



MAYOR JORGE O. ELORZA  
CITY OF PROVIDENCE

# PRE-CONSTRUCTION INFORMATION SESSION: DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENTS

Department of Planning + Development  
June 17, 2021

para español



- ✓ Off
- English
- Spanish
- Mute Original Audio
- Interpretation



# Agenda

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- Which streets are planned to see changes this summer?
- How do those streets fit into the overall Urban Trail Network?
- What changes are planned for these streets?
- Questions and Answers



# Virtual Meeting Procedure

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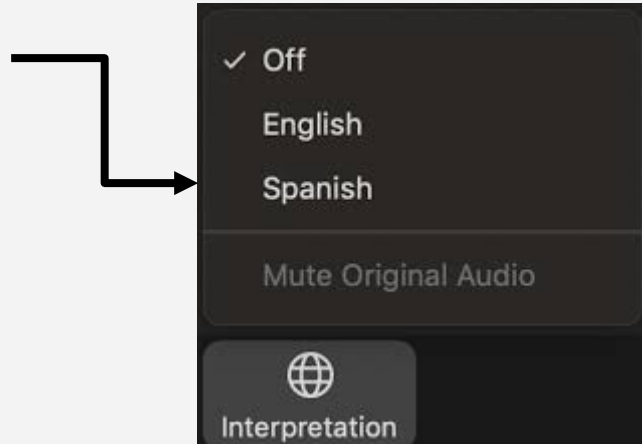
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# Interpretation

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Para español:



# Downtown Road Safety Improvements

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- **Empire Street** (Fountain to Weybosset)
- **Chestnut Street** (Weybosset to Clifford)
- **South Water Street** (Memorial to Wickenden)
- **Richmond Street** (one block from Clifford to Elbow)



# Why these streets?

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- City considered factors such as **connectivity**, **access**, and **equity** to determine which streets should move forward in 2021:
  - **Connectivity**: Does the street connect to an existing or funded Urban Trail segment?
  - **Access**: Does the street provide access to important destinations such as schools, jobs, parks, libraries, cultural institutions, local businesses
  - **Equity**: we must invest in our neighborhoods equitably to overcome past injustices; our government has harmed communities of color with past unhealthy transportation decisions





## Network Map from Great Streets Plan

Plan released January 2020 details citywide network of quiet neighborhood streets & separated bike lanes.

*Orange = new route, Blue & Green = existing route*





## Downtown Great Streets map

Plan released January 2020 details citywide network of quiet neighborhood streets & separated bike lanes.

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## 2021 Great Streets Projects

Downtown Safety Improvements planned for Summer-Fall 2021, circled in red above.

# Downtown Road Safety Improvements

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# Community Engagement

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- Jun 24, 2020 – Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission review of South Water St
- Jun 23, 2020 – Ward 1 virtual neighborhood meeting on South Water St
- Feb 25, 2020 – Public meeting about Empire, Chestnut, and Richmond at 444 Westminster St
- Jan 15, 2020 – Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission review of South Water St
- Oct 16, 2019 – Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission review of Empire/Chestnut & Richmond
- Mar 18, 2019 – Great Streets Plan workshop at 444 Westminster St
- Aug 15, 2018 – Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission review of Empire/Chestnut & Richmond

Many individual meetings with various stakeholders

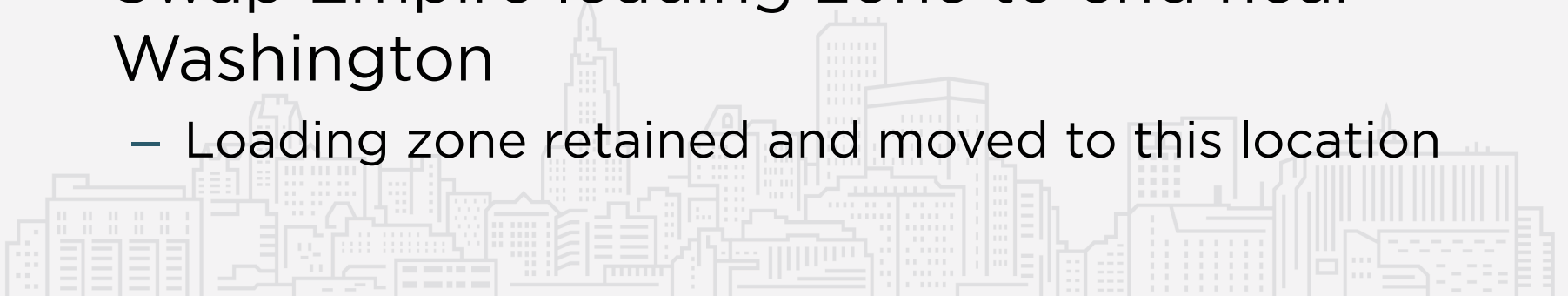


# Community Feedback

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- Avoid conflicting with JWU shuttle routes
  - No JWU shuttle routes are impacted
- Construction zone at Parcel 28 taking up some roadway space
  - Adjusted dimensions of improvements to fit
- Speeding & noise on South Water St
  - Integrated speed lumps into plan
- Swap Empire loading zone to end near Washington
  - Loading zone retained and moved to this location



