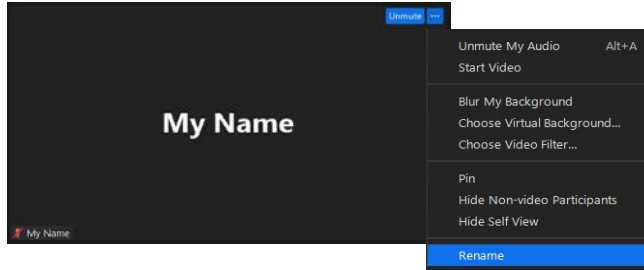


Congress Street Reconstruction

*Wednesday, November 16, 2022
via Zoom*

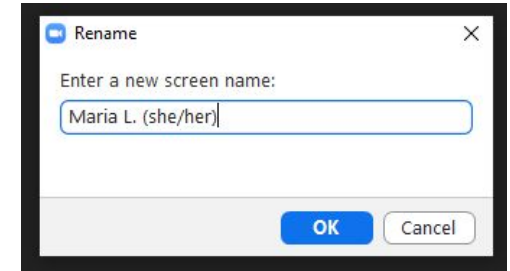
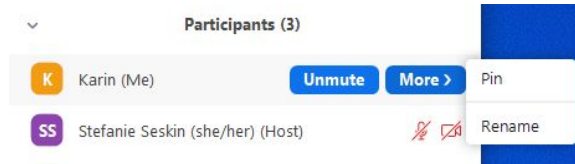
Welcome!

- ▶ 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

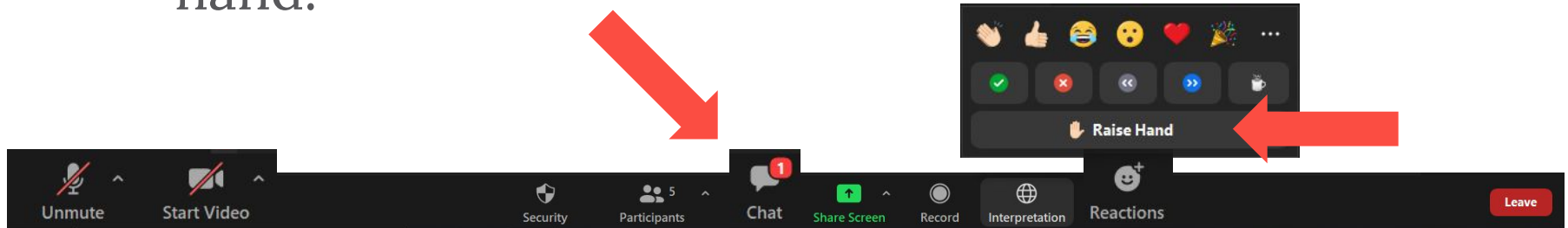
OR next to your name in the "participants" list



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



Stefanie Seskin

Active Transportation,
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!

