

**River Street
Reconstruction**



Working Group #4

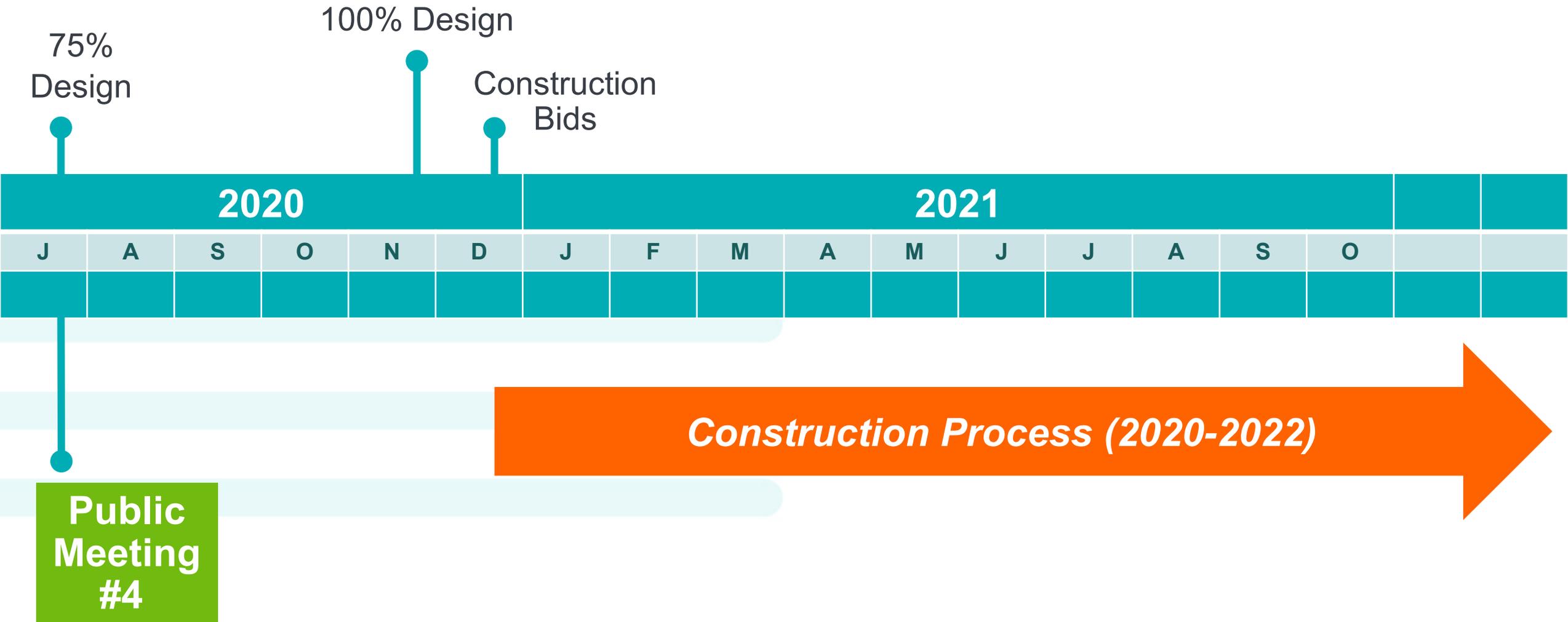
Tuesday May 28, 2019

Today's Agenda

- **Welcome and Logistics** 10 min.
- **Introduction to Urban Design and Streetscape Design**
 - **River Street in Context** 15 min.
 - **Streetscape Design Toolbox** 15 min.
- **Public Art** 20 min.
- **Streetscape Dot Exercise** 40 min.
- **Public Comments** 10 min.
- **Next Steps** 5 min.

Welcome and Logistics

Expected Timeline



Spring and Summer Schedule

New Working Group Schedule

- Working Group #4 Tues. 5/28
- Working Group #5 Wed. 7/17
- Working Group #6 Tues. 8/27

Other Spring and Summer Activities

- Mobility/Safety Walk: Tues. 5/14
- Outreach at Riverfest: Sat. 6/1
- Carl Barron Existing Conditions: Open House on Wed. 6/5 and outdoors on Sat. 6/8
- Urban Design Public Walk: Tues. 6/11
- Carl Barron Design Charrettes: Thurs. 8/1 and Sat. 8/3, outdoors on Sat. 8/3

Working Group Meeting Agendas

- Working Group #5 Wed., 7/17
 - Mobility 101
 - Interactive Exercises for:
 - Memorial Drive to Putnam Avenue and/or
 - Typical Cross-Section
- Working Group #6 Tues., 8/27
 - Draft Conceptual Design Alternative Progress

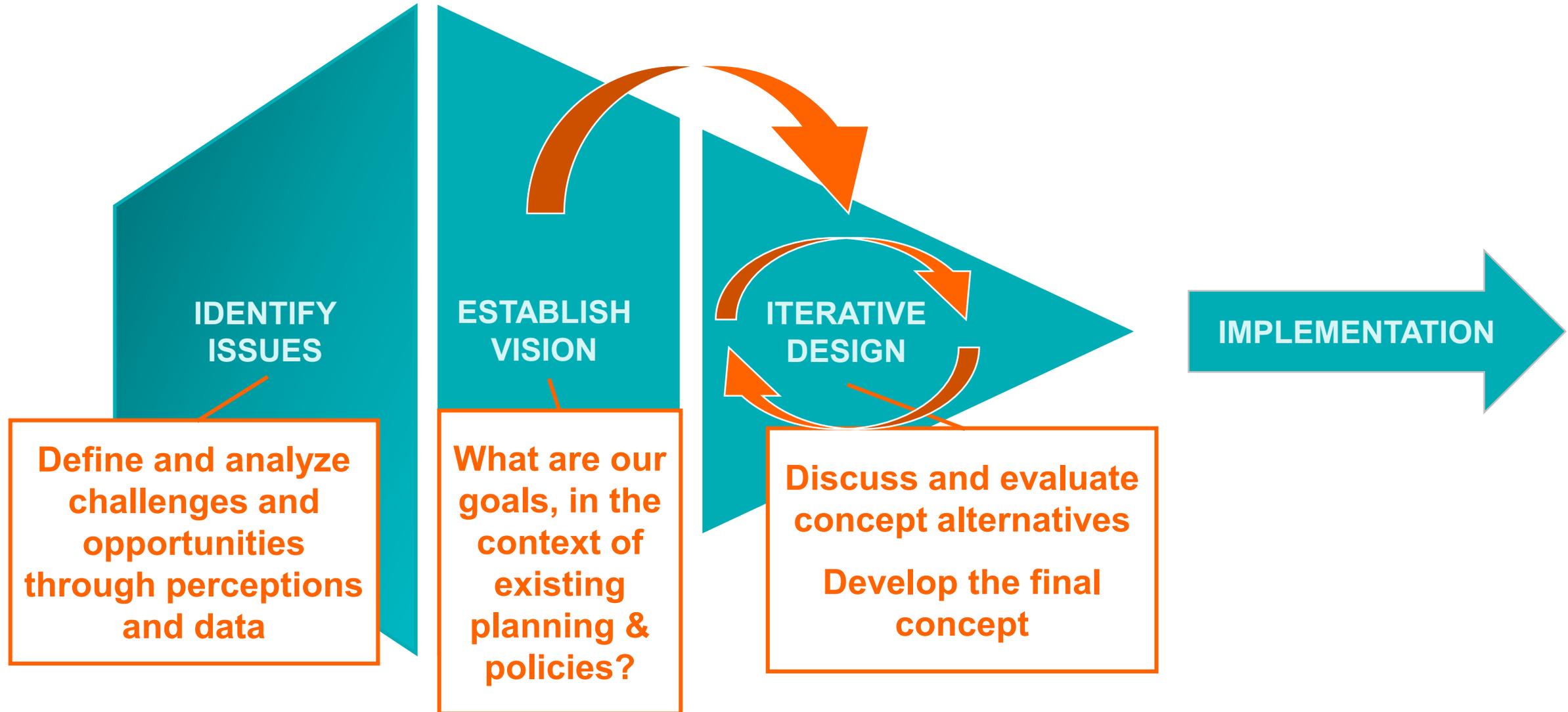


Ground Rules

- Phones off
- Keep an open mind
- Respect other opinions
- Speak, and let others be heard
- Read agenda and materials before the meeting
- Request agenda changes prior to meeting
- Help us stay on schedule
- Public comments during public comment periods



Building toward the design stage



River Street in Context

Definition of Urban Design

Urban Design – A variety of strategies, techniques, and tools used to give form and function to space. A holistic, comprehensive approach to the built environment that includes every aspect of how a city is put together. It includes the design of streets, parks, and open space; plazas and squares; benches, lighting, and trees; circulation and access (how people move to and through space); and how buildings look and feel (aesthetics and scale) and how they bring life to the spaces between them (frontage and activation).



