



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.

(Caboverdean) Djobe íkune di interpretason (un globu) na parti inferior di tela y selesiona bu língua ki bu kre skuta reunion.

(Kreyòl Ayisyen) Chèche ikòn entèpretasyon ki gen fòm (glòb) anba ekran ou an epi seleksyone lang ou vle tande a.

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

(Tiếng Việt) Tìm biểu tượng phiên dịch (hình quả địa cầu) ở phía cuối màn hình của bạn và chọn ngôn ngữ bạn muốn nghe.

(简体中文) 查找屏幕底部的翻译图标(地球仪),然后选择您想听到的语言。

(繁體中文) 查找屏幕底部的翻譯圖標(地球儀), 然後選擇您想听到的語言。



Zoom Controls to View Translated Slides

(EN) Look for the "View options" button at the top of your screen and select "Share Screens," then select the language of the slides that you want to view.

(Caboverdean) Prokura buton "View Options" (Djobe Opson) na parti di sima di tela y skodje "Share Screens" (Partilha Tela), dipos skodje idioma ki bu ta gostaba di djobe aprezentason.

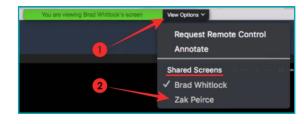
(Kreyòl Ayisyen) Chèche bouton "View options" ki anlè ekran ou a epi chwazi "Share Screens", epi chwazi lang ou vle wè nan diapositives yo.

(Español) Busque el botón "Ver opciones" en la parte superior de la pantalla y seleccione "Compartir pantallas", luego seleccione el idioma de las diapositivas que desea ver.

(**Tiếng Việt**) Tìm nút "Tùy chọn xem" ở đầu màn hình của bạn và chọn "Chia sẻ màn hình", sau đó chọn ngôn ngữ của các trang chiếu mà bạn muốn xem.

(简体中文) 查找屏幕顶部的"查看选项"按钮并选择"共享屏幕",然后选择要查看的幻灯片的语言。

(繁體中文) 查找屏幕頂部的"查看選項"按鈕並選擇"共享屏幕",然後選擇要查看的幻燈片的語言。





Zoom Meeting Info + Tips

- The BPDA will be recording this meeting and posting it on the BPDA's project webpage. If you do not wish to be recorded during the meeting, please turn off your microphone and camera.
- Zoom controls are available at the bottom of your screen. Clicking on these symbols activates different features.
- Use raise hand function (dial 9 followed by 6 if joining by phone)
 and wait to be called upon before asking your question or
 providing comment.







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



Turn video on/off



Don't Be Afraid to Ask for Clarification!

Ask questions in the chat along the way – our staff are available to answer during the presentation!

Ask for us to clarify any terms or concepts we discuss – we want to make sure the that what we cover is accessible to everyone so you can all share your informed feedback!



Squares + Streets Zoning Team

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Agenda

- 1. Introduction
 - Squares + Streets
 - What is zoning?
 - Why are zoning updates needed?
 - How and when will these updates be made?
- 2. Zoning Analysis
 - Dimensional Regulations
 - Land Uses
- 3. Timeline and Next Steps
- 4. Discussion







What is the Squares + Streets Initiative?

Squares + Streets is one of the first steps towards citywide zoning reform, aligned with other citywide initiatives.

An opportunity to align planning with **implementation pathways** that can be completed within 10 years including:

- updated zoning
- public space/streetscape investments
- plans for City-owned parcels
- programs/funding for small businesses, arts, housing, etc.

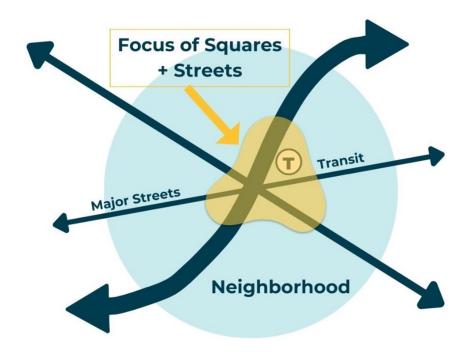




Where: Squares + Streets

Squares + Streets is focused on **expanding access to and services in Boston's transit-rich main streets** across neighborhoods.

