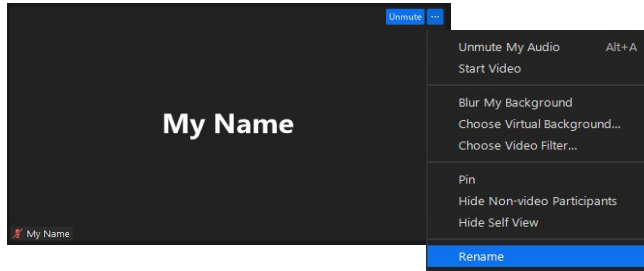


Congress Street Reconstruction

*Monday, February 28, 2022
via Zoom*

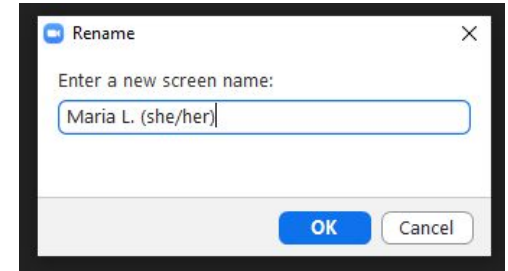
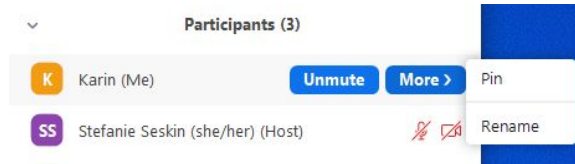
Welcome!

- ▶ This meeting will be recorded.
 - We will share the recording online.
- ▶ Please update your name in Zoom to your preferred name and include your pronouns.



Click the three dots in the top right of your video

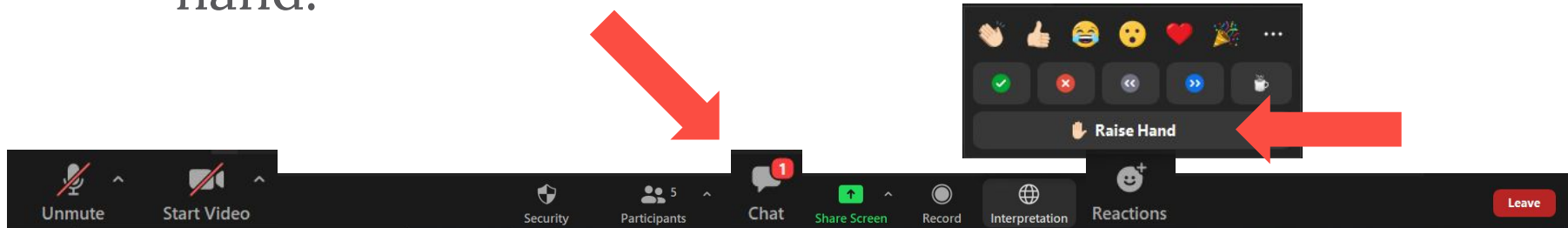
OR next to your name in the "participants" list



Add your pronouns after your name

Welcome!

- ▶ Your microphones are turned off. You will need to unmute to speak.
 - Joining via phone? Press ***6** to unmute.
- ▶ To ask a question, raise your hand in the “Reactions” menu, or leave a message in the chat box.
 - If you called into the meeting, use ***9** to raise your hand.



Hi!



Jeffrey Alexis

Principal Civil Engineer,
Public Works Department



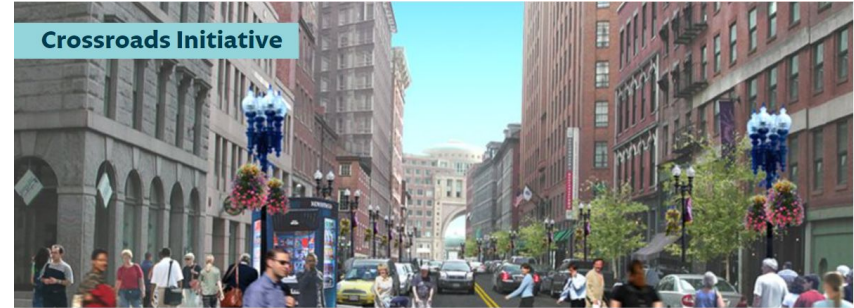
Pat Hoey

Sr. Transportation Planner,
Transportation Department

Why are we looking at Congress Street?

When the Central Artery project (“Big Dig”) was completed, the City shifted gears to look at important neighborhood connector streets:

- ▶ Broad Street
- ▶ Causeway
- ▶ Summer Street
- ▶ Congress Street



The Crossroads Initiative selects a handful of streets that, with the creation of the Greenway, have the potential to form vital connections between districts—districts such as the West End and the North End, as well as South Boston and Chinatown. At the same time, the network these improved streets and the Greenway will form, will create new ways of looking at and understanding the City. Targeted improvements to these Crossroads streets will:

- Make inviting connections between the Greenway parks, neighborhoods, and cultural destinations,
- Celebrate gateways—at the water’s edge, at South Bay, North Station, South Station and Long Wharf, and
- Introduce the Greenway as a new “Common Ground”—another, year-round center for Boston’s social life that highlights the distinctive character of the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway and its districts.

STAY CONNECTED

Sign up for Neighborhood Email Updates!



NEIGHBORHOOD

Downtown

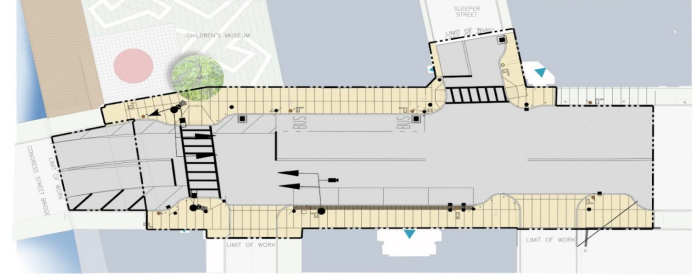
EVENTS

Visit our [Calendar](#) section for more events.

It's been a while since we last talked

- ▶ We talked about Congress Street in 2017 and installed the signal at the Children's Museum
- ▶ We had detailed ideas back in 2014

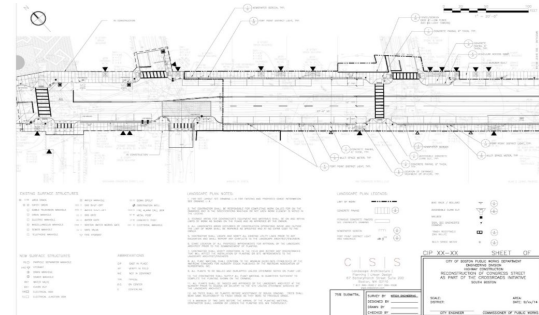
CONGRESS STREET – THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM INTERSECTION PLAN – CONSTRUCTED 2017



