



Town of Stoneham

# Stoneham Square Improvement Project

June 8, 2022

Public Information Meeting



# Tonight's Meeting

- Review history of Town's planning efforts for Stoneham Square
- Overview today's Stoneham Square, including issues and opportunities
- Walk through proposed improvement concepts for Stoneham Square
- Define next steps
- Hear your feedback

# A New Concept for Stoneham Square

We are looking to **conceive, develop,** and **advance** a new design concept for Stoneham Square.

The concept will aspire to **abide by community goals**, including:

- Safety
- Mobility
- Economic development
- Social equity
- Clean air
- Open space
- Long-term system preservation



*Explore Stoneham*

# Planning Precedents

- Town Center Strategic Action Plan (2014)
- **MDI Stoneham Town Center Complete Streets Strategy (2016)**
- Economic Development Self-Assessment Tool Report (2017)
- Complete Streets Policy and Prioritization Plan (2017)
- Open Space & Recreation Plan (2018)
- Tri-Community Greenway (Opened in 2019)
- Housing Production Plan (2020)
- Hazard Mitigation & Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan (2021)
- Downtown Parking Study (2021)
- **Rapid Recovery Program Plan (2021)**
- Downtown Redesign Process (ongoing)

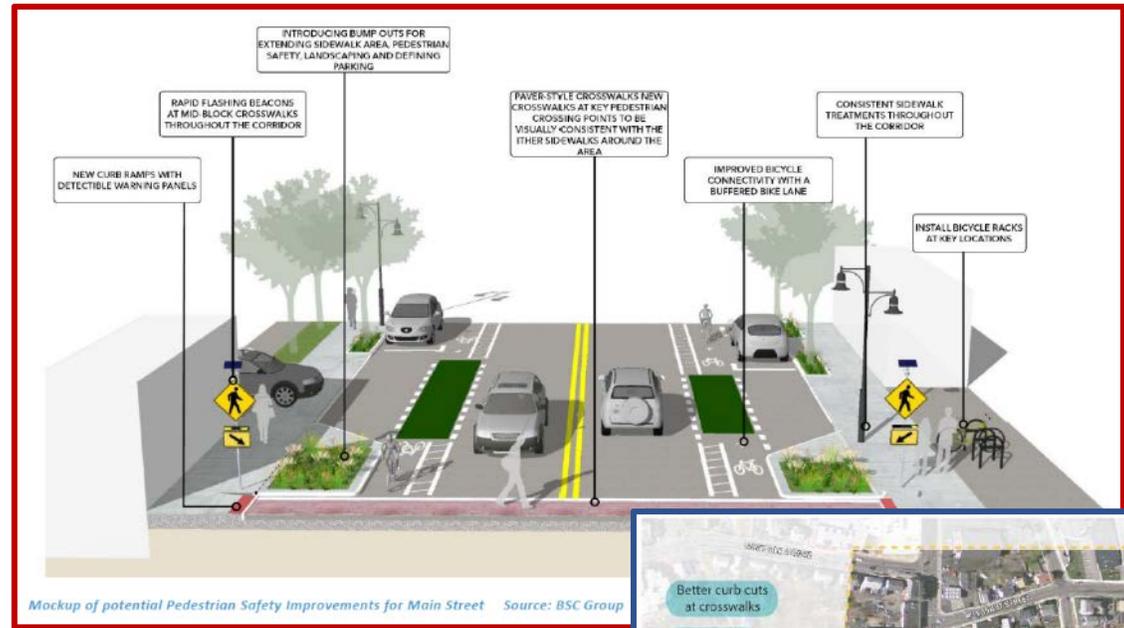


Figure 2: Public Input – General Comments

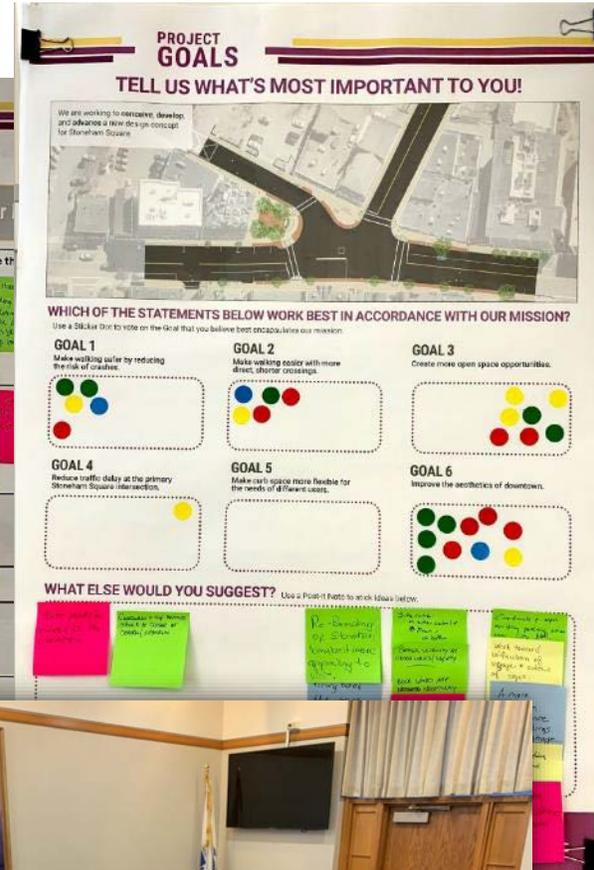
# March 1 Workshop Feedback

Feedback provided on **project goals** and **draft concepts** for Stoneham Square

Participants favored **goals** which improved aesthetics, added open space, and made walking more accessible and safer

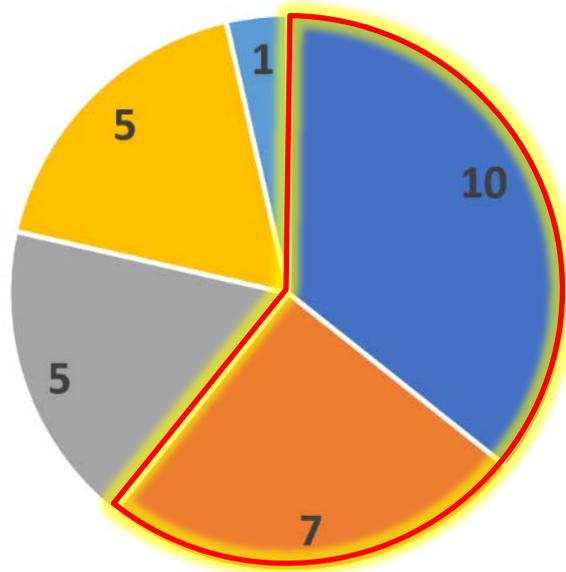
Proposed **concepts** that received support included:

- Outdoor dining
- Plantings and street furniture
- Public gathering space



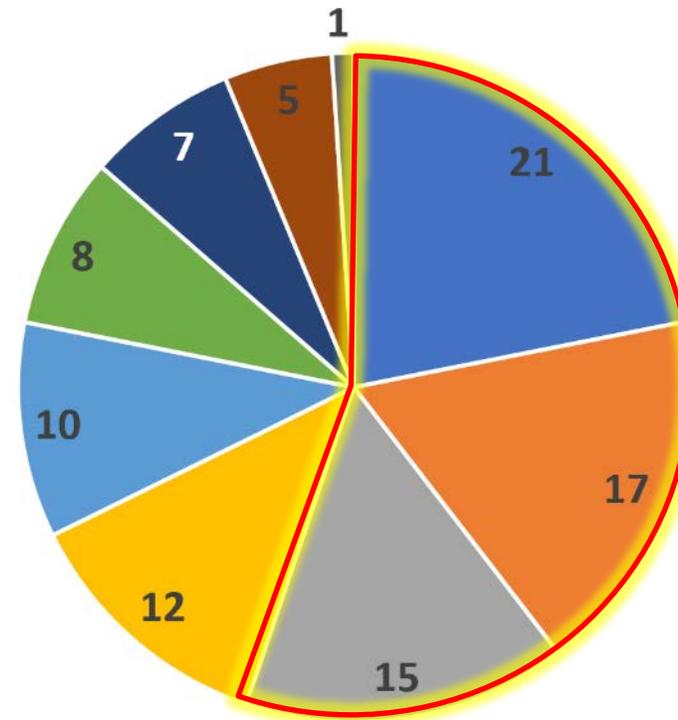
# March 1 Workshop Feedback

## Voting on Goals for the Project



- Improve the aesthetics of downtown
- Create more open space opportunities
- Make walking safer by reducing the risk of crashes
- Make walking easier with more direct, shorter crossings
- Reduce traffic delay at the primary Stoneham Square intersection

## Voting on Concepts to be Incorporated into the Design



- Outdoor Dining
- Plantings and Street Furniture
- Public Gathering Space
- Reduced Vehicle Conflicts
- Wider/More Visible Crosswalks
- Curb Extensions
- Reduced Parking Conflicts
- Curbless Streets
- Reduced Loading Conflicts

*Placemaking goals and concepts were the most important*



# Safety Concerns

Dangerous unallowed crossings in front of firehouse

Exiting traffic often ignores right-turn-only

No sidewalk protection from traffic

No sidewalk protection from traffic

Excess street width

Unprotected parking space

Crossing in conflict with most Maple turns

Short walk times

Excessive roadway for right turn

No dedicated left-turn lane

No crosswalk lighting

No alley visibility

**LEGEND**

↑ Building entrances	★ Lighting
▒ Buildings	Ⓜ Pedestrian Signal Heads
🌿 Vegetation	🚦 Traffic Signals
🧱 Brick	🔥 Fire Hydrants
🛤 Concrete Sidewalk	🪑 Bench
🛞 Asphalt Roadway	♻ Trash Receptacle
	📍 Sign