Our work is focused on providing **updated zoning regulations** for new Squares + Streets districts across Boston.





What is zoning?

Zoning is a set of laws that are used to guide development by dictating the **allowed use**, **shape**, **and density of development** in a given area.

Article 80 (a chapter of the Boston Zoning Code) provides specific requirements for the review of certain development projects in all of the neighborhoods of Boston.

Land Use Dimensional Regulations **Building Lot Coverage** These are encoded in zoning. **Building Scale** Setbacks Permeable Area of Lot Enforced at the **Design Guidelines** project level through **Article** Individual Site Design 80 review.



Why do Squares + Streets need updated zoning?

- Diversify amenities and uses in neighborhood centers to meet local needs.
- Reduce regulatory obstacles for active uses and local businesses.
- Set design and development standards that support more housing options and encourage housing growth.
- Ensure sustainable design and green building standards.
- Make the zoning process more transparent and accessible, reducing reliance on ZBA





How and when will these updates be made?

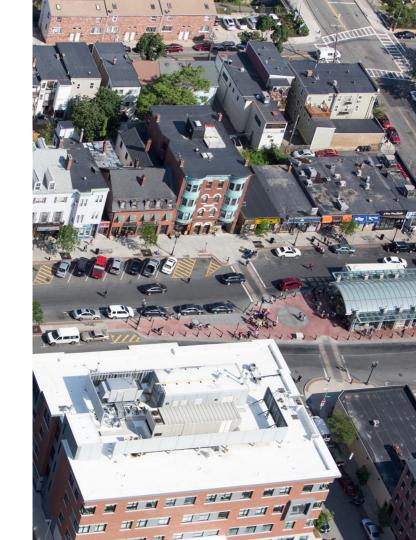
Fall 2023

- Zoning text amendment to create new Squares +
 Streets districts in the Boston Zoning Code.
- Mapping these new districts in East Boston and Mattapan based on recent neighborhood plans.

Spring 2024

- Squares + Streets Small Area Plans will kickoff in January.
- Each small area that receives a plan will have updated zoning maps that will include the Squares + Streets districts.







How does zoning regulate building form?

Boston zoning dimensional regulations vary widely by neighborhood, but often rely on **Floor Area Ratio** (FAR) and Height.

Setbacks, open space, and frontage requirements also help control space between buildings and open space.

	Local Convenience Subdistricts	Neighborhood Shopping Subdistricts	
	(LC)	(NS-1)	(NS-2)
Maximum Floor Area Ratio	0.8	1	2
Maximum Building Height	35	35	45
Minimum Lot Size	none	none	none
Minimum Lot Per Dwelling Unit	none	none	none
Minimum Usable Open Space Per Dwelling Unit (sq. ft.) ⁽¹⁾	50	50	50
Minimum Lot Width	none	none	none
Minimum Lot Frontage	none	none	none
Minimum Front Yard ⁽²⁾	none	none (3)	none (3)
Minimum Side Yard ⁽⁴⁾	none	none	none



What else determines building form?

Energy, accessibility, and state buildings codes all have a strong impact on building form.

- International Building Code (IBC):
 Determines the way specific materials can be constructed to maximize structural safety, fire safety, and building access
- Energy Code (Stretch Code): Ensures new buildings are designed and constructed with energy efficiency in mind
- Massachusetts Access Board (521 CMR)/ADA/Fair Housing







Limitations of Zoning Dimensional Regulations

Challenge: Zoning code does not always align with new advancements in energy code or construction and can limit opportunities for new housing and mixed-use growth in our neighborhood centers.

Opportunity: Create dimensional regulations that can support more housing options that are responsive to sustainability, open space, and public realm goals.

Outcomes: A palette of zoning tools that future planning will use to enable as-of-right housing in key areas throughout the city.





Precedent Research

To understand what is being proposed, we are taking qualitative and quantitative measurements of residential projects proposed in the past five years, at both the Article 80 and large ZBA scales.

Qualitative Measurements

- What does this building look like?
- How is it used?
- How does the ground floor talk to the street?
- What is the parcel shaped like?
- How was it built (zoning variances, parcel history, etc.)

Quantitative Measurements

- How wide is this building?
- How much of the lot does it take up?
- How are the commercial floors different from residential?



