



## High and Maple Streets Corridor Improvements Holyoke, MA

### *Public Information Meeting*

Holyoke Public Library, February 28, 2024, 5:30 PM

Project No. 613320





## Notice of MassDOT's policy on diversity and civil rights

- All MassDOT activities, including public meetings, are free of discrimination.
- MassDOT complies with all federal and state civil rights requirements preventing discrimination based on sex, race, color, ancestry, national origin (limited English proficiency), religion, creed, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or veteran's status.
- We welcome the diversity from across our entire service area. If you have any questions or concerns, please visit <https://www.mass.gov/nondiscrimination-in-transportation-program> to reach the Office of Diversity and Civil Rights.

**Thank you for joining our meeting. We appreciate your participation!**

# Presentation Participants

- **MassDOT**

- Shahpar Negah, PE, MBA – Project Manager
- Paula Simmons, PE – District 2
- Laura Hanson – District 2
- Katherine Masztal – District 2
- Pam Marquis – Right-Of-Way
- Kayla Sousa, PE – Producer
- Dan Racicot – Highway Liaison

- **City of Holyoke**

- Mayor Joshua Garcia
- Aaron Vega

- **Design Consultant - GPI**

- Zach Wassmouth, PE
- Carolyn Radisch, AICP
- Adriana Santiago, PE
- Hector Santiago, EIT

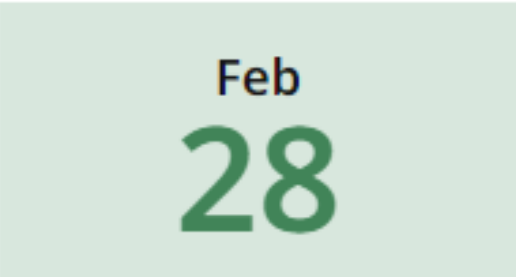
- **Language Translation Speakers - Spanish**

- Marta Ceron Leon
- Gloria Caballero

# Notifications

## Newspaper Public Notice

- Holyoke Sun
  - 2/16/24 and 2/23/24
- Springfield Republican
  - 2/14/24 and 2/21/24



## Holyoke - Corridor improvements on High and Maple Streets (in-person meeting) →

*Holyoke Public Library, 250 Chestnut Street, Holyoke, MA 01040*

Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 5:30 PM

Two Public Informational Meetings will be held to discuss the proposed Corridor Improvements on High and Maple Streets project in Holyoke, MA.

## MassDOT Event Calendar

- [www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events](http://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events)

## MassDOT Social Media

- MassDOT Facebook
- MassDOT X (Formally Twitter)

## City of Holyoke

- City of Holyoke Website
- Office of Planning and Economic Development (OPED) Newsletter
- Social Media
- TDI Business Association and Chamber
- Flyer Hand-Outs



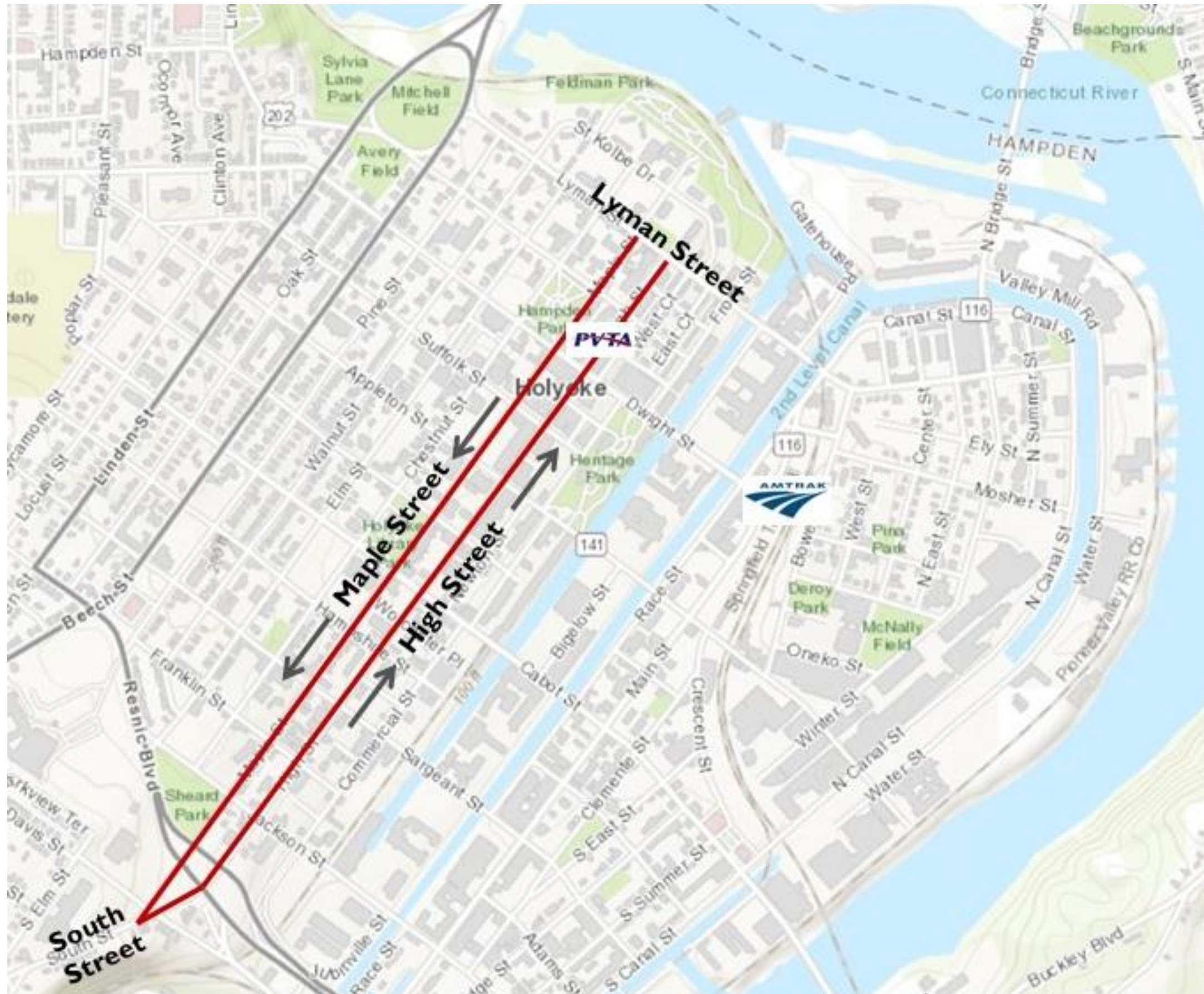
# Agenda

- 01 Project Location
- 02 Project Background
- 03 Project Goals
- 04 Design Considerations
- 05 Existing Challenges
- 06 Opportunities & Project Tools
- 07 Tentative Schedule
- 08 Open House - Feedback





# Project Location



## Maple Street & High Street (From South Street to Lyman Street)

Study area includes:

