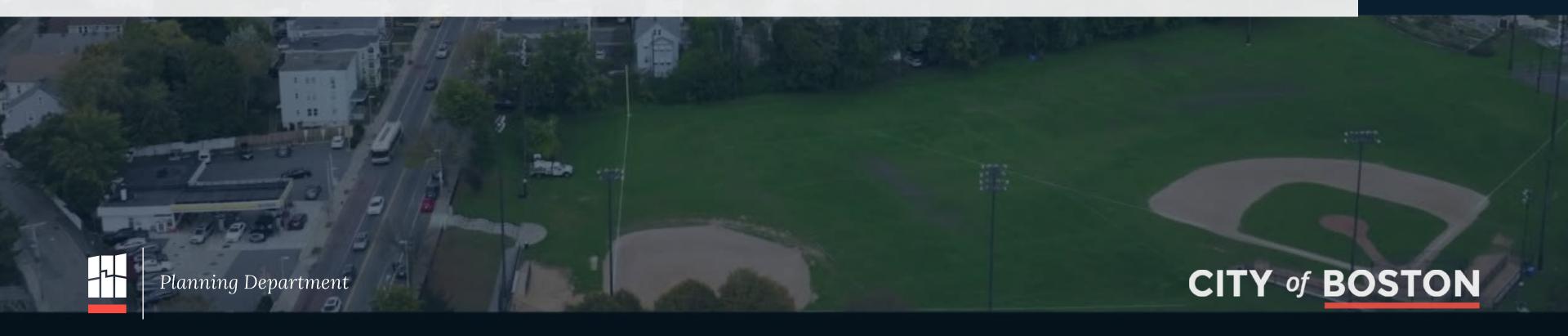


## Roslindale Square: Draft Zoning Updates

Meeting and Resource Fair for Tenants and Owners February 25, 2025 – 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM





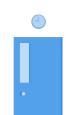
## **Getting Situated**

## Some notes on this evening:





Spanish interpretation services are available in the room



#### **BATHROOMS + EXITS**

Feel free to step out as needed or get up to stretch



#### STAFF SUPPORT

Staff are around to answer questions



#### TIMING + BREAK

Time is dedicated for a variety of formats (presentation  $\rightarrow$  Q&A  $\rightarrow$ resource fair)



#### **MATERIALS**



Presentation slides will be available online by tomorrow afternoon



#### PART OF THE PROCESS

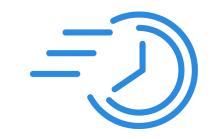
This is one of several touchpoints during this process

## **Engaging with Each Other**





**ASK FOR CLARIFICATION IF NEEDED.** 



SAVE LONGER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FOR THE RESOURCE FAIR PERIOD.



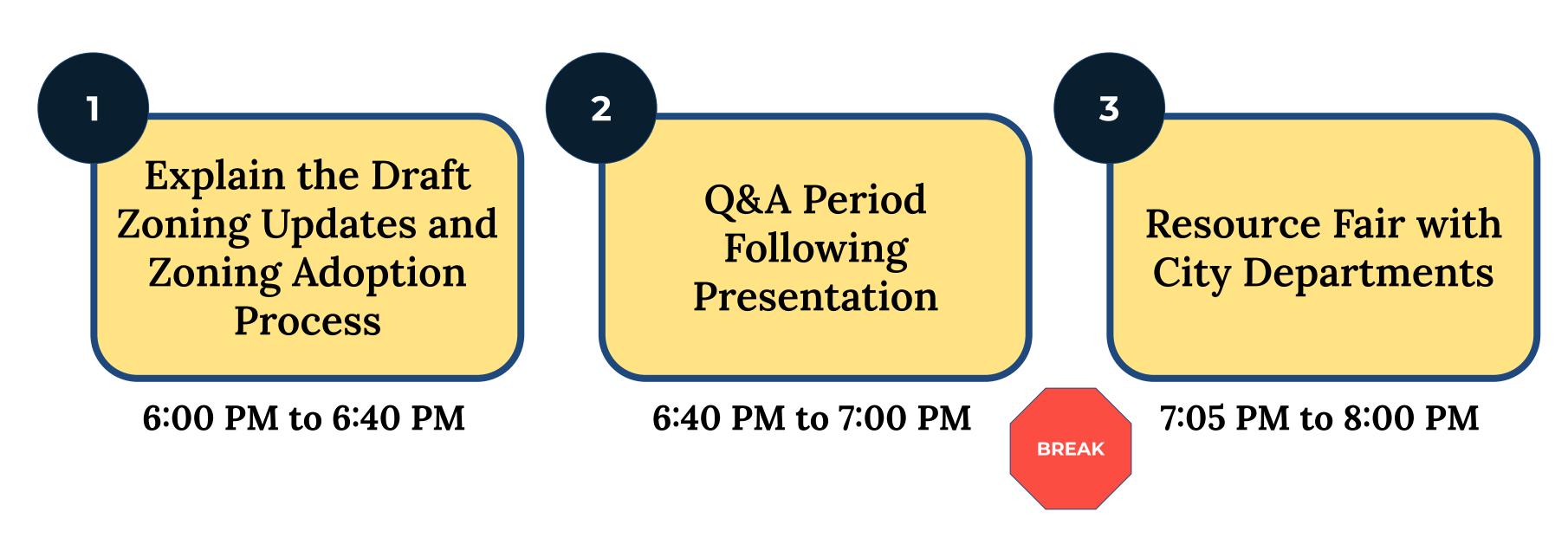
RAISE YOUR HAND TO SPEAK AND AVOID INTERRUPTING OTHERS.



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

## Purpose of Tonight's Meeting + Agenda





**Audience:** Tonight's meeting and any the resources shared are aimed towards residents, business owners, and property owners who are within the rezoning boundary.

## B

## Staff for Tonight's Meeting



#### Roslindale Square: Squares + Streets Team

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

#### Planning Department Staff

- **Kathleen Onufer,** Zoning Reform
- Meera Deean, Urban Design
- Hernan Schlosman, Urban Design
- Lorraine Kung, Urban Design
- Ilana Haimes, Planning Review
- **Kristiana Lachiusa**, Article 80 Modernization; Communications



#### Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion

#### **Emily Patrick**

Senior Neighborhood Business Manager



#### <u>Inspectional Services Department</u>

#### **Paul Williams**

Assistant Commissioner, Plans and Zoning



#### **Licensing Board**

Rebecca Phu, Director Of Operations

Daniel Green, Executive Secretary



#### Planning Advisory Council

Katharine Lusk, Executive Director

Joy Armstrong, Policy Advisor

## 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.

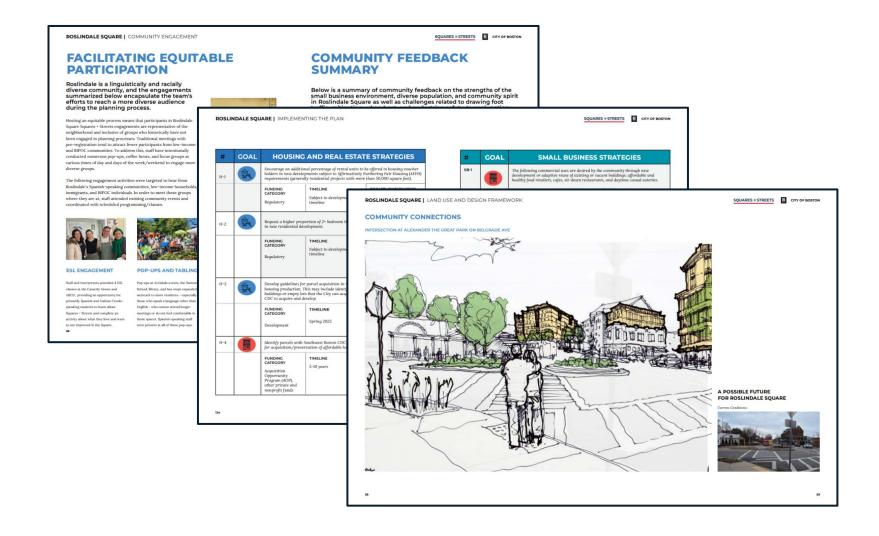
- Support for affirming and allowing multifamily housing throughout the area
- Support for affirming and promoting commercial spaces in more areas
- Interest in mapping certain districts more throughout the area, specifically:
  - Rezoning more areas currently proposed for **S1 into S2 districts**
  - 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

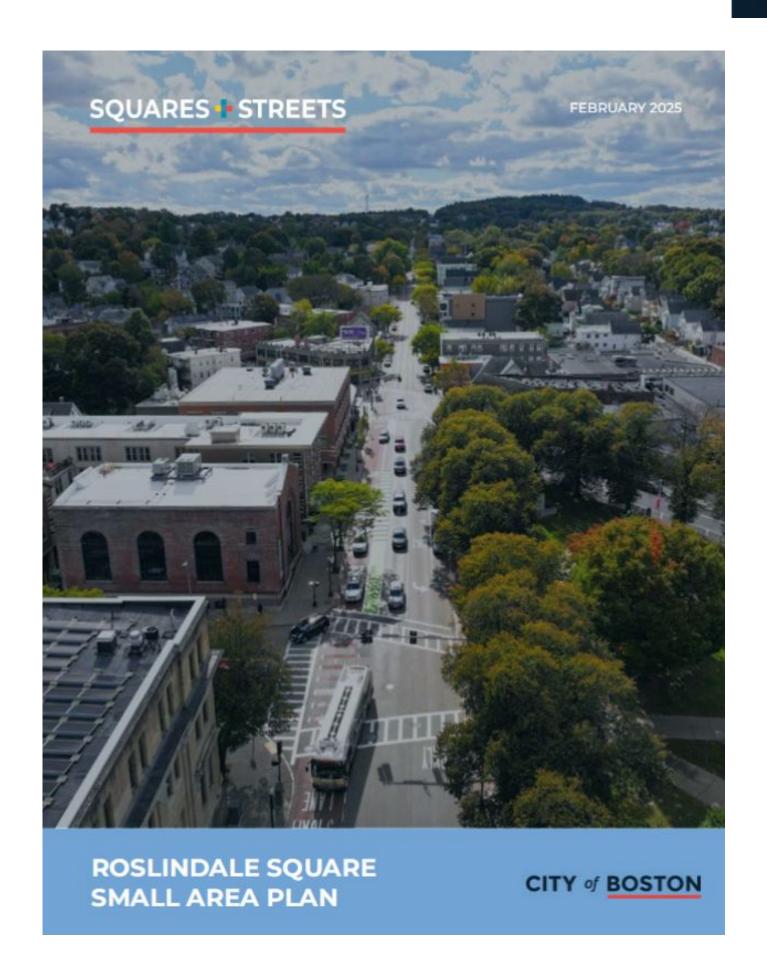
## Background: Roslindale Square Small Area Plan

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.





