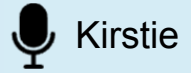


Blue Hill Avenue Transportation Action Plan!

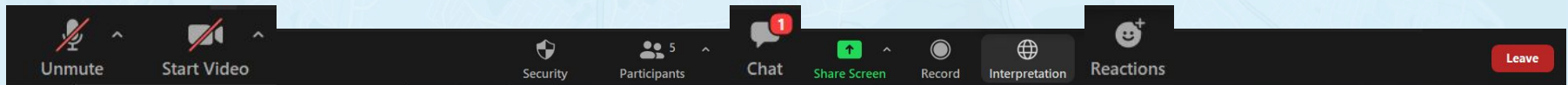
Community Meeting
May 23, 2023



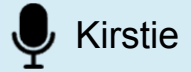
Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Bonjour!



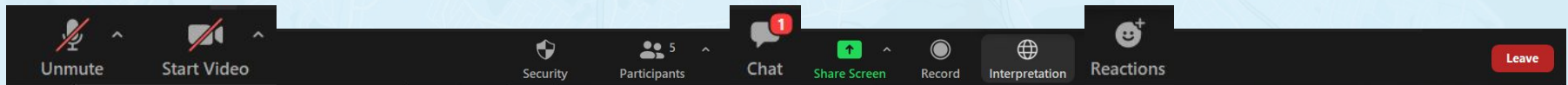
- This meeting **will be recorded**.
 - Esta reunión será grabada.
 - *Reyinyon sa a ap anrejistre.*
- Update your name in Zoom to include your preferred name and your pronouns.
 - Actualiza tu nombre en Zoom con tu nombre preferido y tus pronombres.
 - *Aktyalize non w sou Zoom pou w mete non prefere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



Welcome! ¡Bienvenidos! Bonjour!



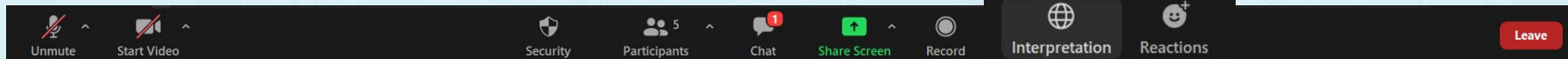
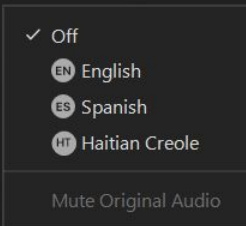
- Your microphones are turned off to start. You will need to unmute to speak. Joining via phone? Press ***6** to unmute.
 - Tu micrófono está apagado al empezar. Tendrás que reactivarlo para hablar. ¿Participando por teléfono? Presiona *6 para reactivar el micrófono.
 - *Mikwo w fèmen pou kòmanse. Ou 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.*



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.*





Kirstie

Welcome!

Blue Hill Avenue Transportation Action Plan

Community Meeting

May 23, 2023





Kirstie

Recordings of our past monthly Zoom meetings and other project materials can be found here:

boston.gov/blue-hill-avenue



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 (*including 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 Blue Hill Ave (BHA)
- Goal 3:** Respond to common questions about how engagement will inform design
- Goal 4:** Provide an overview of upcoming engagement and how to get involved



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 & Public Commitments
2. Responding to Common Questions: Connecting Engagement to Design
3. How to Get Involved



Jeff

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 &
Public Commitments





Kirstie

Public Sector Team

BOSTON TRANSPORTATION DEPT



Kirstie Hostetter
Project Manager



Maya Mudgal
Transit Planner



Graham Moitoso
Transit Co-op



Charlotte Fleetwood
Mattapan Square

OTHER PUBLIC DEPARTMENTS



Kenya Beaman
BPDA

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

MassDOT/MBTA



Andrew McFarland
MBTA Transit
Priority

Erik Scheier
MBTA Capital Delivery

Phillip Cherry
MBTA Transit Priority

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



Stephen

Engagement Team

ENGAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Grayscale Collaborative



Stephen Gray



Anne Ning Lin



Caroline Filice Smith

Powerful Pathways



Allentza Michel



L Scully

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
Garrison Trotter Neighborhood Association