- 2.4 miles of roadway
- 33 intersections
- 18 traffic signals

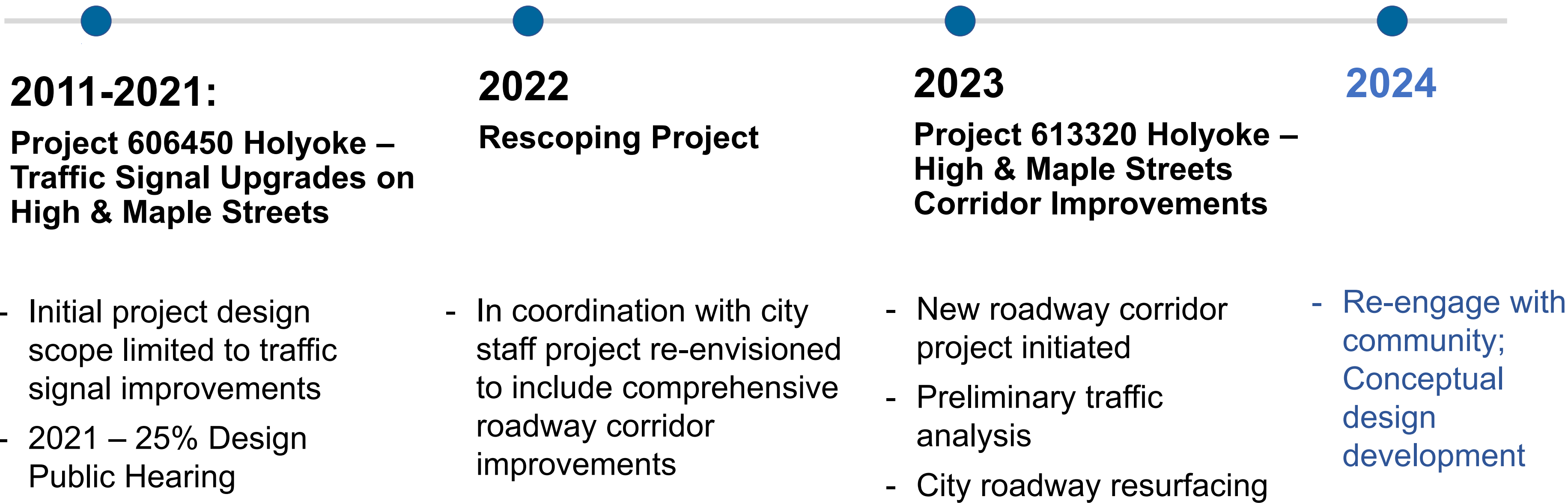




**What is the  
history of this  
project?**



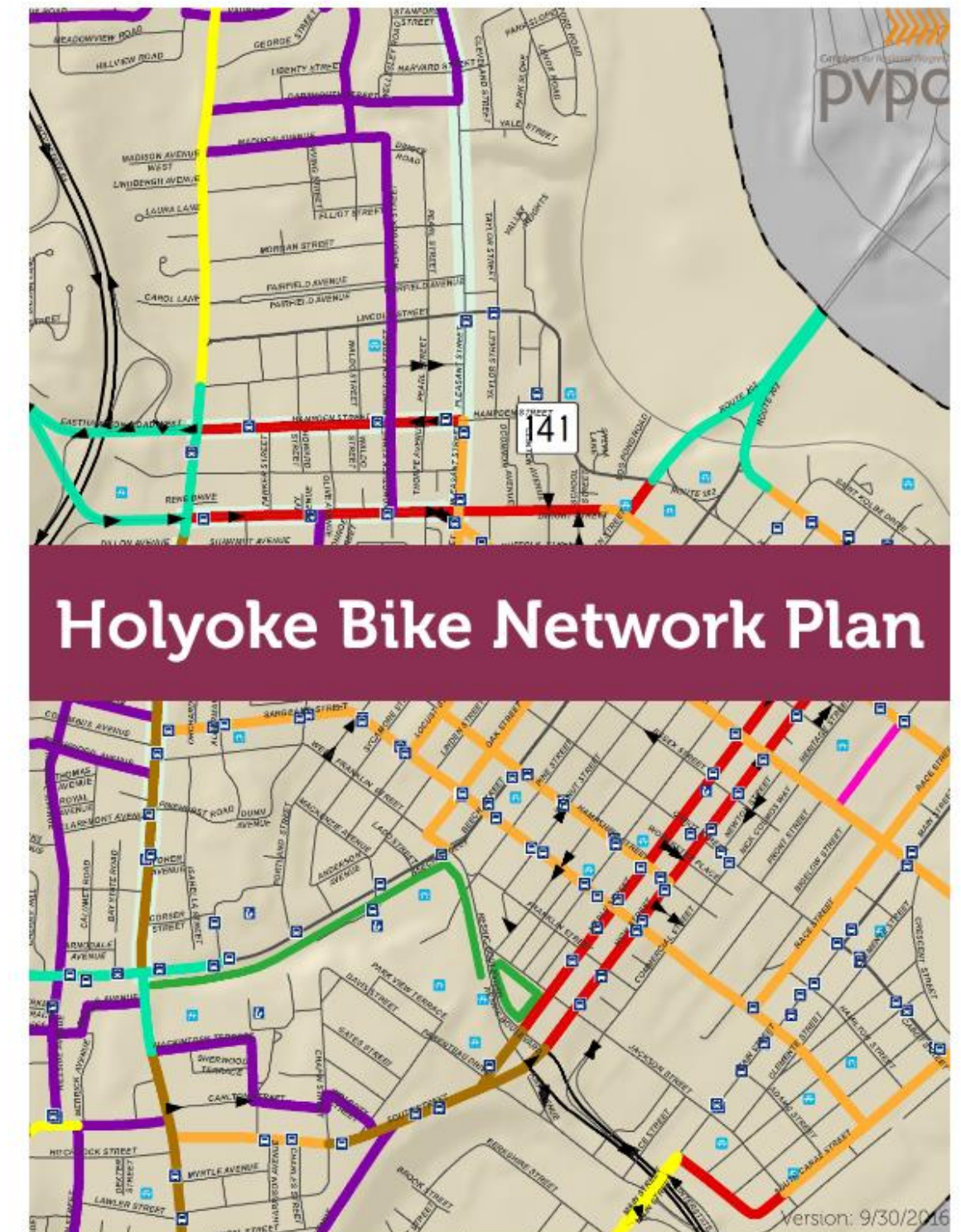
# How did we get here?





# Related Plans and Policies

- Holyoke Bike Network Plan
- Holyoke Downtown Parking Study
- Holyoke Complete Streets Policy and Prioritization Plan
- MassDOT Healthy Transportation Policy
  - Complete Street Design Guidelines
- MassDOT Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment







**What do we  
want to  
accomplish?**



# Project Needs and Goals

The goals identified by the City:

- **Safety for vulnerable users (walking, biking, transit)** should be prioritized over traffic operations in the pursuit of complete streets improvements.
- Improve **access** for all users
- Initiate a **transformative** change in downtown Holyoke.
- Create a **gateway** to downtown Holyoke.
- **Limit impacts to on-street parking** for downtown businesses.
- **Engage the public and solicit feedback** from area stakeholders.





# Design Considerations

- **“Complete Streets” Design Approach**
  - Safe and accessible accommodations for all users, including:
    - Pedestrians
    - Bicyclists
    - Transit Users (PVRTA Bus)
    - Motorists
- **Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE)**
  - Determine the best options for safe and efficient navigation through intersections, including:
    - Traffic Signals
    - Stop Signs
    - Roundabouts
    - Etc.