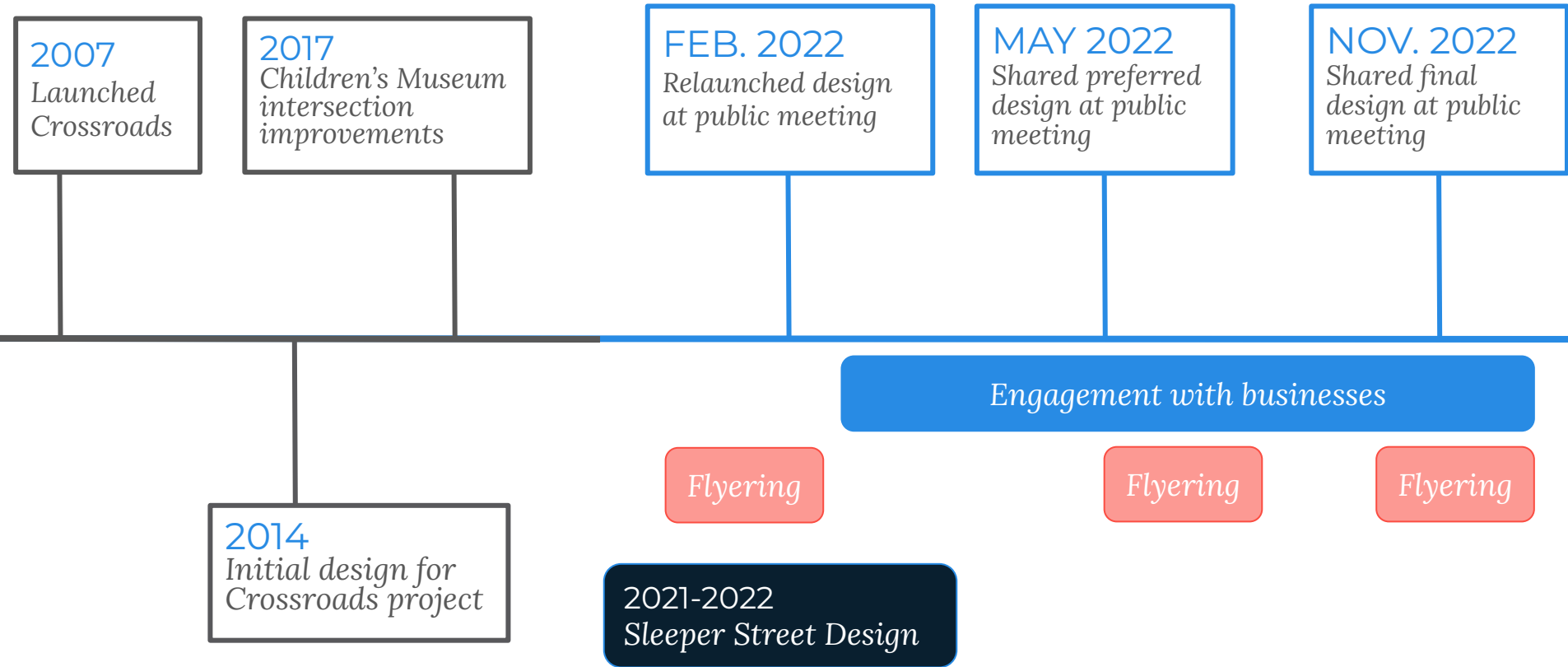


NEIGHBORHOOD

Downtown

EVENTS

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



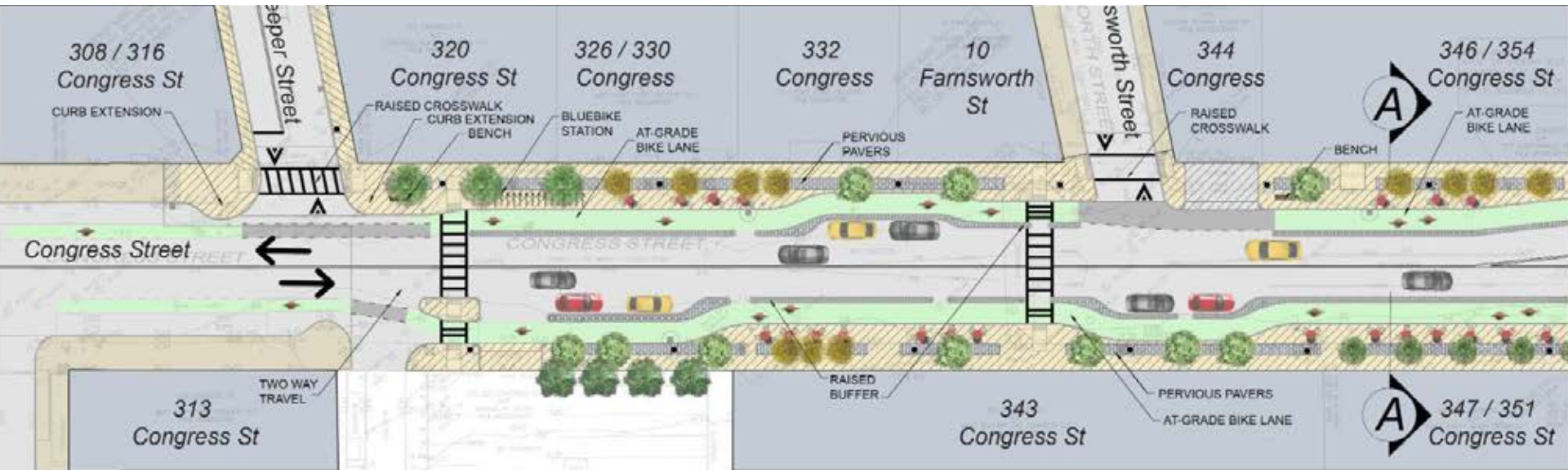
An aerial photograph of a city street grid, showing a dense arrangement of buildings, streets, and parking lots. The image is split horizontally, with the top half showing a different section of the city than the bottom half. The text "Final Design" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Final Design

