

Port Infrastructure Project WORKING GROUP

Meeting #7 | January 25, 2023



CAMBRIDGE
DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC
**THE
WORKS**

Welcome!

Remote Participation Instructions

Working Group Members

- Participants may speak and show webcam video
- Use “Raise Hand” button during discussion
- Mute your microphone when others are speaking

Members of the Public

- Attendees are muted and cannot show video
- Can write questions and ask for assistance in the Q&A window
- Questions can be submitted at any time and will be addressed, as time allows, after working group member discussion, as well as during public comment

Welcome
Working Group Members!

As you join, please test your mic/video and say hello.



Meeting Goals

- Reflect on what we accomplished in 2022
- Preview 2023 planned schedule and milestones
- Gather input on proposed community outreach plans for Harvard Street construction and shared street designs



Working Group Members

Tabatha Danyow

Marian Darlington-Hope

Troy Ellerbee

Divya Errabelli

Colin Fleming

Randa Ghattas

Kessen Green

Ming-Tai Huh

Raghu Krishnan

Idony Lisle

Jack O'Hearn

James Pierre

Rev. Dr. Ellis Washington

Paul Weaver



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Project Team

City of Cambridge

- **Jerry Friedman**
Project Manager/Supervising Engineer
- **Kristen Kelleher**
Community Relations Manager
- **Gary Chan**
Neighborhood Planner
- **Matt Nelson**
Assistant to the City Manager
- **Lillian Hsu**, Director of Public Art
- **Hilary Zelson**, Public Art Administrator
- **Cambridge Community Corps**

Consultant Team

- Kleinfelder, Inc. - Project lead and engineering
- Consensus Building Institute (CBI) - Facilitation and community engagement
- Stantec – Landscape architecture

Agenda

1:00 Welcome

1:10 City of Cambridge Updates

- Neighborhood Energy Port Microgrid Project from Climable

1:20 Recap of 2022

1:40 Clement Morgan Park & Sanitary Tank Updates

2:00 Preview of 2023 Work

2:20 Upcoming Public Outreach

2:45 Public Comment

2:55 Next Steps

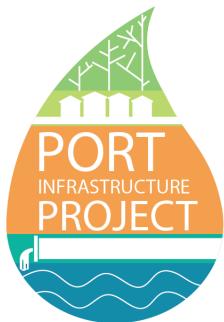
3:00 Adjourn

City of Cambridge Updates



City of Cambridge Updates

- New City Manager, Yi-An Huang
- Kathy Watkins is now Commissioner of DPW
- Jim Wilcox is Acting City Engineer



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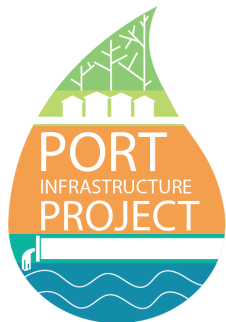
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Neighborhood Energy:

Jen Stevenson Zepeda, Climable

- Neighborhood Energy is the City's new initiative to support climate resiliency through clean, local energy sources.



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Recap of 2022



2022 Project Milestones

- Advanced street surface designs based on community input
- Advanced stormwater and utility designs to approx. 60% complete
- Kicked off engagement for improvements to Clement Morgan Park and Tot Lot
- Harvard Street water main construction
- Secured location for sanitary tank (more on that in just a minute)
- Collected traffic counts to inform traffic-calming elements
- Internal coordination meetings with multiple city agencies
- Upcoming internal coordination meeting on lighting

2022 Community Engagement Highlights

- **Virtual Public Meeting**, [Mar. 2022](#)
- **Community pop ups** and presentations at community meetings, [Spring 2022](#)
- **Arts in the Park**, [June 2022](#)
- **Port Community Pride Day**, [Sept. 2022](#)
- **Design Open House**, [Oct. 2022](#)
- **Community Meeting with CHA Residents**, [Dec. 2022](#)
- **Mailings to residents** and **signs posted** around the neighborhood
- **3 WG meetings** (and resources created to support you in your role)



October 2022 Streets Design Open House

General street design themes

Safety:

- Vehicles drive too fast in certain areas
- Some crosswalks feel unsafe to use

Accessibility:

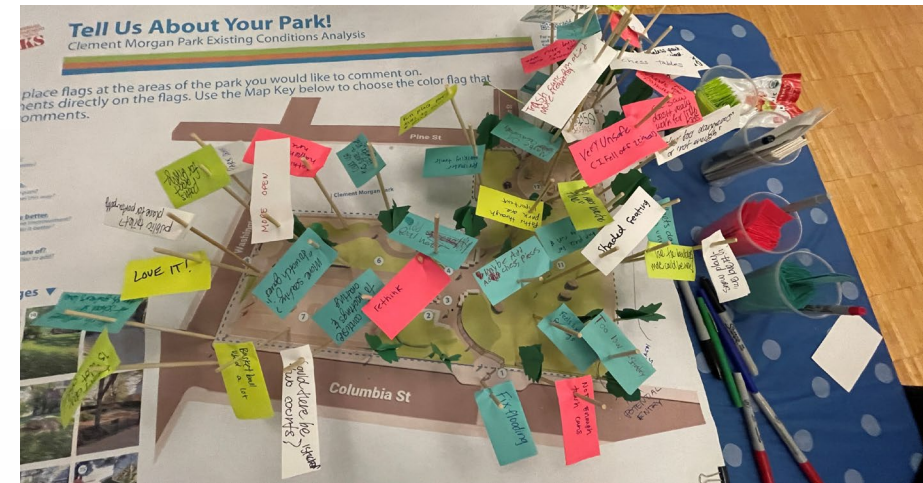
- Sidewalks are very narrow/hard to use in certain areas

Trees:

- Some streets are very hot in summer; could use more trees

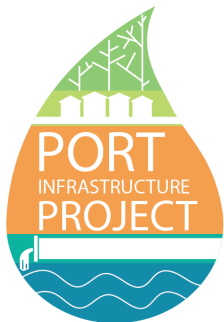
Park/Tot Lot topics of discussion

- Site furnishings
- Programmatic uses
- Design



Feedback on 2022

- What worked well from your perspective?
- What suggestions do you have for us going into 2023?