# Design Considerations

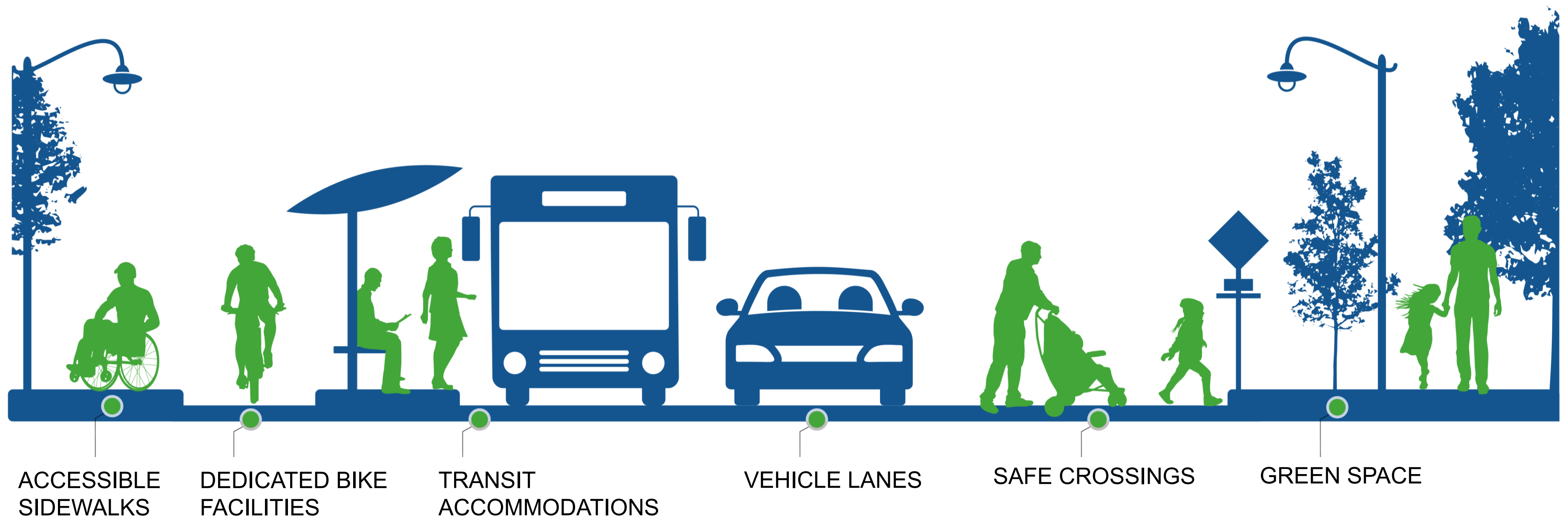
- **Curbside Uses**
  - Parking
  - Loading
  - Bus Stops
- **Accessibility**
  - All ages and abilities
- **Streetscape**
  - Lighting
  - Trees
  - Benches
  - Bike Racks





## What is a Complete Street?

- A **Complete Street** is one that provides safe and accessible options for all travel modes – walking, biking, transit and vehicles – for people of all ages and abilities.





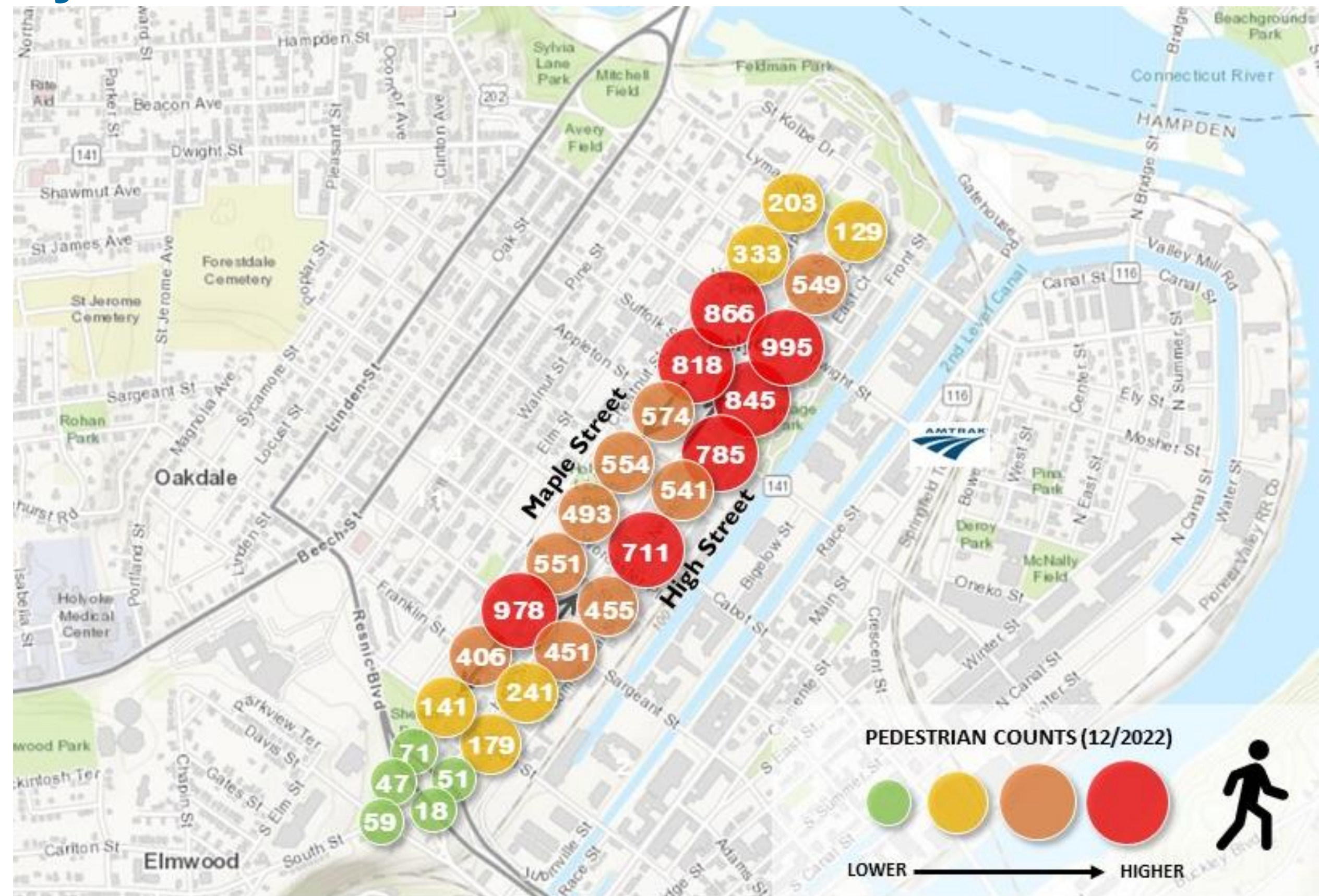


**What are the  
existing  
conditions and  
challenges?**



## Existing Conditions: Daily Pedestrian Volumes

- High Volume Locations
  - Holyoke Transit Center
  - Holyoke City Hall
  - Holyoke Public Library
  - HB Lawrence Elementary School
  - Veterans Memorial Park
  - Neighborhood Food Stores
  - Places of Worship