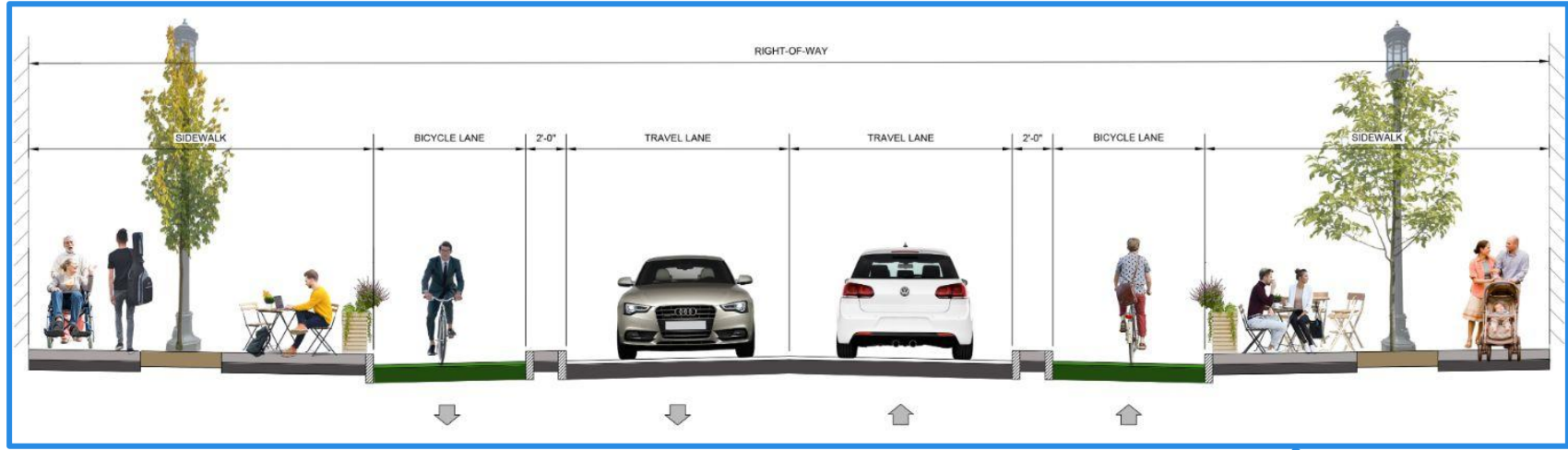
Coming soon: Congress Street



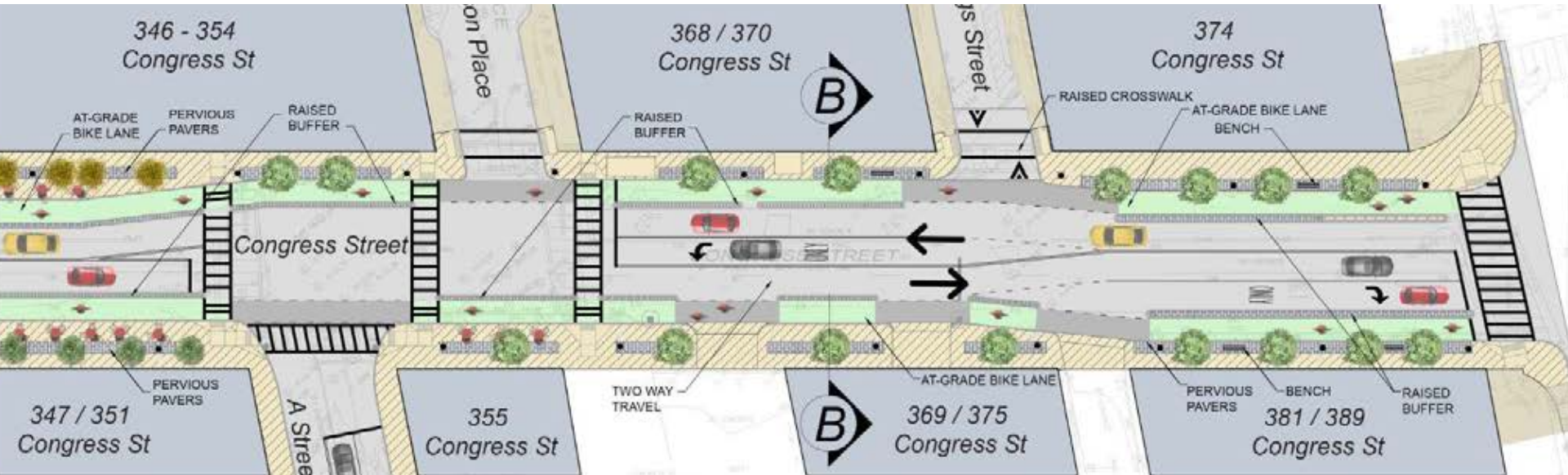
Congress Street, west of A Street



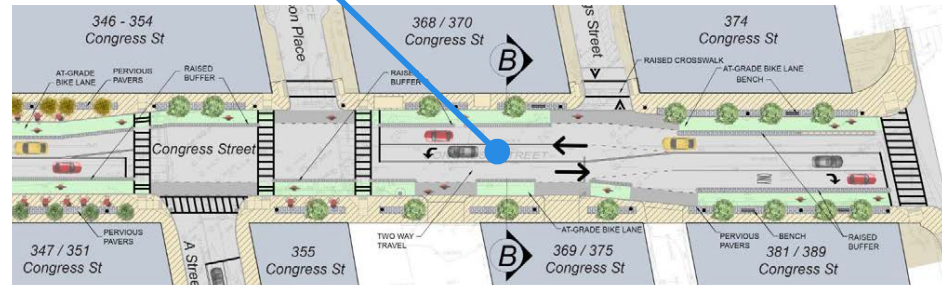
