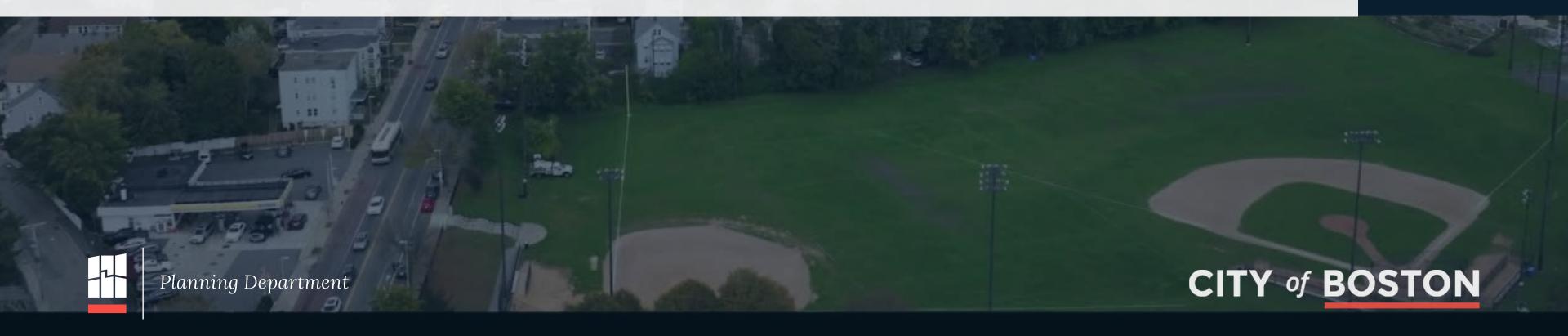


Roslindale Square: Draft Zoning Updates

Public Meeting

February 27, 2025 - 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

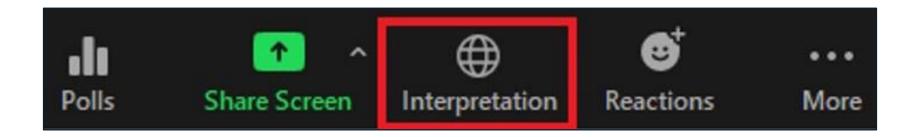




Zoom Controls to Listen to Interpreters

(EN) Look for the interpretation icon **(globe)** at the bottom of your screen and select the language you want to hear.

(Español) Busque el ícono de la interpretación **(globo)** en el borde inferior de su pantalla y seleccione el idioma en el que desea escuchar.

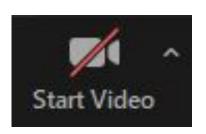


Zoom Meeting Info + Tips

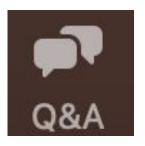
- This meeting will be recorded and the recording will be posted on the Planning Department's webpage. If you do not wish to be recorded during the meeting, please turn off your microphone and camera.
- If you're joining by phone, **dial *9 to raise your hand** and wait to be called upon and **dial *6 to unmute and mute**.
- **Zoom controls are available at the bottom of your screen.** Clicking on these symbols activates different features.



Mute/unmute



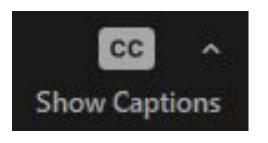
Turn video on/off



Use the Q&A feature for written questions and comments (instead of the chat)



Raise hand to get in line to ask a question or provide comment



Turn on captions

Getting Situated

Some notes on this evening:

LANGUAGE ACCESS



Spanish interpretation services are available



PART OF THE PROCESS

This is one of several touchpoints during this process



STAFF SUPPORT

Staff are around to answer questions



MATERIALS

Presentation slides will be available online by tomorrow afternoon

Engaging with Each Other





ASK FOR CLARIFICATION IF NEEDED.



SAVE LONGER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FOR THE RESOURCE FAIR PERIOD.



RAISE YOUR HAND TO SPEAK AND AVOID INTERRUPTING OTHERS.



SPEAK FROM THE "I" AND BE
MINDFUL OF THE DIVERSITY OF
EXPERIENCES BOTH IN THE ROOM
AND NOT.

Purpose of Tonight's Meeting



٦

Explain the Draft
Zoning Updates and
Zoning Adoption
Process

2

Q&A Period Following Presentation

Staff for Tonight's Meeting





Roslindale Square: Squares + Streets Team

- Abdul-Razak Zachariah, Zoning Reform (Project Lead)
 - Presenter
- **Eileen Michaud**, Comprehensive Planning
- Talia Matarazzo, Comprehensive Planning
- Kenya Beaman, Community Engagement Manager
- Kathleen Onufer, Deputy Director of Zoning Reform



- Urban Design
- Planning Review
- Article 80 Modernization
- Community Engagement



Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion

Andrew Grace, Director of Economic & Strategic PlanningDonald Wright, Deputy Chief



<u>Inspectional Services Department</u>

Paul Williams

Assistant Commissioner, Plans and Zoning



Licensing Board

Rebecca Phu, Director Of Operations



Planning Advisory Council

Katharine Lusk, Executive Director

What We Hope to Learn Through this Public Process



District Locations

What are your thoughts on where specific districts are mapped?

Land Uses / Activities

What preferences do you have for specific land uses in these areas that zoning should reflect?

What We've Heard So Far about the Draft Zoning Updates

...through submitted public comments and conversations from office hours and local flyering.

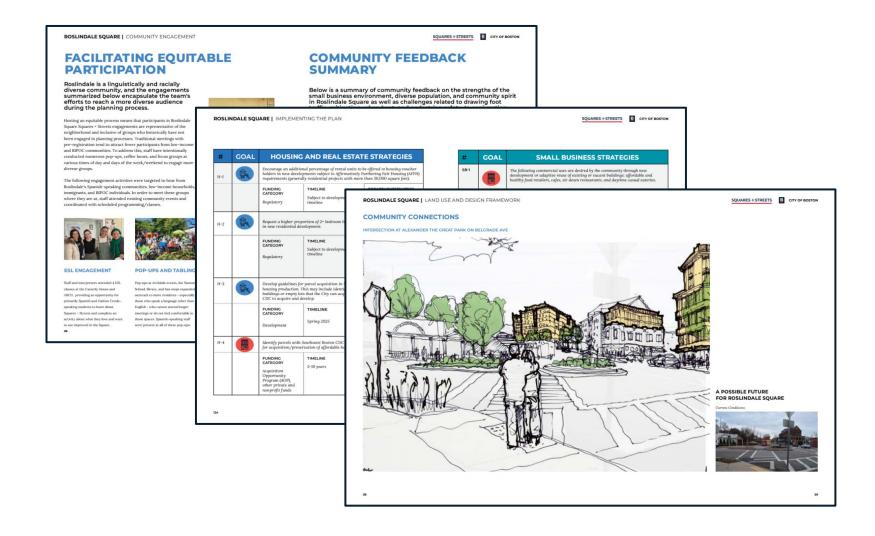
- Support for affirming and allowing multifamily housing throughout the area
- Support for affirming and promoting commercial spaces in more areas
- Interest in mapping certain districts more throughout the area, specifically:
 - Rezoning more areas currently proposed for **S1 into S2 districts**
 - Updating more low-density residential areas with the **SO district**
 - Consider extending the S5 district
- Clarity on the array of **possible land use**, **scale**, **and redevelopment futures**
- Concerns about the potential impact of housing growth on parking availability
- Questions about how historic preservation and climate protections are balanced with housing growth

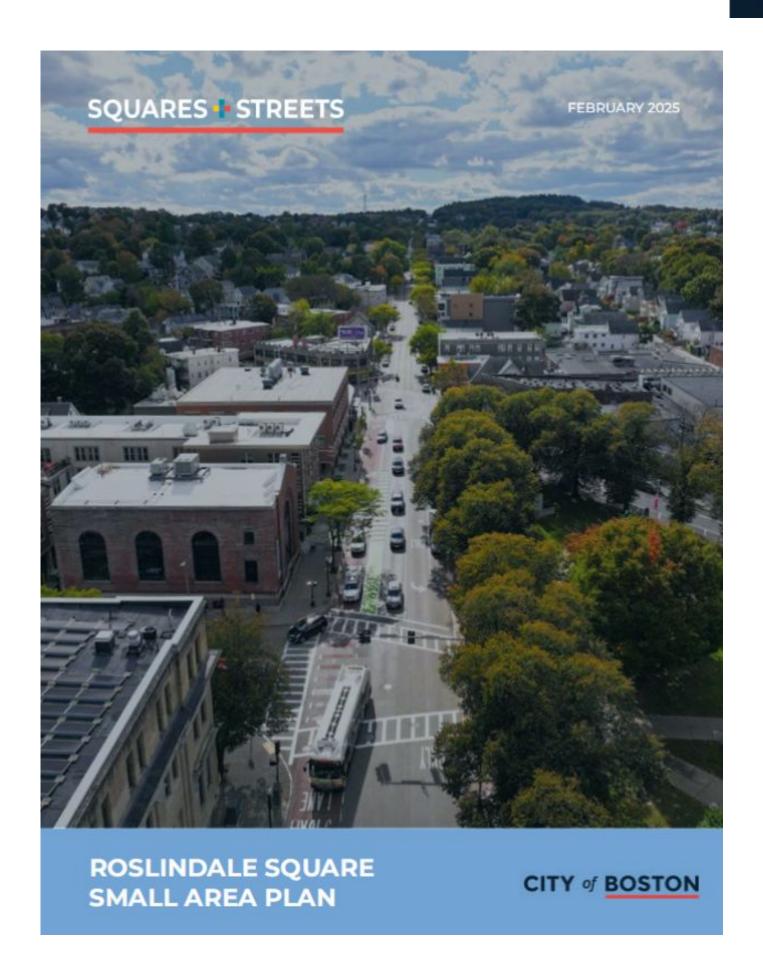
Background: Roslindale Square Small Area Plan

On February 13, 2025, the <u>Roslindale Square Small Area Plan</u> was adopted by the BPDA Board.

The Small Area Plan sets a vision for future building development and land uses, public investments from city departments, strengthening of the local business areas and housing growth opportunities.

