

Blue Hill Avenue Transportation Action Plan!

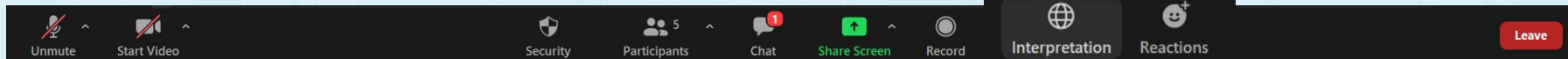
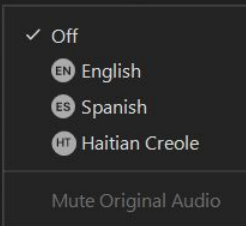
Community Meeting
January 24, 2023



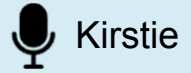
Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Bonjou!



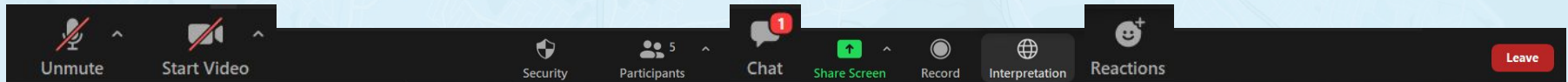
- Si hablas español y prefieres escuchar la reunión en esta lengua utiliza el botón de “Interpretation” (Interpretación) para acceder al canal de audio en español.
- *Si w pale Kreyòl Ayisyen e w prefere tande reyinyon an nan lang sa a tanpri sèvi ak bouton "Interpretation" (Entèpretation) pou w jwenn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



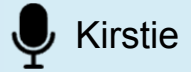
Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Bonjour!



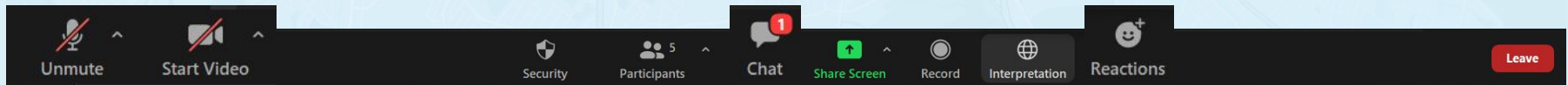
- This meeting **will be recorded**.
 - Esta reunión será grabada.
 - *Reyinyon sa a ap anrejistre.*
- Update your name in Zoom to include your preferred name and your pronouns.
 - Actualiza tu nombre en Zoom con tu nombre preferido y tus pronombres.
 - *Aktyalize non w sou Zoom pou w mete non prefere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



Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Bonjour!



- 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.*





Kirstie

Welcome!

Blue Hill Avenue Transportation Action Plan

Community Meeting
January 24, 2023





Kirstie

A recording of our Oct 25 and Nov 15 meetings, and other project materials can be found here:

boston.gov/bluehillavenue



Kirstie

Project Goals

Goal 1: Improve pedestrian safety along Blue Hill Ave

Goal 2: Expand transportation options and reliability

Goal 3: Connect infrastructure investments to the work of other City departments and State agencies (*ex. housing and development, business and economic development, environmental resilience, and public realm improvements*)



Kirstie

Meeting Goals

- Goal 1:** Orient residents to where this project came from, who is involved, and why this process is different
- Goal 2:** Provide updates about planning studies & engagement activities along BHA, including how to get involved
- Goal 3:** Share data updates and respond to common questions about transportation service along Blue Hill Ave
- Goal 4:** Connect public meeting feedback with other forms of engagement



Chavella

Ground Rules

1. Maintain respect for others in this space (*consultants, community members, and municipal agencies*).
2. Use “I” statements. If you are representing a neighborhood association or group, please share when speaking
3. Step up and step back.
4. There will be a good amount of time for reaction and discussion at the end, please try to limit your questions until then.