PUBLIC AGENCIES

Boston Transportation Department
Boston Planning & Development Agency
MBTA

SO FAR, STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS WITH:

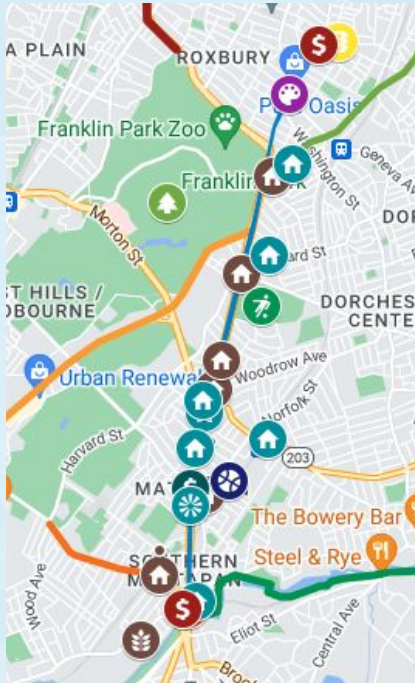
Garrison Trotter Neighborhood Association
Greater Grove Hall Main Streets
Project R.I.G.H.T. Inc.
Franklin Park Coalition
Mattapan Teen Center
Prince Hall Grand Lodge
Mattapan Community Health Center
Franklin Park Zoo



Stephen

There's lots going on around Blue Hill Ave

Existing and Ongoing Projects Inventory



Warren Street Bus Priority Corridor

Columbia Road Greenway

Harambee Park Improvements

PLAN: Mattapan

Cummins Highway Redesign

American Legion Highway Safety Improvements

Franklin Park Master Plan

Columbus Ave Bus Priority Corridor

Mattapan Square Redesign

Blue Hill Ave Action Plan

Neighborhood Slow Streets: Grove Hall/Quincy Corridor

Fairmount Line Service Enhancement

DPW Resurfacing Projects

Bike Share Expansion

Grove Hall Plaza Mural

Greater Grove Hall Main Streets Green Median

Bus Network Redesign

DCR Neponset River West

Mattapan Line Improvements

Bridge Replacement - Blue Hill Avenue over Railroad



Stephen

Engagement Since Our Last Meeting



- Pop-up exhibit open house @ Grove Hall library
- Not Your Average Public Meeting at Kay's Lounge
- Real Talk conversations with residents (Zoom)
- Bus rider surveys along Blue Hill Ave
- Parking study surveys around Harvard Neighborhood Health Center
- 2 drop-ins per week at Grove Hall and Mattapan Square library branches
- Topics covered at April Zoom meeting:
 - Columbus Ave bus study
 - Green infrastructure
- **Topic for today:** Connecting engagement to design



Stephen

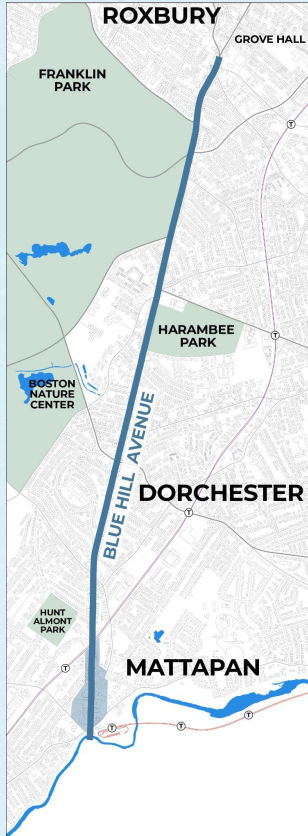
Public Commitments

- Commitment 1:** The City and engagement team are committed to making informed, data-driven decisions which respond to questions raised by the public.
- Commitment 2:** The City and engagement team are committed to improving pedestrian safety along Blue Hill Ave.
- Commitment 3:** The City and engagement team believe that the public funding for this project should be allocated based on public priorities.