The City of Boston will use the plan as a guide to provide resources and coordinate projects to meet the goals of that vision.





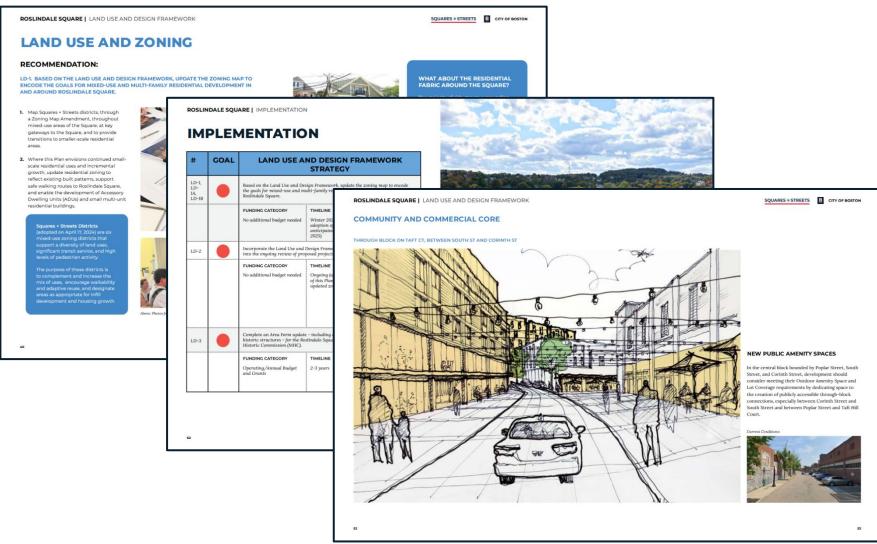
Background: Land Use and Design Framework

The Small Area Plan includes a chapter called the **Land Use and Design Framework**.

The Framework sets a vision for **more multifamily housing and mixed-use development** in and around Roslindale Square to expand housing opportunities near major public transit resources and local small business areas.

It includes a recommendation to *update the zoning rules* in and around Roslindale Square to encode the Plan's goals for multifamily housing and mixed-use development.





Background: What is Zoning?

"Zoning" – a set of rules that dictates what and where you can (or can't) build in a city.

Zoning uses geographic "districts" to organize and apply these rules throughout the City of Boston. Three main features that zoning sets rules for are use, scale, and space.

"District"

The geographic area where a specific set of rules around uses, scale, and space apply

"Use"

The activities that can take place in buildings or on a lot, like retail, housing, and open space

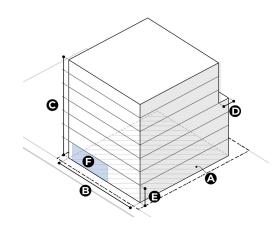
"Scale"

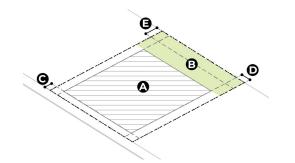
The factors that impact the size of buildings like the height, the width, and how much of the lot a building covers

"Space"

The factors that impact the lot area that surrounds a building, like the amount of yard space or if that yard space is permeable







Background: What Does Zoning Apply To?

Sub-Article 80 Projects and Property Changes

- Changing the use of a property
- Constructing an addition on your building
- Adding take-out or event space to your restaurant
- Adding office space to your business
- Construction under 20,000 sq ft
- Other building changes...

Article 80 Small Projects

- Projects between 20,000 sq ft and 50,000 sq ft
- Projects with 15 or more units of housing



Example: 20 Taft Hill Park, Roslindale

Article 80 Large Projects

• Projects over 50,000 sq ft



Example: 289 Walk Hill Street, Roslindale

Background: Key Terms – Multifamily, Mixed-Use, and Gateways

"Multifamily housing" – a type of property where there are four or more residential units.



"Mixed-Use Development" – a type of building development in which housing, businesses, and/or community services all exist within the same building or the same lot.



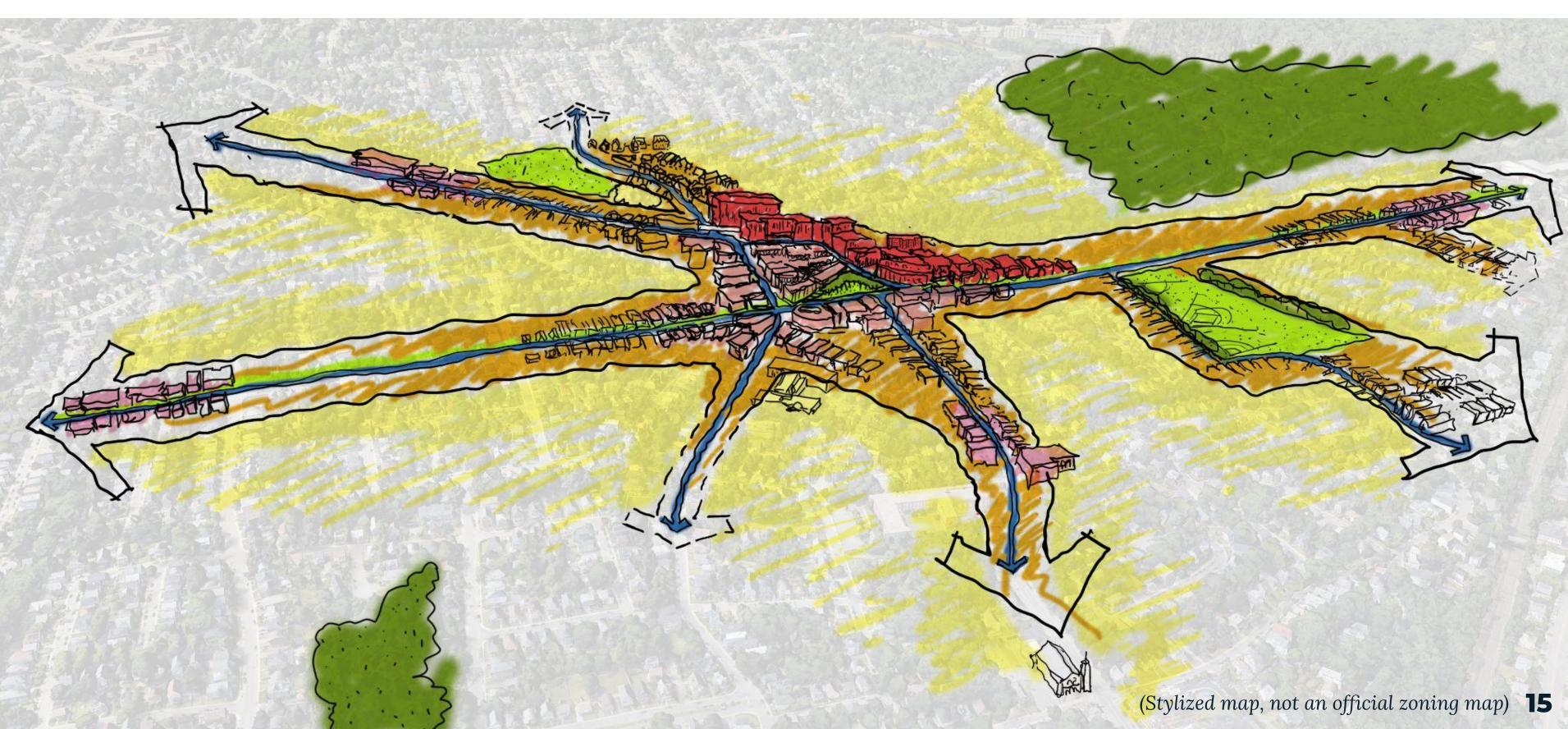
"Gateways" – areas that have small clusters of business spaces and/or a mix of uses that are located slightly further away from the center of neighborhood activity.



Land Use and Design Framework – a guide for zoning updates

В

The Land Use and Design Framework specifies different types of areas in and around Roslindale Square and makes recommendations for guiding future development.



Land Use and Design Framework – a guide for zoning updates

Area 1: A community and commercial core centered around Adams Park that serves as the Square's center of activity



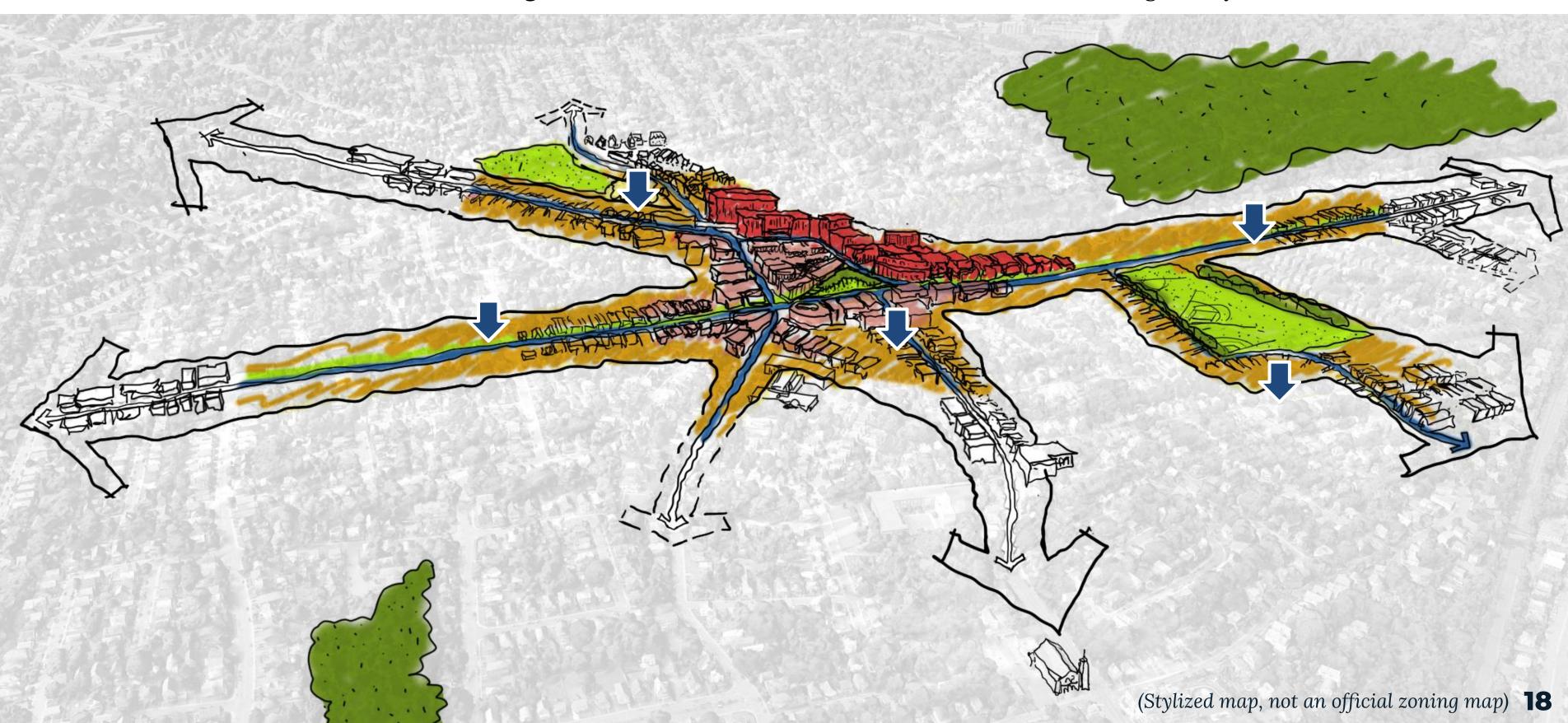
Land Use and Design Framework – a guide for zoning updates