Precedents

We collected data on over 200 precedents, and took deep dives into a sample of

about 40.

















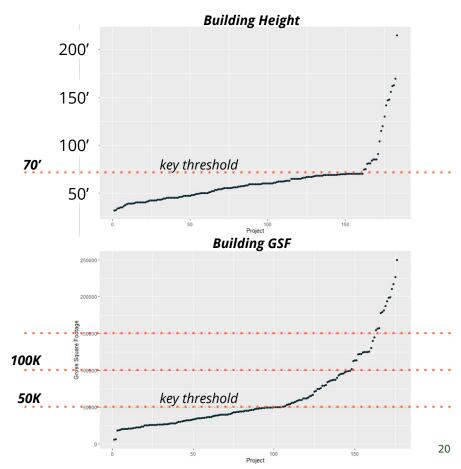


Analysis Outcomes

- Building code and project review thresholds drive building size more than any other factor.
- Parcel size drives building shapes.
- Building types can be categorized based on their function within the city context

Boston Building Trends

(Projects filed within the last 5 years between 3 and 19 stories)





Takeaways

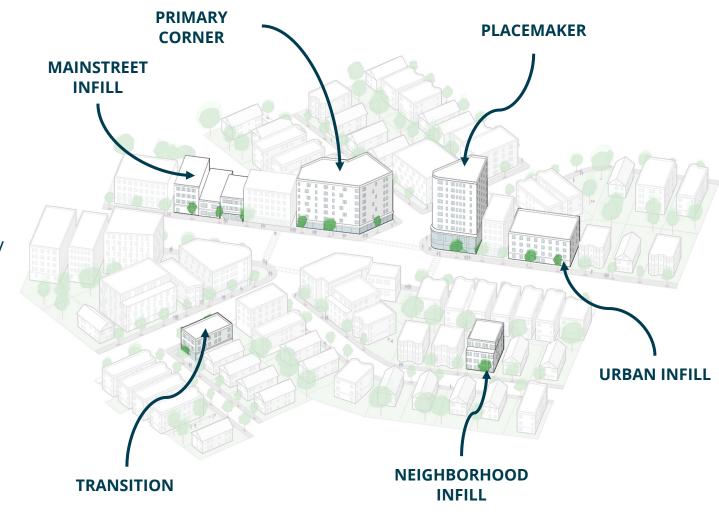
How does our analysis play out on a hypothetical square?





Typologies

Building typologies can be categorized by how they function in context and are perceived from the street – not strictly by their height and density.





Potential Building Controls

Key dimensions drive each of these building types:

- Parcel size
- Building lot coverage
- Facade buildout
- Height
- Density bonus





Parcel Size

- What it means: The assessed land area of the lot being developed.
- What it does: Can be used to set breakpoints between and within districts, such as for what typologies are allowed on what parcels or which set of zoning dimensions apply where.



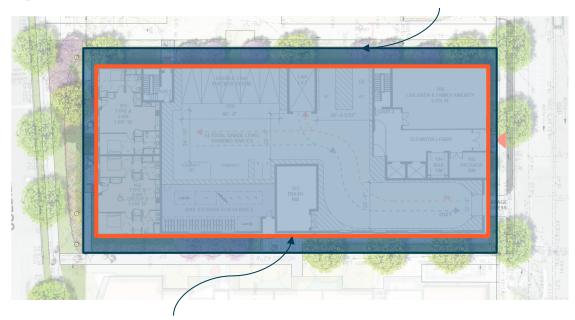
37 Wales Street





Building Lot Coverage

- What it means: Percentage of the lot area that the building is allowed to occupy.
- What it does: Primary driver of the bulk and feeling of a building. Reserves lot area for open space, planting, and other ground-level amenities.



Building Footprint

40 Soldiers Field Place

Parcel Area



Facade Buildout

- What is means: Percentage of the lot width that the building is allowed to occupy.
- What it does: Controls how close a building can be to the edges of its lot, changing whether there is spaces between buildings or a continuous streetwall



1121 Dorchester Avenue



Height

- What is means: how tall a building is (measured in stories and/or feet).
- What it does: Sets the overall height of a building. Provisions for half-stories or roof slope can require non-flat roof. Excludes non-occupiable space like mechanicals, water towers, etc. when less than 33% of roof.

