

An aerial photograph of the Beacon Park Yard area in Chicago, showing a complex highway interchange and surrounding urban development. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. A thick, bright cyan line runs diagonally across the bottom of the image, separating the main content from the footer.

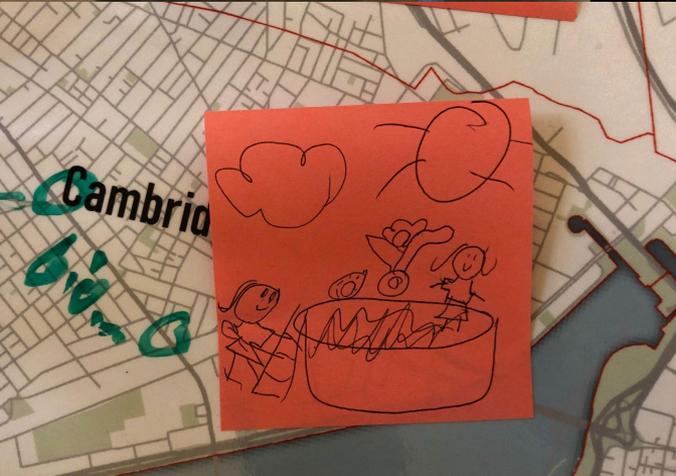
Beacon Park Yard Regional Framework Plan

Coalition Partners Workshop



Welcome Coalition Partners!

We'll get started at 5:05 PM



Agenda

1. Study Area Analysis Presentation

Understand the context and community assets (gauge awareness, feelings, gaps)

2. Social Climate Analysis Break Out Group Activity

Identify underlying conflicts regarding assets and opportunities for programming or partnerships

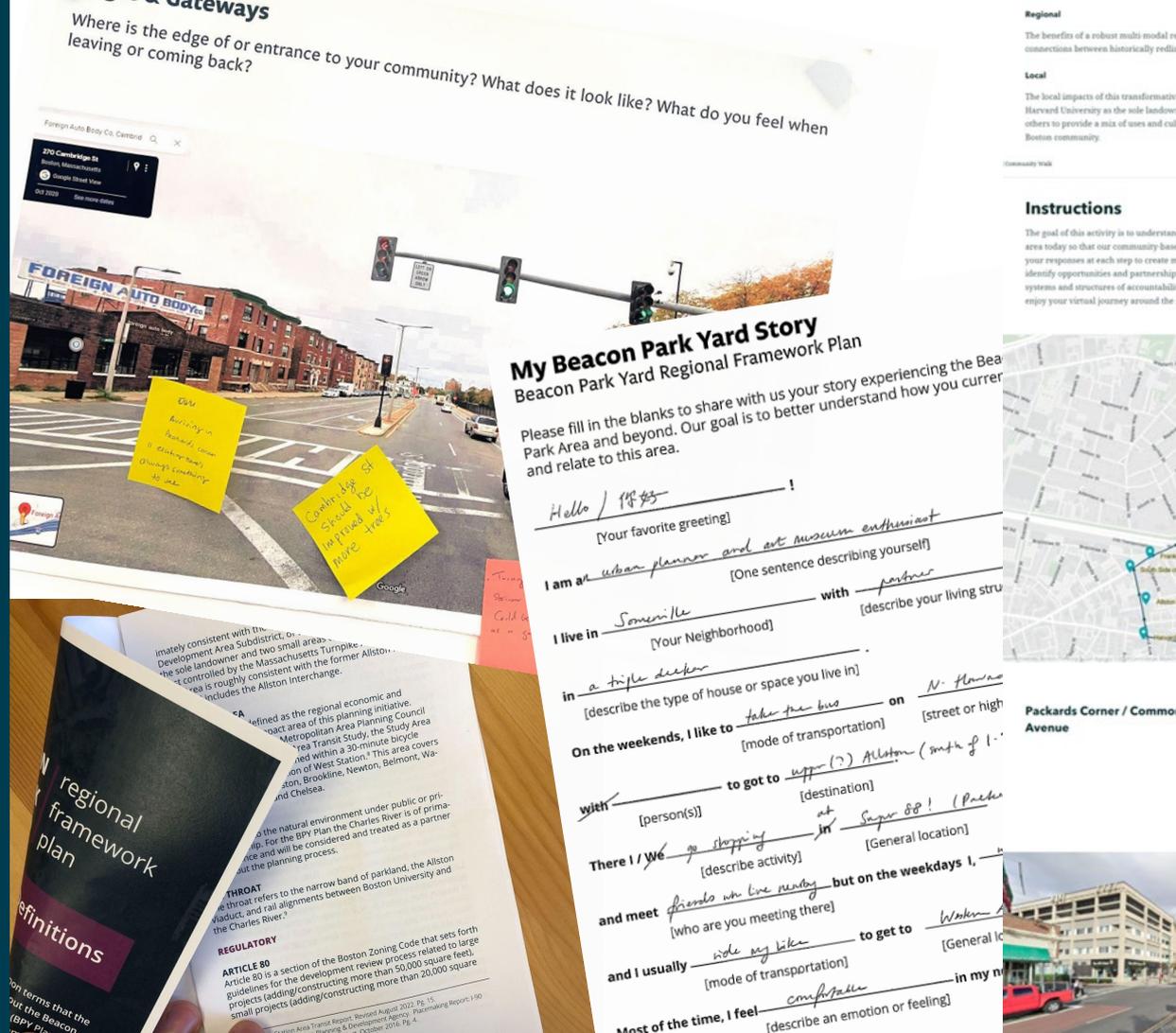
3. Resource Identification Close Out Activity

Document resources to address conflicts and opportunities

Continue outreach and mapping with community based organizations and partners

Updates

1. MassDOT Allston Multimodal Project
2. Broad Engagement
 - o Website & Briefings
 - o Community Outreach
 - o Community Event
 - o Intercept Survey
 - o Public Forum
3. Focus Group Coordination
 - o Students
 - o City of Boston Offices
 - o MBTA
 - o Community Orgs
 - o Employers
 - o Others?



Coalition Partners Insights

..... Oct Dec Feb Jun



Impact:

Project Outcomes

- Task 01: Planning Prep
- Task 02: Engagement
- Task 03: Context
- Task 04: Frameworks
- Task 05: Scenarios
- Task 06: Focus Areas
- Task 07: Zoning Parameters
- Task 08: Report

Context

1. Experience of Infrastructure
2. Partnership with Natural Systems
3. New Models for Opportunity

Preliminary Theory of Action

Because the site is currently inaccessible, predominantly owned by Harvard University, and subject to a multi-decade planning, design, and development processes led by MassDOT, the City of Boston, the Boston Planning Development Agency, and Harvard University, **we must understand and describe the current experience of residents adjacent to the site and commuters using the infrastructure, partner with natural systems for stewardship of the land, and create new models of opportunity.** We will create and share resources for community coalition and power building, uplifting the experience of current users of the area, in partnership with local immigrant and worker empowerment groups, to inform and engage those with barriers to access. In partnership with nature, health, and land conservancy advocacy organizations, we will center Indigenous Knowledge in all facets of the project and prioritize waterways as a regional asset and rethink of them as critical infrastructure. We will design programming to be inclusive and to elevate small businesses, arts and cultural spaces, and affordable housing sites as pathways for wealth building by strengthening links to ongoing and aspirational reform initiatives, including BPDA Development Review Modernization, Ecological Innovation Overlay Districts, and Community Land Trusts.

Experience of Infrastructure

We must understand and describe the current experience of residents adjacent to the site and commuters using the infrastructure.

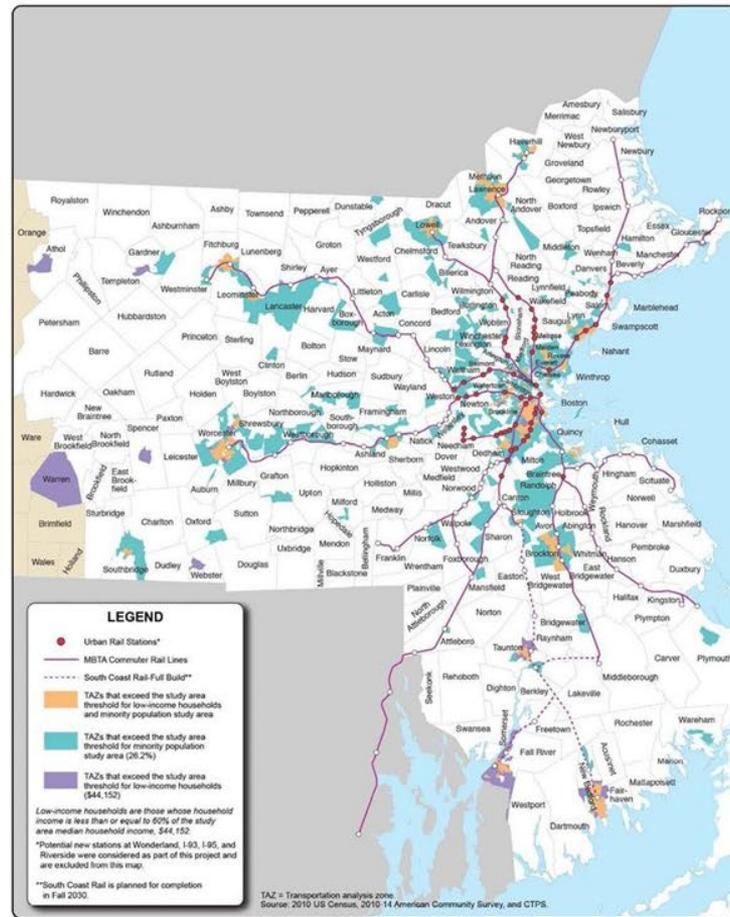
We will create and share resources for community coalition and power building, uplifting the experience of current users of the area, in partnership with local immigrant and worker empowerment groups, to inform and engage those with barriers to access.