0 25 50 FT

 Safety Concerns

 Aging Infrastructure

 Pedestrian Accommodations

 Business Accommodations

# Safety Concerns



No dedicated left-turn lane

No sidewalk protection from traffic



Madrono Landscape Design



  
Safety Concerns

  
Aging Infrastructure

  
Pedestrian Accommodations

  
Business Accommodations

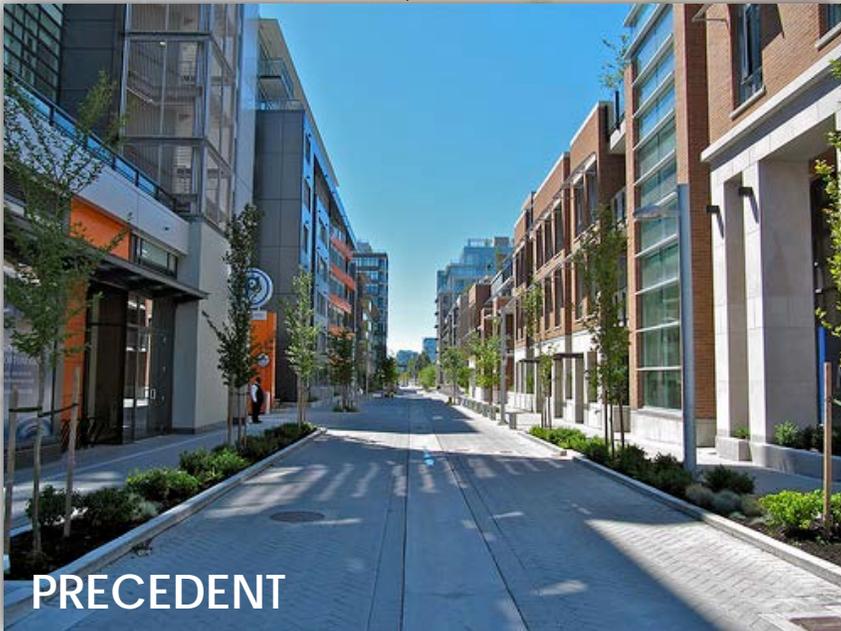
# Safety Concerns



Excess street width



Short walk times

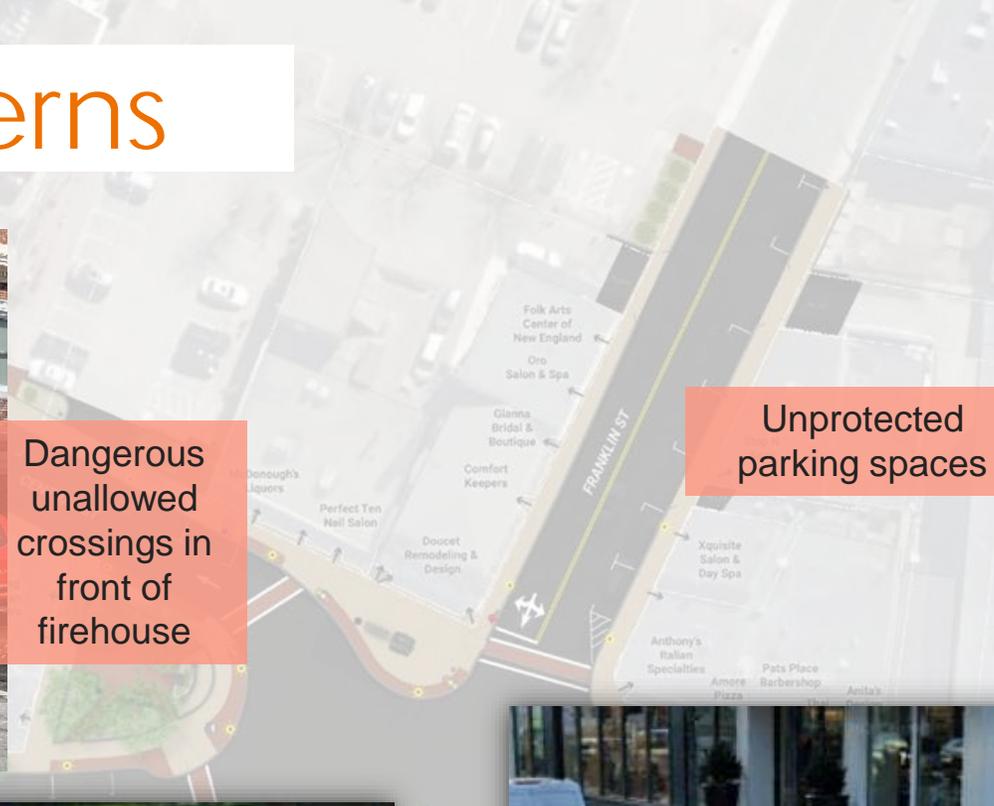


-  Safety Concerns
-  Aging Infrastructure
-  Pedestrian Accommodations
-  Business Accommodations

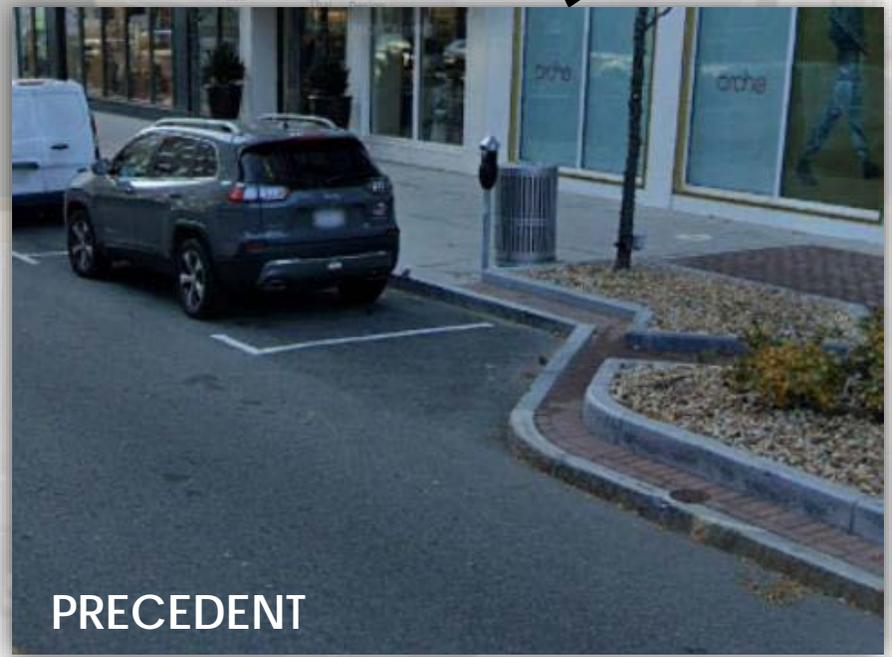
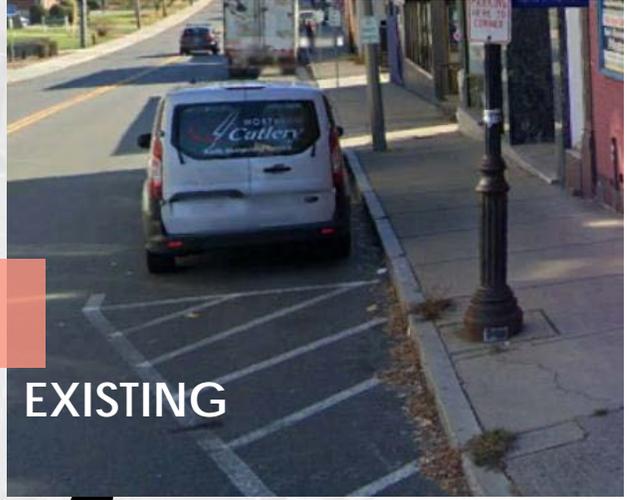
# Safety Concerns



Dangerous unallowed crossings in front of firehouse



Unprotected parking spaces



  
Safety Concerns

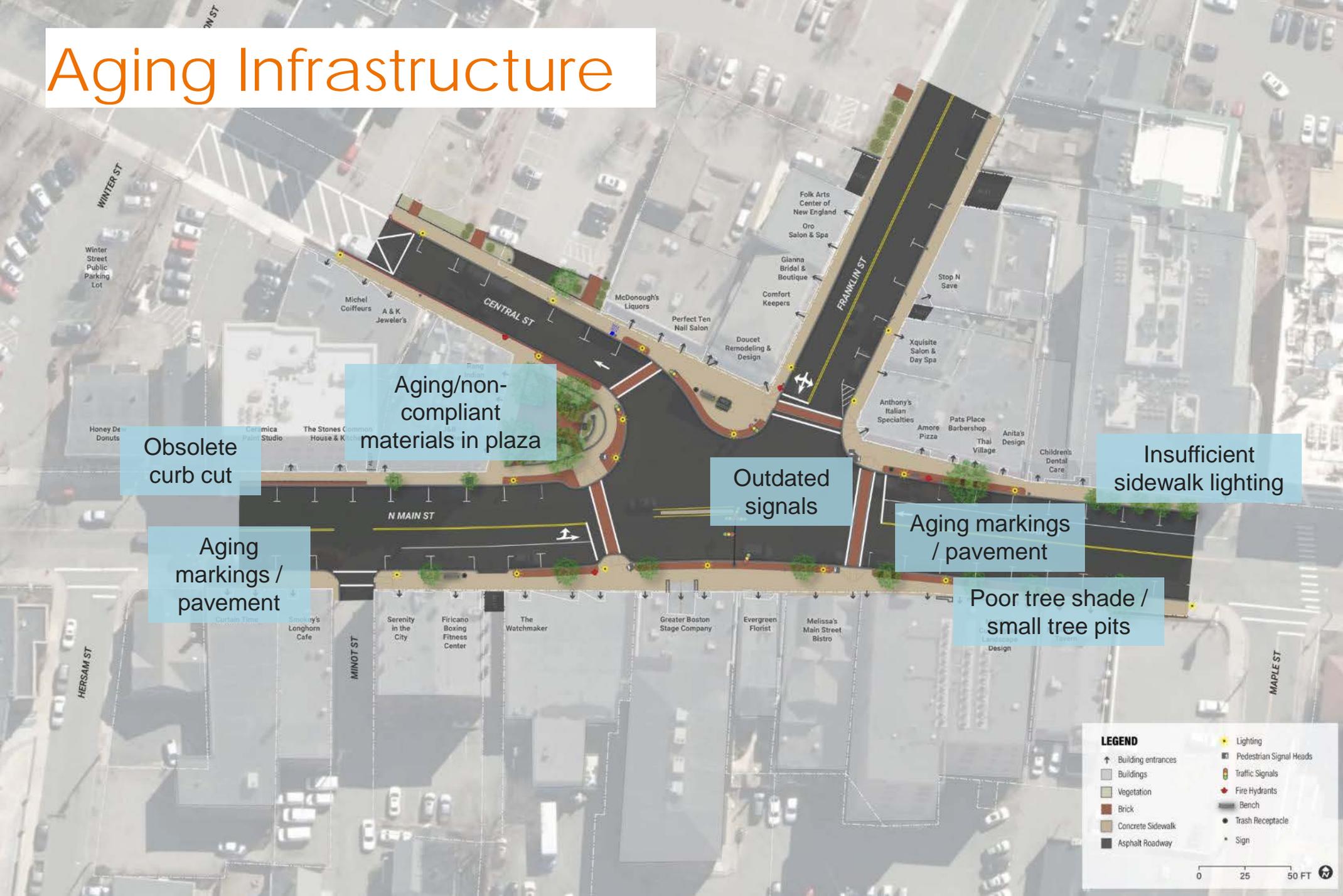
  
Aging Infrastructure

  
Pedestrian Accommodations

  
Business Accommodations



# Aging Infrastructure



- 

Safety Concerns
- 

Aging Infrastructure
- 

Pedestrian Accommodations
- 

Business Accommodations

# Aging Infrastructure



Aging/non-compliant materials in plaza



Aging markings / pavement



 Safety Concerns

 Aging Infrastructure

 Pedestrian Accommodations

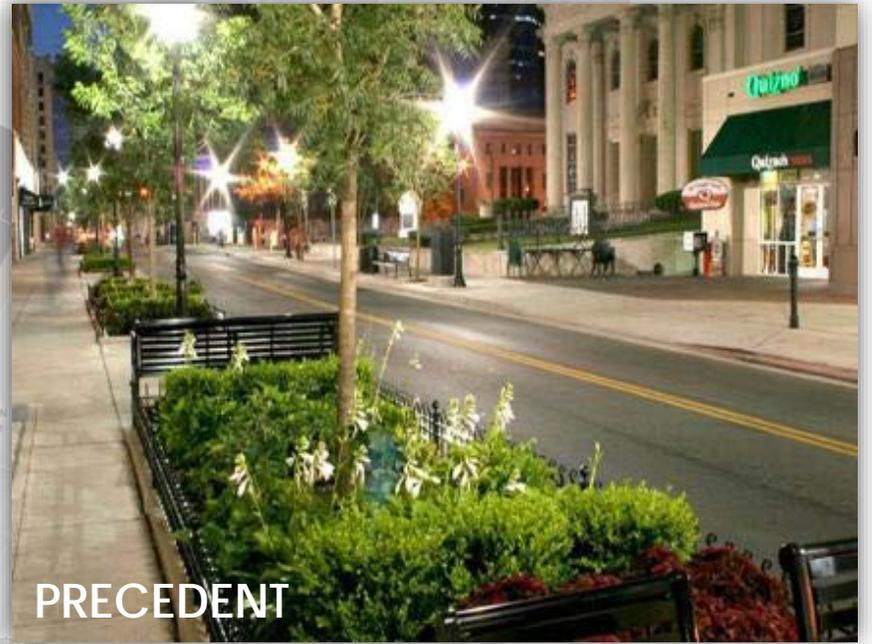
 Business Accommodations

# Aging Infrastructure



EXISTING

Insufficient sidewalk lighting



PRECEDENT

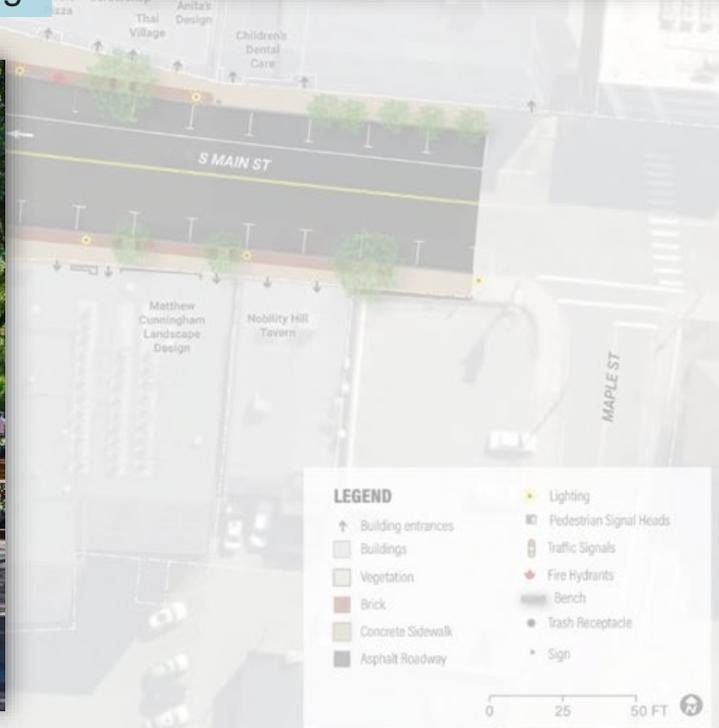


EXISTING

Poor tree shade / small tree pits



PRECEDENT



- Safety Concerns
- Aging Infrastructure
- Pedestrian Accommodations
- Business Accommodations