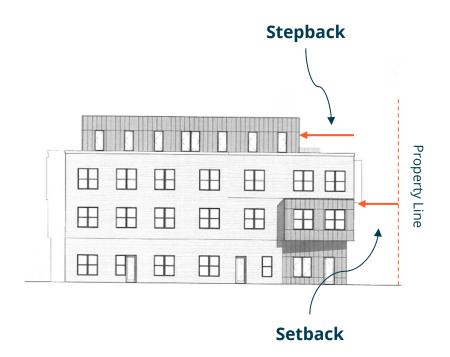


11 Fast Lenox Street



Setbacks + Stepbacks

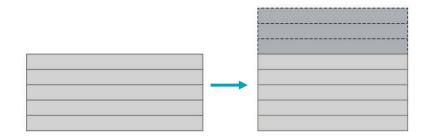
- What is means: Setbacks require buildings to be located a minimum distance from the property line.
 Stepbacks push upper-level stories back from the edge of the building.
- What it does: Both dimensions create space between buildings that allows for access to light and air. Setbacks help reserve space on the lot for planting and open space, which stepbacks can create upper level amenity spaces such as terraces and roof decks.





Density or Height Bonuses

- What is means: creates a pathway for larger or taller buildings to be allowed because of a known benefit provided on site (and written in advance into the code)
- What it does: Could be provided for affordable housing, new public open space, low-carbon building technology, or other benefits that are provided as a feature of development. Also could be provided based on a feature of a site (such as distance to transit)





Form and Performance Standards

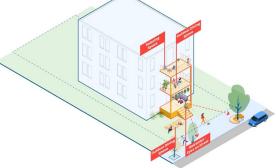
Performance standards can include requirements for:

 Usable residential amenity/open space such as balconies, roof decks, or courtyards

Size limits for commercial or other uses









Determining Dimensional Regulations

New dimensional tables will be developed for each new Squares + Streets mixed-use district that may include:

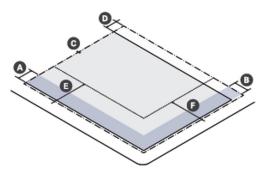
Lot Standards:

- Residential amenity/open space requirements
- Street frontage requirement for different building types

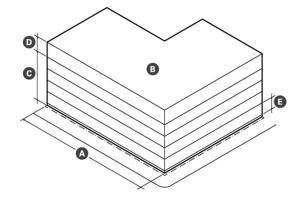
Building Form Standards:

- Building lot coverage
- Facade build-out
- Height
- Maximum building width
- Ground floor height minimum

Lot Standards



Building Form Standards







How does zoning regulate land use?

- Boston's Zoning regulates how land can be used
- Each land use is delegated as allowed, conditional, or forbidden in each area of the City
 - Conditional means it requires a conditional use permit from the Zoning Board of Appeal

	Local Convenience		Naighbanhaad Channing	
	Local Convenience		Neighborhood Shopping	
	Bsmt. & First Story	Second Story & Above	Bsmt. & First Story	Second Story & Above
Drive-in restaurant	F	F	F	F
Restaurant	А	С	А	А
Take-out restaurant Small ⁽⁶⁾	F	F	С	F
Large ⁽⁶⁾	F	F	С	F



Use Table Modernization

Challenge: Current use regulations are difficult to navigate for both the public and the Inspectional Services Department staff who review building permits.

- Over 250 individual uses in most neighborhood articles
- Unclear for applicants and ISD examiners to categorize a use not explicitly listed in a use table

For non-Article 80 ZBAs 7/20/23-9/26/23, use regulations were the 3rd most common violation cited by ISD (10% of total citations)







Use Table Modernization

Opportunity: Consolidate similar uses and improve definitions; remove obsolete uses; add form and performance standards where appropriate; and apply these definitions to new zoning districts.

Outcomes: A more navigable and predictable zoning code, expediting ISD review and easing the process for property owners.