# Timeline

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- **Mid to late July:** Construction begins
- **September 30:** Construction complete



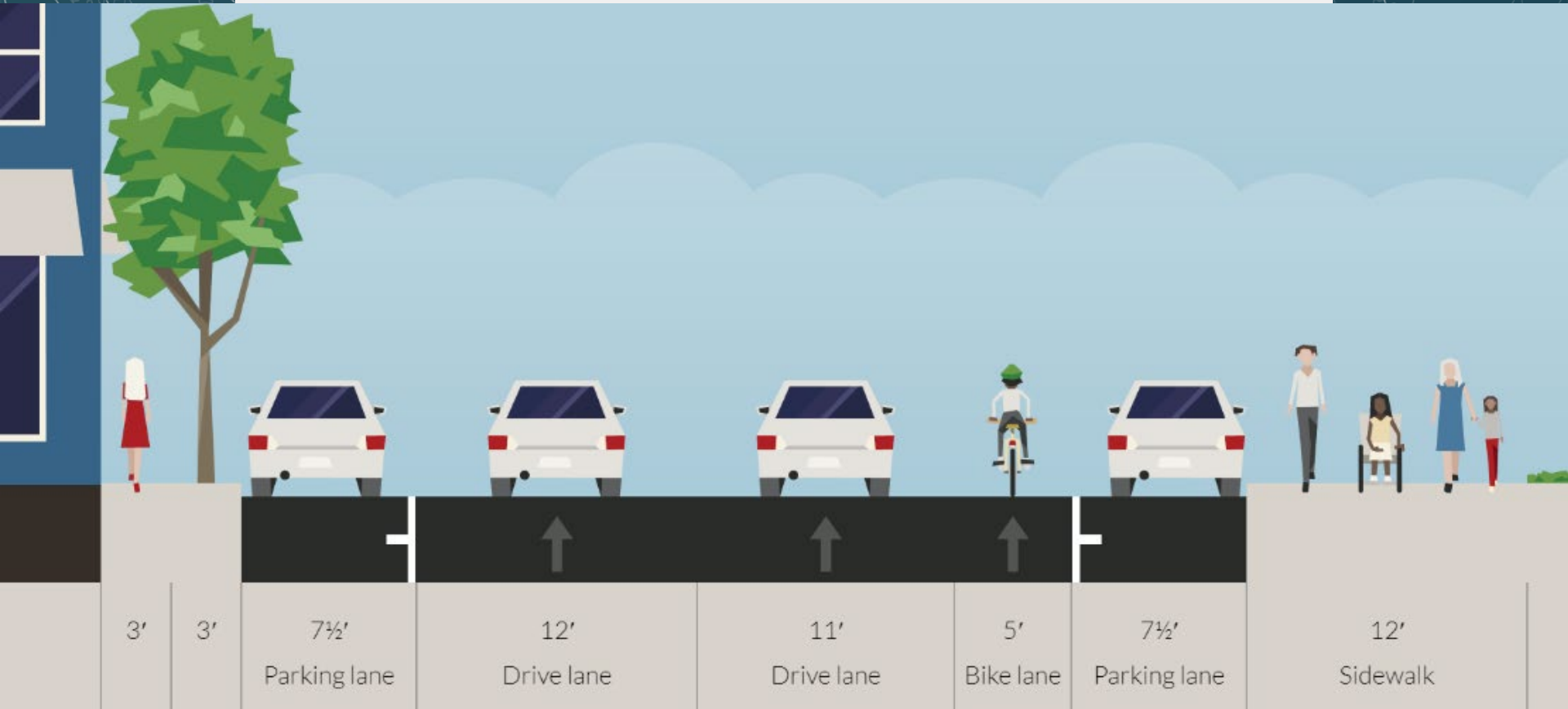




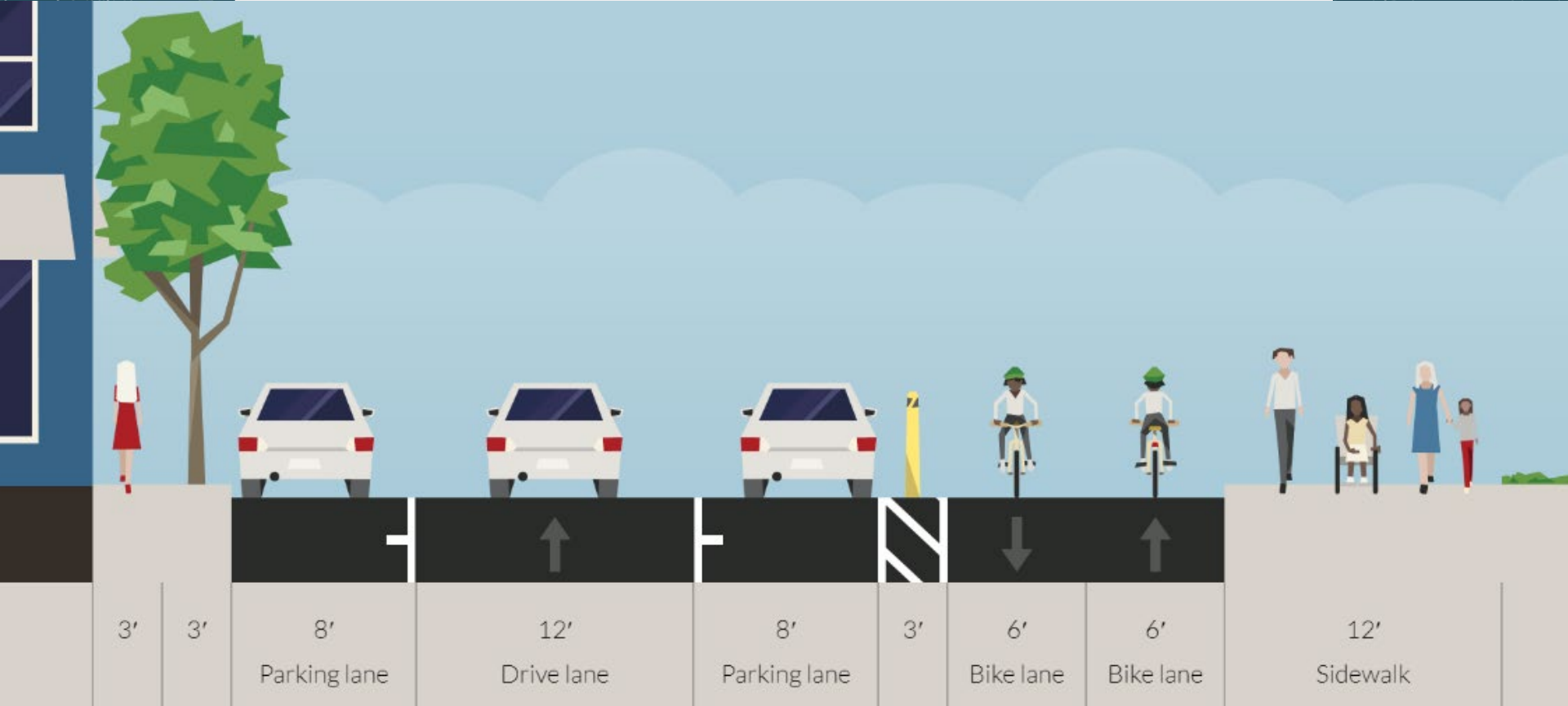
## **New style of separation**

Other cities have recommended modular hard plastic curbing units such as Tuff Curb XLP, pictured above, which are designed to withstand impacts that occur regularly in the roadway.



