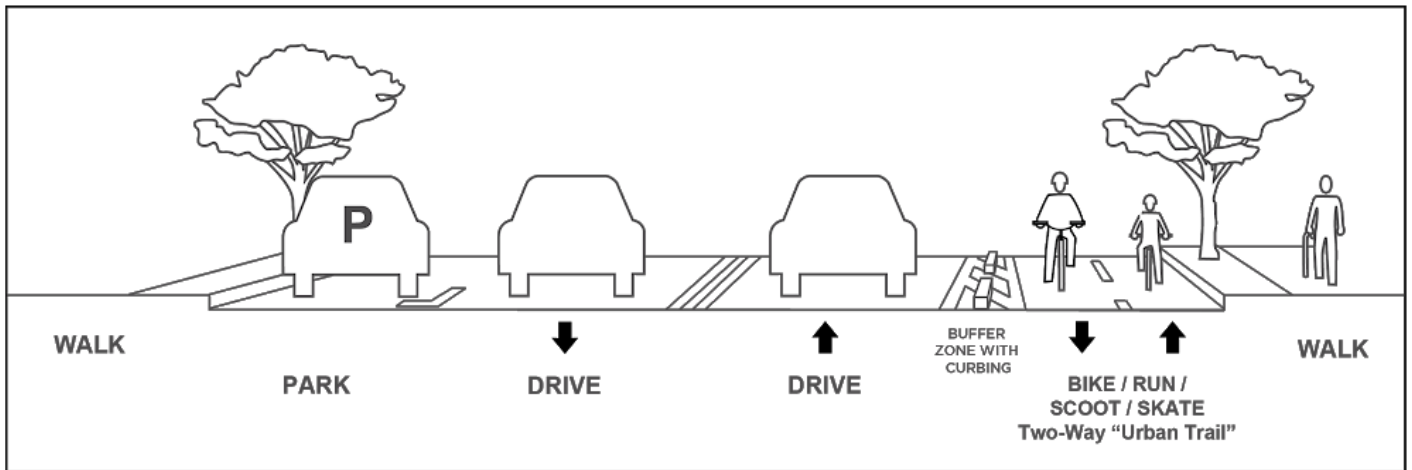




MAYOR JORGE O. ELORZA  
CITY OF PROVIDENCE

**Safety improvements are coming to Mount Pleasant Avenue (between Smith and Beaufort) to make it safer for people walking and riding bicycles and reduce speeding.**

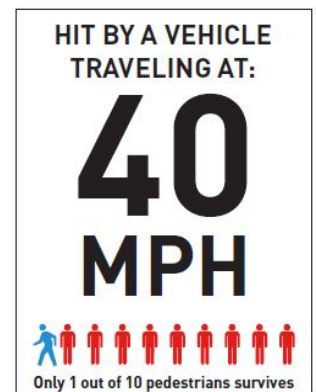
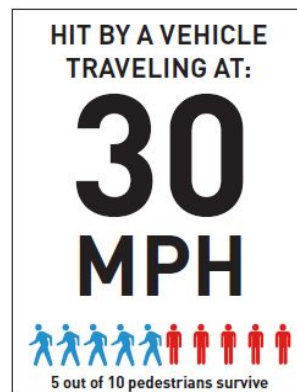
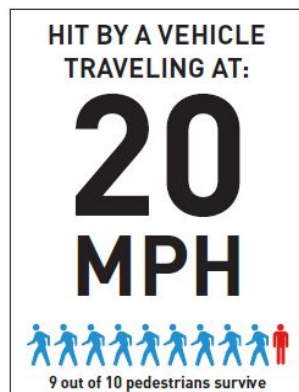
**A public information session has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 28th, 2020 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Mount Pleasant High School Cafeteria (434 Mount Pleasant Avenue) where community members can ask questions and learn more about this important investment. You can also learn more below or by contacting Alex Ellis in the City of Providence Department of Planning and Development at 401-680-8400 or [aellis@providenceri.gov](mailto:aellis@providenceri.gov).**



**What changes will there be?** Activities will include restriping crosswalks, new **curb extensions\***, **speed lumps\***, and **raised crosswalks\*** at key locations to reduce speeding and make Mount Pleasant Avenue safer for people walking, and a new two-way bike lane as part of the City's **urban trail network\*** on the west side of Mount Pleasant Avenue between Smith and Chalkstone. (\*See definitions on the next page for more information.)

**What is the construction schedule for this project?** Construction is expected to begin in Spring 2020 and last through Summer and Fall 2020. Temporary construction signage and traffic controls will be in place during the construction period. More details will be available closer to construction.