City of Boston Public Works Department

Mayor Martin J. Walsh

CONGRESS STREET 75% PLANS – SLEEPER STREET TO BOSTON WHARF ROAD



City of Boston Public Works Department

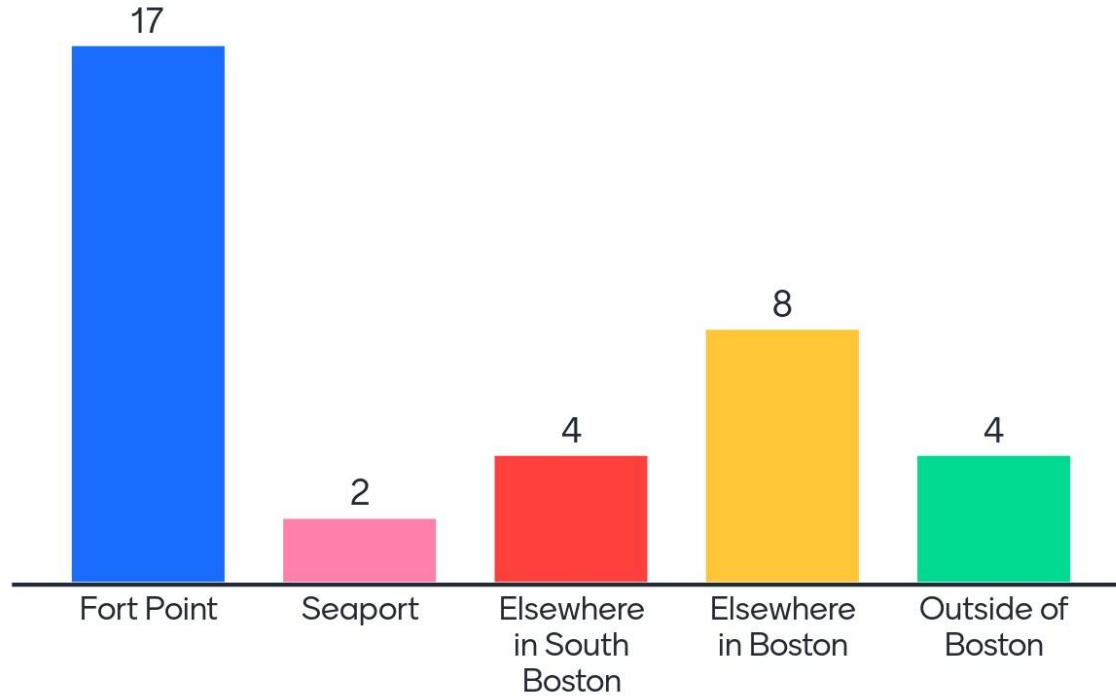
Mayor Martin J. Walsh

Join our live polling tonight:

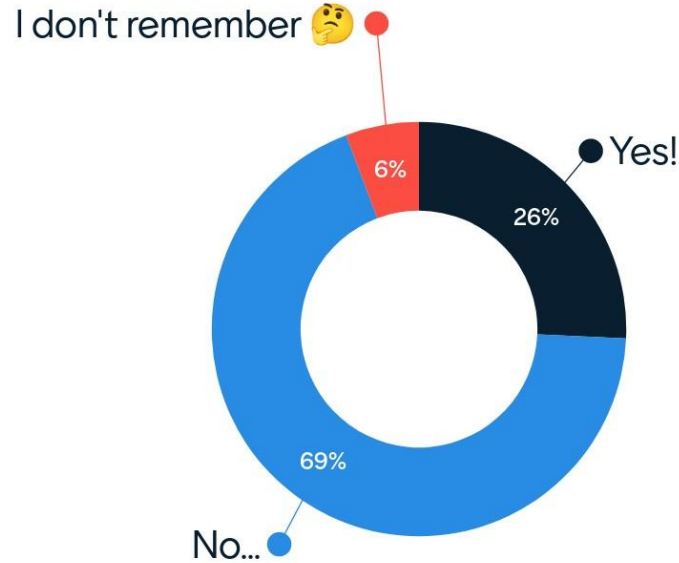
Please go to
www.menti.com
and enter code
5142 2286



Where do you live?



Did you participate in any of our earlier meetings about Congress Street?



How do you use Congress Street?



Enjoy as a place

Enjoy as a place

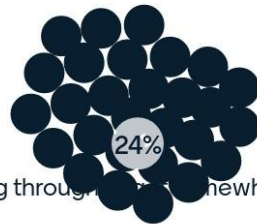


Dining



Going to cultural destinations

Going to cultural destinations



Passing through to somewhere else

Passing through to somewhere else



I work on Congress Street



I live on Congress Street



Another reason



An aerial photograph of a city street grid, likely in Los Angeles, showing a dense arrangement of buildings and streets. The image has a blue tint. A white horizontal line runs across the middle of the image, separating the top and bottom halves. The text "Designing Congress Street" is overlaid on this line in a large, white, sans-serif font.

Designing Congress Street

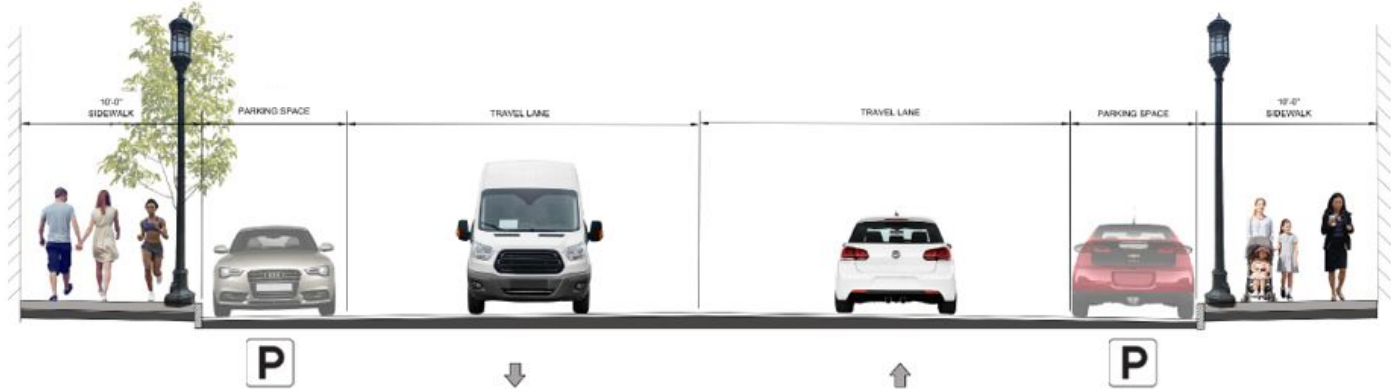
Citywide, our departments work to:

- ▶ Make walking, biking, and taking transit convenient and safe,
- ▶ Eliminate traffic crashes that cause serious injury or fatality,
- ▶ Support resiliency in the face of climate change, and
- ▶ Lift up economic opportunity

