

BROAD STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Department of Planning and Development
October 21, 2021



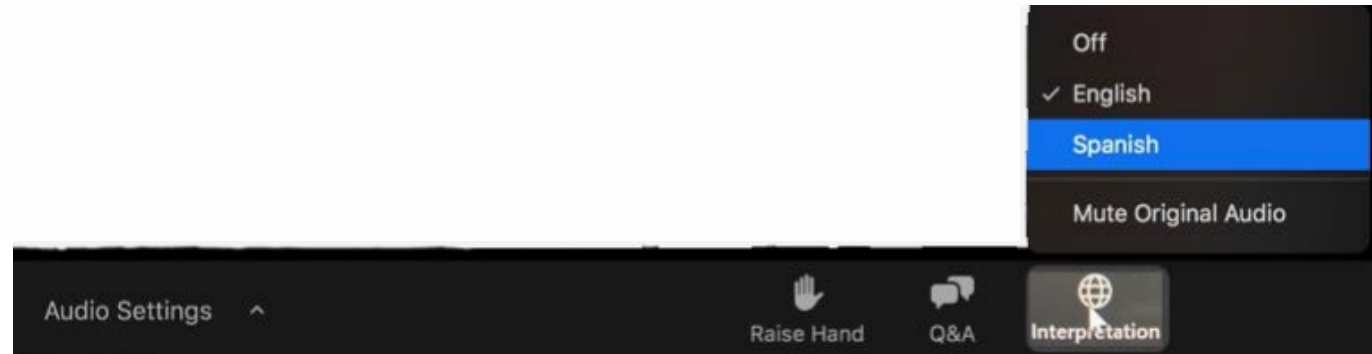
MAYOR JORGE O. ELORZA
CITY OF PROVIDENCE



VIRTUAL MEETING PROCEDURE

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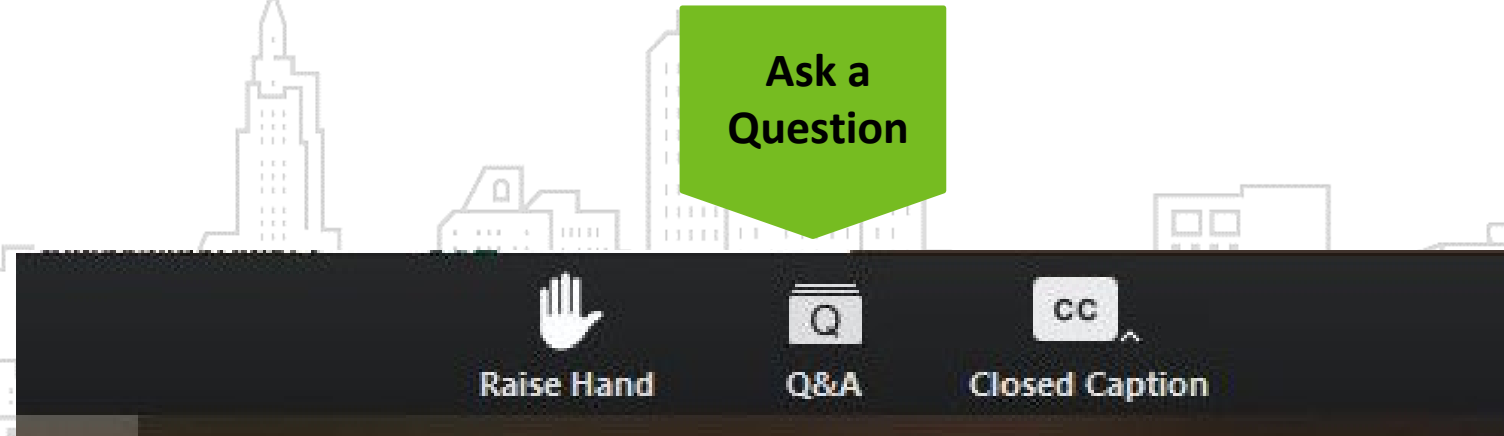
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AGENDA

- Introduction of project team
- Overview of project background and community engagement
- Project details and schedule
- Q+A



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Ask a
Question



Raise Hand



Q&A

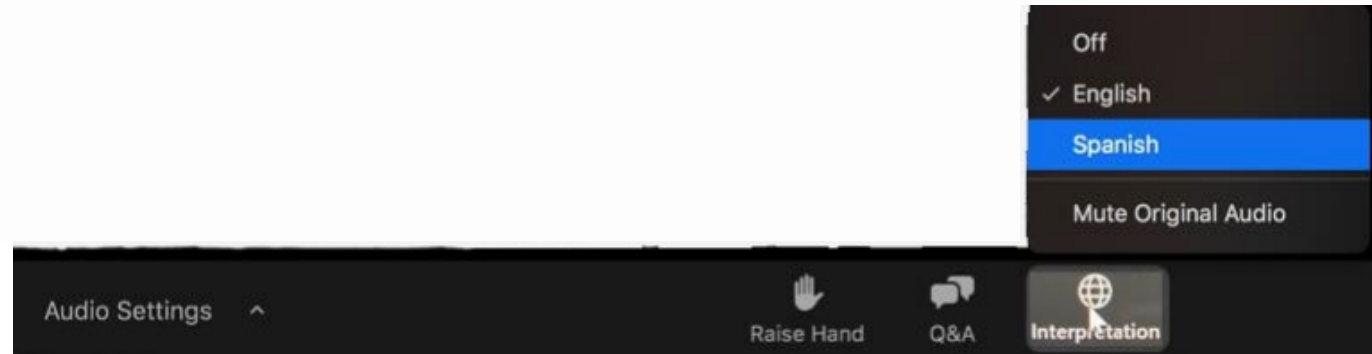


Closed Caption

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PROJECT TEAM FOR CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION OF BROAD STREET PROJECT

- Alex Ellis, Principal Planner, City of Providence Department of Planning and Development
- Martina Haggerty, Director of Special Projects, City of Providence Department of Planning and Development
- Francisco Lovera, McMahon Associates
- Dara Clough, McMahon Associates
- Sam Hawkins, McMahon Associates
- Antonia Thomas, McMahon Associates



BROAD STREET PROJECT

- \$2.7M investment in safety and accessibility on Broad Street between Trinity Square and Roger Williams Park entrance
- Repaving + safety improvements for people travelling by car, foot, bike, bus



PROJECT BACKGROUND

- Project inspired by City Walk-- idea from community groups to connect Providence neighborhoods after relocation of I-195 (2006)
- City adopted that vision and found funding from City's Capital Improvement Program and State Transportation Improvement Program for improvements on Broad, Pine, Friendship, and Clifford (2017-now)
- Inspired larger citywide **Urban Trail Network** detailed in the City's Great Streets Master Plan (2019-2020)



WHAT ARE “URBAN TRAILS”?

