INVESTING IN BLUE HILL AVENUE

Design Updates 2026
September 30, 2026

CITY OF BOSTON

Mayor Michelle Wu

Interim Secretary & General Manager Eng

Blue Hill Ave Design

Infrastructure, Congestion and Safety

- **Sidewalks** are in disrepair, **curb ramps** are not accessible, and **roadway** is in poor condition
- Lack of **street trees** and insufficient **street lighting** leads to discomfort and health and safety impacts
- There is a **crash requiring EMS response every three days** on average. This puts Blue Hill Ave in the top 3% of Boston streets for number of motor vehicle crashes
- **Crosswalks are long**, encouraging people to cross in unprotected locations
- Throughout the day, more than **50% of Blue Hill Ave travelers are on buses**
- 10 bus routes carry **40,000+ riders - similar to the Blue Line**
- **20,000+ daily bus trips** start or end on Blue Hill Ave - enough riders to fill TD Garden

From Bus Priority to Full Boulevard Investment

2009
MassDOT 28X project is launched, but does not move forward

2019
Transit delays persist; City & MBTA start community engagement process

2021 November
$15M FHWA RAISE Grant Awarded

2020-2024
Engagement to Inform Design
29 Public Meetings
18 Workshops
40+ In-person drop-in sessions
3 operator listening sessions
4 community walks
3 bus stop engagement days

2025 - 2026
Design revision and incorporation of public feedback

MBTA pursues additional funding to increase scope

2026 March
$80.3M FTA Small Starts Grant Awarded

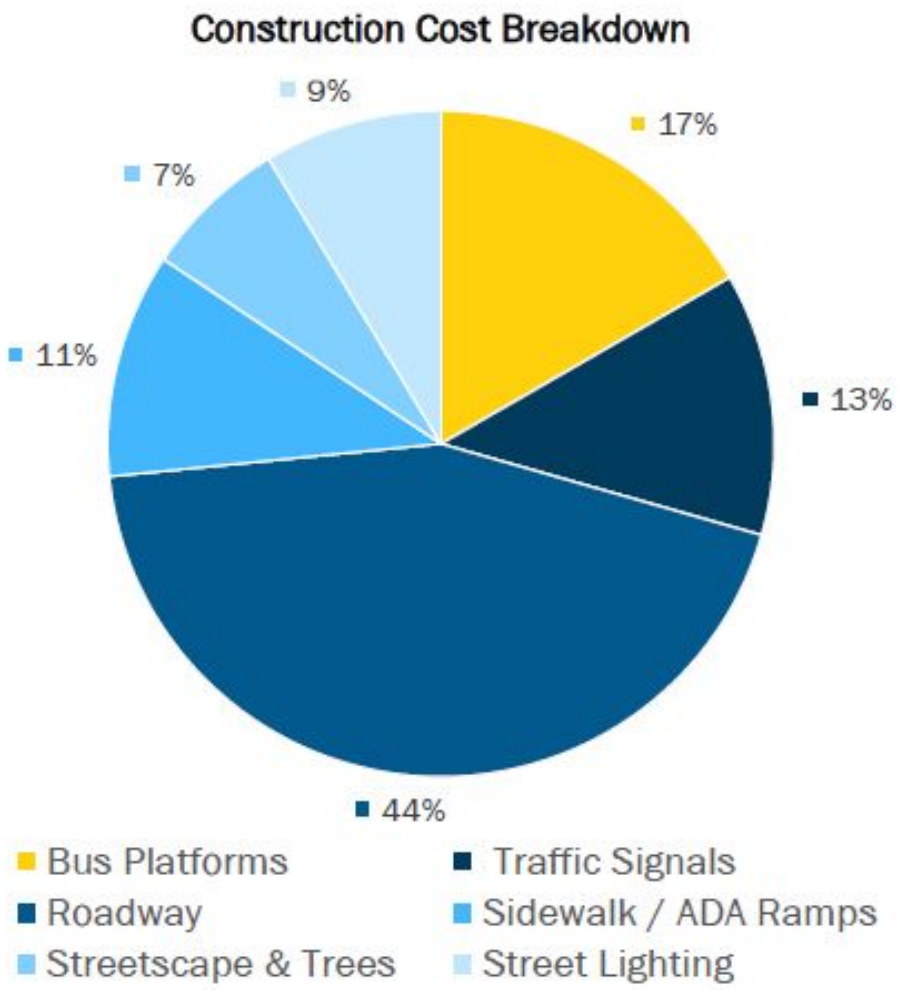
2026 September
Community Engagement and Public Meetings