Stephen

Where & How We Are Working



Since June 2019:

25 Public meetings about BHA or Mattapan Square

15 Workshop sessions

40+ In-person drop-ins

2 Mailers sent to ~23,000 homes 0.5-mi from BHA

4 Community walks

1000+ Responses to multiple surveys

How we are working differently:

Holistic Approach to Blue Hill Ave

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

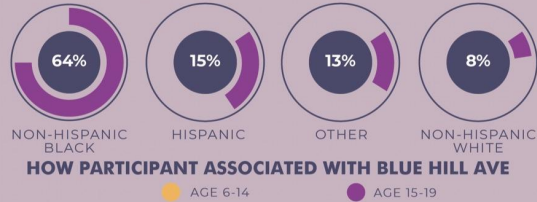


Complete Streets Deetz Responses

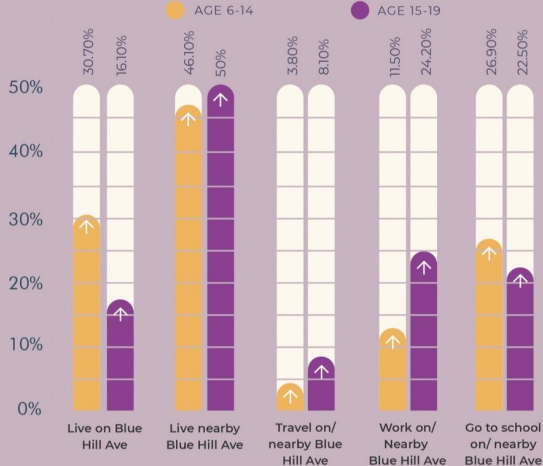
DEMOGRAPHIC

Interpretation of Table 1: This survey is a collective voice of a diverse population in the city of Boston, including Non-Hispanic Black (63.7%), Hispanics (14.8%), and other People of Color (13.6%). Our organization collected surveys from two age groups (6 to 14 years old and 15 to 19 years old). The majority of participants were female (54%), and 42.5% were male. Most participants were from the surrounding neighborhood of Blue Hill Ave, including Dorchester (21.6%), Mattapan (21.6), and Hyde Park (17%).

Spelling: All Participants by Racial Groups



HOW PARTICIPANT ASSOCIATED WITH BLUE HILL AVE



Characteristic	ALL	AGE 6-14	AGE 15-19
All participants, No. (%)	88 (100.0)	26 (29.5)	62 (70.5)
SEX, NO. (%)			
Male	37 (42.5%)	10 (38.5%)	27 (44.3%)
Female	47 (54%)	16 (61.5%)	31 (50.8%)
Non-binary	3(3.5%)		3 (4.9%)
RACE/ETHNICITY, NO. (%)			
Non-Hispanic White	7 (7.9%)		7 (11.3%)
Non-Hispanic Black	56 (63.7%)	20 (77%)	36 (58.1%)
Hispanic	13 (14.8%)	3 (11.5%)	10 (16.1%)
Other	12 (13.6%)	3 (11.5%)	9 (14.5%)
ZIPCODE, NO. (%)			
02124, Dorchester	19 (21.6%)	8 (30.8%)	11 (17.7%)
02126, Mattapan	19 (21.6%)	8 (30.8%)	11 (17.7%)
02136, Hyde Park	15 (17%)	3 (11.5%)	12 (19.4%)
Other	35 (39.8%)	7 (26.9%)	28 (45.2%)
WHERE DO YOU TRAVEL ON BLUE HILL AVE, NO. (%)			
Live on Blue Hill Ave	18 (20.4%)	8 (30.7%)	10 (16.1%)
Live nearby Blue Hill Ave	43 (48.9%)	12 (46.1%)	31 (50%)
Travel on/nearby Blue Hill Ave	6 (6.8%)	1 (3.8%)	5 (8.1%)
Work on/nearby Blue Hill Ave	18 (20.4%)	3 (11.5%)	15 (24.2%)
Go to school on/nearby Blue Hill Ave	20 (22.7%)	6 (26.9%)	14 (24.2%)
Not applicable	2 (2.3%)		2 (3.2%)

Table 1. Characteristics of study participants by age group (n=88)



Snapshot: Youth Experiences

““

Create an efficient way for pedestrians to cross without getting hurt.

Complete Streets Deetz Respondent, 2021

““

It's pretty safe most times, but some people drive fast at night. Speeding makes it a bit unsafe.