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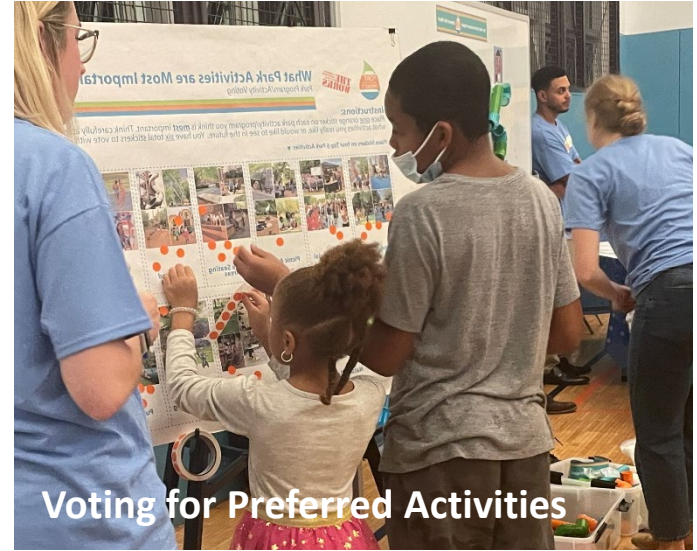
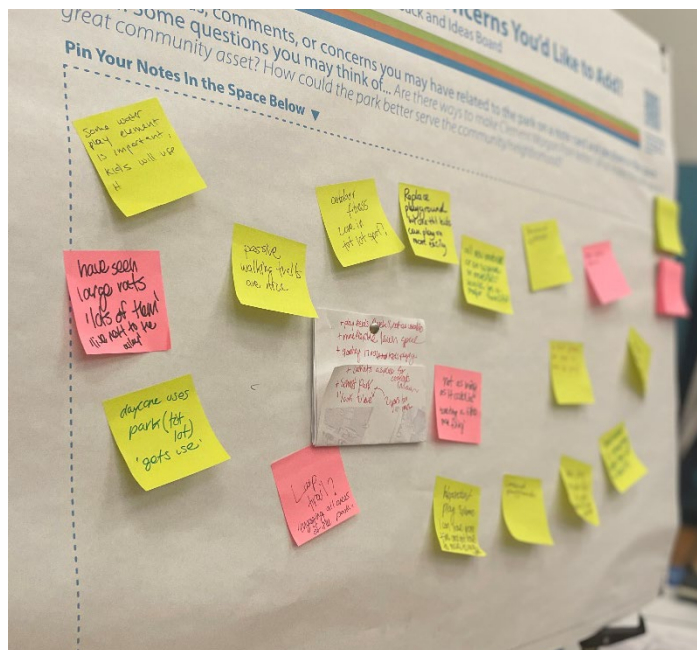
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Clement Morgan Park Update



Clement Morgan Park

Public Workshop – October 2022





THE WORKS

What Park Activities are Most Important?

Park Program/Activity Voting




For more information and to sign up, visit CambridgeMA.gov/ThePort

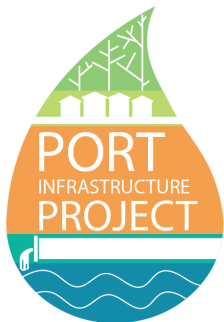
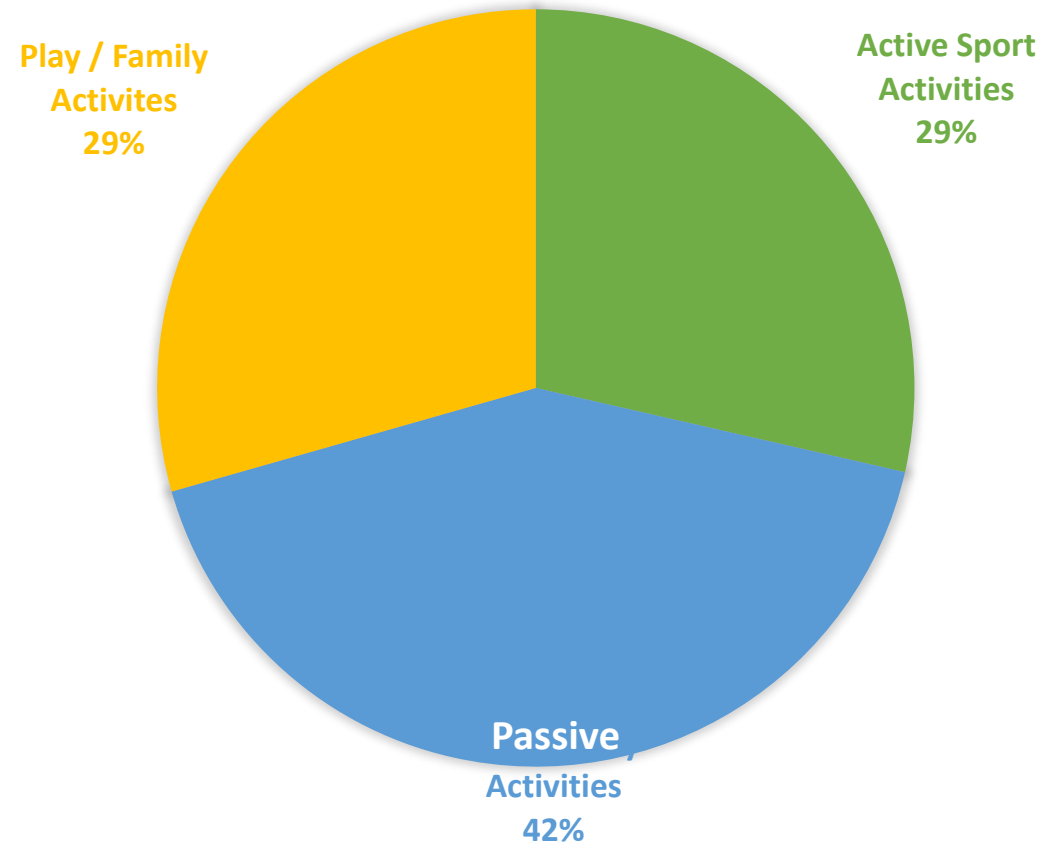
Instructions:

Place one orange sticker on each park activity/program you think is **most** important. Think carefully about what activities you really like, or would like to see in the future. You have six total stickers to vote with.

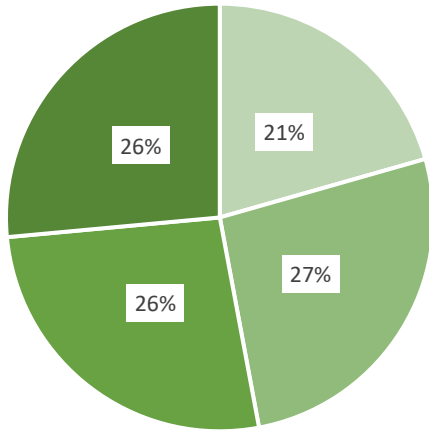
Place Stickers on Your Top 6 Park Activities ▼

 <p>Basketball</p>	 <p>Markets/Social Events</p>	 <p>Picnic Areas</p>	 <p>Flexible Seating Areas</p>	 <p>Playground Structures</p>	 <p>Water Play</p>	 <p>Outdoor Fitness</p>
 <p>Passive Lawn Areas</p>	 <p>Nature Play</p>	 <p>Stormwater Gardens</p>	 <p>Movable Seating</p>	 <p>Passive Walking Paths</p>	 <p>Public Art</p>	 <p>Sport Activities</p>