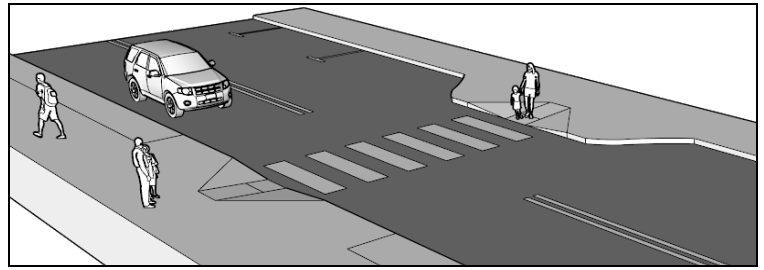
**How will this project reduce speeding and improve safety for people walking?** Slowing cars down and improving safety are important parts of this investment. Before installation of the speed camera on Mount Pleasant Avenue, **nearly 75% of drivers were driving faster than 30 miles per hour**, which greatly increases the risk of crashes and fatalities. **Since 2011, 376 crashes**



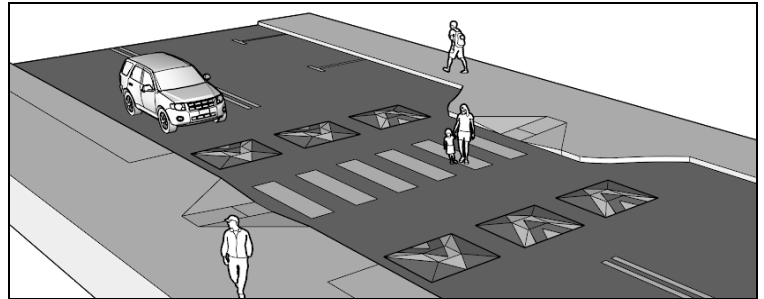
**have happened along Mount Pleasant Avenue, 121 of which caused a fatality or injury.** Raised crosswalks, speed lumps, freshly painted crosswalks, ADA-compliant crosswalk ramps, shorter crosswalk distances, dedicated

space for people riding bicycles, and narrower vehicular travel lanes will improve safety for people walking and slow cars down.

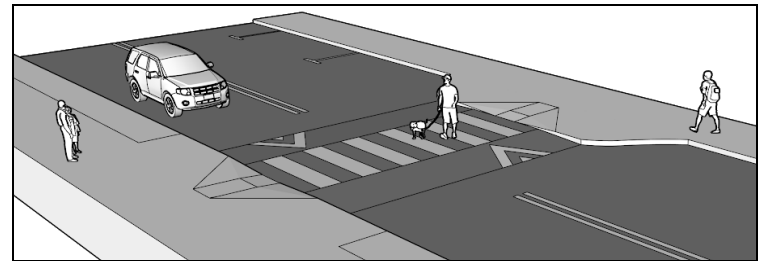
**What is a curb extension?** Curb extensions (also known as neck-downs or bulb outs) visually and physically narrow the roadway, **create safer and shorter crossings for people walking** across the roadway, make people waiting to use crosswalks more visible to drivers, and reduce speeding.



**What is a speed lump?** Speed lumps are three- to four-inch high raised traffic calming devices that are like speed humps except they have wheel cutouts (breaks) spaced across the roadway to allow emergency vehicles with larger wheel bases like fire trucks and ambulances to drive through them unaffected. **Speed lumps slow drivers down.** Signage and pavement markings are used to warn drivers of upcoming speed lumps. Planned speed lump locations along Mount Pleasant Avenue were reviewed with public safety and fire officials.



**What is a raised crosswalk?** Raised crosswalks encourage drivers to slow down and yield to people using the crosswalk. Raised crosswalks are typically three-inches high and have gentler slopes than speed humps or bumps. Planned raised crosswalk locations along Mount Pleasant Avenue were reviewed with public safety and fire officials.



*Curb extensions (top), speed lumps (middle), and raised crosswalks (bottom) are examples of safety improvements planned for Mount Pleasant Avenue.*

**What is the Providence Urban Trail Network? How will this segment fit into the larger citywide network?**

This project is part of Providence’s Urban Trail Network, which will connect every neighborhood with high-quality places for people walking, running, riding bicycles, or using other micromobility choices, like scooters. To the south, the Mount Pleasant Avenue urban trail will connect residents directly to the Woonasquatucket River Greenway with new signage on a series of slow, residential side streets. The Urban Trail Network will also connect residents to other regional trails and paths, including the East Bay, Blackstone, and Washington Secondary bicycle paths.