Current actions (overlap with other topics):

In-person narrative and mapping activities, project website updates, outreach and partnership with community-based organizations, focus group scheduling

Context

Prioritizing “fixed” infrastructure



Source: *The MBTA Rail Vision Final Report, Appendix E - Environmental Justice Analysis*
<https://cdn.mbta.com/sites/default/files/2021-07/2020-02-rail-vision-appendix-e.pdf>

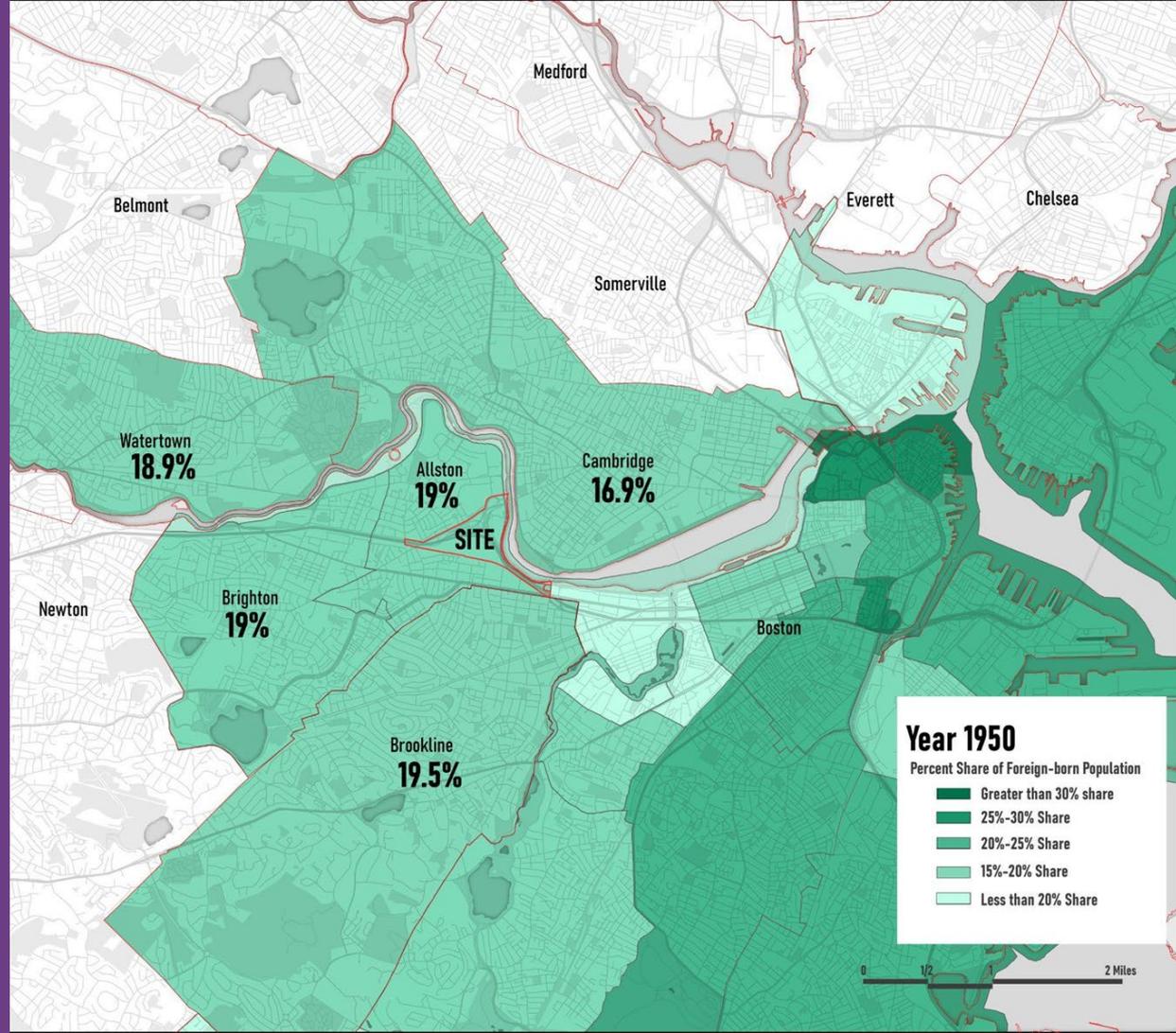
Context

Enabling movement throughout the region and the world

A note on data:

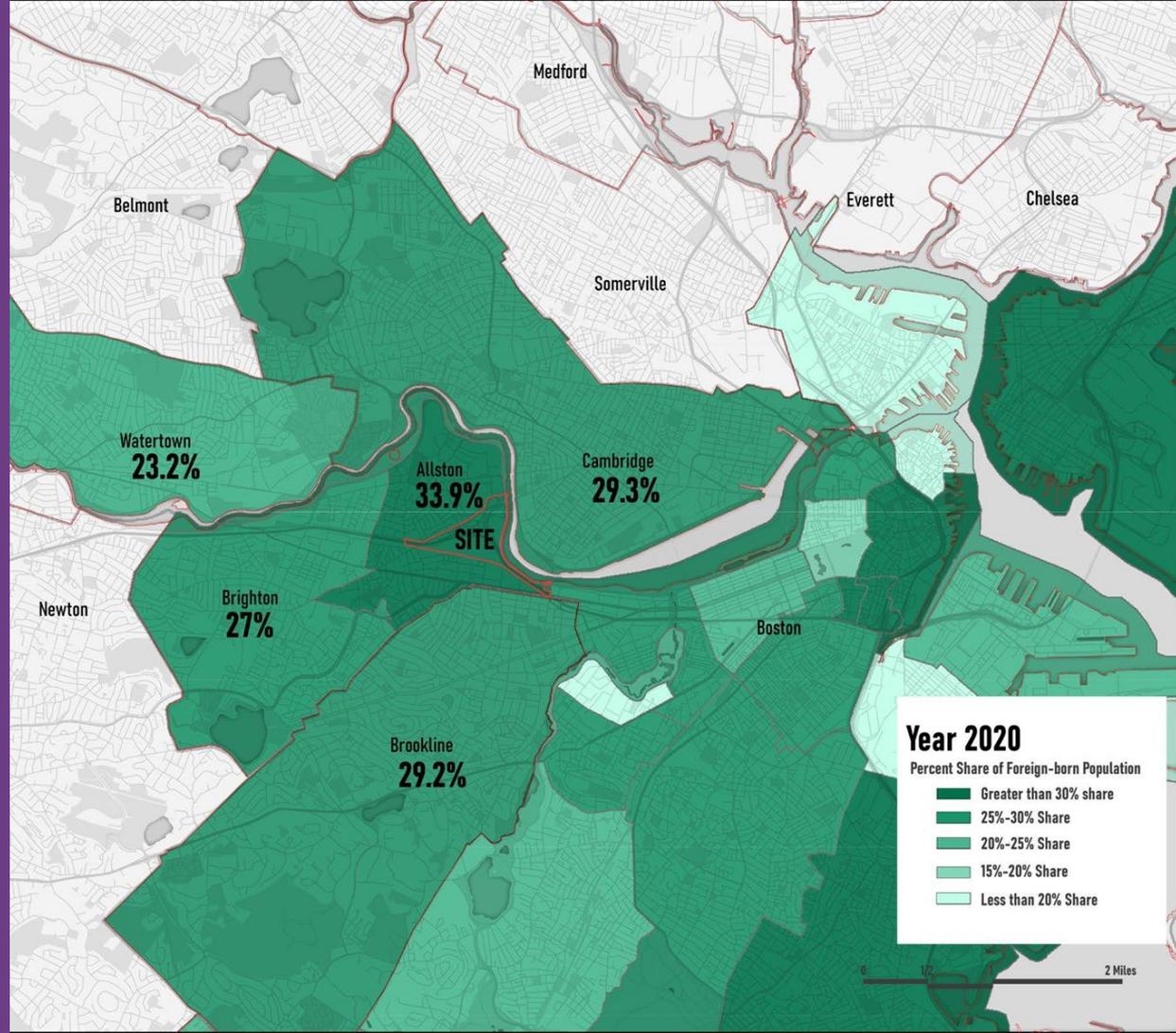
Regional systems are interconnected, but our team isn't always able to easily access data from different municipalities.