PARK ACTIVITY PREFERENCES

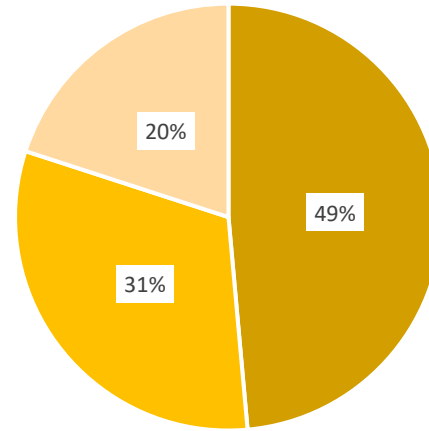


Active/Sport Exercise



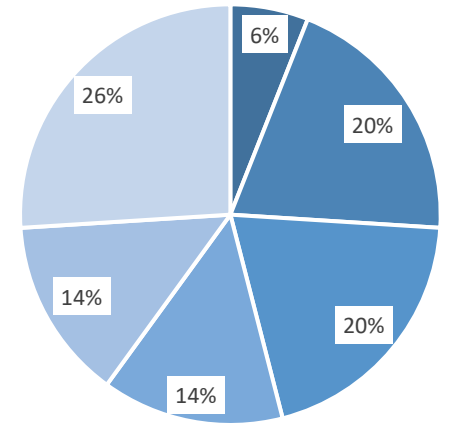
■ Outdoor fitness ■ Basketball ■ Walking Paths ■ Sports Activities

Play / Family Activities



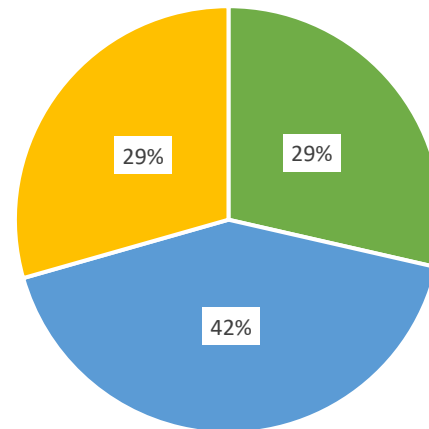
■ Playground Structures ■ Water Play ■ Markets / Social Events

Passive Activities/Community Building

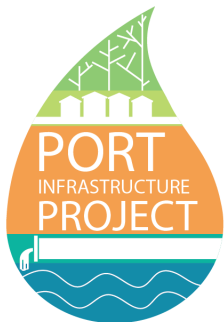


■ Picnic Areas ■ Flexible Seating ■ Lawn
■ Stormwater Gardens ■ Moveable Seating ■ Public Art

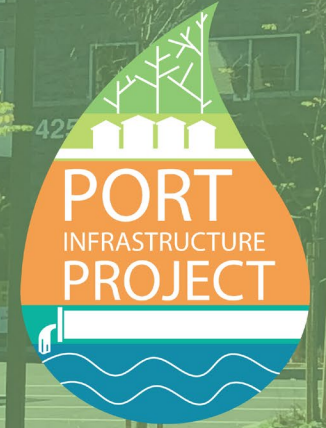
Park Activity Preferences



■ Active Sport Activities ■ Passive / Community Activities ■ Play / Family Activities

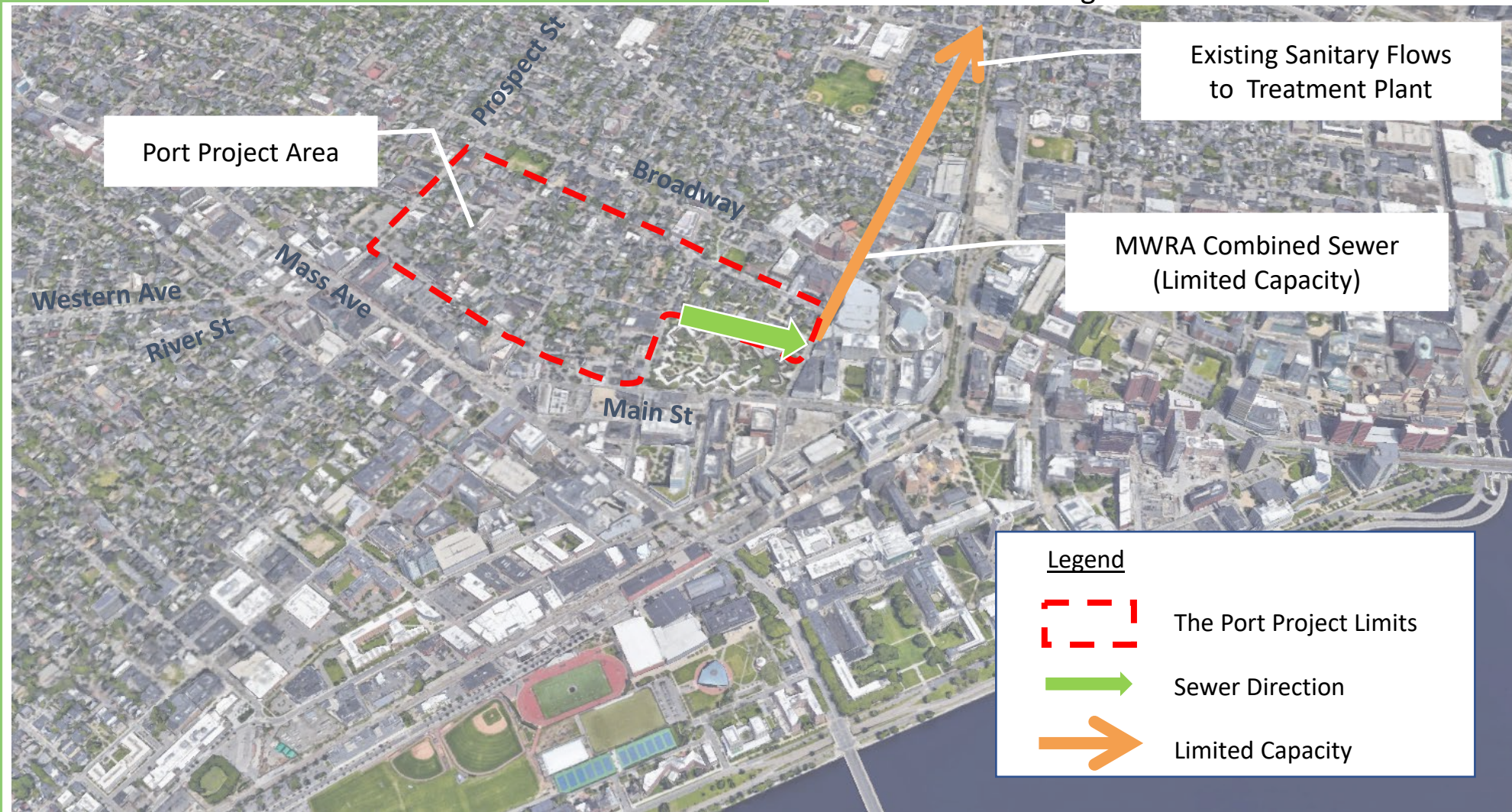


Underground Sanitary Storage Tank Update



Why is a tank needed?