Congress Street, west of A Street



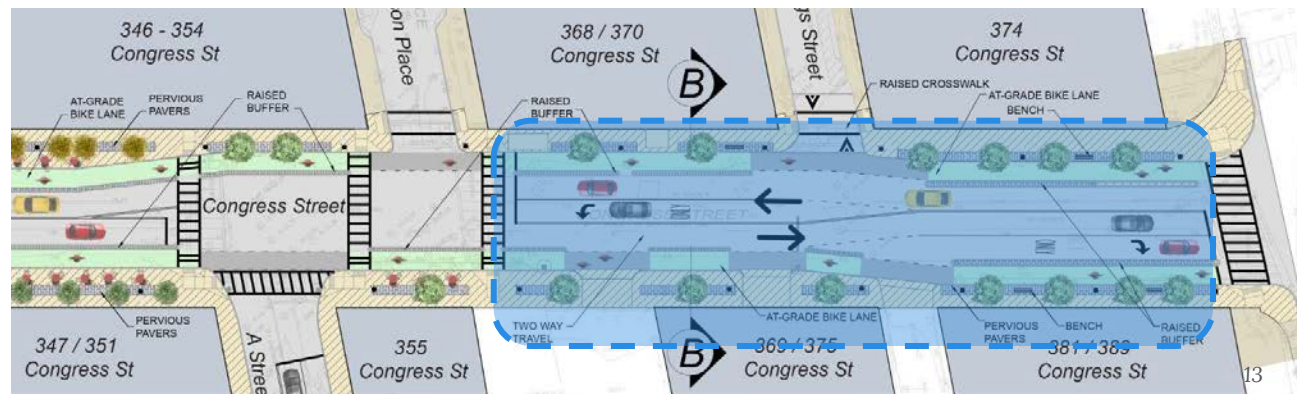
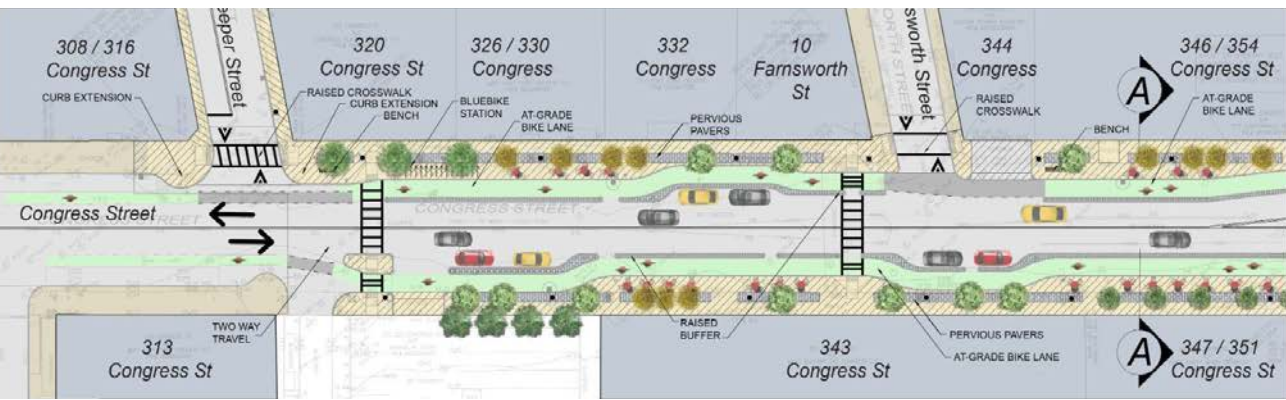
Congress Street, east of A Street