# Pedestrian Accommodations



No crosswalk to parking lot

Crosswalk misses desire line

No mid-block crossing

Narrow crosswalks

Non-compliant ADA ramps

Long pedestrian crossings

Lack of street furniture

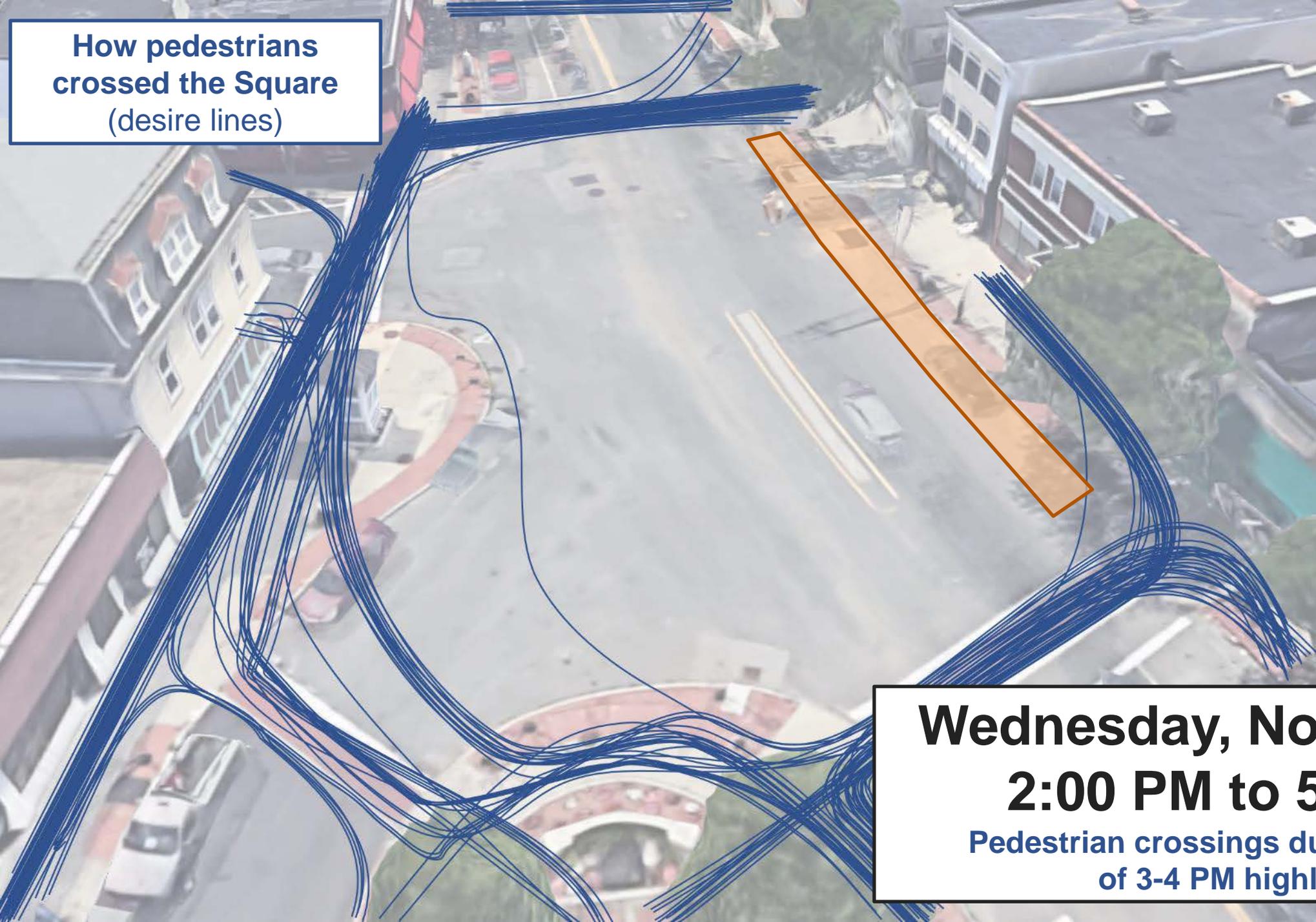
 Safety Concerns

 Aging Infrastructure

 Pedestrian Accommodations

 Business Accommodations

**How pedestrians  
crossed the Square  
(desire lines)**



**Wednesday, November 17  
2:00 PM to 5:00 PM**

**Pedestrian crossings during peak hour  
of 3-4 PM highlighted**

# Pedestrian Accommodations

EXISTING



Lack of street furniture



Long pedestrian crossings



-   
Safety Concerns
-   
Aging Infrastructure
-   
Pedestrian Accommodations
-   
Business Accommodations

0 25 50 FT

# Pedestrian Accommodations



Narrow crosswalks



Non-compliant ADA ramps



-  Safety Concerns
-  Aging Infrastructure
-  Pedestrian Accommodations
-  Business Accommodations

# Business Accommodations

Insufficient wayfinding to nearby off-street parking

No defined loading area

Lack of programmable open space

Lack of street furniture

No bike parking

No space for outdoor dining

No space for outdoor dining

No bike parking

Limited sidewalk space for theater

No bike parking

No space for outdoor dining

**LEGEND**

↑ Building entrances	⬤ Lighting
▭ Buildings	⬤ Pedestrian Signal Heads
▭ Vegetation	⬤ Traffic Signals
▭ Brick	⬤ Fire Hydrants
▭ Concrete Sidewalk	⬤ Bench
▭ Asphalt Roadway	⬤ Trash Receptacle
	⬤ Sign

0 25 50 FT

  
Safety Concerns

  
Aging Infrastructure

  
Pedestrian Accommodations

  
Business Accommodations

# Business Accommodations



No space for outdoor dining

Insufficient wayfinding to nearby off-street parking



**LEGEND**

- Building entrances
- Buildings
- Vegetation
- Brick
- Concrete Sidewalk
- Asphalt Roadway
- Lighting
- Pedestrian Signal Heads
- Traffic Signals
- Fire Hydrants
- Bench
- Trash Receptacle
- Sign

0 25 50 FT

- Safety Concerns
- Aging Infrastructure
- Pedestrian Accommodations
- Business Accommodations



# Business Accommodations

EXISTING



Lack of programmable open space

Limited sidewalk space for theater



EXISTING



PRECEDENT



PRECEDENT

 Safety Concerns

 Aging Infrastructure

 Pedestrian Accommodations

 Business Accommodations

# Business Accommodations



-  Safety Concerns
-  Aging Infrastructure
-  Pedestrian Accommodations
-  Business Accommodations

# Improvements (30+ projects)

Category	Improved Conditions
Safety Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Dangerous unallowed crossings in front of firehouse</li> <li>✓ No sidewalk protection from traffic</li> <li>✓ Excess street width on Central</li> <li>✓ Exiting traffic ignores right-turn-only restriction on to Central from Fuller St. lot</li> <li>✓ Unprotected parking space on Central</li> <li>✓ Excessive roadway for right turn from South Main to Central</li> <li>✓ No crosswalk lighting</li> <li>✓ Short walk times</li> <li>✓ No dedicated left-turn lane from North Main to Franklin</li> <li>✓ No alley visibility</li> </ul>
Aging Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Obsolete curb cut on North Main</li> <li>✓ Aging markings and pavement</li> <li>✓ Aging/non-compliant materials in plaza</li> <li>✓ Outdated signals</li> <li>✓ Insufficient sidewalk lighting</li> <li>✓ Poor tree shade/small tree pits</li> </ul>

Category	Improved Conditions
Pedestrian Accommodations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Crosswalk misses desire line on Central</li> <li>✓ No crosswalk to Fuller St. parking lot on Franklin</li> <li>✓ Long pedestrian crossings</li> <li>✓ Non-compliant ADA ramps</li> <li>✓ Narrow crosswalks</li> <li>✓ Lack of street furniture</li> <li>✓ No mid-block crossing on North Main</li> </ul>
Business Accommodations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Insufficient wayfinding to nearby off-street parking</li> <li>✓ No bike parking</li> <li>✓ Lack of street furniture</li> <li>✓ Lack of programmable open space</li> <li>✓ No defined loading areas</li> <li>✓ No space for outdoor dining</li> <li>✓ Limited sidewalk space for theater</li> </ul>

# Existing Conditions



**LEGEND**

↑ Building entrances	⬡ Lighting
▤ Buildings	⬢ Pedestrian Signal Heads
🌿 Vegetation	⬡ Traffic Signals
🧱 Brick	🔥 Fire Hydrants
🛤 Concrete Sidewalk	🪑 Bench
🛣 Asphalt Roadway	♻ Trash Receptacle
	• Sign

0 25 50 FT

# Option 1B

## INTERSECTION CONCEPTS OPTION 1B



**LEGEND**

- ↑ Building entrances
- Existing Sidewalk / Plaza
- Buildings
- Asphalt Roadway
- Existing Curb Line
- Intersection Operating Area

0 25 50 FT

# Existing Conditions



**LEGEND**

↑ Building entrances	⚡ Lighting
▤ Buildings	🚶 Pedestrian Signal Heads
🌿 Vegetation	🚦 Traffic Signals
🧱 Brick	🔥 Fire Hydrants
🛤 Concrete Sidewalk	🪑 Bench
🛣 Asphalt Roadway	♻ Trash Receptacle
	📍 Sign

0 25 50 FT

# Option 3A

INTERSECTION CONCEPTS  
**OPTION 3A**



**LEGEND**

- ↑ Building entrances
- Existing Sidewalk / Plaza
- Buildings
- Asphalt Roadway
- Existing Curb Line
- Intersection Operating Area