PATH



NODE



LANDMARK



EDGE



DISTRICT

Images from *The Image of the City*, Kevin Lynch 1960

Urban Design on a Street/Corridor

Sidewalks, small plazas, and other public realm elements are small areas where many different functions and physical elements co-exist. There are a number of urban design considerations that need to be accounted for, including, but not limited to:

- the physical setting of the street
- environmental considerations (light, air, noise, exhaust, etc.)
- the safety and comfort of users (pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders, drivers)
- materials and texture
- uses or programming of adjacent spaces

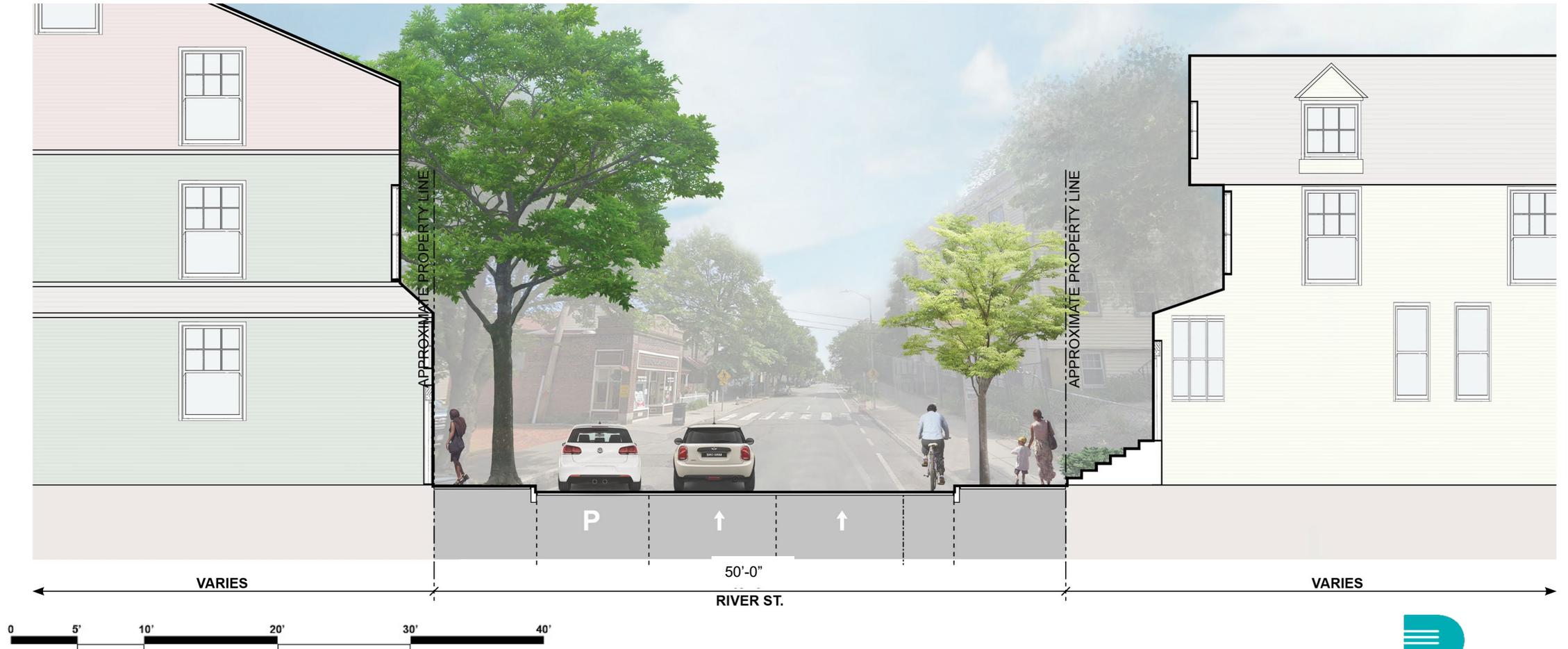
This type of urban design work on streets and sidewalks is referred to as ***Streetscape Design***.

River Street's Existing Streetscape

- What are the existing conditions and site elements along the edges of River Street?
- How do these conditions vary along the length of the corridor?
- What qualities represent "human scale" and "vehicular scale" elements?
 - Human scale: size and shape that feels comfortable for a person traveling at walking speed to be near and use
 - Vehicle scale: size and shape that is easily comprehended and understood for people at higher speeds, allowing them to travel more comfortably at those speeds



Height and Setback Relative to Street Width



Human Scale

Example Attributes

- Comfortable at 3 mph (average walking speed)
- Small storefronts and spaces
- Small signs, medium font size, often at eye level or lower
- Many details
- People!

Example: Harvard Square



Vehicle Scale

Example Attributes

- Comfortable at 35 mph (River St speed limit is 25mph)
- Larger spaces, and buildings with large storefronts or little detail
- Large signs, huge font size, sometimes high overhead
- Few details (less motivation to slow down and see things)

Example: Alewife Brook Parkway



Understanding Human Scale and Vehicle Scale

River Street has a mix of human scale and vehicle scale attributes. Looking at different cross sections:

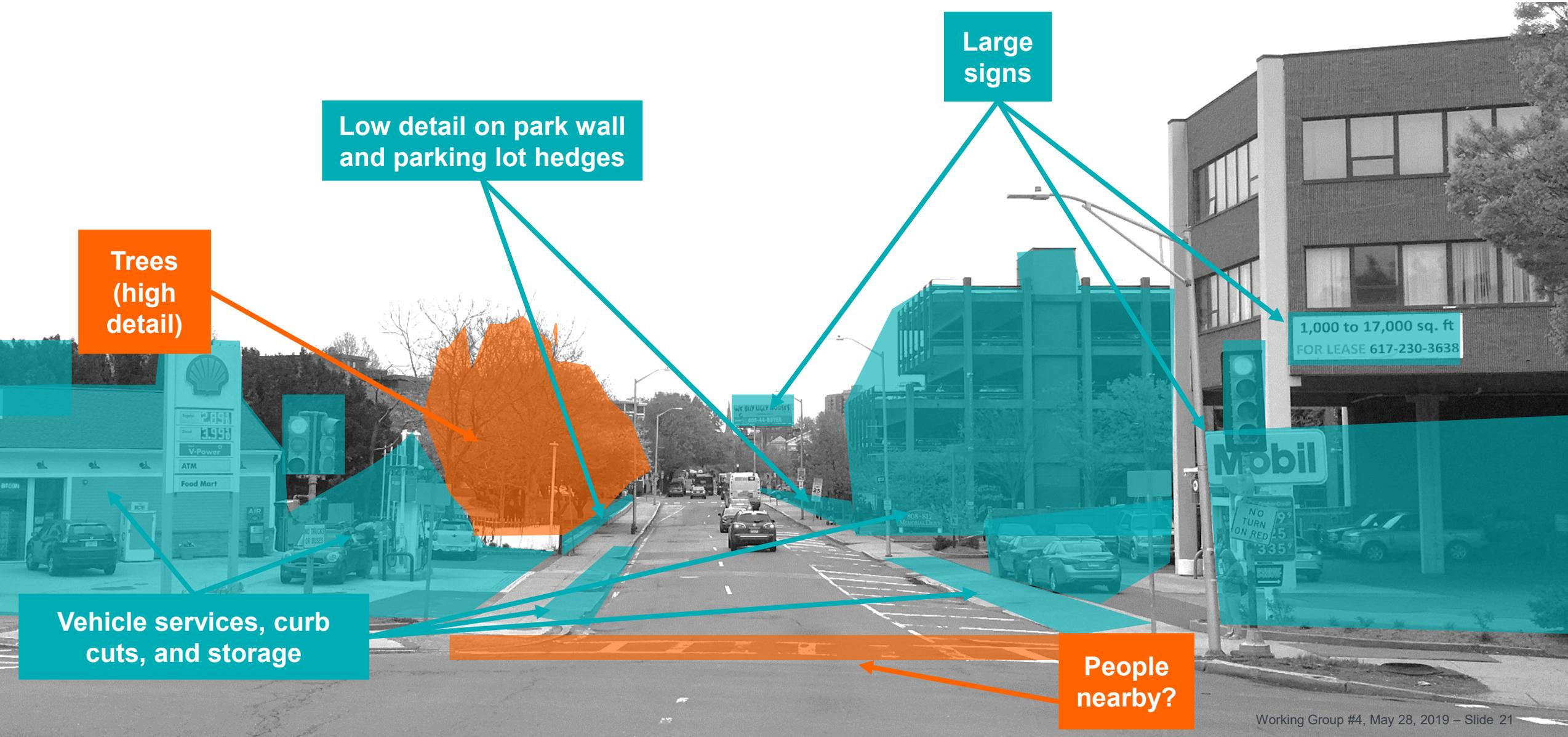
- What attributes do you see and where?
- Consider how River Street can become more human scale and comfortable for all users while still accomplishing its roles as an:
 - Infrastructure spine *and*
 - Regional roadway *and*
 - Neighborhood street *and*
 - Retail district *and*
 - Place to be *and*
 - Front yard.

View @ Memorial Drive



Character @ Memorial Drive

- Vehicle Scale
- Human Scale



Large signs

Low detail on park wall and parking lot hedges

Trees (high detail)

Vehicle services, curb cuts, and storage

People nearby?