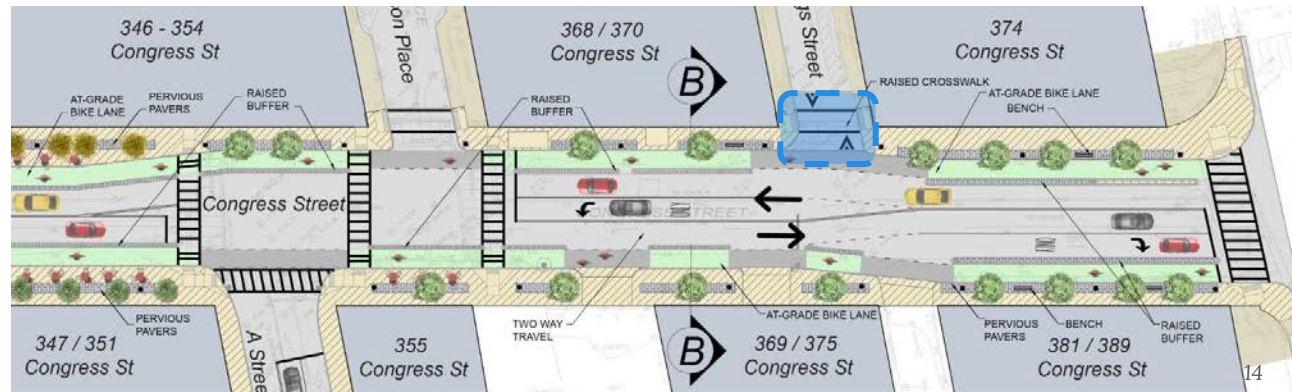
Congress Street, east of A Street



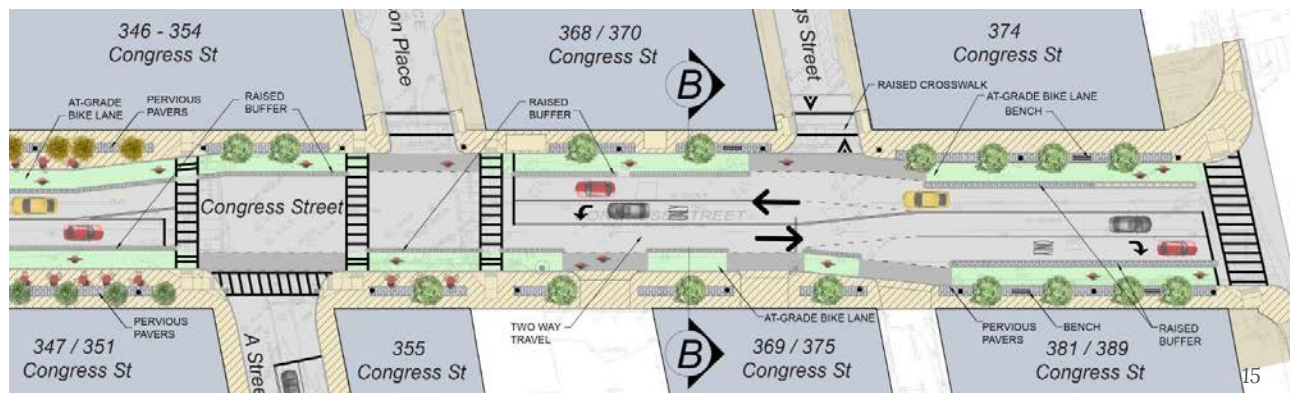
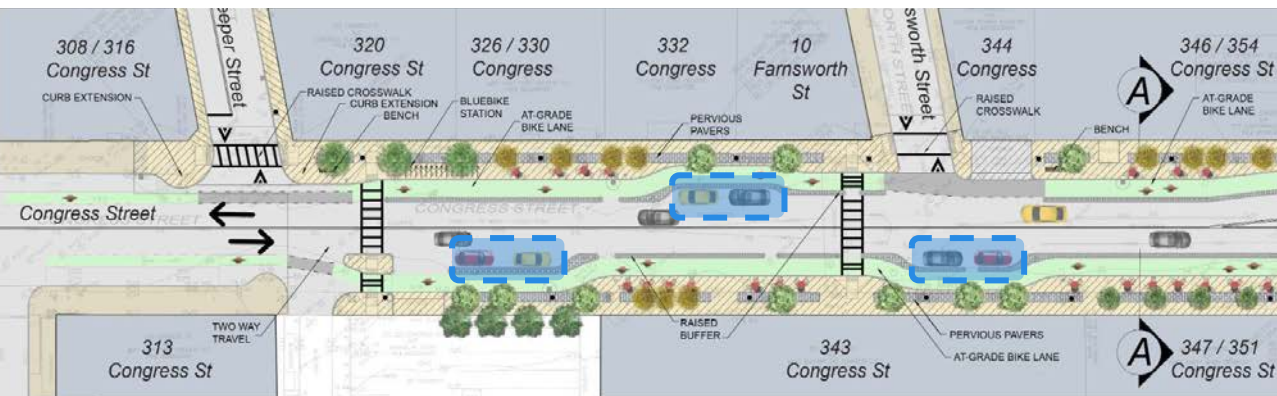
CHANGES EAST OF A STREET Between Thompson Place and Boston Wharf Road, we alternated the turn lanes so the sidewalks could be widened. We are also able to build separation between the bike lane and the sidewalk.



RAISED CROSSWALKS along Congress Street to slow turning vehicles and make pedestrians more visible. As a bonus, these also eliminate the potential for puddles in the crosswalks. Provided across Sleeper, Farnsworth, and Stillings Streets.



CURBSIDE ACCESS is provided west of A Street. These will regulated as short-term parking during the day, intended to accommodate pick-up/drop-off activities. They can be resident-only overnight. Accessible parking spaces will be added to the side streets, in consultation with the Mayor's Commission for Persons with Disabilities.



SIDEWALKS will be generously sized, ranging from 10' to 17.5' along the street. They will be sawcut concrete with granite curbs.

The furnishing zone will be 4.5' wide. Street lights, trees, benches, and bike racks will be located in the furnishing zone. It will also provide separation for any seasonal outdoor seating. *Street furniture pending approval from Fort Point Channel Landmark District Commission.*



Congress Street cross-section



Proposed bike racks



Proposed bench

STREET LIGHTING will feature the Boston Fort Point fixture. *Street lighting pending approval from Fort Point Channel Landmark District Commission.*



BIKE LANE DESIGN has evolved since our Summer Street project. To improve detectability of the bike lane for people who are blind or have low vision, the bike lane will be at the same level as the roadway.

