

# On October 30, 2024, the Columbia Road Transportation Action Plan project team hosted an Open House at the Strand Theatre.

The event aimed to:

- Update community members on project activities and research findings completed to date
- Collect feedback on how residents use Columbia Road and their vision for its future. This input, along with feedback from other project events, will help shape potential road design options

Upon entry, staff greeted attendees, provided logistical information, and connected participants with interpreters as needed. Attendees had the option to sign up for a project newsletter to stay updated and complete a short survey. The survey collected information such as participants' zip codes, helping the team better understand how well events are reaching Columbia Road residents.



**CITY** of **BOSTON**

**The Open House saw over 85 community members participate in interactive stations designed to share project information and gather input. The activity stations included:**

## **1 Project Updates**

At this station community members were introduced to the Columbia Road Transportation Action Plan and given an overview of the progress made so far. Staff handed out pamphlets summarizing key findings from community feedback and research on current road conditions. These pamphlets are available in multiple languages and can be viewed [here](#).

To provide additional context, the station featured a poster highlighting key project details giving attendees a clear overview of the project's goals and phases.



# 2 Cultural Institutions Station

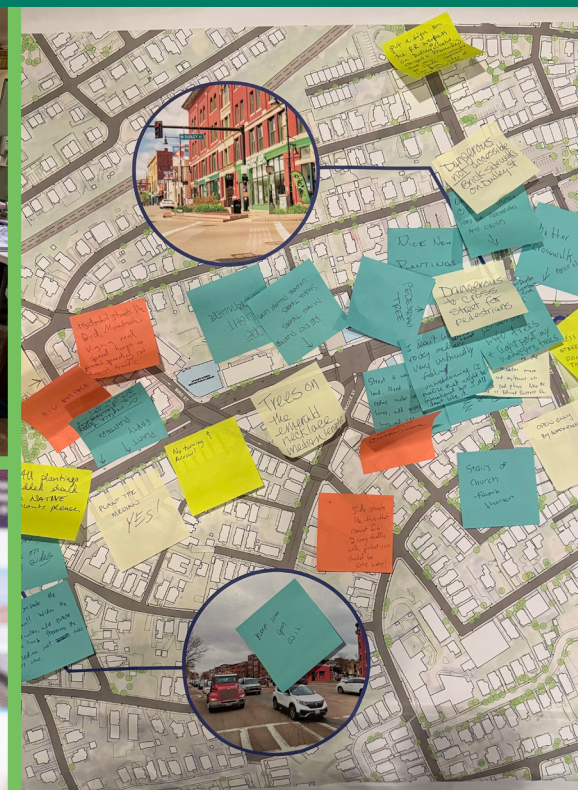
This station had two main goals: education and identification.

**Education:** The project team shared observations about the corridor and key components that define Columbia Road today, while helping attendees understand the different considerations that go into shaping Boston's streets—including ecology, urban canopy cover, heat stress and human comfort, safety, and the spatial implications of fitting all of these pieces together through infrastructure.

**Identification:** Using short-form postcard responses and a mapping activity that spanned from Franklin Park to K-Circle, community members highlighted culturally significant places, safety concerns, and hopes for improvement along the length of the corridor, and recorded personal memories tied to the different neighborhoods that touch the road.

Some key themes emerged from these conversations:

- **Comfort:** more trees along the corridor to shade the summer sun, more seating especially near public transportation, and more trash cans along the road
- **Safety:** increased accessibility through improved sidewalks and curb cuts, increased lighting, slower vehicular traffic, more frequent crosswalks
- **Socialization:** Participants shared observations about how residents use their stoops and porches as social gathering spaces, emphasizing the importance of fostering community through thoughtful design along the length of the corridor. Participants also identified a few specific areas as desired pocket parks.

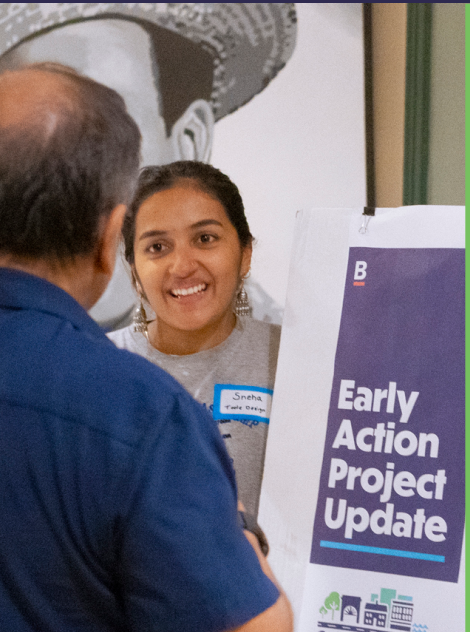


# 3 Allocating Space on Columbia Road

This station invited participants to reimagine how space on Columbia Road could be used. The activity focused on three key segments of the corridor - Dorchesterway, Upham's Corner, and Franklin Park to Bowdoin - each featuring varying widths. These distinct segments encouraged participants to think creatively about redesigning the corridor to better meet the needs of its various users.

Using puzzle pieces representing elements like vehicle lanes, expanded sidewalks, upgraded bike lanes, parking, trees, and green space, participants brainstormed and tested potential layouts to find designs that worked best for their vision of the space.

This hands-on activity allowed participants to better understand the challenges and trade-offs involved in street design while emphasizing the importance of balancing the needs of all users. By actively engaging with the physical components of the street, attendees were able to provide informed feedback and innovative ideas that will help shape the future of Columbia Road.



# 4 Early Action Project

At this station, community members received an update on the Early Action Project, including the progress made so far, the proposed design plans and interventions, and the next steps. The station featured printed plans of four intersections, highlighting various safety-focused interventions. Team members engaged with attendees, answering questions about why these specific intersections were selected, the rationale behind the proposed changes, and how the interventions aim to improve safety for all users.

# 5

## City of Boston Interagency Station

This station featured representatives from various City of Boston departments who provided resources and shared updates on initiatives happening in and around Dorchester.

- Staff from the Planning Advisory Council shared information about the City's Anti-Displacement Action Plan, which focuses on mitigating residential, commercial, and cultural displacement.
- The Planning Department provided details on the ongoing Squares + Streets initiative for Codman Square and Four Corners, which addresses housing, public space, arts and culture, small businesses, and transportation improvements in neighborhood centers and along main streets.
- The Boston Transportation Department presented an overview of the Fairmount Line Corridor Improvement Program, while Boston Bikes shared information on their programs to improve biking infrastructure and encourage cycling citywide.
- The Office of Green Infrastructure educated attendees about various green infrastructure solutions, highlighting how these could be implemented along Columbia Road to enhance environmental resilience.

The Interagency station allowed attendees to connect with City Staff, learn about broader citywide efforts, and understand how these initiatives intersect with the Columbia Road Transportation Action Plan.