1,000 to 17,000 sq. ft
FOR LEASE 617-230-3638

Riverside Press Park Edge



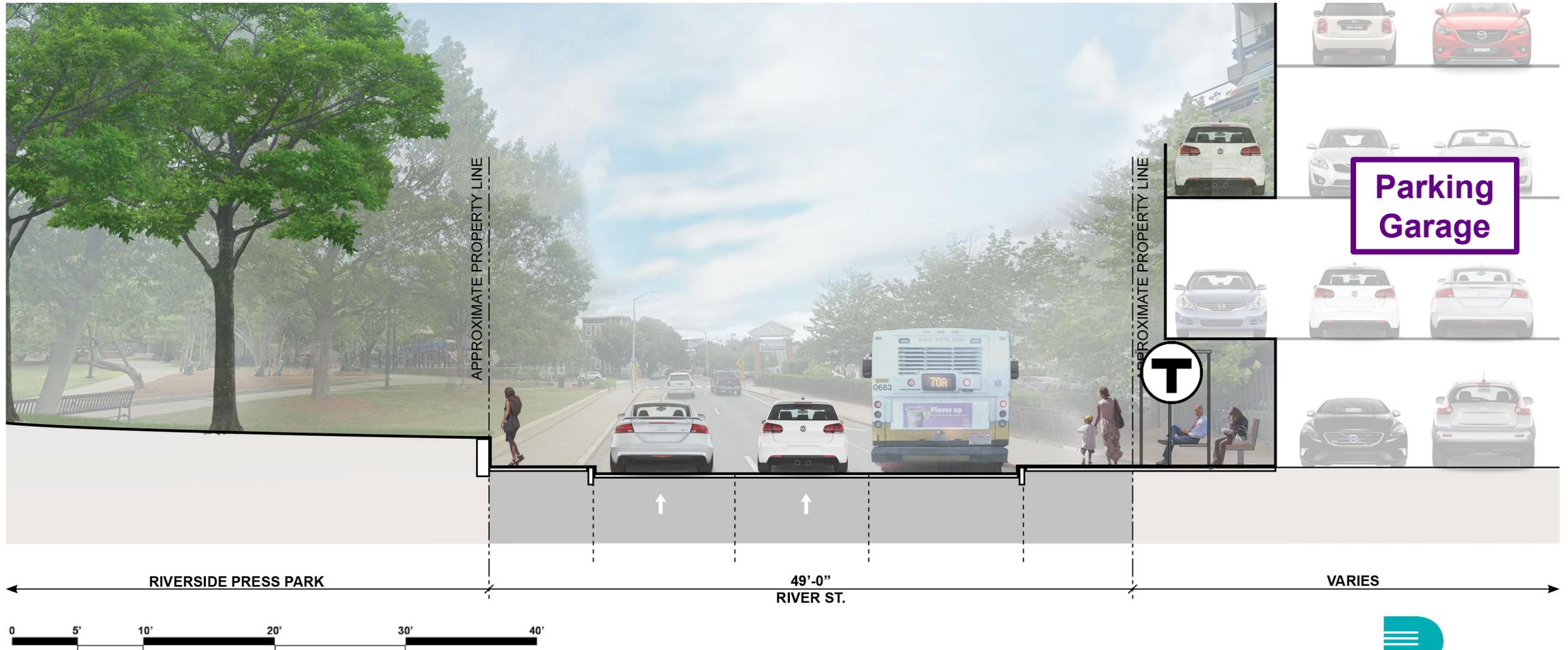
- **Vertical elements set back from the street**
- **Wall with few details**
- **No space for people to hang out along park edges**

Whole Foods Parking Lot Edge



- Buildings setback far from street
- No vertical elements or other details along street edge
- No place for people to hang out along street edge

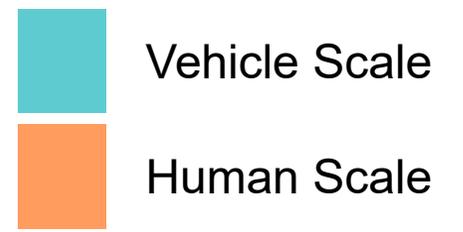
Height and Setbacks Near Whole Foods



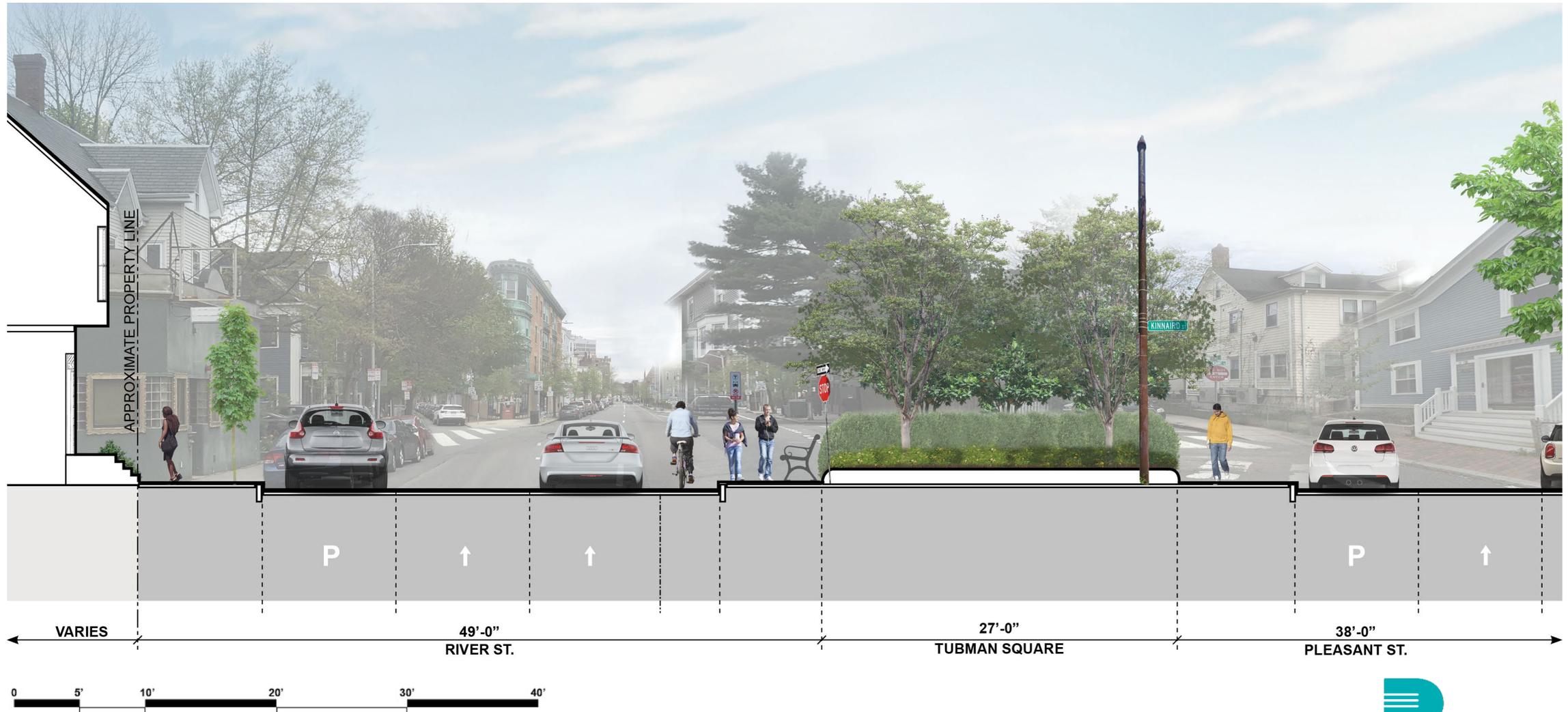
View @ Pleasant Street



Character @ Pleasant Street



Heights and Setbacks near Pleasant



Edge near Pleasant



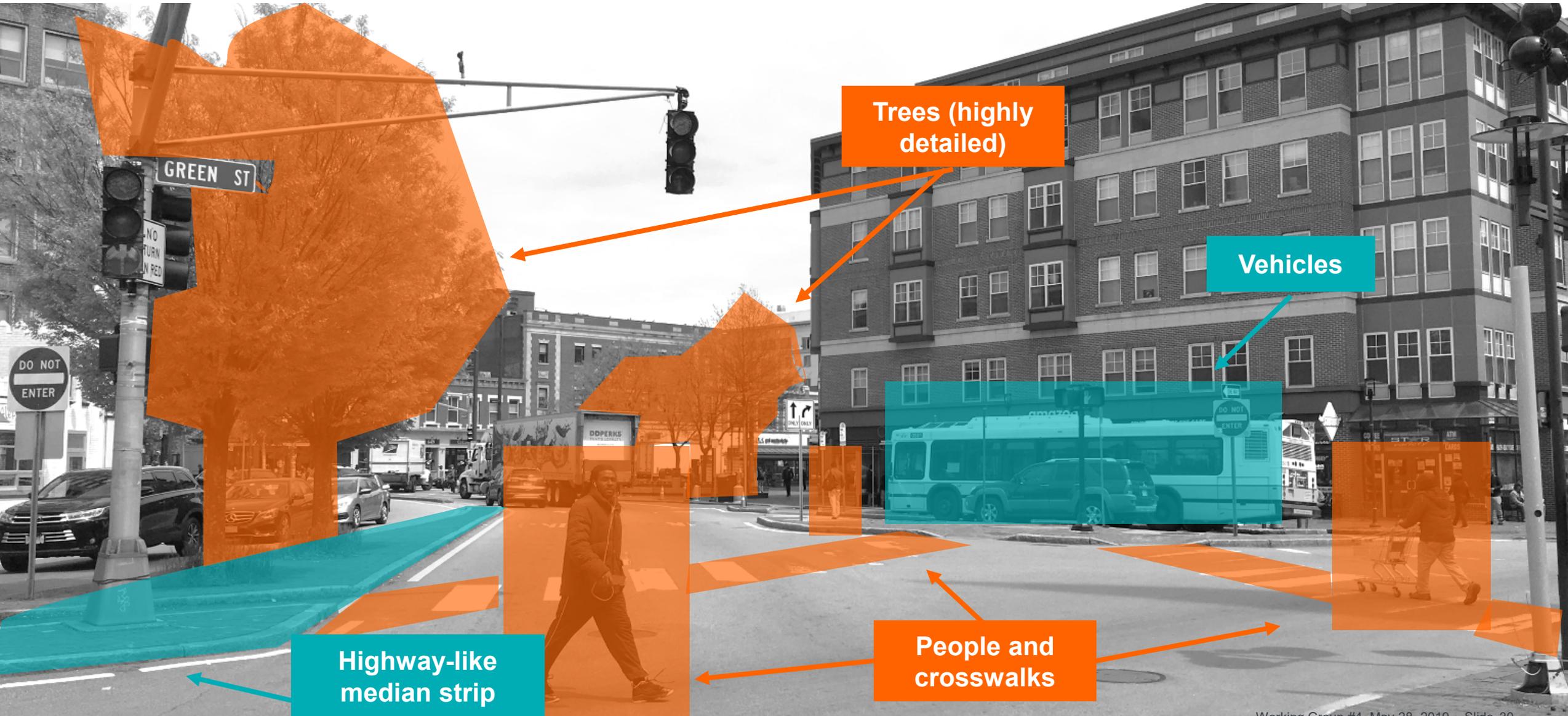
- Vertical elements set close to the street
- Detailed storefront
- Outdoor seating in adjacent lot
- Bike rack
- Sandwich sign at pedestrian level

View @ Green Street



Character @ Green Street

- Vehicle Scale
- Human Scale



Edge near Green



- Lots of people provide detail
- Low detail on busway and business signage

What are our takeaways?