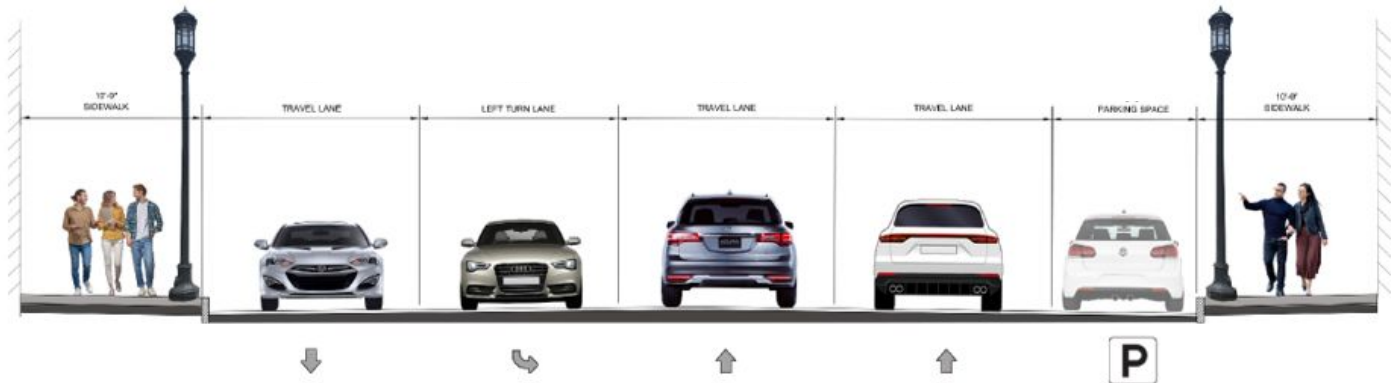


Today's Congress Street

*West of
A Street*

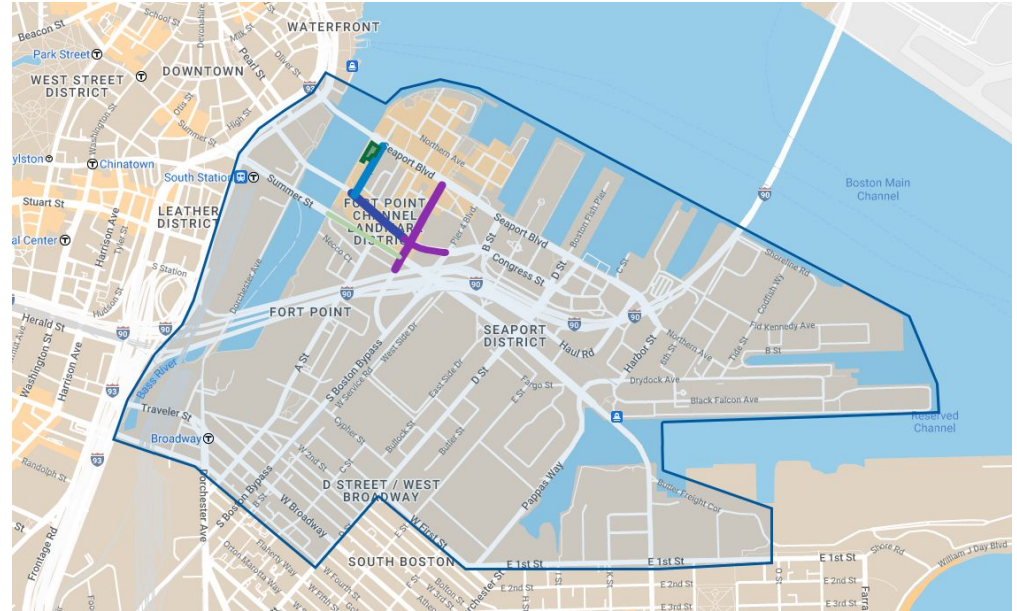


*East of
A Street*



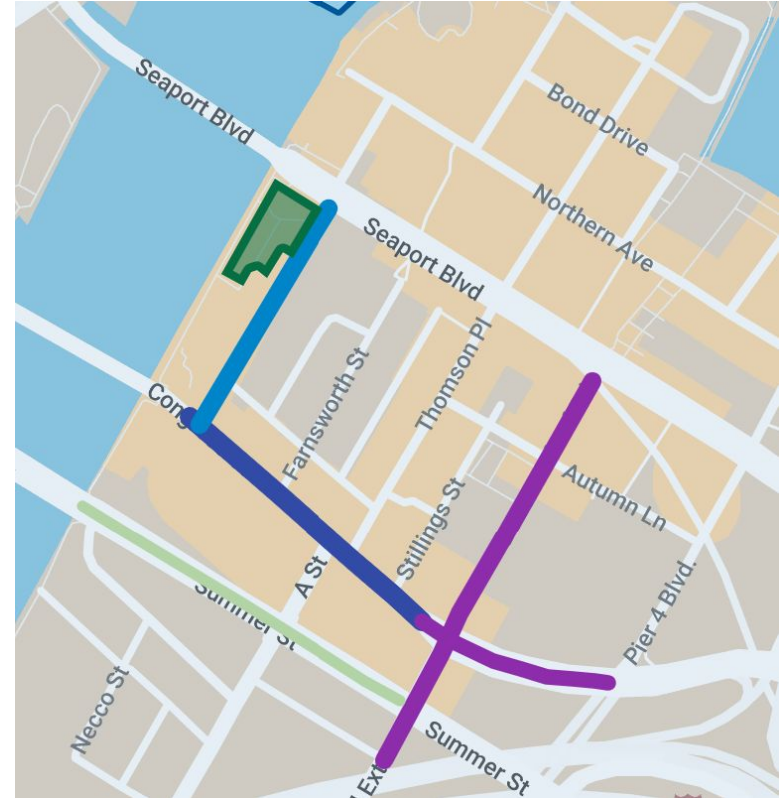
Planning context

- ▶ South Boston Seaport Strategic Transit Plan



Planning context

- ▶ Street reconstruction projects:
 - Summer Street
 - Boston Wharf Road
 - Sleeper Street



Planning context

- ▶ Growing network of separated bike lanes



Transit priority corridors

- ▶ Through the South Boston Seaport Strategic Transit Plan, we evaluated many options for improved transit to and through Fort Point.
- ▶ We considered whether Congress Street should prioritize transit.



South Boston Seaport Strategic Transit Plan

The **South Boston Seaport Strategic Transit Plan** is being undertaken by the City of Boston, jointly led by the **Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA)** and the **Boston Transportation Department (BTD)**. We began this planning process in spring 2019 with the goal of improving the operations, capacity, and connectivity of the transit network serving the South Boston Seaport.

Recent Updates

Join us for the release of the Draft South Boston Seaport Strategic Transit Plan at a [Virtual Public Meeting](#), Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 6 PM. We began this discussion in spring 2019 with the goal of improving the operations, capacity, and connectivity of the transit network serving the South Boston Seaport. Over this time we have released short, medium, and long-term strategies for consideration and analysis.

Altogether, the short, medium, and long-term strategy evaluations as well as your feedback have informed the draft

STAY CONNECTED

Sign up for Neighborhood Email Updates!



NEIGHBORHOOD

South Boston/South Boston Waterfront

EVENTS

03
Mar

South Boston Seaport Strategic Transit Plan Public Meeting

Comparing options

Congress Street:

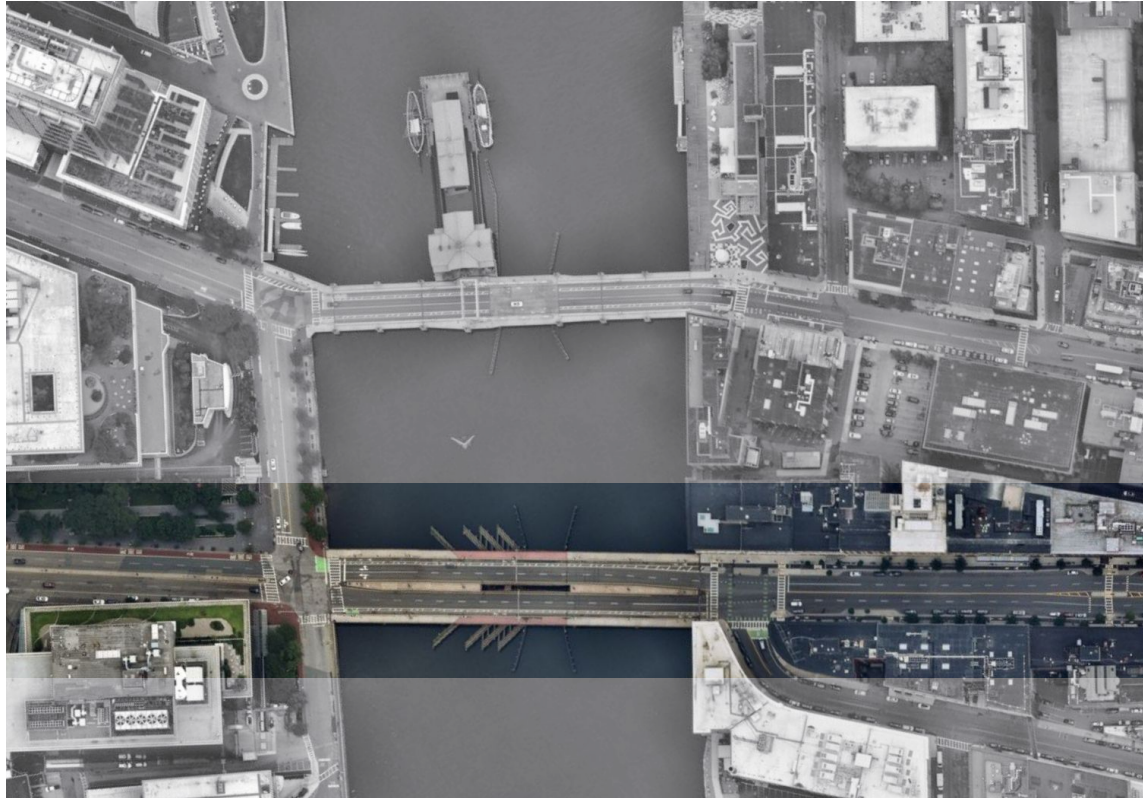
- ▶ Narrower right-of-way (75')
- ▶ Indirect connection to South Station
- ▶ Possibly redundant to Silver Line on Seaport Boulevard



Comparing options

Summer Street:

- ▶ Wider right-of-way (100')
- ▶ Direct connection to South Station, City Point
- ▶ Better access to Convention Center and other “elevated” buildings



Comparing options

Congress Street:

- ▶ Narrower right-of-way (75')
- ▶ Indirect connection to South Station
- ▶ Possibly redundant to Silver Line on Seaport Boulevard

Summer Street:

- ▶ Wider right-of-way (100')
- ▶ Direct connection to South Station, City Point
- ▶ Better access to Convention Center and other “elevated” buildings



Recommended in the South Boston Seaport Strategic Transit Plan!