- More than just bike lanes
- The Urban Trail Network is a series of investments that will connect schools, parks, jobs, businesses, libraries, and cultural institutions **citywide**
- Safe places for people of **all ages and abilities** to walk, run, bike, scoot, and skate

Learn more about the proposed citywide network at
<https://www.providenceri.gov/planning/great-streets/>

WHAT ARE “URBAN TRAILS”?

- Three types of urban trails:

Off road shared use paths

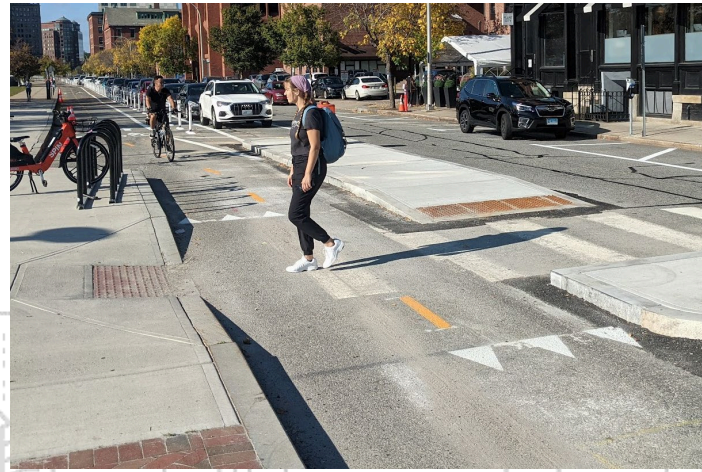
(examples: East Bay Bike Path, Blackstone Bike Path)



Explore RI

Separated or protected places for biking, running, skating on major roads

(examples: Broad Street, South Water Street)



Providence Streets Coalition

Neighborhood Greenways: low-volume side streets with minor striping, wayfinding signage, and potential traffic calming (examples: Knight, Peace, Ontario, Delaine streets)



www.flickr.com/photos/gregraisman/6847698630/

MORE THAN AN URBAN TRAIL PROJECT

- Road repaving
- ADA improvements to crosswalks
- Making crosswalks safer for people walking
- Reducing speeding by cars
- Bus islands to improve boarding and alighting for RIPTA riders

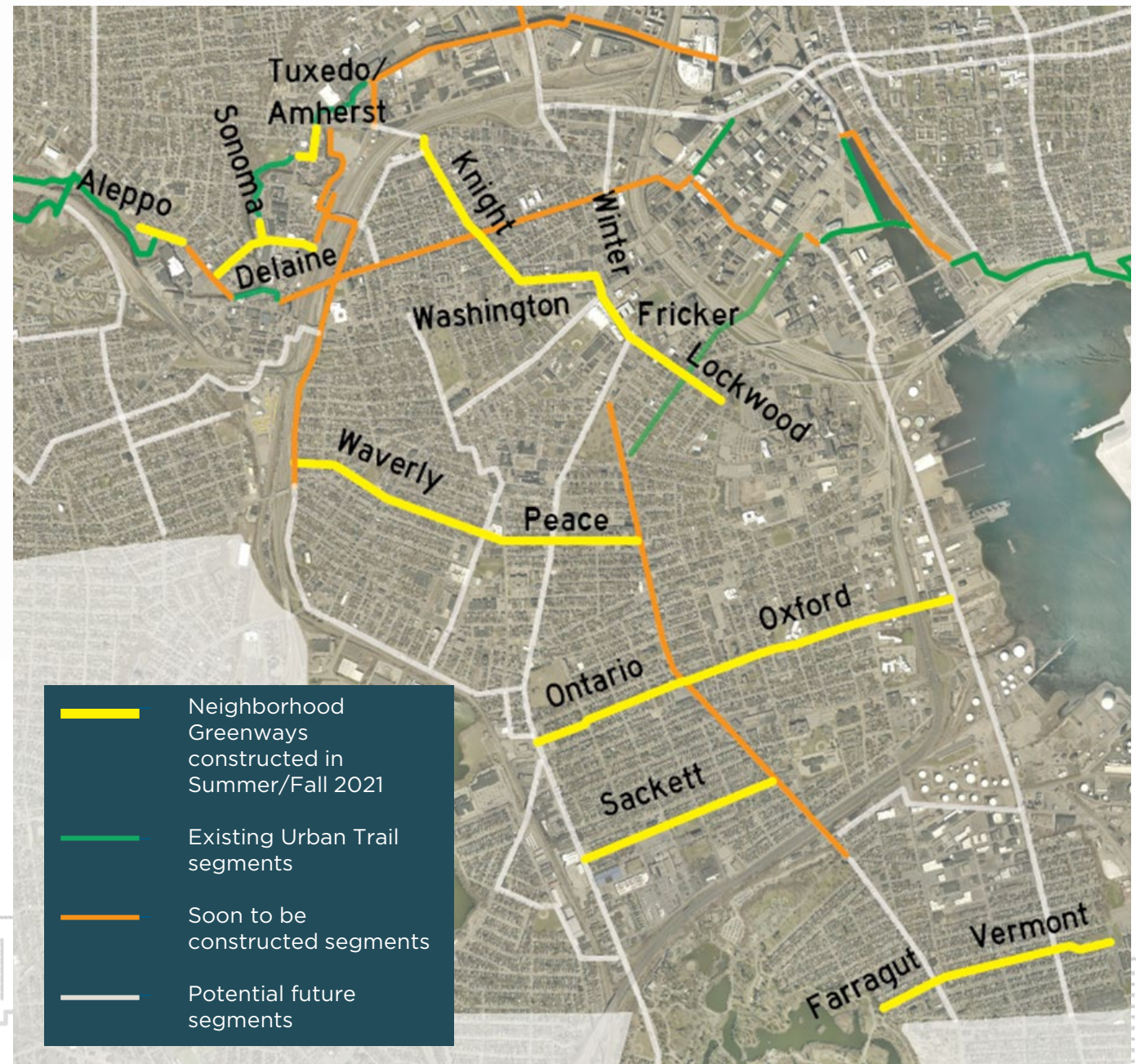


WHY THESE STREETS?