2026-2030
Ongoing design and engagement

2028-2030
Earliest possible phased construction start

Complete Funding for a Complete Project

Today's Funding Plan for Blue Hill Avenue	
Roadway	$59 million
Traffic Signals	$17 million
Sidewalk / ADA Ramps	$15 million
Street Lighting	$12 million
Streetscape & Trees	$9 million
Bus Platforms	$22 million



From A Bus Lane to a Boulevard

6 Miles of Rebuilt New Sidewalks

Nearly 200 New Street Trees

New Sidewalk-Level Bike Path to Franklin Park

All New Street Lights

More Parking Spaces than Today

Restored General Travel Lanes

Fully Reconstructed Road

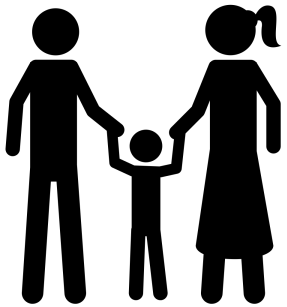
Center Lanes for First Responders, School Buses, and Daily Bus Riders

A Safer Blue Hill Ave for All

Making Blue Hill Ave feel more like a neighborhood street and less like a highway

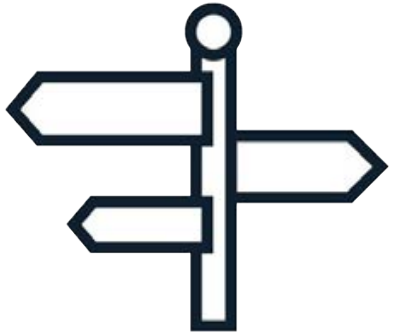
- **More opportunities to safely walk:**
  - New sidewalks and significantly shorter crossing distances for pedestrians
  - 19 new signalized crosswalks; 50% more opportunities to safely cross the street compared to today
  - Improving visibility and lighting for pedestrians at crosswalks with daylighting
- **Making it harder to speed or drive recklessly**:
  - Replacing all unsignalized left-turns with new signalized left-turn/U-turn lanes to improve driving safety
  - Overhauling traffic signaling system to improve safe traffic flows
- **Simplifying transit operations** so buses are no longer blocking traffic and delaying drivers at bus stops
- **Adding over 2 miles of separated bike facilities** that prioritize low-stress bike network connections and access to open space

Benefits of Center Bus Lanes



Safer street for all

More accessible bus stops and crossings

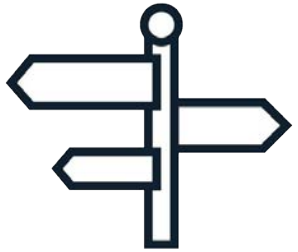


Faster, more reliable trips for riders

More parking for businesses & residents

Benefits of Center Bus Lanes

We've heard many of you ask: "Why Center-Running Bus Lanes?"



- Less conflict between cars and buses
- Ideal for bus left-turns - every Blue Hill Ave bus turns left somewhere
- Police, Fire, EMS, and school buses can use them!

- More parking than side-running
- Allow for increased parking spaces along the Avenue

- Improved boarding safety and accessibility
- Buses will *always* be at the curb for boardings
- All crossings and platforms will be designed to meet needs of blind, low-vision, and hearing-impaired individuals

Local Examples

Grove Hall (existing)

Larger tree median north of Castlegate St

Expanded pedestrian plaza area and shorter crosswalk

Grove Hall (proposed)

Shifting buses to the center lane opens curbside for parking and increased tree coverage

Tree median is retained north of Castlegate Rd

“Flex space” between parking and travel lane for safe school pick-up and drop-off

Happy Supermarket (existing)

Bike lane is often blocked

High ridership bus stop often blocked by double-parked cars

Bus shifted to center, increasing curbside parking

Triple parking reduces northbound Blue Hill Ave to one lane and makes turning maneuvers unsafe

Happy Supermarket (proposed)

Carriageway provides increased parking without interrupting traffic flow through center lane