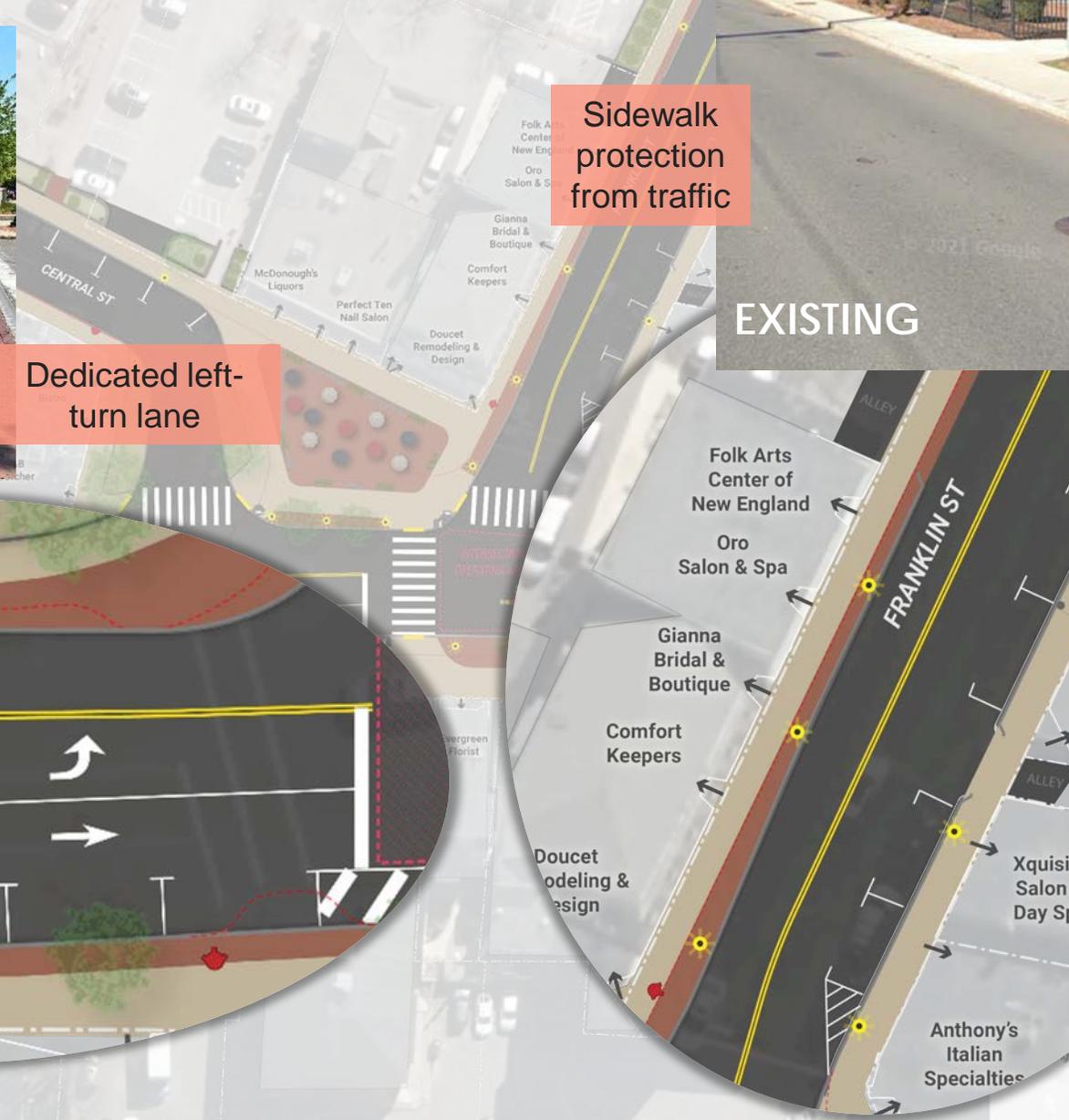
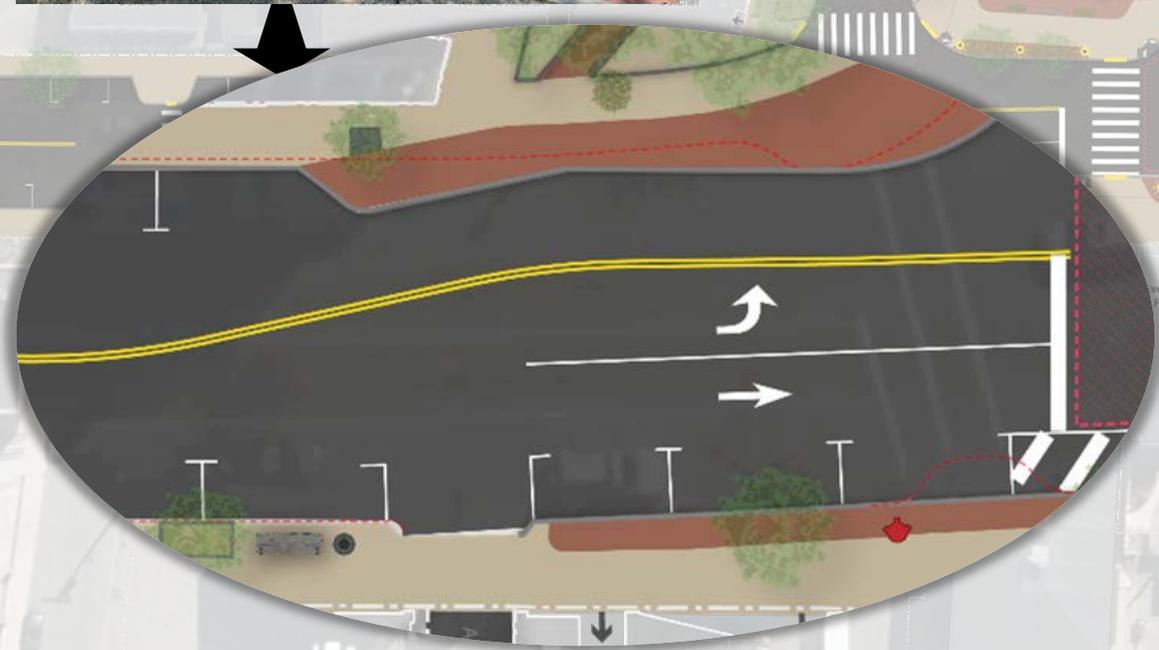
0 25 50 FT

# Safety Improvements



Dedicated left-turn lane

Sidewalk protection from traffic



Existing

6	14	14	8	8
6	14	14	8	8
6	36			8
L. Side	Curb to Curb			R. Side

Proposed

8	2	11	11	8	2	8
8	2	11	11	8	2	8
10	30				10	
L. Side	Curb to Curb				R. Side	

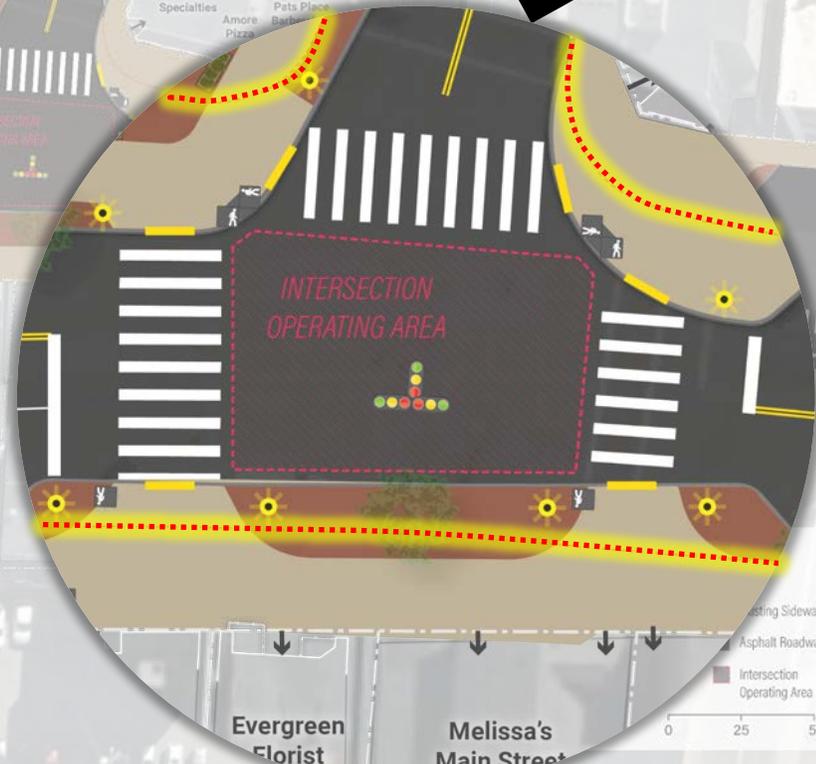
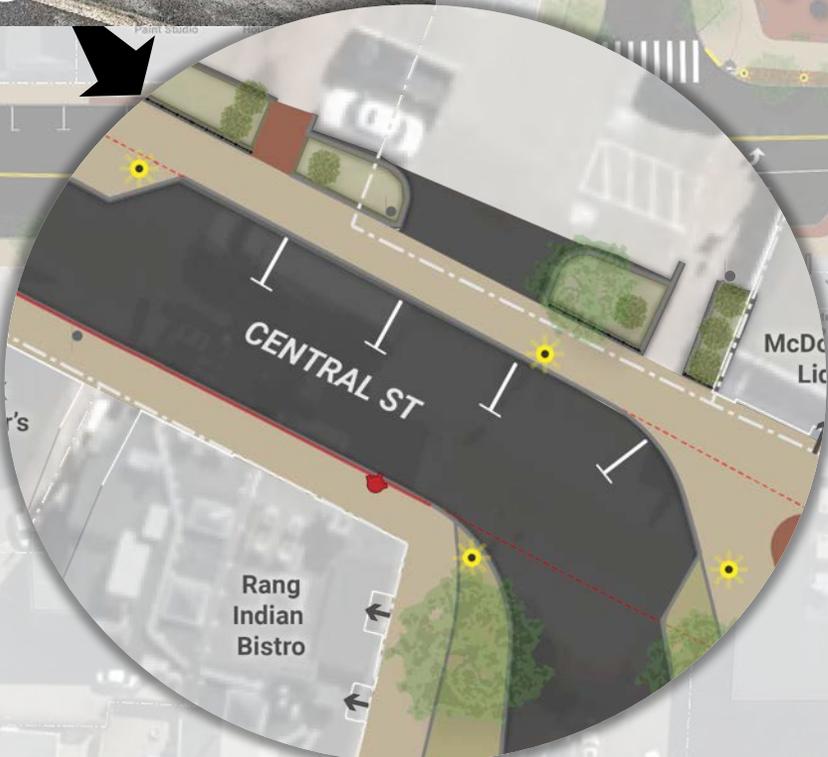
# Safety Improvements