We are working on this, but throughout the presentation you will notice some gaps.



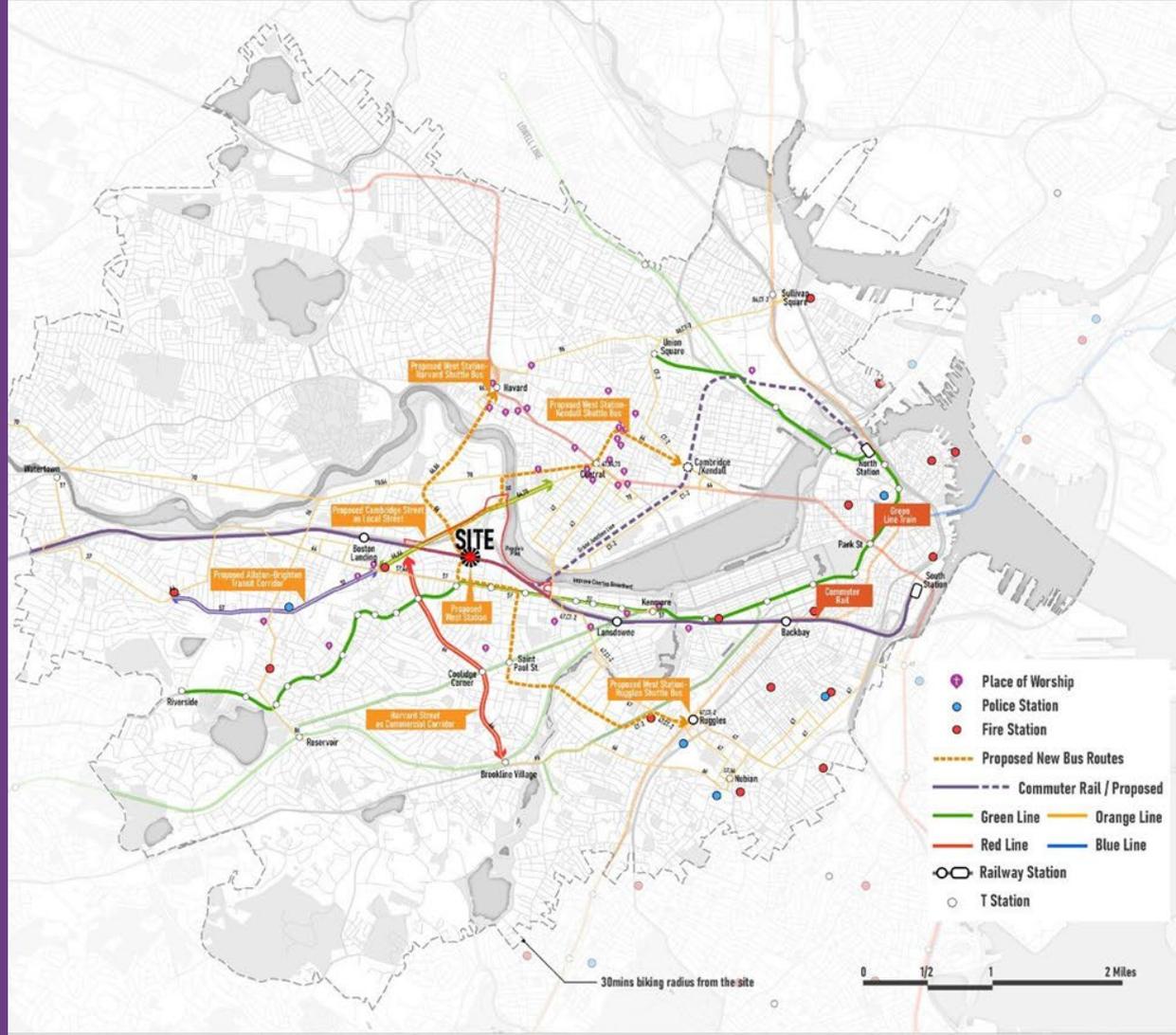
Context

Experiencing bridging and unique cultural identities



Assets

Interactions between visible and invisible infrastructure





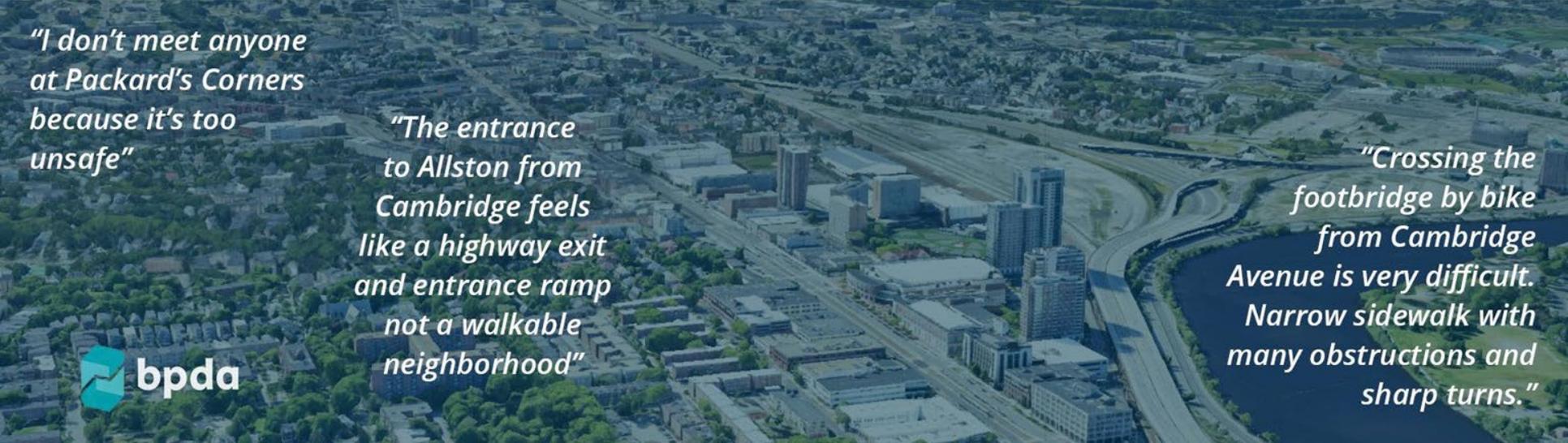
"Packard's Corner - it should be more baby friendly and outdoor eating"



"Turning off Storrow Drive could be improved as a gateway."



"Collaborating with the Disabilities Commission as early as possible to put at the forefront disability perspectives"



"I don't meet anyone at Packard's Corners because it's too unsafe"