For example:

- River Street has a mix of characteristics?
- Character is more motor-vehicle scale toward Memorial Drive and more human scale after Putnam Avenue?
- High number of pedestrians at Central Square?

Do you agree/disagree? What else?



Streetscape Design Toolbox

Streetscape Elements

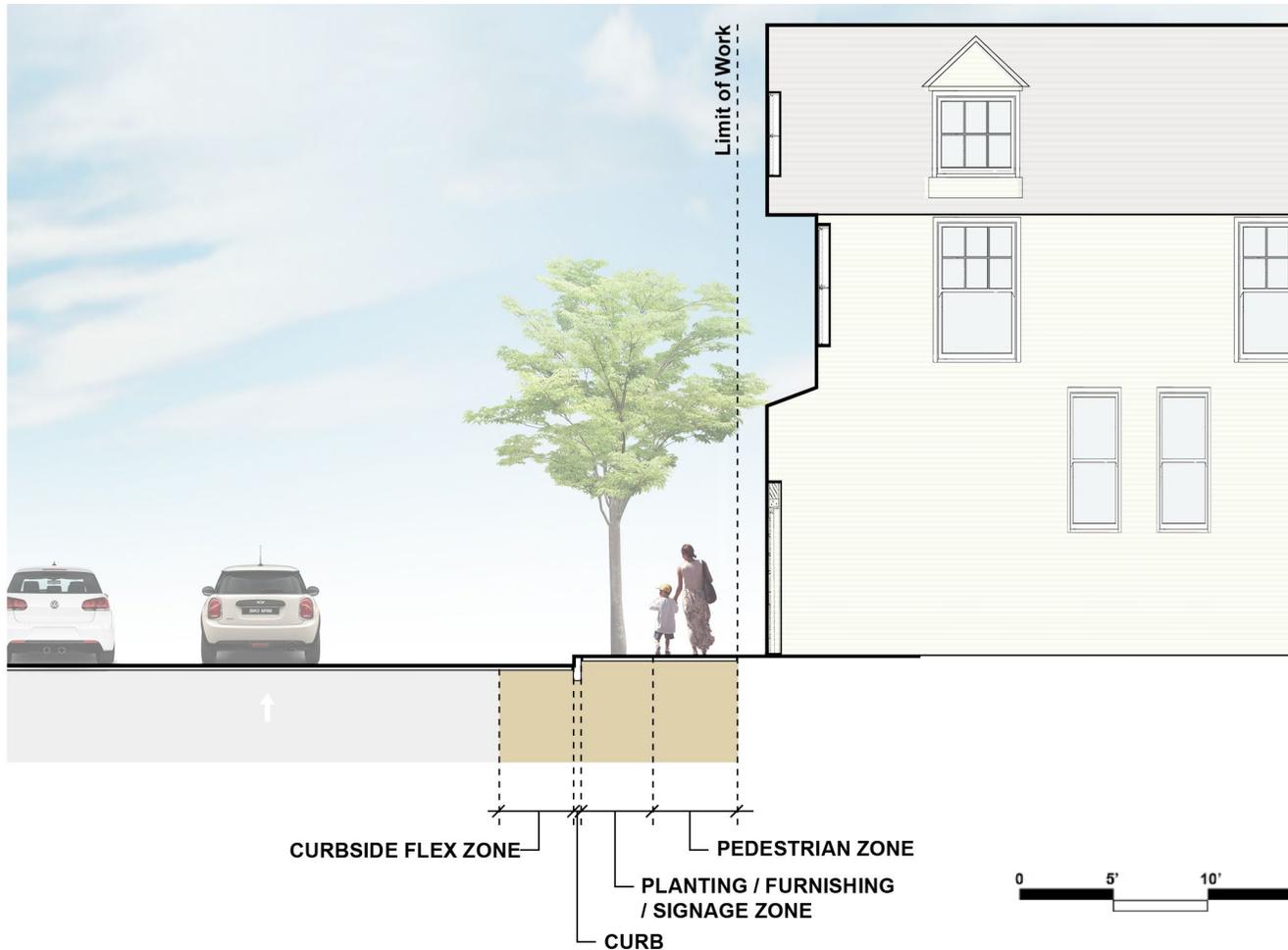


Western Avenue

Design Goals:

- Safe
- Inclusive
- Human Scale
- Ecological
- Multimodal
- Activated
- Resilient

Where Streetscape Design Tools are Deployed:

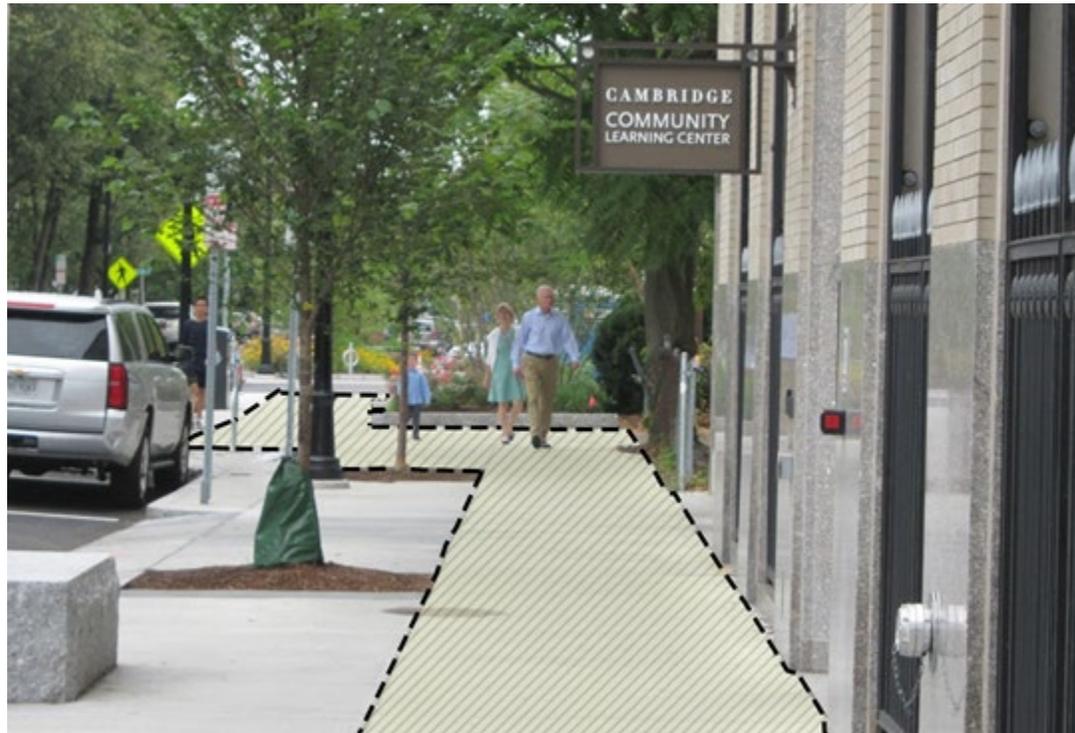


- Curbside Flex Zone
- Curb
- Buffer Zone: Planting / Furnishing / Signage
- Pedestrian / Walking