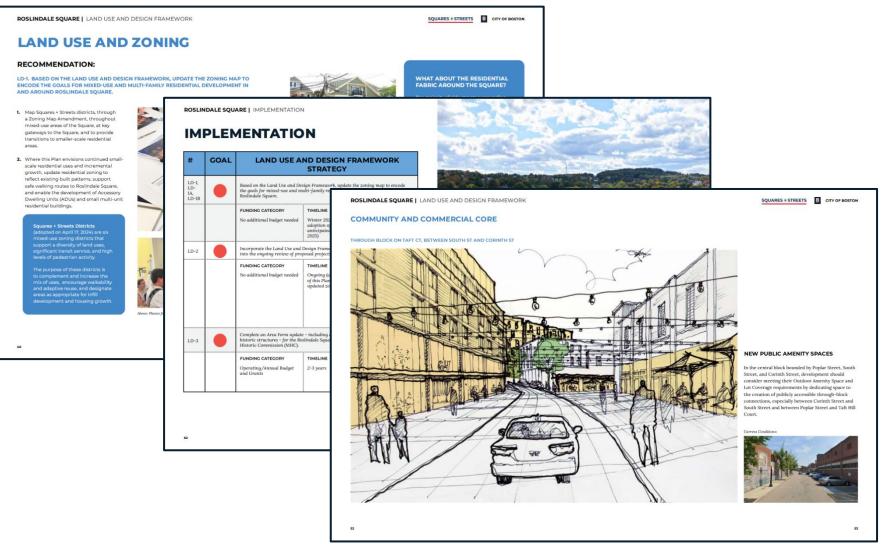
## **Background: Land Use and Design Framework**

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

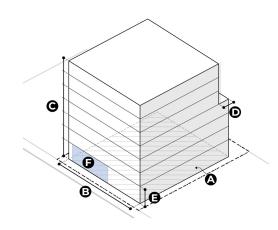
#### "Scale"

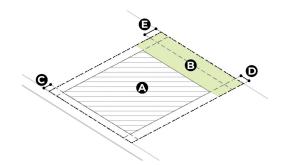
The factors that impact the size of buildings like the height, the width, and how much of the lot a building covers

## "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.



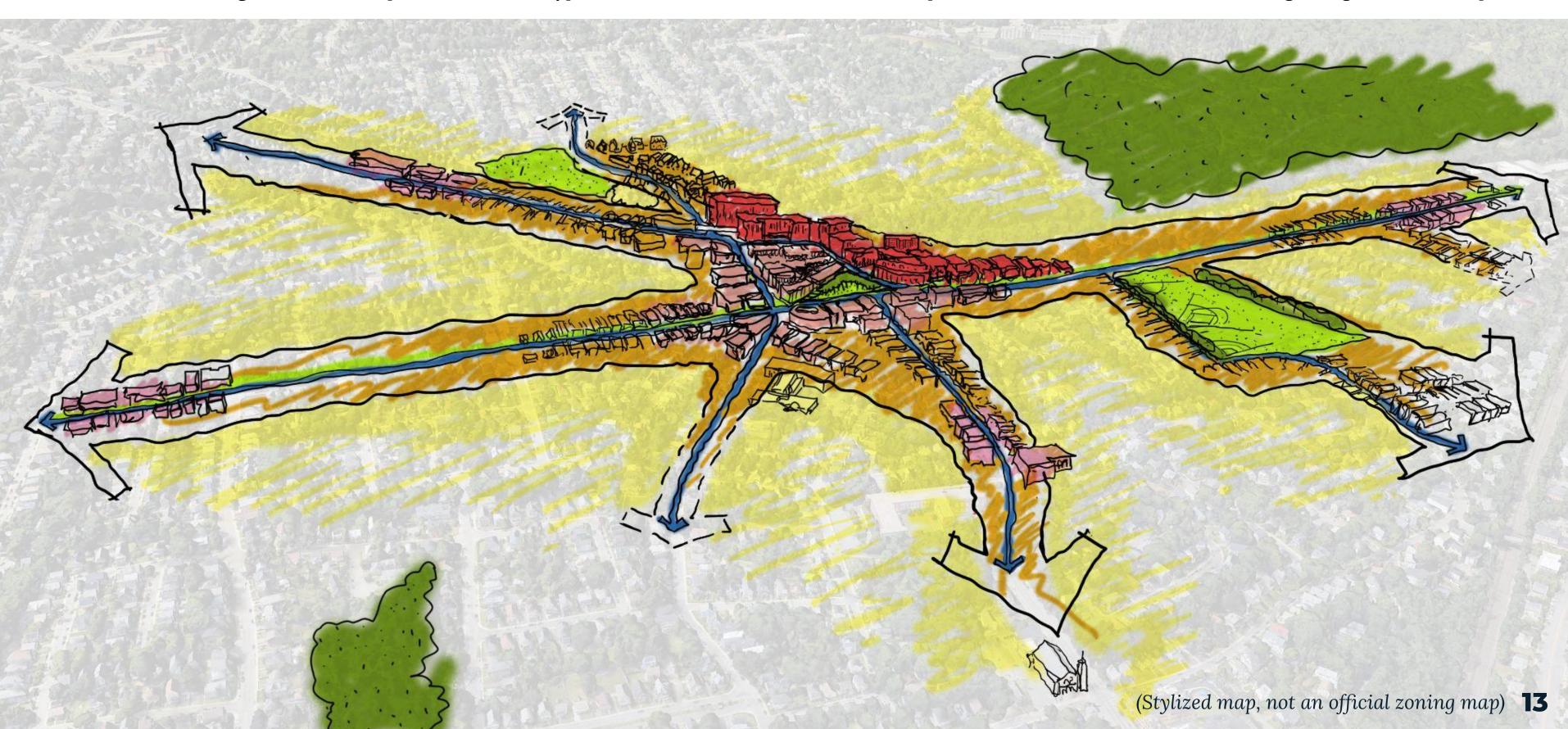
"Gateways" – areas that have small clusters of business spaces and/or a mix of uses that are located slightly further away from the center of neighborhood activity.



## 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

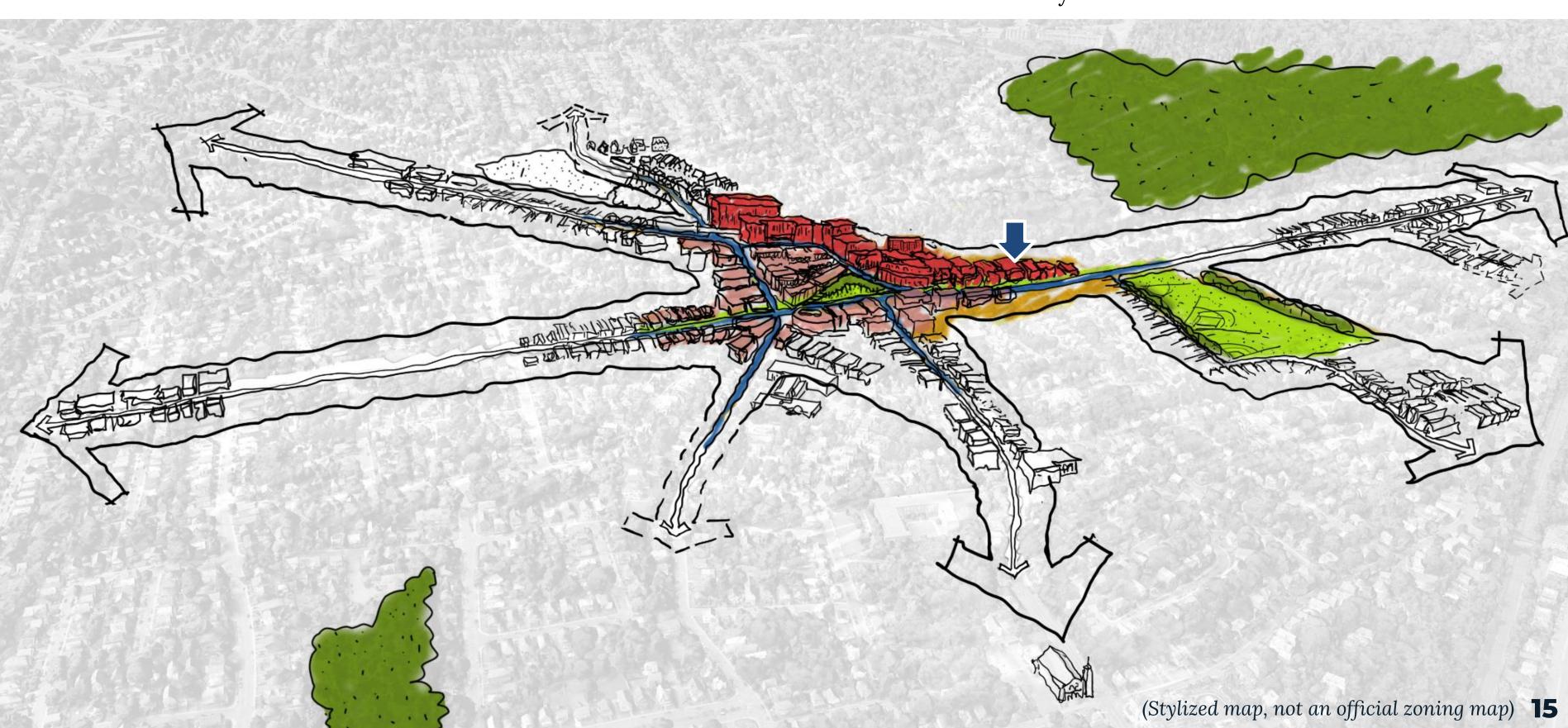
Area 1: A community and commercial core centered around Adams Park that serves as the Square's center of activity