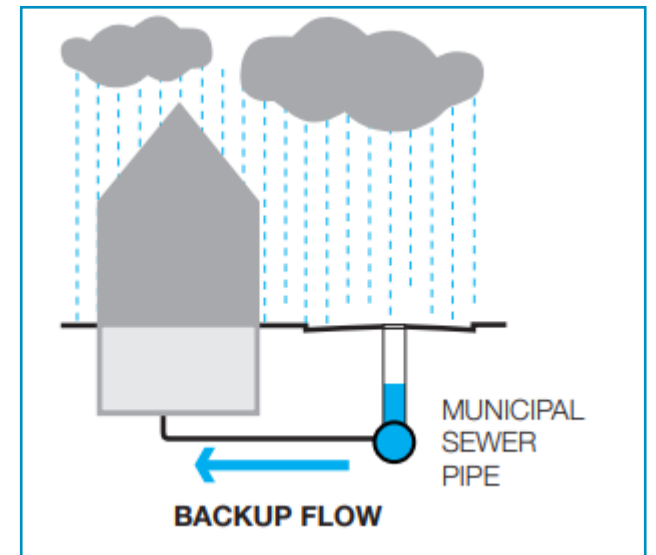
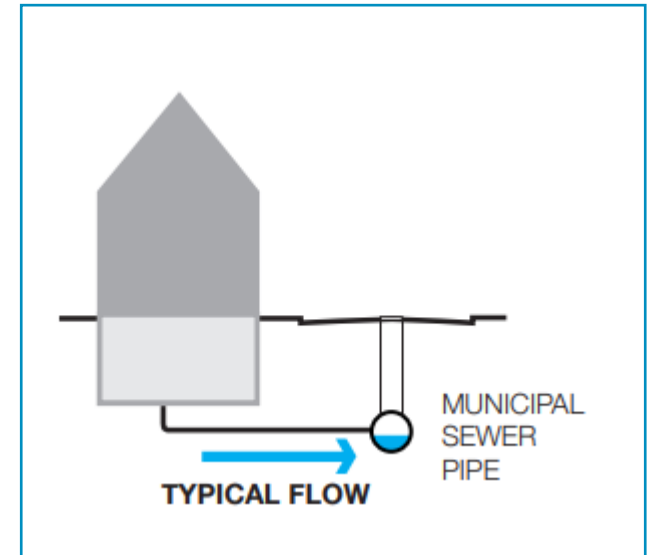
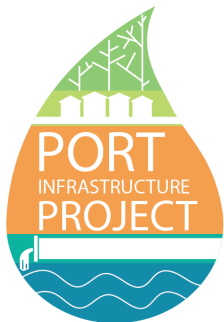
MWRA = Massachusetts Water Resources Authority; a state agency that ultimately receives and treats wastewater from Cambridge, Boston and other cities in the region



Future Port Sanitary Flow

Why is a tank needed?

- MWRA sewer is not large enough to handle sanitary flows during large storms. Therefore, sewage sometimes backs up into Port streets and basements
- A sanitary storage tank will help prevent these sewage backups