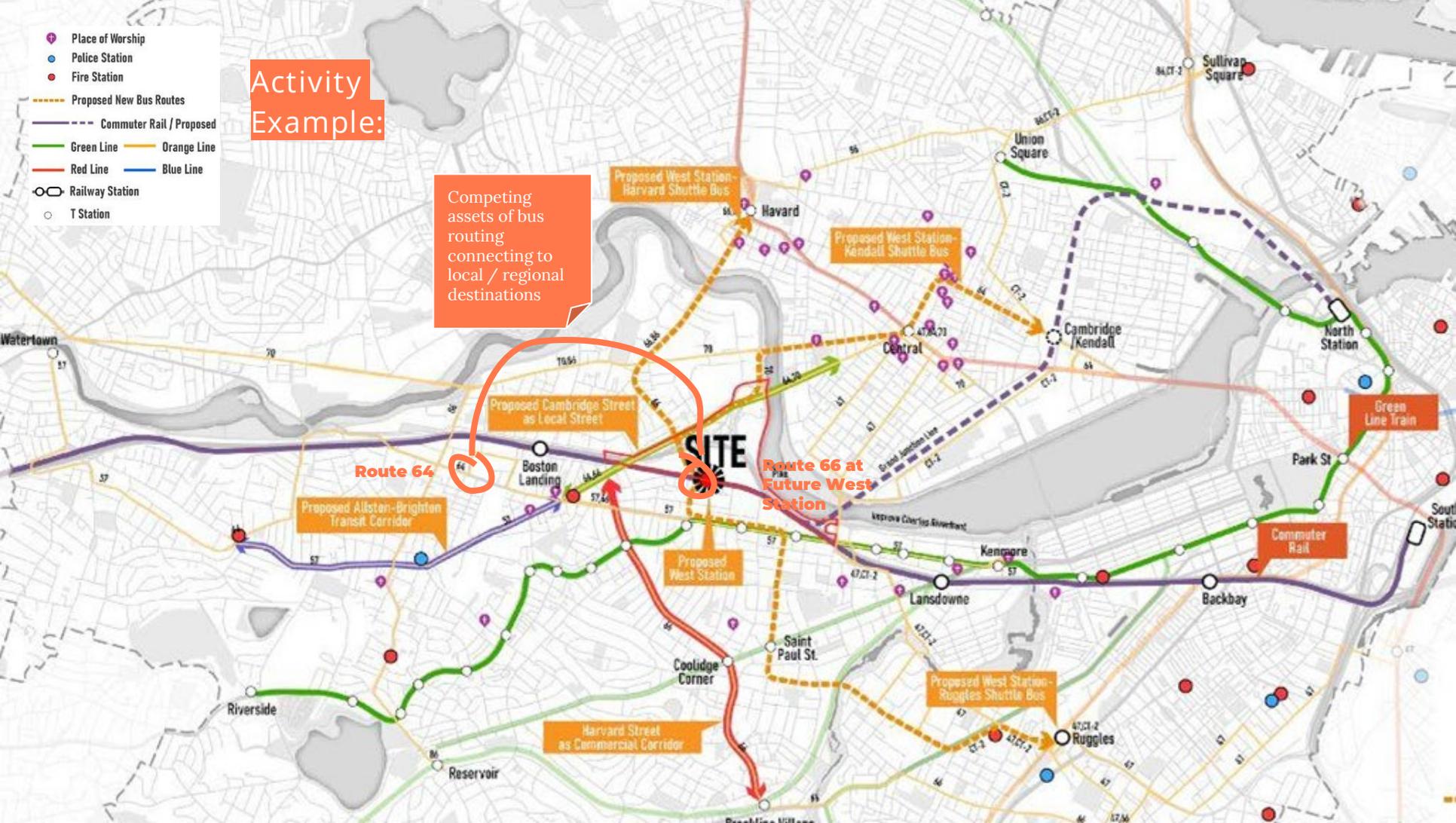
"The entrance to Allston from Cambridge feels like a highway exit and entrance ramp not a walkable neighborhood"

"Crossing the footbridge by bike from Cambridge Avenue is very difficult. Narrow sidewalk with many obstructions and sharp turns."

Activity Example:

Competing assets of bus routing connecting to local / regional destinations

- Place of Worship
- Police Station
- Fire Station
- Proposed New Bus Routes
- Commuter Rail / Proposed
- Green Line
- Orange Line
- Red Line
- Blue Line
- Railway Station
- T Station



Partnership with Natural Systems

We must partner with natural systems for stewardship of the land.

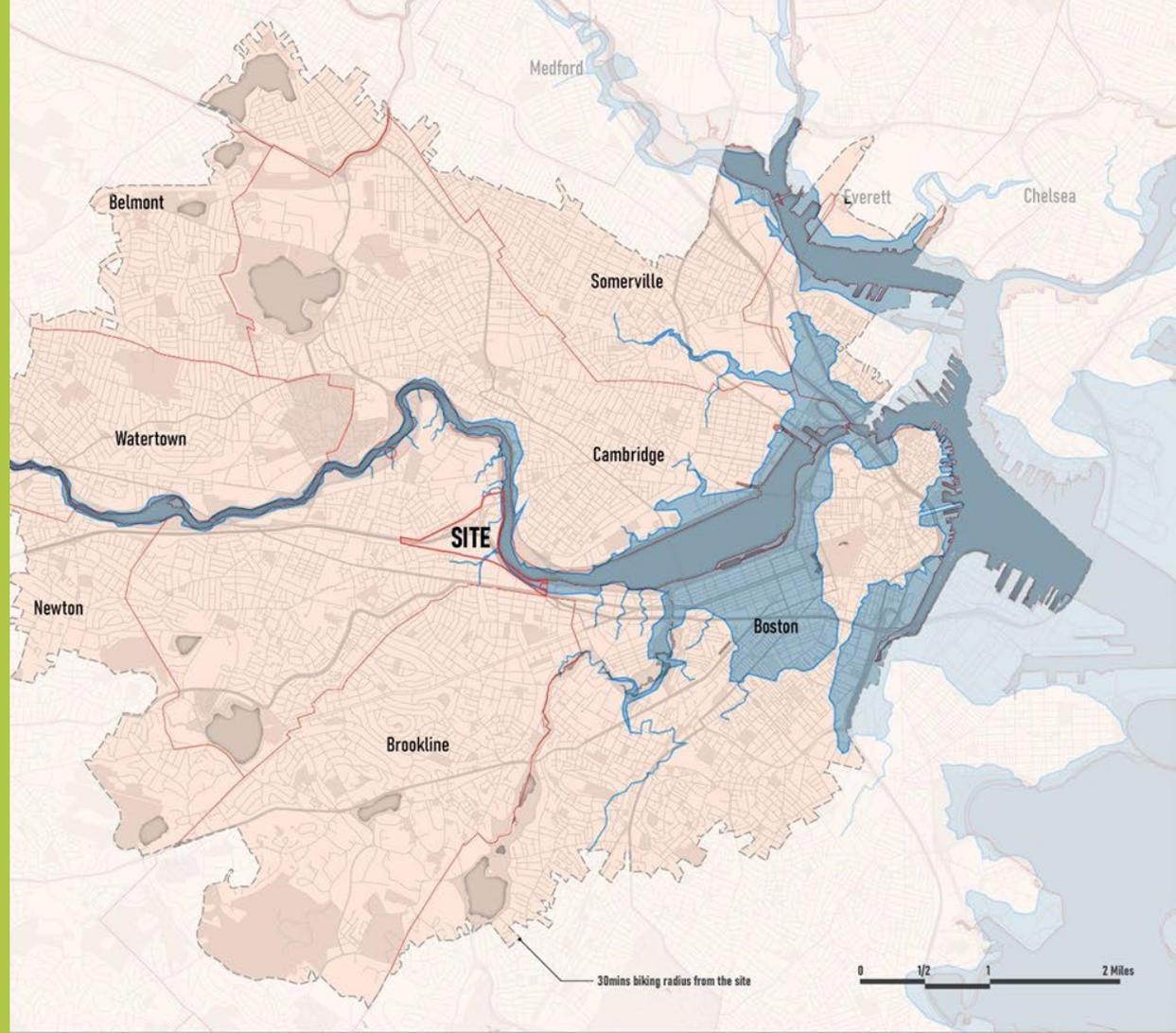
In partnership with nature, health, and land conservancy advocacy organizations, we will center Indigenous Knowledge in all facets of the project and prioritize waterways as a regional asset and rethink them as critical infrastructure.

Current actions (overlap with other topics):

Community site exploration, technical expert outreach, coordination with City of Boston offices and departments

Legacy

Understanding and embracing the relationship with water



Context

Tracking change to prioritize action

A note on coordination with other plans:

The BPY Plan is informed by the work of many others. We will include prior findings and recommendations and coordinate with other teams to build pathways for mutual benefit.