# B

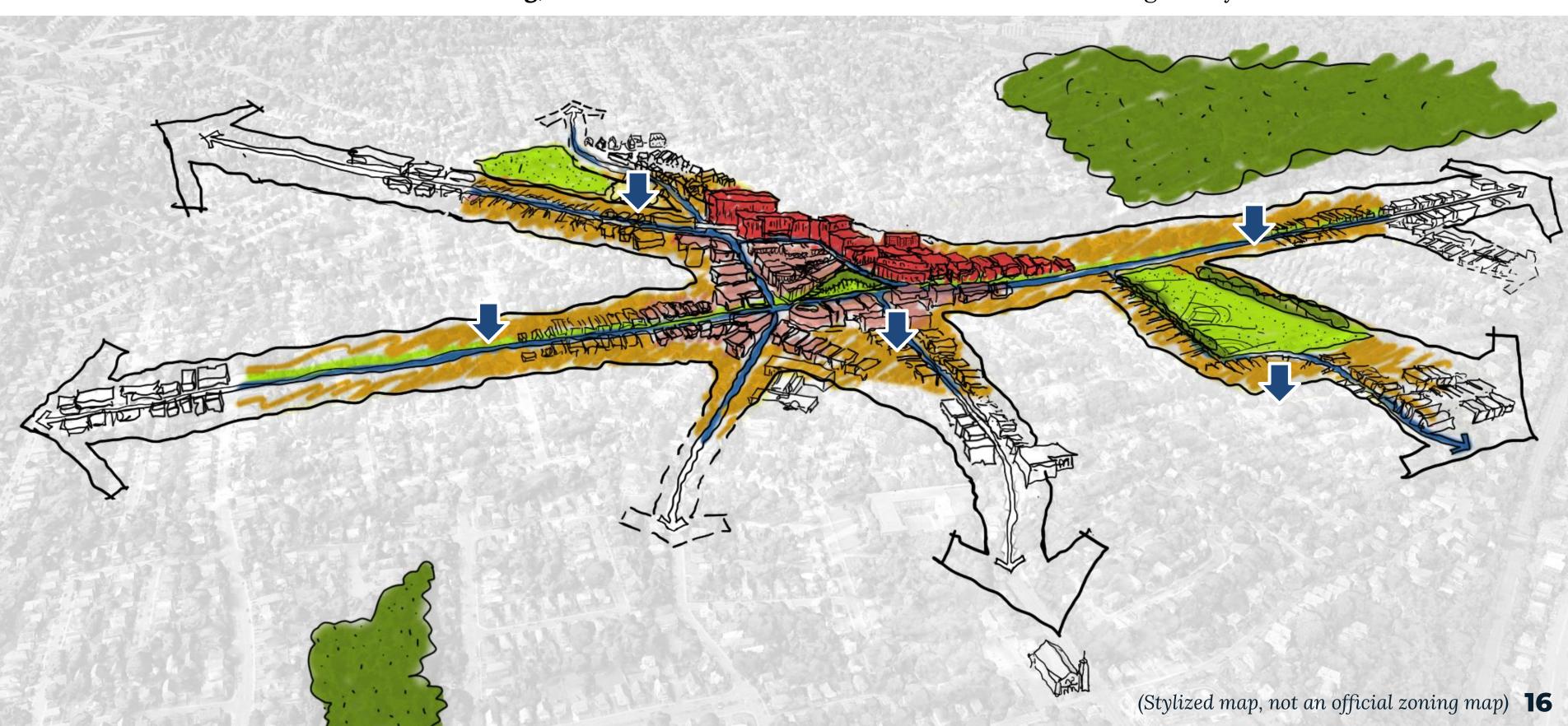
## Land Use and Design Framework – a guide for zoning updates

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



## Land Use and Design Framework – a guide for zoning updates

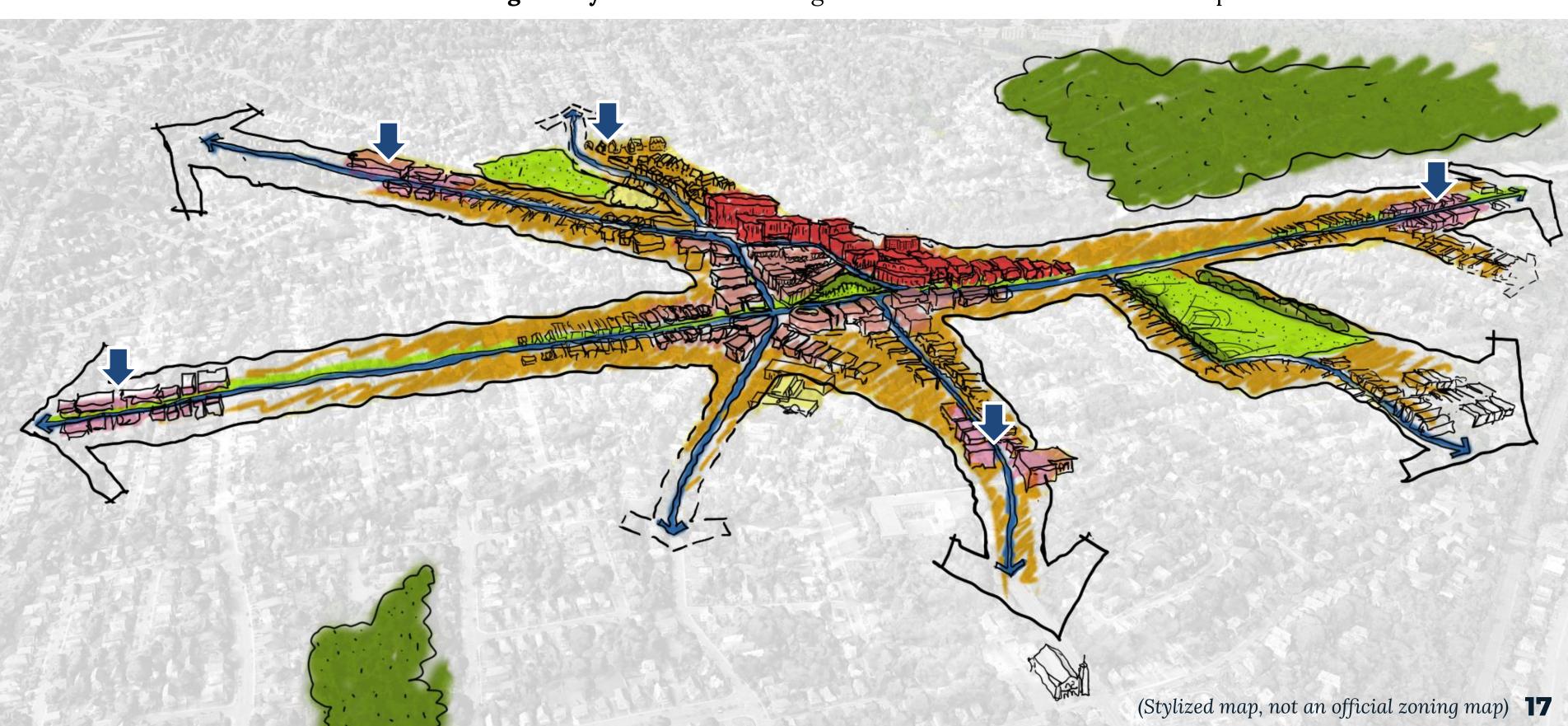
Area 3: Connecting, transitional streets between the core area and local gateways



# B

## 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 Land Use Framework relate to the unique context of Roslindale Square. **The following is an example.** 