Location for Underground Sanitary Storage Tank

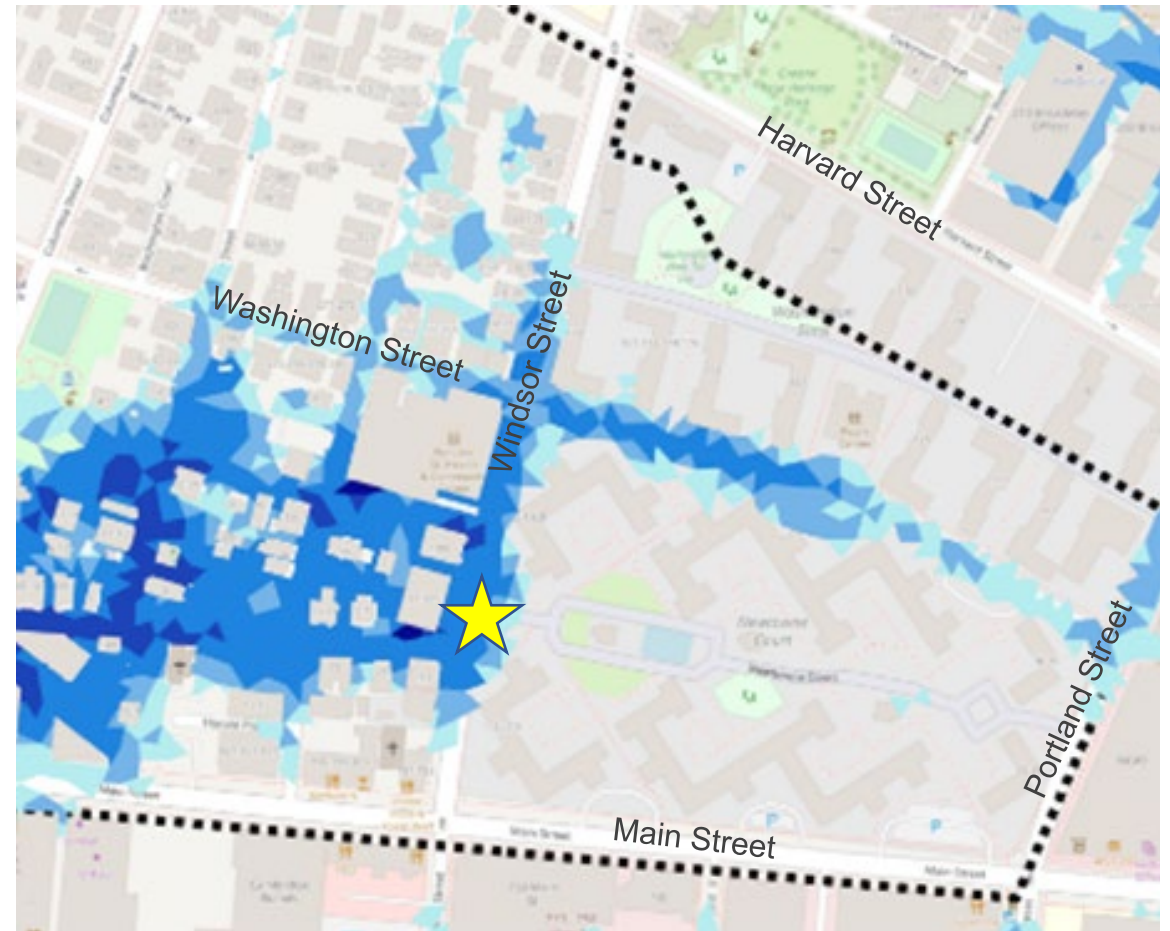


Location for Underground Sanitary Storage Tank



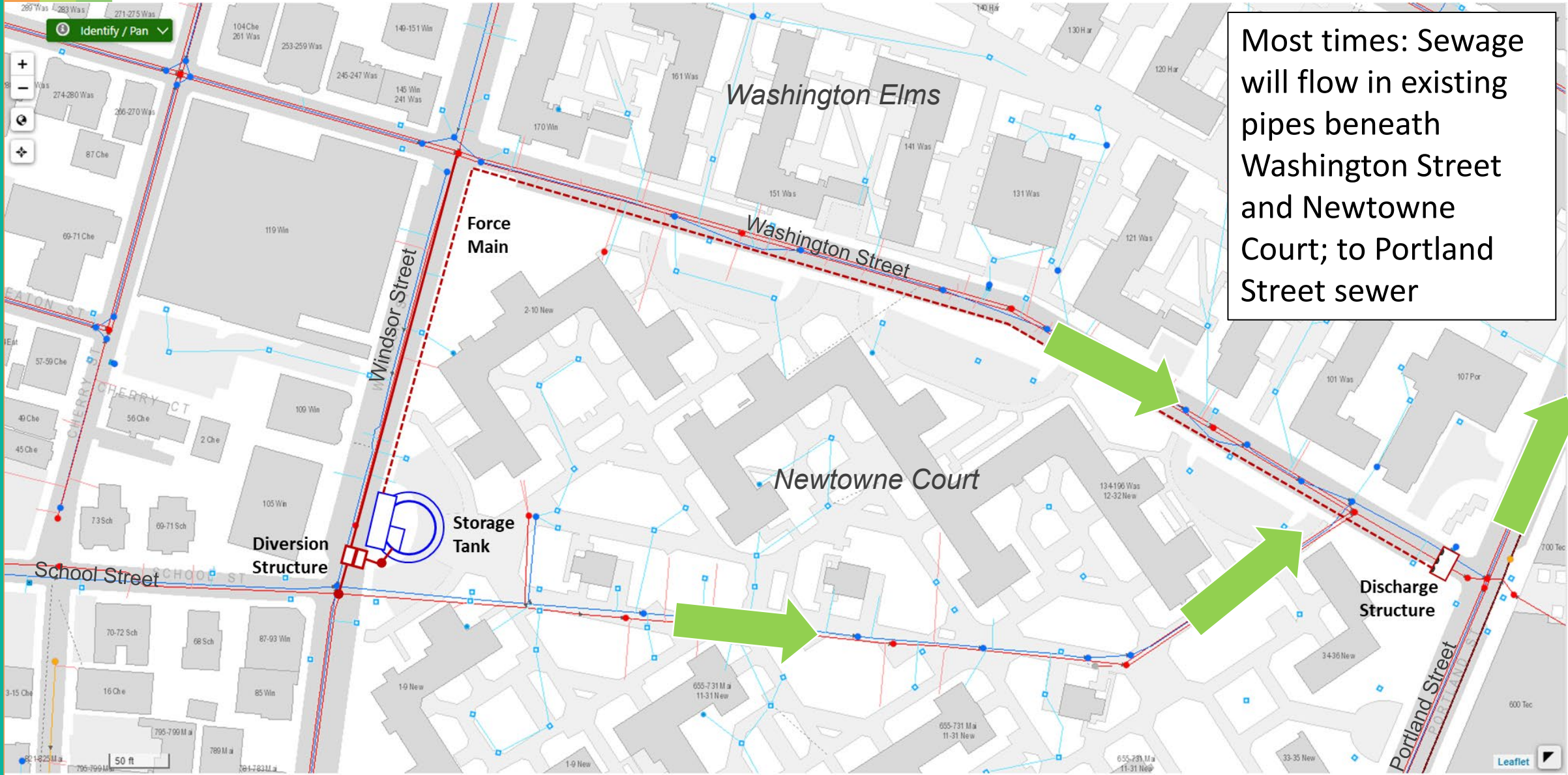
Why was this location selected for the tank?

- Close to areas with the worst flooding
- Tank size requires large area
- Few underground utilities
- Near Portland Street connection to MWRA sewer
- Near the lowest part of The Port



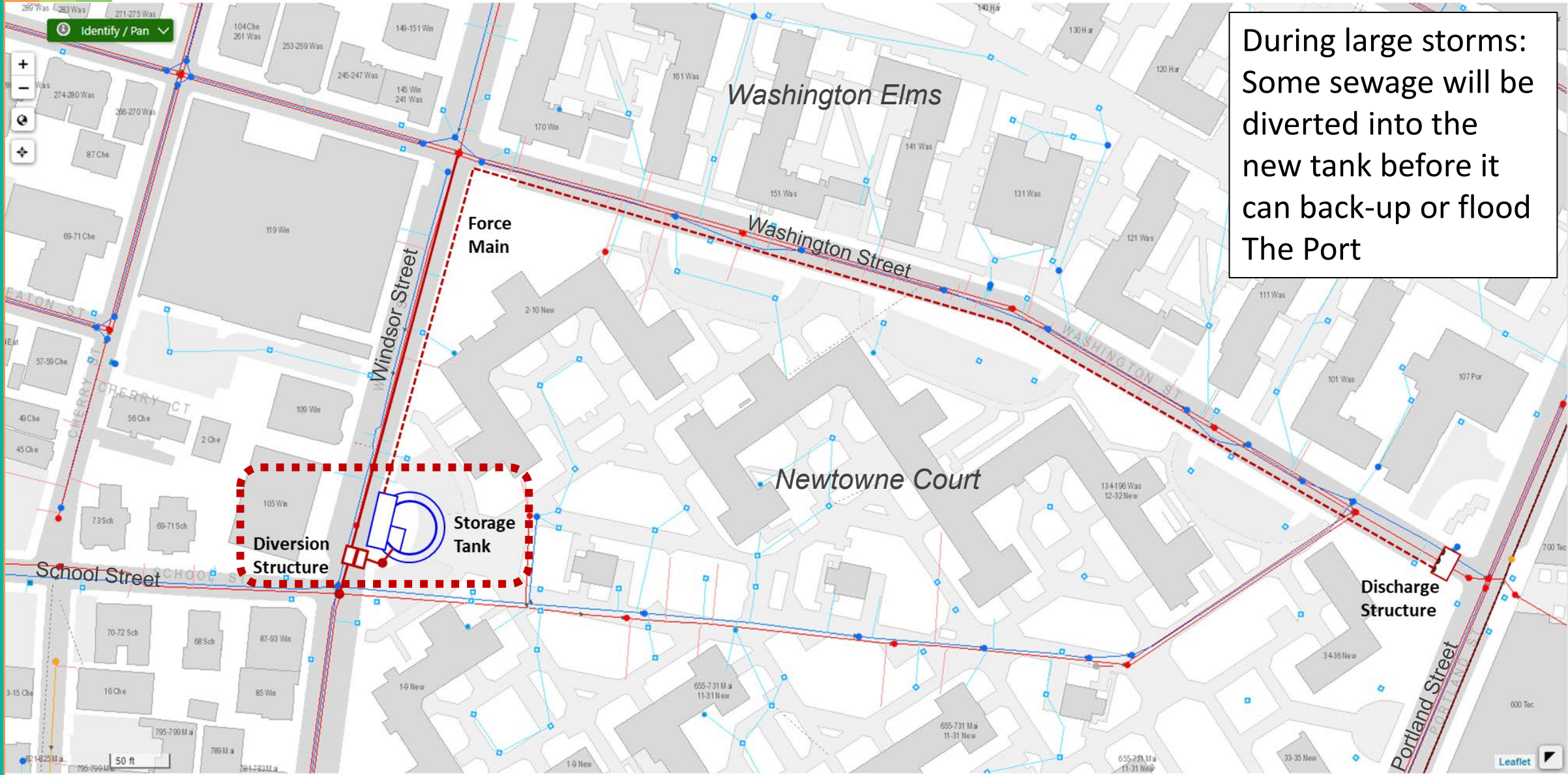
Anticipated flooding for a 2030, 10-year/24-hour storm