Appropriate street width



Longer walk times



**Safety Improvements**

**Aging Infrastructure**

**Pedestrian Accommodations**

**Business Accommodations**

# Safety Improvements

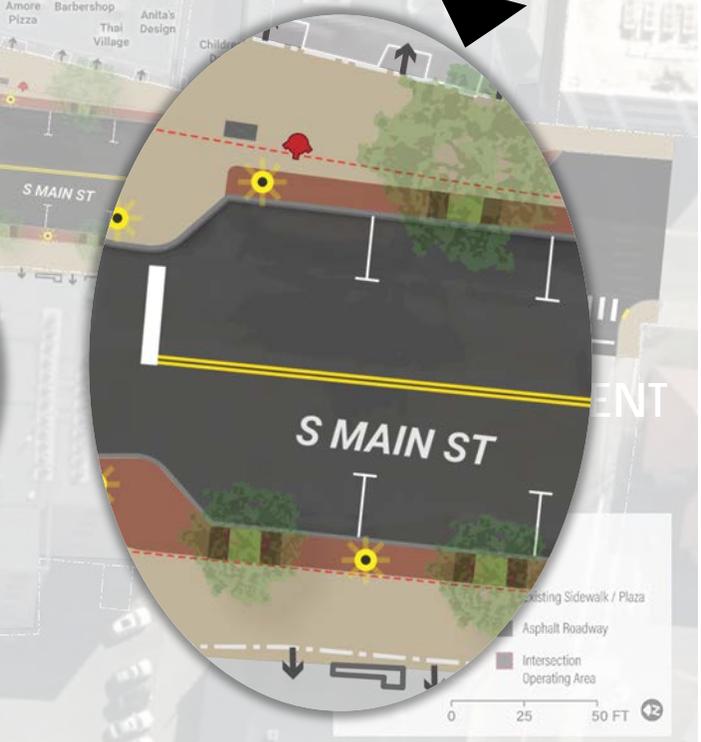
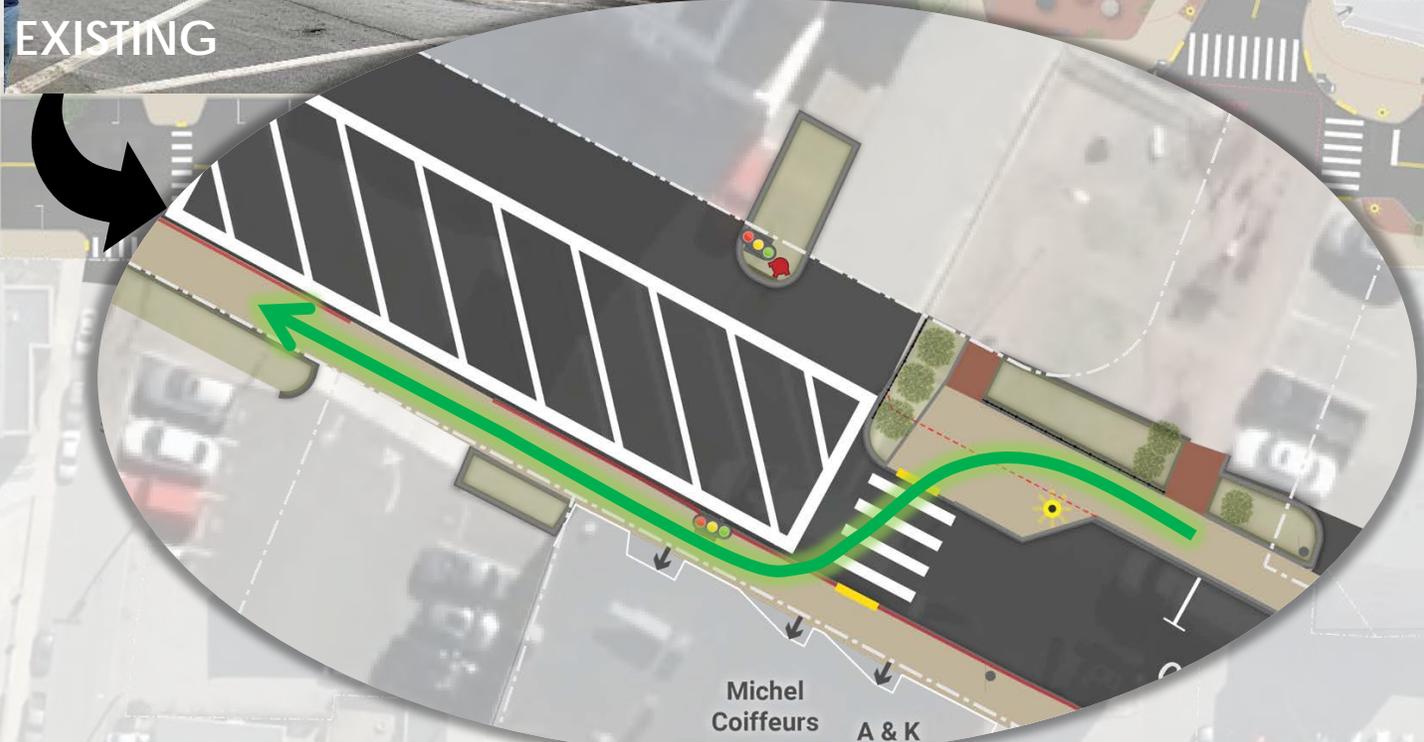


EXISTING

New safe crossing in front of firehouse



Protected parking spaces



Safety Improvements 

Aging Infrastructure 

Pedestrian Accommodations 

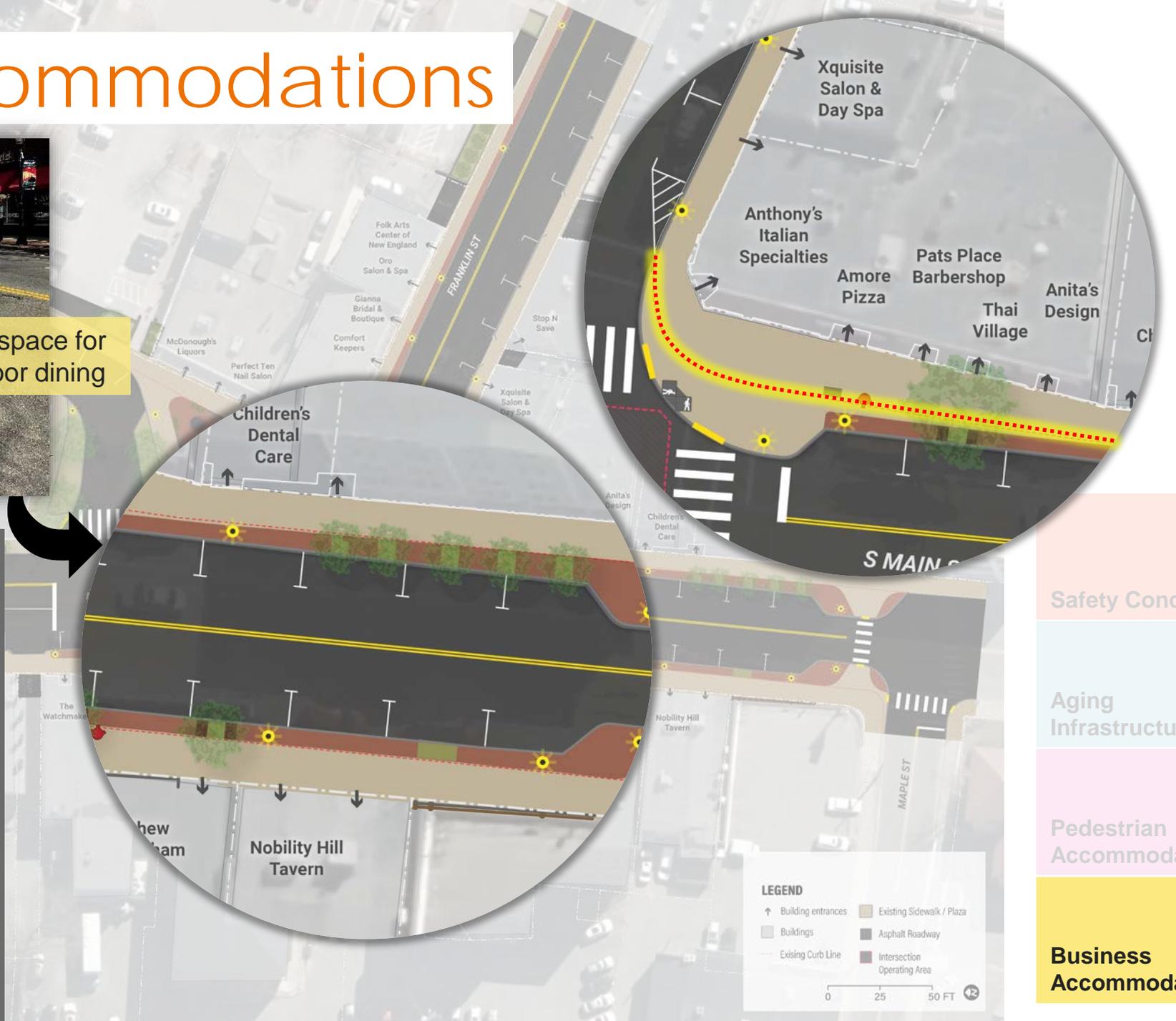
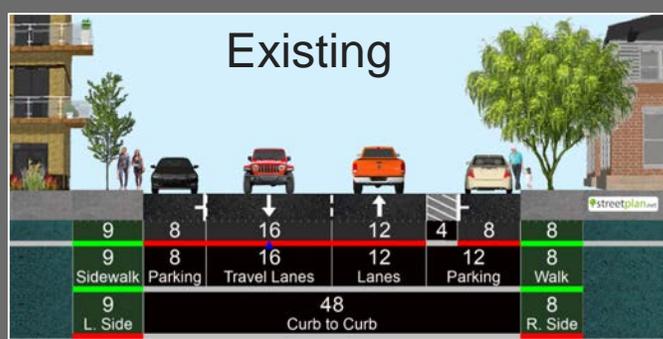
Business Accommodations 

# Business Accommodations



EXISTING

New space for outdoor dining



- Safety Concerns
- Aging Infrastructure
- Pedestrian Accommodations
- Business Accommodations

**LEGEND**

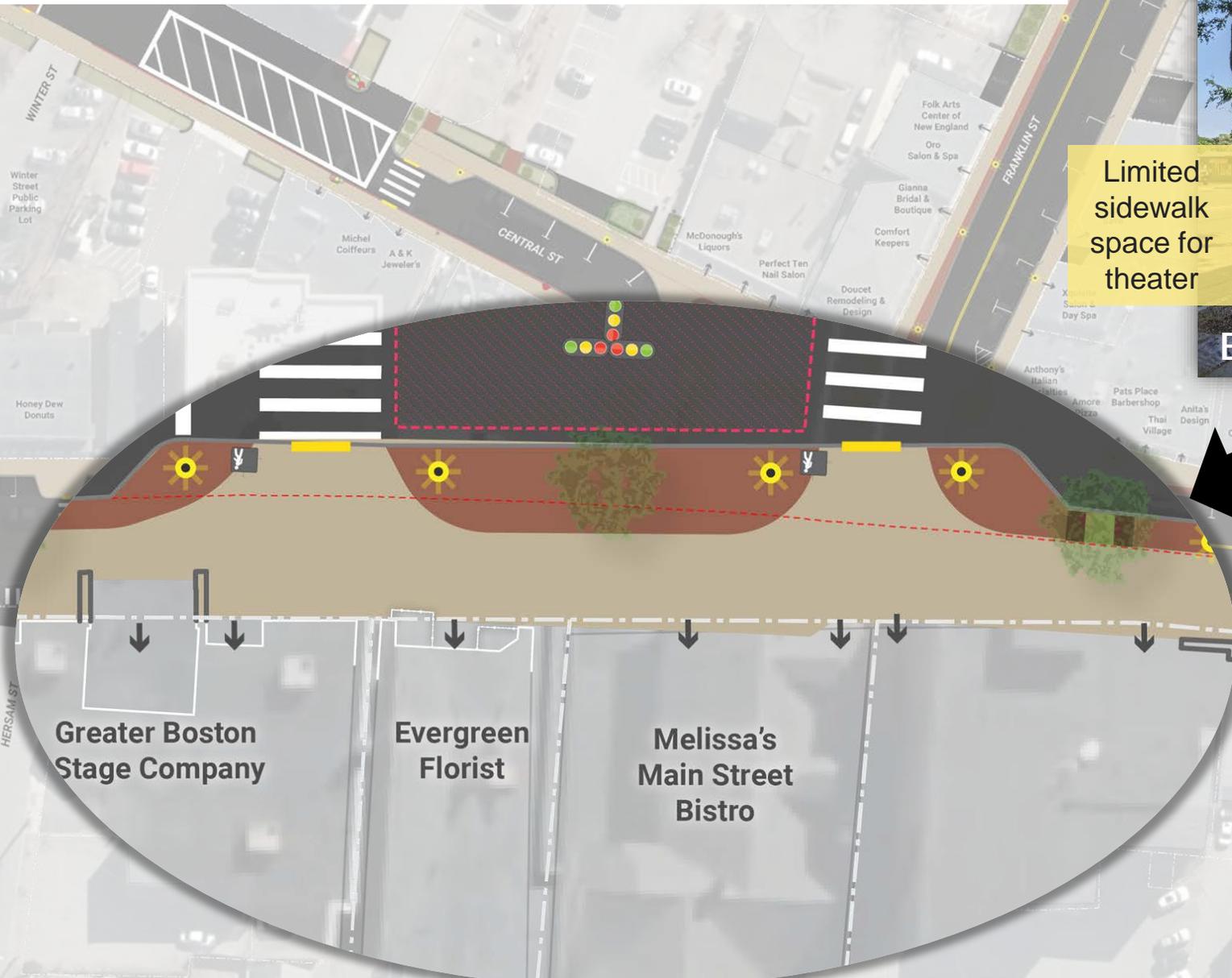
- ↑ Building entrances
- Existing Sidewalk / Plaza
- Buildings
- Asphalt Roadway
- Existing Curb Line
- Intersection Operating Area