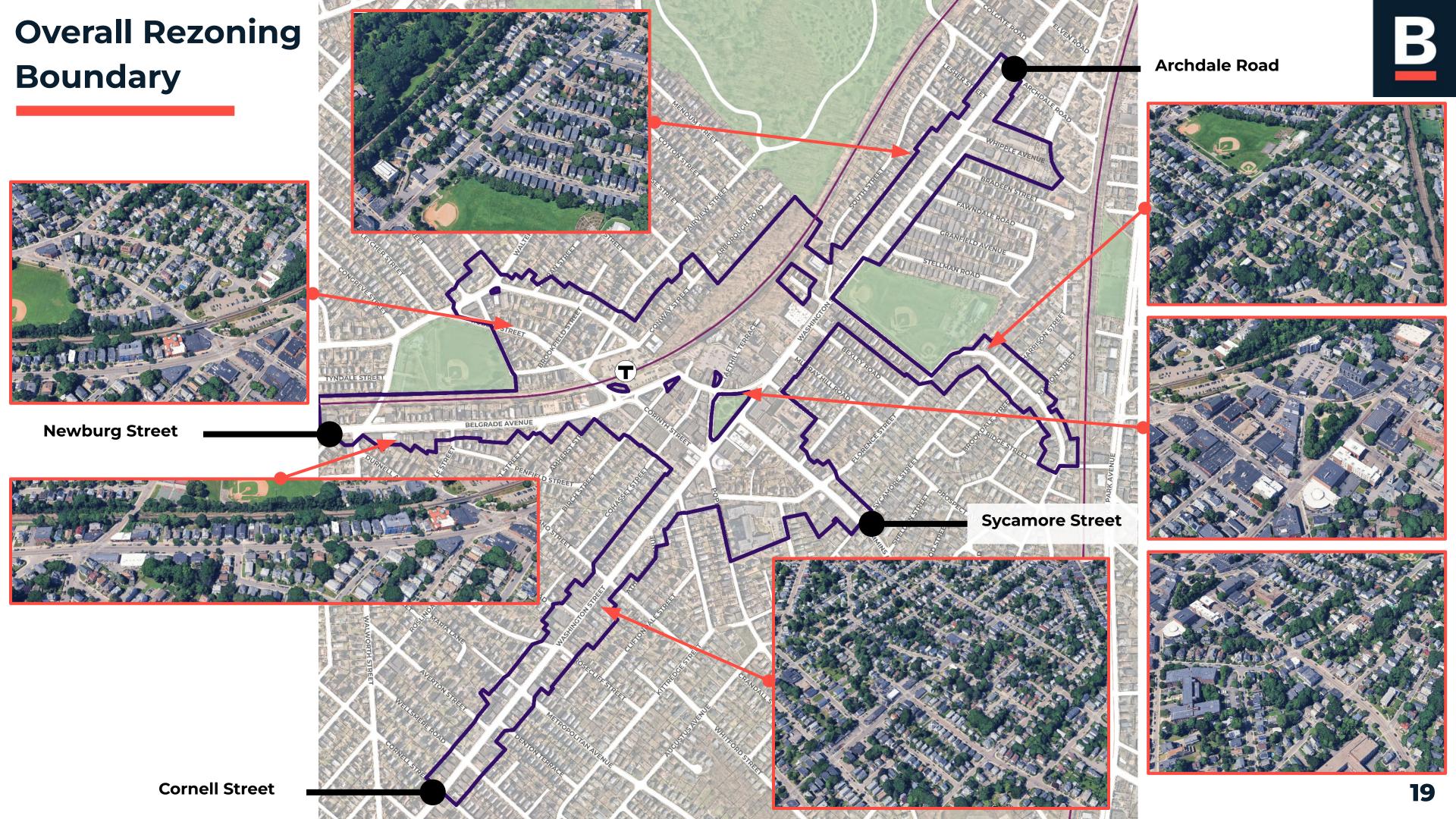


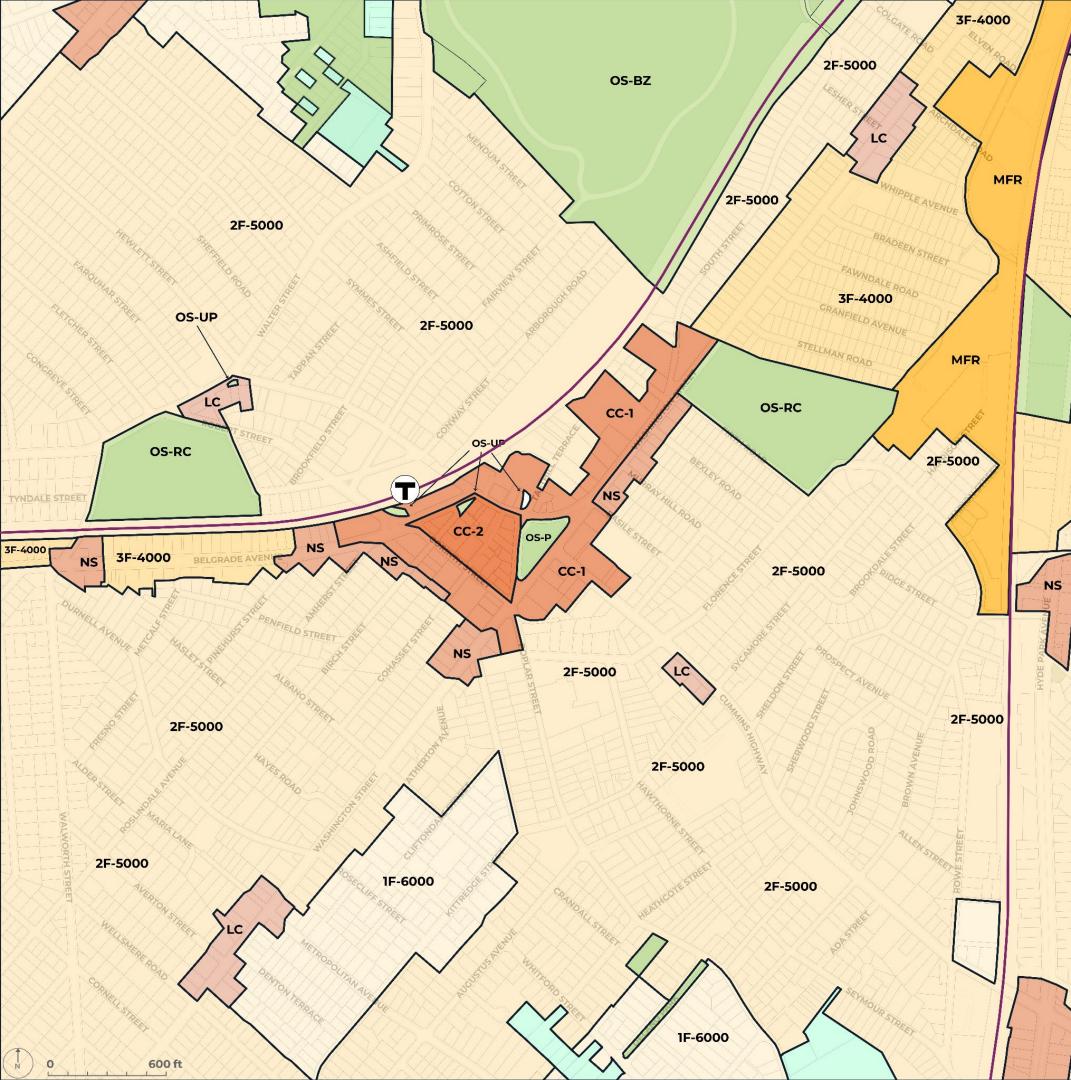
architectural datum line

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

#### **Neighborhood Business Subdistricts**

- 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



## 3F-4000 2F-5000 OS-BZ MFR 2F-5000 3F-4000 2F-5000 MFR OS-RC 50 SI OS-RC 2F-5000 54 S1 S2 2F-5000 SO **S4** SI 2F-5000 2F-5000 2F-5000 2F-5000 1F-6000 2F-5000

# 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

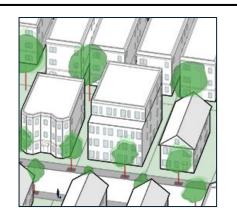
# B

## **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



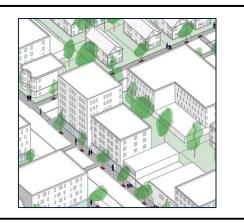
#### S2 - Main Street Mixed Use



- 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



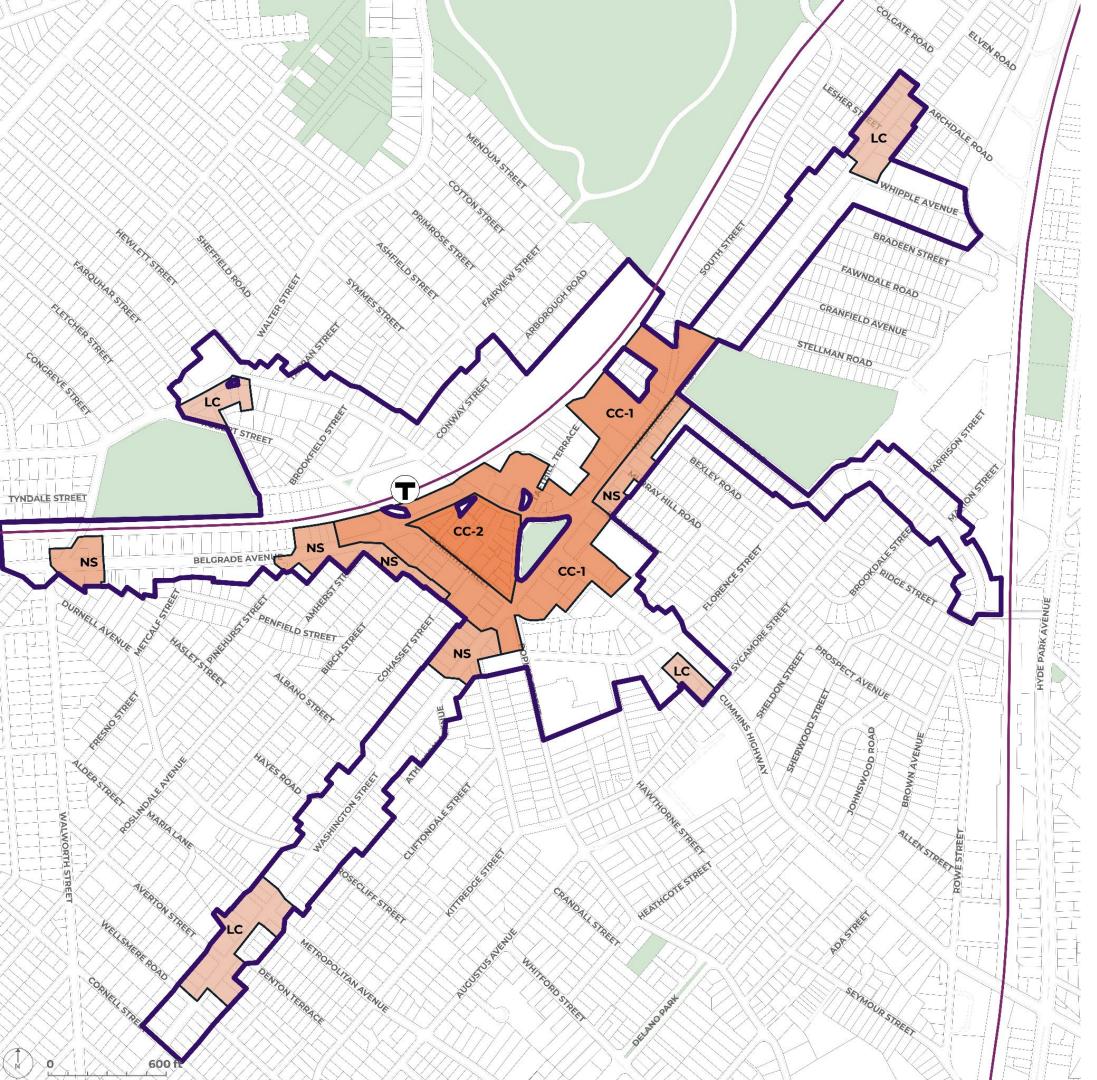
- Up to 7 stories maximum
- Allows for wider buildings than S3 and more flexibility for medium- and large-scale uses
- Outdoor amenity spaces required higher percentage than S3
- Ground floor active uses required