We will build 2-foot islands to separate the travel lanes or parking spaces from the bike lane. Rainwater and snowmelt will be able to drain through openings in these islands to reach catch basins. We will be able to plow these bikes lanes after snowfall and sweep them during the other seasons.



*Similar design approach,
on Comm. Ave.*



LANDSCAPING We plan to protect 8 of the 8 existing, living trees on Congress Street. We hope to add 37 more trees, diversifying the species found along the corridor. All new trees will be 3"-4" caliper when planted. *Number and placement of trees pending approval from Fort Point Channel Landmark District Commission.*



Elm
"Patriot"



Elm
"Accolade"



Elm
"Dannaspire"



Elm
"Princeton"



Pin Oak

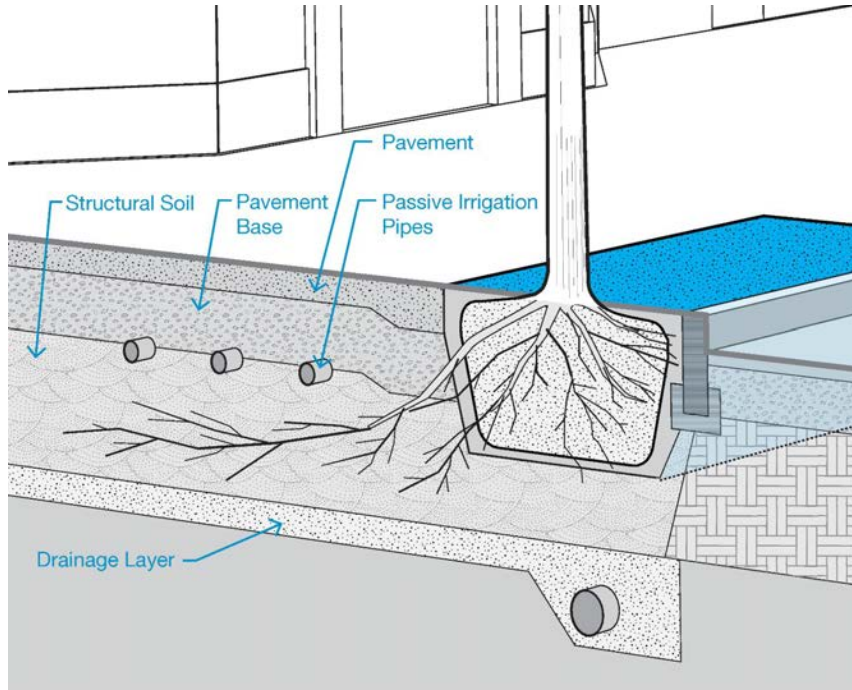


Tupelo
"Green Gable"



Ginkgo
"Princeton Sentry"

TREE HEALTH To help our new trees thrive, we will use structural soils and permeable pavers. Structural soil provides additional rooting space, prevents soil compaction, and allows for water drainage. Permeable pavers allow more rain water to reach the roots. *Pavers ending approval from Fort Point Channel Landmark District Commission.*



Permeable pavers on Summer Street in Fort Point.

An aerial photograph of a city street grid, viewed from a high angle. The image has a blue tint. The streets are arranged in a grid pattern, with buildings and parking lots visible between the streets. The text "Update on related streets" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

