

GREEN & COMPLETE STREETS ADVISORY COUNCIL



MAYOR JORGE O. ELORZA
CITY OF PROVIDENCE

November 21, 2022



Agenda

1. Roll Call
2. Consent Agenda*
3. GCSC Review Procedure
4. Old Business
 - a) Discussion of Walk Signal Policies*
 - b) Review of 2021 Annual Report*
5. New Business
 - a) Conceptual Review: East Side Neighborhood Greenways*
6. Announcements, Staff Updates, and Public Comment

Asterisk indicates items listed as “for action”



ROLL CALL

Item #1



GCSC Members

Voting

- Will Cornwall
- Alana Deluty
- Kathleen Gannon
- Denise Greenidge
- Rosie Jaswal
- Doug Johnson
- Dina Quezada

Non-voting

- Alex Ellis (Planning)
- Liza Farr (DPW)
- Kevin Proft
(Sustainability)
- Cpt. Luis SanLucas
(Public Safety)
- A.J. Elton (Forester)



CONSENT AGENDA

Item #2



Consent Agenda

- Make meetings more efficient by grouping items that need approval but don't merit discussion
- Today:
 - Accept: Minutes from 10/17/22 meeting



GCSC REVIEW PROCEDURE

Item #3



GCSC web page



<https://www.providenceri.gov/planning/gcsc/>



Green and Complete Streets Advisory Council (GCSC)

ABOUT

Streets and sidewalks carry not only people and goods, but also various utilities and stormwater runoff. City streets also represent a sizeable portion of the city's overall land use, house many of its publicly managed trees, and serve as windows into the city for visitors and residents alike. City streets and sidewalks must serve people of all ages and abilities, while creating more mobility and independence for young people, seniors, and people with disabilities. They serve motorists, non-motorists, residents in wheelchairs, parents pushing strollers, kids biking and walking to school, and people who can't afford to use, or prefer not to use motor vehicles.

The City of Providence will develop a safe, reliable, equitable, efficient, inviting, integrated and connected multimodal transportation system that will promote access, mobility and health for all users and abutters, while also improving environmental quality and reducing polluted stormwater runoff. The City will create a connected network of right-of-way facilities accommodating all modes of travel to the maximum practical extent. This network will promote walking and biking on city streets and sidewalks, provide access to public transportation, beautify and shade the City's parks, schools, healthy food retail establishments, and reduce and treat polluted stormwater.

The **Green and Complete Streets Advisory Council** was created by ordinance in July 2021. Its responsibilities are to:

- Review projects during their development for compliance with Code of Ordinances Section 1. Chapter 23 Article VII – Green and Complete Streets and make recommendations as necessary
- Review applications for waivers or exceptions from the Ordinance
- Review and recommend traffic calming on any streets that are not automatically approved for traffic calming as described in the Ordinance
- Annually review City activities for compliance with the Ordinance and report to City Council and Administration

The Advisory Council replaces the **Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission** and the **Traffic Calming Advisory Group**, which both previously met to oversee scopes now completed by the Advisory Council.

The Department of Planning and Development provides administrative support to the Advisory Council.

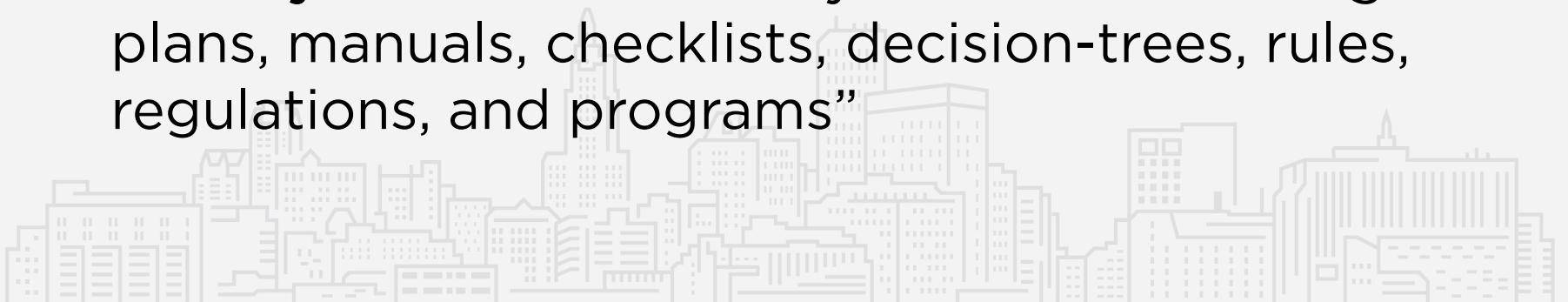
MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Advisory Council is described in the Ordinance as:

- The Director of Public Works or his/her designee who shall serve as a non-voting ex-officio member,

Review Procedure

- **Review of Conceptual & 30% Plans**
During project development, make recommendations to improve design
- **Waivers** from requirements of ordinance
Mode-specific, GCSC approves or denies
- **Traffic calming:** in edge cases, after traffic study, GCSC can recommend Traffic Engineer give “preliminary approval”
- **All City activities:** annually review “all existing plans, manuals, checklists, decision-trees, rules, regulations, and programs”