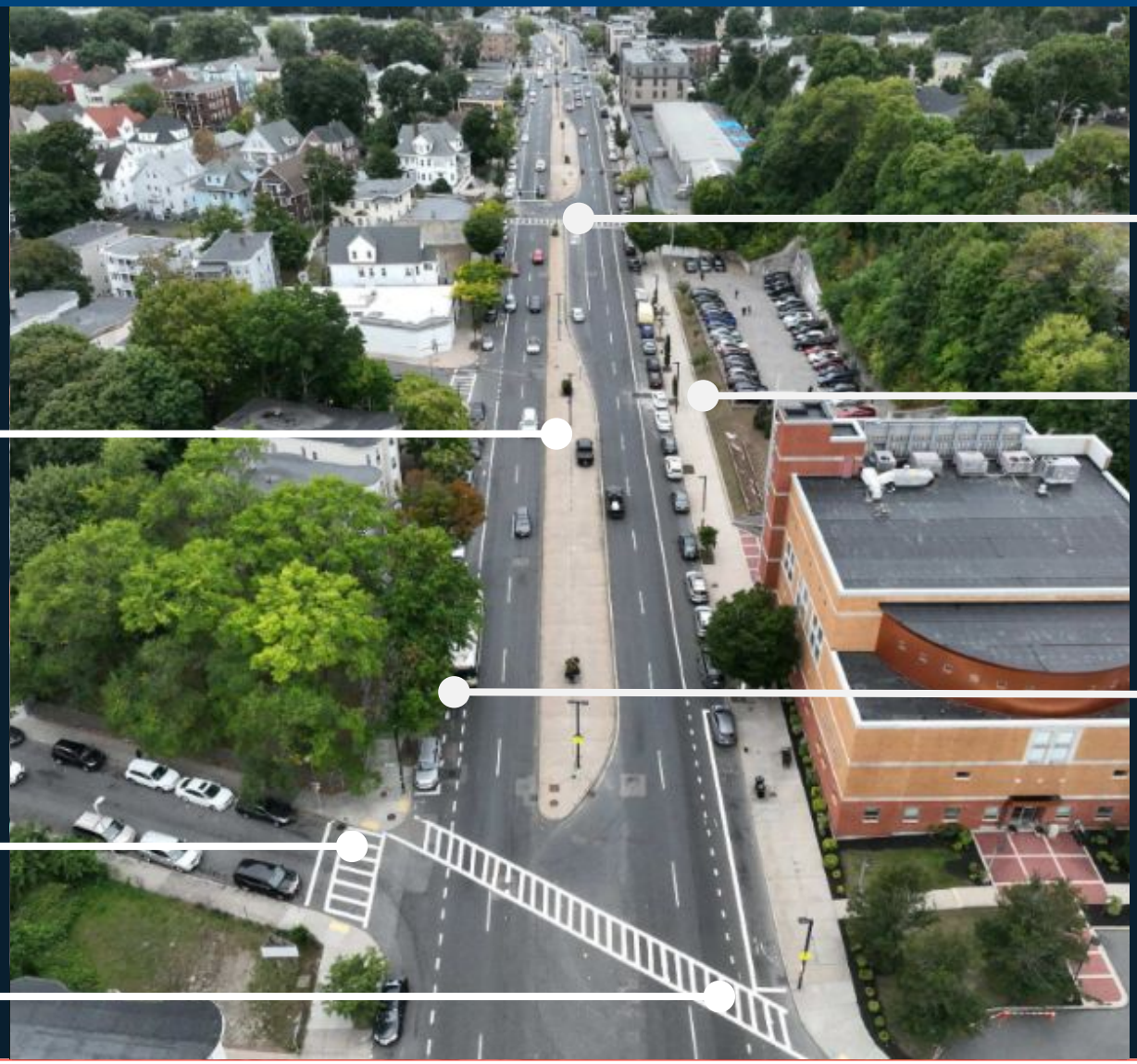
Parking regulations to encourage frequent turnover for local businesses

Buses and bus stop not blocked by double parking

Expanded pedestrian plaza area and shorter crosswalk

Bike lane shifted to west side and at sidewalk level

Morning Star Baptist Church (existing)