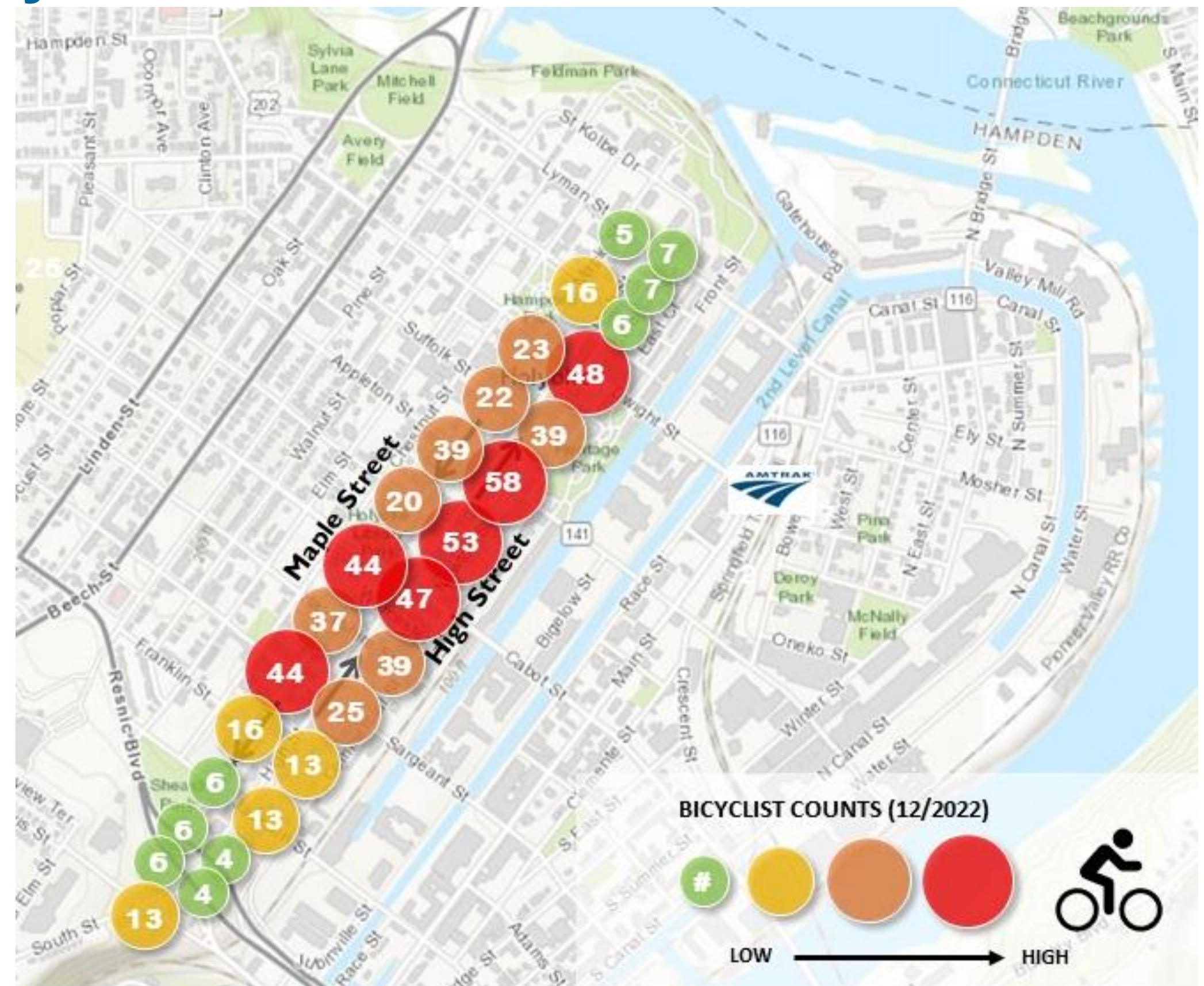


(12-Hour / 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM)



## Existing Conditions: Daily Bicyclist Volumes

- Key Takeaways
  - Significant ridership for December counts
  - Bicycle ridership despite lack of bicycle Infrastructure

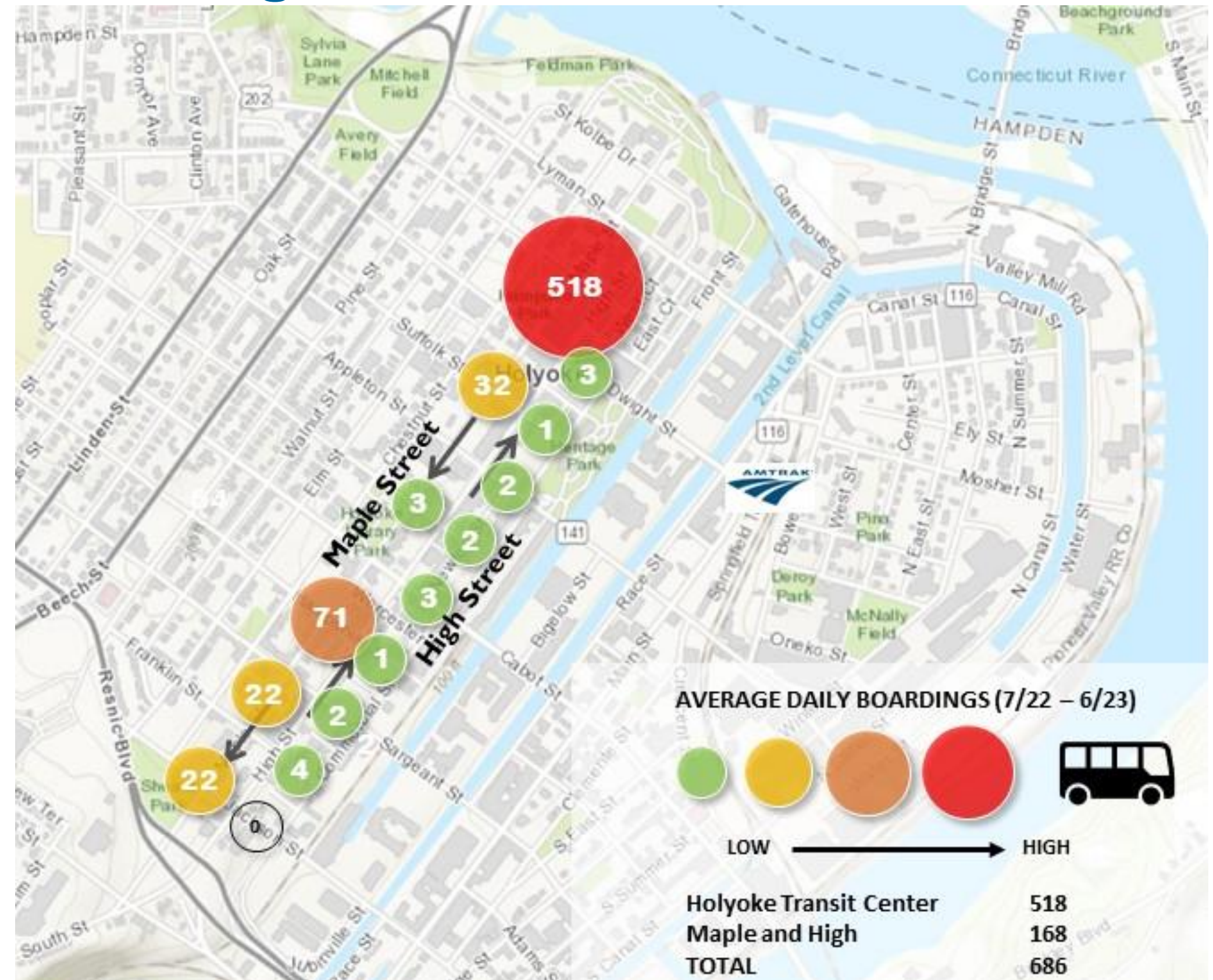


(12-Hour / 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM)



## Existing Conditions: Transit Boardings

- Significant Boarding Locations
  - Holyoke Transit Center
  - Maple at Hampshire
  - Maple at Suffolk
  - Maple at Sargeant
  - Maple at Franklin