Area 2: An active main street from Adams Park to Healy Field



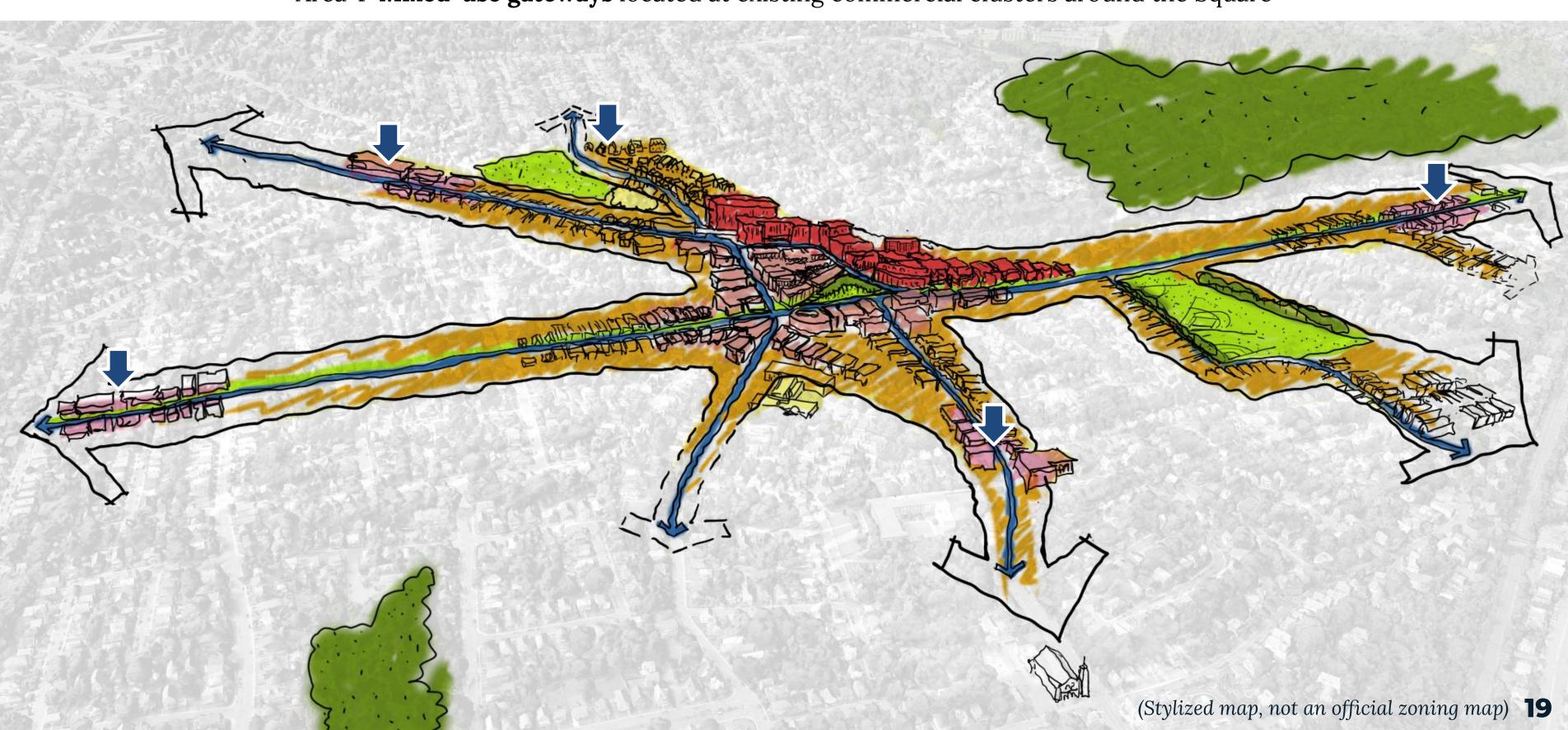
Land Use and Design Framework – a guide for zoning updates

Area 3: Connecting, transitional streets between the core area and local gateways



Land Use and Design Framework – a guide for zoning updates

Area 4: Mixed-use gateways located at existing commercial clusters around the Square



Background: Land Use and Design Framework – Design Guidelines

Design Guidelines are a tool to help the land uses and density recommend by the the Land Use Framework relate to the unique context of Roslindale Square. The following is an example.



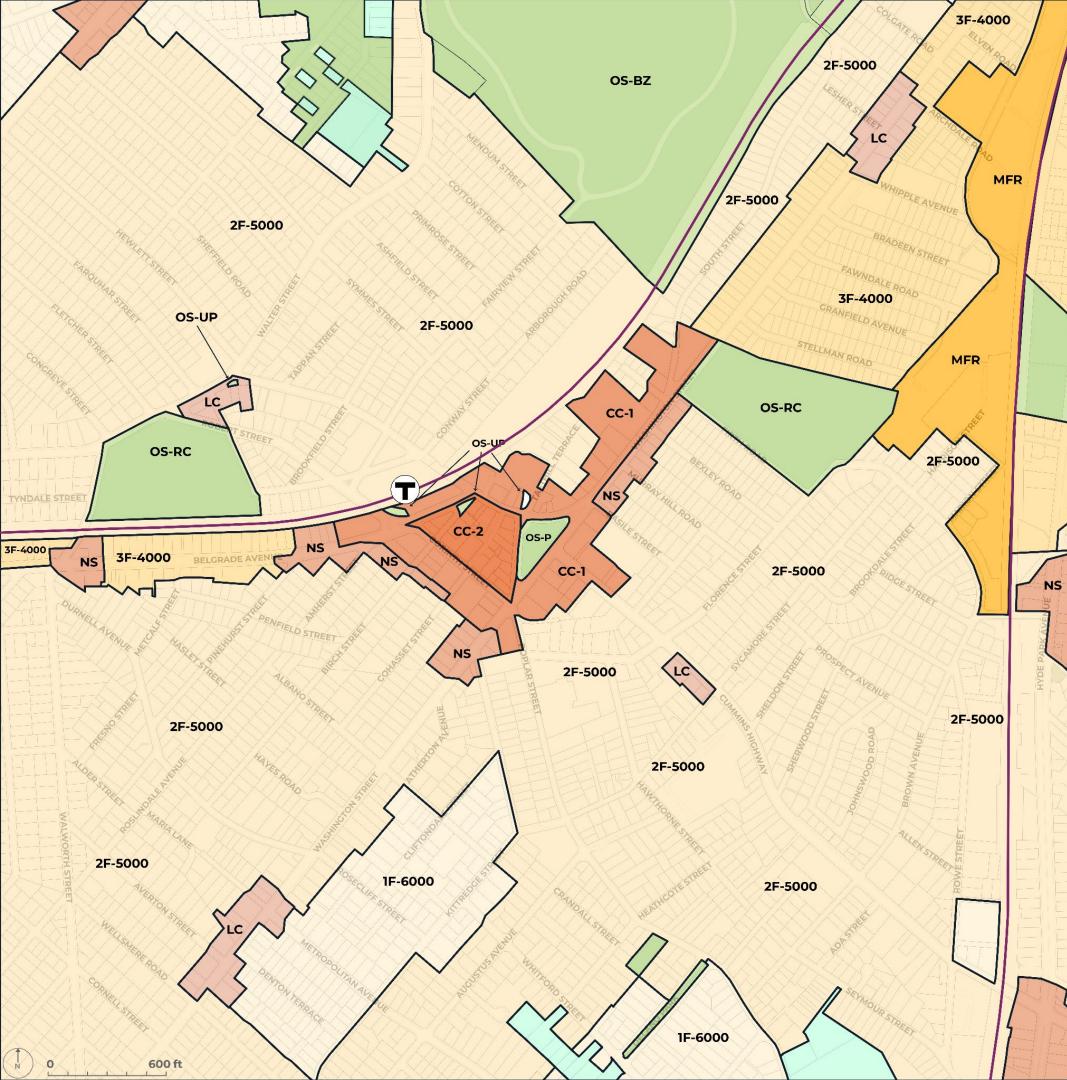
architectural datum line

architectural element: awning, canopy

MULTISTORY BUILDINGS

Create a visual sense of pedestrian scale the ground level through building elements such as awnings, canopies, architectural datum lines and other details.







Existing Zoning in Roslindale Square

This map shows the **existing zoning subdistricts** in the Roslindale Square area.

The specific rules for land uses and dimensional scale in these subdistricts are written in Article 67 (Roslindale Neighborhood District) of the Boston Zoning Code.