0 25 50 FT

# Business Accommodations



Limited sidewalk space for theater



-  Safety Concerns
-  Aging Infrastructure
-  Pedestrian Accommodations
-  Business Accommodations

**LEGEND**

-  Building entrances
-  Buildings
-  Existing Curb Line
-  Existing Sidewalk / Plaza
-  Asphalt Roadway
-  Intersection Operating Area

0 25 50 FT

# Public Space Accommodations

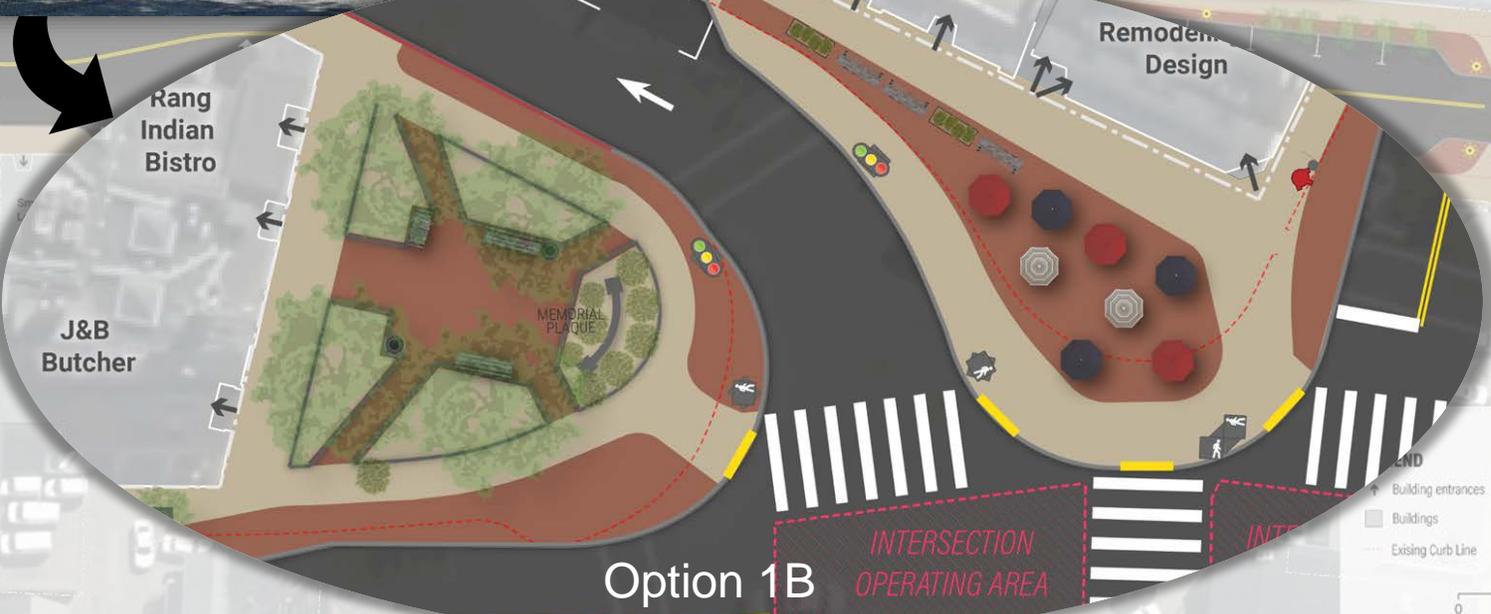
EXISTING



New programmable open space



Option 3A



Option 1B

-  Safety Concerns
-  Aging Infrastructure
-  Pedestrian Accommodations
-  Business Accommodations

# Existing View from Theater





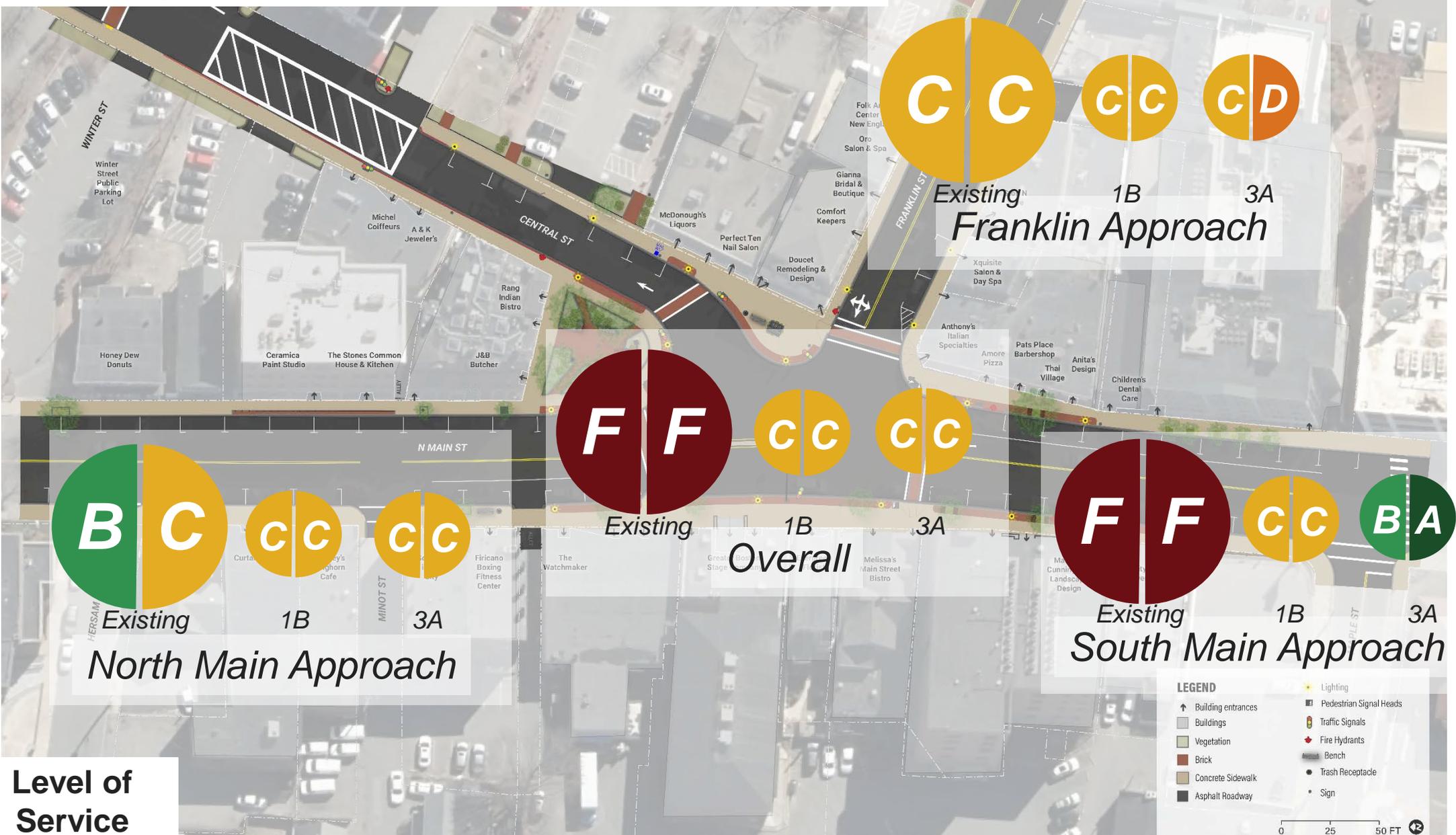
# Existing View from Theater



# Improvement Concept 3A



# Vehicle Operations Comparison



**Level of Service**

# Parking Supply Comparison

50 spaces

Existing

5 spaces

4

4

Central - Emerson

9 spaces

8

8

Franklin - Spencer

41

19 spaces

17

18

North Main - Hersham

17 spaces

12

12

South Main - Maple

Concept 1B

42

Concept 3A

**LEGEND**

- Lighting
- Building entrances
- Buildings
- Vegetation
- Brick
- Concrete Sidewalk
- Pedestrian Signal Heads
- Traffic Signals
- Fire Hydrants
- Bench
- Trash Receptacle

# Parking Nearby

148  
spaces

On-Street Spaces

61%  
(58 empty)

On-Street Utilization

394  
spaces

Off-Street Spaces

46%  
(213 empty)

Off-Street Utilization

542  
spaces

Total Spaces

51%  
(271 empty)