- City considered safety, connectivity, access, and equity to determine which streets should move forward first:
 - Safety: Are there documented safety concerns such as cars speeding or crashes involving people walking or biking?
 - 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 injustices that have harmed communities of color with past unhealthy transportation decisions

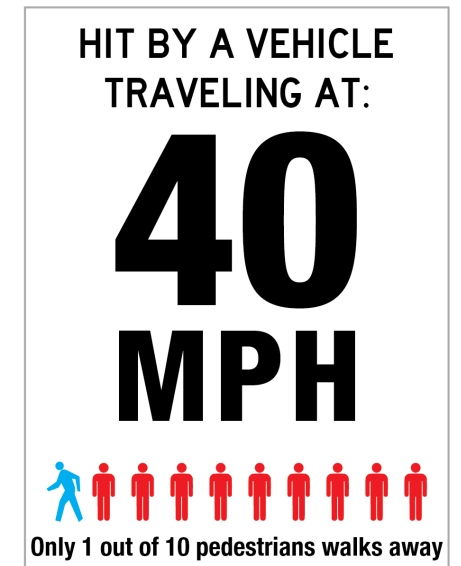
CONNECTIVITY

- Creating a cohesive network of urban trails and bike lanes
- Will safely connect Broad Street to:
 - Roger Williams Park
 - Downtown
 - India Pt Park and East Bay Bike Path
 - Woonasquatucket River Greenway
 - Washington Secondary Trail
- Connects from Broad into neighborhoods via recent neighborhood greenways on Peace, Waverly, Ontario, Oxford, and Sackett



SAFETY

- Broad Street has the most crashes between cars and people walking or biking in Providence
- From 2009-2017, 104 people walking or biking on Broad Street were hit by a car
- In 2020, 363 crashes on Broad Street
- 35%-45% of vehicles traveling over speed limit on Broad



SAFETY

- **South Water St speed study:**
 - 25%-27% reduction in speed
 - 84%-96% reduction in % of vehicles traveling faster than 30 mph
 - 17 mph reduction in maximum speed
- **NYC Columbus Ave:** Reduced crashes by 34%, less speeding, and less sidewalk bicycle riding
- **NYC 9th Avenue:** Reduced injuries to all road users by 56% (-57% people on bikes; -29% people walking; 84% decrease in sidewalk riding)
- **University of Colorado Study:** Studied 12 US cities; investments like this associated with reduction in road deaths by 38% in Chicago, 40% in Denver, 50% in San Francisco, 60% in Seattle, 75% in Portland, OR

SAFETY

- **Counts on Broad St of people walking and biking :**
 - During weekday afternoons, 35-40 people biking along Broad St every hour
 - Only other Providence locations with counts this high are Broadway bike lanes and East Bay Bike Path
- **Great potential for growing these numbers even more by making people of **all ages and abilities** feel safer and more comfortable walking and biking on Broad St**

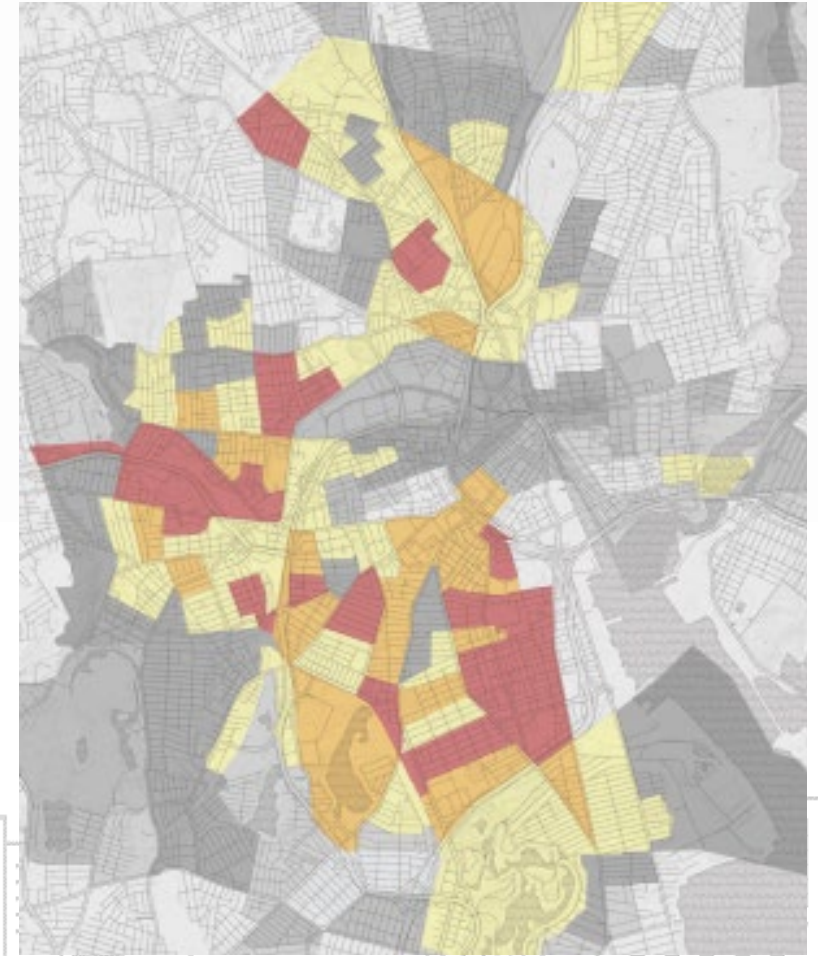


ACCESS

- 30,000 people live within 1/3 mile of Broad St (<10 min. walk)
- Dense population center: 7,311-15,608 people/square mile (compared to 391 ppl/sq. mi. statewide)
- >5,000 elementary, middle, and high school students at schools along Broad St
- Small businesses along Broad Street
- Roger Williams Park, Zoo, Natural History Museum, Botanical Center, Southside Cultural Center, CCRI, libraries, recreation centers
- Connectivity for South Providence residents to destinations and jobs in Downtown, I-195 Redevelopment Area