Modernization Methodology

- 1. Establish inventory of all uses throughout the zoning code
 - a. Remove obsolete uses
- 2. Group similar uses together
- 3. Write new definitions for uses, including form and performance standards where applicable
 - a. Include language that allows Inspectional Services to determine similar uses in the future

Consult with other City departments throughout drafting process



Modernization Methodology

Other City departments consulted (so far):

- Inspectional Services Department
- Licensing Board
- Disabilities Commission
- Age Strong Commission
- Public Health Commission
- Mayor's Office of Arts and Culture
- Air Pollution Control Commission



Inventory of Uses

Automatic teller machine

Bank

Drive-in bank Post office

Adult education center

community center

day care center

day care center, elderly

library

place of worship

monastery

convent parish house

Residence for members of religious order

Art gallery

Art Use

Auditorium

Cinema

Concert hall

Museum

Public art, display space

Studio, arts

Studio, production

Theatre

Theater

Ticket sales

Musical instrument repair

Art metal craft shop

Dormitory not accessory to a use

fraternity

Adult bookstore

Bakery

Cannabis Establishment

General retail business

Liquor store

Local retail business

Outdoor sale of garden supplies

Pawnshop

Music store

College or university

Elementary or secondary school

Kindergarten

Professional school Trade school

Cemetery

Columbarium

Crematory

Funeral home Mortuary chapel Cemetery extension

Adult entertainment

Amusement game machines in

commercial establishment Amusement game machines in non-

commercial establishment amusement game machines in

noncommercial establishment

Bar

Bar with live entertainment

Restaurant with live entertainment, not operating after 10:30 p.m.

Restaurant with live entertainment,

operating after 10:30 p.m.

Fitness center or gymnasium

Bowling alley Billiard parlor Dance hall Drive-in theatre Private club

Private club serving alcohol

Social, recreational, or sports center

Concert hall

Group care residence, general

Group residence, general

General manufacturing use

Light manufacturing use

Restricted industrial use

Agency or professional office

Office of wholesale husiness

grounds for sport, private

open space recreational building

Automatic telephone exchange

outdoor place of recreation for profit

telecommunications data distribution

Red and breakfast

Apartment hotel

Cleaning plant

Printing plant

General office

Golf driving range

back office

open space

Stadium

center

Art use

Artists' mixed-use

Private club not serving alcohol

Restaurant with entertainment

Clinic

Custodial care facility

Hospital

Nursing or convalescent home

Courthouse

Fire station

Outdoor payphone

Penal institution Police station

Pumping station

Recycling Facility Recycling facility (excluding facilities

handling toxic waste) Solid waste transfer station

Congregate living complex

Group residence, limited

substation

Elderly housing

Homeless shelter

Mobile home park

Multi-family dwelling

Lodging house

Mobile home

Laundry, self-service Photocopying establishment Shoe repair

Ove rective it 50 Indies and U Side Se of solid fuel or minerals less trick about 10 Side of solid fuel or minerals less trick about 10 Side of solid fuel or minerals

Outdoor storage of new materials

Outdoor storage of junk and scrap

Storage or transfer of toxic waste

ancillary to a main use, nor used in

and occupancy as a dumpster repair

assigned and licensed solid waste

management facility

Storage of Dumpsters

Storage of certain materials

Warehousing

Wrecking vard

Outdoor storage of damaged or disabled

Outdoor storage of solid fuel or minerals

Storage of flammable liquids and gases

Storage of dumpsters not accessory or

conjunction with the ongoing operation

of a permitted site with explicit legal use

facility, waste hauling contractor, or site

Take-out restaurant

Barber or beauty shop

Body art establishment

Caterer's establishment

Check cashing business

Laundry, retail service

Dry-cleaning shop

Kennel

vehicles

Container redemption center

Animal hospital

Water terminal - freight Water terminal - passenger Airport-related remote parking facility

Photographer's studio

Radio/television repair

Plumber's shop

Taxidermist shop

Welder's shop

Bus terminal

Airport

Upholsterer's shop

Garage with dispatch

Motor freight terminal

Rail freight terminal

Water terminal

Helicopter landing facility

Railroad passenger station

Bus servicing or storage

Carwash

Gasoline station

indoor installation of automotive parts Indoor sale, with or without installation, of automotive parts, accessories and

supplies

Indoor sale of automobiles and trucks Indoor sale of motor vehicles

Outdoor sale of new and used motor

vehicles

Parking garage

Railroad passenger station

Parking lot

Rental agency for cars Rental agency for trucks

Repair garage

Machine shop

Truck servicing or storage Wholesale business

Carpenter's shop Electrician's shop

Temporary dwelling structure

One family detached dwelling

One family semi-attached dwelling

Townhouse

Orphanage

Rowhouse

Transitional housing or homeless shelter

Two family semi-attached dwelling

Restaurant

Three family detached dwelling

Transitional housing

Two family detached dwelling

Drive-in restaurant

boston planning & development agency

38

Grouping Similar Uses

Guiding questions:

What uses are distinctly unique?