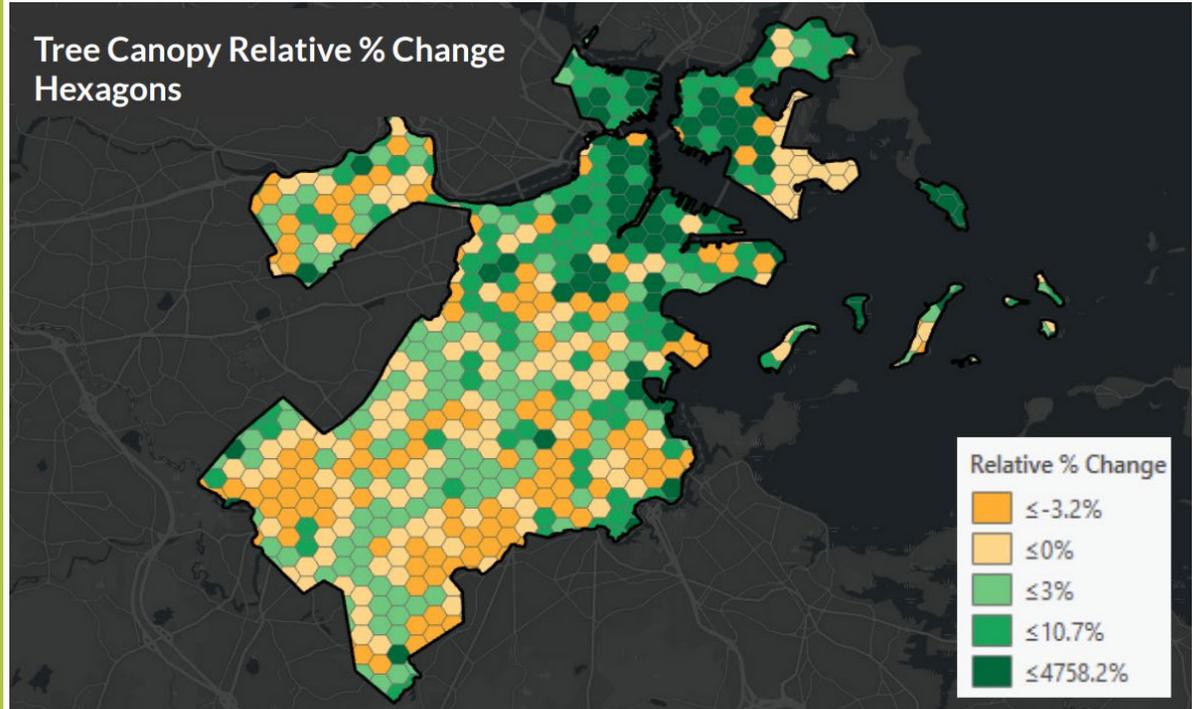
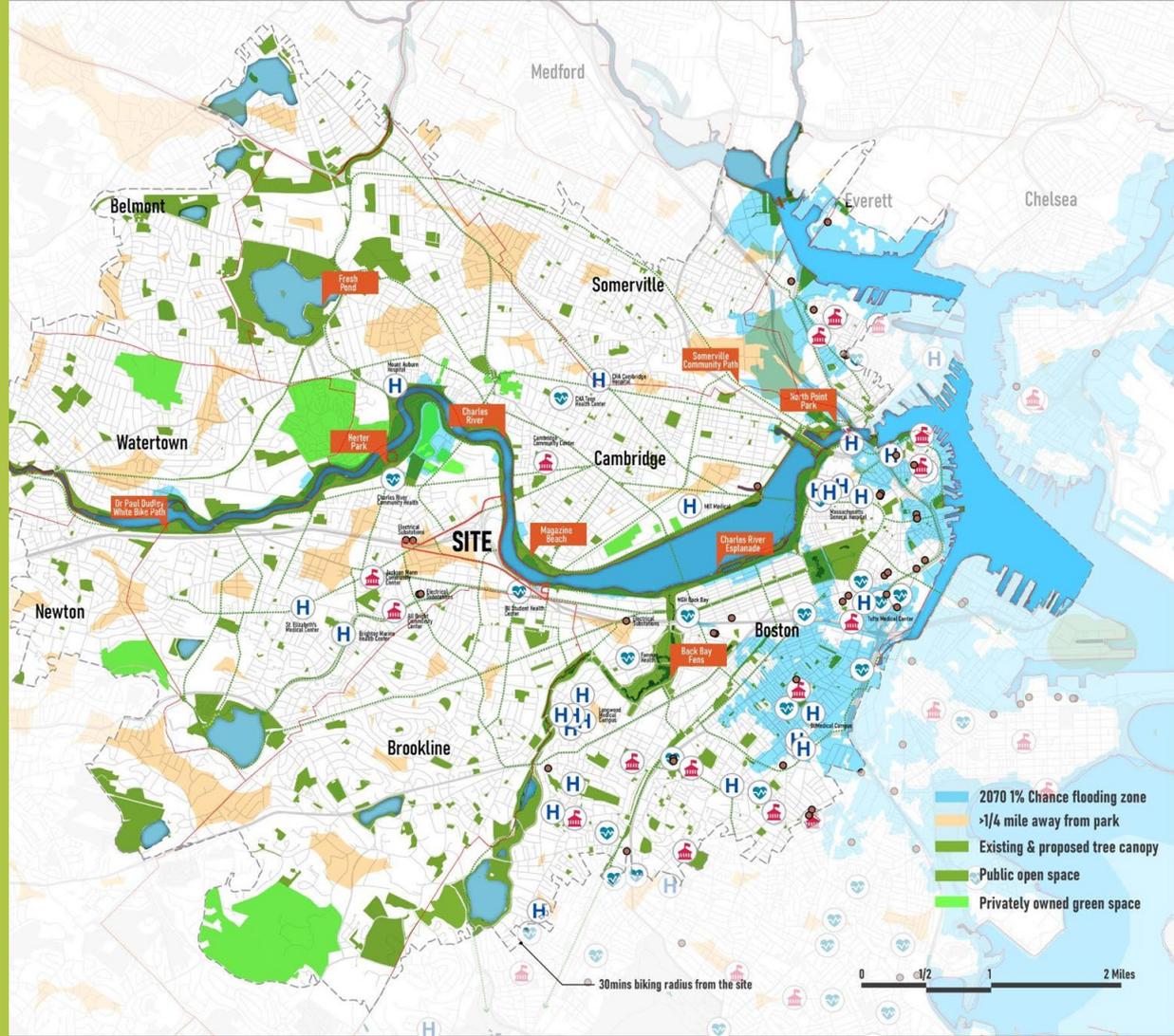
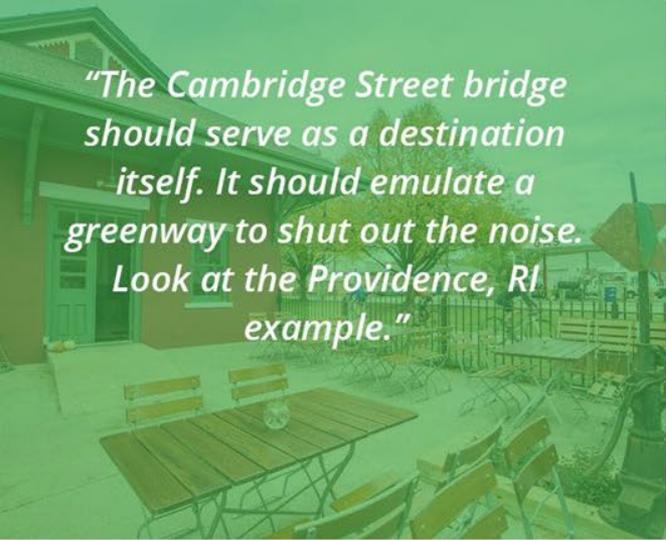


Figure 9: Tree canopy change metrics summarized by 25-acre hexagons. Relative change for each hexagon is calculated by using the formula $(2019 \text{ canopy} - 2014 \text{ canopy}) / (2014 \text{ canopy})$. Negative values (darker orange color) indicate loss and positive values (green color) indicate gain, relative to other hexagons.

Assets

Intertwined systems of health and reciprocity

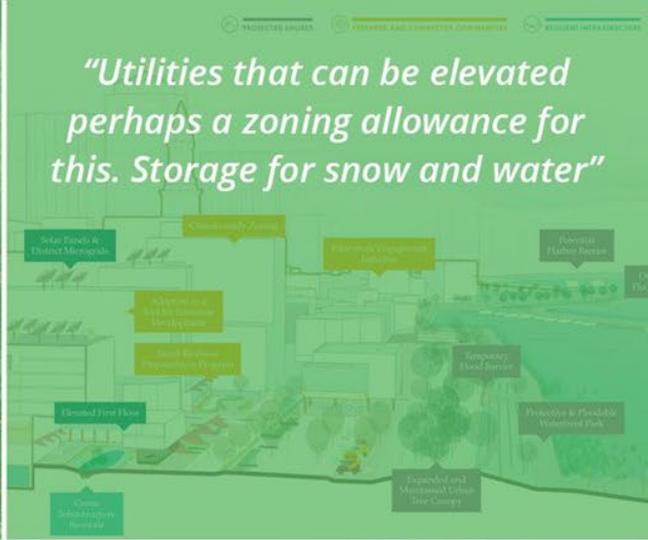




"The Cambridge Street bridge should serve as a destination itself. It should emulate a greenway to shut out the noise. Look at the Providence, RI example."



"Examine stormwater management in anticipation of rising sea levels, storm surges, and flash flooding."



"Utilities that can be elevated perhaps a zoning allowance for this. Storage for snow and water"



"I experience nature along the river, but for most of its length I feel like I am on the shoulder of a busy highway"

"Wish we [could] have more spaces that we can walk along [the river] to see the nature."



Activity Example:

Complementary assets of linear natural infrastructure and program based parks

New Models for Opportunity

We must create new models of opportunity.