How the sanitary tank and pump station will work - 1



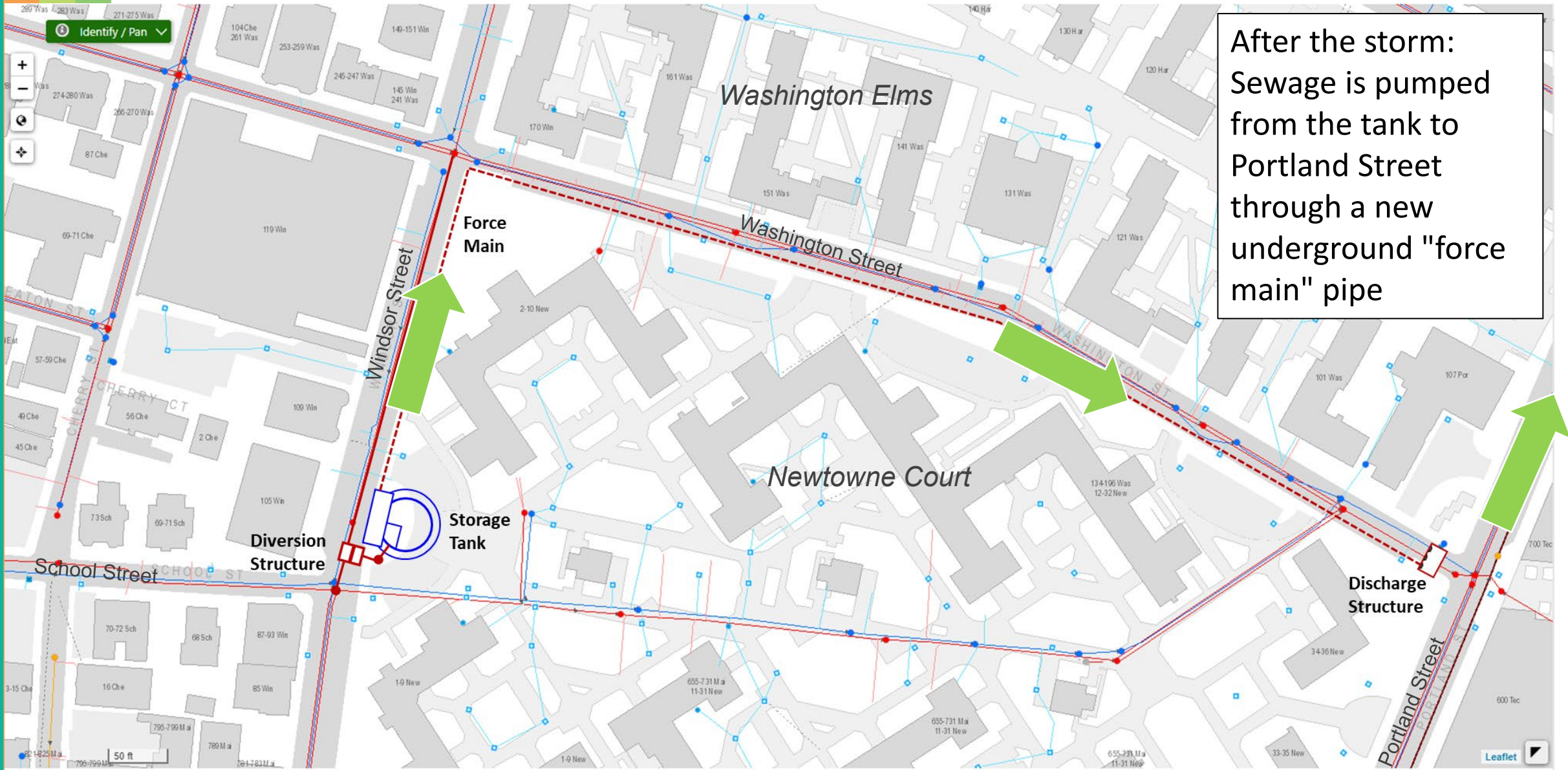
Most times: Sewage will flow in existing pipes beneath Washington Street and Newtowne Court; to Portland Street sewer

How the sanitary tank and pump station will work - 2



During large storms:
Some sewage will be
diverted into the
new tank before it
can back-up or flood
The Port

How the sanitary tank and pump station will work - 3



After the storm:
Sewage is pumped from the tank to Portland Street through a new underground "force main" pipe

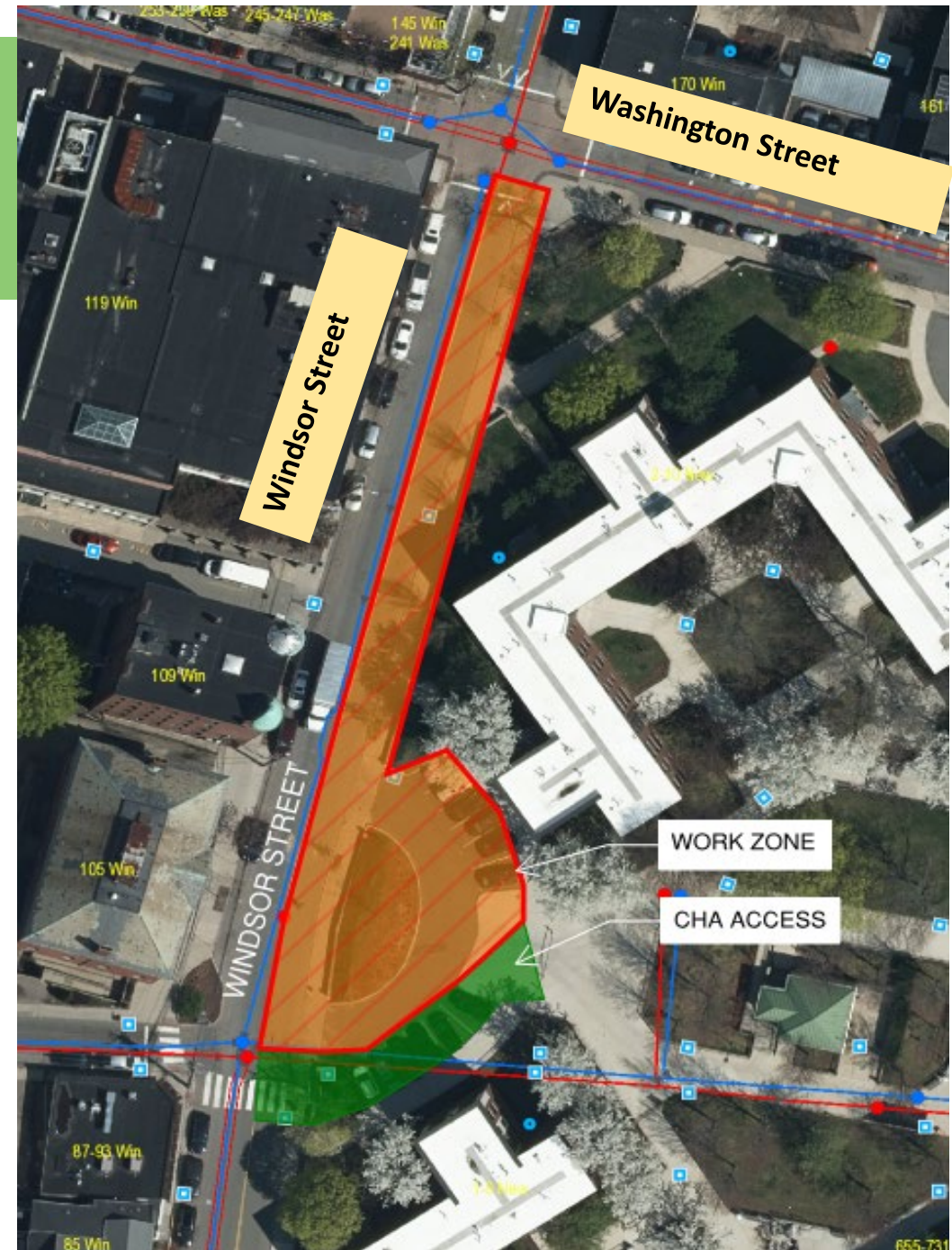
Underground Storage Tank After Completion

