



## Providence Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

### **Staff Report: Intersection Safety Improvements at Cranston Street and Messer Street – West End – Wards 8, 11 (For Action)**

*Presented at January 20, 2021 BPAC meeting*

#### **Project Background**

The City of Providence Department of Planning and Development seeks comments from the BPAC regarding conceptual plans for intersection safety improvements at the intersection of Cranston Street and Messer Street. This will be a conceptual level review of the project and will be the first of two reviews before the Commission.

This intersection, of a narrow commercial arterial and a busy collector that connects to a highway, is uncontrolled (no stop signs on Cranston or traffic light) and has on-street parking for adjacent businesses. On-street parking is prohibited within 20 feet of a crosswalk citywide to ensure people walking and driving can see each other, but in many places throughout the City that restriction is not followed consistently. That unsafe parking is a particular issue at this intersection due to the narrowness of the street, the high traffic volume, and the lack of any stop- or signal-control.

#### **Great Streets Plan Recommendation**

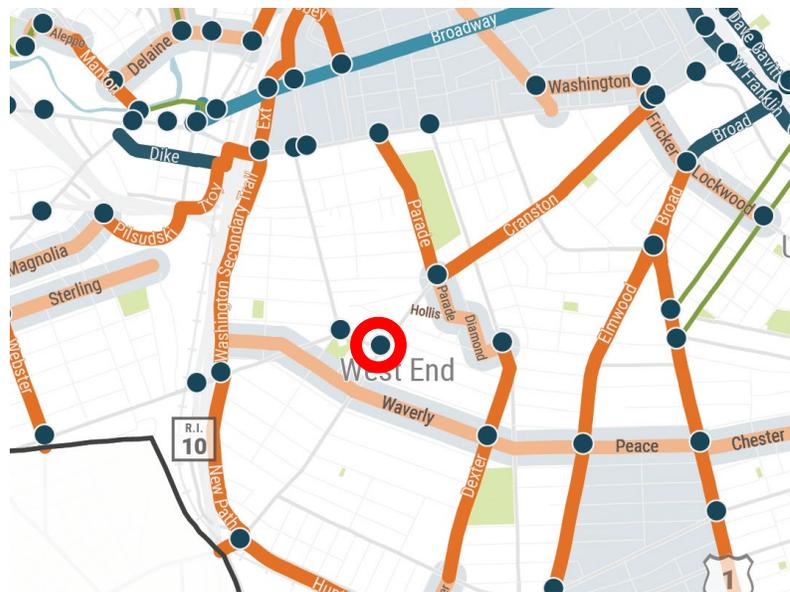
Intersection highlighted in plan as needing pedestrian safety improvements, but not recommended to be part of the Urban Trail Network

#### **Proposed Safety Improvements**

The options under discussion to address this intersection’s issues include:

- Parking signage to clarify the existing restrictions
- Stop signs (for Cranston St)
- Traffic light
- Curb extensions

Preliminary proposal from the Traffic Engineer is, upon confirmation from traffic data that stop signs would be appropriate, to

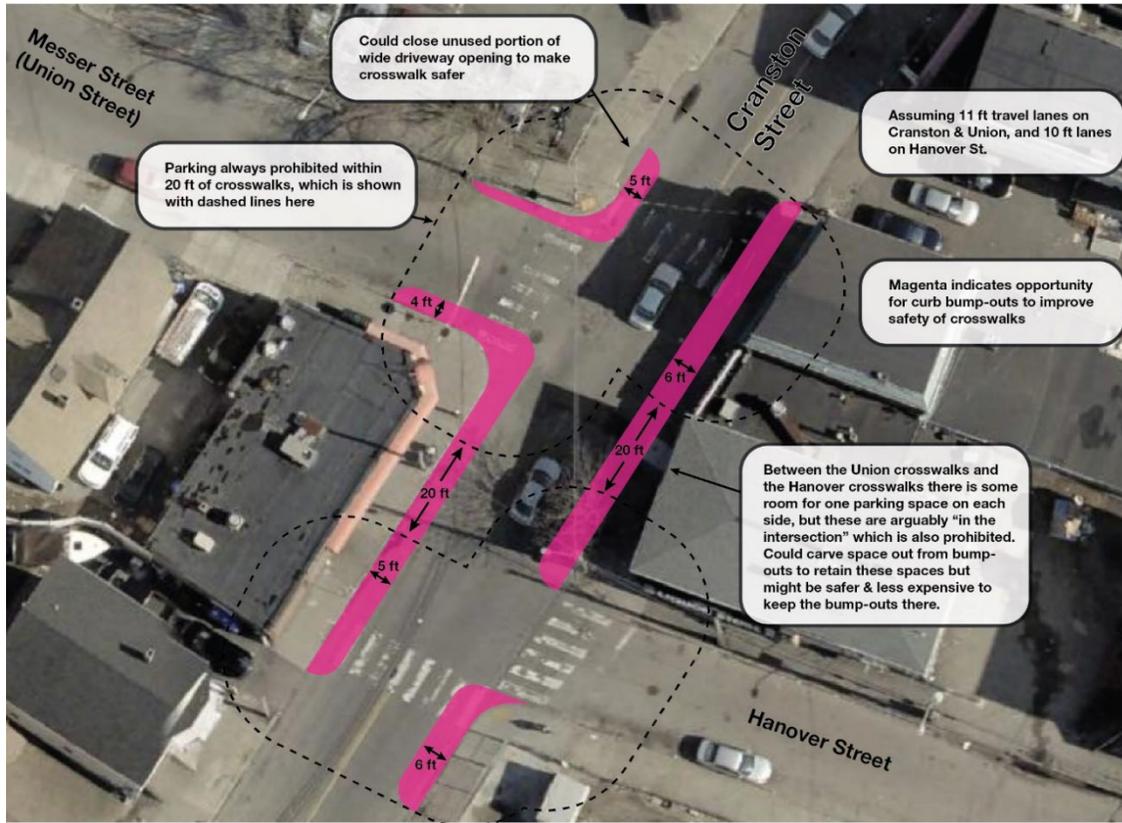




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pilot temporary parking signage and stop signs. Longer-term, more expensive, and likely more expensive improvements could involve adding a traffic signal (again, pending appropriateness) or curb extensions, as mocked up below:



Respectfully submitted by Alex Ellis.