We will design programming to be inclusive and to elevate small businesses, arts and cultural spaces, and affordable housing sites as pathways for wealth building by strengthening links to ongoing and aspirational reform initiatives, including BPDA Development Review Modernization, Ecological Innovation Overlay Districts, and Community Land Trusts.

Current actions (overlap with other topics):

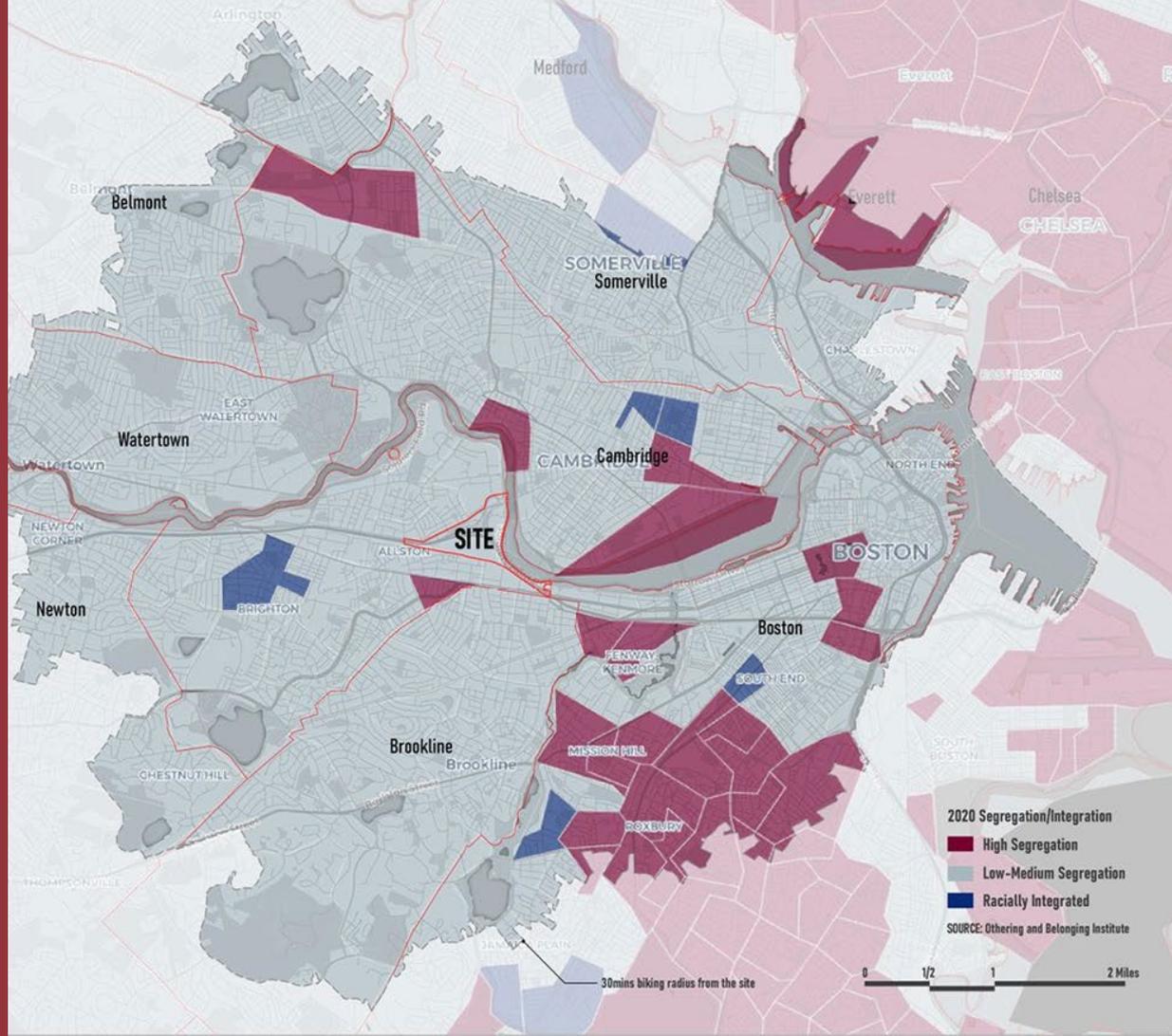
Public forum activities, institutional and housing authority research, small business and main streets activations

Legacy

Learning from where we live together

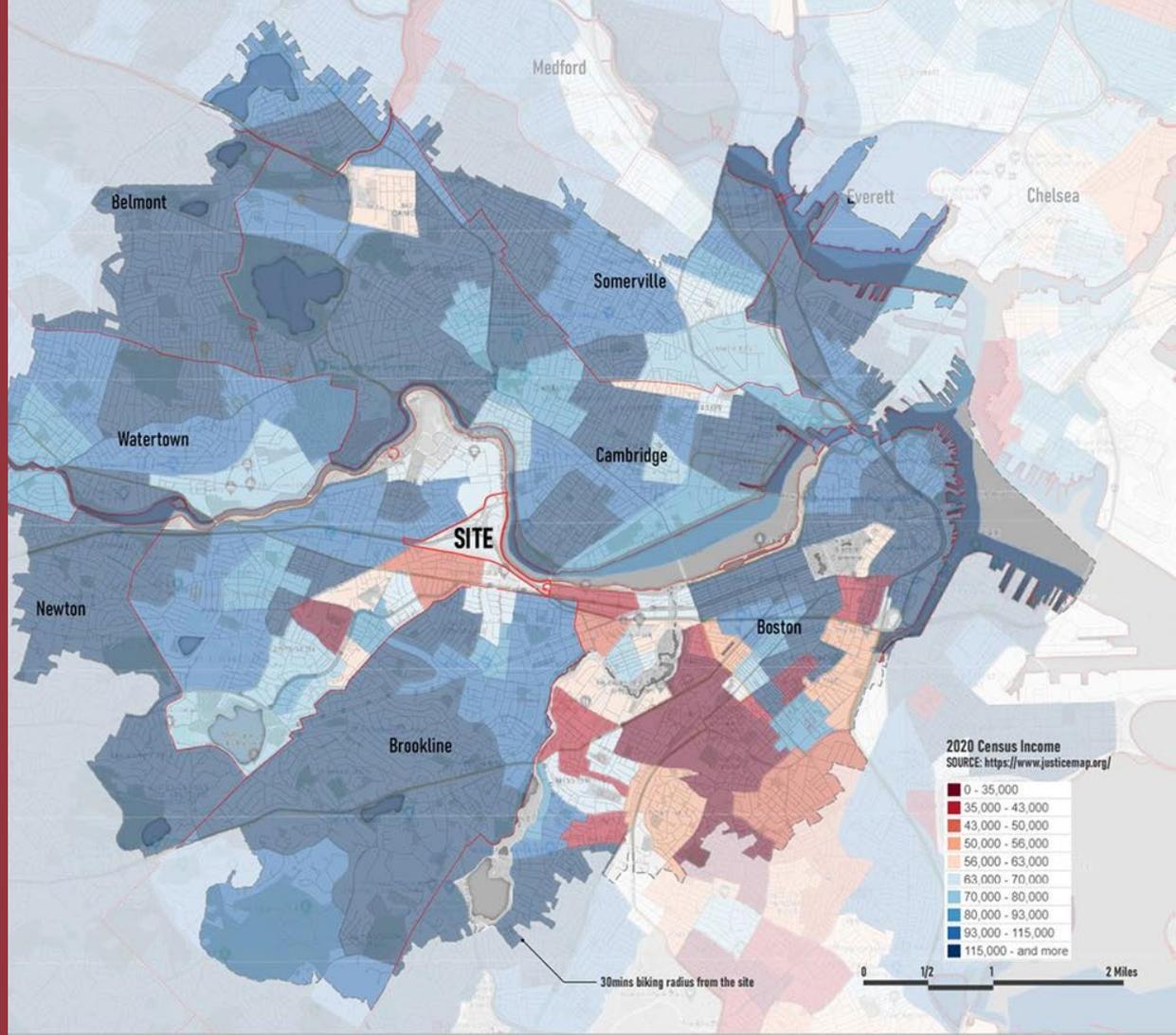
A note on asset based narratives:

Throughout this presentation and process we take an intentional approach to identifying and documenting assets, both structural and place-based to celebrate unique identities and dismantle systems of oppression.