What is the scale and impact of each use?

What non-zoning regulations impact the uses? E.x. liquor licenses



Remove Obsolete Uses

Exchange

Automatic Telephone of a mily detached dwelling

Outdoor Payphone

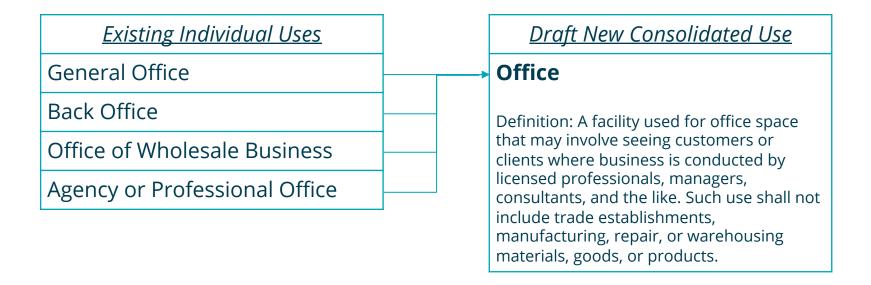
Telephone Exchange

Congregate living complex

40



Example #1





Example #2

Existing Individual Uses

Restaurant or bar (without entertainment)

Bakery

Take-out restaurant





<u>Draft New Consolidated Use</u>

Restaurant or Bar (without Entertainment)

Definition: An establishment devoted primarily to the preparing and retailing and/or on-premises consumption of food and/or alcoholic beverages and which does not regularly host live entertainment events.

Small - Total gross floor area not more than _____ square feet per use.

Large - Total gross floor area not more than _____ square feet per use.



Form and Performance Standards

Examples of considerations and potential standards:

Concerns: Pollution and contamination	Standards: Restricting emissions
Noise impacts —	Limit hours of operation
Empty or "unactivated" ground ———— floors	Require retail or other active use on ground floor
Big box retail instead of small businesses	Square footage maximums





Timeline and Next Steps

Mid-Oct

Release of zoning analysis

Gathering stakeholder feedback

Early Nov

Release of citywide draft zoning text amendment

Release of East Boston and Mattapan zoning map amendments

Mid-Nov

Public meetings and broader public feedback period on draft zoning amendments

Dec-Jan

Zoning adoption period with BPDA Board and Zoning Commission meetings for approval



We Need Your Help!

- Learn more at: <u>bostonplans.org/squares</u> and sign up for our email list
- Tell us what is important to YOU in Squares + Streets!
 - A building, site or space you love that we should analyze?
 - A community use that you see (or want to see) that we should focus on?
- Help guide us and give us feedback at our virtual office hours and future public meetings!





Share Your Thoughts with Us

Come to Our Virtual Office Hours!

Happening 2-4x week on these weeks:

Week of Oct 30

Week of Nov 6

Week of Nov 13

Week of Nov 20

Week of Nov 27

Week of Dec 4

Attend a Public Meeting!

Mon, Nov 13: Citywide Draft Zoning Text Amendment

Tues, Nov 14: East Boston Draft Zoning Map Amendment

Wed, Nov 15: Mattapan Draft Zoning Map Amendment

Tues, Dec 5: Citywide Final Zoning Text Amendment

Give Us Your Feedback!

Share your thoughts on the zoning amendments on a form that will be shared during the **public comment period from Nov 9 thru Nov 30!**





Q&A

- What types of buildings related to Squares + Streets are we missing?
- What are other key dimensional factors should we consider when determining and defining new districts?
- What land uses should we focus on when consolidating and defining them?
- Are there land uses that would benefit your community that the Zoning Code currently does not include or define well enough?
- What other issues are we missing in Boston's existing zoning code that we should address?