U-turn opportunity at Clarkwood Street

Limited tree coverage

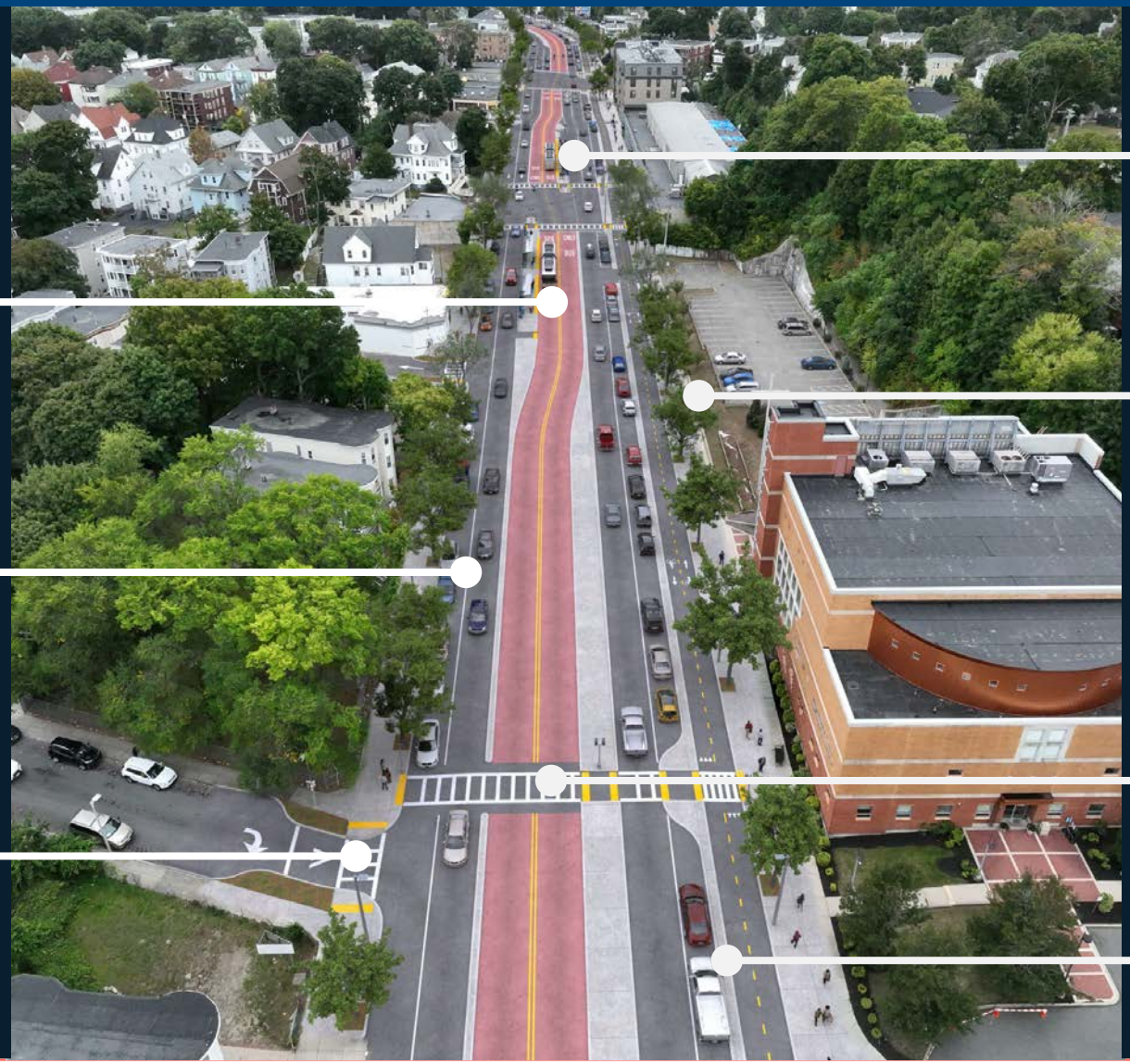
Wide median with event parking

Buses in center of the road, not blocking traffic

Wide crossing on one-way street

Long 110-ft unsignalized crosswalk with no refuge

Morning Star Baptist Church (proposed)



Median area repurposed for bus lanes

Two northbound travel lanes approaching Morton St

Shorter, raised crosswalk

U-turns shifted to Wellington Hill St

200 trees added throughout project area

Crossing reduced from 110- to 70-ft with refuge island and traffic signal

Bus shifted to center, increasing curbside parking

Morning Star Baptist Church (proposed Sunday)