Hybrid meetings

- Executive Order 22-20 expired 3/31 so public bodies must meet in person
- Hybrid meetings
 - We need a quorum (4) of voting members in person
 - Only in-person attendees can vote
 - Anyone who does not need to be in-person encouraged to attend virtually pending future pandemic context



Flow of meeting

1. Chair introduces agenda item
2. Staff report
3. GCSC discussion pt. 1
4. Public comment
5. GCSC discussion pt. 2 & vote



Public comment

- Opportunity during each item & for general topics at end of meeting
- Put questions or comments in Q&A, staff or Chair will read them out
- If you would prefer to speak, use the “raise hand” feature (*9 on phone)
 - Wait for Chair to recognize you
 - Please keep comments to 2 minutes



OLD BUSINESS

Item #4



REVIEW 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Item #4b



Annual Status Report



- Required to be presented to City Council in the Ordinance
- Presenting draft to GCSC for information and courtesy
- Delay in completion due to statutory metrics that are difficult to calculate



Urban Trails Completed in 2021



- South Water St, Empire St, Chestnut St, Richmond St, Manton Ave
- Peace St, Waverly St, Oxford St, Ontario St, Sackett St, Vermont Ave, Farragut Ave, Knight St, Washington St, Winter St, Delaine St, Aleppo St
- Douglas Ave
- *Started: Broad St, Gotham Greens Path, Dean St*



Recommendations Status

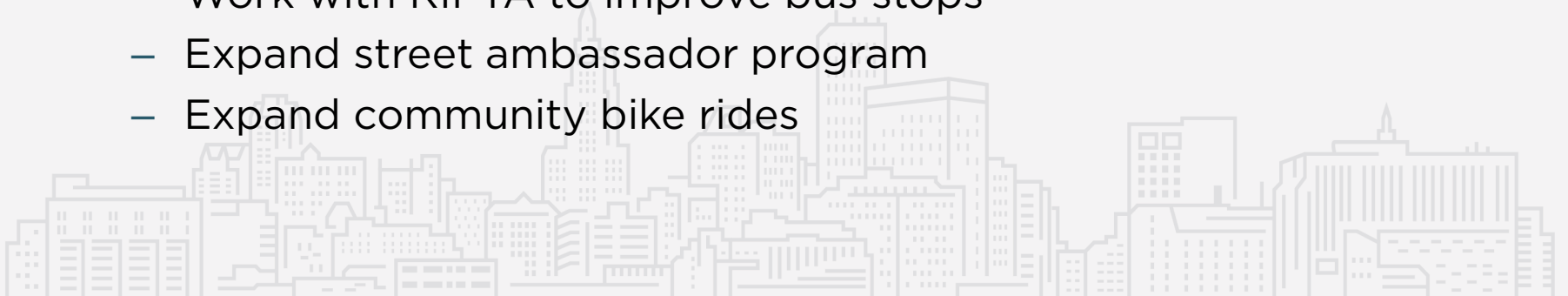


- Complete:
 - Create new ordinance ✓ 2021
 - Repeal ordinance prohibiting skateboarding ✓ 2020
 - Add fines for blocking bike lanes ✓ 2021
 - Change traffic calming guidelines ✓ 2021



Recommendations Status

- In process:
 - Lower parking minimums in zoning
 - Protocols for updating Great Streets Plan
 - Improve internal project management
 - Use and price curb more efficiently and flexibly
 - Continue to integrate public art
 - Create incentive program for installing bike parking
 - Evaluate overnight parking fee structure
 - Deploy LPIs and lengthen walk lights
 - Implement pedestrian recall
 - Work with RIPTA to improve bus stops
 - Expand street ambassador program
 - Expand community bike rides



Metrics

	Pedestrians	Bicyclists	Motorists
2021 Crashes	179	51	7514
2021 Injuries	52	17	141
2021 Fatalities	2	1	4
2020 Crashes	174	59	6745
2020 Injuries	42	10	135
2020 Fatalities	3	0	6
5yr Avg Crashes	220	86	9240
5yr Avg Injuries	50	15	139
5yr Avg Fatalities	2.4	0	4.6



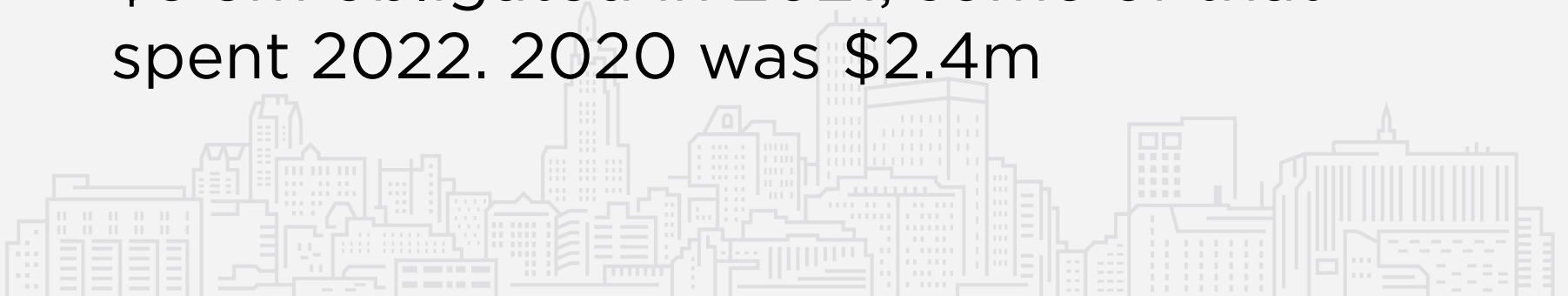
Metrics

- **# of people biking:** 6 long-duration sites, 20 short-duration counts in 2021. Average daily counts range from 18 to 282. More data & analysis needed.
- **# of traffic calming installed:** Between 2020 and 2021, 76 streets, approved on 11 more streets at end of 2021