You can check out those rules at:

bosplans.org/ZoningCodeArticle67Roslindale

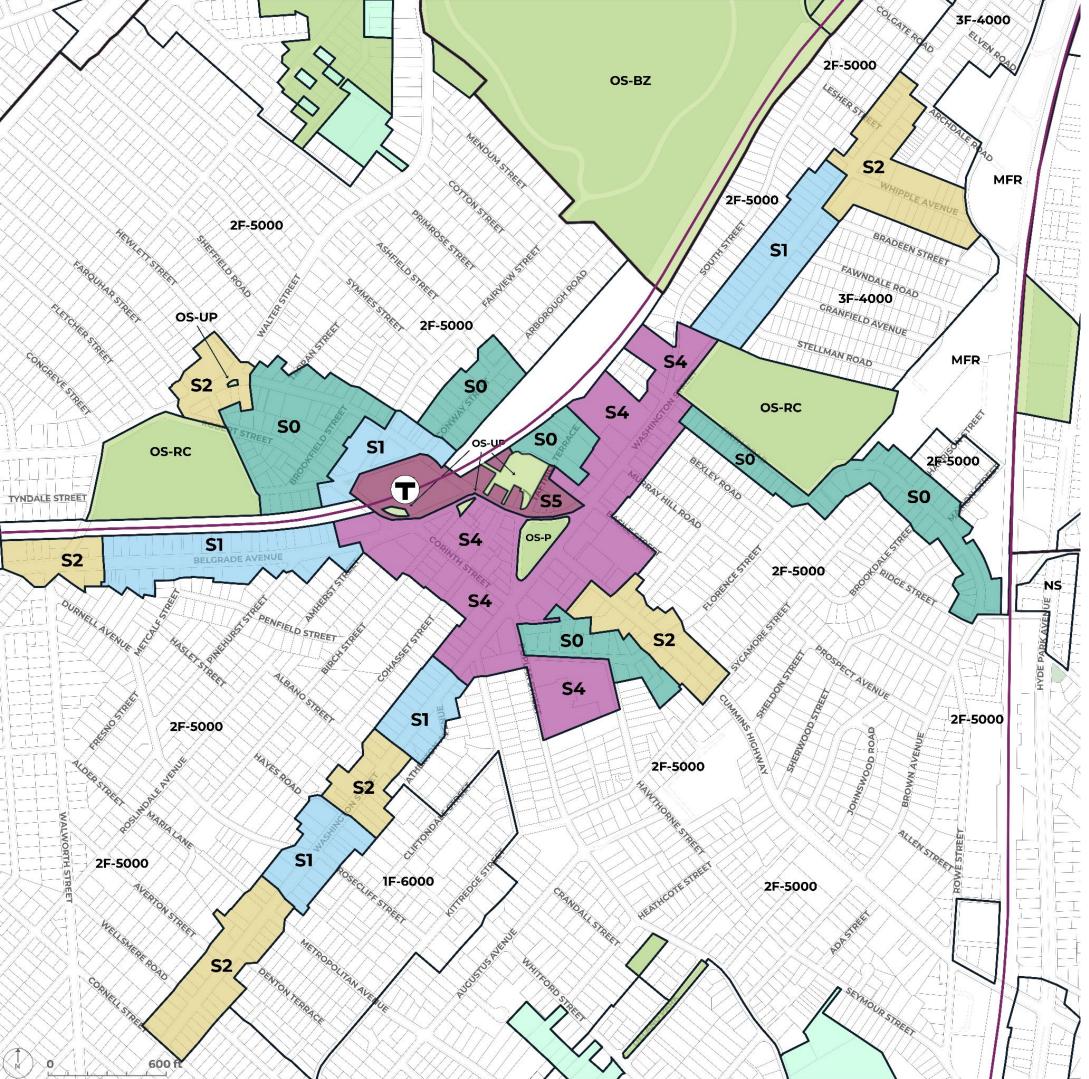
<u>Neighborhood Business Subdistricts</u>

- CC-1 and CC-2 = Community Commercial
- NS = Neighborhood Shopping
- LC = Local Convenience

Residential Subdistricts

- 1F-6000 = One Family Residential
- 2F-5000 = Two Family Residential
- 3F-4000 = Three Family Residential
- MFR = Multifamily Residential





Proposed Zoning: Squares and Streets Districts

This map shows the **proposed zoning updates** for the Roslindale Square area. These updates will map Squares and Streets Districts, indicated **in color**.

The specific rules for land uses and dimensional scale in these districts are written in Article 8 (Regulation of Uses) and Article 26 (Squares and Streets Districts) of the Boston Zoning Code.

You can check out those rules at:

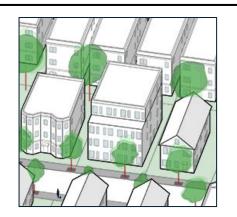
bosplans.org/Article8Uses bosplans.org/Article26SquaresStreets

Summary: What are Squares and Streets Zoning Districts?

Squares and Streets Districts are a set of zoning rules that allow for mixed-use development of multifamily housing, commercial spaces, and cultural spaces in neighborhood squares around Boston. They **each have different rules** around the maximum scale of buildings, the yard space surrounding buildings, and land uses.



= has an Outdoor Amenity Space Requirement



SO - Transition Residential

- Up to 4 stories maximum
- Up to 14 residential units maximum
- Primarily residential uses
- Transition from high activity mixed-use areas to low activity residential areas



S1 – Main Street Living

- Up to 4 stories maximum
- For parts of a main street that are largely residential but have occasional non-residential uses
- Allows more flexibility for small-scale commercial uses



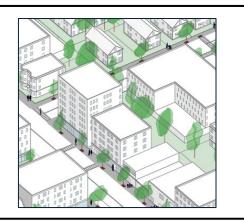
S2 - Main Street Mixed Use



- Up to 5 stories maximum
- Flexible rules to allow for both mixed use and fully residential multifamily buildings along a main street
- Outdoor amenity spaces required



= has a Ground Floor Active Use Requirement



S3 - Active Main Street



- Up to 7 stories maximum
- Allows a larger mix of small and medium-scale commercial uses that promote activity
- Outdoor amenity spaces required
- Ground floor active uses required

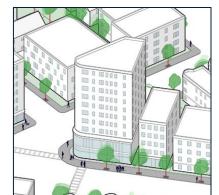
not proposed in this map



S4 - Active Squares



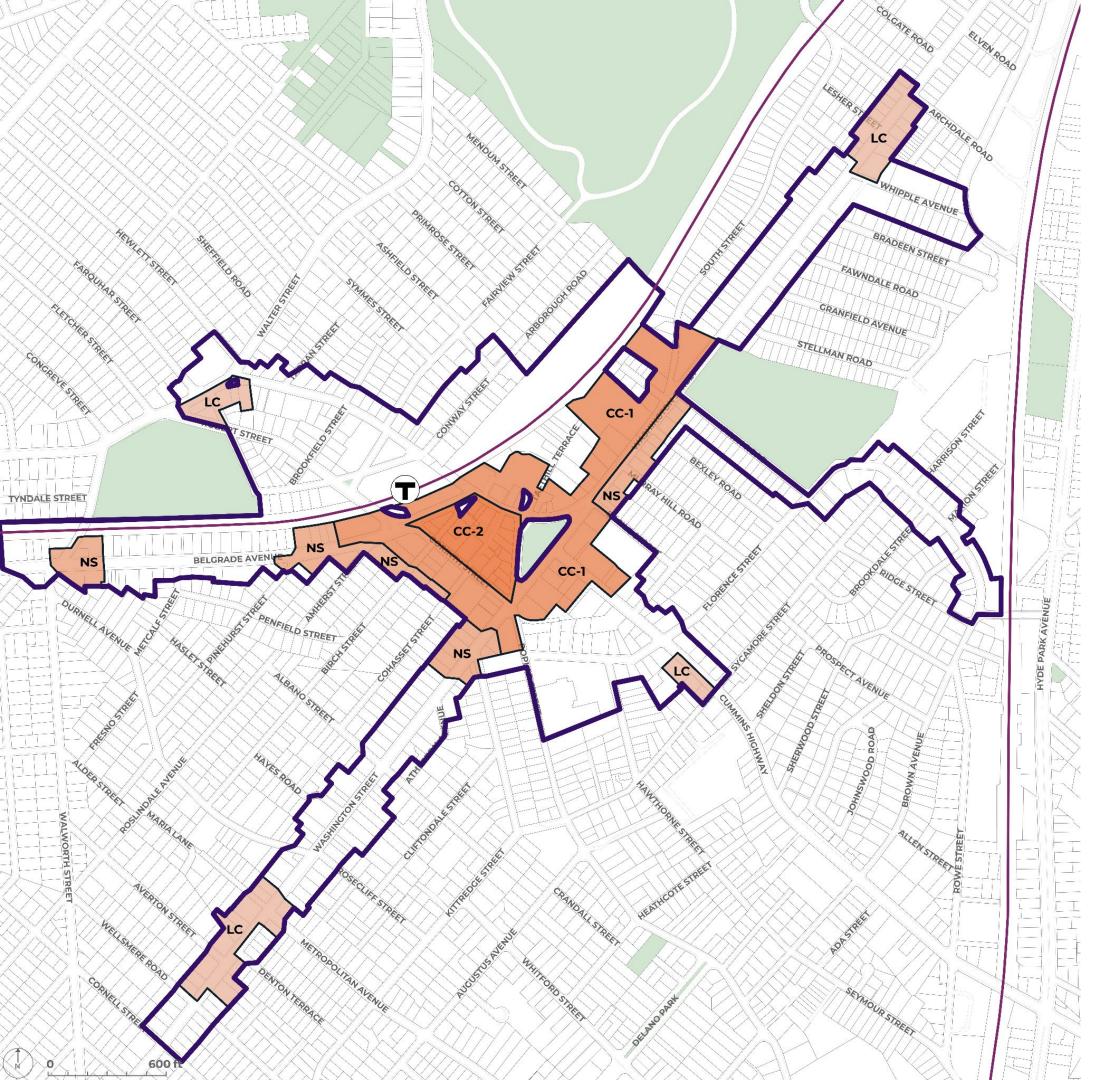
- Up to 7 stories maximum
- Allows for wider buildings than S3 and more flexibility for medium- and large-scale uses
- Outdoor amenity spaces required higher percentage than S3
- Ground floor active uses required