EQUITY

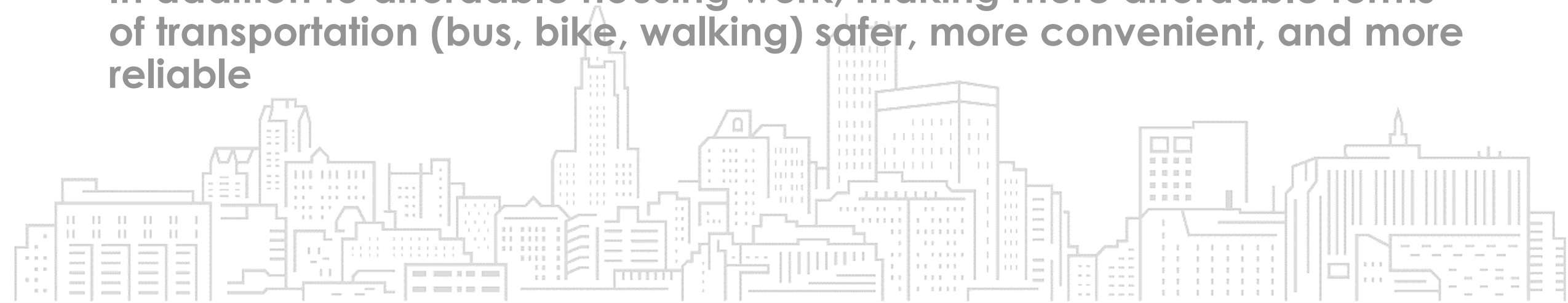
- **Prioritizing investments in frontline communities**
(Communities most impacted by the crises of ecology, economy, and democracy: Indigenous, African American, Black, Latinx, and Southeast Asian communities, refugees and immigrants, people with criminal records, those who speak languages other than English, and LGBTQIA+ individuals)
- **23% of households in Broad Street area do not have a car** (compared to 9% statewide)
- **40% of people in Broad Street area walk, ride the bus, bike, or carpool to work** (compared to 20% statewide)



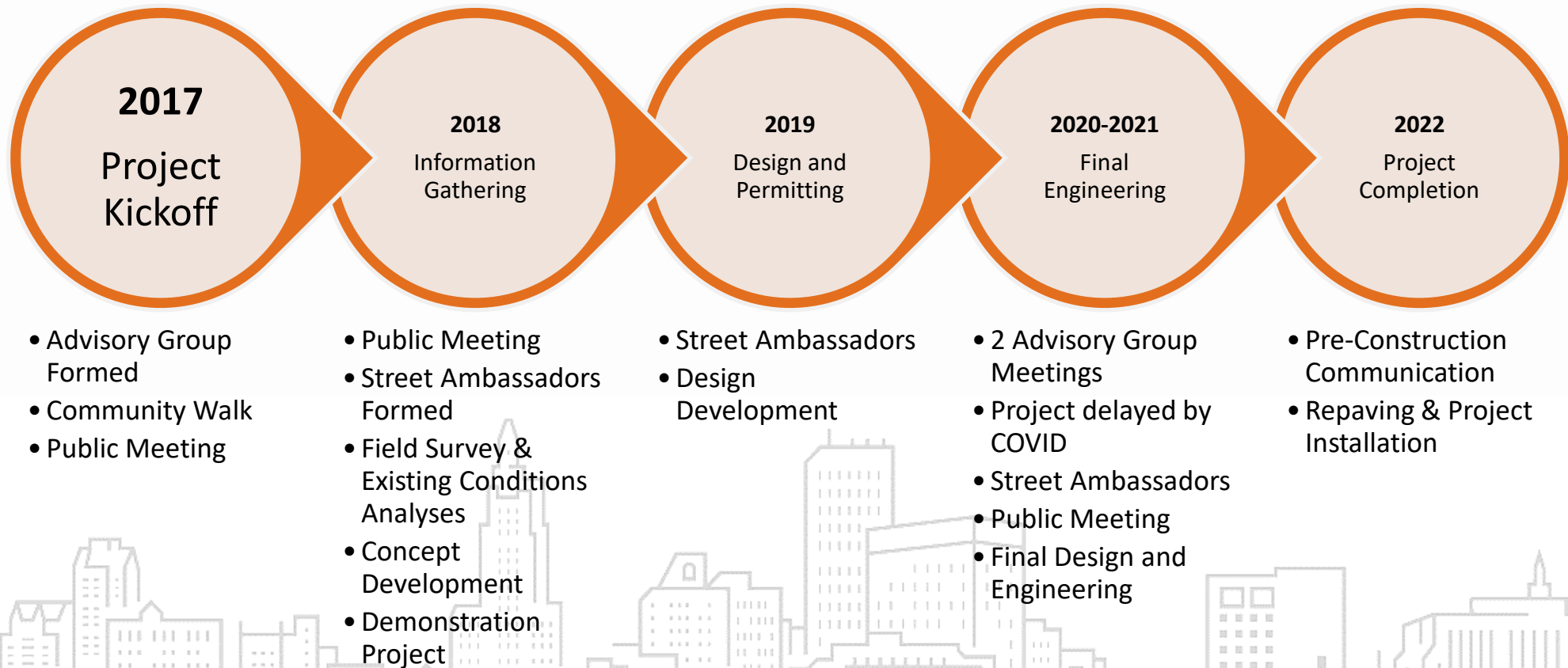
EPA: Environmental Justice Mapping Tool

EQUITY

- Reducing household transportation costs is an important part of making Providence more affordable
- Transportation is the second largest household expense after housing
- **53-66% of households in surrounding neighborhoods are cost burdened** (spending more than they can afford on housing) compared to 35% statewide
- **In addition to affordable housing work, making more affordable forms of transportation (bus, bike, walking) safer, more convenient, and more reliable**



PROJECT PROCESS



PUBLIC INPUT



PUBLIC INPUT

- **Public Meeting – 11/28/2017 @ Southside Cultural Center**
- Elmwood Crime Watch meeting - 1/24/2018
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission meeting - 12/19/2018
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission meeting - 2/21/2018
- South Providence Neighborhood Association meeting - 3/8/2018
- Washington Park Association meeting - 3/14/2018
- **Public Meeting – 5/14/2018 @ Calvary Baptist Church**
- **Demonstration Project - 6/16/2018 on Broad Street**
- South Providence Neighborhood Association meeting - 1/24/2019
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission meeting - 2/20/2019
- Elmwood Neighborhood Association meeting - 2/24/19
- **Public Meeting – 3/5/2019 at Southside Cultural Center**
- **Public Meeting – 3/13/2019 at Feinstein Elementary**
- Downtown Neighborhood Association meeting - 6/11/19
- I-195 Commission Meeting – 7/24/2019
- **Public Meeting – 3/10/2020 (CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19)**
- **Virtual Public Meeting – 11/16/2020** *Mailers sent out to abutters along Broad Street*
- Latino Ambassador Group – 11/17/2020
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission meeting – 11/18/2020
- Latino Ambassador Group – 1/12/2021
- **Virtual Public Meeting – 10/21/2021** *Mailers sent out to abutters along Broad Street*