Within this context, we can reconsider Congress Street

For example,

- ▶ How should Congress Street respond to how people are moving today?
- ▶ Do our earlier plans best meet future needs?
- ▶ Did we miss any opportunities?

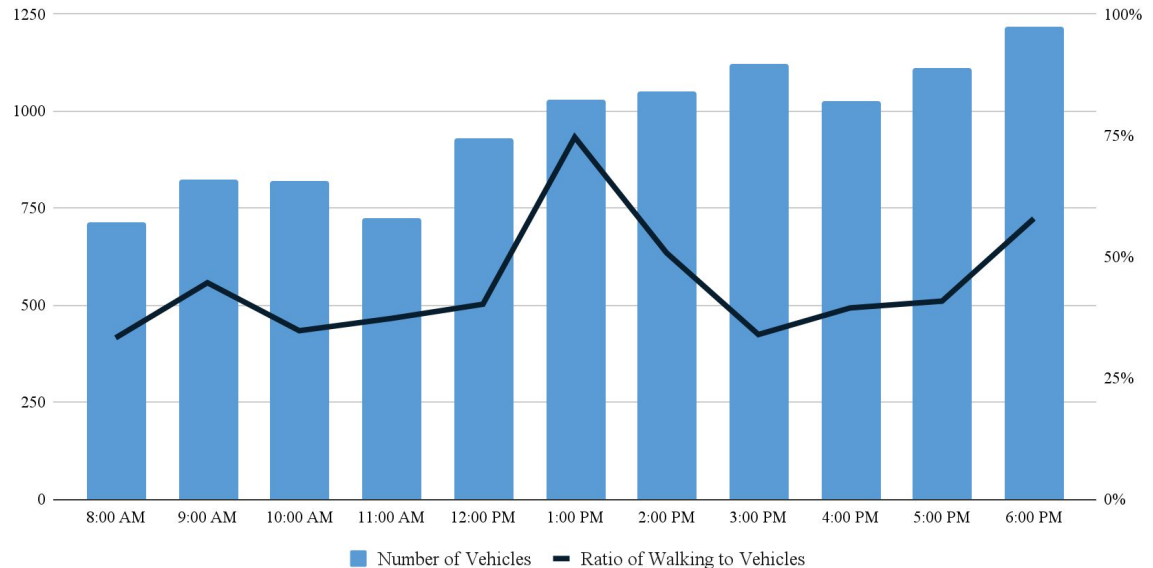


An aerial photograph of a city street grid, likely in Los Angeles, showing a dense arrangement of buildings and streets. The image has a blue tint and a white horizontal line running across the middle. The text "Possible designs for Congress Street" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

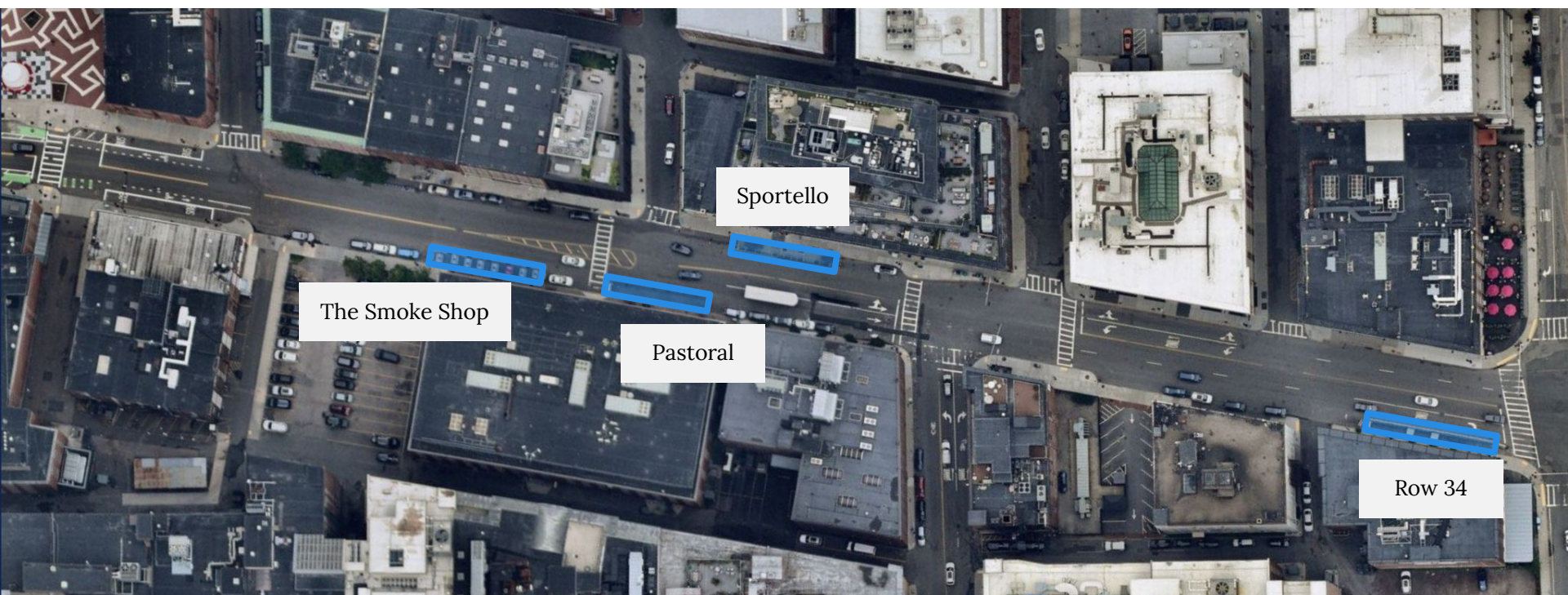
Possible designs for Congress Street

Who's using Congress Street today?

- ▶ At the intersection of A Street, in July 2021 between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., we counted:
 - 375 people on bikes,
 - 4,778 people walking, and
 - 10,572 vehicles



Outdoor dining on Congress Street in 2021



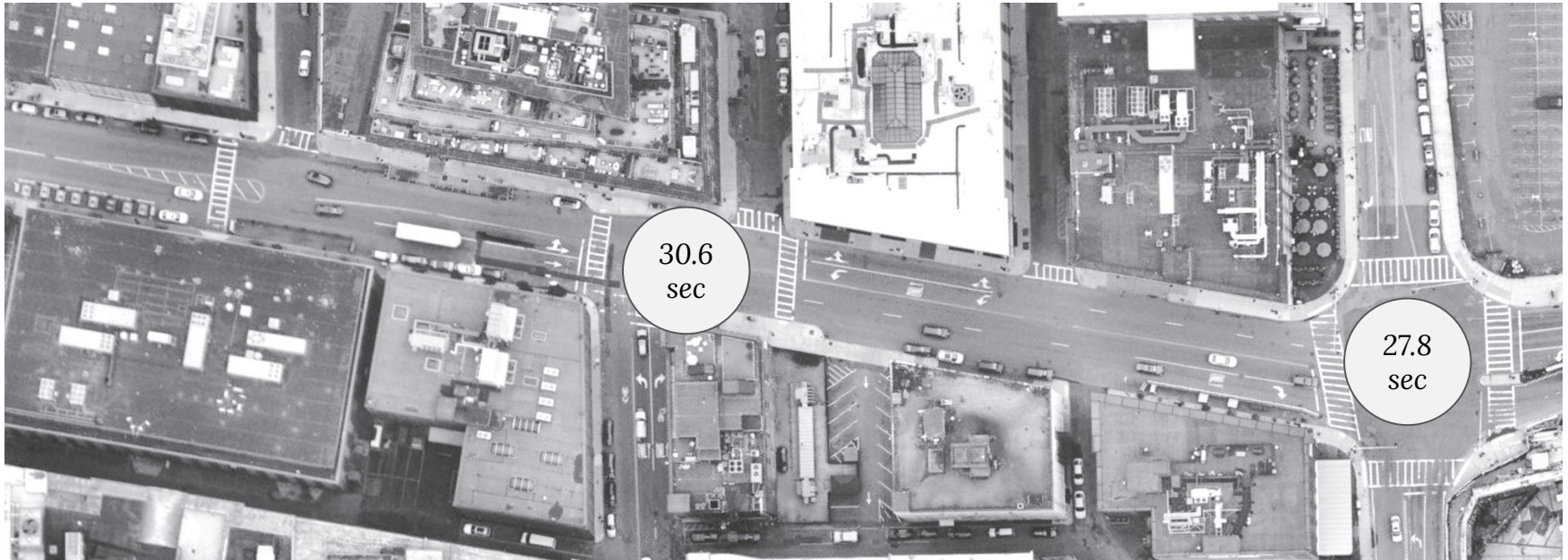
We have three ideas to share tonight

Common themes:

- ▶ Raised crosswalks over side streets at intersections without traffic signals
- ▶ New space for street trees
- ▶ Significantly wider sidewalks
- ▶ Shorter crosswalks over Congress Street
- ▶ Repurpose space from turn lanes at A Street

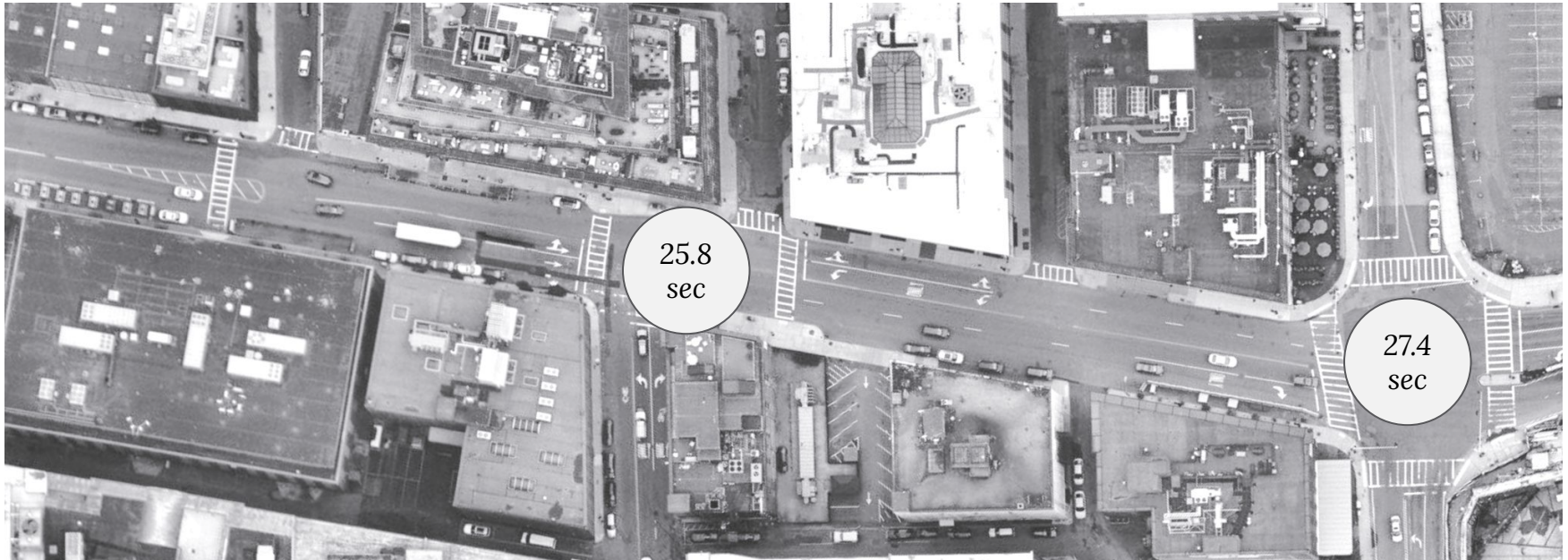
Pre-pandemic traffic processed efficiently

Average vehicle delays in the morning:



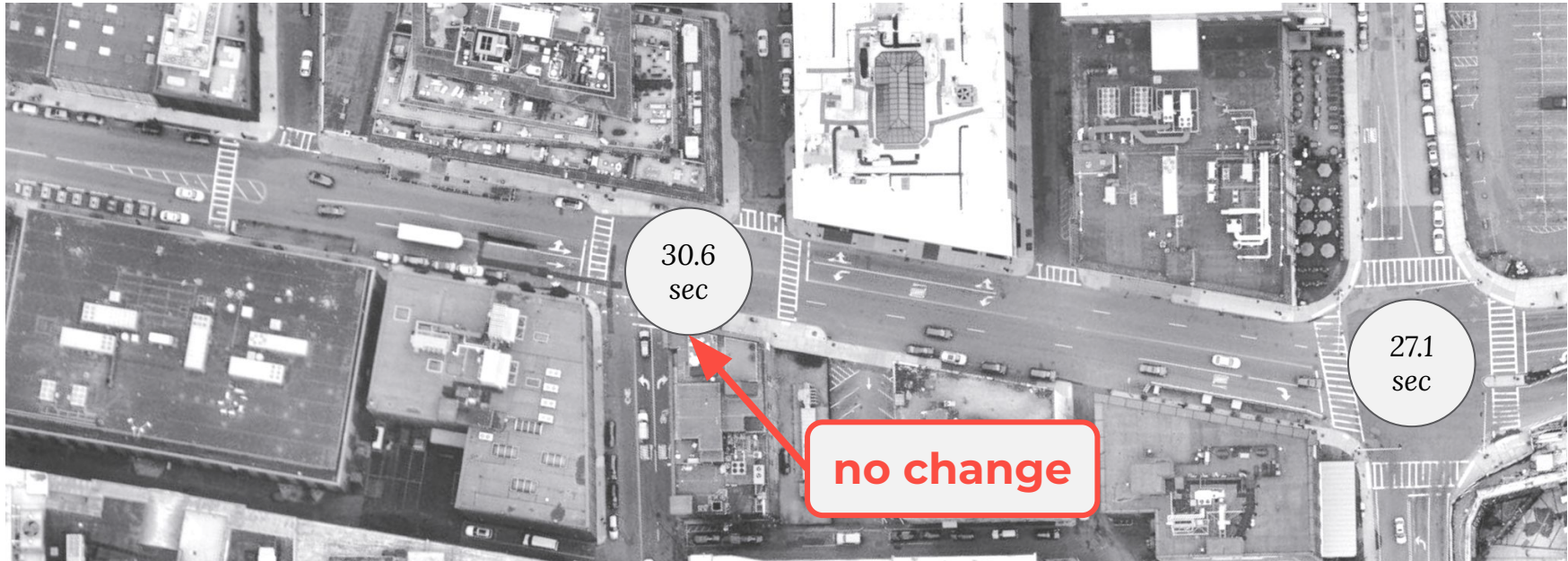
Pre-pandemic traffic processed efficiently

Average vehicle delays in the afternoon:



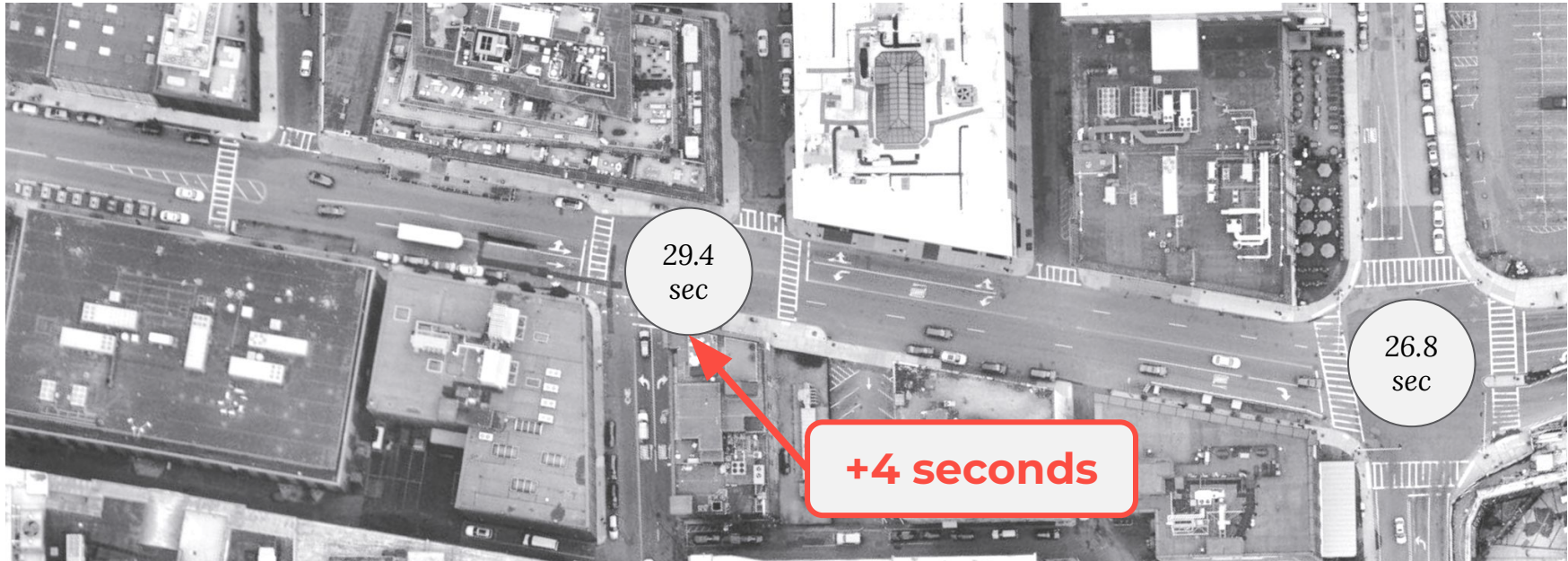
Removing the turn lanes has little effect on delay