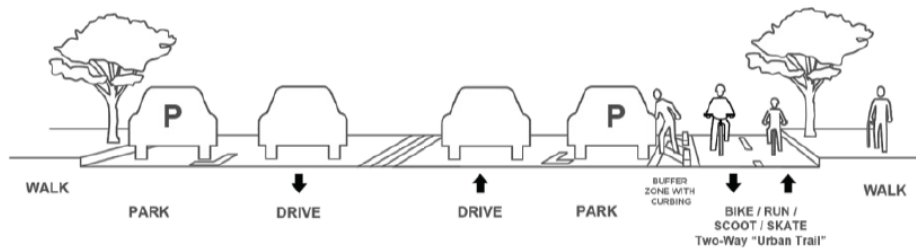


# South Water Street current conditions

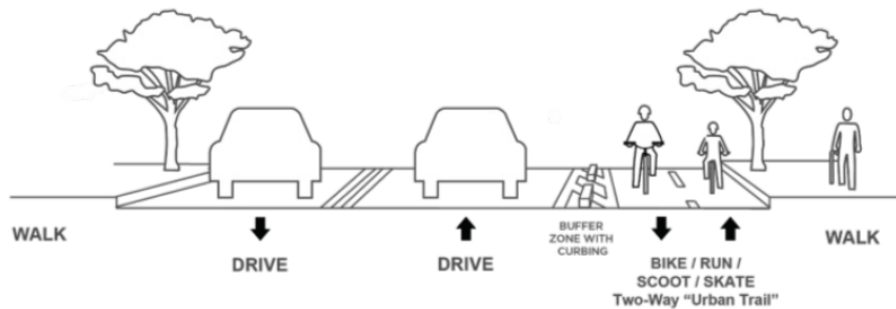


## South Water Street new configuration

Two-way separated urban trail on the river side of the street



**Proposed Empire Street layout** (Fountain to Broad): One car lane each direction; keep on-street parking on both sides of the street; urban trail on southwest side