Sidewalk



Pedestrian Walking Zone



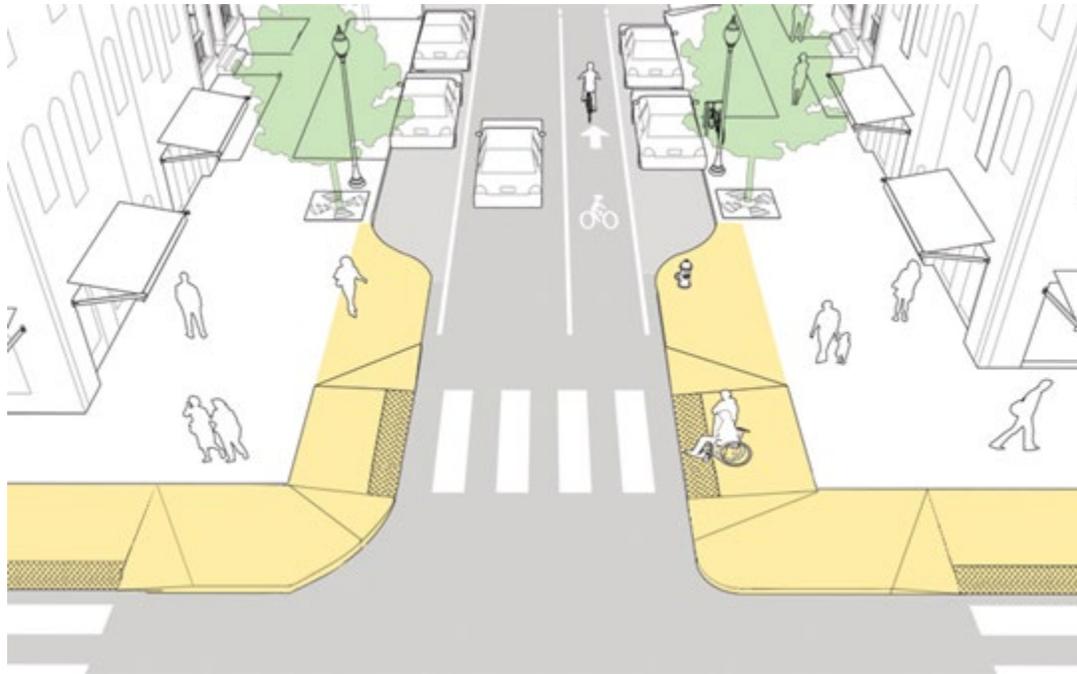
Furnishing Zone



Bump Out / Curb Extension



One-Lane Street



Complex Intersection



Raised Side Street Crossing



Raised Side Street Crossing



Raised Side Street Crossing



Trees and Landscape



Streetscape Tree Canopy



Accent Planting



Trees and Landscape



Tree Pit



Tree Pit



Trees and Landscape



Raised Planter



Raised Planter



Green Infrastructure



Bioswales



Stormwater Infiltration



Expanded Root Zone



Trees and Landscape



Landscape Buffer



Landscape Space



Site Furnishings



City Bench Standard



Conversational Seating



Special Seating



Site Furnishings



Informal Seating



Informal Seating



Site Furnishings



Bike Racks



Bike Share Stations



Site Furnishings



Waste / Recycling Receptacle



Hanging Baskets



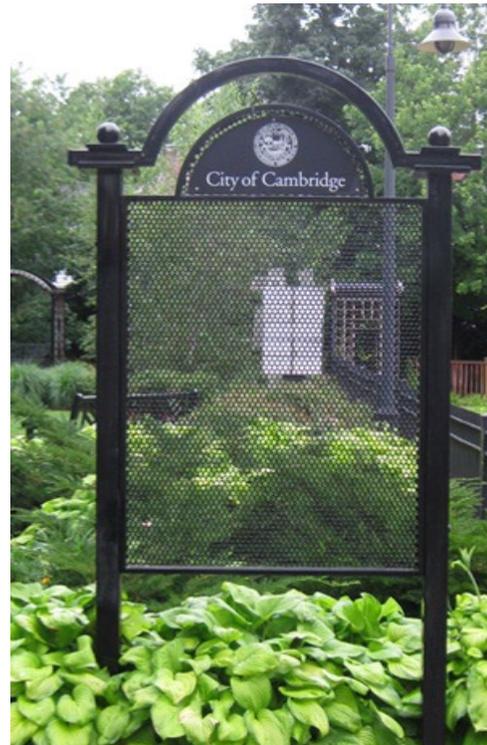
Planter Pot



Site Furnishings



Information Kiosk / Bulletin Board



Utility Cabinet



Lighting



Vehicular Scale Pole Light



Pedestrian Scale Pole Light



Lighting



Special Lighting



Special Lighting



Artful Play Elements



Small Play Features



Informal Play



Artful Play Elements



Experiential



Fun



Signage



City Park & Sq. Signage



Wayfinding Element



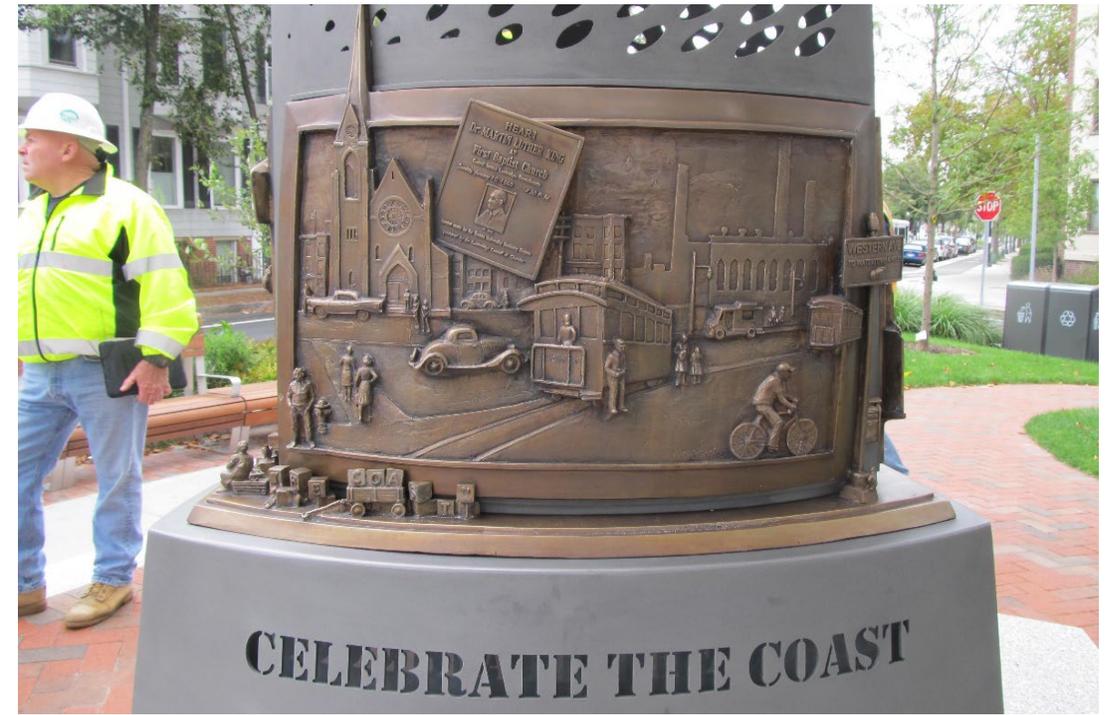
Interpretive Features



Historic References



Cultural Connections



Small Public Spaces



Pocket Park



Pocket Park



Welcoming Connections to Adjacent Parks



Linear Path Connection



Protected Plaza



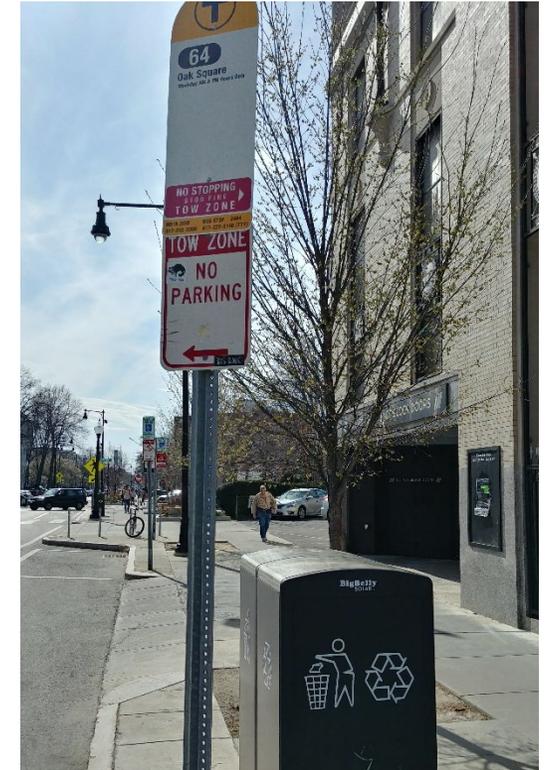
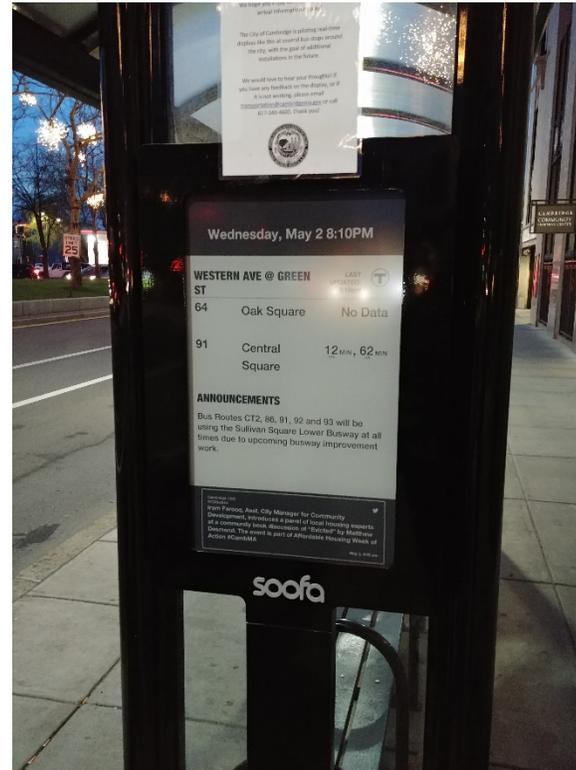
Bus Stop Areas



Bus Shelter



Bus Signage



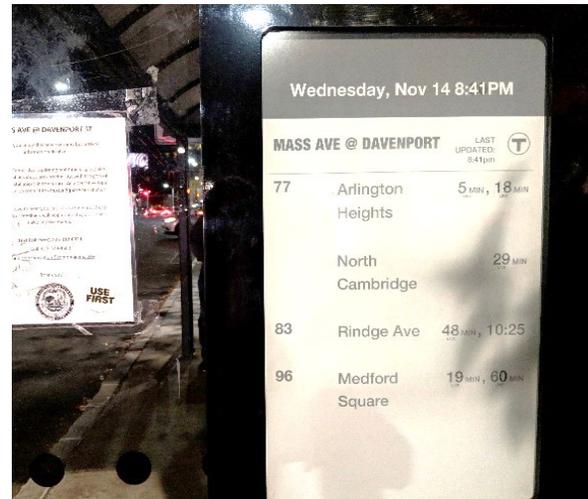
Bus Stop Amenities



Bus Stop Curb Extension



Benches



Real-Time Information



Pavement Markings

Public Facilities



Public Restroom



Drinking Fountain



Discussion

- Other tools you think should be included?
- What have you liked/disliked about the toolbox elements that were presented?
- What challenges or unintended side effects do you see by utilizing these toolbox elements?





Public Art

Ritsuko Taho

- Former student and assistant professor at MIT
- Retired from professor role at Tokyo University of the Arts in 2017
- Often includes community participation and interactive features in her work
- Notable Work:
 - “Millenium Springs” 2006, Hollywood, Florida
 - “Rainbow Racoon” bridge, 2010, Tokushima City, Japan



“Multicultural Manifestoes”

- Installed in 1997 as part of current plaza design
- Includes glass towers, brass cylinders, and one bench
- Taho spent five months collecting “dream statements” via public meetings, workshops and “dream collection boxes” around Central Square, and inscribed them on brass cylinders





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each others
strengths,
differences,
and
uniqueness

当非有子
开就族活
虎野，







Swedish

Dröm

Persian









CAMBRIDGE SUFFRAGE

A long march for suffrage.