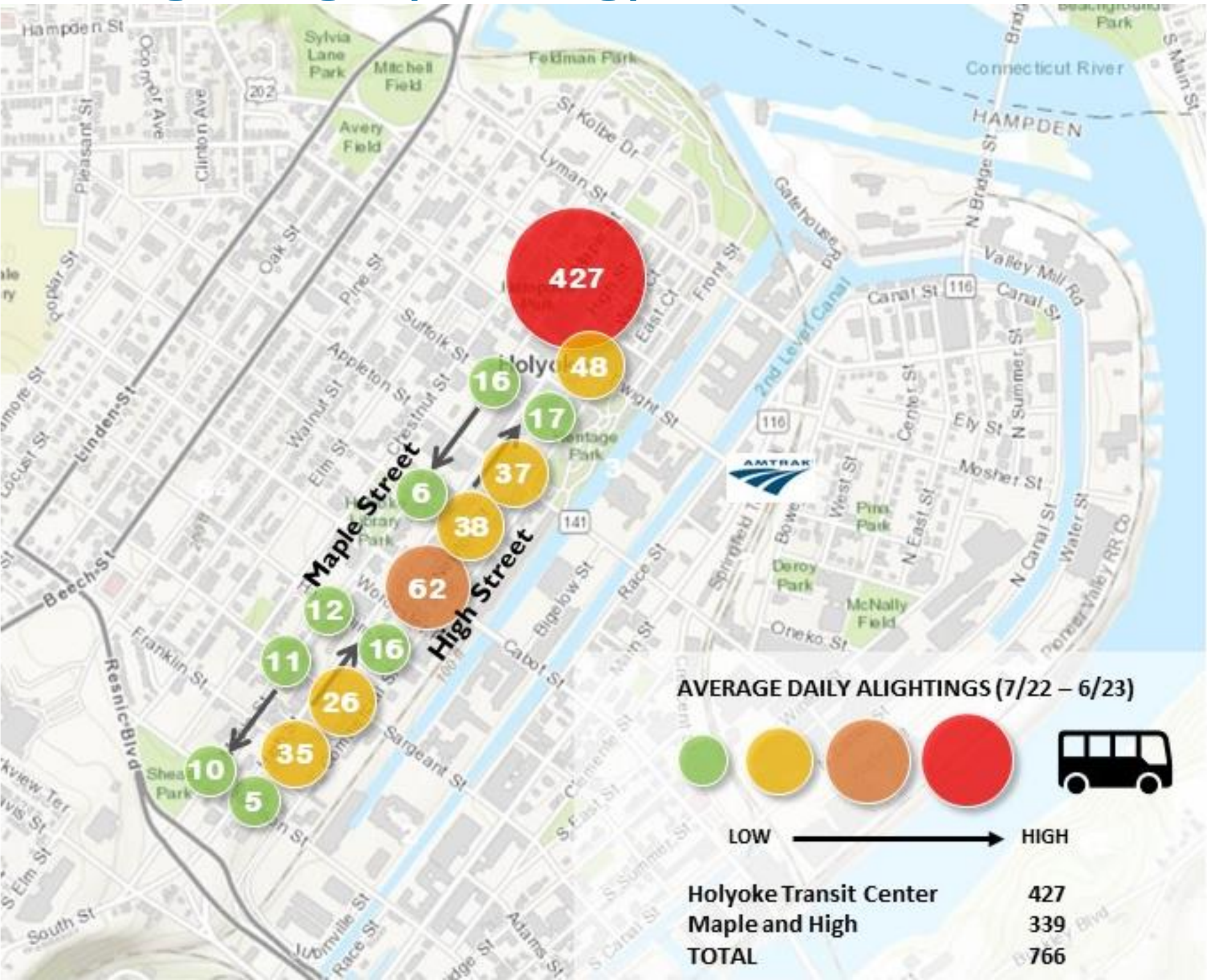


Source: PVTA



# Existing Conditions: Transit Alightings (Exiting)

- Significant Alighting Locations
  - Holyoke Transit Center
  - High Street at Cabot Street

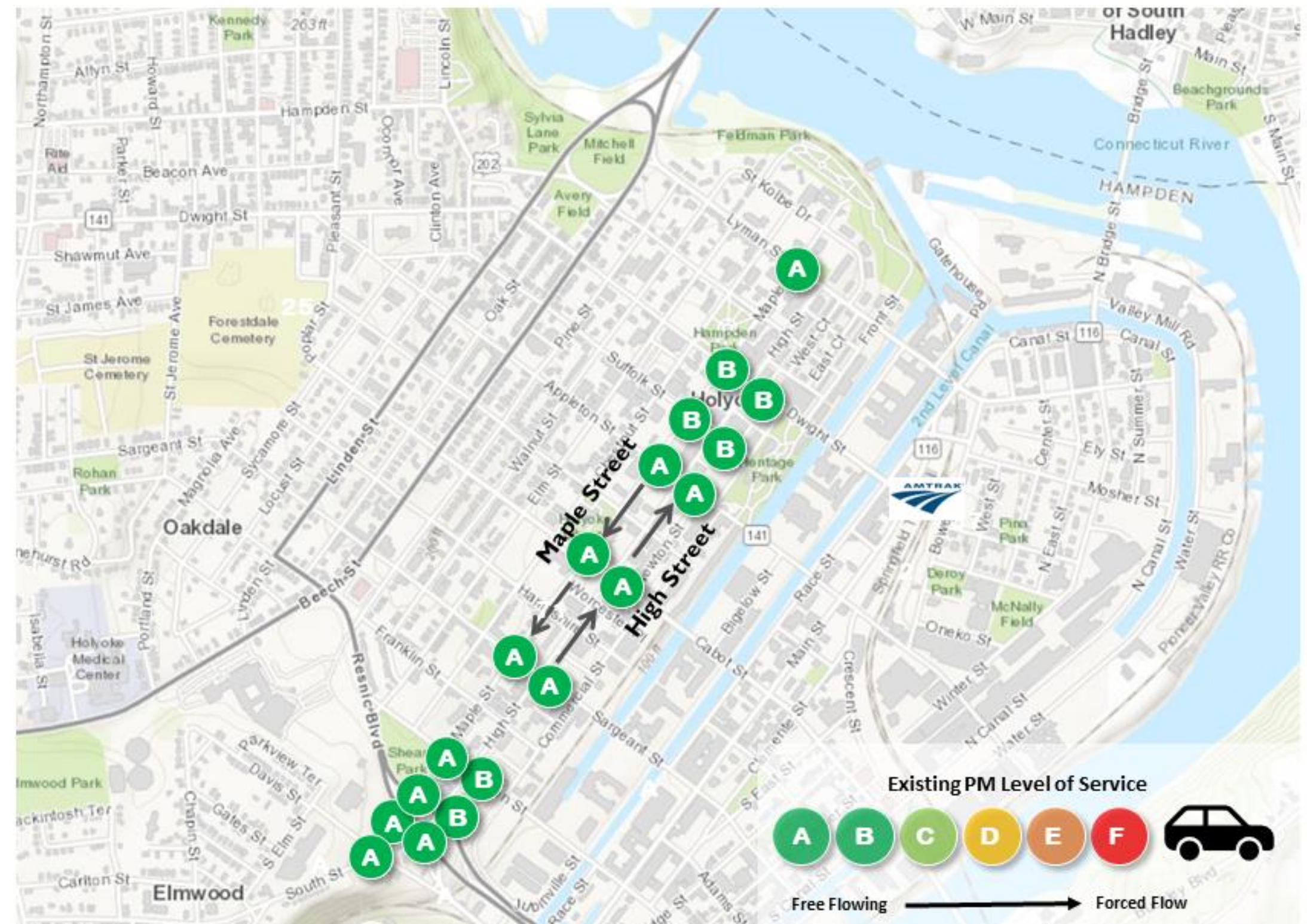


Source: PVTA



# Existing Conditions: Vehicular Traffic Operations

- Level of Service (LOS)
  - Measures **vehicle delay** at intersections
  - Graded **A (free flowing)** to **F (most delay)**
  - **No significant traffic delays noted**, even when forecasted into the future
  - Excess vehicular capacity