Complete Street Deetz Respondent, 2021

““

As a walker in Mattapan Square I believe we need more lights because it is too dark in the mornings

Complete Street Deetz, Mattahunt Elementary Student

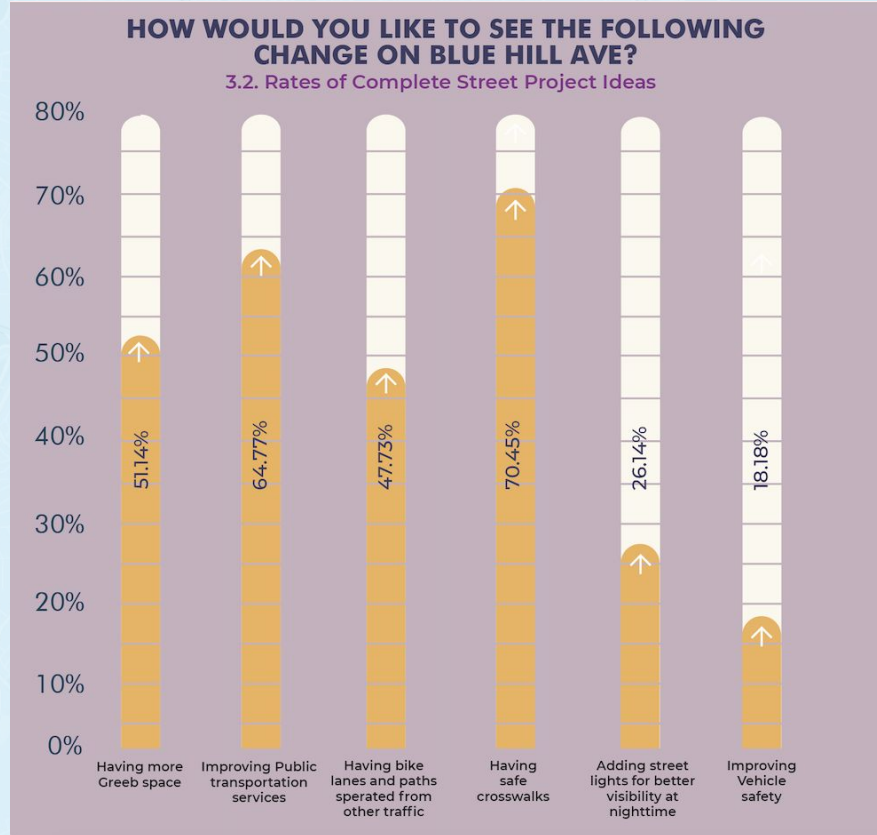
““

Fixing the roads, placing grocery stores off this road because people can access it through the bus if you make the bus accessible to everyone, and re-painting the lines.

Complete Street Deetz Respondent, 2021



Complete Streets Deetz Responses





Kirstie

Blue Hill Avenue

Responding to Common Questions





Kirstie

We've received a lot of design-related questions. For example:

- Has there been a feasibility study?
- Where can we place more street furniture and seating?
- Can the placement of crosswalks be moved/adjusted at areas where we see a lot of jaywalking?
- Can the city look at the concurrent pedestrian and vehicle lights at the intersection of Blue Hill Ave and Morton St? The current situation is dangerous for pedestrians.



Kirstie

Design Process Updates

Current Status:

- The design team is reviewing community feedback collected to date and looking at various alternative design scenarios for the corridor based on that feedback and transportation planning principles.
- To evaluate these design options, the design team will use metrics to compare alternative design scenarios at each stage of the process.



Regan

Design Team

DESIGN CONSULTANTS

WSP

Ned Codd, Project Manager
Katie Moulton, Deputy Project Manager

Stull & Lee

David Lee, Urban Design

Urban Idea Lab

Etty Padmodipoetro, Urban Design and
Landscape Architecture

Fuss & O'Neill

Matt Skelly, Traffic Engineering

Regina Villa Associates

Regan Checchio, Public Outreach
Taylor Adams, Public Outreach

PUBLIC AGENCIES

MBTA

Boston Transportation Department



Regan

ABOUT METRICS

Where do these metrics come from?

- **Best practices** (design professionals)
- **Feedback at:**
 - Community meetings
 - Drop-in and other events
 - Bus operator interviews



Regan

HOW ARE METRICS USED?