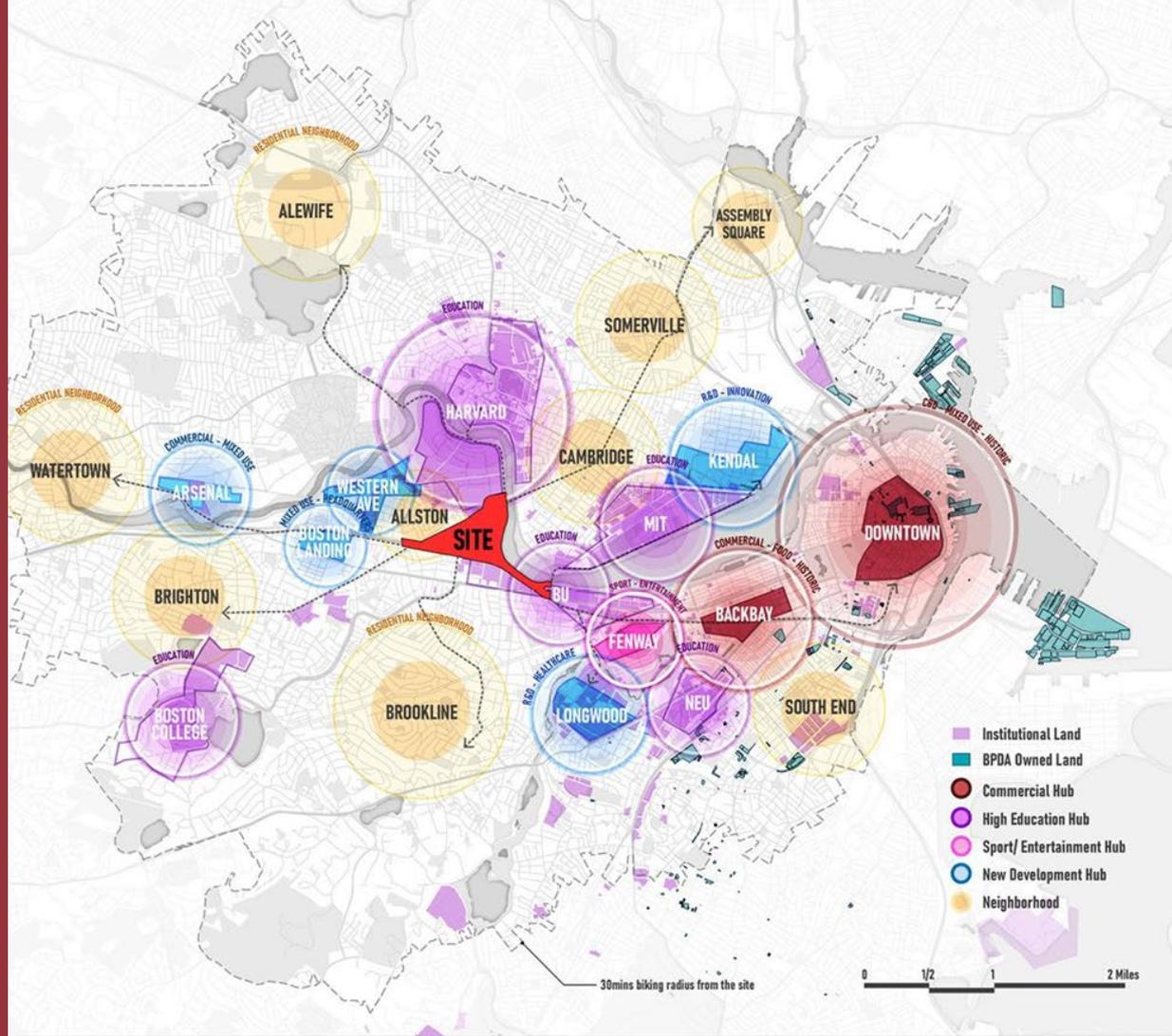
Context

Building pathways to opportunity



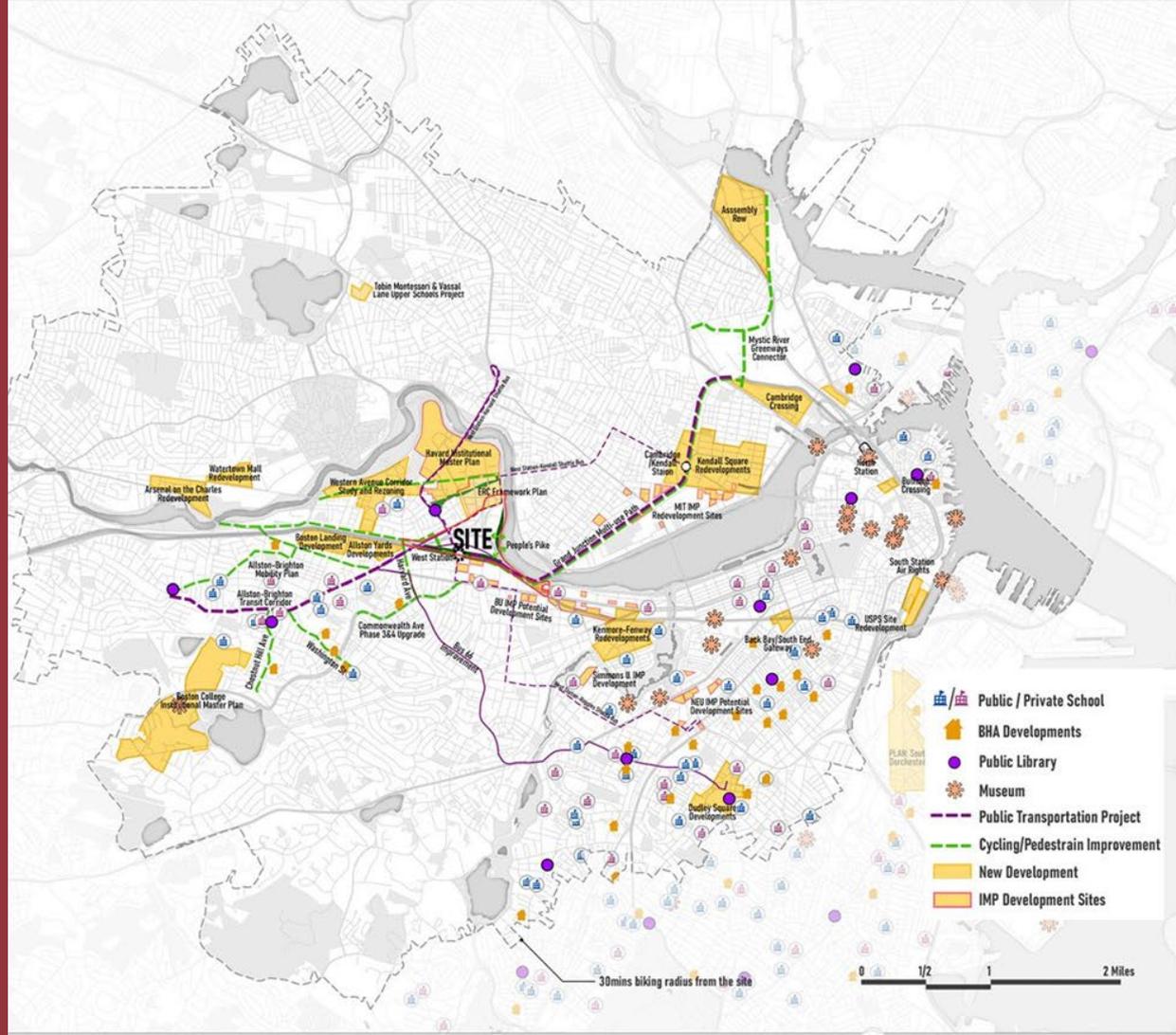
Context

Acknowledging and working with institutions

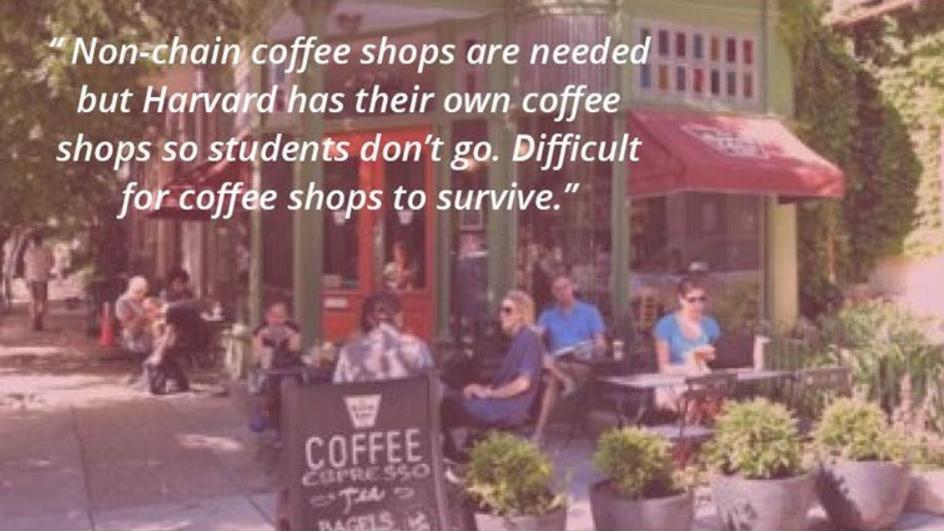


Assets

Fitting into a network



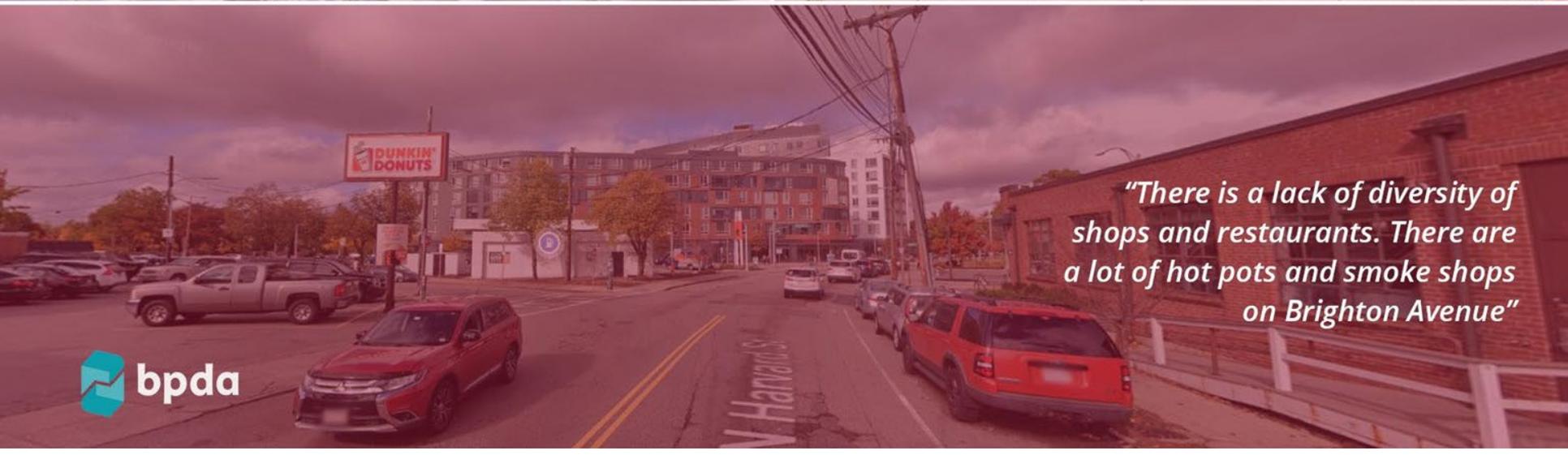
“Non-chain coffee shops are needed but Harvard has their own coffee shops so students don't go. Difficult for coffee shops to survive.”



“Arts community is longstanding but not always visible, what are opportunities to highlight and reveal out in the environment through events?”

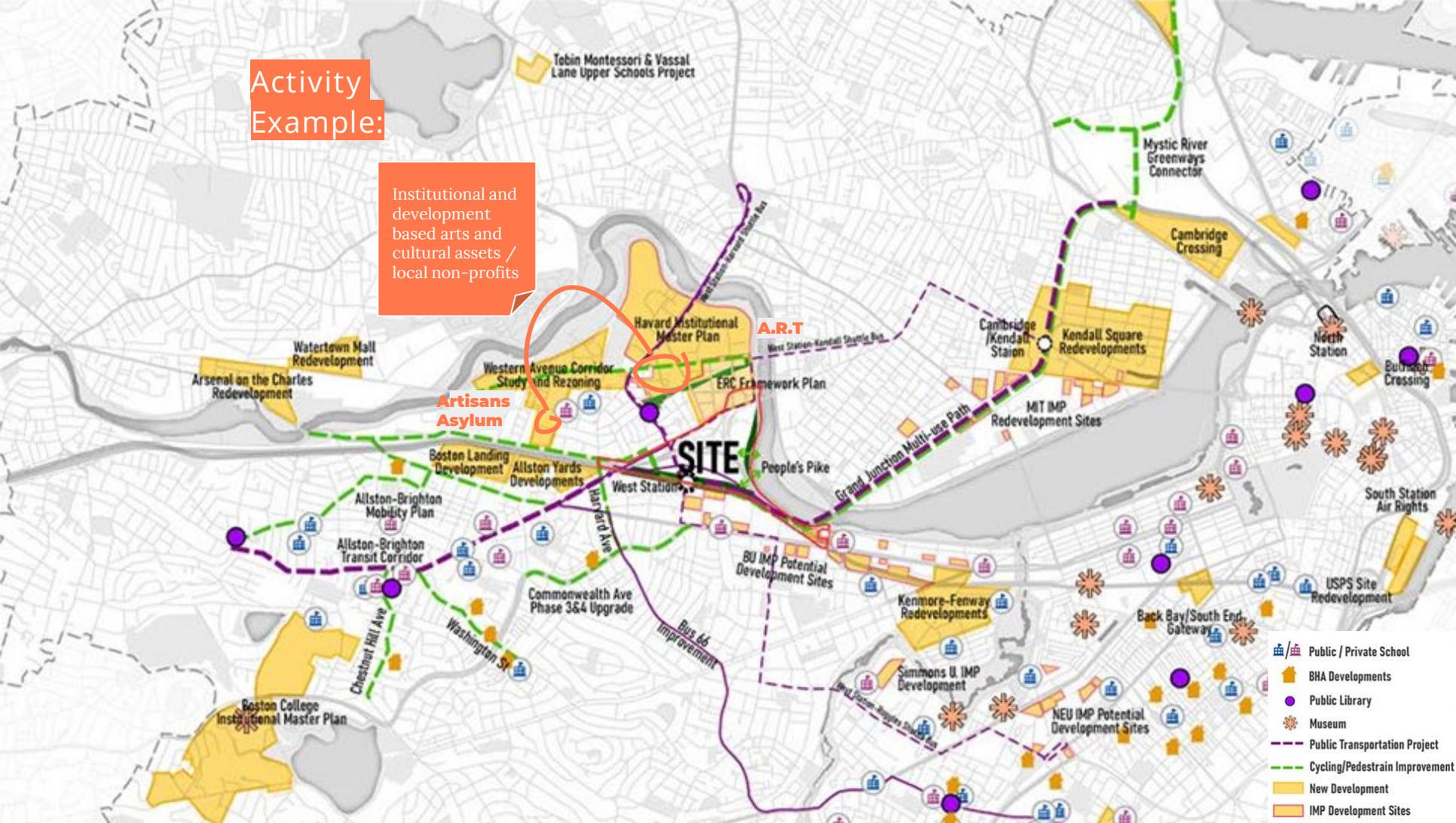


“There is a lack of diversity of shops and restaurants. There are a lot of hot pots and smoke shops on Brighton Avenue”



Activity Example:

Institutional and development based arts and cultural assets / local non-profits



Community Assets

Last time we focused on who to reach out to to embed equity in the project, process, and outcomes - thank you for helping us to ground the project and begin outreach!

Today, we are using our Theory of Action framework to understand the Study Area gaps and assets so that we can draw power-building connections, avoid power-breaking conflicts, and identify additional potential resources. These will continue to be developed through outreach and we need your help to begin the power and resource building process!

But first:

1. Do the asset narratives align with the Theory of Change and Action?

- Experience of Infrastructure
- Partnership with Natural Systems
- New Models for Opportunity

1. Are we missing key data sources or narratives?

Breakout Group Activity

Actions:

1. **Highlight key assets and draw connections or conflicts that impact the Study Area and Site**
2. **Think about what resources are available to support partnerships** (these will be the focus of the report back and collaboration session)

Tips:

Start with your awareness and feelings about the mapped assets.

Think about how you interact with these community assets or ones similar in your work - are these available near BPY or not?

Build Power

Objective:

Share resources to support existing community assets and build power through connections. We will continue activities like this throughout the BPY process.

Actions:

1. Report back breakout group asset connections

- Two minutes per group

1. Document Resources

- Potential partnerships,
- Introductions,
- Advocacy,
- Grants / funding,
- Ongoing planning initiatives,
- Other?

Tips:

Actionable resources are best - to connect with during the process or to pair with the final recommendations
If you don't know the exact resources, that's ok - others in the room might or you can share afterwards

Closing & Next Steps

Workshop

- Materials for community asset mapping and power building.
- Post workshop materials and notes on project website
- Follow-up with coalition partners about workshop content and quality and alignment with roles & responsibilities

Project

- Schedule upcoming coalition partner workshops
- Update and prepare presentation materials for upcoming broad engagement in January
- Prepare and distribute materials for subsequent coalition partners workshops

Thank You

Thank You

Thank You

*Thank you
for shaping the future of Boston **together**.*

City of Boston + Boston Planning & Development Agency

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