# Existing Challenges: Vehicular Crashes



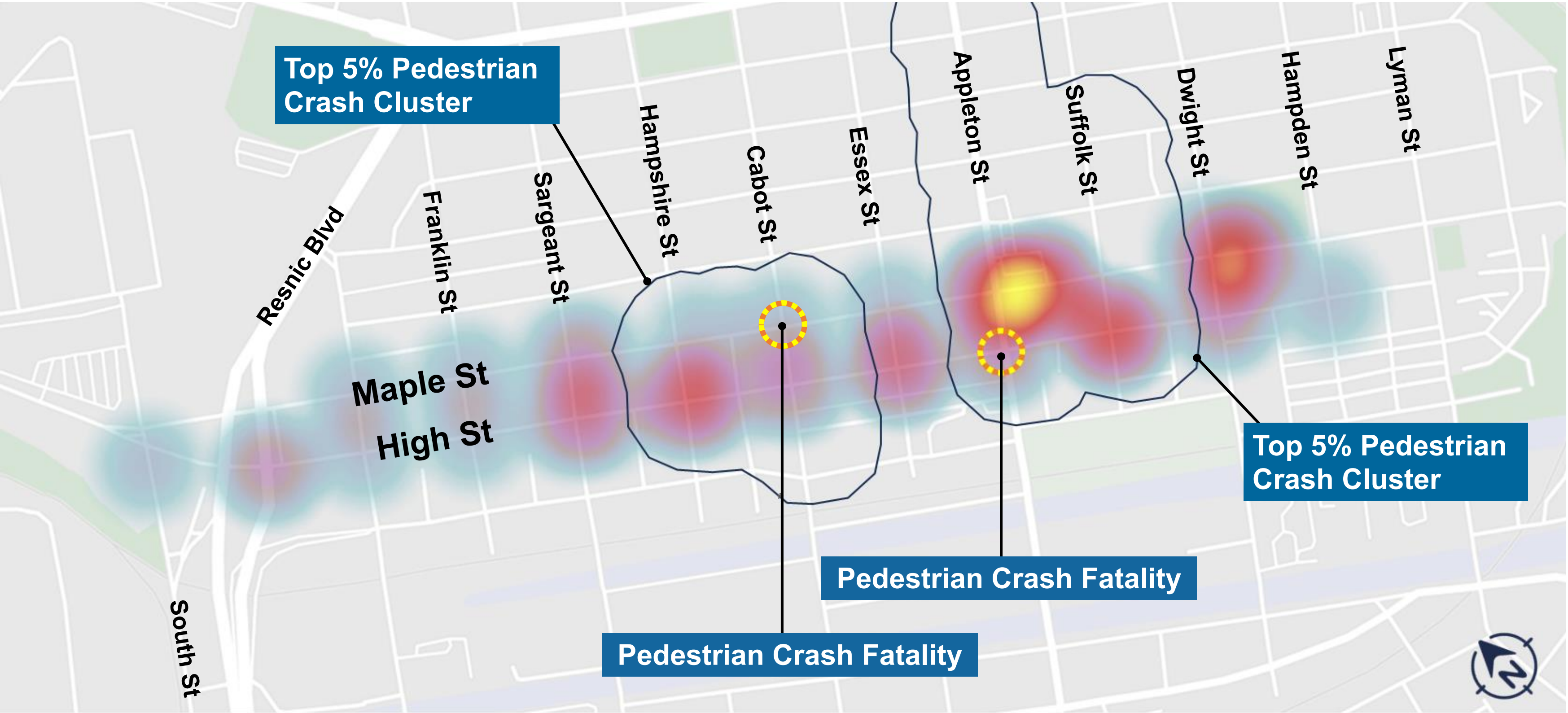
Source: MassDOT Crash Portal 2015 - 2019

## Vehicular Crash Density

Least Dense  Most Dense



# Existing Challenges: Vulnerable User Crashes



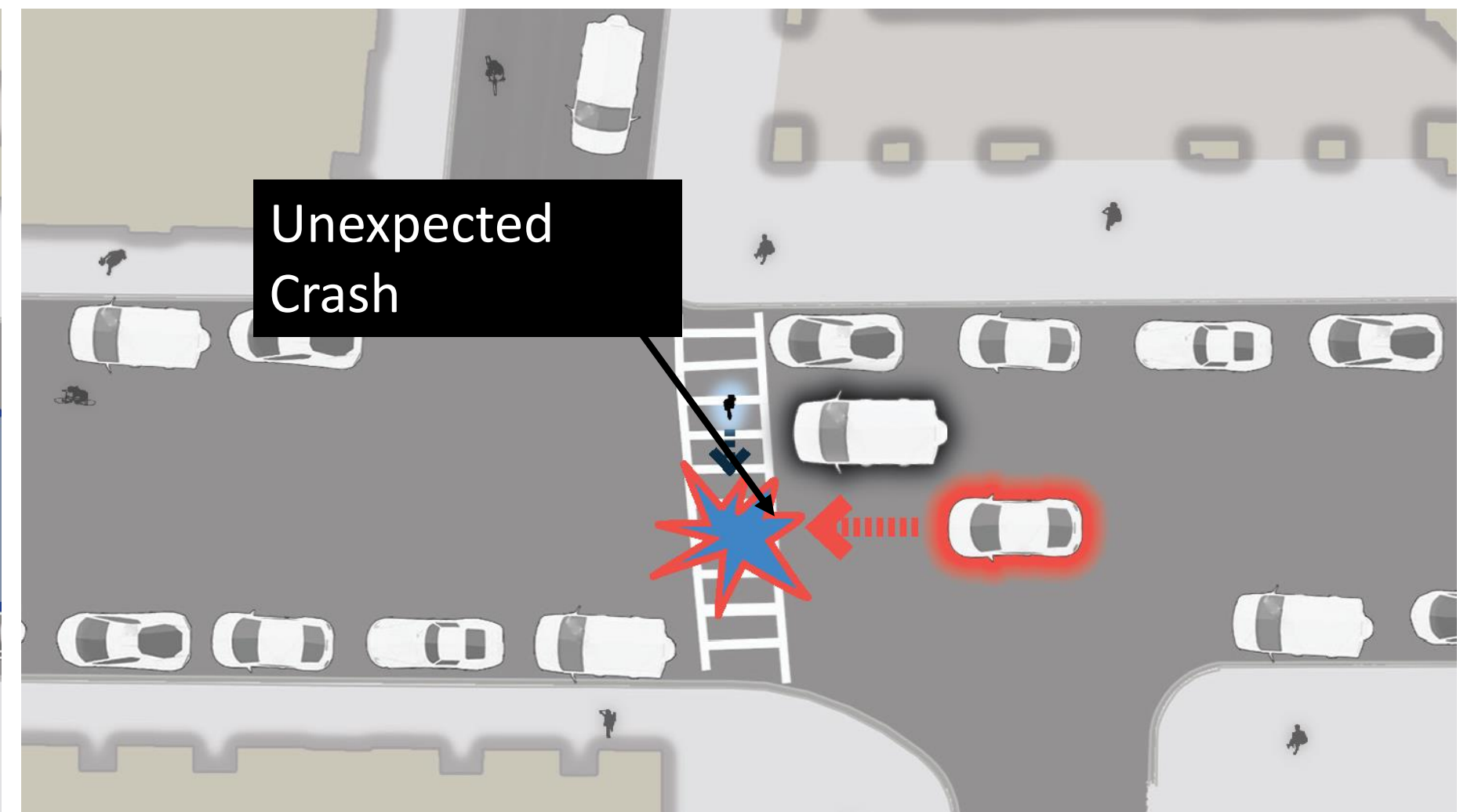
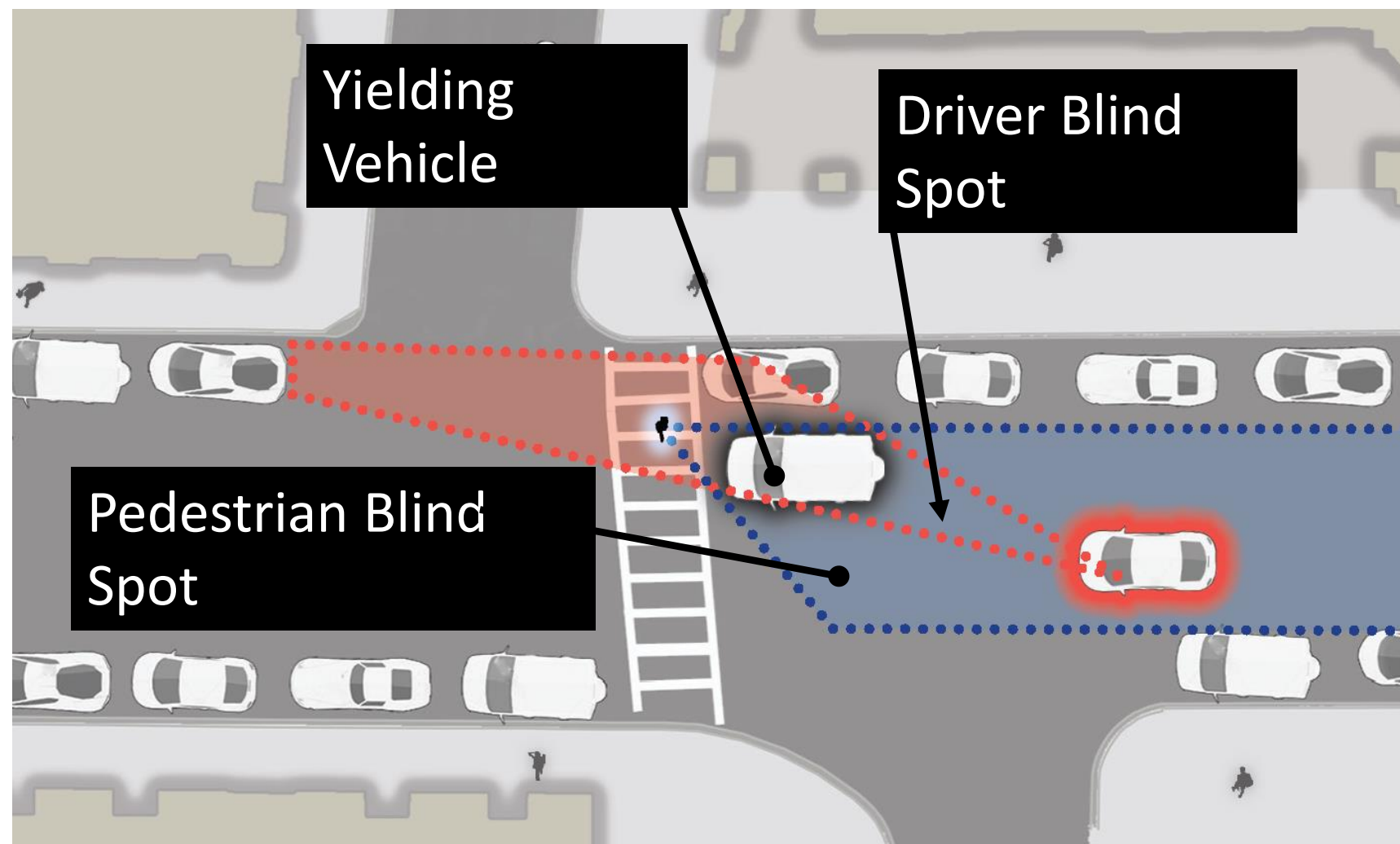
Source: MassDOT Crash Portal 2015 - 2019