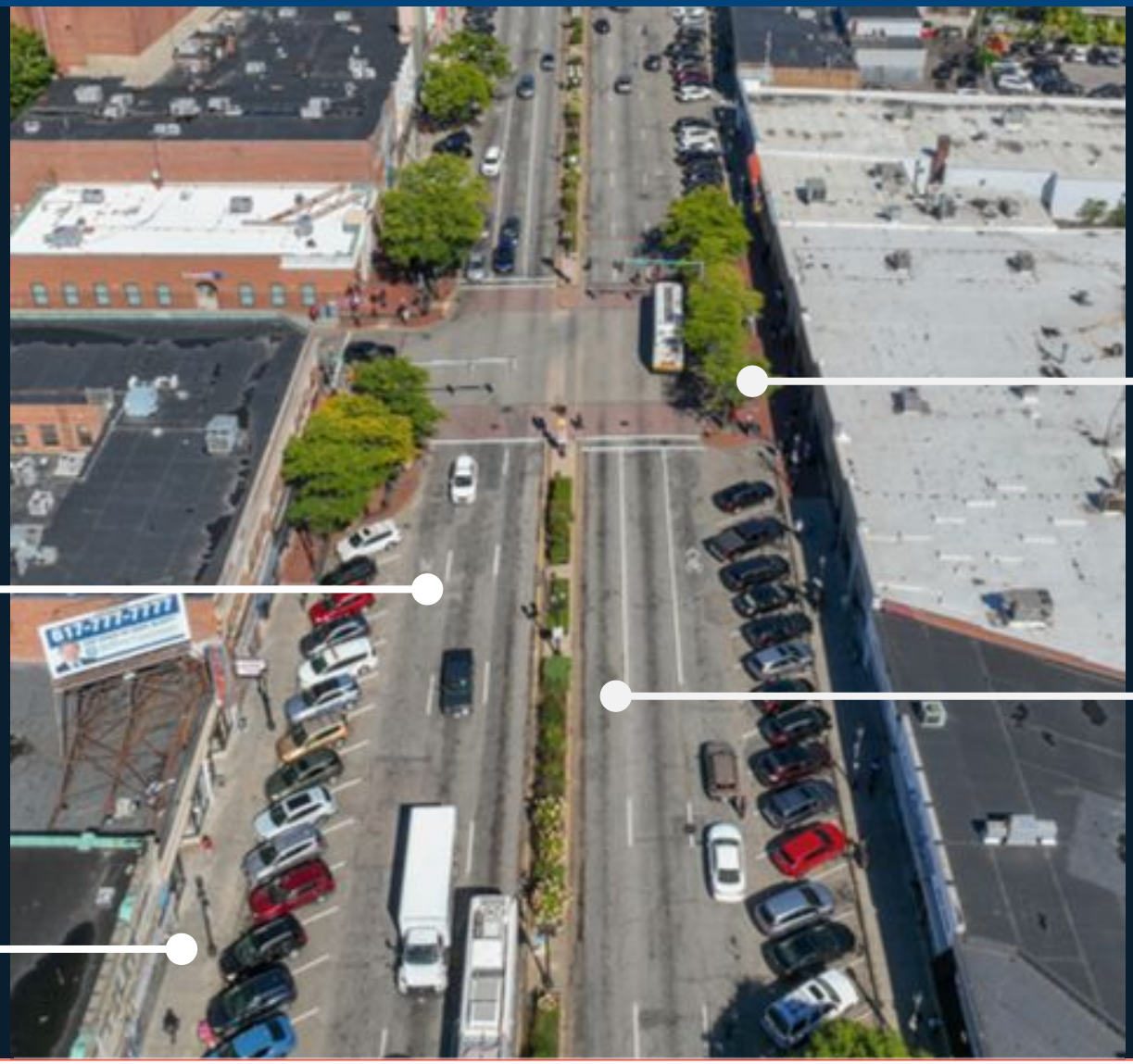
Median provides 37 additional parking spaces on Sundays

Crossing reduced from 110- to 70-ft with refuge island and traffic signal

Shorter, raised crosswalk

Bus shifted to center, increasing curbside parking

Mattapan Square (existing)



3 travel lanes across 50-ft of pavement adjacent to vibrant business and cultural district

Buses often block traffic, and 2,500 daily bus boardings in Mattapan Square cause sidewalk congestion

Older street lighting

Poor sidewalk and roadway condition

Mattapan Square (proposed)