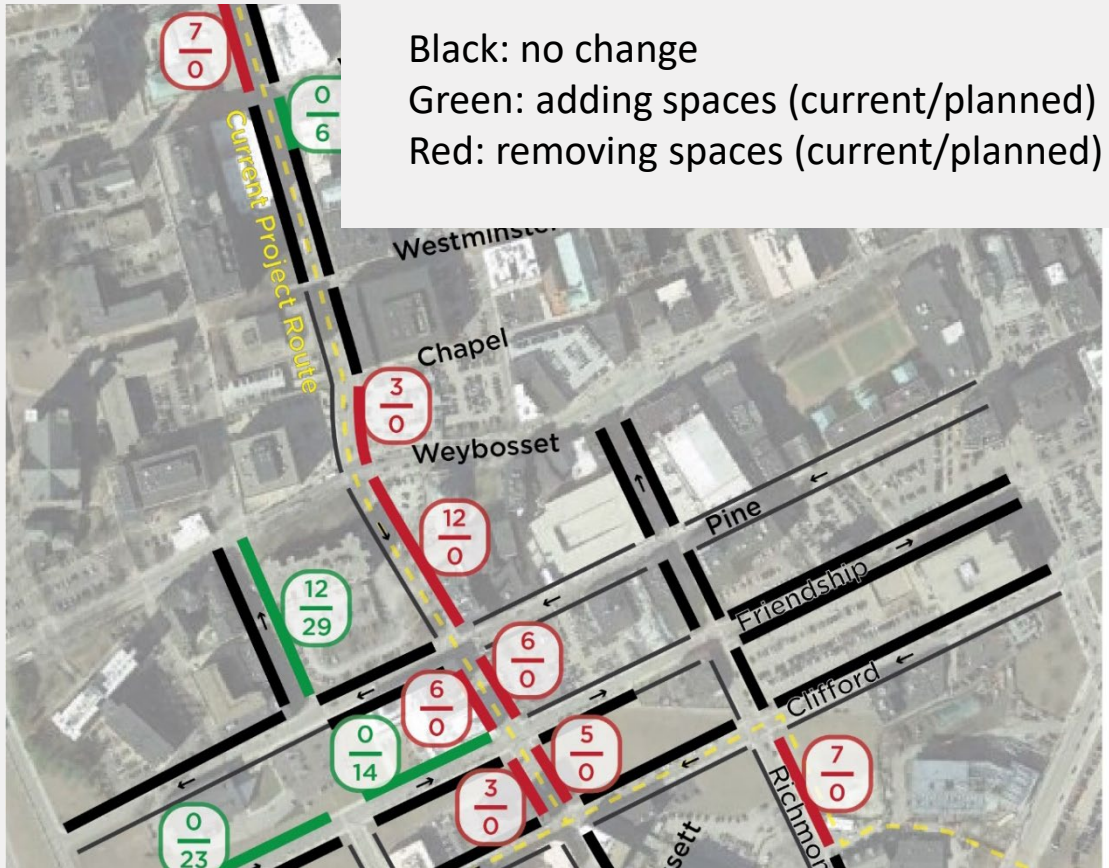


**Proposed Chestnut Street layout** (Broad to Clifford): One car lane each direction; no on-street parking; urban trail on southwest side (between Weybosset and Pine, the street will remain one-way for cars as it is today)

## Empire St & Chestnut St

Adding a two-way separated urban trail on southbound side





## 14 parking spaces added

- **Claverick:** 17 new
- **Friendship:** 37 new
- **Empire:** 6 new by AS220
- **Chestnut:** removing 32
- **Richmond:** removing 7
- **Empire:** removing 7 by PPL



## Richmond St

Half-block connection from Clifford Street to West Side Park via Elbow Street alongside Point225

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# For more information

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- [www.providenceri.gov/planning/great-streets/](http://www.providenceri.gov/planning/great-streets/)
  - Read the Great Streets Master Plan
  - View this presentation again
- Alex Ellis, Principal Planner
  - [aellis@providenceri.gov](mailto:aellis@providenceri.gov)



# THANK YOU

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City of Providence