**Vulnerable User Crash Density**  
Least Dense  Most Dense



# Existing Challenges: Pedestrian Safety

- Inoperative pedestrian signals
- Pedestrians hit in crosswalks by turning vehicles
- Visibility of pedestrians impaired by cars parked close to crosswalks
- Two travel lane “Double Threat” crossings at unsignalized intersections





# Existing Challenges: Accessibility

- Accessibility deficiencies
  - Damaged sidewalks
  - Equipment blocking clear path of travel
  - Excessive sidewalk cross-slopes
  - Pedestrian ramps lacking detectable warning panels
- Sidewalk gaps at Resnic Boulevard
- Lack of pedestrian signals at Resnic Boulevard





# Existing Challenges: Street Design - Transit

- PVTA initiatives / desires:
  - Consolidate stops
  - Improve shelters
  - **80% - 90% of PVTA patrons don't have alternative transportation**





# Existing Challenges: Street Design - Bicyclists

- No bicycle lanes or paths
- Bicyclists observed using sidewalk







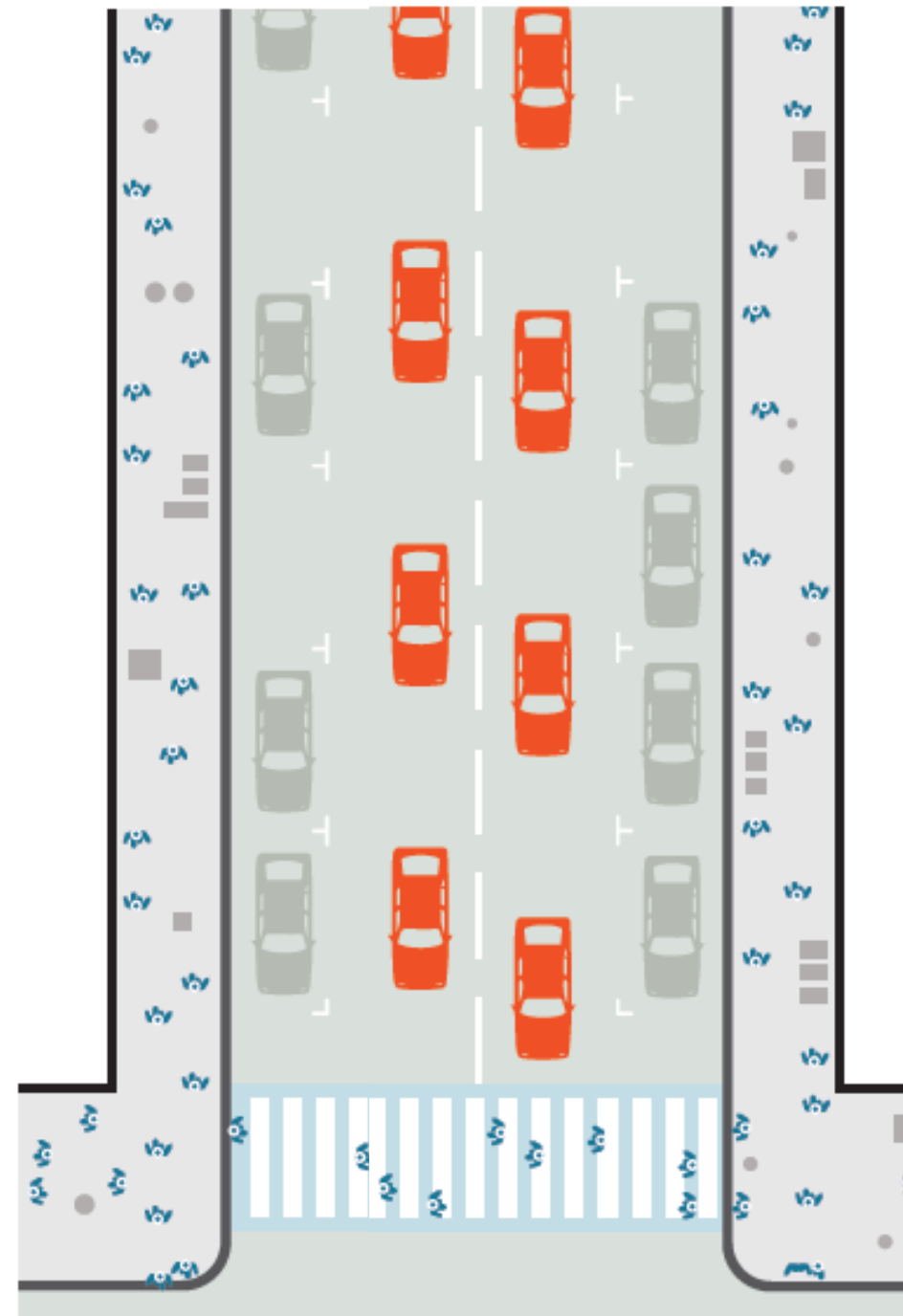
**What are  
some  
potential tools  
to address  
challenges?**