Kirstie

Tonight's Agenda

1. Meet the Team & Project Overview
2. Public Commitments
3. Data Snapshots of Blue Hill Ave: MBTA
4. How to Get Involved



Kirstie

INTRO POLL

1. What is your main way of traveling along Blue Hill Ave?

(walk, bike, car, public transit, other)

2. Why is this your primary way to get around?

3. What is your home zip code?

(If you can't get the poll to work, feel free to use the Chat)



Kirstie

Blue Hill Avenue

Meet the Team & Project Overview





Kirstie

Public Sector Team

BOSTON TRANSPORTATION DEPT



Kirstie Hostetter
Project Manager



Charlotte Fleetwood
Mattapan Square

OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS

Office of Housing
Office of Economic Opportunity & Inclusion
Boston Planning & Development Authority
Office of Neighborhood Services
Office of New Urban Mechanics
Office of Arts and Culture
Disabilities Commission
Age Strong Commission

MassDOT/MBTA

Erik Scheier
MBTA Capital Delivery

Andrew McFarland
MBTA Transit Priority

Phillip Cherry
MBTA Transit Priority

Benjamin Muller
MassDOT District 6
(Blue Hill Ave/Boston)



Engagement Team

ENGAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Grayscale Collaborative



Stephen Gray



Anne Ning Lin



Caroline Filice Smith

Powerful Pathways



Allentza Michel

Toole Design Group



Jeff Rosenblum

Consult LeLa



Ishmael D. Hazelwood



Chavella Lee-Pacheco

Real Talk for Change



Ceasar McDowell

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition
Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council
Morning Star Baptist Church
Mattapan Square Main Streets

PUBLIC AGENCIES

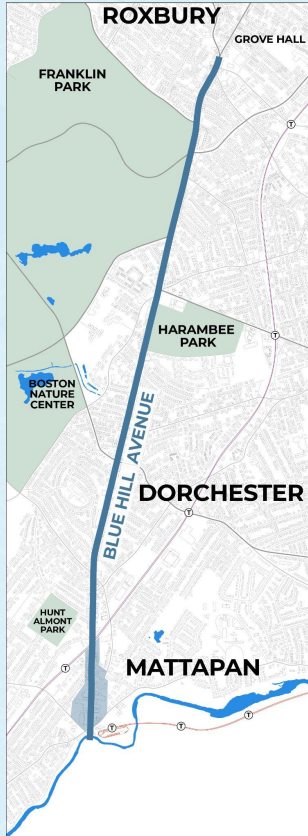
Boston Transportation Department

SO FAR, STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS WITH:

Garrison Trotter Neighborhood Association
Greater Grove Hall Main Streets
Project R.I.G.H.T. Inc.
Franklin Park Coalition
Mattapan Teen Center
Prince Hall Grand Lodge
Mattapan Community Health Center
Franklin Park Zoo



Where & How We Are Working



Since June 2019:

20 Public meetings about BHA or Mattapan Square	14 Workshop sessions
11 In-person pop-ups	1 Mailer sent within 0.5-mi of BHA
3 Community walks	500+ Survey responses

How we are working differently:

Holistic Approach to Blue Hill Ave

- Not just transportation...
- Also public realm, housing & development, business & employment





Feedback from Stakeholder Workshops

Who should we be talking to?

- Residents of public housing
- Seniors
- Families with young children
- Youth/Students
- Businesses + Shoppers
- Churches
- Health Centers
- Developers and building owners
- Bicyclists/Drivers/Bus Riders

What would success look like?

- **Center quality of life, health, and safety** (heat islands, air quality, pedestrian safety, green space)
- Ensure this project makes it **convenient and reliable to access businesses, services, and cultural centers**
- **One size doesn't fit all for Blue Hill Ave.** How can we tailor change to the needs of particular locales?



Feedback from Virtual Engagement

““

What would make [Blue Hill Avenue] better? **Traffic calming, parking enforcement, financial incentives to leave the car home** sometimes, smoother road surface. And some **nice cafes & restaurants with patios.**

BHA Email Inbox, Nov '22

““

The medians along the length of blue hill ave are pretty vast and **rerouting bus traffic along the center might make for a smoother commute** during morning and evening rush hours.