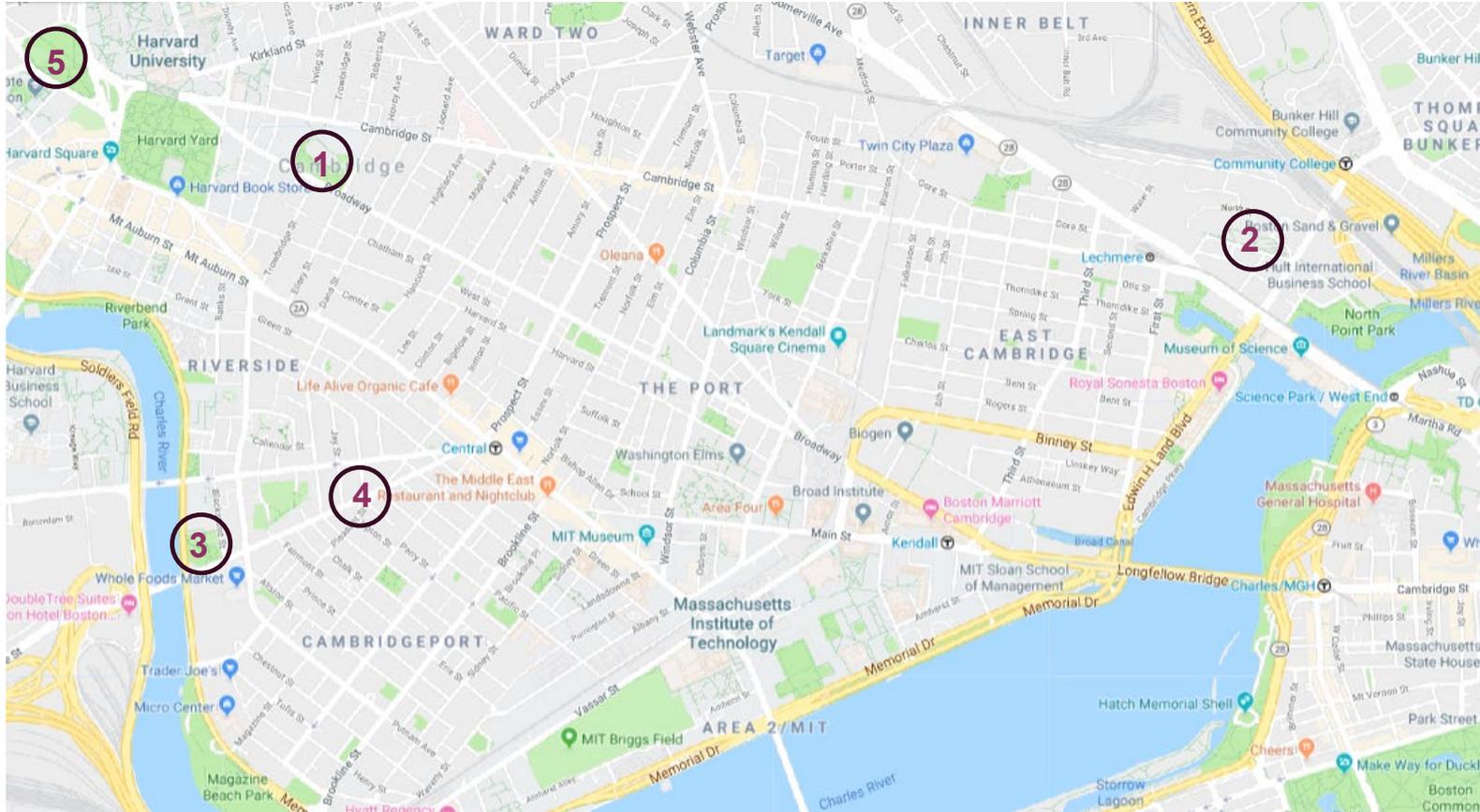
Committee Charge: Commissioning a public art piece to commemorate the dedication of women in Cambridge to passing the Nineteenth Amendment (August 26, 1920).

Location: Accessible, visible, connected to history, and space that would support installation.



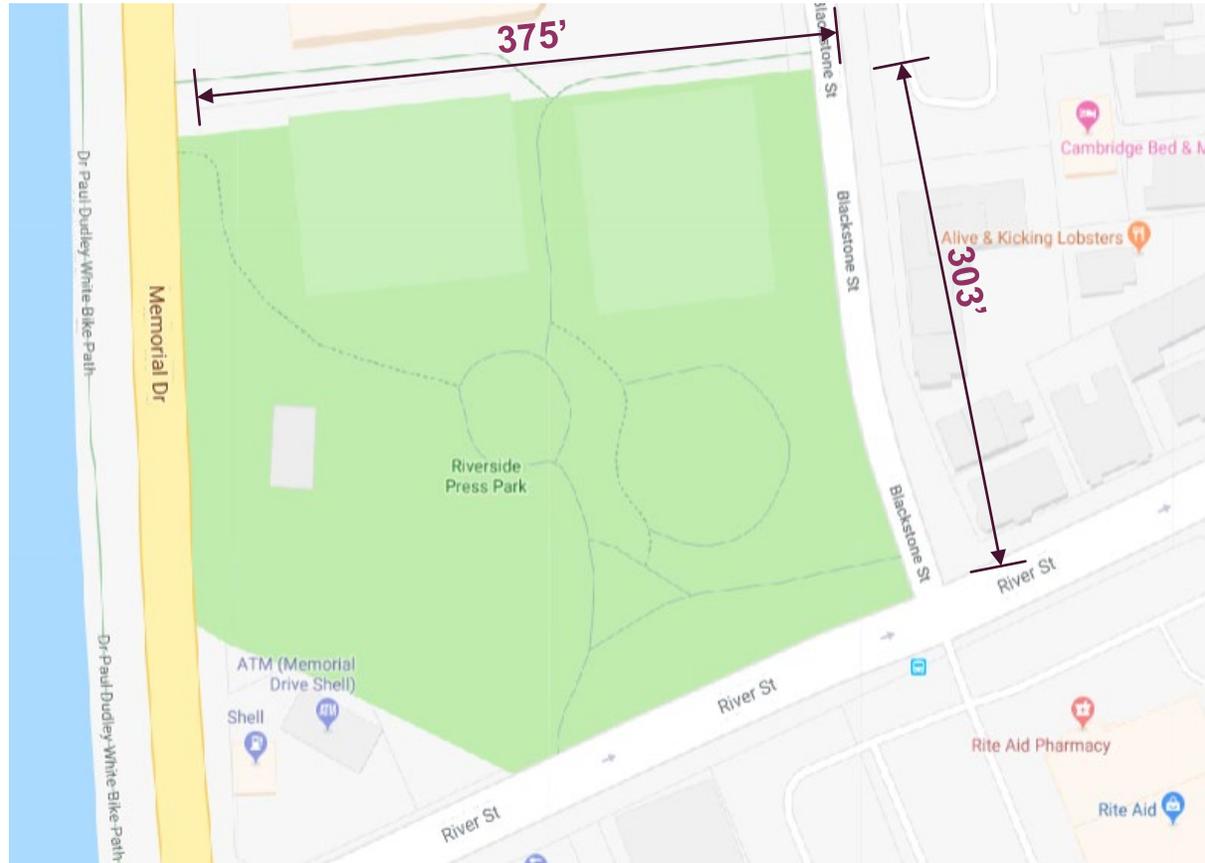
CAMBRIDGE SUFFRAGE HISTORY

A long march for suffrage.



1. Joan Lorentz Park
2. Cambridge Crossing
3. Riverside Press Park
4. Norman M. Tubman Square
5. Cambridge Common

RIVERSIDE PRESS PARK



Riverside Press Park – 375' x 303'

RIVERSIDE PRESS PARK

Pros:

- Near river.
- Large open space.

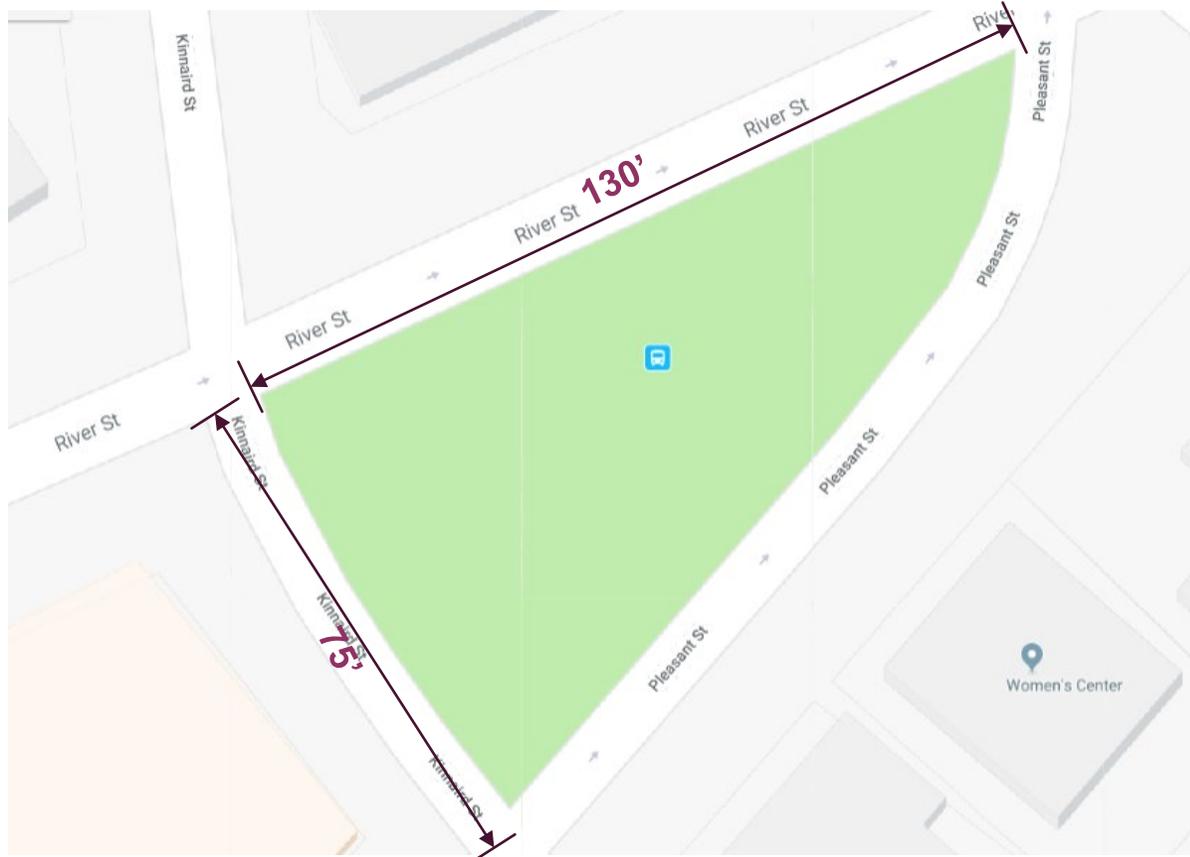
Cons:

- Not near major transit hub.