Metrics

- **Miles of bike lanes:** 10 mi shared streets (all 2021), 9 mi striped bike lanes (1 in 2021), 3 mi protected bike lanes (1 in 2021), 5 mi shared-use paths (0.2 in 2021)
- **# of street trees:** 691 planted in 2021 (20% more than in 2020, 27,400 trees overall)
- **\$ spent on green & complete streets:** \$5.3m obligated in 2021, some of that spent 2022. 2020 was \$2.4m



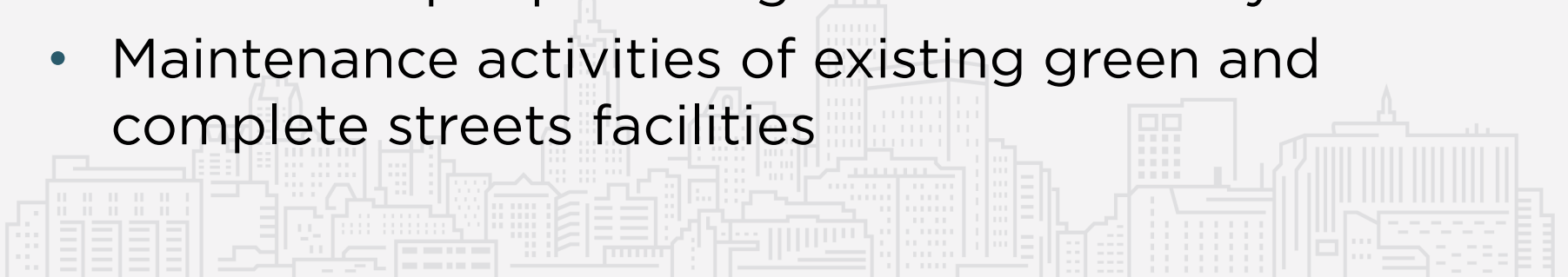
Metrics

- **# and severity of violations:** 22% increase in relevant citations over 2020, mostly from failure to yield in crosswalks & use of cell phone, offsetting decrease in speeding tickets.
- **# new stormwater improvements:** 35
- **# waivers applied for & granted:** 0
- **# improvements in Env. Justice areas:** 5 (3 more partially within)



Unavailable Metrics

- Linear feet of sidewalk in need of repair or construction
- Replacement of non-ADA compliant curb ramps
- Number of intersection legs without crosswalks
- Number of traffic complaints and calming requests by street name
- Number of crosswalk and intersection improvements installed
- Number of people riding RIPTA in the City
- Maintenance activities of existing green and complete streets facilities



NEW BUSINESS

Item #5



EAST SIDE NEIGHBORHOOD GREENWAYS

Item #5a



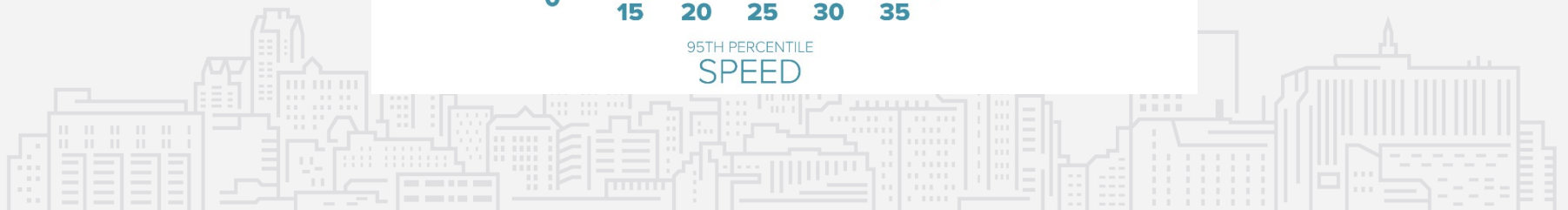
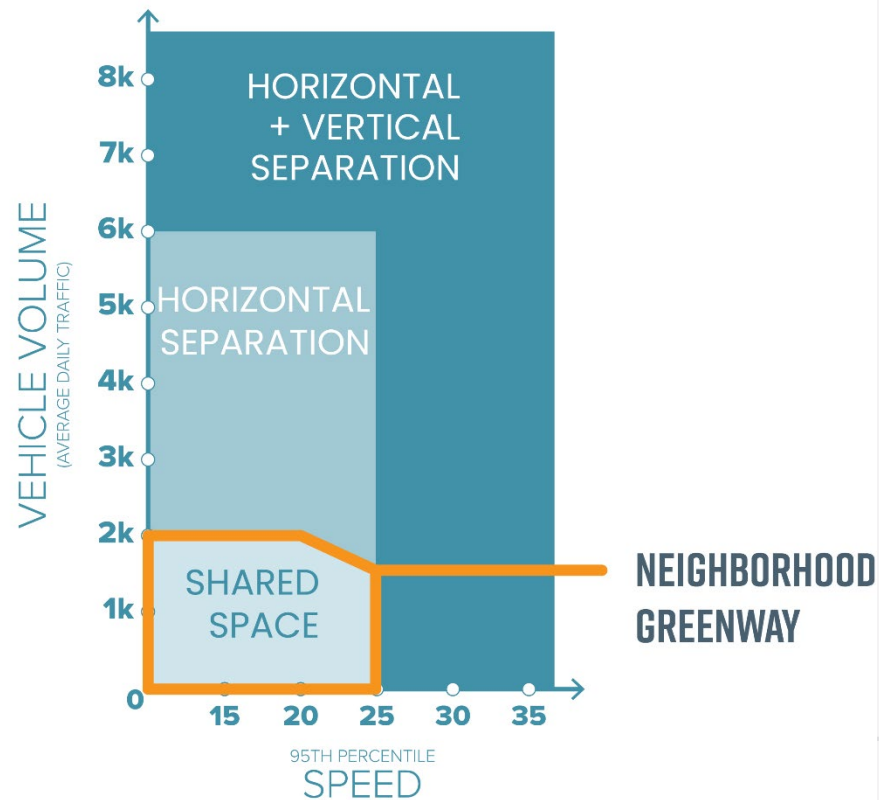
East Side Neighborhood Greenways