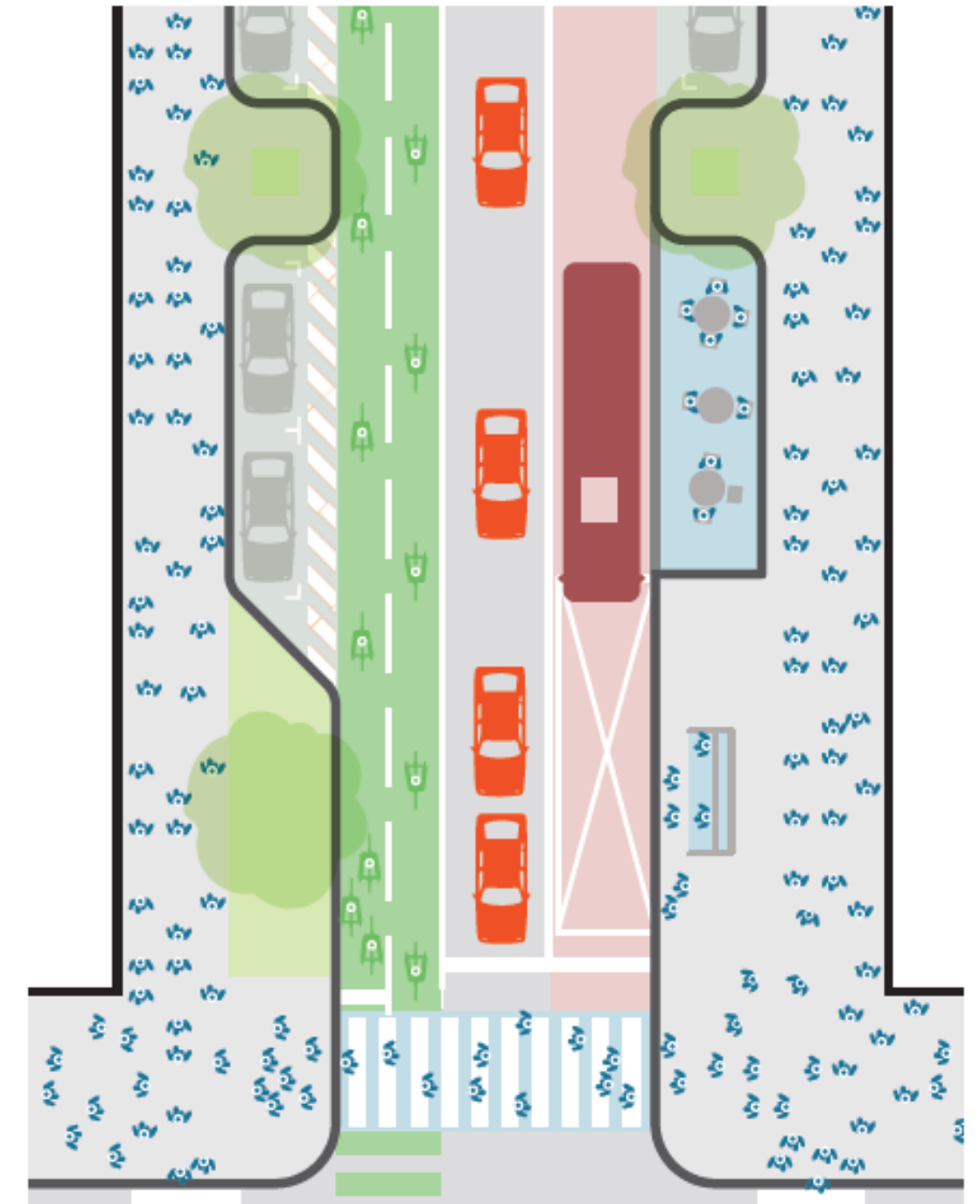
# Opportunities & Project Tools: Lane Reduction

- Maple Street and High Street have **excess capacity**.
- Repurposing a travel lane could provide **space for pedestrian, bicyclist and transit improvements**.

Car-Oriented Street



Multimodal Street



Source: NACTO



# Opportunities & Project Tools: Accessible Sidewalks and Crossings

- Sidewalks and crosswalks can be designed to serve all users, of all ages and abilities.





# Opportunities & Project Tools: Bump Outs (Curb Extensions)

- Shorter crossing distances
- Limited time exposed in the street
- Improved pedestrian visibility





# Opportunities & Project Tools: Raised Intersections and Crosswalks

- Raised intersections and crosswalks **help to slow traffic** at pedestrian crossings.





# Opportunities & Project Tools: Right Turn Restrictions and LPIs

- Pedestrian safety at signalized intersections may be improved by:
  - **Restricting turns** on red lights
  - **Leading Pedestrian Interval (LPI)** - Giving pedestrians a **‘walk’ signal** before cars so they can get a head start crossing the intersection and be **more visible to motorists**





# Opportunities & Project Tools: Protected Bicycle Lanes

- Bicycle lanes **separated from traffic** are safer and more comfortable for bicyclists of all ages and abilities.





# Opportunities & Project Tools: Dedicated Bus Lanes

- Exclusive bus lanes  
**improve bus reliability**  
by removing buses from  
traffic congestion.





# Opportunities & Project Tools: Designated Loading Zones

- Designated **loading zones** improve **traffic flow** and safety by **decreasing double parking** in business areas.
- Loading zones can be open to general parking during non-designated hours.



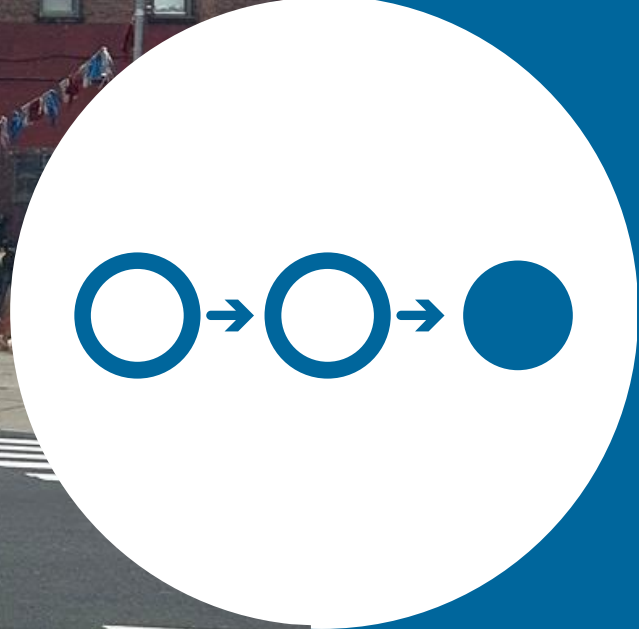


# Opportunities & Project Tools: Traffic Calming

- Additional opportunities help to **slow traffic** and **create a safer environment for pedestrians and bicyclists**, can include the following:
  - On-street parking
  - Street trees
  - Lane and street widths







What are the next steps?



# Next Steps & Tentative Schedule



**Tonight**

Public Input on  
Existing Challenges  
and Opportunities



**Summer/Fall 2024**

Preliminary Design  
Concepts for  
Feedback



**Winter 2024/2025**

Preferred Design  
Concept



**Winter 2025**

Begin Detailed Design



**To be Programmed**

Final Design &  
Construction



# Thank You for Your Support

City of Holyoke

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Chicopee and Springfield RMV Service Centers

Greater Holyoke Chamber

Stavros Center for Independent Living

Enlace de Familias

Holyoke High School

Holyoke Housing Center







**Tell us your  
ideas!**



## Open House: Tell Us About Your Experiences

- What **existing challenges** have you experienced on Maple and High Streets?
- What **ideas** do you like to improve **safety & mobility**?
- Please share your feedback regarding the following at the presentation boards:
  - Walking
  - Biking
  - Transit
  - Driving, Parking & Loading
- Take the **survey** (paper or online) through **3/31/2024**:



← English



← Español



## Contact Information

- **Email comments directly to MassDOT (preferred):**  
[MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us)  
Subject: Project File No. 613320 - Holyoke
- **Mail comments to MassDOT:**  
Carrie Lavalley, P.E.  
Chief Engineer MassDOT  
10 Park Plaza  
Suite 6340  
Boston, MA 02116  
Att. Project File No. 613320







# Thank You

*High and Maple Streets Corridor  
Improvements  
Holyoke, MA*

Holyoke Public Library | February 28, 2024 | 5:30 PM

Project No. 613320

Project Manager: Shahpar Negah

Email: [Shahpar.Negah@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:Shahpar.Negah@dot.state.ma.us)