Total Utilization



AM | PM



Pedestrian Level of Service - Existing



7 seconds

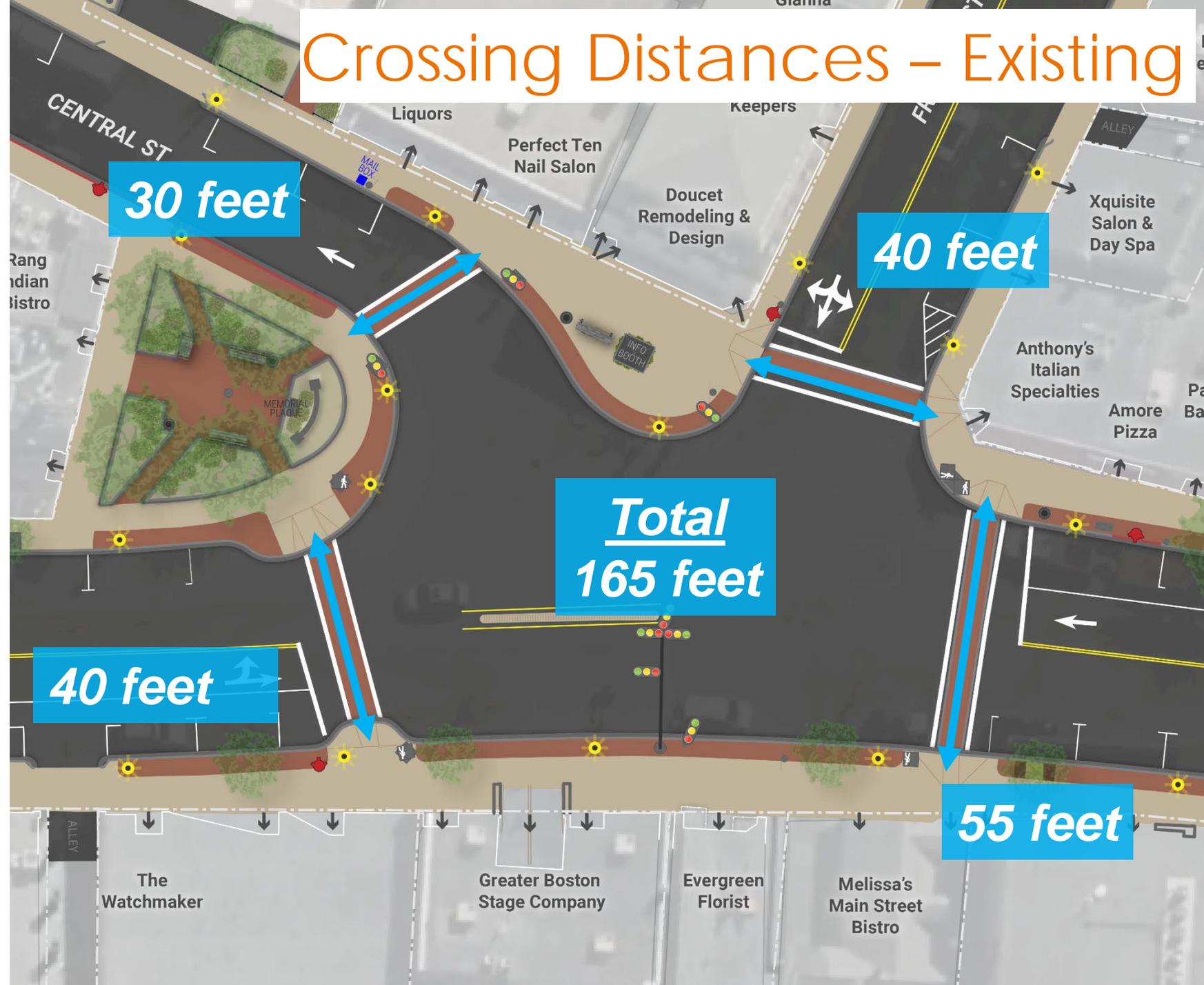


14 seconds

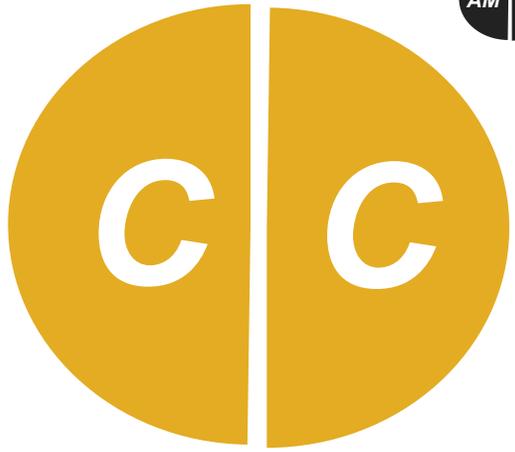


75 seconds

# Crossing Distances – Existing



AM | PM



Pedestrian Level of Service – Option 1B



13 seconds

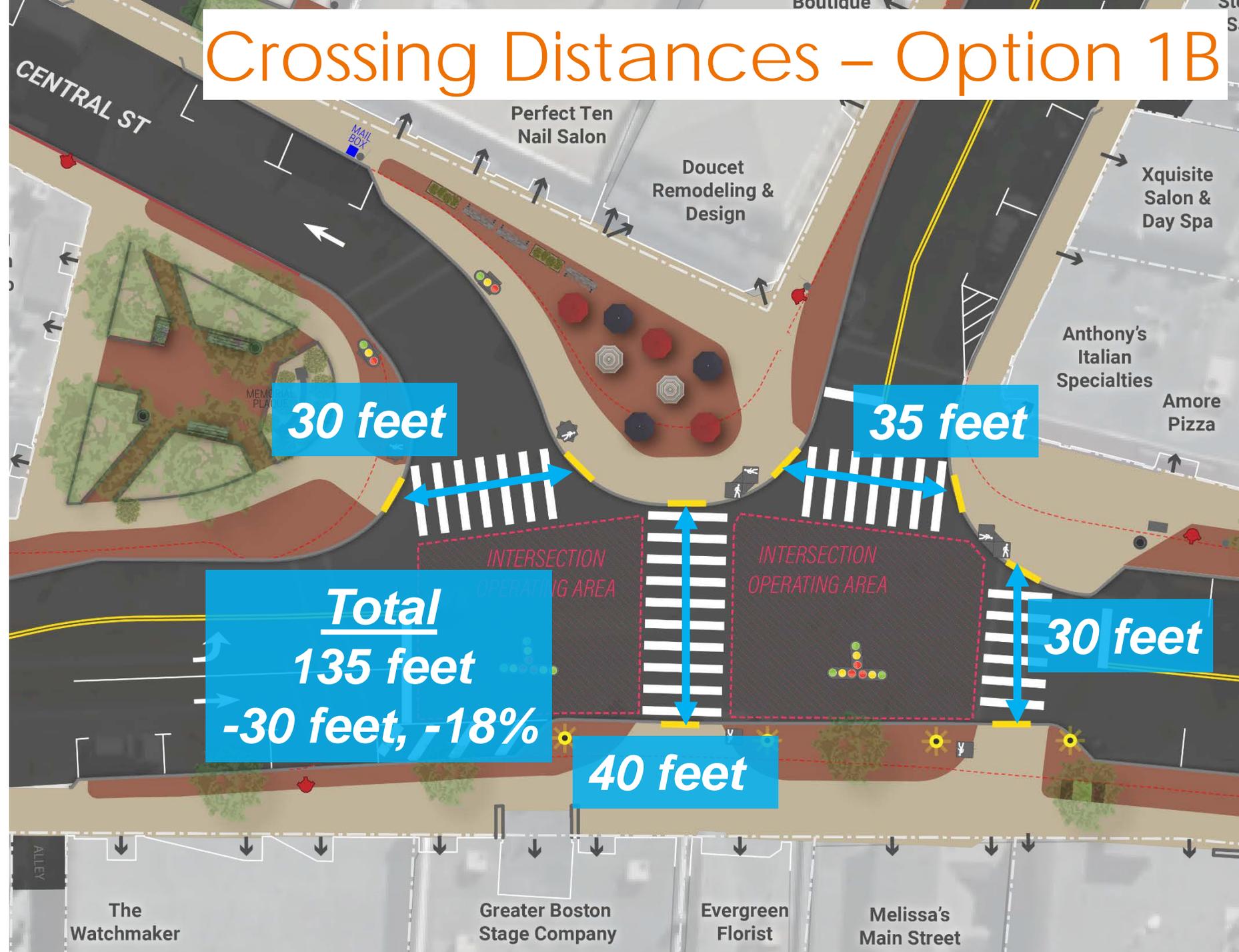


8 seconds



69 seconds

# Crossing Distances – Option 1B



30 feet

35 feet

30 feet

40 feet

**Total**  
**135 feet**  
**-30 feet, -18%**

INTERSECTION OPERATING AREA

INTERSECTION OPERATING AREA

CENTRAL ST

Perfect Ten Nail Salon

Doucet Remodeling & Design

Xquisite Salon & Day Spa

Anthony's Italian Specialties

Amore Pizza

The Watchmaker

Greater Boston Stage Company

Evergreen Florist

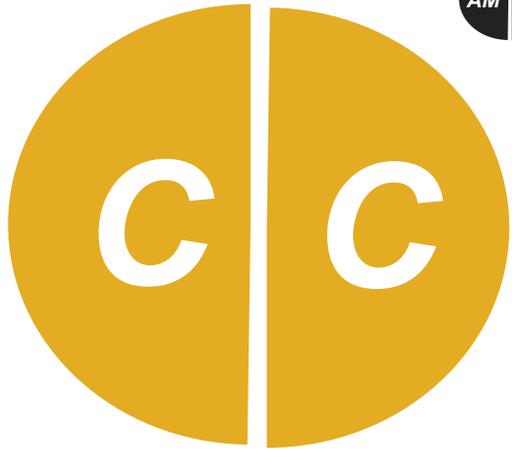
Melissa's Main Street

Total

135 feet

-30 feet, -18%

AM | PM



Pedestrian Level of Service – Option 3A



12 seconds

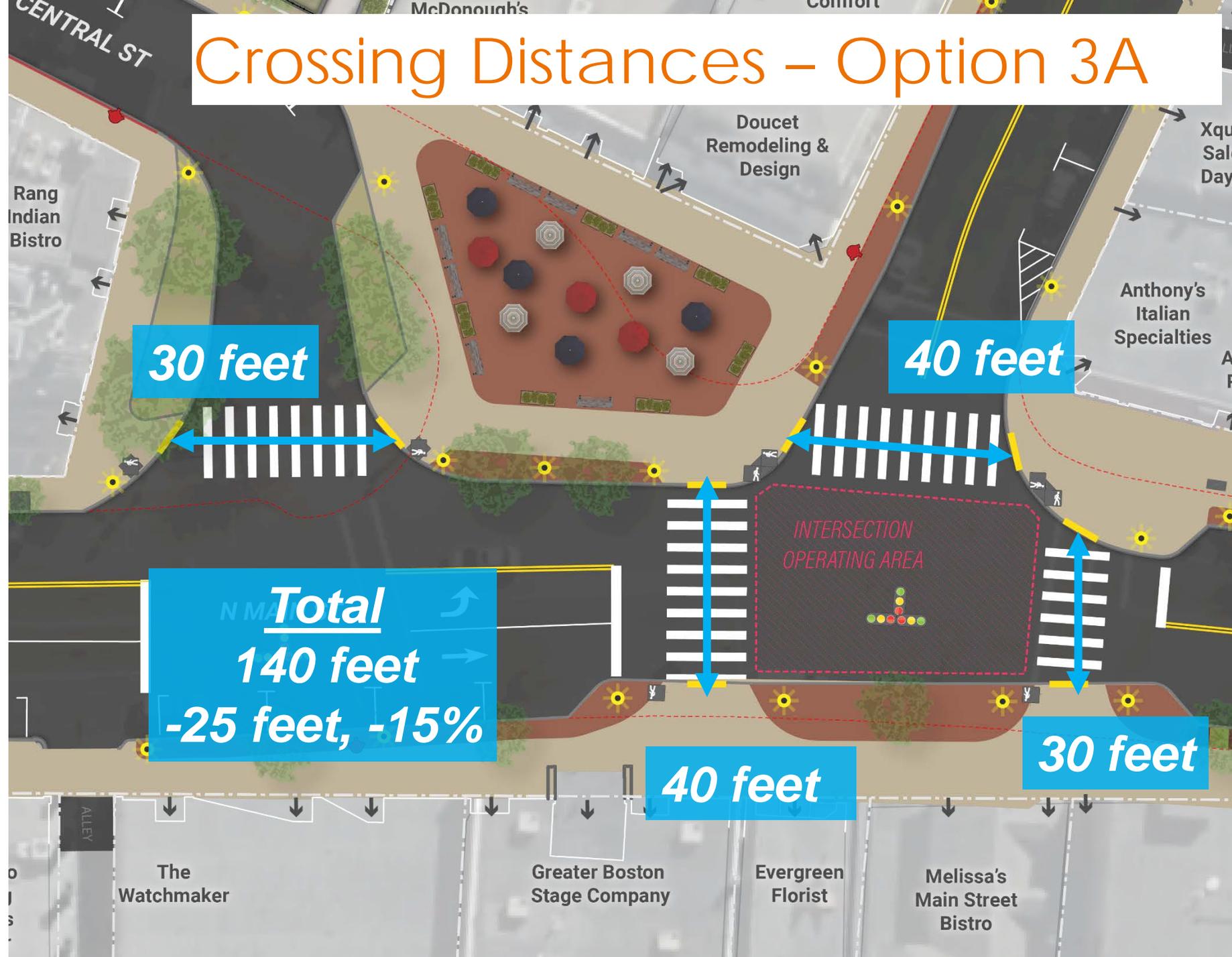


9 seconds

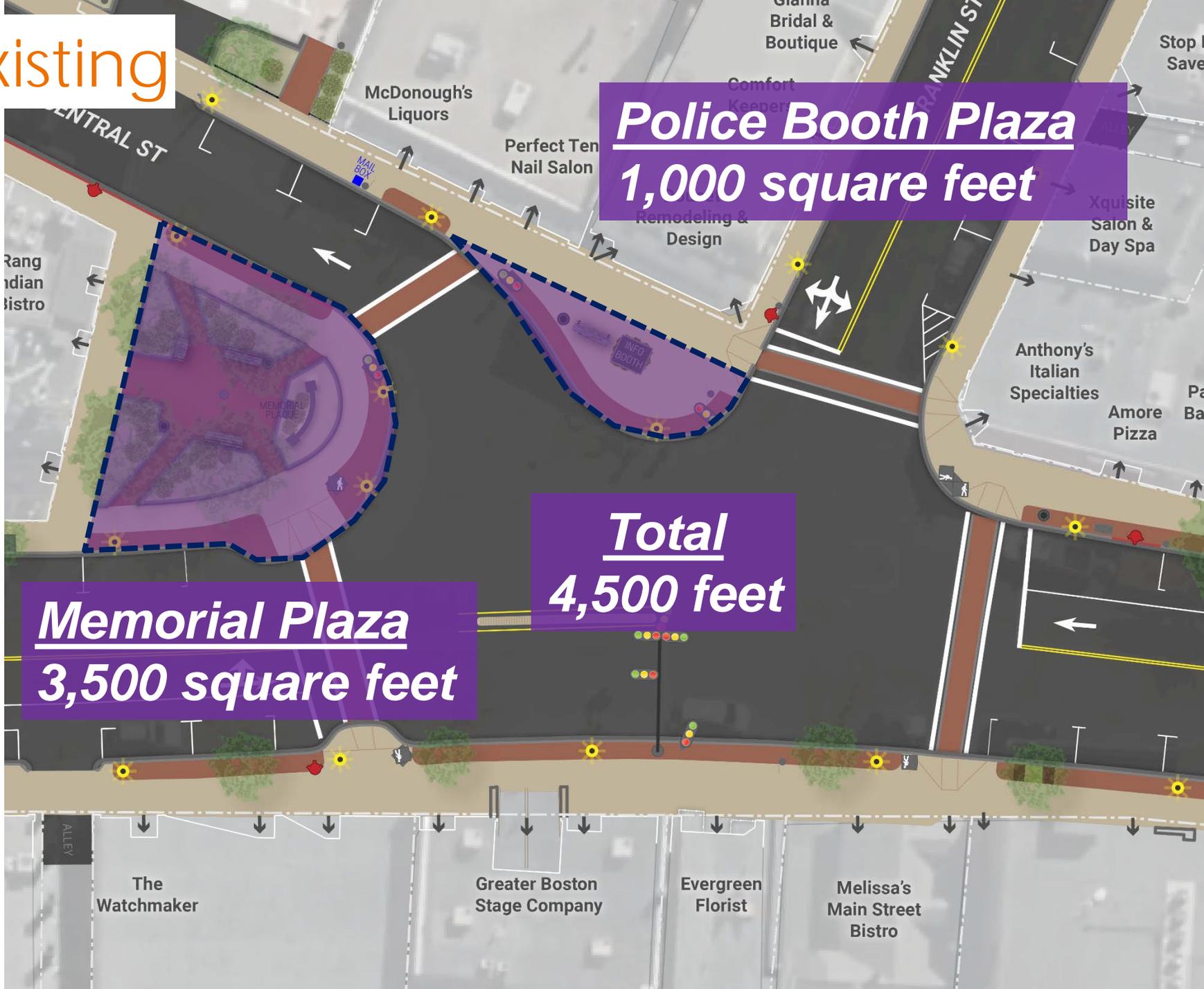


64 seconds

# Crossing Distances – Option 3A



# Open Space – Existing

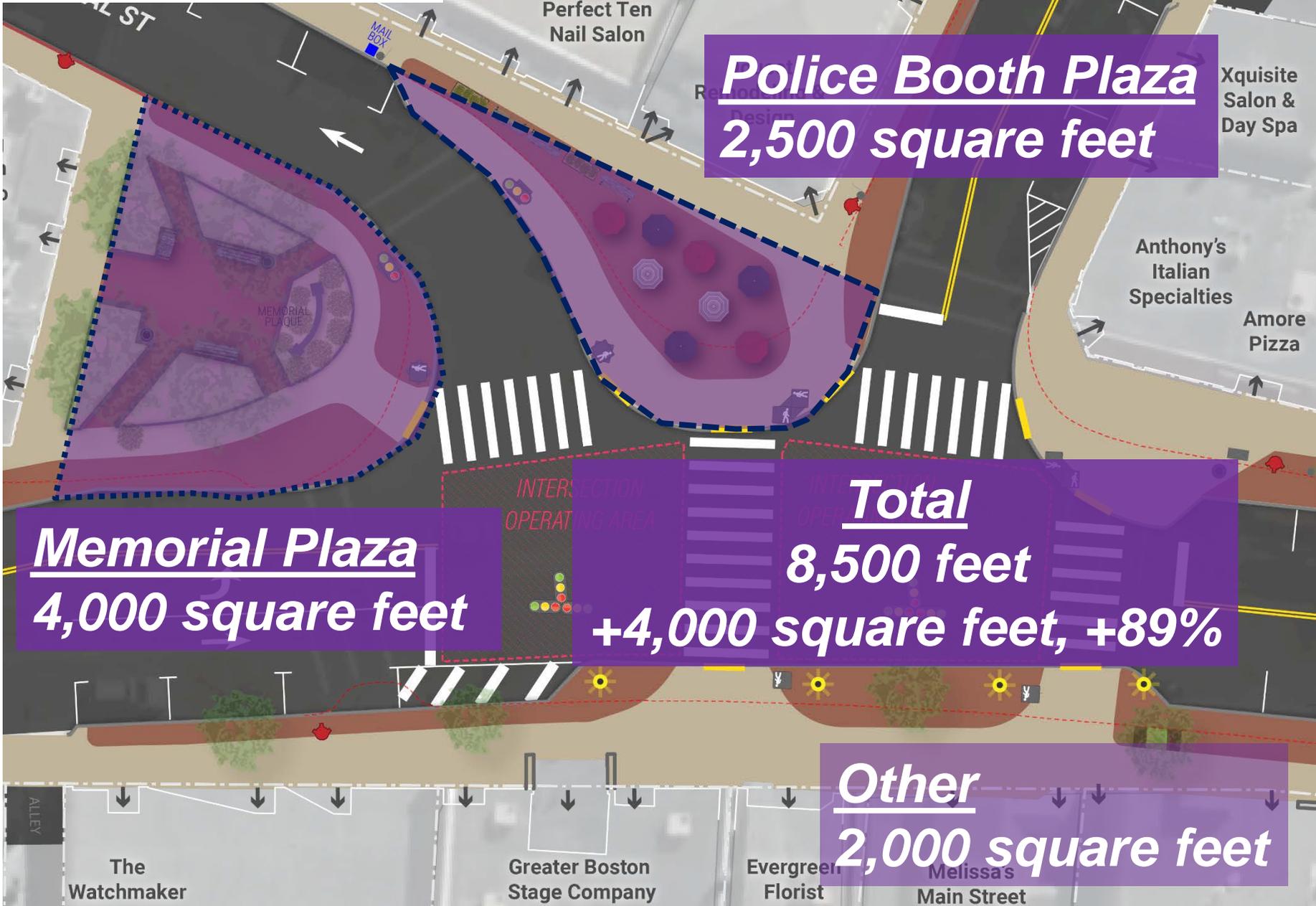


**Police Booth Plaza**  
**1,000 square feet**

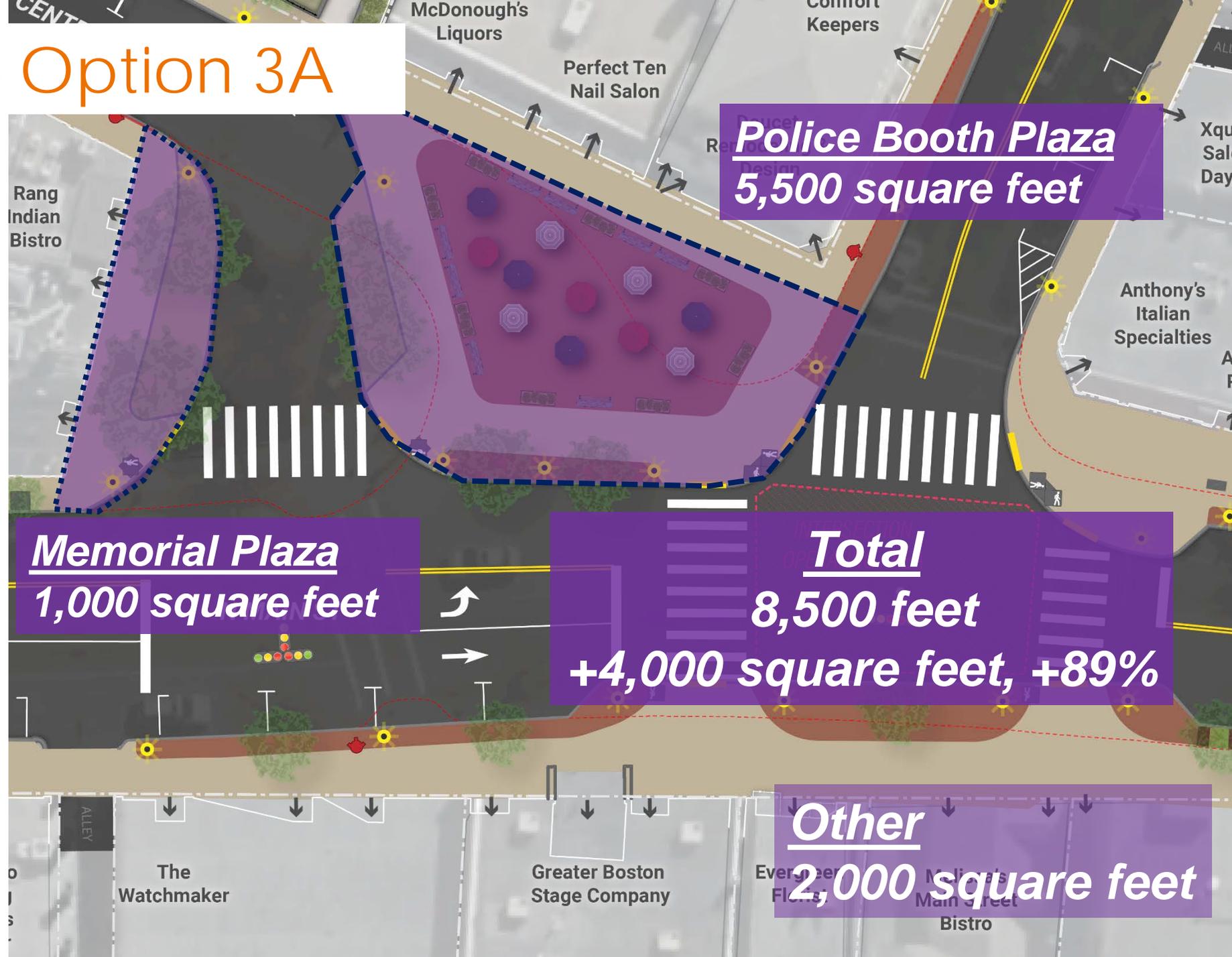