PUBLIC INPUT

- **Advisory Group** comprised of neighborhood group representatives and other stakeholders met every few months from 2017 to 2019 while project was in design
- **Bilingual engagement**
- **Street Ambassadors attended events, conducted door-to-door canvassing, and tabled on Broad Street to inform people and gather input:**
 - Pilotworks Spring Market on 5/12/18
 - SustainPVD Fair on 5/19/18
 - Children's Museum South Side Night on 5/23/18
 - Sankofa World Market on 6/2/18
 - Broad Street Farmer's Market on 6/23/18
 - Sankofa World Market on 6/27/18
 - Sankofa World Market on 7/7/18
 - Broad Street Farmer's Market on 7/14/18
 - Trinity Square Block Party on 8/25/18
 - Roger Williams Park Free Admission Day for Providence Residents on 9/1/18
 - Broad Street Farmers Market on 7/13/19
 - Broad Street Farmers Market on 7/20/19
 - Roger Williams Park Free Admission Day for Providence Residents on 8/3/19
 - Pearl Street Block Party on 9/7/19
 - Youth in Action meeting on 10/16/19
 - Youth in Action meeting on 10/24/19
 - Southside Community Land Trust meeting on 12/4/19
 - West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation meeting on 12/4/19
 - Meetings with Elmwood Crime Watch and Washington Park Association leadership on 1/24/20
 - South Providence Neighborhood Association meeting on 2/6/20
 - Project Weber/RENEW meeting on 2/11/20
 - Mills Coffee Roasters meeting on 2/12/20
 - Highlander Charter School meeting on 2/14/20
 - **Door-to-door canvass of Broad Street business owners and residents on 2/17-2/21/20 (knocked 1,031 doors, hung posters for the March 10th community meeting in 47 businesses)**
 - SWAP meeting on 2/19/20
 - Mobility Justice Workshop at Southside Cultural Center 2/22/20
 - Southside Boys & Girls Club meeting on 3/2/20

PUBLIC INPUT

- Southside Boys & Girls Club meeting on 3/2/20
- PSC Street Team does public outreach during RI Latino Arts Mural Painting at Broad & Oxford streets 8/1/20
- PSC Street Team does public outreach in front of Youth in Action 9/11/20
- Sankofa Farmers Market at Knight Memorial Library 9/16/20
- PSC Street Team does public outreach in front of Youth in Action 9/18/20
- September 25, 2020: PSC Street Team does public outreach at Youth in Action, 672 Broad
- PSC Street Team does public outreach in front of Youth in Action 10/9/20
- PSC Street Team does public outreach in front of Youth in Action 10/23/20
- **Door-to-door canvass of Broad Street business owners and residents on 11/7-11/13//20**
- RI Latino Arts meeting on 3/9/21
- PSC Street Team does public outreach at Community Angels Earth Day Celebration at Broad and Sumter streets on 4/24/21
- Sankofa Farmers Market at Knight Memorial Library 7/15/21
- RI Hispanic Chamber of Commerce 7/22/21
- Broad Street Farmers Market at 807 Broad Street 7/31/21
- PSC does public outreach at the Dominican Parade, sharing postcards about project on 8/8/21
- Trinity Square Block Party near Southside Cultural Center 8/14/21
- PSC does public outreach on Broad in front of Youth in Action on 9/3/21
- Broad Street Farmers Market 9/4/21
- Sankofa Farmers Market at Knight Memorial Library 9/8/21
- RI Indian Council 9/17/21
- PSC does public outreach on Broad in front of Youth in Action on 9/17/21
- **Door-to-door canvass of Broad Street business owners and residents on 10/13-10/15/21**
- Broad Street Farmers Market 10/16/21
- Care for the Square community event at Trinity Square 10/16/21



PUBLIC INPUT

- More than 80 public meetings, stakeholder meetings, and events held or attended to engage community members in the planning process
- Plus three door-to-door canvassing events along Broad Street to speak with businesses in February 2020, November 2020, and October 2021



DEMONSTRATION PROJECT (JUNE 2018): TEMPORARY CHANGES NEAR BROAD/PUBLIC TO GATHER COMMUNITY FEEDBACK



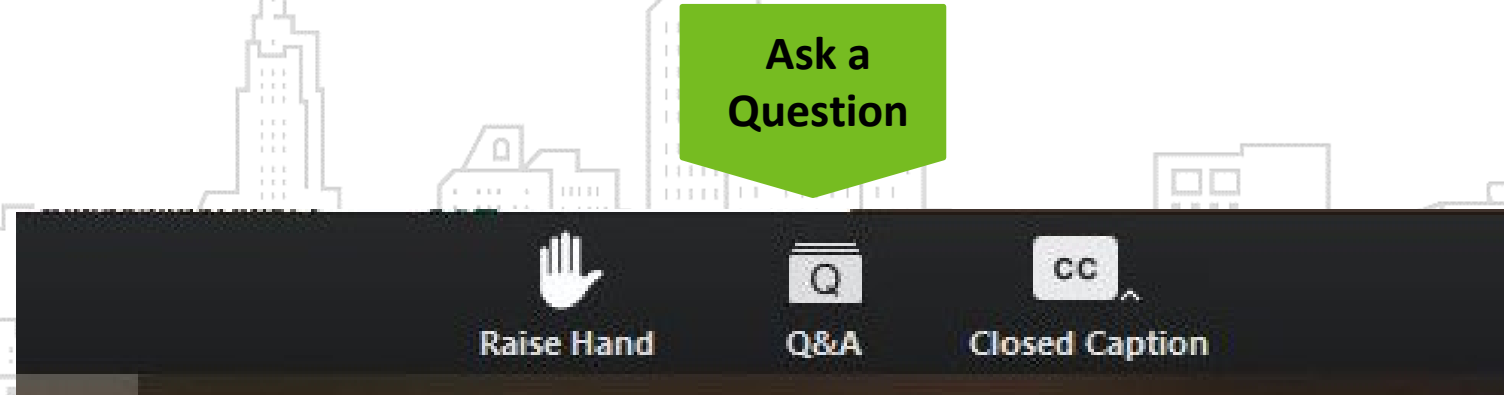
PROJECT SUPPORT

- **March 2021 polling of 600 people indicates strong support for Great Streets and Broad Street improvements**
 - 70% of all polled would like to ride a bicycle more often
 - 71% of South Providence/West End residents and 78% of Latinx residents would like to ride a bicycle more often
 - 87% of all polled were in favor of Broad Street project
 - 86% of South Providence/West End residents and 95% of Latinx residents were in favor of the project
 - 71% total say protective barriers and separated bike lanes would encourage them to bicycle more
- **Door-to-door canvassing in 2020: Of 72 businesses spoken with, 55% were supportive of the project, 42% had no opinion or asked for more information, and 3% were not supportive or opposed to the project**
- **Door-to-door canvassing in October 2021: Of 68 businesses spoken with, 63% were immediately supportive of the project, 29% had no opinion or asked for more information, and 7% were not supportive or opposed to the project**