- Benefit St
- Elmgrove Ave
- Brown St/Camp St/Summit Ave
- Doyle Ave/Upton Ave




Neighborhood Greenways


facility selection guide




Neighborhood Greenways




↑  MINUTES

Roger Williams  24 | 6
Park


→

Peace & Plenty  3 | 1
Park

Knight Mem.  7 | 2
Library

←

CCRI Liston 13 | 3





Speed Tables



Traffic Studies

Street	Cross-street	Volume (ADT)	95 th percentile speed (mph)	Target speed for volume (mph)
Benefit St	Williams St	3400	27	20
Benefit St	Church St	1600	27	25
Brown St	Barnes St	600	24	N/A (already ok)
Camp St	Forest St	1900	28	20
Doyle Ave	Morris St	2400	25	20
Elmgrove Ave	Lloyd Ave	2100	26	20
Elmgrove Ave	Rochambeau Ave	1700	26	25
Summit Ave	5 th St	1100	21	N/A (already ok)



June Public Meeting

Request for more
“daylighting” areas
to narrow wide
intersections &
discourage illegal
parking too close
to corner



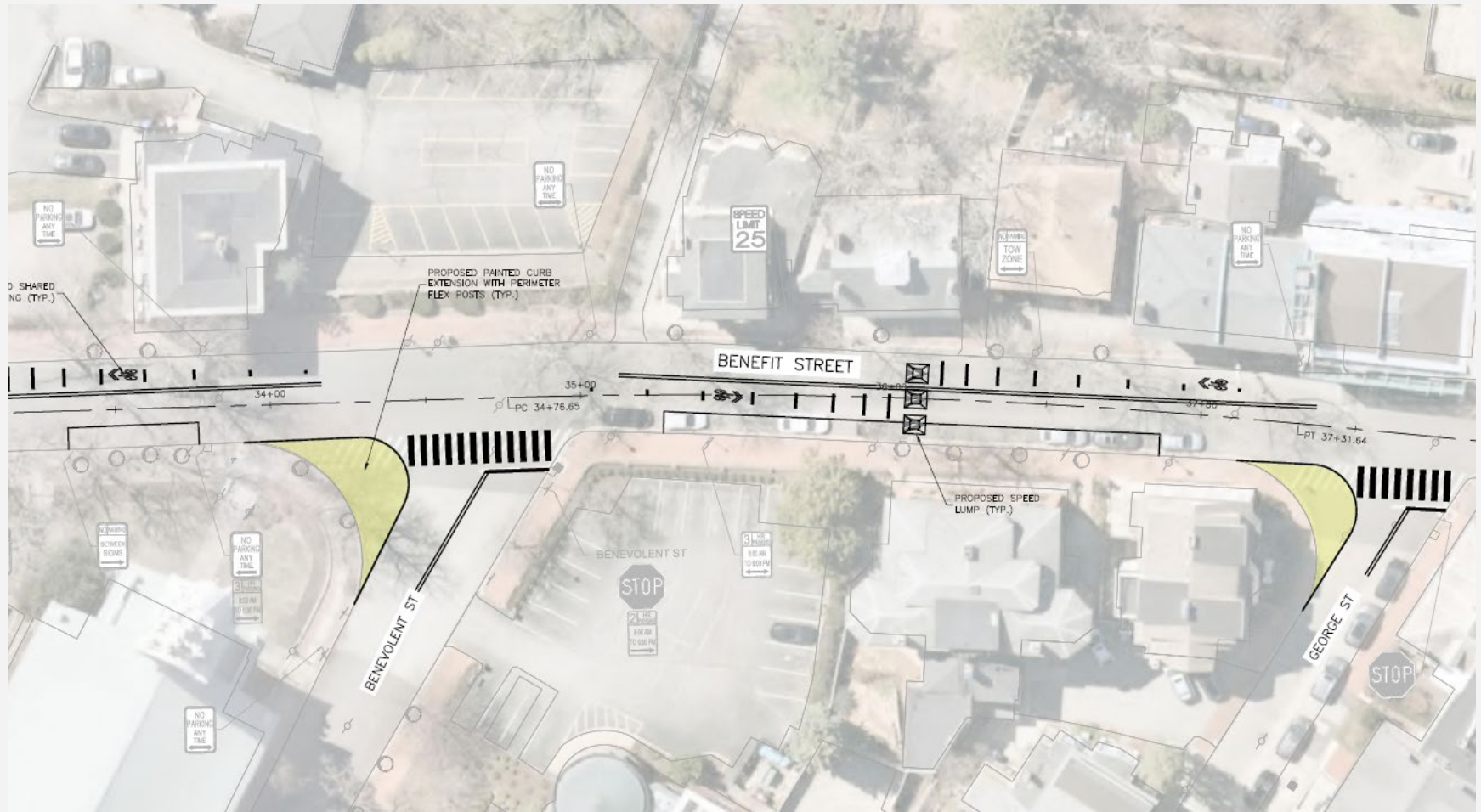
Related Separate Projects



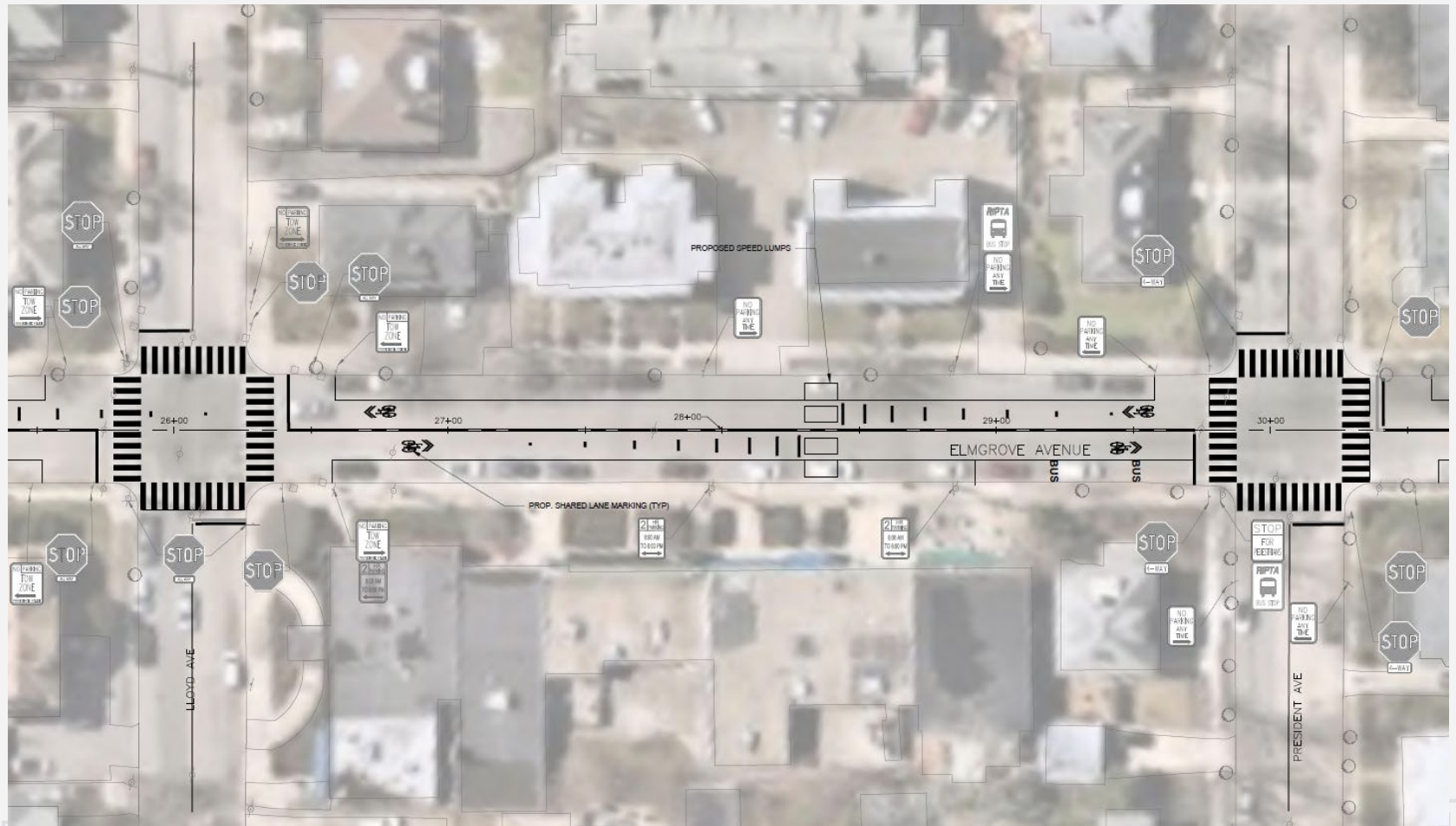
- DPW speed lumps on Camp St
- DPW repaving northern part of Benefit St
- DPW evaluating converting Angell St at Benefit St to one lane & other measures
- Recent repaving around Elmgrove Ave