S5 - Placemaker Squares



- Up to 145 feet maximum
- Taller and wider mixed-use buildings that allow the most flexibility of ground and upper level uses
- Outdoor amenity spaces required highest percentage of the districts
- Ground floor active uses required

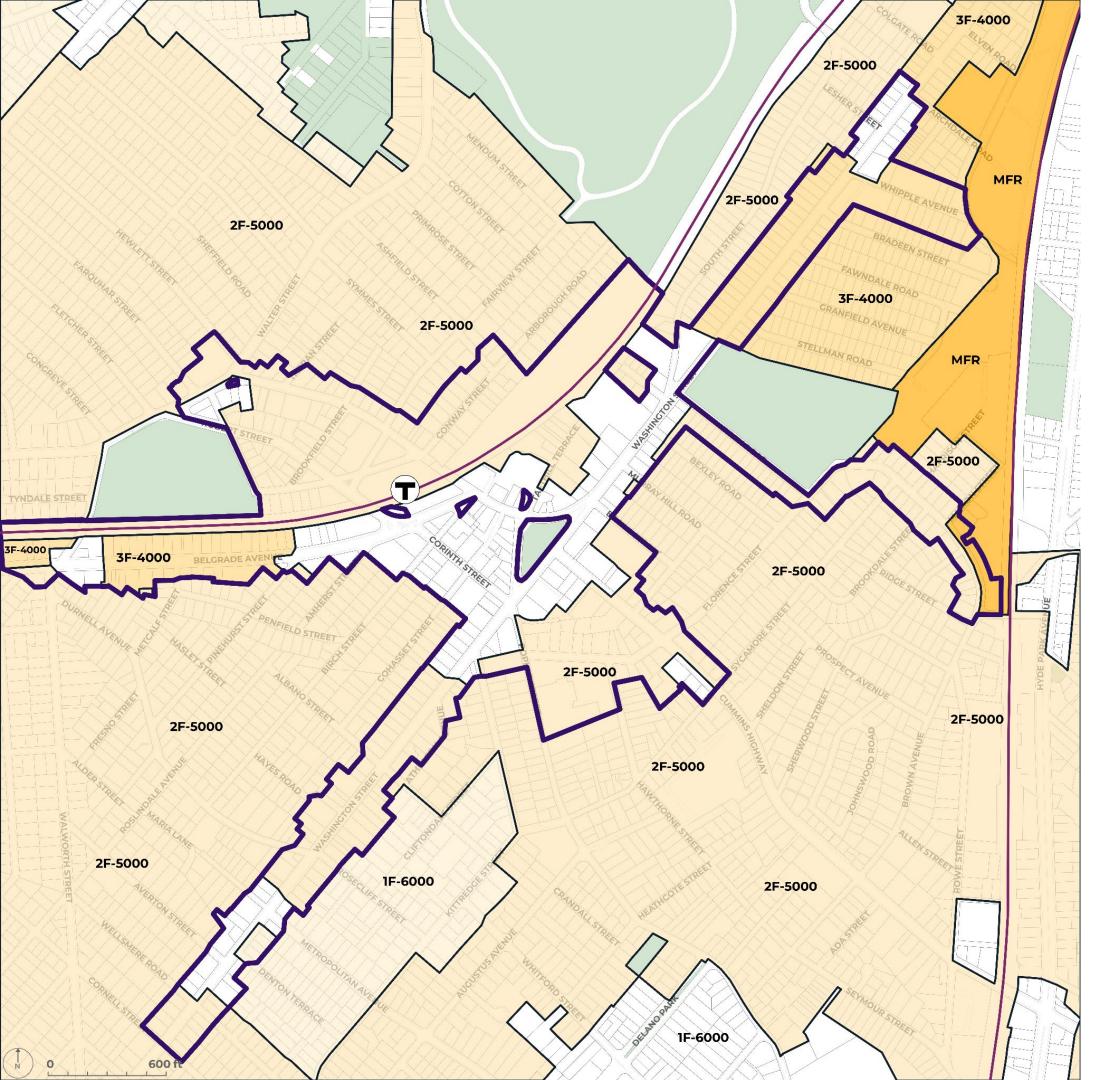


Updated Zoning in Existing Neighborhood Business Areas

All of the existing neighborhood business zoning subdistricts that are within the boundary area for the proposed zoning will be re-mapped with these Squares + Streets zoning districts.

These existing neighborhood business subdistricts are shown on this map <u>in color</u> and the proposed Squares + Streets zoning is shown using the <u>thick boundary lines</u>.





Updated Zoning in Existing Residential Areas on Major Streets

There are some existing residential zoning subdistricts that are within the boundary area for the proposed zoning updates.

These residential areas are typically very close to existing commercial areas, have existing commercial land uses, have existing mixed-use or multifamily buildings, or are on a major street that connects multiple commercial areas to each other.

These existing residential subdistricts are shown on this map **in color** and the proposed Squares + Streets zoning is shown using the **thick boundary lines**.



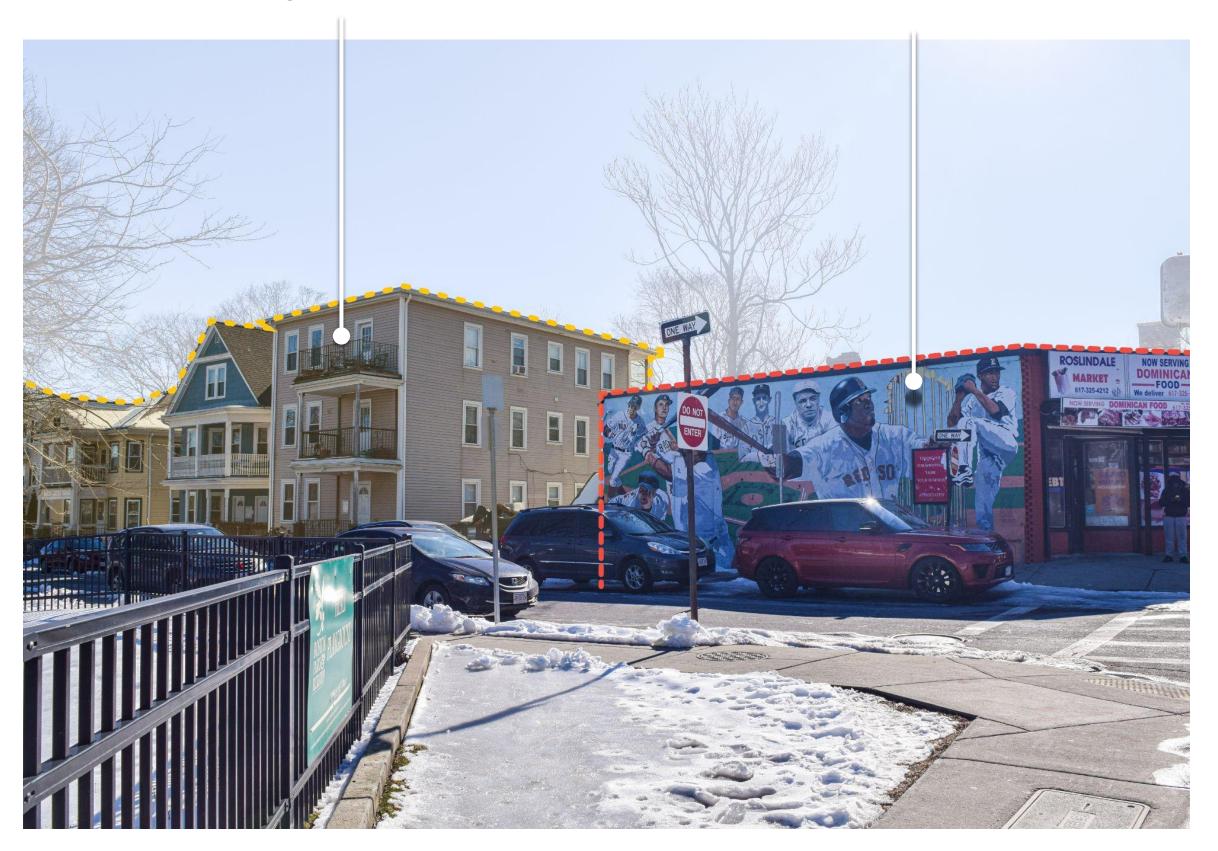
SO Districts

Transition Residential

- Mapped in specific residential areas
- Most are adjacent to the commercial core of Roslindale Square or along connecting streets
- Encourages small-scale multifamily housing near local businesses and public transit options
- The S0 district has the smallest building footprint and lot coverage requirements, keeping a residential-feeling scale
- Has the largest yard space and Permeable Area of Lot requirements

existing residential fabric

local business at the corner



SO Districts

Transition Residential



View: looking southeast at Roslindale Market & Deli

Corner of Washington St and Firth Rd

Squares and Streets Zoning Districts: What can S0 be?



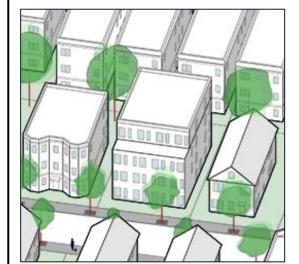












existing residential fabric existing 3-story mixed-use building

small-scale, local business on the ground floor

SO – Transition Residential

- Up to 4 stories maximum
- Up to 14 residential units maximum
- Primarily residential uses
- Transition from high activity mixed-use areas to low activity residential areas





S1 Districts

Main Street Living

- Mapped along stretches of main streets that are mostly residential
- These areas also have a few mixed-use buildings and non-residential uses
- Also mapped north of the MBTA Commuter Rail Station to affirm existing multifamily and large non-residential buildings
- The S1 district requires small side yards, small front yards, and a minimum Permeable Area of Lot – encouraging a mostly residential feeling





S1 Districts

Main Street Living



View: looking southwest at Tony's Market

Corner of Washington St and Durnell Ave

existing front yards

mixed-use building

existing front yards

Squares and Streets Zoning Districts: What can S1 be?