**Memorial Plaza**  
**3,500 square feet**

**Total**  
**4,500 feet**

# Open Space – Option 1B



# Open Space - Option 3A



# How Do Improvements Meet Community Goals?



- Improves downtown aesthetics
  - Outdoor dining opportunities
  - Plantings and street furniture
  - Public gathering space
- Makes walking safer and easier
  - Wider, more visible crosswalks
  - Curb extensions
  - More time to cross
- Sustains today's vehicle operations
  - Reduced delays
  - Defined loading areas
  - Clearer parking lot access

# Next Steps

## June

Present **Concept Alternative** for Stoneham Square at public meeting

## July

Refine and create **Preferred Alternative**

## August

Submit concept to **MassDOT Project Review Committee** for further funding support

## 2023-2025

Anticipated **Construction Start Date**  
(pending State funding)



# Option 1B

## INTERSECTION CONCEPTS OPTION 1B



**LEGEND**

- ↑ Building entrances
- Existing Sidewalk / Plaza
- Buildings
- Asphalt Roadway
- Existing Curb Line
- Intersection Operating Area

0 25 50 FT

# Option 3A

## INTERSECTION CONCEPTS OPTION 3A



**LEGEND**

- ↑ Building entrances
- Existing Sidewalk / Plaza
- Buildings
- Asphalt Roadway
- Existing Curb Line
- Intersection Operating Area

0 25 50 FT



Town of Stoneham

# Stoneham Square Improvement Project

June 8, 2022

Public Information Meeting