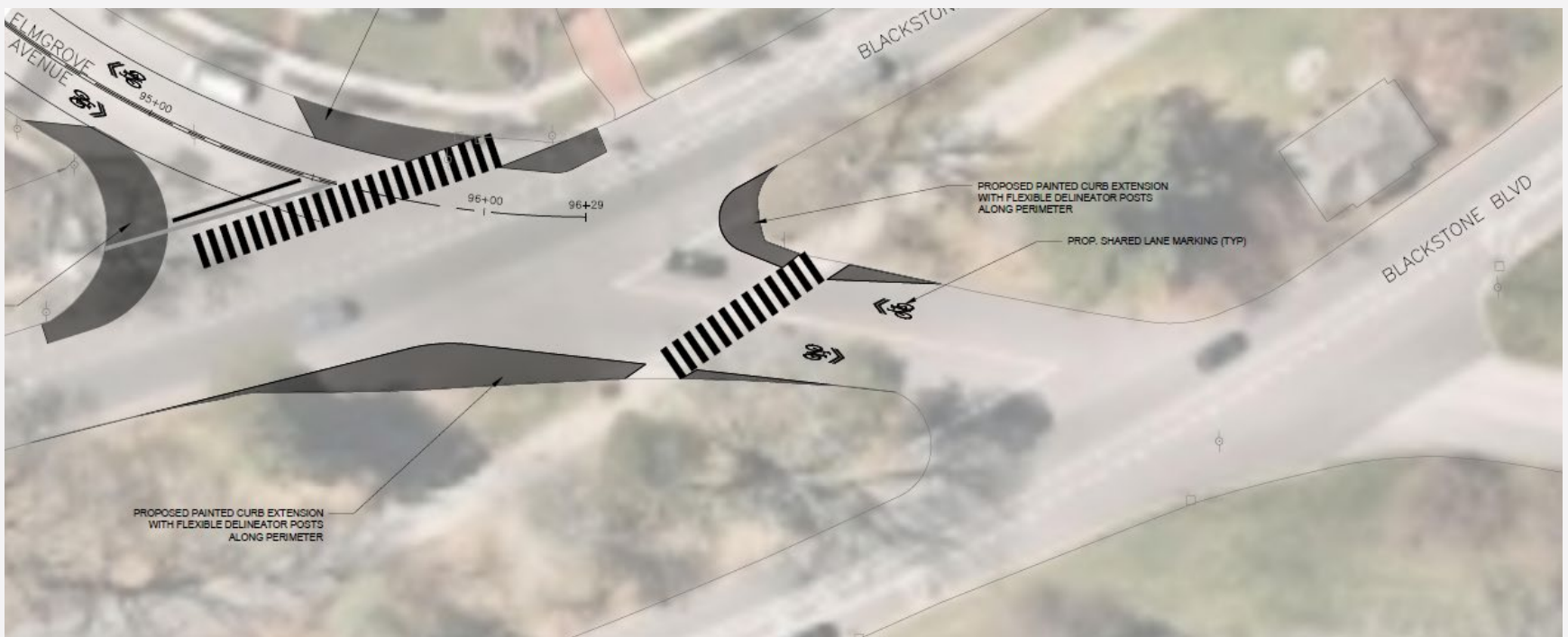
Benefit St @ Benevolent



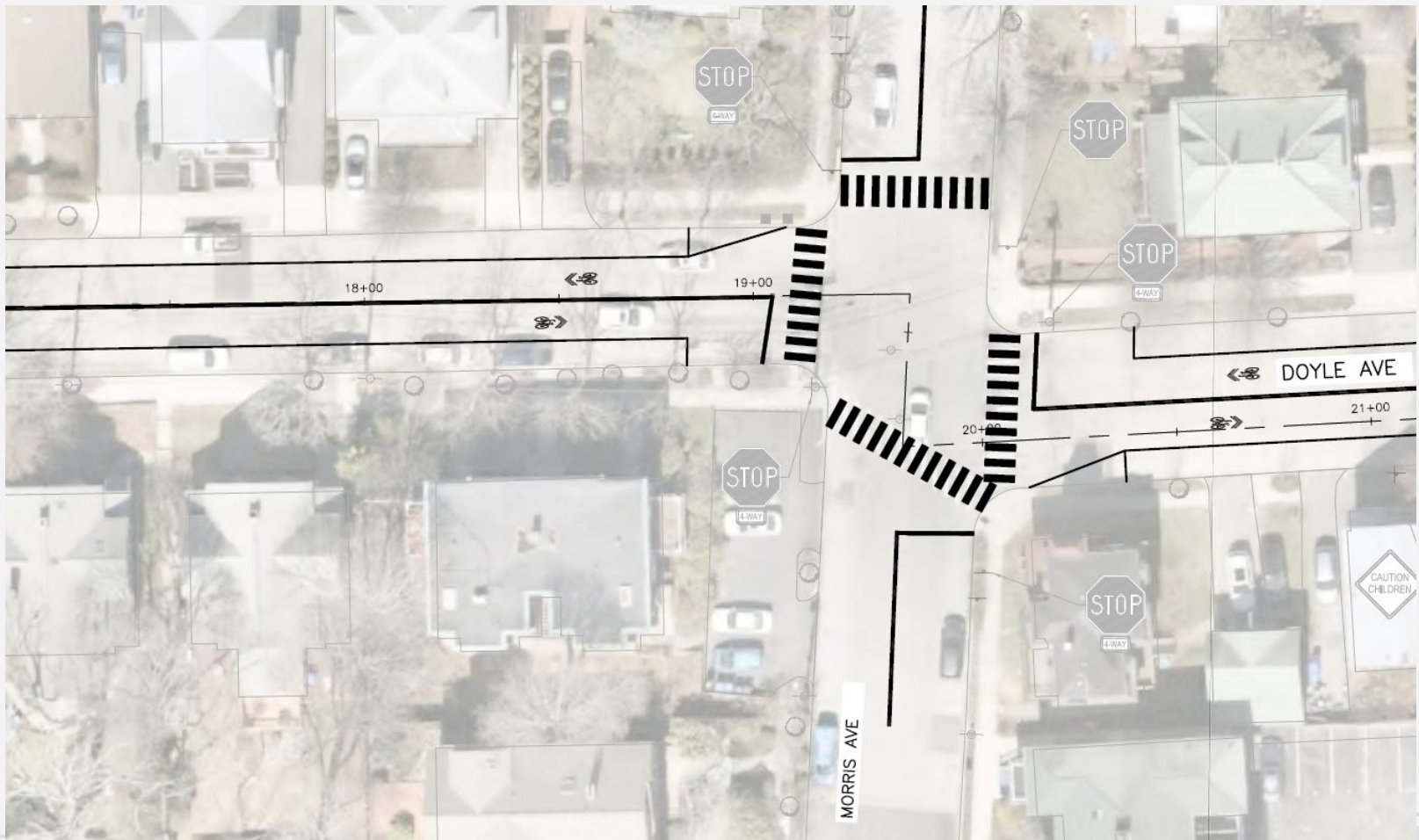
Elmgrove Ave @ Lloyd



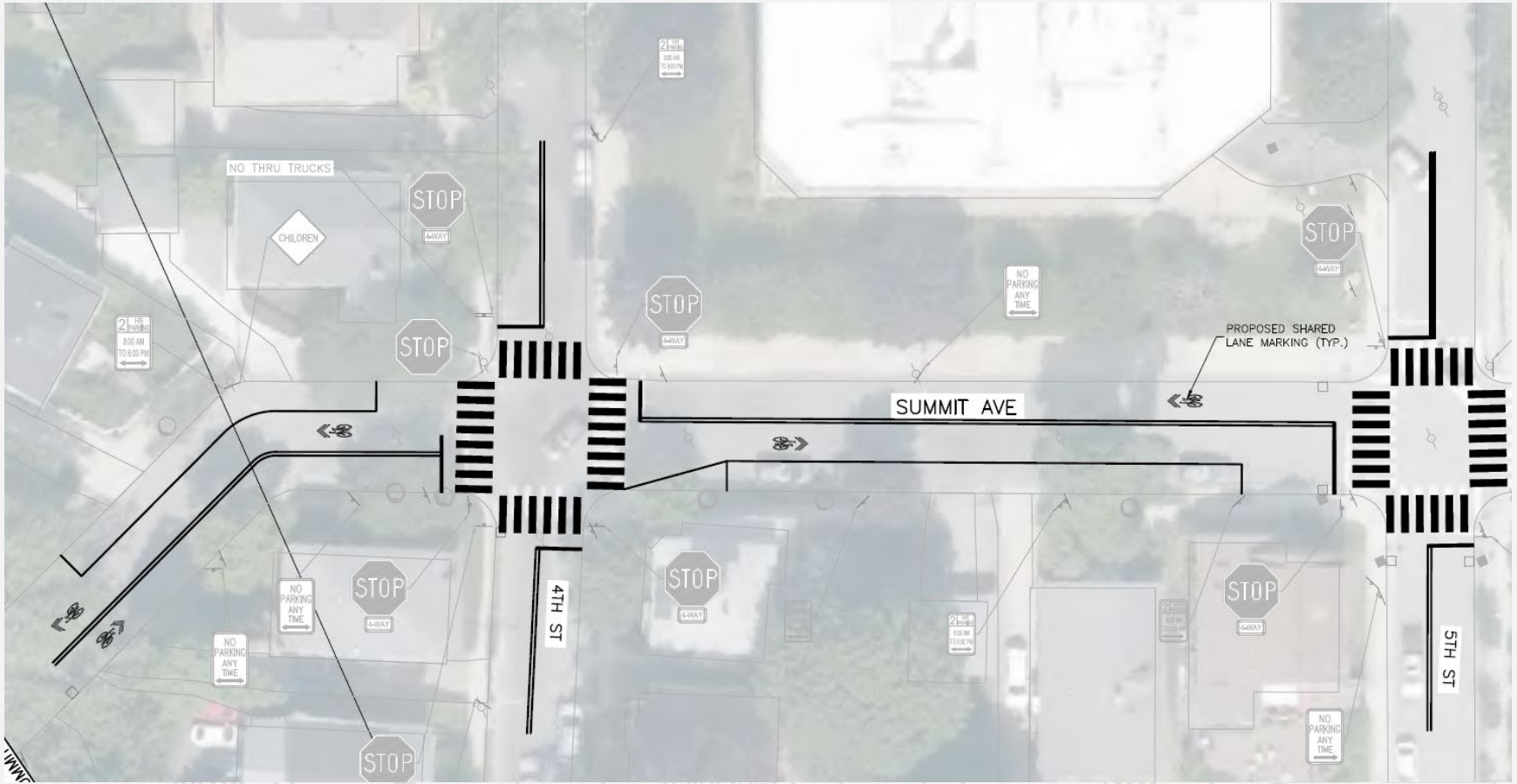
Elmgrove Ave @ Blackstone



Doyle Ave @ Morris



Summit Ave @ Miriam Hospital



DISCUSSION OF WALK SIGNAL POLICIES

Item #4a



Walk Signals Discussion

- 29/195 city-owned signals that have exclusive pedestrian phases returned to push-button actuation due to complaints of traffic congestion.
- DPW open to pedestrian-friendly walk signal improvements, but mostly no plan for implementation or standard thresholds, funding for improvements often barrier
- LPI easiest, audible signals expensive



29 Exclusive Ped Signals



- **East Side:** Angell & “The Walk” at Brown, Gano & Pitman, Waterman & Benefit, Waterman & “The Walk” at Brown, Wickenden & Brook
- **Charles, Wanskuck, Smith Hill, Valley:** Branch & Silver Spring, Park & Promenade*, Silver Spring & Commodore, West Exchange & North Garage, West River & Post Office*
- **Federal Hill:** Atwells & DePasquale, Broadway & DePasquale, Broadway & Tobey