Anticipated average vehicle delays in the morning:



Removing the turn lanes has little effect on delay

Anticipated average vehicle delays in the afternoon:

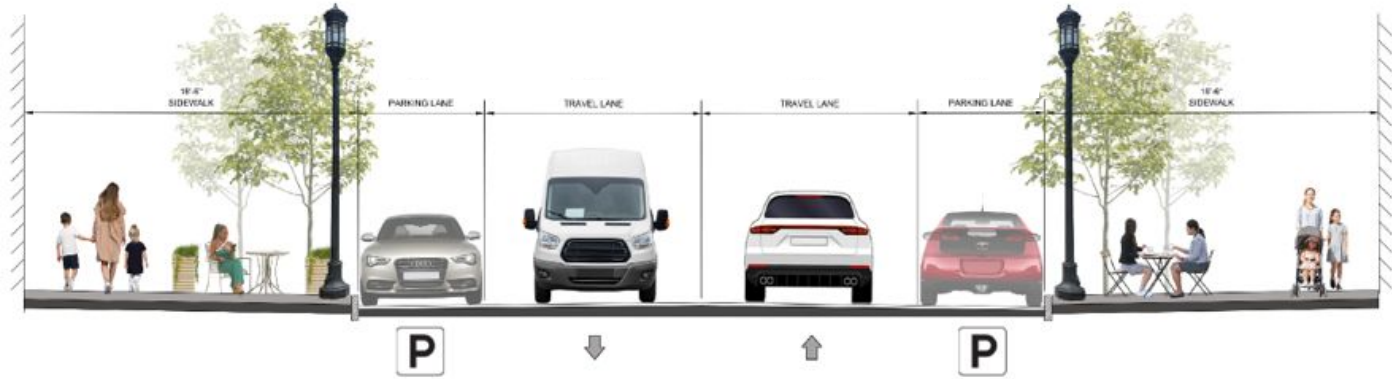


We will open discussion after sharing the concepts

- ▶ These are preliminary, intended to open the discussion
- ▶ Keep an open mind, since changes will be made as we move forward together
- ▶ What do you want to give people in the future?

