



Providence Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

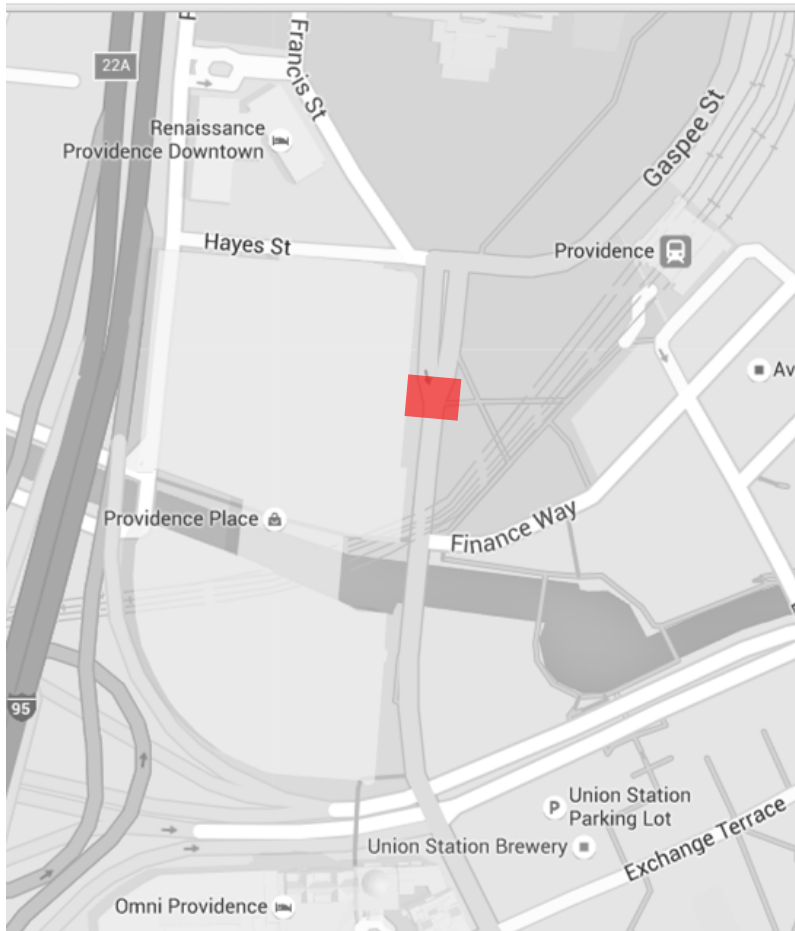
Staff Report: Francis Street Mid-Block Crossing – Downtown (For Action)

Presented at July 20, 2016 BPAC meeting

Project Description

The City of Providence has received the preliminary plans from the Rhode Island Department of Transportation for improvements for a new mid-block crossing across Francis Street to improve pedestrian safety between Providence Place Mall and Station Park. The City of Providence DPD and DPW seek comment from the BPAC regarding RIDOT's preliminary plans. The plans include a new mid-block crosswalk near the mall entrance across from Station Park, an extension of the median island to shelter pedestrians, and a reduction of the existing pullout lane to reduce the length of the pedestrian crossing and provide additional space for RIPTA bus passengers.

Project Map





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Staff Recommendations to BPAC

After review of the documents submitted for review by the BPAC, staff makes the following recommendations:

- The scope of the project should be expanded to include the improvement of and possible reduction in width of the traffic island median from the proposed pedestrian crossing location to the intersection of Francis and Gaspee streets.
- Additionally, RIDOT should consider bringing in the curb along the western (mall-side) edge of Francis Street in order to reduce the width of the vehicular travel lanes and the length of the existing pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Francis and Gaspee streets.
- Accommodations for bicyclists (such as a bike lane and creation of a right turn only lane) headed north on Francis Street at the intersection of Francis and Gaspee streets should be studied to improve safety for bicyclists.

Respectfully submitted by Martina Haggerty.