Community Inquiry Form, Oct '22

““

“**[Center-running buses are] going to cause more traffic** just like on Columbus Ave...I take blue hill every day and **this would be the most detrimental thing** to happen in my neighborhood.

BHA Email Inbox, Nov '22

““

We love going to [Franklin] park, but getting there is quite scary...**The cars drive super fast and don't even look to see if someone is in the crosswalk.**

Community Inquiry Form, Jan '23



Stephen

Blue Hill Avenue

Public Commitments





Stephen

Public Commitment: Data & Process

The City and engagement team are **committed to making informed, data-driven decisions** which respond to questions raised by the public.

- Upcoming planning studies include:
 - **Housing impact study** - led by the Mayor's Office of Housing & MAPC
 - **Parking study & future recommendations report** - led by MAPC
 - **Columbus Ave post-implementation study** (in progress) - led by BTD
- We will focus on these topics in upcoming meetings.
- If you have additional questions to pass along to our team, please fill out [this Google form!](#)



Stephen

Public Commitment: Pedestrian Safety Investments

The City and engagement team are **committed to improving pedestrian safety along Blue Hill Ave.**

- This means improving sidewalks & roadways, signal timing, and other strategies.
- This does not have to include center-running bus lanes.
 - The City does have an opinion on the benefits of bus priority/center-running lanes.
 - The City will only spend public money on a project with public support.
- The City will invest in infrastructure improvements along Blue Hill Ave.
 - The exact nature of the design will be determined through sustained and varied engagement with those who live, work, play, and pray along BHA.



Stephen

Public Commitment: Community Funding

The City and engagement team **believe that the public funding for this project should be allocated based on public priorities.**

- This means that the City will regularly share data and engagement updates, and will be transparent about the decision-making framework for design and implementation.
- This also means that the City will provide diverse and accessible opportunities to connect with the project team.
 - Virtual, in-person, survey-based

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

- “Real Talk” sessions - **in-depth, intimate conversations about BHA**
- **Weekly drop-in hours** at Mattapan Station and Grove Hall
- **Monthly public meetings** thru July
- **Bus rider surveys** on routes along BHA
- **Business surveys** along BHA
- **Youth-focused** learning and engagement workshops
- Interactive & informational **exhibits**



Jeff

POLL

We have discussed the potential benefits of a Blue Hill Avenue redesign and common concerns that we've heard about so far.

Which concerns should be prioritized during engagement & planning?*

- A) Increased car congestion/more traffic
- B) Losing access to important places
- C) Increased rents and housing costs
- D) Negative impacts on small businesses
- E) I don't have many concerns
- F) My idea is not listed - I am typing mine in the chat

*These categories were synthesized from feedback so far, and are not intended to be exhaustive



Jeff

POLL

We have discussed the potential benefits of a Blue Hill Avenue redesign that people are looking forward to.

Which potential benefits should be prioritized during engagement & planning?*

- A) Safety for pedestrians
- B) Safety for people on bikes
- C) Faster, more reliable bus service
- D) More space for trees, benches, and other amenities
- E) I am not interested in seeing any changes
- F) My idea is not listed - I am typing mine in the chat

*These categories were synthesized from feedback so far, and are not intended to be exhaustive



Andrew

Blue Hill Avenue

Data Snapshots: MBTA





Andrew

Q: How do you expect people to choose the bus if it's not reliable?

This is why the MBTA and City are advocating for center-running bus lanes or other high quality bus priority on Blue Hill Ave.

- Bus riders on Blue Hill Ave collectively **lose 3,056 hours per weekday** due to traffic and delays.
- Center-running bus lanes would remove buses from traffic, making them more reliable.



It should take **15 min to travel by bus on Blue Hill Ave** from Mattapan Sq to Grove Hall if center-running bus lanes are built.