#### 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

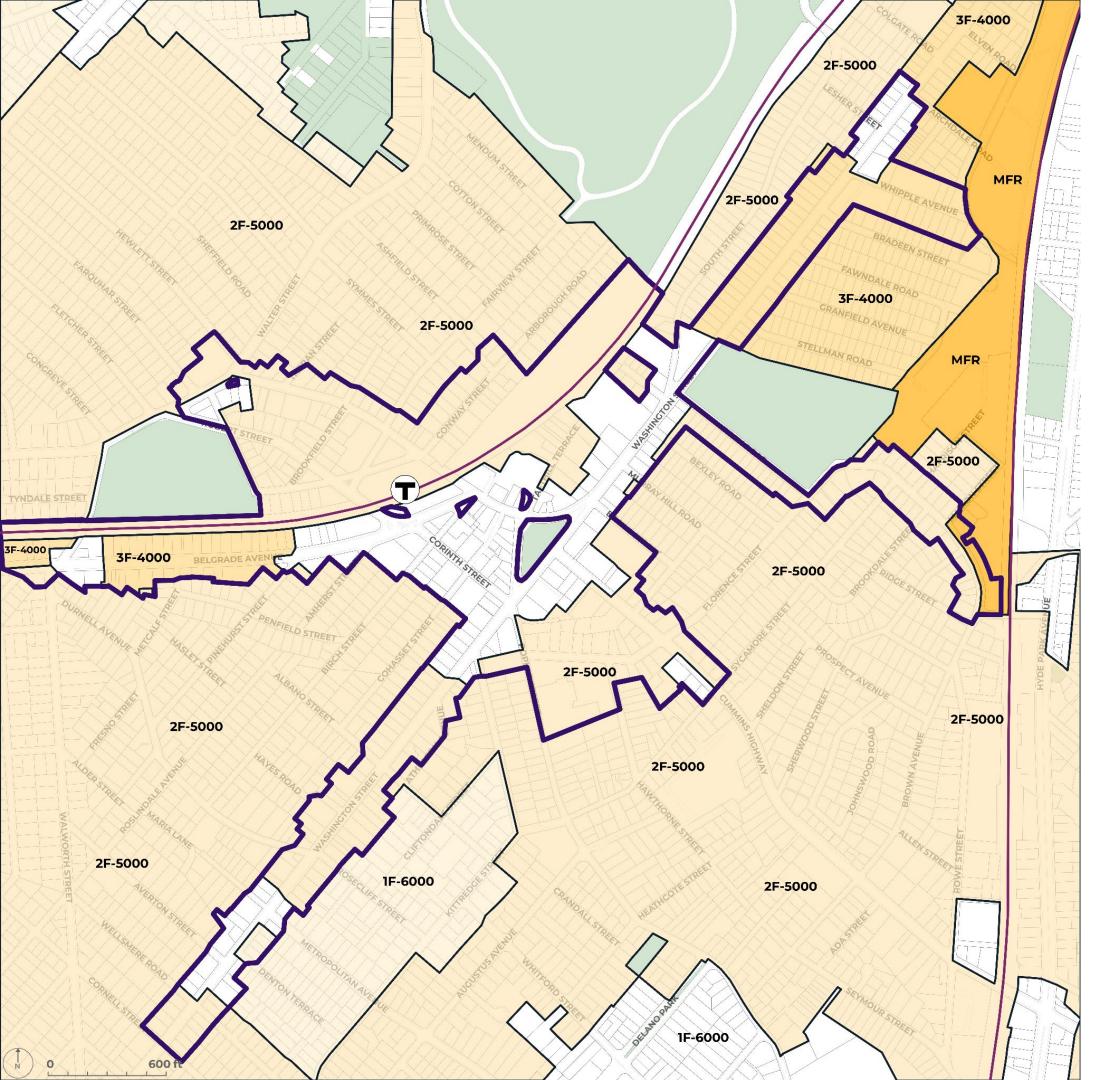


# **Updated Zoning in Existing Neighborhood Business Areas**

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**.