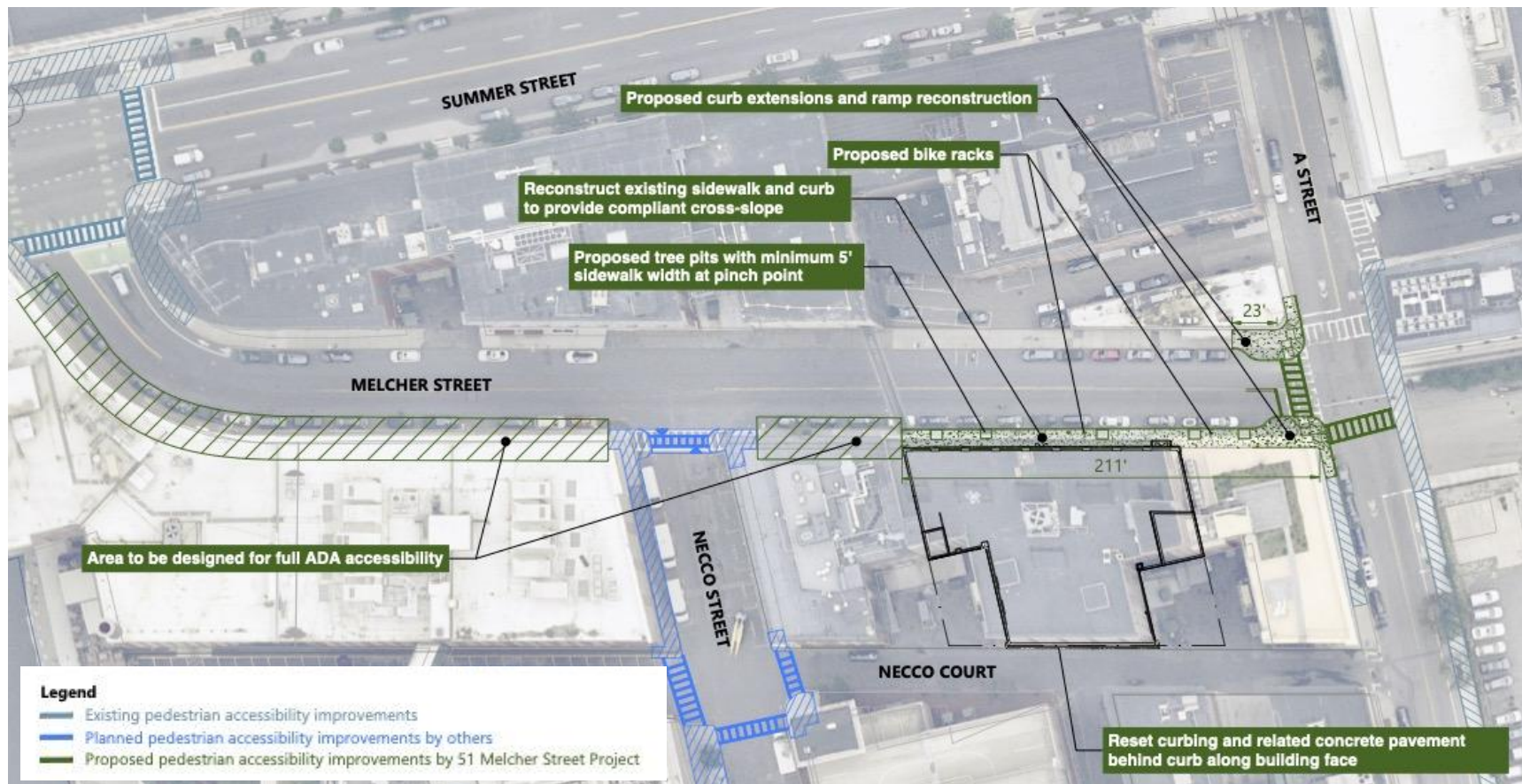
Update on related streets

A Street sidewalks

- ▶ We have extended our project scope *to widen the sidewalks on A Street* between Congress Street and just north of Melcher Street
 - Reviewing proposal from Fort Point Neighborhood Association
 - More details very soon!



Melcher Street accessibility improvements



Boston Wharf Road

- ▶ Introducing one-way separated bike lanes to connect Congress Street with Seaport Boulevard
 - Can be extended further south with potential USPS redevelopment
- ▶ Designs are still being finalized.
 - Rebuilding the intersections at Congress Street and at Autumn Lane
- ▶ Fine-tuning how the traffic signal operates with a focus on pedestrian and bicyclist safety
- ▶ Developer will begin construction next year



What's next?

- ▶ Re-submit plans to Fort Point Channel Landmark District Commission and refine, as needed, to receive approval
- ▶ Aim to bid for construction in late winter/early spring
- ▶ Construction starts in 2023, with likely completion in 2024



Stay in touch!

- ▶ Information will posted on our website:
boston.gov/congress-street-fort-point
 - Sign up for email updates about the project
- ▶ Send an email, or call Pat:
 - PWD.Engineering@boston.gov
 - 617-635-2454