- 50 feet underground
- Expected to run 6 times a year
- Odor control system will run while in use
- Automatically rinsed and flushed after each use
- New manhole covers and utility access on sidewalk and Newtowne Court driveway
- New access hatches in grassy area for pumps




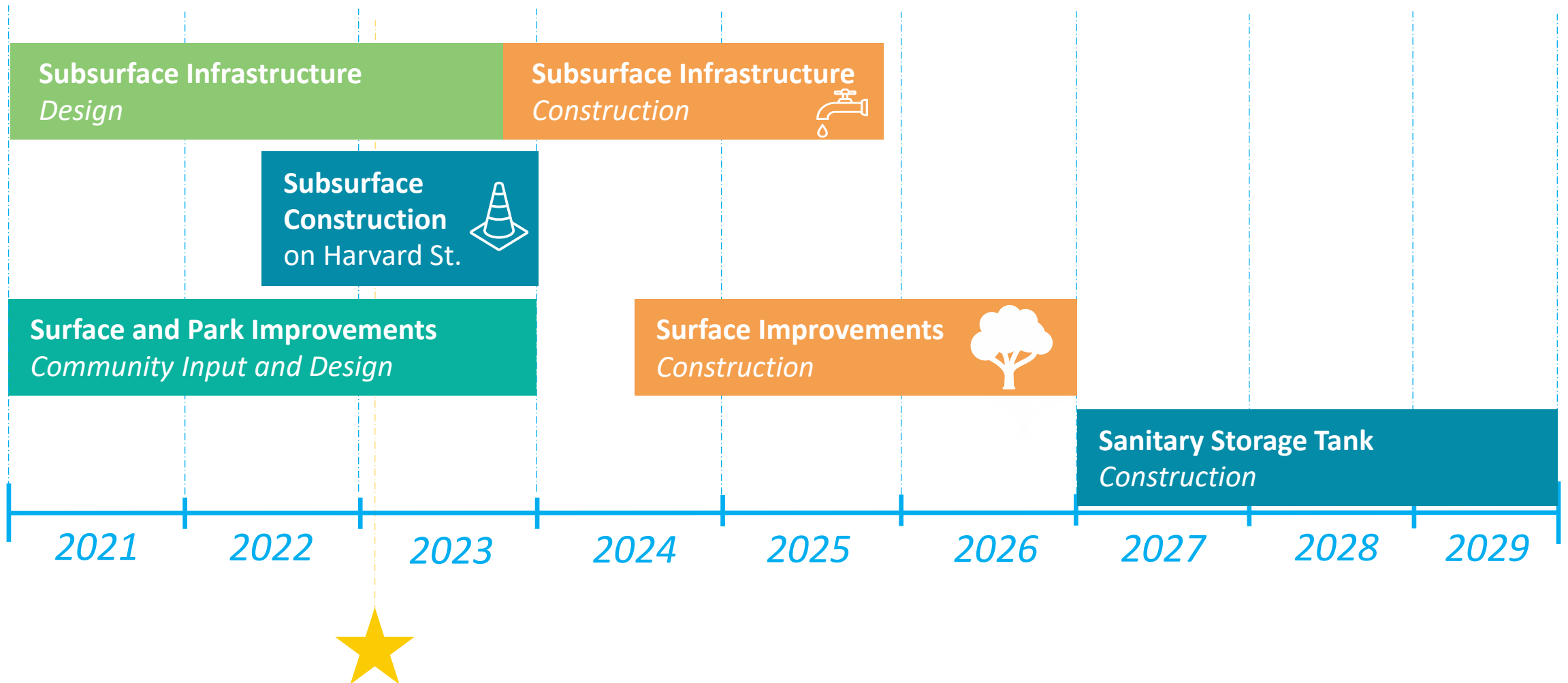
Construction and Potential Work Zone

- We expect tank construction to begin in 2027
- Related pipe construction in streets and sidewalks could begin in 2024
- Key services will remain
 - ✓ Emergency access
 - ✓ Pedestrian access
 - ✓ Trash pick up



Phase 2 Sequence of Work

 = We are here!



Preview of 2023 Project Schedule and Milestones



Subsurface Designs

Where We Are Now

- Advancing from a 60% design to a 90% design

What is Planned for 2023

- Identify and advance green infrastructure designs
- Identify final locations for new catch basins
- Confirm locations for future lead water services replacements
- Complete design by Fall 2023

Surface Designs

Where We Are Now

- Developing shared streets preliminary design for resident and abutter feedback
- Advancing traditional design streets from a 60% to a 90% design

What is Planned for 2023

- Confirm streets that will be designed as shared streets
- Develop grading design to direct stormwater to catch basins
- Finalize location of new trees
- Finalize location of traffic-calming elements
- Study street lighting
- Complete design by Fall 2023