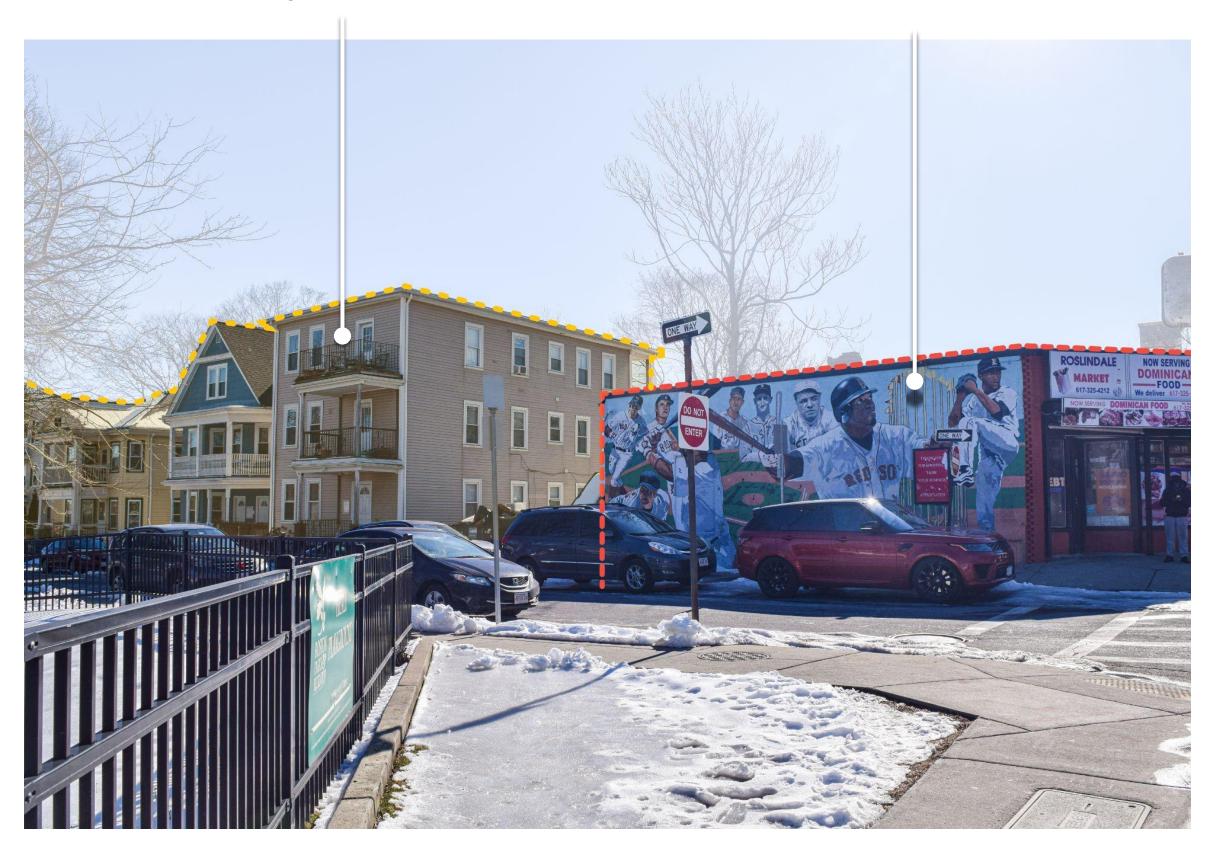
#### **SO Districts**

#### 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

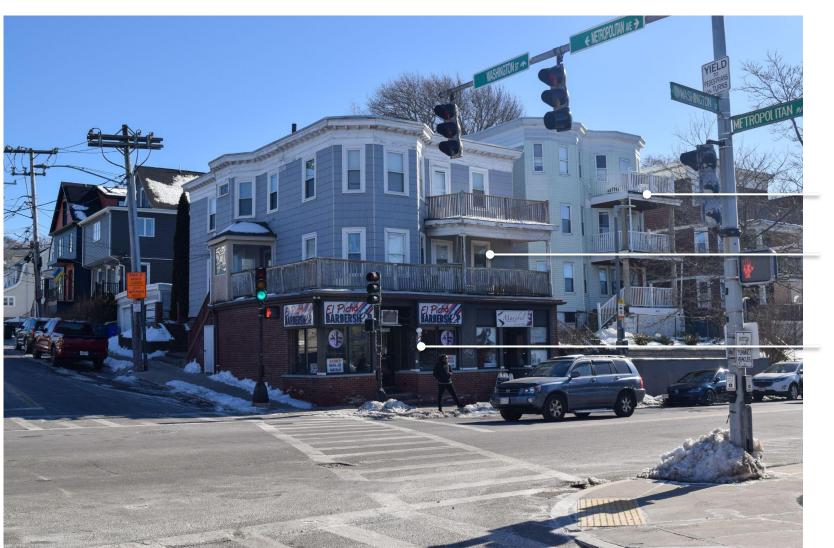
Corner of Washington St and Firth Rd

## Squares and Streets Zoning Districts: What can S0 be?

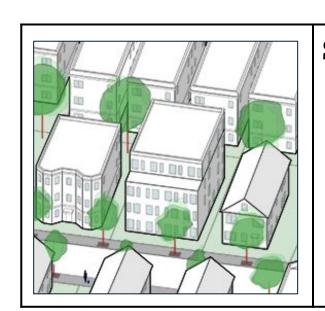


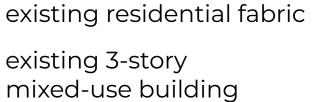












small-scale, local business on the ground floor



- 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

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

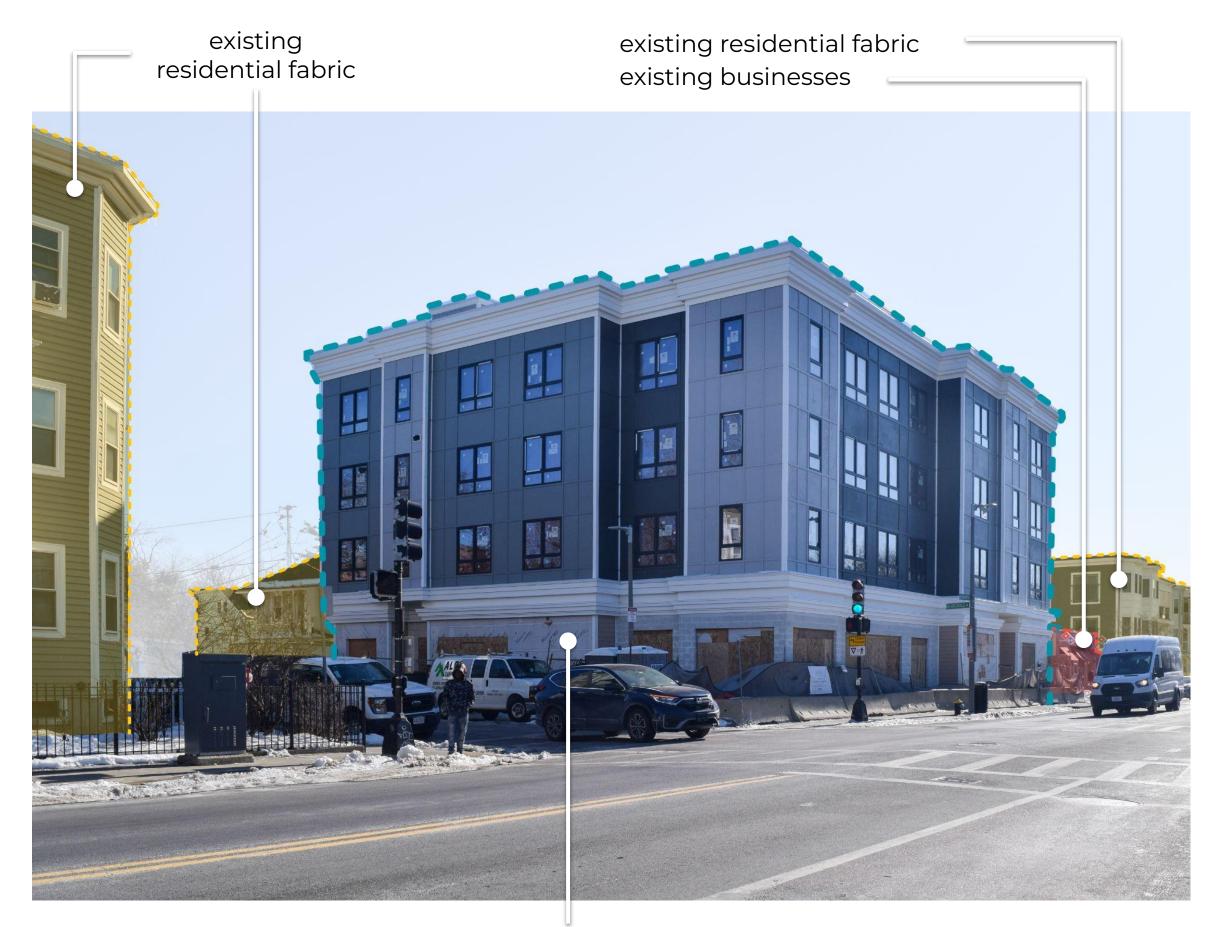
- Up to 4 stories maximum
- For parts of a main street that are largely residential but have occasional non-residential uses
- Allows more flexibility for small-scale commercial uses



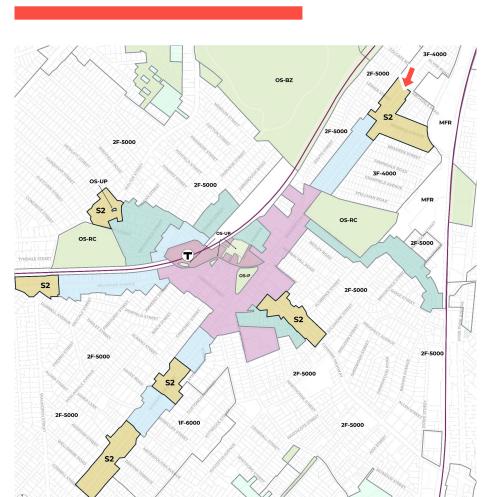
#### **S2 Districts**

#### 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 Districts**Main Street Mixed Use



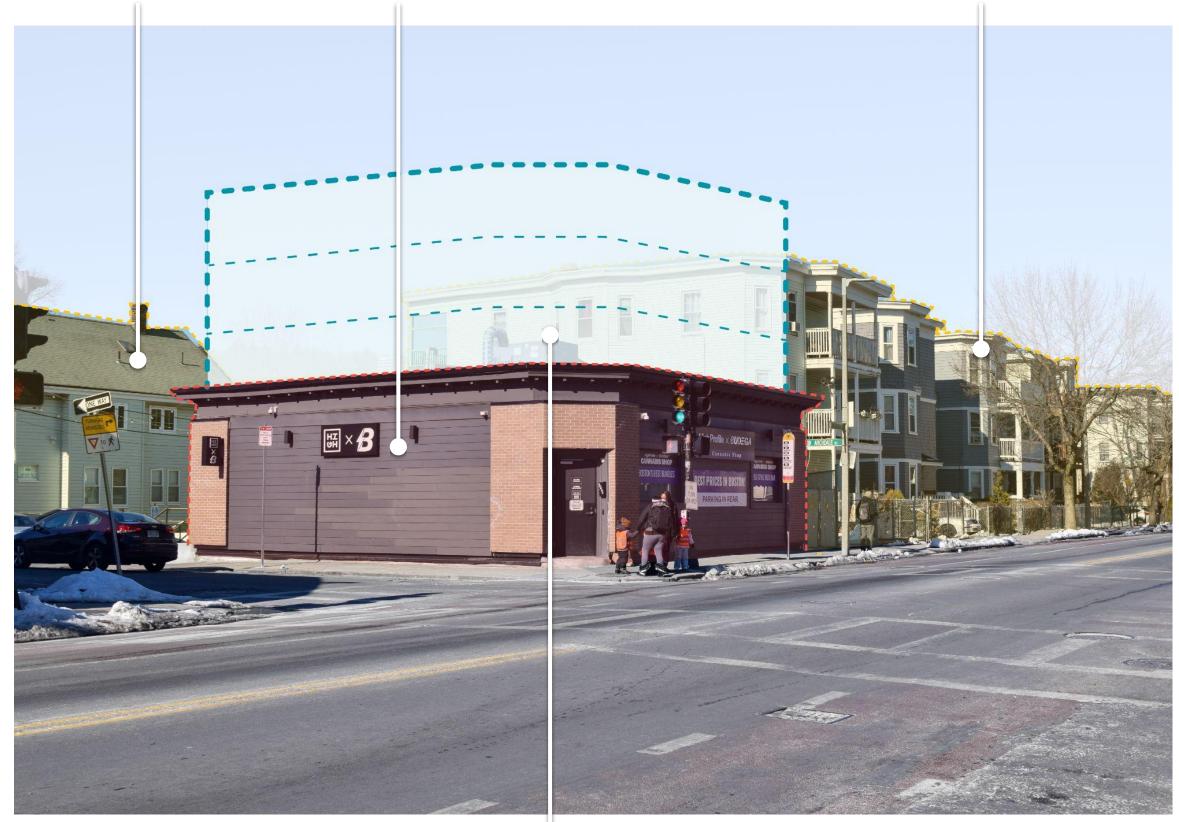
**View:** looking southwest at the corner of Washington St and Archdale Rd