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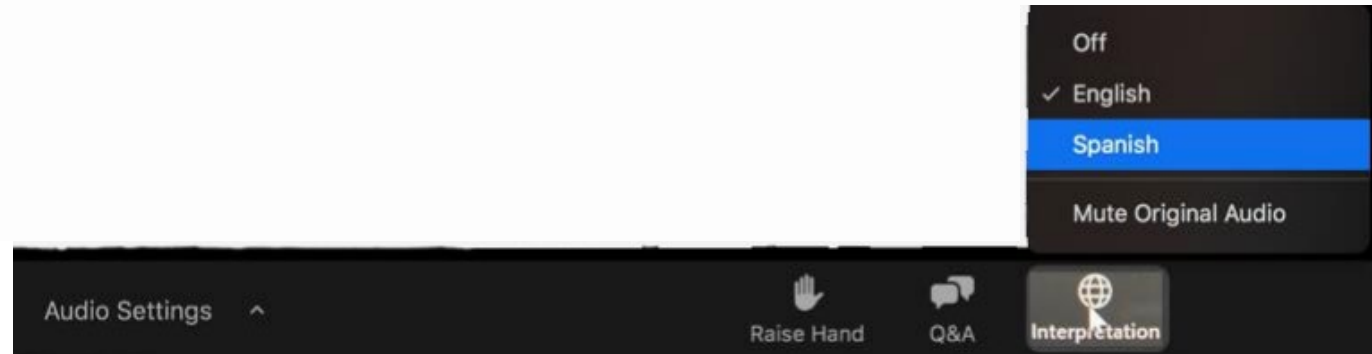
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DRIVING IMPROVEMENTS



Repaved
Roadway

Milling and
repaving Broad
Street



Parking

Keeping parallel parking on
both sides of Broad St.
*(except along Grace Church
Cemetery)*

*On southbound side, people will park
between urban trail and car travel
lanes; northbound parking will be
against curb like it is today*



Turn Lanes

Providing left
turn lanes at key
intersections to
provide space for
drivers turning
left to wait



Slower Traffic
Speeds

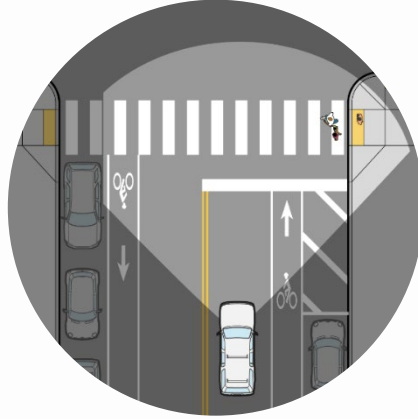
Narrowing
driving lanes to
reduce speeding

WALKING IMPROVEMENTS



New Crosswalks and Curb Ramps

Repainting crosswalks; installing new crosswalks; making crosswalks ADA accessible



Crosswalk Visibility Improvements

Making WALK signal automatic; making it clear no parking allowed on top of crosswalks



Pedestrian Head Start Signals

Giving people walking a few seconds head start to begin crossing before cars

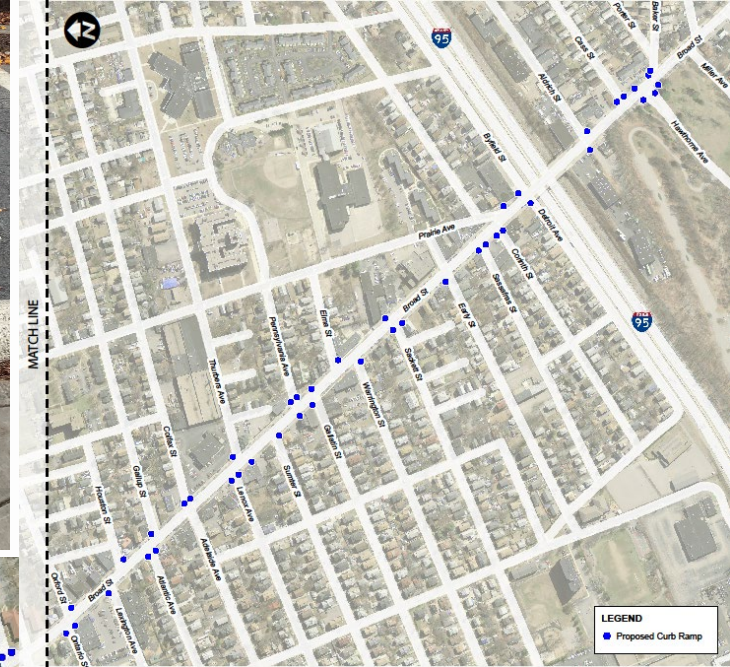


More Space and a Buffer From Cars

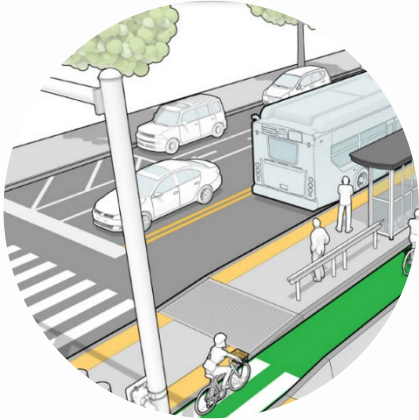
Creating a buffer between the sidewalk and traffic and reducing people biking on sidewalk

WALKING IMPROVEMENTS

- Installing >90 new ADA-compliant curb ramps to make walking safer and more accessible



BUS IMPROVEMENTS



Bus Boarding Islands

Providing more space for people waiting for buses on new bus boarding islands



Faster & Easier Bus Pickup

Making boarding easier for people with disabilities and speeding up bus boarding



Reducing Bus-Bike conflicts

Eliminating conflicts between buses and people riding bicycles by routing bike lane behind bus stops (*most of Broad Street*)

BIKING AND MICROMOBILITY IMPROVEMENTS



**Urban
Trail**

From Roger Williams Park to Plenty St, people riding bikes, scooters, roller blades, and skateboards have a place to travel away from cars



