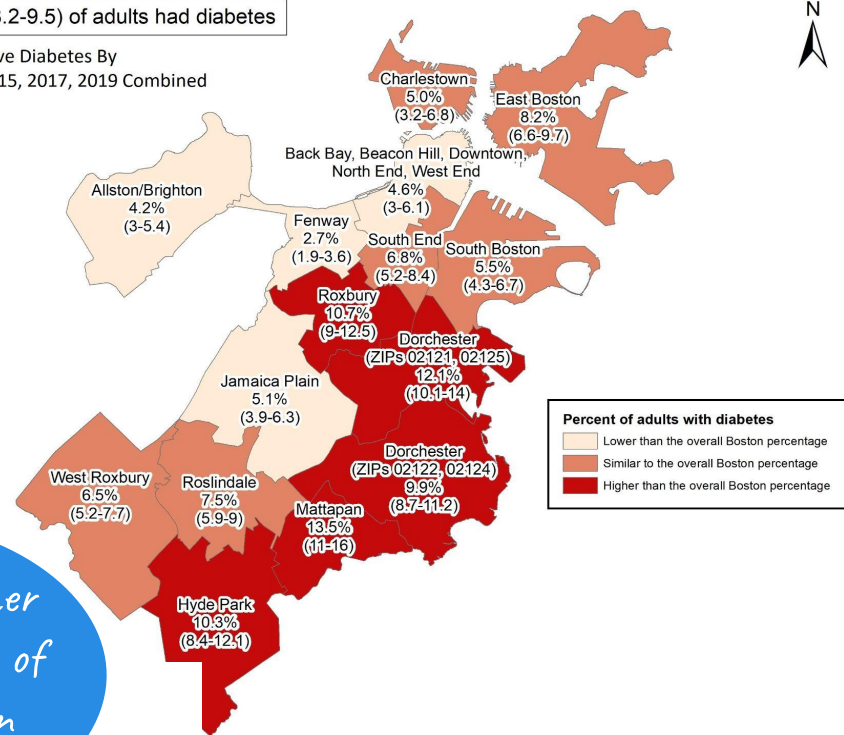


Told they have high blood pressure/ hypertension

- Lower than rest of Boston
- Similar to rest of Boston
- Higher than the of Boston

Boston: 8.8% (8.2-9.5) of adults had diabetes

Ever Told They Have Diabetes By Neighborhood, 2015, 2017, 2019 Combined



Percent of adults with diabetes

- Lower than the overall Boston percentage
- Similar to the overall Boston percentage
- Higher than the overall Boston percentage

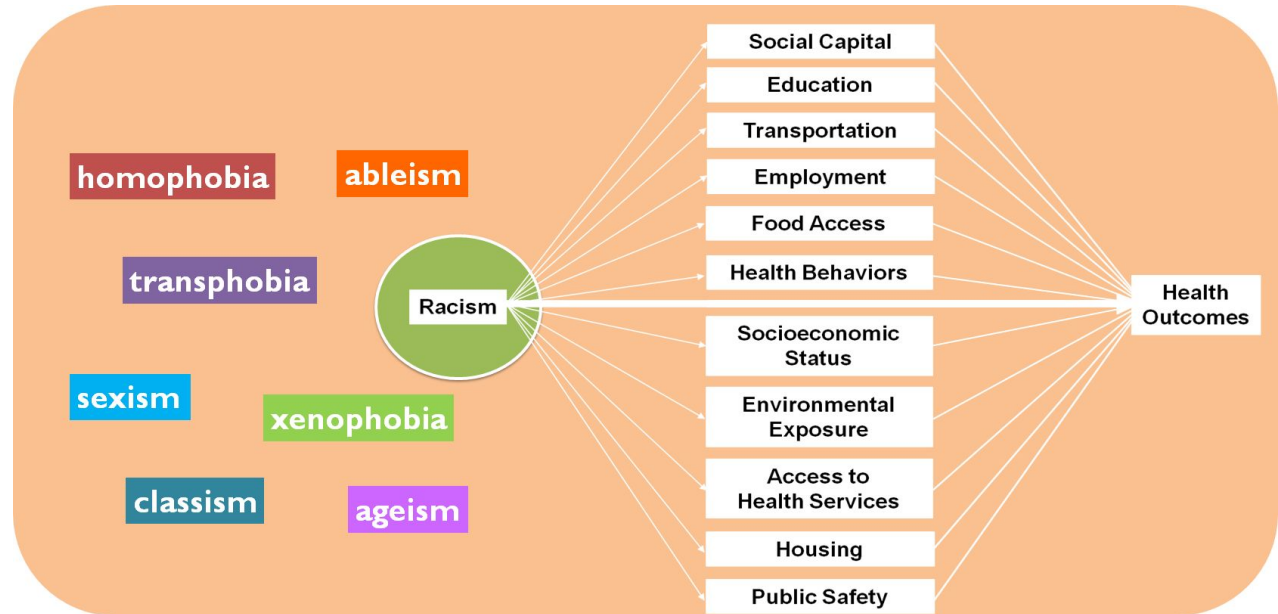
Why do we see higher rates in some areas of the city and not in others?



The goal: Achieve Health Equity

The opportunity for everyone to attain their full health potential: no one is disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of their social position (class, socio-economic status) or socially assigned circumstance (race, gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, geography, etc.)

BPHC's Health Equity Framework



Addressing root causes of health inequities

Health inequities are not caused by personal choices, behaviors or by one person or problematic policy/practice. They are caused by a system of inequitable policies/practices and how that system impacts a community over time.

Racism impacts health outcomes and causes health inequities. The differences in health outcomes that we see by race are due to racism, not race.