Option A

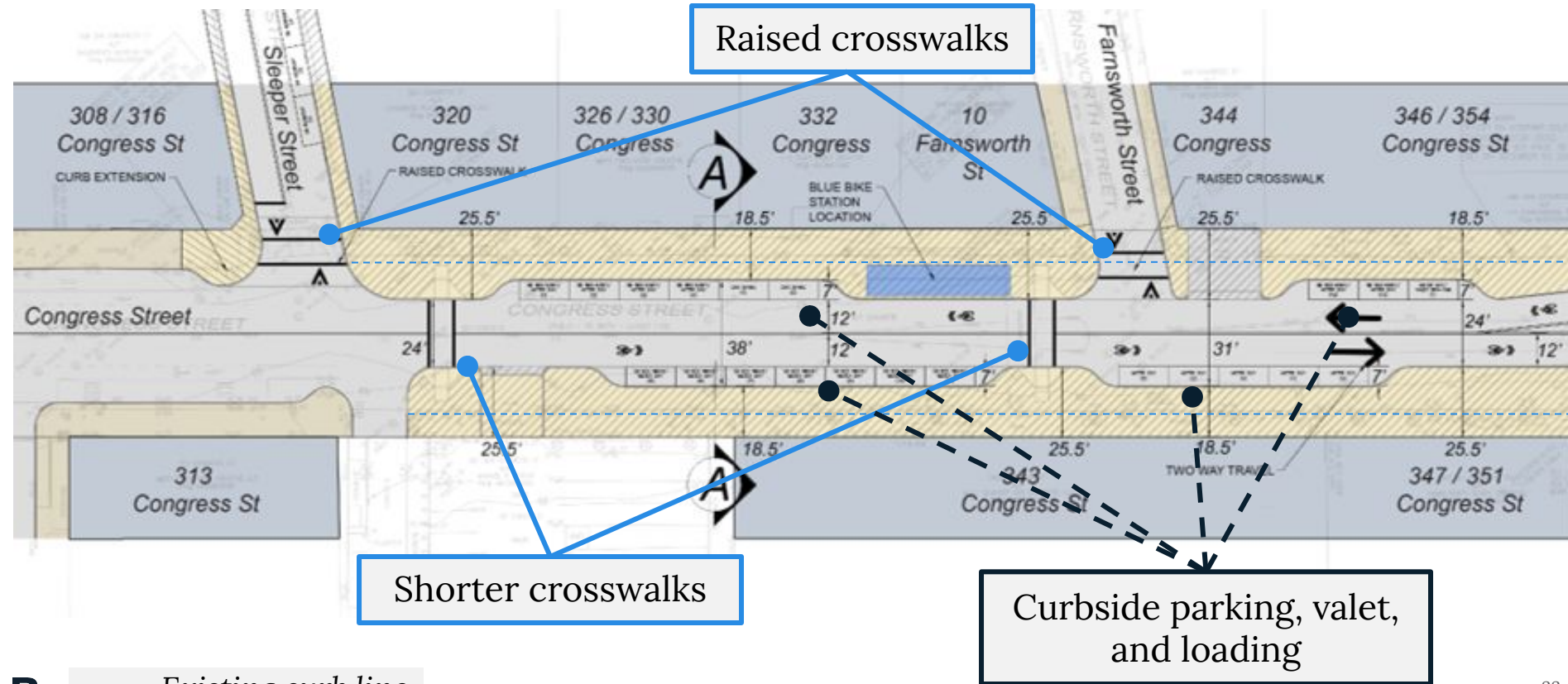
*West of
A Street*



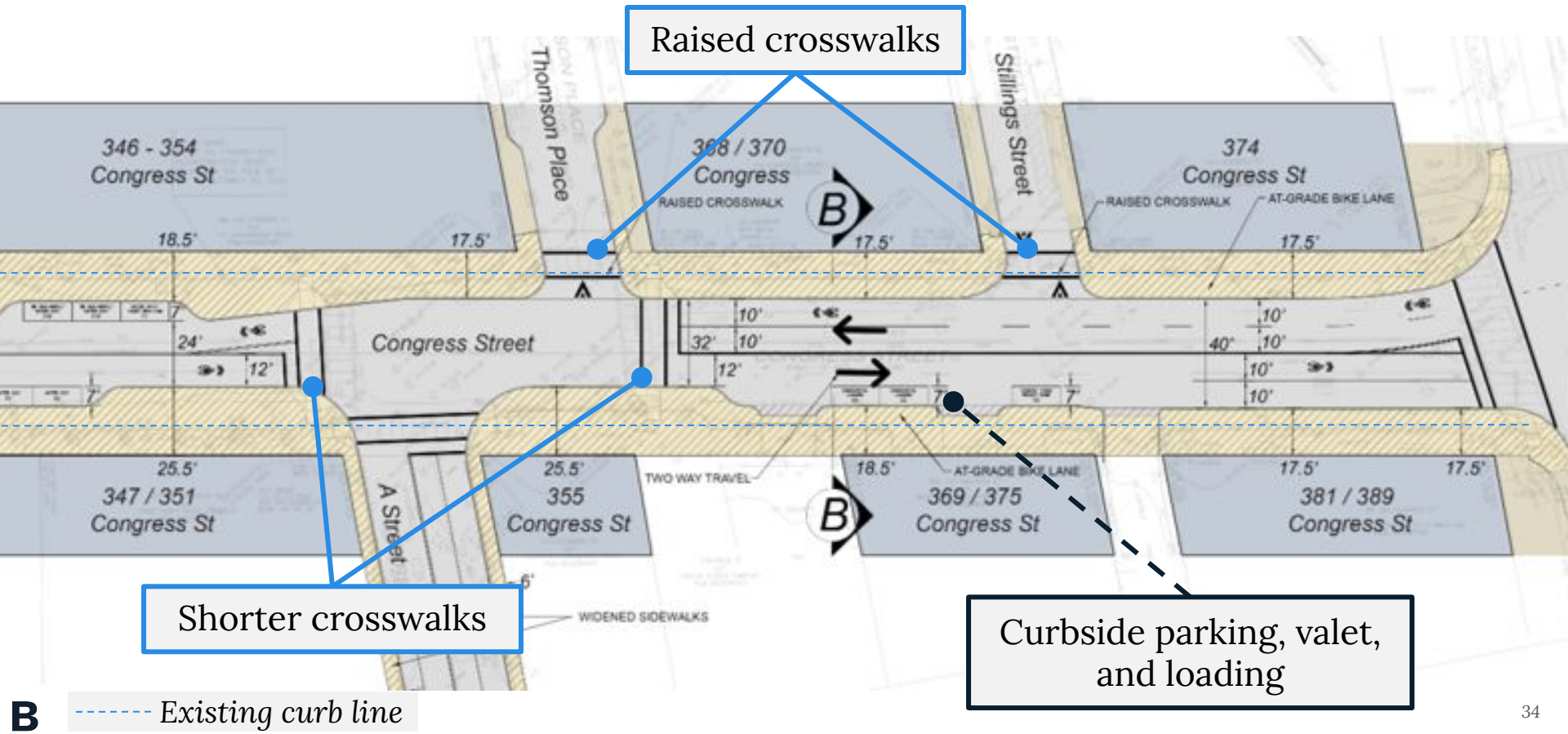
*East of
A Street*



Option A: West of A Street



Option A: East of A Street



Option B

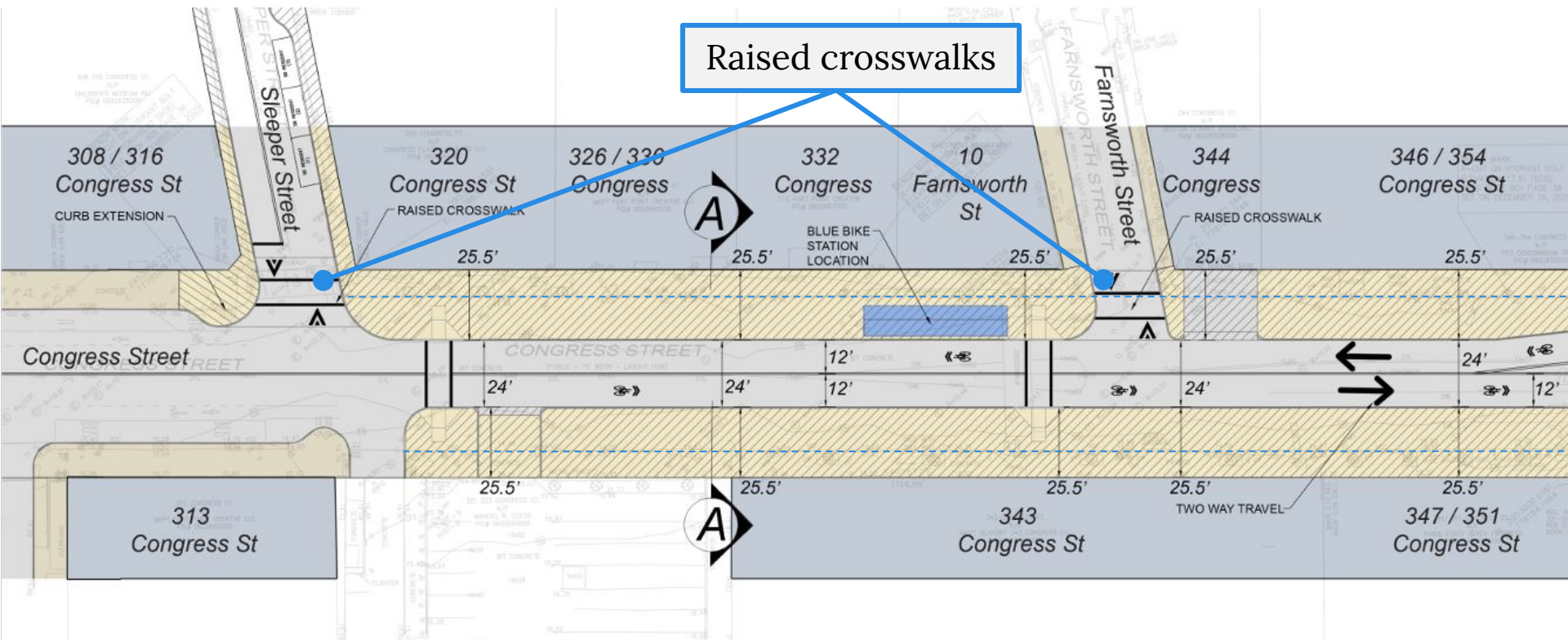
*West of
A Street*



*East of
A Street*

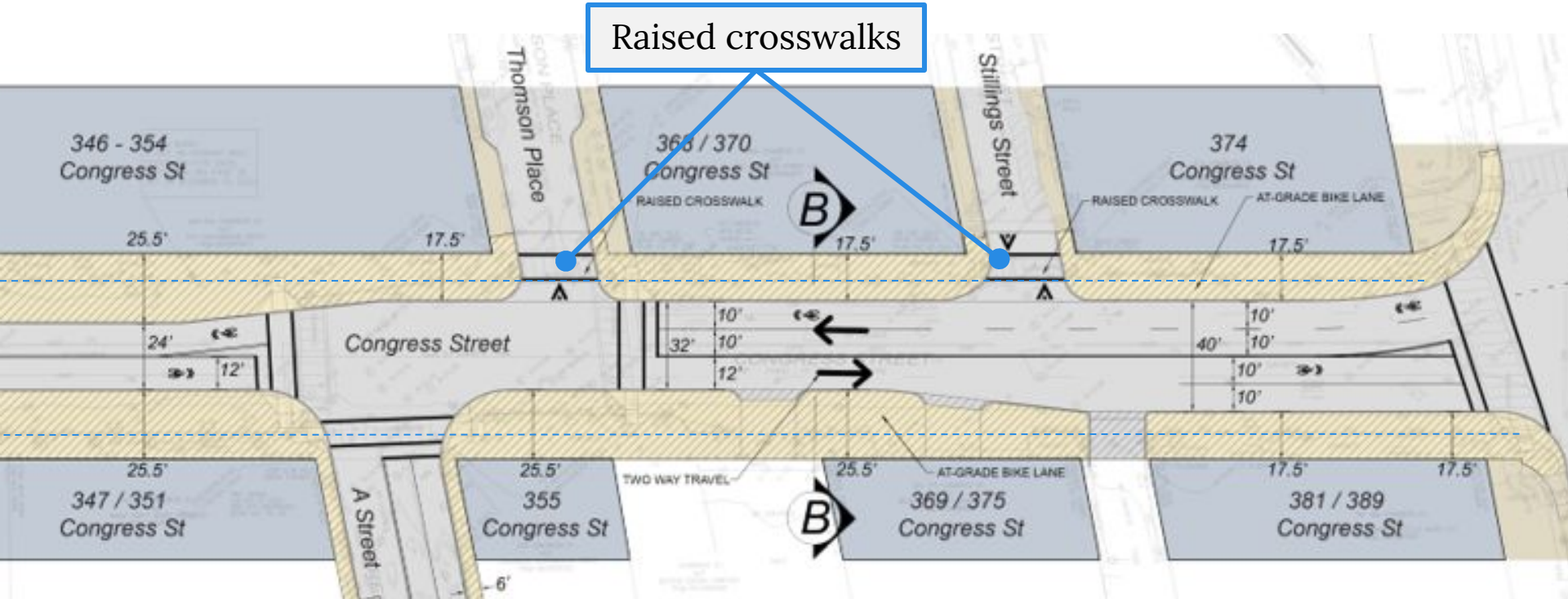


Option B: West of A Street



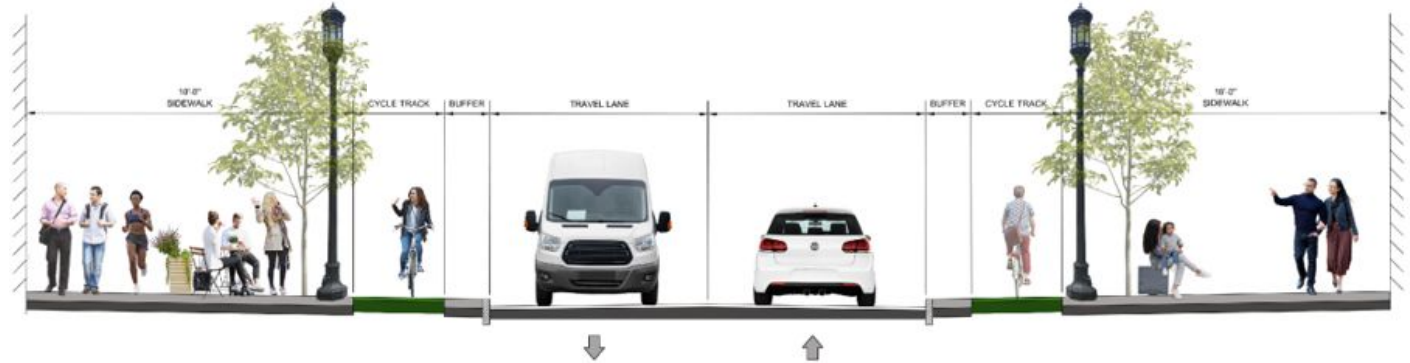
----- Existing curb line

Option B: East of A Street



Option C

*West of
A Street*



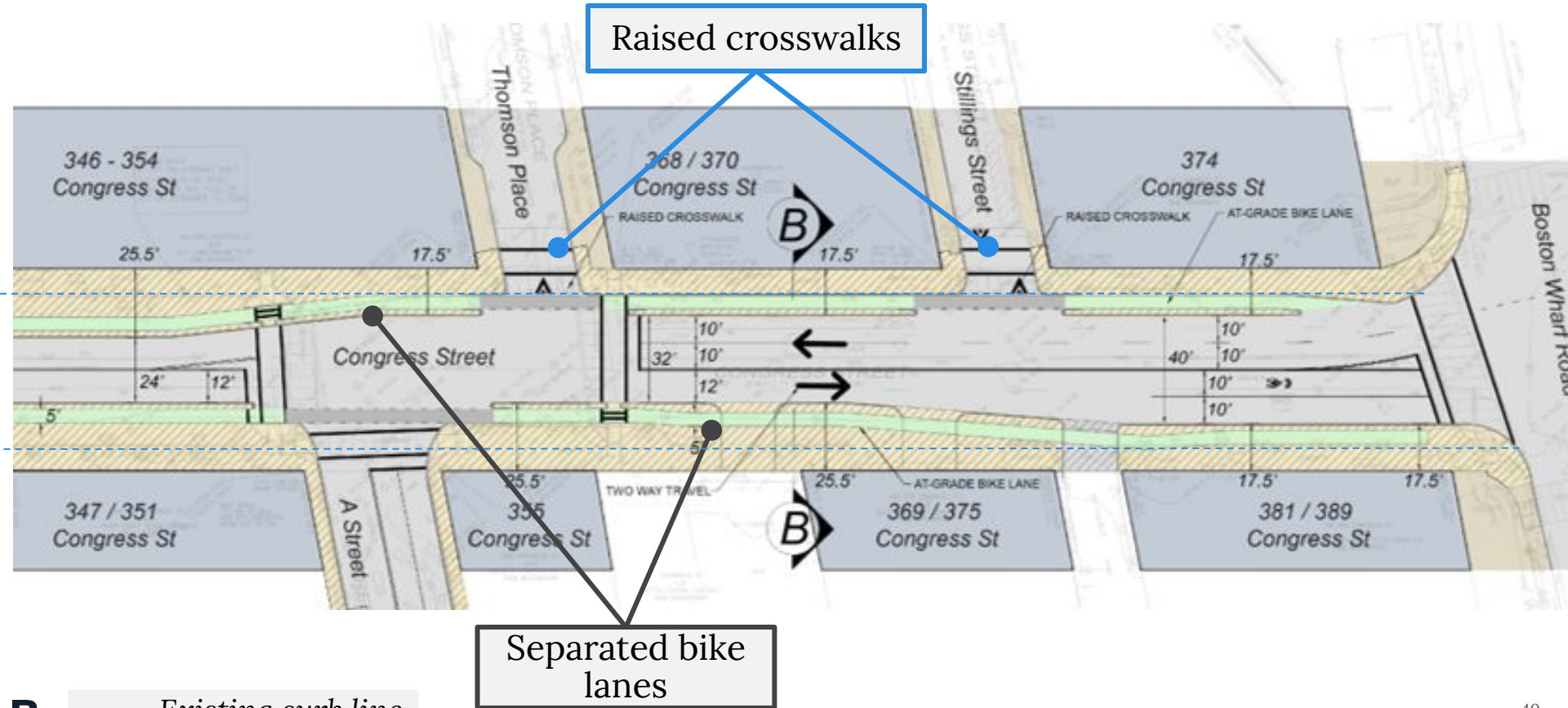
*East of
A Street*



B



Option C: West of A Street



Option A



Most similar to today's Congress Street, with curbside access and some additional sidewalk width

Option B



Maximize the sidewalks and pedestrian realm while significantly reducing metered parking

Option C



Increase sidewalk space, reduce metered parking, and provide separated bike lanes

How do you feel about the possible options for Congress Street?



An aerial, top-down view of a city street grid. The image shows a dense arrangement of buildings, streets, and parking lots. The color palette is desaturated, leaning towards a monochromatic blue-grey. The text "What's next?" is centered horizontally and vertically in a large, white, sans-serif font. The text is slightly transparent, allowing the underlying street patterns to be visible through it.

What's next?

We want to hear from you!

- ▶ Send us your thoughts by **March 21**
 - PWD.Engineering@boston.gov
 - 617-635-2454