**Painted Bike
Lane**

From Plenty St to Trinity Square, a painted bike lane on each side of the street is provided



**Bike
Parking**

New bike racks previously installed along Broad St

STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS



Trash & Recycling

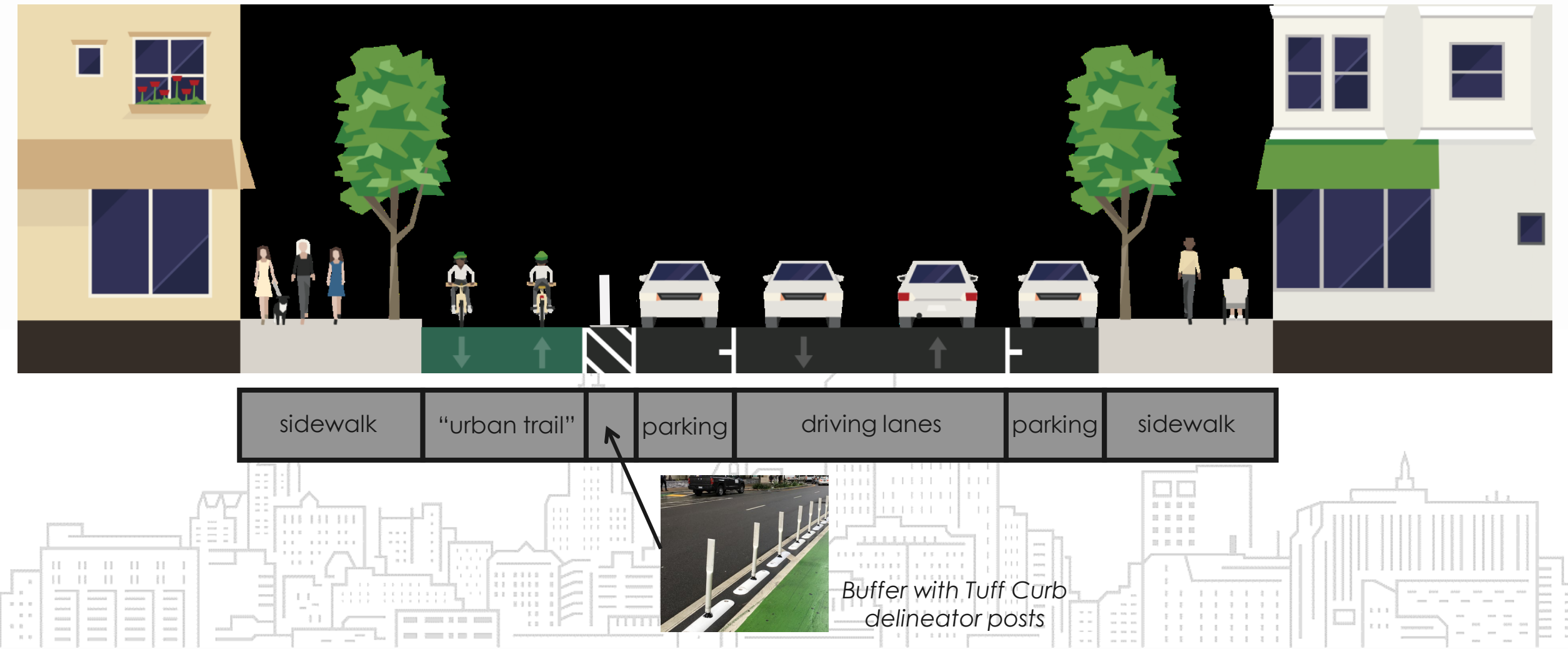
New trash and recycling receptacles previously installed along Broad Street



Space for Public Art

Providing space for new ground murals and other public art

BROAD STREET (HAWTHORNE TO PLENTY)