What are metrics used for?

Metrics can be utilized to compare alternative design scenarios at each stage of the design process.

Three categories of draft metrics:

1. Quantitative metrics that can be added up along the corridor to be compared across alternative design scenarios.
2. Before and after comparisons at specific locations
3. Qualitative metrics analyzed at the corridor level across alternative design scenarios



Regan

WHAT WE'VE HEARD

We have received the following questions from the community, which has informed the design metrics, and will be taken into consideration as design options are evaluated:

- Will the project improve pedestrian access and safety along the corridor?
- Will parking spaces be preserved?
- Will parking and traffic enforcement in the project area be evaluated?
- Will bus ridership data be examined and reviewed throughout the design process?
- Will the demand for and impact of bike lanes be examined?
- Will the project create new spaces and develop green infrastructure in the corridor?
- Will the design connect into both existing and planned broader Boston transportation networks?



Regan

CATEGORY 1

Quantitative Metrics to be Compared Across Design Scenarios:

- Bus stop locations and bus ridership
- Pedestrian access/safety
- Parking spaces
- Street trees
- Bike Lanes
- New “people spaces” available for plazas, landscaping, etc



Regan

CATEGORY 2

Before and After Comparisons at Specific Locations

- Pedestrian access/safety
- The number and type of general traffic lanes at each major intersection
- Municipal parking lots



Regan

CATEGORY 3

Qualitative Metrics Analyzed at the Corridor Level

- Pedestrian access/safety
- Bike access/safety
- Parking & Traffic Enforcement resources required



Regan

NEXT STEPS

Next Steps in the Design Process:

- Collect community feedback on the metrics
- Perform an analysis of the alternative design options using the metrics
- Share the results of the analysis with the City, elected officials and community members in June



Jeff

POLL

To what degree do these metrics reflect your interests and design questions?

- Strongly reflect
- Somewhat reflect
- Neutral
- Somewhat do not reflect
- Strongly do not reflect



Stephen

Blue Hill Avenue

How to Get Involved





Stephen

Upcoming Engagement: Design Scenarios

Upcoming Open House & Public Meetings:

Our team will present the analysis of the alternative design options at in-person and virtual meetings:

- Open House Date (Location/time TBD)
- Virtual Public Meeting June 27

There will be additional meetings and events in the summer!



Stephen

Upcoming Engagement: Real Talk

Here's how Real Talk works...

- Real Talk for Change amplifies the voices of residents currently underrepresented in existing engagement conversations
- These are facilitated conversations between 4-8 community members



If you would like to participate, **please scan the QR code to the left.**

Or fill out the RSVP form here:

<https://forms.gle/mZEgx9ydyir3HHDK8>



Stephen

Upcoming In-Person Engagement

Blue Hill Ave
Transportation Action Plan!
Plan de Acción de Transporte!

Guide the City's investments along Blue Hill Ave
Dirige las inversiones de la Ciudad en Blue Hill Ave

The graphic features a blue map background with a highlighted blue route along Blue Hill Ave, marked with yellow dots. In the bottom right corner, there is an illustration of five diverse people sitting around a yellow circular table, engaged in a meeting. One person is using a laptop, and another is holding a smartphone. A small circular logo with colorful abstract shapes is located in the top right corner of the graphic.

Consult LeLa - Not Your Average Public Meeting

- June 2023 - date and location TBD!

Grove Hall Public Library

- Every Wed from 10 AM-12 PM

Mattapan Square Public Library

- Every Thurs from 1-3 PM



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**
- **Mattapan Square public meeting** May 30
- **Youth Real Talks MATCH** high school, May 31
- **Not Your Average Public Meeting** June 29 (location/time TBD)
- **Grove Hall drop-in hours** at Grove Hall Public Library every Wednesday from 10am-12pm through May 31
- **Mattapan Sq drop-in hours** at Mattapan Public Library every Thursday, 1-3 PM, through May 31
- **Monthly public meetings** through July
- **Bus rider surveys** on routes along BHA
- **Business surveys** along BHA
- **Youth-focused** learning & engagement workshops



Kirstie

How to Stay Connected

Contact Information

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

Website: boston.gov/blue-hill-avenue

Email: bluehillave@boston.gov

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