- ▶ Information will posted on our website:
boston.gov/congress-street-fort-point
 - Sign up for email updates about the project
 - Share your feedback online
- ▶ Let your neighbors know about the project

Project timeline

- ▶ **May 2022:** Design update meeting
- ▶ **Fall 2022:** Final design meeting
- ▶ **2023:** Aim to start construction



This Thursday: Transit Plan meeting

Learn about the draft
South Boston Seaport
Strategic Transit Plan:

- ▶ March 3, 2022
- ▶ 6 p.m.
- ▶ via Zoom
- ▶ Register at
bit.ly/3oS8zzg



Urban Forest Plan virtual open house

- ▶ Monday, March 14, 2022
- ▶ 5:30 p.m.
- ▶ via Zoom

boston.gov/urban-forest-plan#events

Our urban forest is made up of all the trees in Boston



IN YARDS ON STREETS IN PARKS

These trees provide different values to different people including:



GIVING US SHADE IMPROVING OUR HEALTH CAPTURING RAINWATER BUILDING COMMUNITY

We will begin to understand the urban forest through:



STAKEHOLDER AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EXISTING CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT EVALUATION AND ANALYSIS

Which will help create strategies and goals that make up the Urban Forest Plan, guiding future action.

CITY of BOSTON



Parks and Recreation



Environment

An aerial photograph of a city street grid, showing various buildings, streets, and parking lots. The image is split horizontally by a white line. The word "Discussion" is overlaid in white text on the upper half of the image.

Discussion