BROAD ST @ OXFORD ST: BEFORE



BROAD ST @ OXFORD ST: AFTER



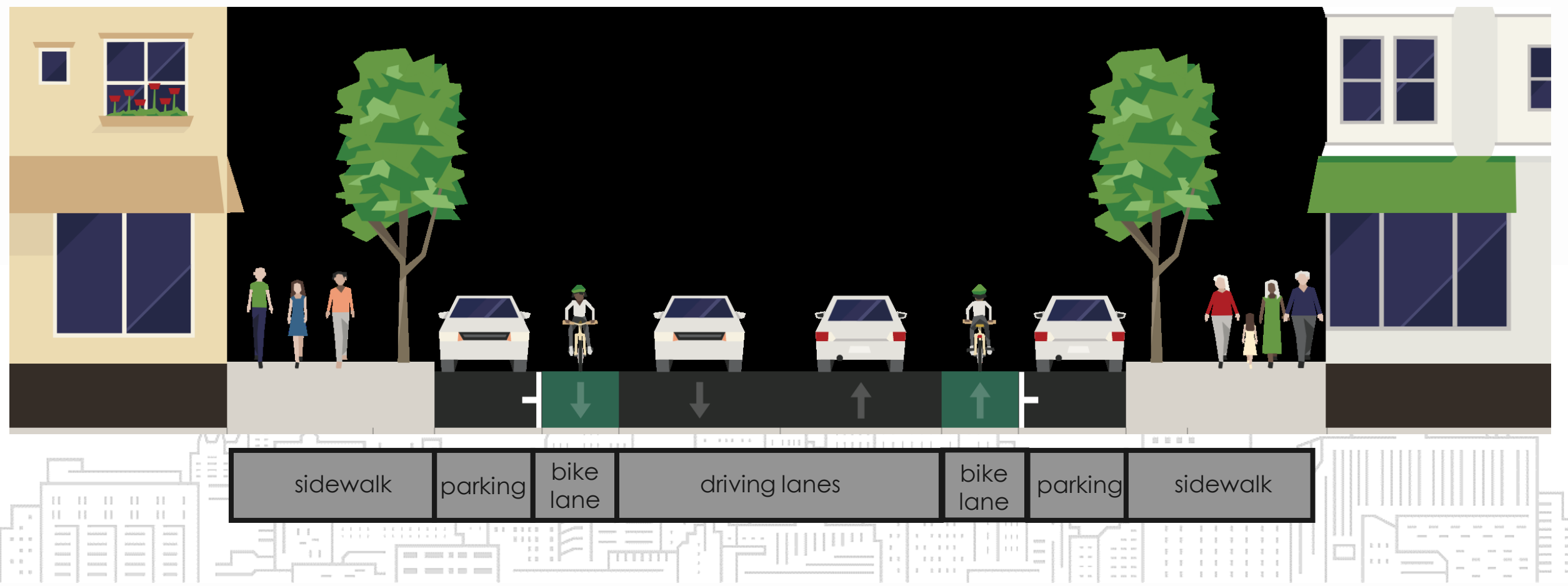
BROAD ST @ RWP ENTRANCE: BEFORE



BROAD ST @ RWP ENTRANCE: AFTER



BROAD STREET (HAYWARD TO PLENTY)- STANDARD BIKE LANES DUE TO NARROWER ROADWAY AND PRESERVATION OF ON STREET PARKING

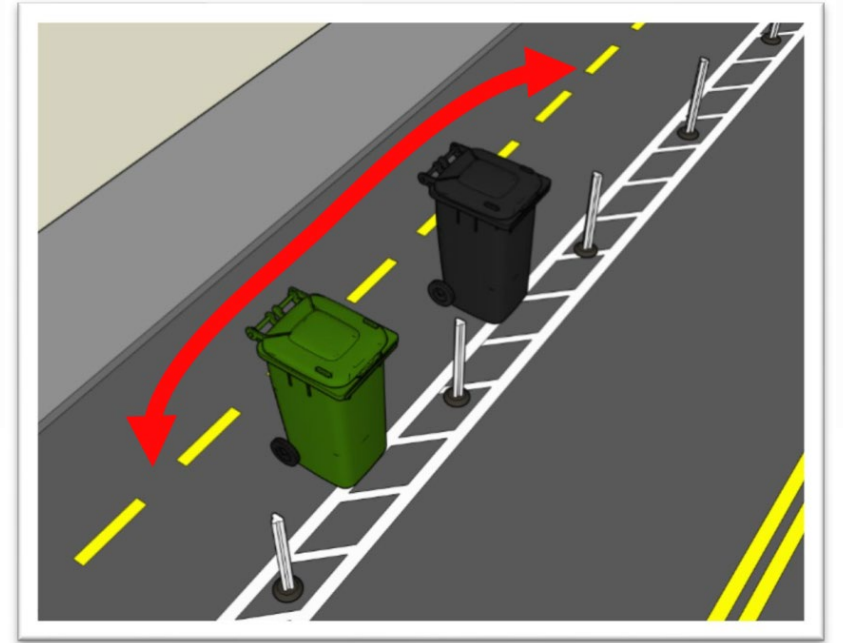


BROAD ST NORTHERN SECTION: HAYWARD STREET TO PLENTY STREET – STANDARD BIKE LANES DUE TO NARROWER ROADWAY

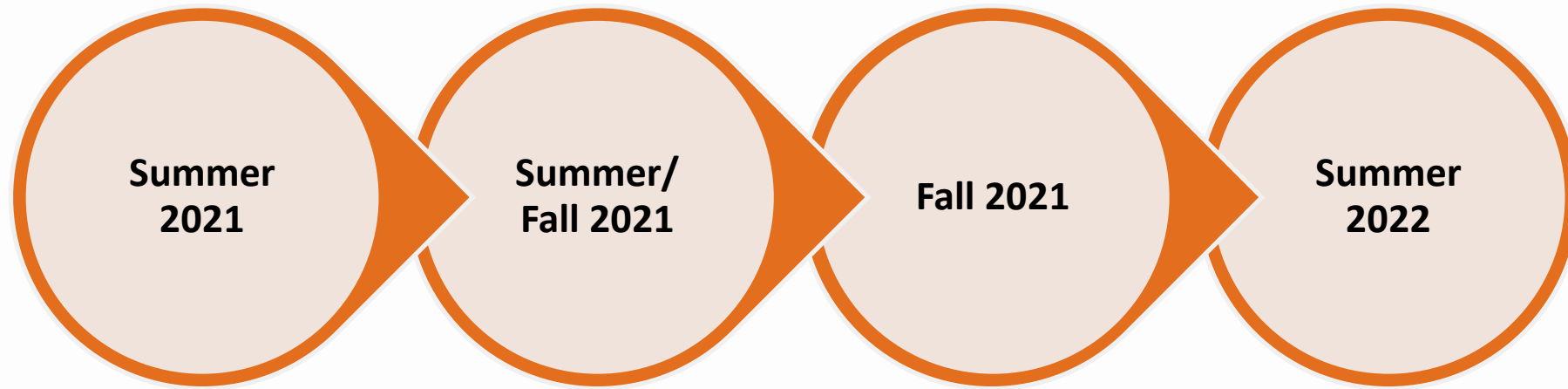


RESIDENTIAL TRASH AND RECYCLING PICK UP

- Place your trash and recycling bins as close to the striped “buffer zone” as possible.
- Place the bins between the posts
- Make sure there is space behind the bins for a person on a bicycle to ride behind them.
- Bring your bins back to your property as soon as possible after trash and recycling are emptied in order to keep the street clear of obstructions.



CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE



- ✓ Complete Final Engineering and Prepare Bid Packages

- ✓ Project Bidding and Contractor Selection

- ✓ Pre-Construction Public Meeting and Mailers
- Construction Begins

- Construction Completed

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

- ADA ramp work near crosswalks expected to begin in November 2021
- ADA ramp work will begin on north end of the street and head south from there
- Repaving and restriping not expected to happen until early Spring 2022
- No construction activity during rush hour or during Thursday, Friday, Saturday evenings/nights per request from Broad St businesses



RELATED INITIATIVES

- \$25,000 grant for ground mural at Public/Daboll: <https://www.providenceri.gov/city-providence-receives-25k-grant-broad-street-cultural-corridor-plaza-2/>
- Roger Williams Park Gateway Center (under construction): <https://www.providenceri.gov/roger-williams-park-gateway-center-meeting-recording-available/>
- Housing and Anti-Displacement Study: www.providenceri.gov/planning/comprehensive-housing-strategy
- Truth, Reconciliation, and Reparations: www.providenceri.gov/community-relations/trr
- COVID-19 Housing Resource Guide: www.providenceri.gov/pema/covid-19-housing-resource-guide
- Signage and Branding of overall city “Urban Trail” network (coming soon!)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- View this presentation, sign up to receive emails, and read the Great Streets Master Plan:

www.providenceri.gov/planning/great-streets

- Reach the City's project manager now or during construction:

Alex Ellis, aellis@providenceri.gov

401-680-8400 x 8522



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Question



Raise Hand



Q&A

CC

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THANK YOU

Want to get in touch?

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