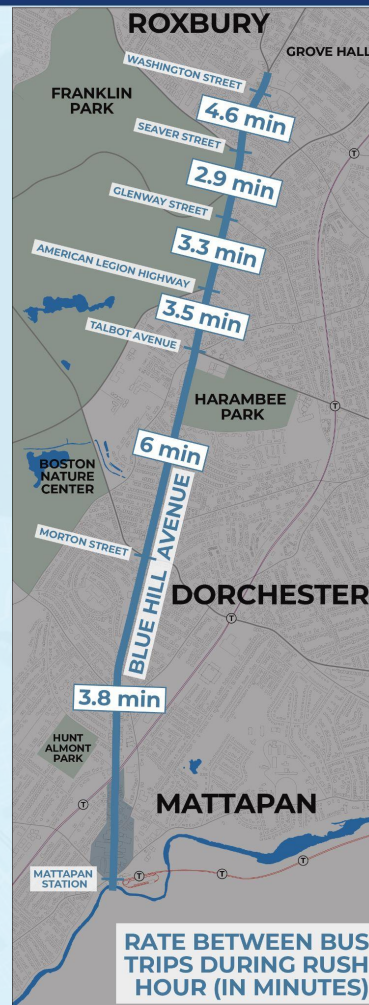


Andrew

Q: What is the MBTA doing to make buses more frequent?

Over the next five years, the MBTA's goal is to increase bus service by 25% systemwide, with major increases to Blue Hill Ave.

- Grove Hall would see an increase of 193 bus trips per day.
- More buses will come during peak and off-peak hours, providing better all day service.
- Depending where you are on Blue Hill Ave, a bus will come between every 2.7 and 6 minutes.



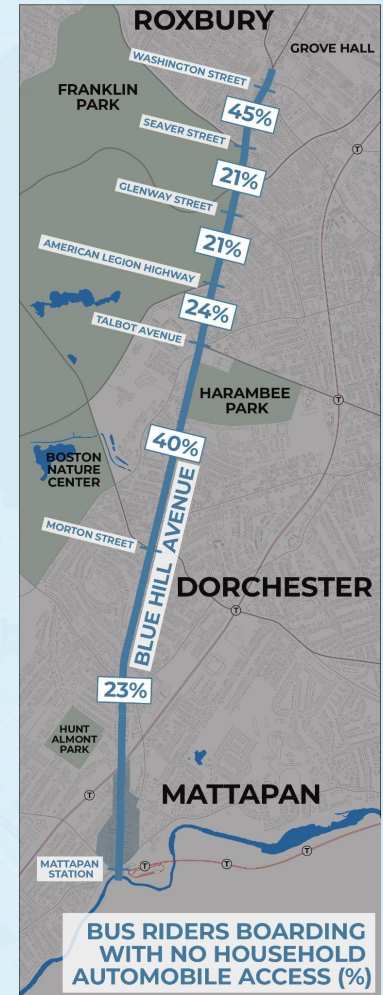


Andrew

Q: How does better bus service help small businesses?

Bus riders can help fuel thriving small business districts and contribute to vibrant community spaces.

- Over 12,000 riders get on and off buses each weekday on Blue Hill Ave south of Morton St near Mattapan Square.
- Over 5,573 riders a day get on and off buses in and around Grove Hall.
- 20-50% of people who live in the neighborhoods along Blue Hill Avenue do not have access to a car





Jeff

POLL

When you travel on Blue Hill Ave, how many other people are typically in the same vehicle (car, bus, etc.) as you?

- 0 (I usually travel alone)
- 1
- 2
- 3 or more

(If you can't get the poll to work, feel free to use the Chat)



Kirstie

Blue Hill Avenue

How to Get Involved





Kirstie

POLL

Please use the Zoom poll to indicate your interest level in getting involved with other engagement activities.

If you select “Yes” or “Maybe,” the team may reach out to you with more info about upcoming engagement.

(If you can't get the poll to work, feel free to use the Chat).

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

- “Real Talk” sessions - **in-depth, intimate conversations about Blue Hill Ave**
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- **Business surveys** along BHA
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- Interactive & informational **exhibits**



Kirstie

How to Stay Connected

Contact Information

Phone: [617-635-3944](tel:617-635-3944)

Website: boston.gov/bluehillavenue

Email: bluehillave@boston.gov

What other questions do you have? [Let us know using this form!](#)