- **Downtown:** Canal & Park Row West, Chestnut & Clifford*, Dorrance & Fulton, East Franklin & Friendship*, Exchange & Fulton*
- **Elmhurst, Mt Pleasant, Manton:** Atwells & Mount Pleasant*, Chalkstone & River, Eaton & Huxley, Fruit Hill & Manton
- **South Providence & West End:** Broad & Friendship, Cranston & Bridgham, Eddy & Dudley*, Eddy & Ernest*, Prairie & Thurbers*
- **Silver Lake:** Plainfield & Atwood*, Plainfield & Laurel Hill



Walk Signal Recommendations



- Evaluate 29 Exclusive Ped signals and return some to pedestrian recall or change to concurrent phasing with LPI as appropriate
- Right Turn on Red should be prohibited citywide, and in the meantime implemented at individual intersections where most needed
- LPIs should be implemented at intersections that have concurrent phasing where most needed
- Turn arrows for cars on their own phase should be used in certain conditions to allow concurrent walk lights with through (straight) traffic



Walk Signal Recommendations

- Exclusive pedestrian phasing should be considered at additional intersections in certain situations
- Exclusive bicycle phases should be added in certain situations
- Curb ramps & crosswalks should be added where missing
- Walk lights should last as long as the green light they're concurrent with
- A plan should be developed for implementing auditory feedback
- Cycle lengths should be reduced from 90 sec to 60 sec where feasible



Walk Signal Recommendations



- By June 2023, the City should present GCSC with a plan for the timeline on which these recommendations will be implemented



ANNOUNCEMENTS, STAFF UPDATES, PUBLIC COMMENT

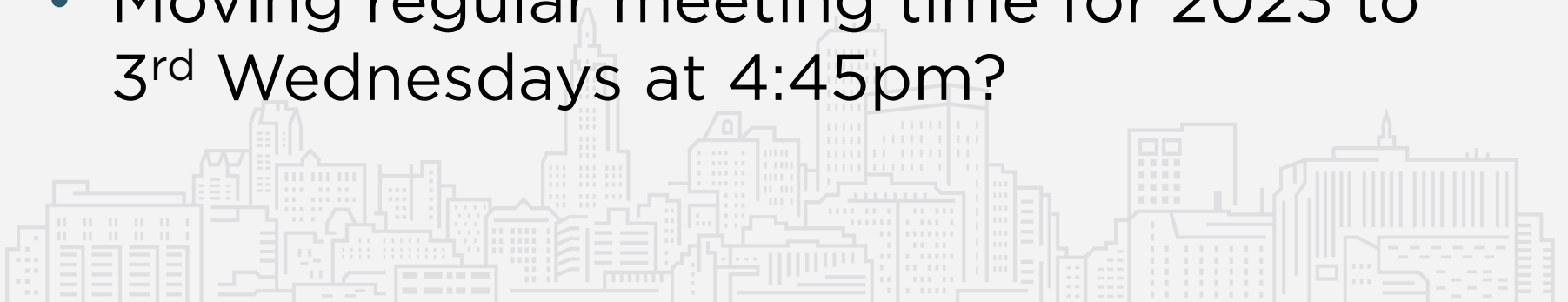
Item #6



Announcements



- Sidewalk snow clearance: letter drafted, compiling list of recipients
- Final touches on Broad Street & Dean Street expected by end of year, on track for completion
- Final Bike the Night with Mayor Elorza Tuesday 11/29 at 6:00pm at Burnside Park
- Moving regular meeting time for 2023 to 3rd Wednesdays at 4:45pm?





MAYOR JORGE O. ELORZA
CITY OF PROVIDENCE

THANK YOU

City of Providence