44 Belgrade Ave, Roslindale

within the height/story req.

existing residential fabric

The Centerpiece Flower Shop: small-scale commercial use









S1 – Main Street Living

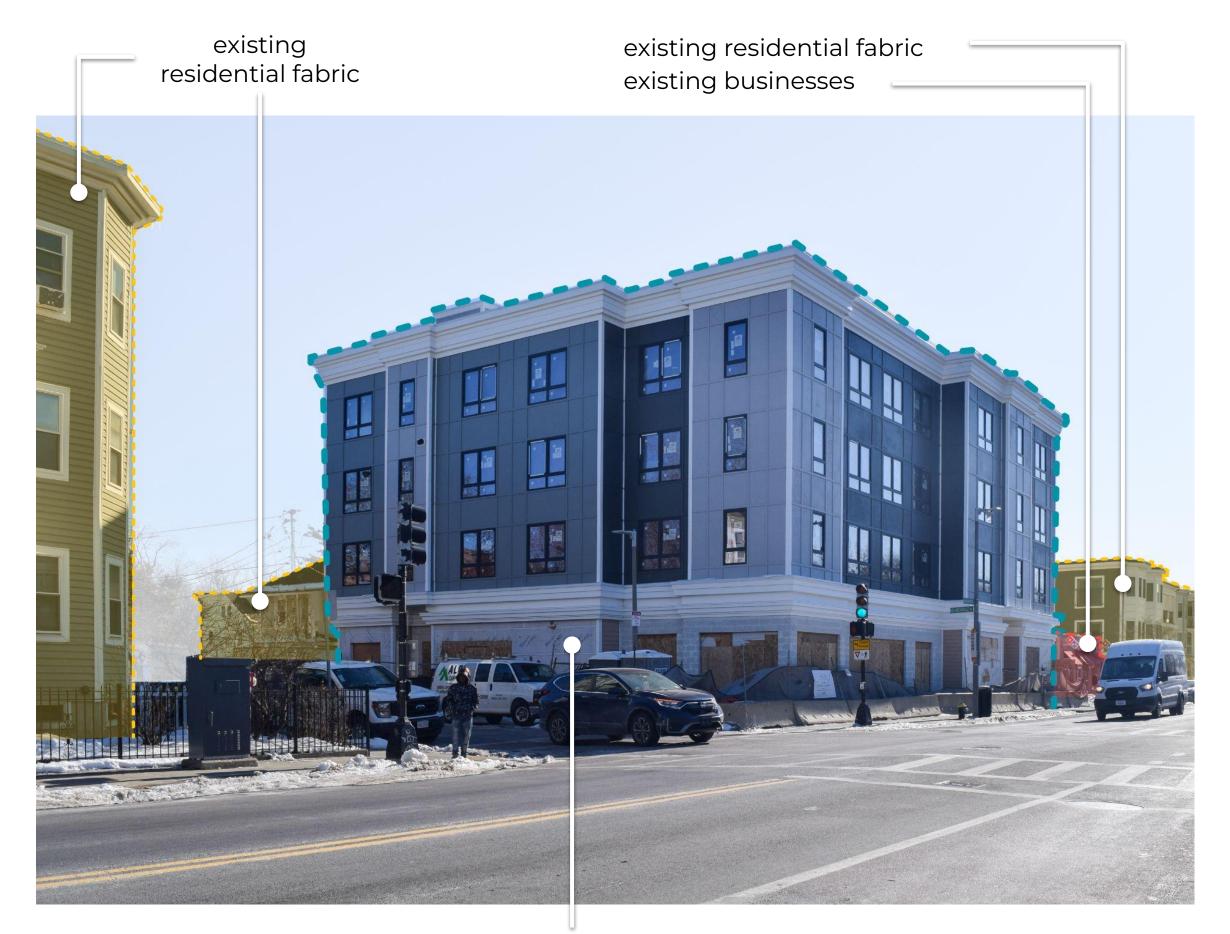
- Up to 4 stories maximum
- For parts of a main street that are largely residential but have occasional non-residential uses
- Allows more flexibility for small-scale commercial uses



S2 Districts

Main Street Mixed Use

- Mapped at commercial clusters found along major streets and intersections in Roslindale
- Updated zoning to S2 will affirm many existing multifamily residential and mixed-use properties
- The S2 district provides flexibility for non-residential uses on upper stories
- Expands opportunity for current small businesses to grow and for more small businesses to join the area and increase activity



S2 DistrictsMain Street Mixed Use



View: looking southwest at the corner of Washington St and Archdale Rd

Corner of Washington St and Archdale Rd

affirm: multi-residential, mixed-use building

existing existing corner residential fabric business

existing residential fabric



S2 Districts

Main Street Mixed Use



View: looking northwest at the corner of Washington St and Archdale Rd

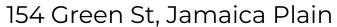
Corner of Washington St and Archdale Rd

Squares and Streets Zoning Districts: What can S2 be?















within the height/story req.

outdoor dining and public realm enhancement

mixed-use building, with multiple commercial tenants



S2 - Main Street Mixed Use

- Up to 5 stories maximum
- Flexible rules to allow for both mixed use and fully residential multifamily buildings along a main street
- Outdoor amenity spaces required







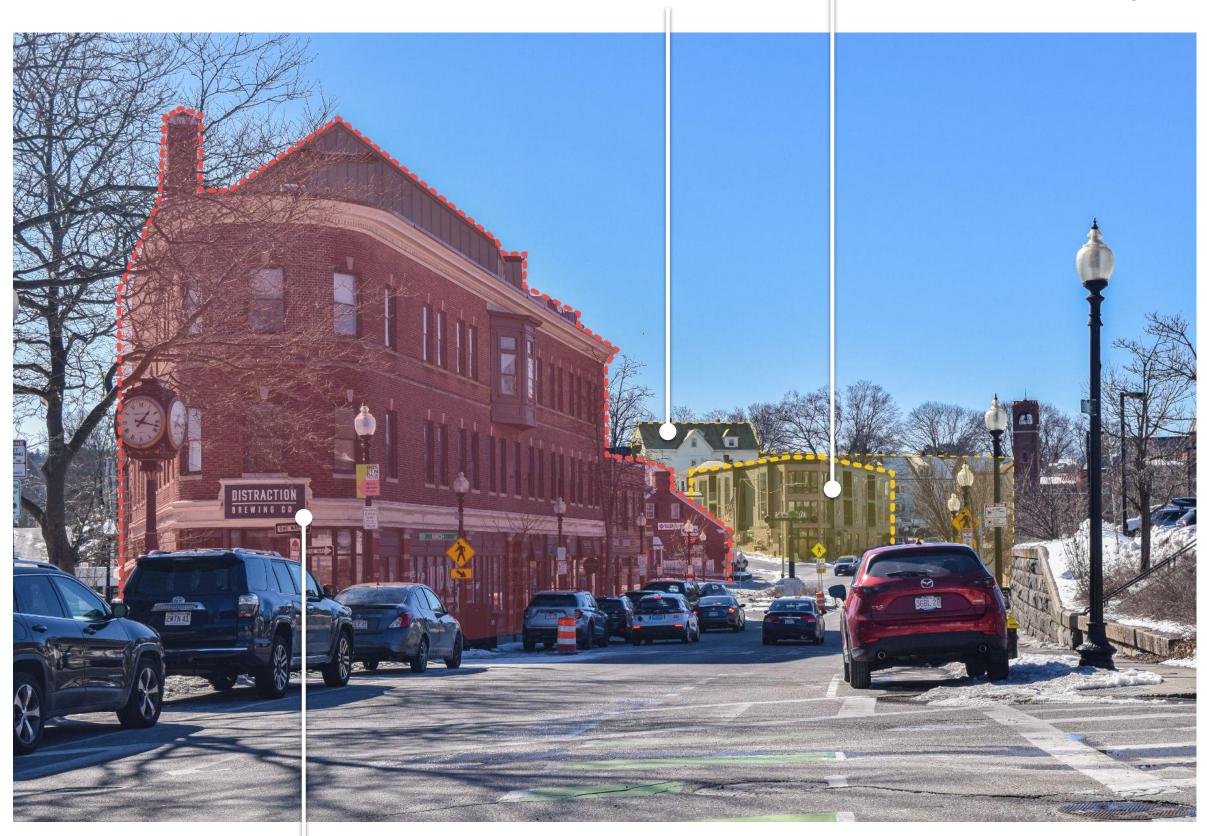
S4 Districts

Active Squares

- The S4 district is mapped in areas with the highest level of existing commercial activity – surrounding Adams Park and along Washington Street
- The Ground Floor Active Use requirement specifically promotes and preserves an active small- and medium-scale commercial feeling in the area that the current zoning does not prioritize
- The Outdoor Amenity Space requirement promotes even more open environment for residents and visitors to spend time in the area

existing residential fabric

mixed-use building



S4 Districts

Active Squares



View: looking southwest towards Distraction Brewing Co.

Corner of Belgrade Ave and South St

preserve: commercial activity

residential above

pedestrian-scaled,

commercial uses

public realm

enhancements

Squares and Streets Zoning Districts: What can S4 be?







Street Experience, looking north on Washington St



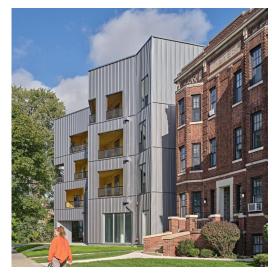
- Up to 7 stories maximum
- Allows for wider buildings than S3 and more flexibility for medium- and large-scale uses
- Outdoor amenity spaces required higher percentage than S3
- Ground floor active uses required





Squares and Streets Zoning Districts: What can S4 be?