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

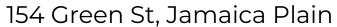
Corner of Washington St and Archdale Rd

## 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







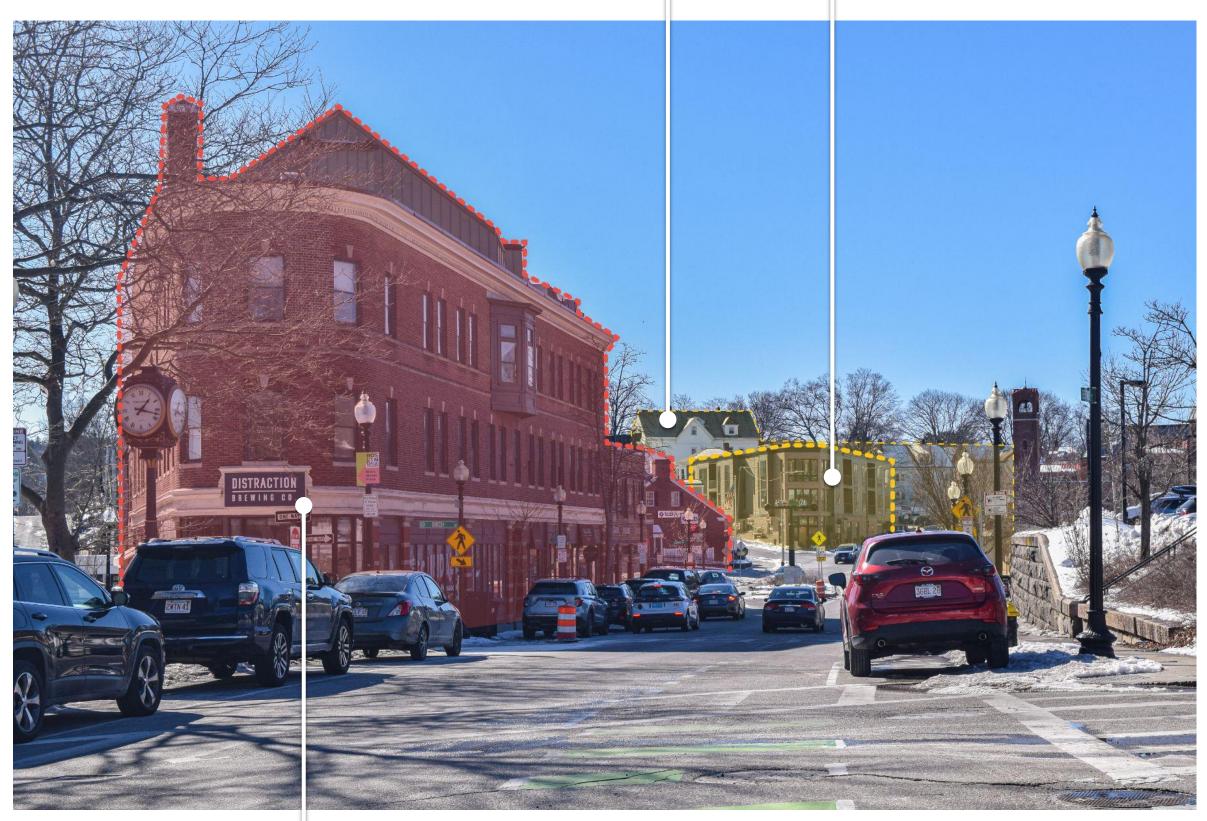
### **S4 Districts**

## 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

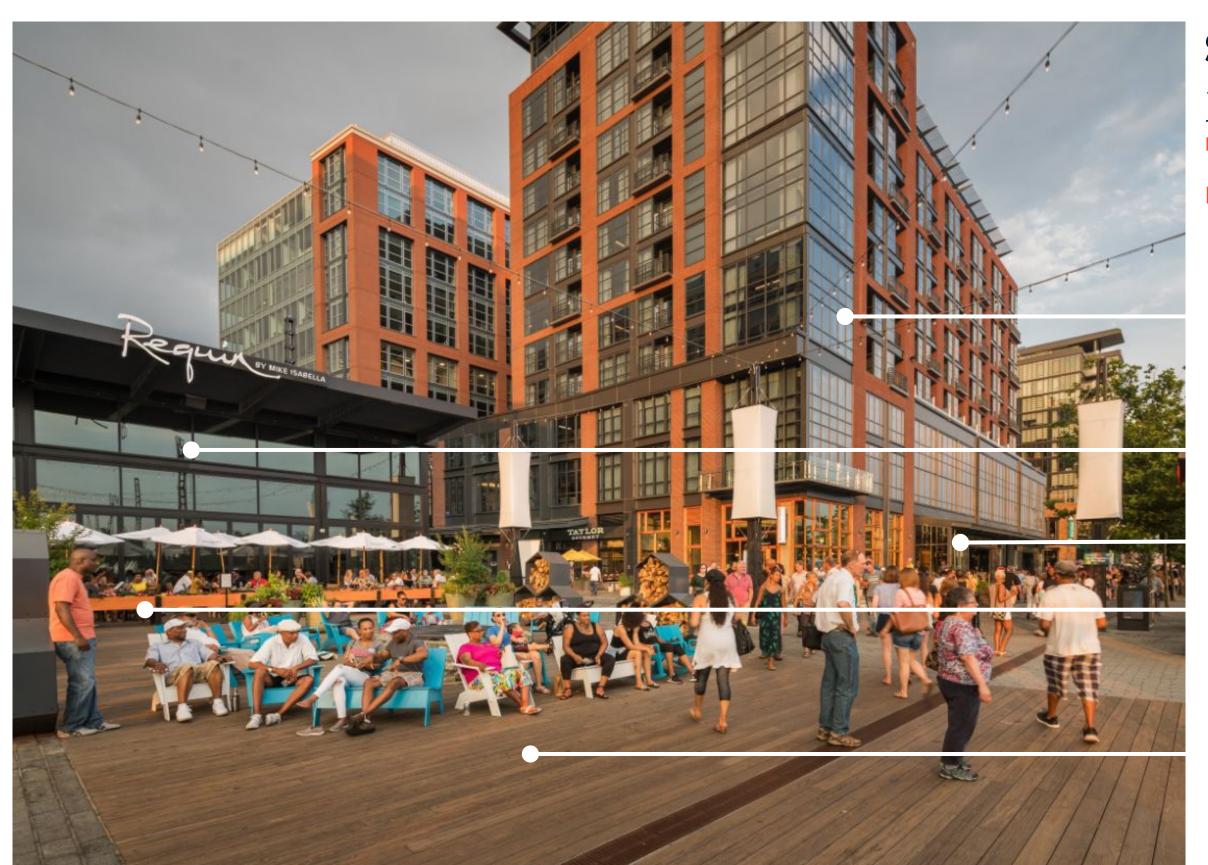
- Up to 7 stories maximum
- Allows for wider buildings than S3 and more flexibility for medium- and large-scale uses
- Outdoor amenity spaces required higher percentage than S3
- Ground floor active uses required



### **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?



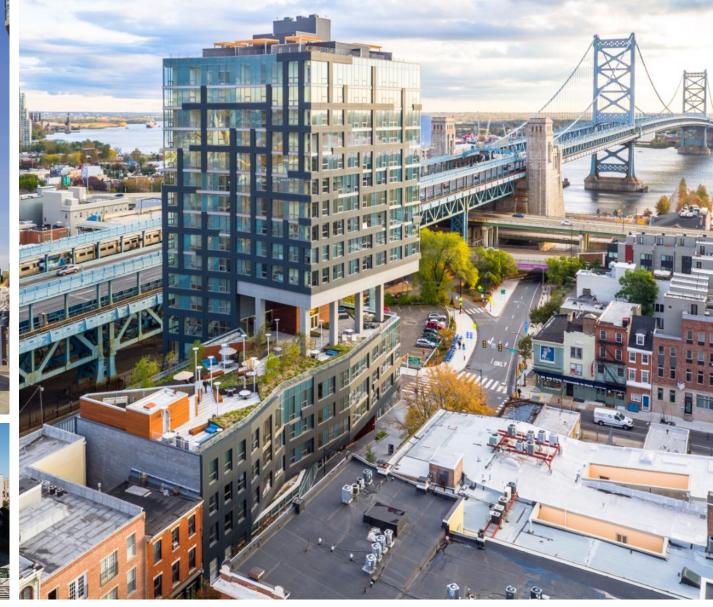












#### S5 - Placemaker Squares

- 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**

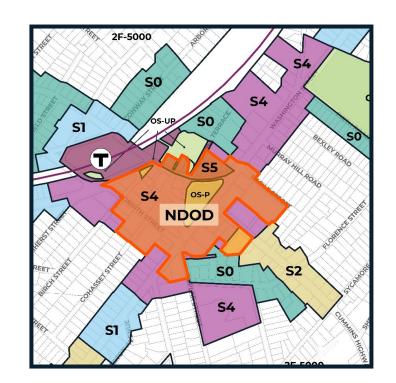
## Urban Plaza Open Space

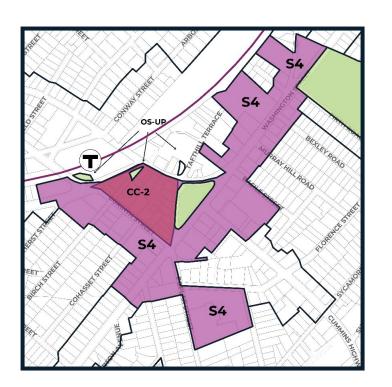
- Updates the Taft Hill Municipal Lot to an Open Space subdistrict
- Affirms the existing and continued use as a major parking amenity
- The parking lot will continue to serve as a community resource that supports access to the local small business ecosystem and community-serving activities, like the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