New streetlights to increase safety and pedestrian comfort

Two travel lanes and angled parking in each direction

Buses in center of the road, not blocking traffic

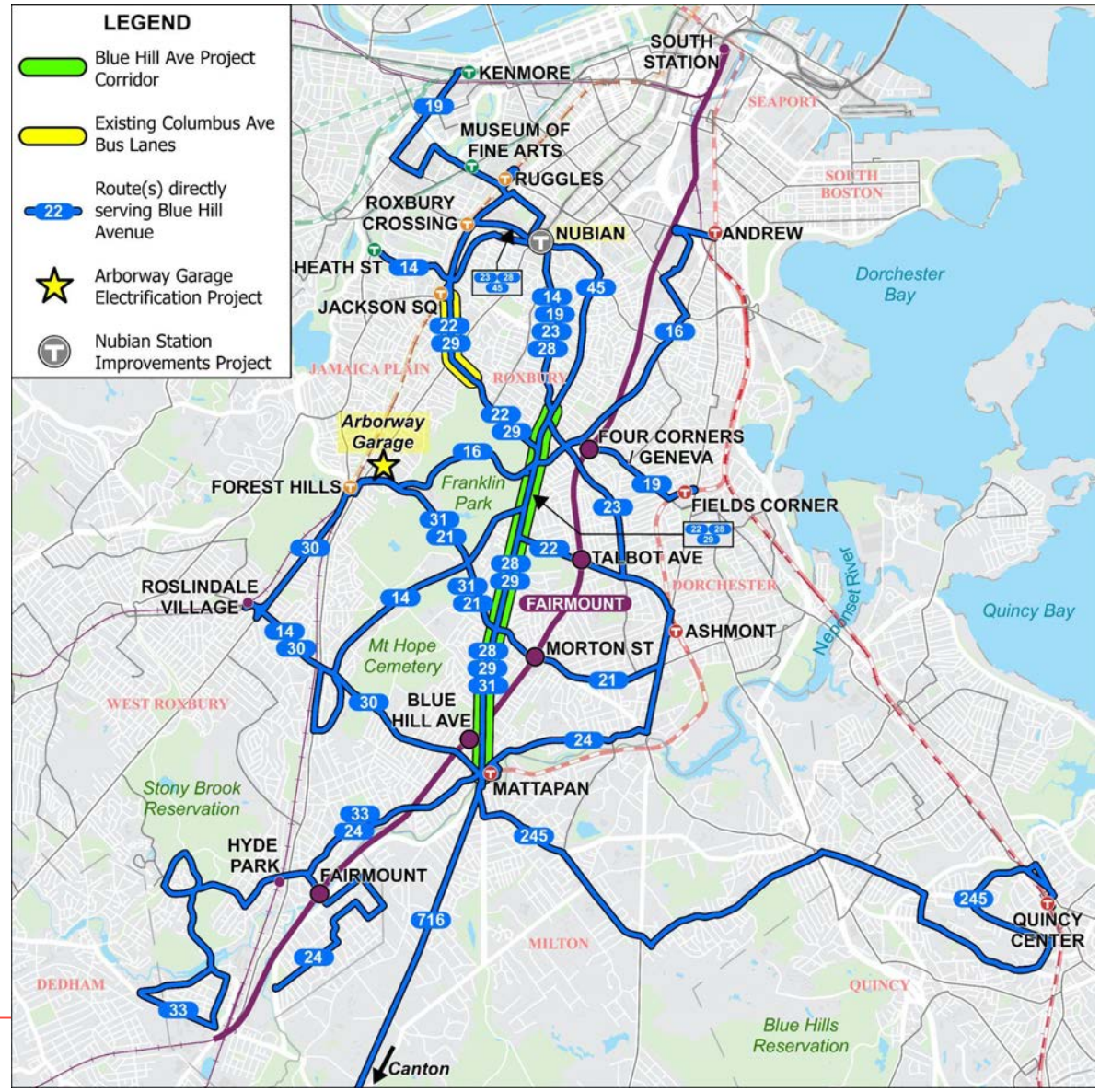
Rebuilt sidewalk and roadway

Refuge and new stations for bus riders to safely wait for the bus

MBTA Boulevard-Wide Investment

More frequent, reliable, and clean public transit choices

- $835M over 15 years invested to electrify the **Fairmount Line** and run more frequent service
- $7M to upgrade Nubian Station shelters, safety, and accessibility
- Better Bus Project: More bus service throughout the day, new one-seat rides to Longwood and more
- Cleaner buses are on the way; forthcoming new $371.5M **Arborway Bus Garage** allows for battery electric buses
- *Public transit investments are a climate solution*