3200 Washington St, Jamaica Plain



Street Experience, looking south on Washington St

below the height/story req. outdoor amenity space

pedestrian-scaled, commercial uses

public realm enhancements







S4 - Active Squares

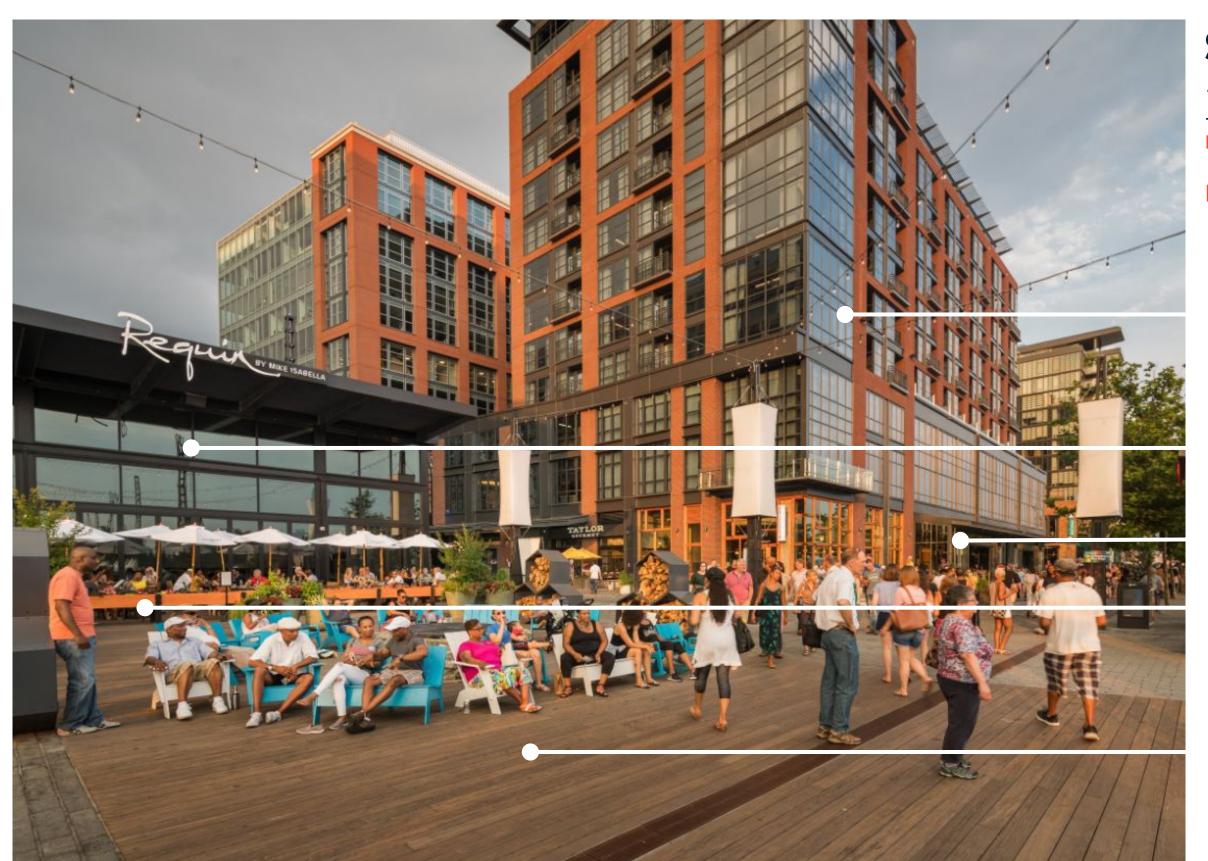
- Up to 7 stories maximum
- Allows for wider buildings than S3 and more flexibility for medium- and large-scale uses
- Outdoor amenity spaces required higher percentage than S3
- Ground floor active uses required



S5 Districts

Placemaker Squares

- The S5 district is mapped in the heart of high activity squares
- Offers the highest flexibility and possibility for future housing growth and mixed-use buildings with a variety of commercial and community-serving spaces
- Promotes the highest amount of Outdoor Amenity Space, which can add to the amount of outdoor space adjacent to Adams Park



S5 Districts

Placemaker Squares

Precedent: The Wharf, Washington D.C.

Residential Density

Civic/Public Buildings/Areas

Active Retail Edges

Outdoor Activities Programmable or others

Spacious Public Realm with Art Installations opportunity

Squares and Streets Zoning Districts: What can S5 be?



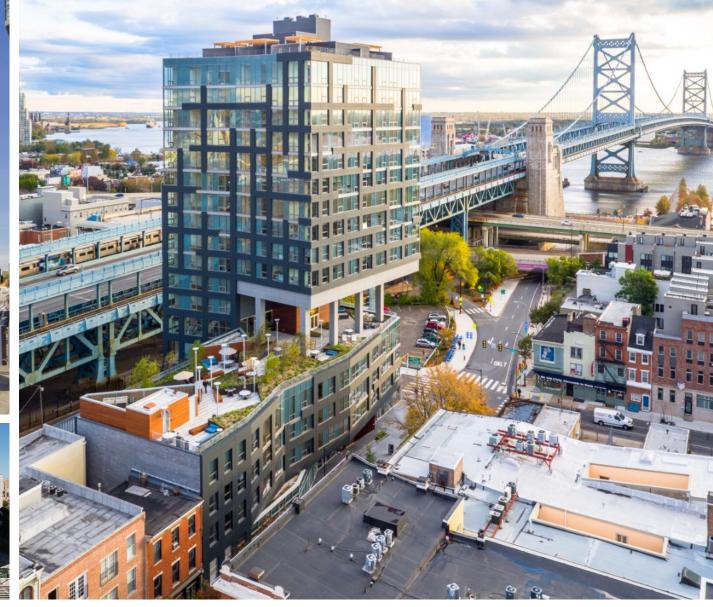












S5 - Placemaker Squares

- Up to 145 feet maximum
- Taller and wider mixed-use buildings that allow the most flexibility of ground and upper level uses
- Outdoor amenity spaces required –
 highest percentage of the districts
- Ground floor active uses required

B

A possible future for Roslindale Square: Current Conditions



existing residential building

existing commercial uses

existing streetwall condition

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Intersection at Washington St and Murray Hill Road

A possible future for Roslindale Square: S4





above: current conditions left: sketch of possible future

S4

An imagination of the intersection at Washington St and Murray Hill Rd could look like with new built projects that adhere to new zoning envelopes.

A possible future for Roslindale Square: S5





above: current conditions left: sketch of possible future

S5

An imagination of the intersection at Washington St and Murray Hill Rd could look like with new built projects that adhere to new zoning envelopes.



OS-UP Subdistrict

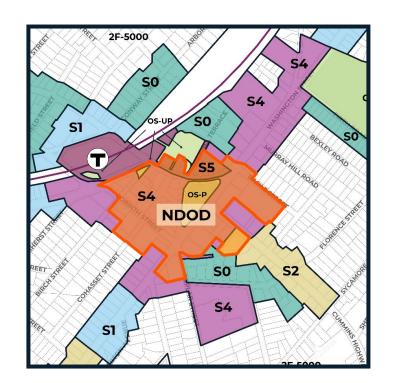
Urban Plaza Open Space

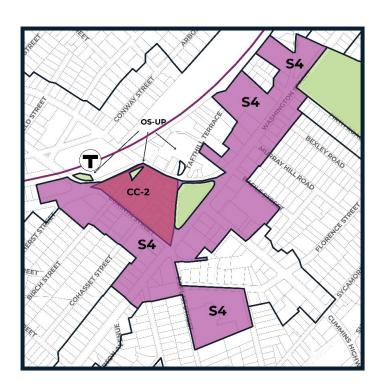
- Updates the Taft Hill Municipal Lot to an Open Space subdistrict
- Affirms the existing and continued use as a major parking amenity
- The parking lot will continue to serve as a community resource that supports access to the local small business ecosystem and community-serving activities, like the recurring Farmers Market

Text Amendment - Article 67 (NDOD, CC-2 Removal)

These zoning updates include two minor updates to Article 67 (Roslindale Neighborhood District) of the Boston Zoning Code:

- 1. **Update the regulations of the Neighborhood Design Overlay District (NDOD)** surrounding Adams Park to make sure that the design review process associated with that overlay district **applies to projects that are in the Squares and Streets districts** of that specific area.
- 2. **Remove the CC-2 (Community Commercial-2) subdistrict from Article 67** because the CC-2 is mapped in only one area (west of Adams Park) and the zoning map updates will replace the CC-2 subdistrict with the S4 district. This will remove the CC-2 from all zoning maps of Roslindale, therefore making it necessary to remove mention of it and its regulations from the text of Article 67.

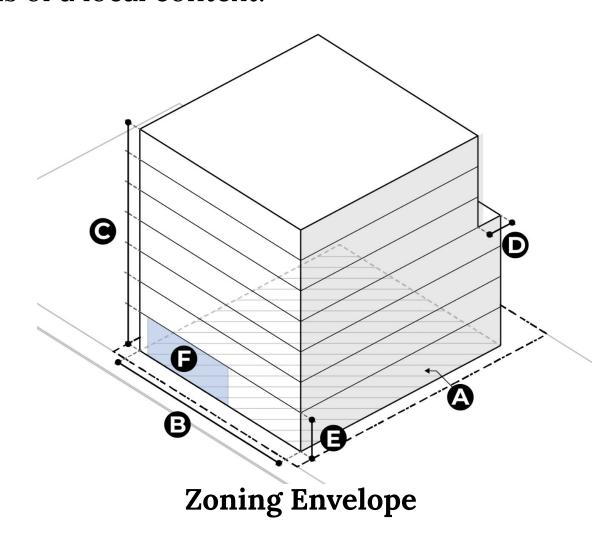


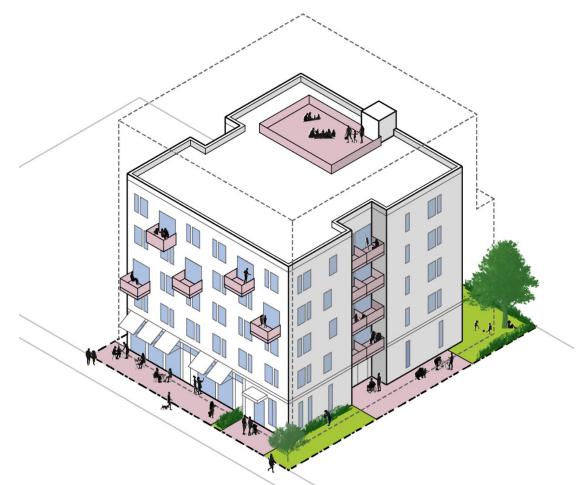


Minor updates like these help to make sure that the Boston Zoning Code remains up-to-date with active zoning regulations, which improves how people can read the Zoning Code and how it is applied in the development process.