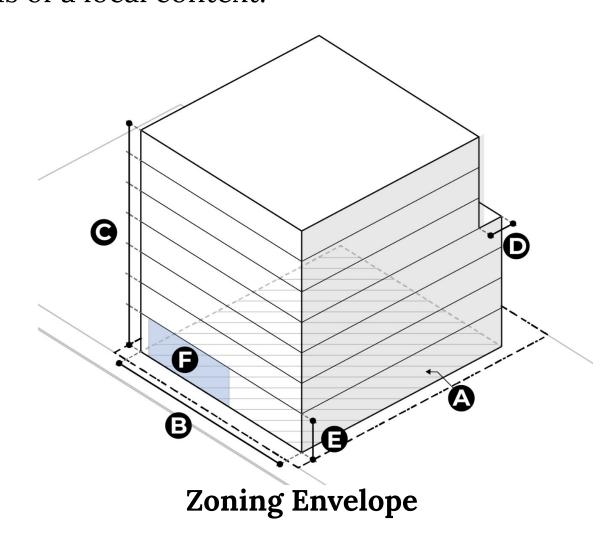


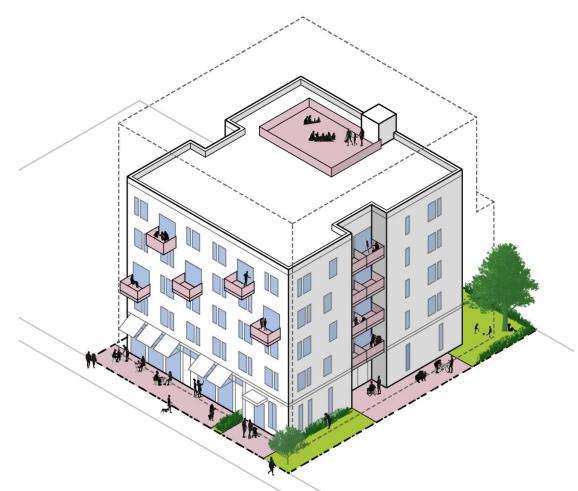


Minor updates like these help to make sure that the Boston Zoning Code remains up-to-date with active zoning regulations, which improves how people can read the Zoning Code and how it is applied in the development process.

### **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

Community and abutters' feedback



#### Financing and Costs

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







Local demand for certain uses



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

## 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.

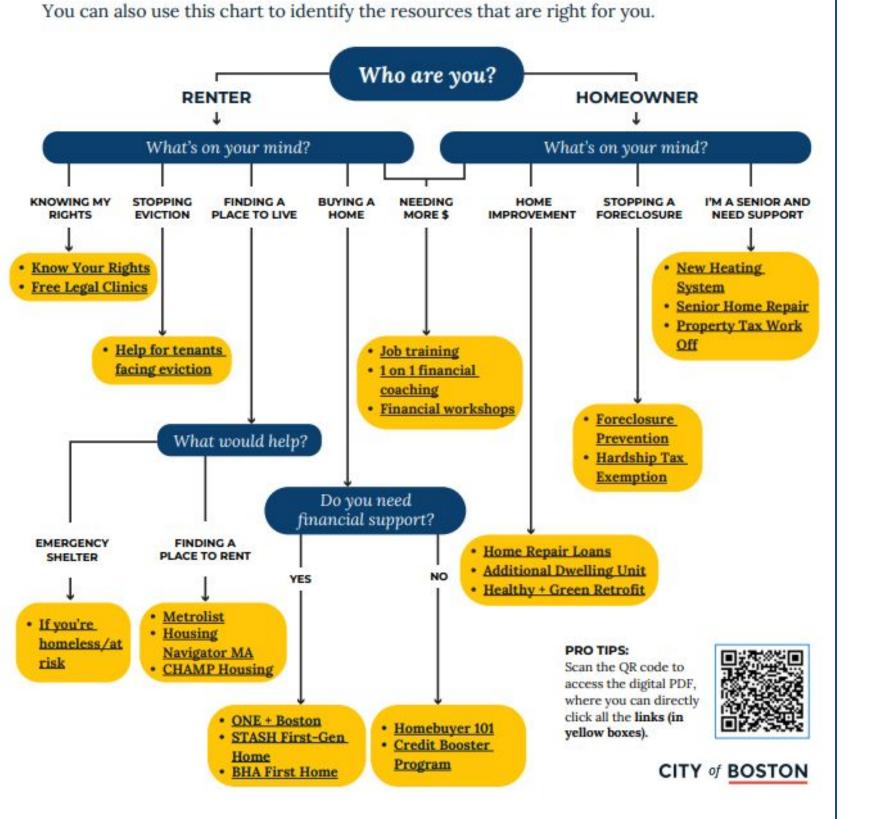
### Finding and keeping a home can be stressful. The City of Boston **can help**.

#### **RENTERS:**

Visit BOSTON.GOV/HOUSING-STABILITY or call 617.635.4200

#### HOMEOWNERS:

Visit HOMECENTER.BOSTON.GOV or call 617.635.4663



#### 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 <b>\$2,000</b> property tax relief
ELDERLY EXEMPTION	65+	Single: <\$25,834 Married: <\$38,751	Single: <\$40,000 Married: <\$55,000 Excluding value of home	Up to <b>\$2,000</b> 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

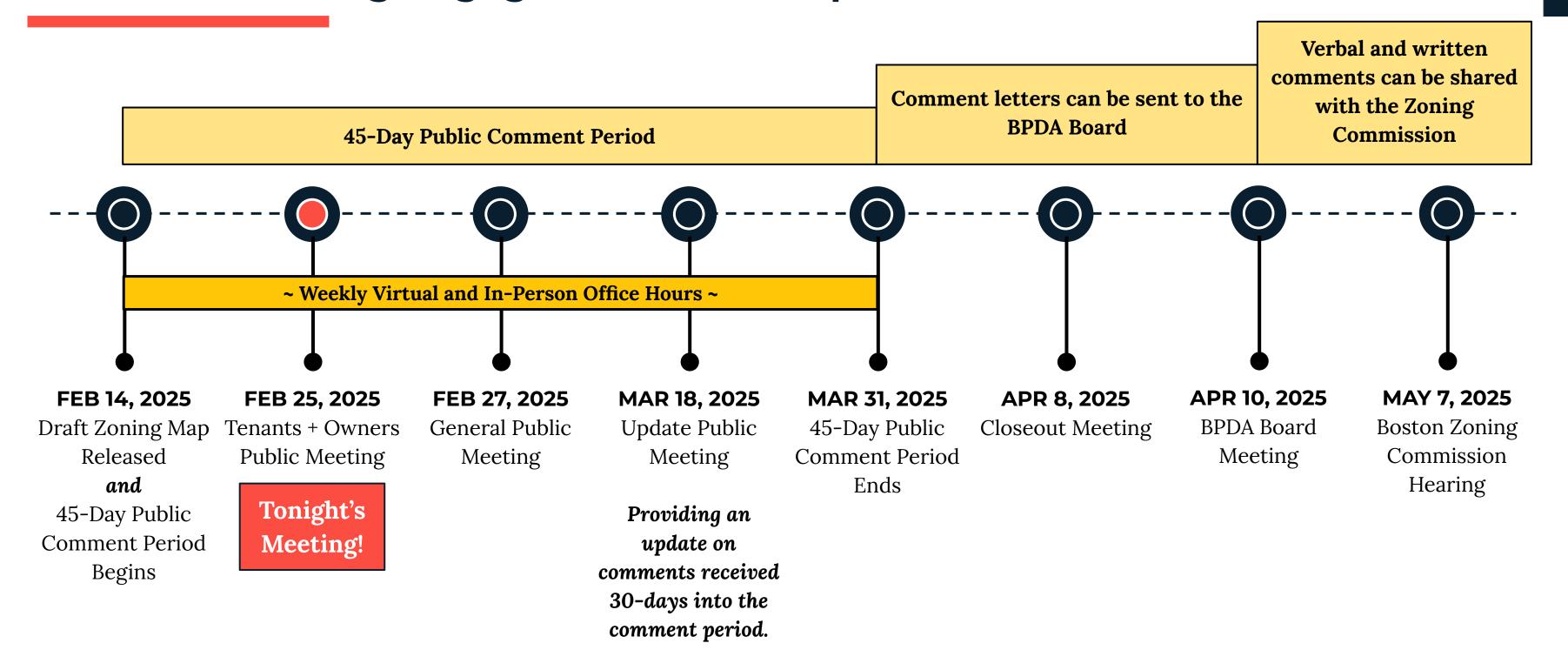
# **Beyond Squares and Streets Zoning – Stabilization Resources**

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: <a href="mailto:bosplans.org/RoslindaleZoningPublicComments">bosplans.org/RoslindaleZoningPublicComments</a>.

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.

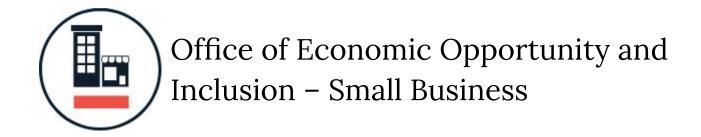
If you are part of a local community group that would like a more detailed explanation of these zoning updates, **please contact Abdul at abdul-razak.zachariah@boston.gov** to request and coordinate a time for a virtual or in-person presentation to your group.

Thank You!

Q&A

### Resource Fair - 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Please use this time to speak with staff from the following City of Boston departments and teams available to answer questions and provide resources. If you have questions specifically about the draft zoning map, please go to the **Zoning and**Comprehensive Planning table.







### Planning Department



- Zoning and Comprehensive Planning
- Urban Design
- Development Review (Article 80 Modernization)
- Planning Review
- Planning Advisory Council
  - o Anti-Displacement; Housing Resources