Boulevard-Wide Investment

CIVIC SPACES

Parks

Schools

Community Centers

HOUSING

Homeownership

Affordable Housing

Stabilization

SMALL BUSINESS

Storefront Improvements

Legacy Business Support

New Revenue & TA

MBTA Investment In Blue Hill Ave Communities

Grove Hall Community Center
$65M budgeted

Fare Free Bus Program
Free service on routes 23, 28, 29

Cummins Highway
$32M invested

Fairlawn Apartments
$10M invested
347 families stabilized

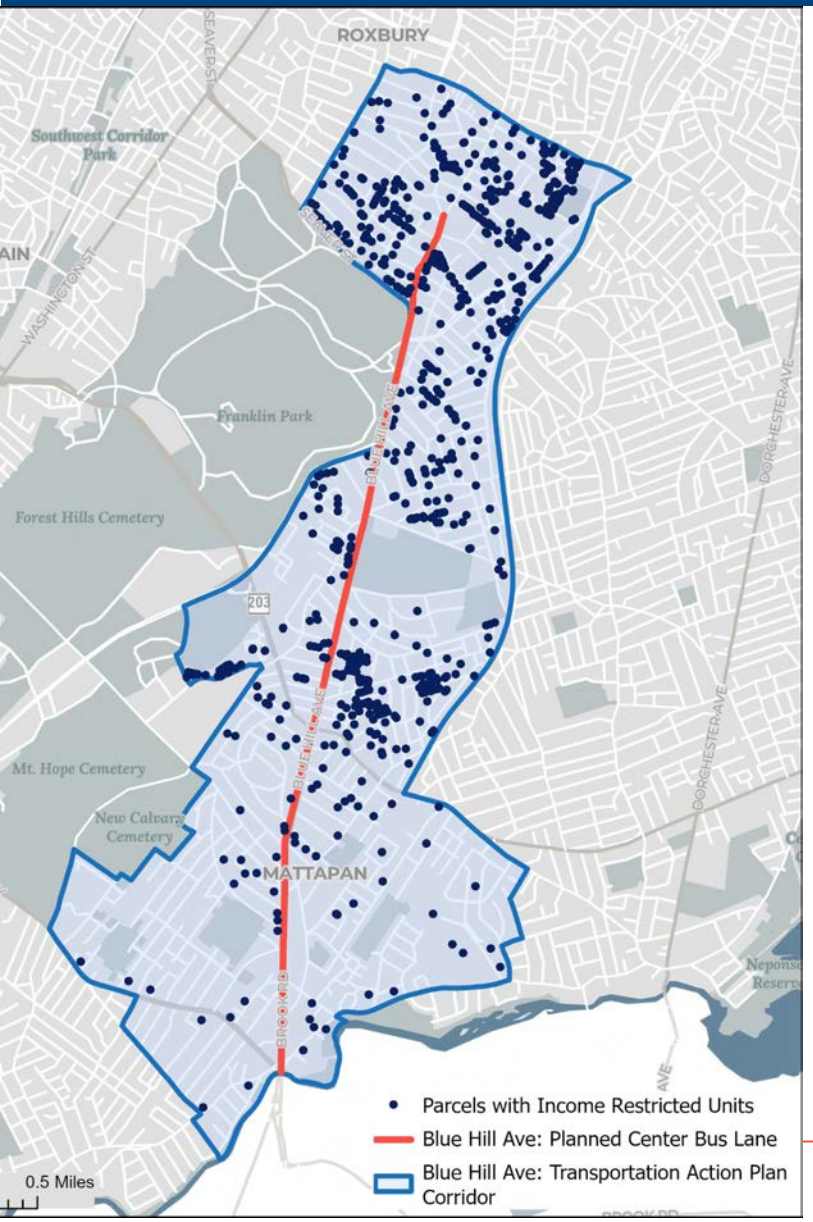
Harambee Park
$13.8M investment

Madison Park High School
$719M commitment

Fairmount Line Electrification
$835M over 15 years

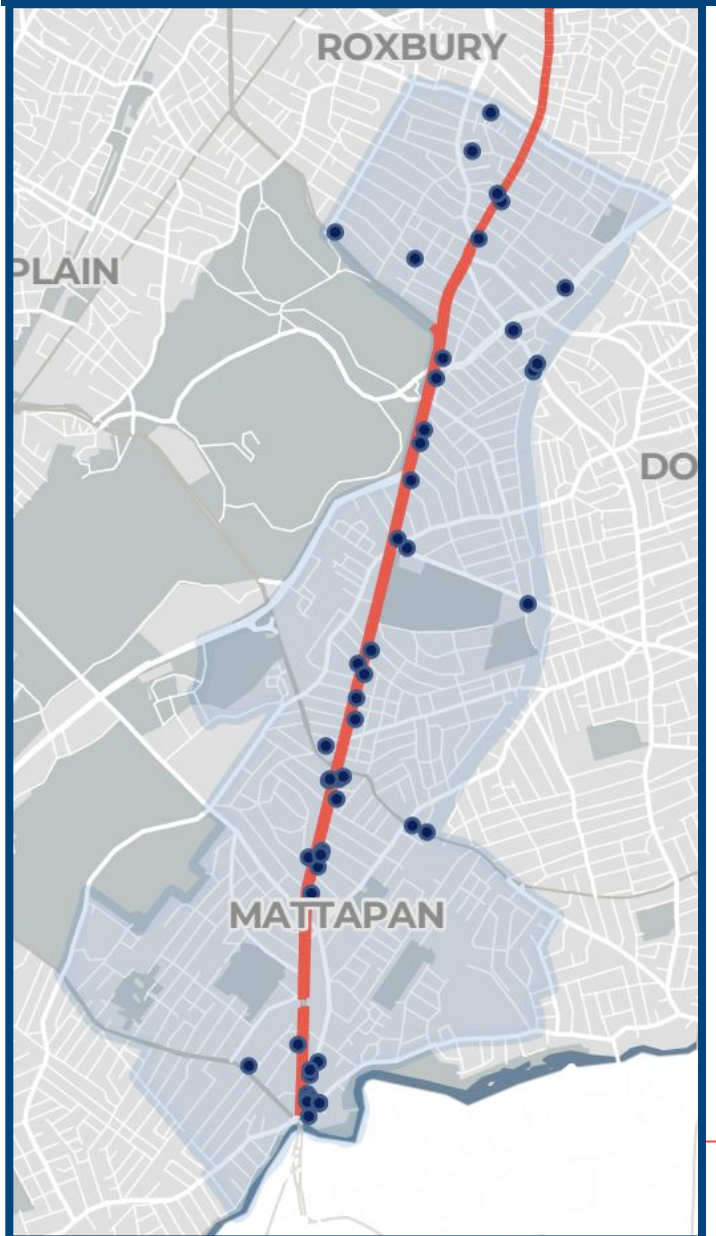
SPACE Grants/Small Business
$1.9M in aid
60+ businesses and institutions supported

Invested $70 Million in Housing



- **8,000 income-restricted homes** - 38% of all housing
- **Office of Housing Stability** helped 400+ households stave off eviction
- **Boston Home Center** prevented foreclosure for 250 homeowners, helped 300+ people make needed repairs
- Helped ~**200 people buy** their first home, and built ~**170 new affordable homes for purchase**

Invested $1.9 Million in Small Businesses



- **$1.3M+** to move into **vacant storefronts**
- **$180,000+** in Technical Support
- **$150,000+ in storefront improvements** for 20+ businesses, including *Brown Bear*, *Blue Mountain and La Maravilla*
- **7 new liquor licenses**
- **10 Legacy Businesses**, including *Le Foyer*, *Chez-Vous*, *Family Hardware*, *Happy Supermarket*, *Ali's Roti*, *and Merengue*

Next Steps

Next Steps

- **Fall**
  - Summarize Feedback from the September Engagements
  - Continue outreach to businesses, institutions, riders & residents

- **Late Fall**
  Applying the feedback, staff will further refine the design and share back with the community.

- **2027**
  Further rounds of public engagement at key design milestones

Feedback & Questions

- Ground Rules for Q&A
- 1 Minute Per Person
- Project Page: MBTA.com/BlueHillAve

Scan the QR code above to fill out our online feedback form or visit:

MBTA.com/BlueHillAveSurvey

Fill out the feedback form by **October 14th**!

¡Gracias!

Mèsi!

Obrigada!

Thank You!