Racism operates through different methods

Internalized/
Individual



Interpersonal



Institutional



Structural,
Systemic



Racism in the
built
environment
shows up
here

How does racism impact our street design?

- Policies and systems rooted in racism created inequities many years ago.
- **People-oriented design:** Designed to be walkable, easily accessible to commercial areas and downtown by public transit.
- **Auto-oriented design:** Designed to drive through, creates “cut through” neighborhoods, physically divides neighborhoods.
- What’s in a name? What does the word “Highway” in Cummins Highway imply?
- These are systemic issues and need a systemic response.



Transportation and street design equity

We have to **intentionally and purposefully change policy and practice in street design.**

- Focus on people-oriented, environmentally friendly design
- Our streets are a building block for a healthy community
 - Improves the environment, traffic, and safety in the neighborhood
 - Improves transit access to jobs and education opportunities, food, and other necessities
 - Supports our physical activity and mental health and keeps us connected to our neighborhood



How is BPHC supporting transportation equity?

In 2020, the Mayor declared **racism as a public health crisis**.

In 2021, BPHC developed an anti-racism policy and action plan.



How is BPHC supporting transportation equity?

Active Living and Wellness Program

- Organizes the Boston Parks Summer Fitness Series - annual free physical activity classes for residents
- Supports community based organizations doing physical activity work in our neighborhoods.
- Chairs the Boston Safe Routes to School task force
- Promotes active transportation throughout the city
- Partners with community-based organizations leading community engagement processes on Boston's complete streets projects.



What do you want to see in your healthy streets?



What's next for Cummins Highway?



The Cummins Highway reconstruction goal: safer, more accessible

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.

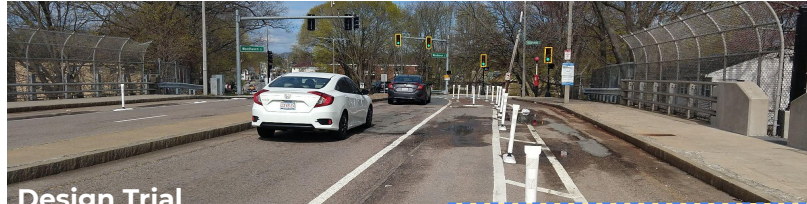


Timeline of Cummins Highway reconstruction project

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

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
- ▶ November and beyond: trees, green infrastructure, roundabouts, pedestrian improvements

Focused conversations and input

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.

Focused conversations and input

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 bus 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

In August 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

In September 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
- Share your thoughts: bit.ly/Cummins-Light_Feedback

Next Steps

Participate in upcoming focused conversations:

- Green infrastructure and the Cummins Highway redesign
 - **October 20 at 6:30 p.m.**
 - 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

Resources and staying engaged



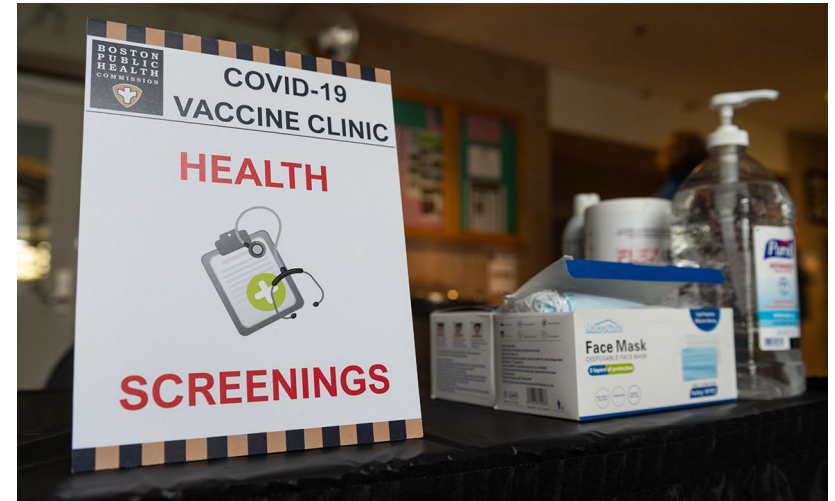
Where to get a COVID-19 vaccine?

COVID-19 vaccines are free and available throughout the city:
[boston.gov/covid19-vaccine](https://www.boston.gov/covid19-vaccine)

In Mattapan:

Morning Star Baptist Church
1257 Blue Hill Avenue

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday
- 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Plan to vote in primary election, Tuesday, November 2nd!

The last day to register to vote: **Tuesday October 13**

Are you voting by mail?

- You can mail the ballot to the address on the envelope, *you must pay for the stamp.*
- Return in person to a dropbox.
 - Mattapan Branch Library (1350 Blue Hill Avenue)
- On election day go to your polling location and swap your mail-in ballot for a ballot to cast in-person.



You can now ride route 28 FOR FREE

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://www.boston.gov/28bus).



PLAN: Mattapan Public Art Project

BPDA is looking for property owners who are interested in having a mural on their wall. They have funding for two more walls.

Any interested property owners should email kenya.p.beaman@boston.gov



Ride Bluebikes at a discount!

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.

More info:

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



Stay in touch:

Public Health Commission

- Reach out to Mary Bovenzi: mbovenzi@bphc.org
- Find more information about the Public Health Commission: bphc.org

Cummins Highway Reconstruction

- Green infrastructure and the Cummins Highway redesign on October 20 at 6:30 p.m.
 - Register here: bit.ly/Cummins-Green
- Visit the project website: boston.gov/cummins-highway
- Chat with us: bit.ly/Cummins-15
- Reach out to Jeff Alexis: jeffrey.alexis@boston.gov

Chat with us in-person

Meet us at the Mattapan
Square Farmers Market!

888 Cummins Highway

Every Saturday in October
from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