**Urban Trails** are on- or off-street paths that are safe, comfortable, and easily accessible for people of all ages and abilities. In total, the Urban Trail Network includes 67 miles of new projects (43 miles of off-road paths and separated on-road Urban Trails, and 24 miles neighborhood greenways). The Urban Trail Network is an important part of Providence’s **Great Streets Master Plan**, which includes improvements to make walking and riding bicycles safer and traffic calming improvements to reduce speeding and cut through traffic. The Great Streets Master Plan was shaped by community input gathered at 13 public meetings held in Spring 2019 and from hundreds of comments received online via the project website. **Learn more at [www.providenceri.gov/planning/great-streets/](http://www.providenceri.gov/planning/great-streets/).**

**Why are the travel lanes narrower?** Narrow travel lanes reduce driving speeds, reduce the severity of crashes, and improve safety for road users. Although wider travel lanes were used in the past on streets like this, travel lanes for cars should be no wider than 10 to 11 feet in urban areas. The 11'-wide planned travel lanes along this street are

consistent with federal standards and this street's 25 mile-per-hour speed limit. Studies show that for every 3.3 feet added to a lane's width, speeds increase by 9.4 miles-per-hour, which increases the risk of crashes and fatalities..

**What about parking?** There will be on street parallel parking on the east side of the road. The City also plans to create a new parking lot at Mt Pleasant High School to meet the needs of teachers and visitors to the school.

**What about trash cans?** Residents on the western side of Mount Pleasant Avenue between Smith and Chalkstone will be mailed specific instructions before construction on how to place trash and recycling bins to ensure safe placement and proper pick up. Trash and recycling bin placement on the eastern side of Mount Pleasant Avenue will not change.

**Can I park or drive in the bike lanes or urban trail?** Please do not park or drive vehicles in bike lanes. Doing so will endanger people and result in a ticket. Rideshare and delivery drivers are not allowed to park or stop in bike lanes.

**What should I do if I see a car or truck parked in a bike lane?** Call the police non-emergency line at 401-272-3121 and be as specific as possible about the exact location of the vehicle.

**Why are both bike lanes planned for the same side of the road?** Two-way bike lanes/urban trails allow people to ride bicycles (or scoot, skate, or run) in both directions on one side of the road and are more comfortable for people of all ages and abilities as they are more like off-road trails like the East Bay Bicycle Path. Because of the volume of people driving cars on this street, a physically-separated two-way facility is the appropriate way to create a safe and comfortable experience for people using the urban trail. The standard width of a two-way bicycle facility (or urban trail) is 8 to 12 feet wide. This width also allows space for snow plows and street sweepers. When next to vehicular traffic or parked cars, a "buffer" zone is installed with bollards, curbing, planters, or flexible posts to protect people using the trail from cars and provide space for snow in winter. ***Two-way bike lanes like this are common in dozens of European cities, and have become a standard in many US cities in recent years*** including Austin, New Orleans, Cambridge, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Indianapolis, Seattle, New York City, and Washington DC.

**Can't bikes and scooters just ride on the sidewalk or in the regular road?** Although it is legal to ride bicycles and scooters on sidewalks and with the regular flow of traffic on streets in Providence, the safest and most comfortable way for people to ride bicycles or scooters is within their own dedicated space on the roadway. This makes our streets and sidewalks ***safer and more predictable*** for people walking and driving too. Protected bicycle lanes and separated urban trails physically protect people using the trail from cars and prevent people from driving or parking vehicles in the bicycle lane or urban trail. Physical protection is located within the striped "buffer zone" between the urban trail and vehicular travel or parking lane and may include flexible delineator posts, rubber or pre-cast concrete curbing, planters, bollards, cast in place concrete curbing, or landscaping.

**Why build this if not many people ride bicycles there today?** 60% of Providence residents would ride bicycles more often if there were physically-separated lanes for bicycles. Similarly to how difficult it would be to justify the need for a bridge by the number of people swimming across a river, the need for the urban trail network or bicycle lanes cannot be measured by the number of people riding bicycles on a roadway. Without a network of urban trail investments like this, many people don't feel safe enough to ride on the street. Studies from other cities prove that ***protected bike lanes allow more people to choose riding a bike and increase ridership.***

**Are people running or riding scooters allowed to use the urban trail?** We welcome people who run or ride scooters, skateboards, or bicycles to use the Urban Trail Network.

**How is this project funded?** Construction of this project is funded by the Rhode Island Department of Transportation's Highway Safety Improvement Program.

***If you would like to learn more, ask questions, or make suggestions for other improvements, please contact Alex Ellis, Principal Planner in the City of Providence Department of Planning and Development at 401-680-8400 or [aellis@providenceri.gov](mailto:aellis@providenceri.gov).***