

# Research in Progress

## Future of the Commonwealth's Curb

### Research Need

There are diverse and quickly-evolving demands for use of curb space in municipalities of all sizes across the Commonwealth (i.e. TNC, transit, micro-mobility, pedestrians, et al). There is a need to identify designs and policies for curbside lane management that are appropriate for a variety of contexts that exist across the Commonwealth.

### Goals/Objectives

This project has two main objectives:

1) To explore the demands on the curbside lane and identify strategies for re-purposing and managing the curbside lane in municipalities across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

2) To identify future demands on the curbside lane and consider how the curbside lane could be re-purposed and managed to accommodate these new demands.

The anticipated outcome of this project is a guidebook that provides recommendations for communities based on context (e.g., population density, traffic volumes, transit operations, demand patterns). The intent is to create a forward-looking reference that identifies potential strategies for curbside lane design and management, recognizing that some strategies offer more flexibility over time while others may require infrastructure investments to fully realize benefits.

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### Project Information

This project is being conducted as part of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Research Program with funding from Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) State Planning and Research (SPR) funds.

#### Principal Investigators:

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#### Performing Organization:

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#### Project Champion:

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#### Project Start Date:

July 1, 2020

#### Expected Project Completion Date:

June 30, 2021

### Methodology

The project will begin with a review of literature and current practice to identify an appropriate classification of communities or curbside lane contexts. Key stakeholders will be engaged to gain insights about who is using the street and what data is available for measurement, what are specific needs and concerns related to curbside management, and any anticipated future changes with respect to technologies or behaviors. A proposed framework for identifying appropriate curbside lane designs and management strategies will be drafted to reflect input from the stakeholders and the team's analysis of effectiveness for different contexts and flexibility for future needs. This framework will be basis for the guidance document, which is the final deliverable for this project.