Riverside Press Park

TUBMAN SQUARE – RIVER STREET



Norman M. Tubman Square – 75' x 130'

TUBMAN SQUARE – RIVER STREET



Norman M. Tubman Square – River St & Kinnaird St

Pros:

- Close to location of the Women's Center.
- High visibility.
- Close to Central Square.
- Easily accessible.
- Will be fully reconstructed as part of the River Street project.
- Could be fully integrated into the redesign of the plaza.

Cons:

- Existing memorial marker to WWII veteran Lt. Norman M. Tubman (airforce navigator).

JAMES CRONIN PARK

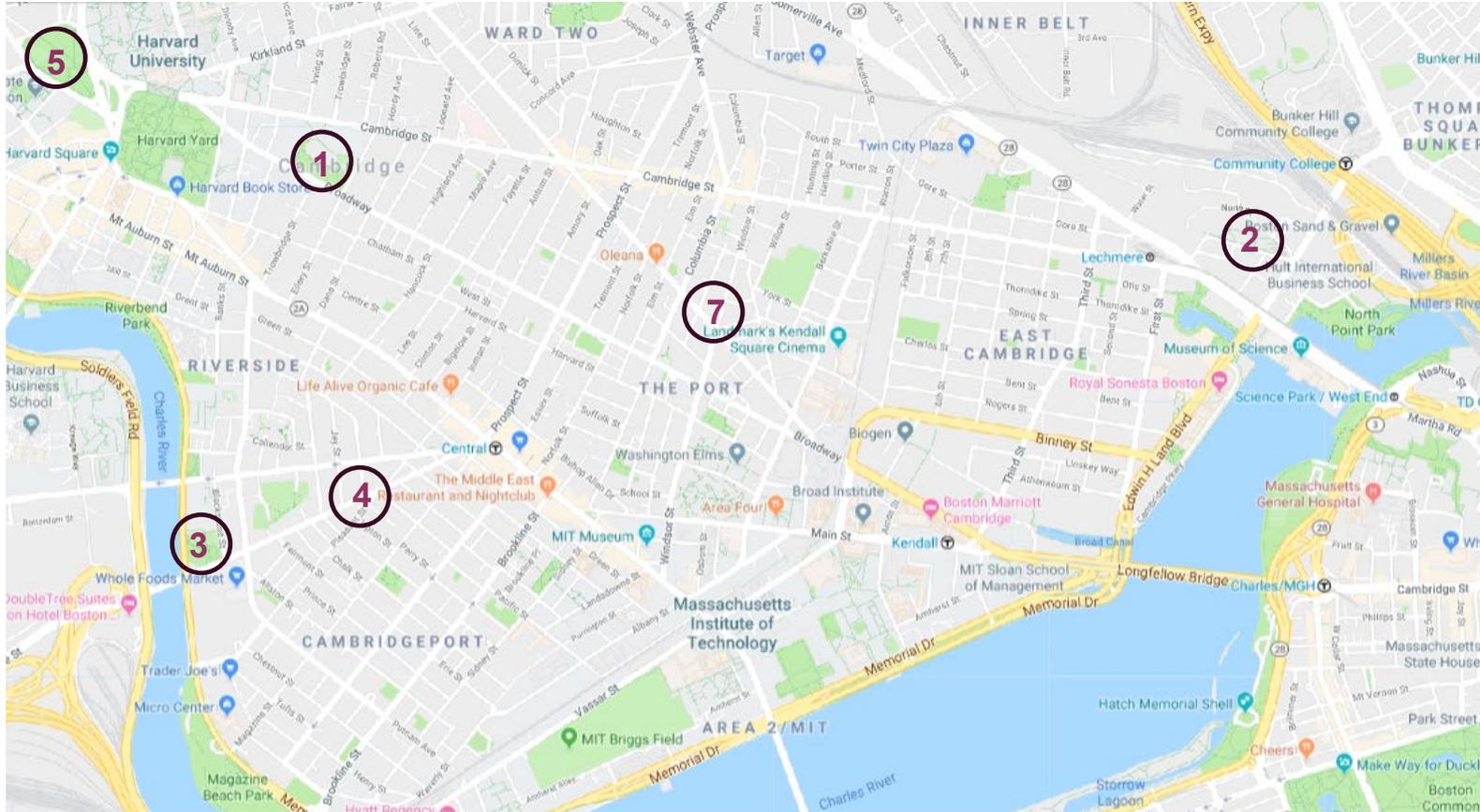
Existing memorial – Example



Existing Western Ave Location – James Cronin Park – Franklin St & Western

CAMBRIDGE SUFFRAGE HISTORY

A long march for suffrage.

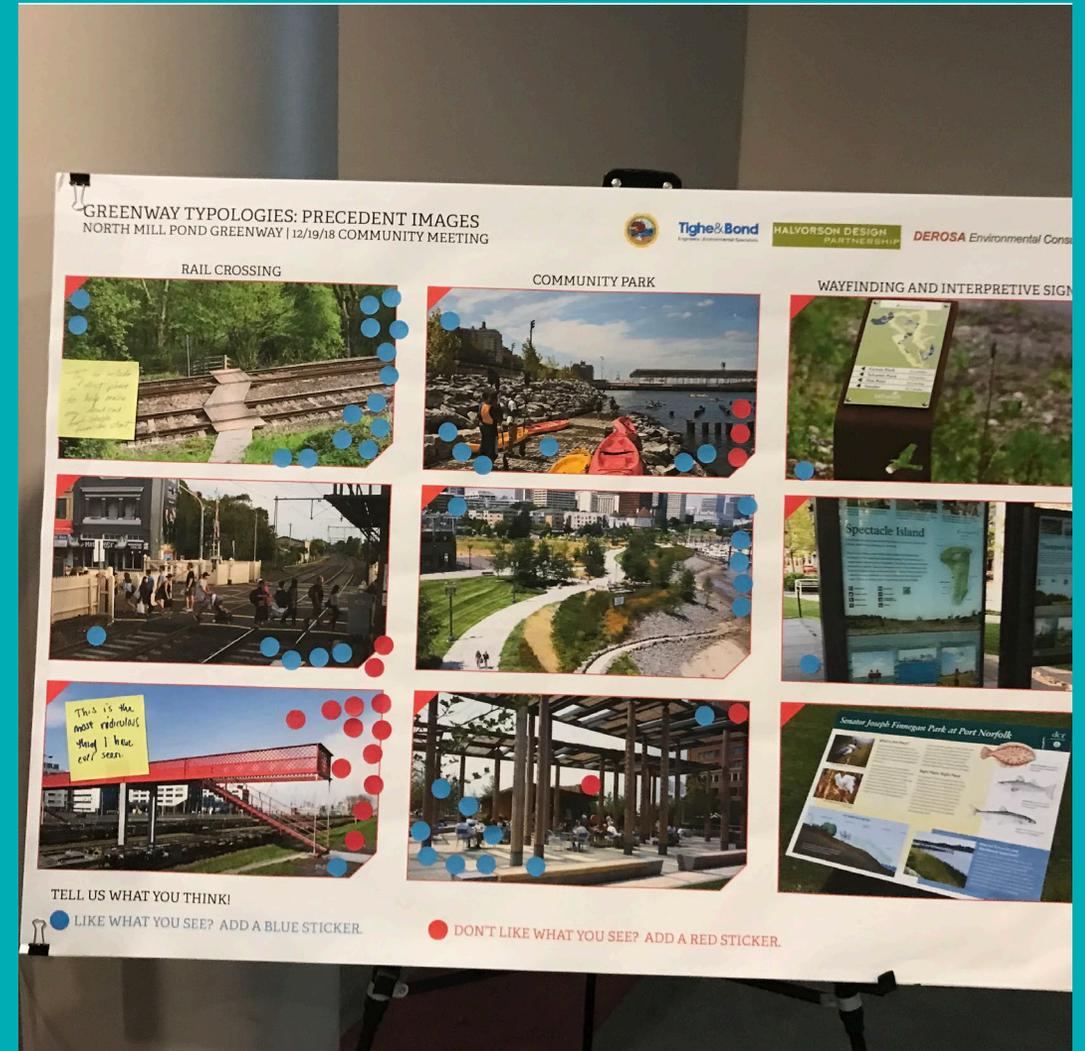


1. Joan Lorentz Park
2. Cambridge Crossing
3. Riverside Press Park
4. Norman M. Tubman Square
5. Cambridge Common

Streetscape Dot Exercise

Streetscape Elements

React to precedent images to illustrate what you'd like to see.