Beyond Squares and Streets Zoning – Review Processes

Once Squares and Streets districts set the maximum envelope for a proposed project's scale and space **and** set the restrictions on what uses can exist on a property, there are review tools that can help further shape the final project to reflect the needs of a local context.





Potential Built Project

Some review tools include:

- Article 80 Development Review for projects over 20,000 sq ft or over 15 units
- **Planning Department's Design Review** for Article 80-scale projects and for properties within a Neighborhood Design Overlay District (explained further in this presentation)

Beyond Squares and Streets Zoning – Private Factors

There are **an array of private factors** that can impact if a property will change its uses or redevelop into something different.

Zoning is how the City government creates a bounding box for what can be proposed once a property owner is ready, but many of these private factors (some listed below) can influence a project's final scale, design, uses, financial feasibility, and ability to even start or complete construction.



Property owner's short-term and long-term interests



Existing lease agreements and deed restrictions



Financing and Costs

- Construction cost
- Availability of loans, grants, and personal funds
- Professional fees (i.e., architects, engineers, etc.)



Size, shape, and existing conditions of the land parcel and building



Community and abutters' feedback



Local demand for certain uses

B

Beyond Squares and Streets Zoning – Anti-Displacement Action Plan

The City of Boston is developing a comprehensive strategy to confront displacement. A cross-departmental team comprised of Planning, Mayor's Office of Housing, Office of Economic Opportunity & Inclusion, Mayor's Office of Arts & Culture, and the Office of Workforce Development is devising a coordinated plan to:

- Stabilize residents, including renters and homeowners, so they can anchor and flourish here, while creating space to welcome new neighbors
- Stabilize neighborhood commercial and creative enterprises, enabling their diversity and vibrancy

To learn more and stay updated on this work, visit boston.gov/anti-displacement



Beyond Squares and Streets Zoning – Anti-Displacement Strategy Framework





PROTECT

Protect renters and low-income homeowners from displacement.



PRESERVE

Make sure affordable public and private housing stays affordable.



PRODUCE

Produce new housing for people of all incomes.



PROSPER

Build wealth through homeownership, workforce development, and financial empowerment.



4 P's OF
COMMERCIAL+CULTURAL STABILITY



PROTECT

Protect 'anchor' small businesses and cultural enterprises.



PRESERVE

Preserve and improve physical spaces & places that are significant to the community.



PRODUCE

Produce new affordable and market-rate commercial/cultural space in priority areas.



PROSPER

Build wealth through ownership and contracting opportunities.

Finding and keeping a home can be stressful. The City of Boston **can help**.

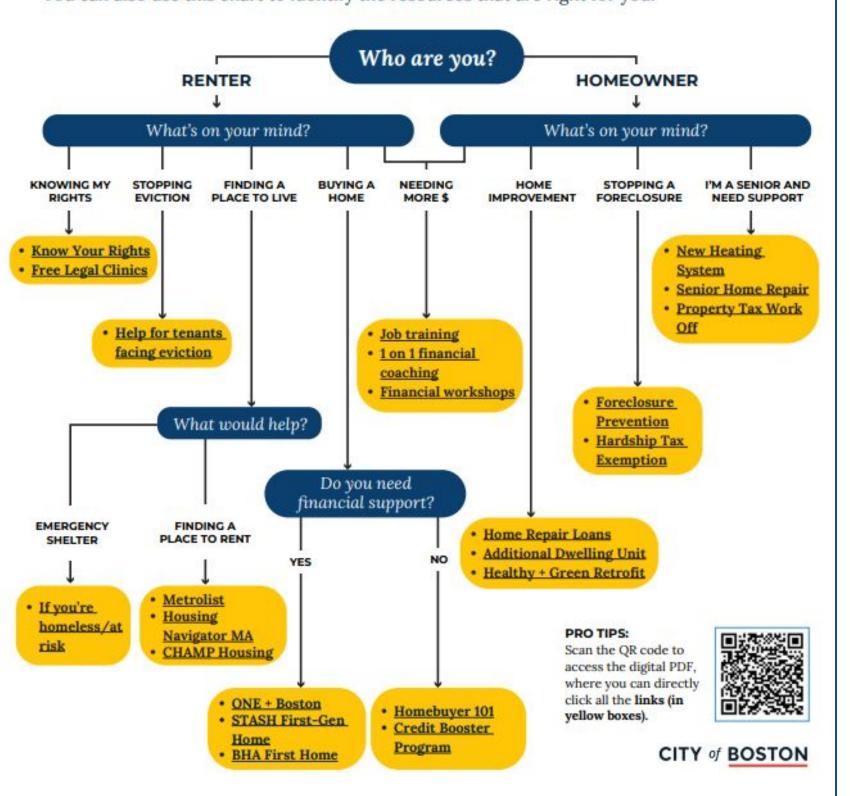
RENTERS:

Visit BOSTON.GOV/HOUSING-STABILITY or call 617.635.4200

HOMEOWNERS:

Visit HOMECENTER.BOSTON.GOV or call 617.635.4663

You can also use this chart to identify the resources that are right for you.



AGE & INCOME ELIGIBILITY TABLE

PROGRAM	AGE	INCOME THRESHOLDS	ASSET THRESHOLDS	BENEFIT
OLDER ADULT PROPERTY TAX WORK-OFF	60+	Single: <\$62,340 Married: <\$71,280	N/A	Up to \$2,000 property tax relief
ELDERLY EXEMPTION	65+	Single: <\$25,834 Married: <\$38,751	Single: <\$40,000 Married: <\$55,000 Excluding value of home	Up to \$2,000 property tax relief
SENIORS SAVE	60+	1 person HH: <80% AMI (\$91,200) 2 person HH: <80% AMI (\$104,200)	N/A	\$8,000 grant to replace heating system and if needed, a 0% interest, deferred loan
HOMEWORKS HOME EQUITY LOAN	N/A	<135% AMI (\$154,238)	<\$75,000, excluding home	1-4 Unit: 0% interest deferred loan of up to \$20,000 for home repairs Triple Decker: Up to \$30,000 1-6 Unit Condo: \$10,000
HEALTHY & GREEN RETROFIT	N/A	<135% AMI (\$154,238)	<\$100,000 excluding retirement, education accounts	2-4 unit: Up to \$50,000/unit for retrofits

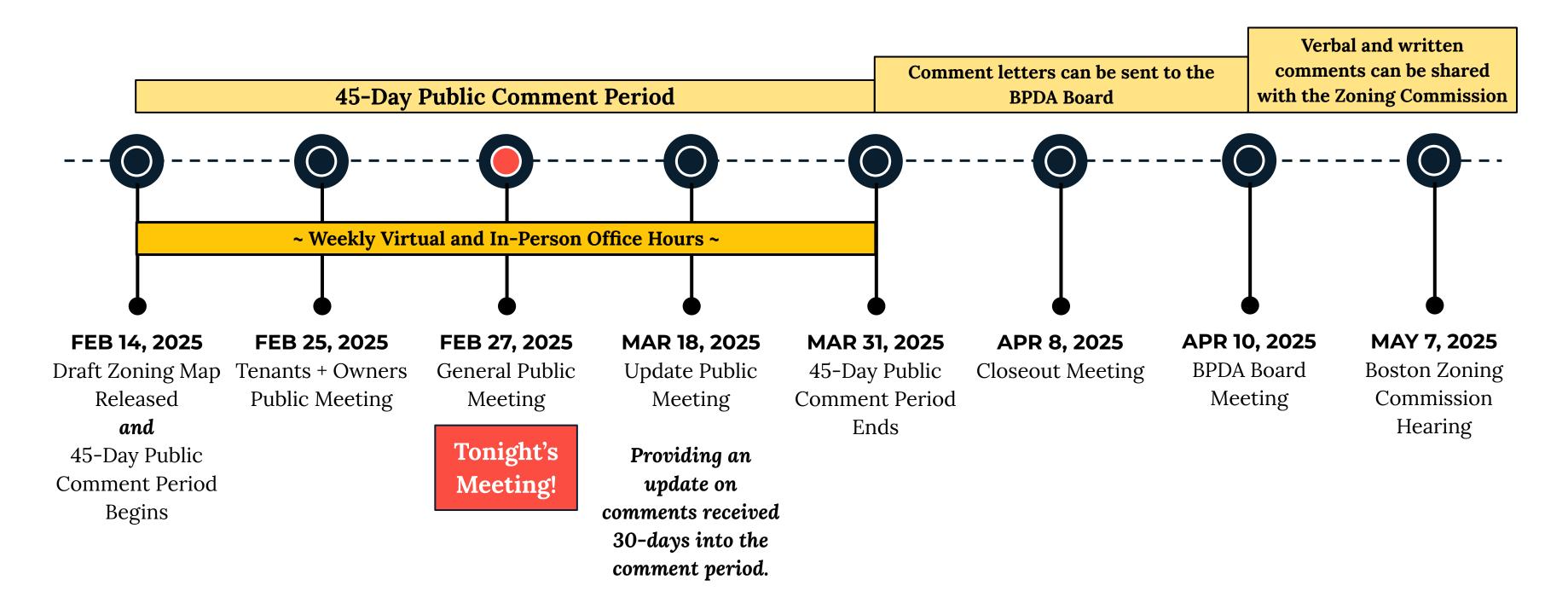
Beyond Squares and Streets Zoning – Stabilization Resources

We are also creating new communication tools to better educate and empower constituents.

Next up: Resource guide for small businesses.



Timeline of Zoning Engagement and Adoption Process



Submit your comments on these zoning updates: bosplans.org/RoslindaleZoningPublicComments.

Check out more information and sign up for upcoming events and office hours: bosplans.org/RoslindaleSquaresAndStreets.

Public Engagement and Feedback Timeline

Supplementing these public meetings engagement will include:

- walks throughout the rezoning area,
- weekly updates on public comments received, and
- presentations or tabling for local community stakeholder groups.

If you are part of a local community group that would like a more detailed explanation of these zoning updates, **please contact Abdul at abdul-razak.zachariah@boston.gov** to request and coordinate a time for a virtual or in-person presentation to your group.

Thank You! Q&A