Dot Exercise Guidelines

Working Group

- Break into smaller groups
- Each participant receives (3) dots in (3) colors.
- **Green** dots for images you really like.
- **Yellow** dots for images you are just okay with.
- **Red** dots for images you dislike.

Project Team

- Will help facilitate smaller group conversations
- Facilitator will capture key themes, likes, dislikes, takeaways
- Will use the feedback that has been received as a reference during the design process.

Tubman Square Edge Examples

North



Northeast



Tubman Square Edge Examples

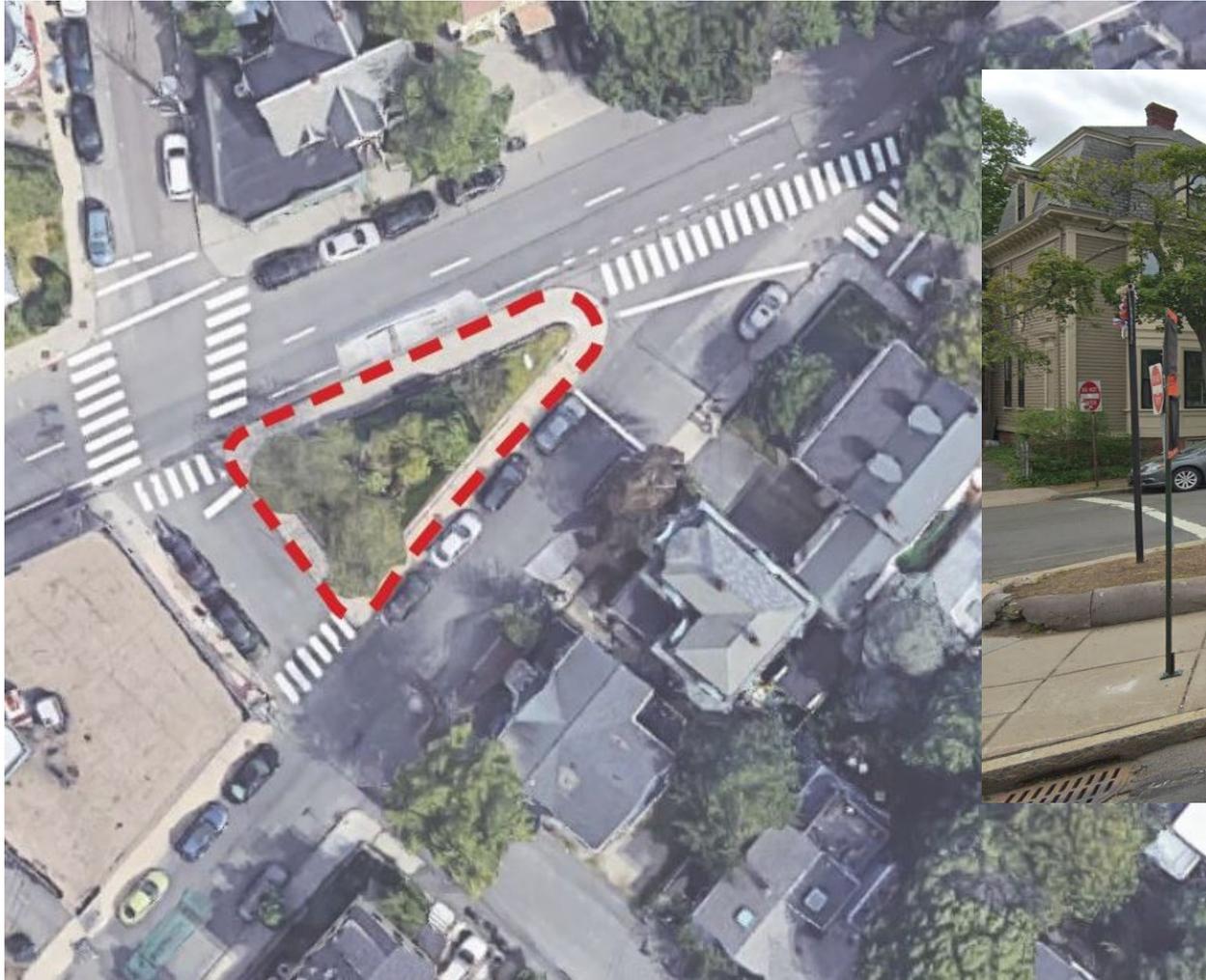
Southwest



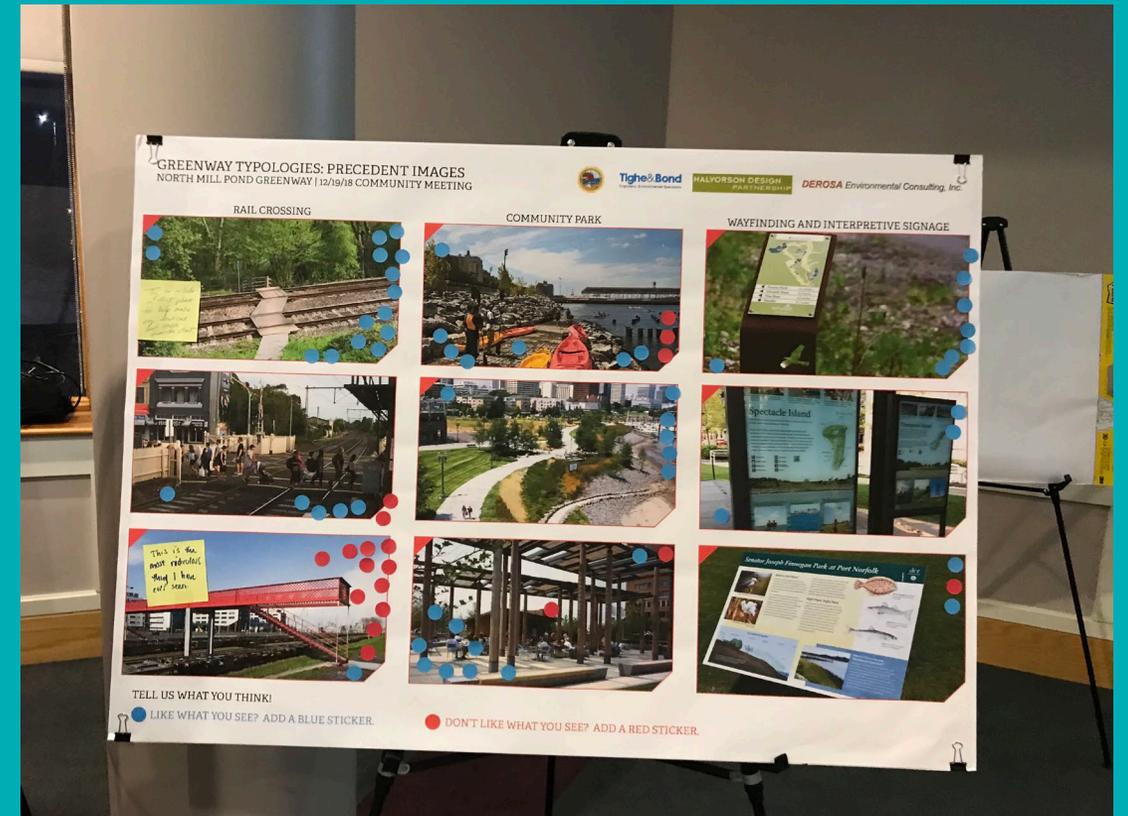
Southeast



Existing Tubman Square



What did we hear?



Public Comments

Next Steps

Cambridgema.gov/RiverStreet



- Community Development Calendar
- Projects
- Publications
- Forms
- Contact Us
- cambridgema.gov

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Enter keyword(s)



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344 Broadway

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& ENERGY

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DEVELOPMENT

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PLANNING &
URBAN DESIGN

TRANSPORTATION

ZONING &
DEVELOPMENT

CDD > Projects > River Street Reconstruction

River Street Reconstruction

The River Street Reconstruction project will upgrade the sanitary sewer, stormwater and water subsurface infrastructure while developing a new surface design for River Street, the bus terminal area at River and Magazine Streets near Central Square, and Carl Barron Plaza. The project aims to create a streetscape design that meets the needs of all the various users and in a way that engages the local community, contributes to overall enhancement of the neighborhood, and meets the City's goals related to infrastructure, transportation, and urban design.

The concurrent design of Carl Barron Plaza, the significant open space at the heart of Central Square will include consideration of public art, fixed and/or unfixed furniture, access, plantings, and landscaping. The design must also consider the complexity of transportation needs related to the bus bays adjacent to the Plaza and people moving through the plaza.

The community outreach and design processes will occur throughout 2019 and into early 2020. Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring 2020.

[Click here to sign up for email updates on this project.](#)

[Click here to provide general comments and feedback.](#)

[Please use this Public Input Map to provide your input on issues and opportunities along River Street and in Carl Barron Plaza.](#)

The Latest

Schedule

Description

Community Process

Documents

Contact

March 2019

The community outreach and design processes will occur throughout 2019 and into early 2020. Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring 2020.

Quick Links

I'd like to learn more about...

Select a Topic

Neighborhood or Square

Select One

Current Projects...

Select One



Click the Map to
Explore Cambridge

A 5-STAR Community
and National Leader in
Sustainability



Upcoming events

- **Carl Barron Plaza Existing Conditions**
 - Open House: Wednesday, June 5, 6-9pm. Manning Apartments
 - Outdoor Engagement: Saturday June 8, 4-7pm. Carl Barron Plaza
- **Urban Design and Local Business Walk**: Tuesday, June 11, 6-8pm. Meet at Carl Barron Plaza
- **Working Group #5 Meeting**: Wednesday, July 17, 6-8pm at Manning Apartments
 - Transportation overview and toolbox
 - Interactive Design Exercises – transportation and open space

THANK YOU!

riverstreet@cambridgema.gov