Clement Morgan Park

Where We Are Now

- Reviewing feedback from open house

What is Planned for 2023

- Develop and share high-level concepts based on community feedback

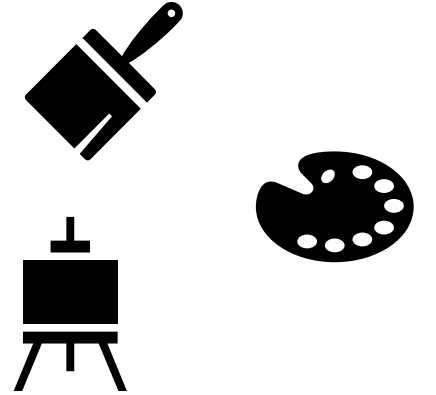
Public Art Process

Where We Are Now

- Marlon had a good Fall session working with Jack and with the public art program students at the Community Art Center

What is Planned for 2023

- Develop concepts using the students' ideas



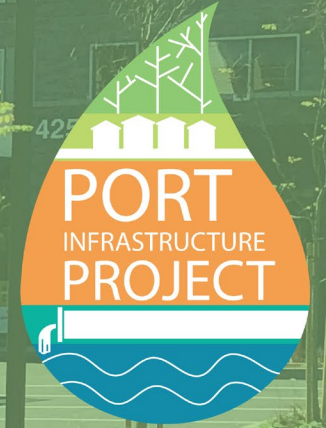
Utility Construction

- **Harvard Street**
 - Water Main - Windsor to Portland – DONE
 - Water Main - Prospect to Windsor – April 2023 to Nov 2023
 - Sewer/Drain Rehab – Prospect to Portland – Nov 2022 to Nov 2023
- **Eversource Electric New Electrical Conduit**
 - Harvard Street (Prospect to Portland) – Fall 2022/Winter 2023
- **Eversource Gas Main Replacement**
 - Columbia Street – DONE
 - Windsor Street – Winter/Spring 2023
- **Suffolk Street – *new***
 - Replace water main in 2023 to coordinate with CHA 116 Norfolk project



Questions about the work happening in 2023?

2023 Winter/Spring Community Engagement



Harvard Street Construction Outreach Goals

- *Inform neighbors about construction activities, impacts, and ways to share feedback*
- *Use as a pilot for future construction outreach*

Considerations:

- We want residents to be aware of impacts and equipped with all the available resources and information
- So far, seems like existing channels for raising issues are not being used that much
 - What would help make this as easy as possible for residents?

Harvard Street Construction Outreach

- Mailers and door-hangers + fridge magnet
 - What to expect, benefits of the work, specific examples of types of issues we want residents to flag (rodents, rideshare pick up, road closures, pedestrian access, etc.) and who to contact
- Construction-specific signs and sandwich boards posted on and nearby Harvard Street
- Neighborhood pop ups in April
- Other ideas:
 - “Leave a voicemail” and/or Construction feedback form
 - Office hours
 - Regular newsletter & poster update on activities and celebrate milestones



Working Group Discussion: Harvard Street Construction Outreach

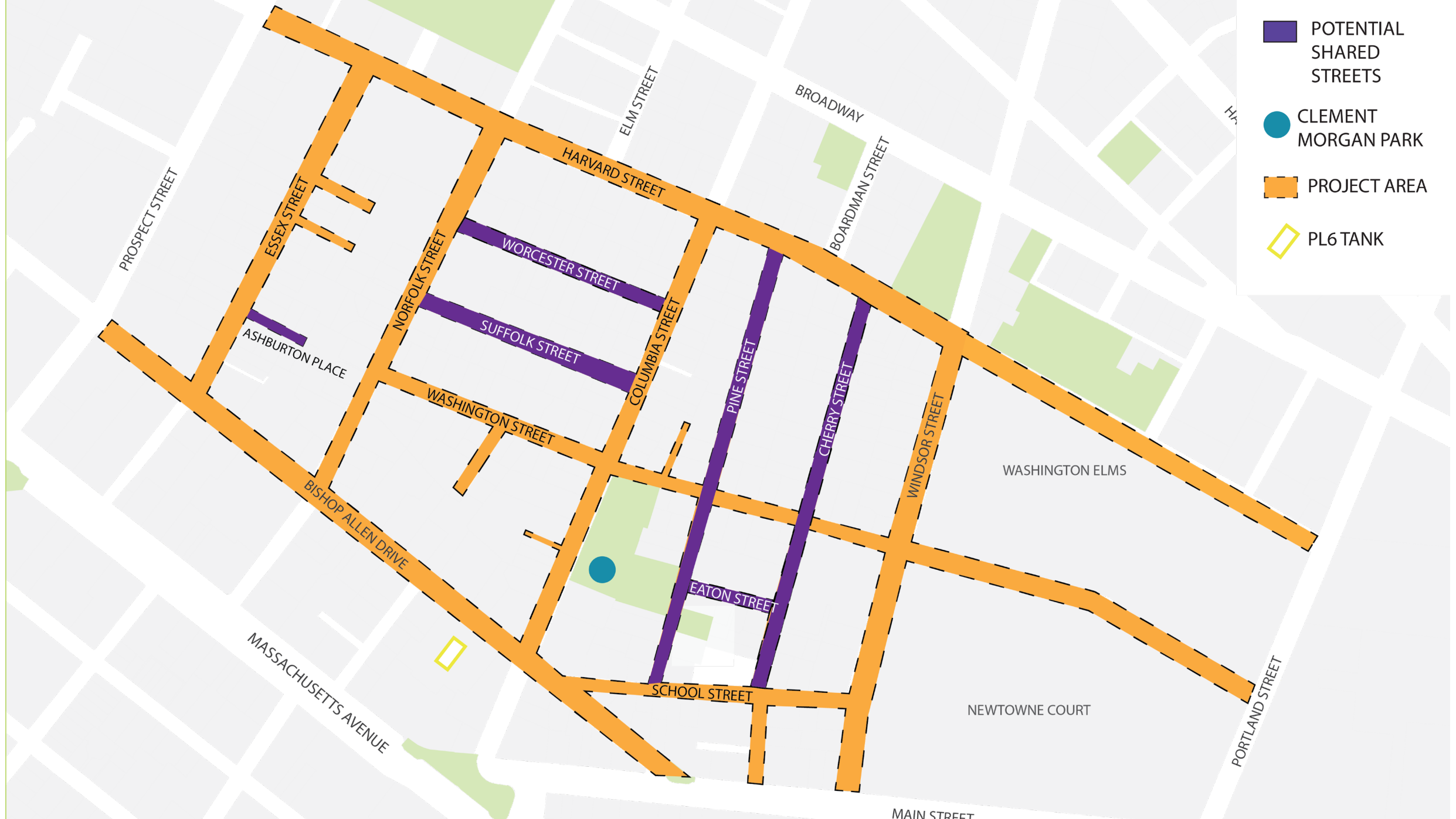
- What would be the most effective ways to reach residents impacted by construction and encourage them to raise issues as they occur?

Shared Streets Outreach Goals

- *Propose future shared streets and share street-specific designs*
- *Gather preferences and concerns from abutters about proposed design options & elements*

Considerations:

- We have heard mostly positive feedback from residents so far
- We want residents, especially abutters, to be aware of the proposed changes and benefits as well as opportunities to provide input



-  POTENTIAL SHARED STREETS
-  CLEMENT MORGAN PARK
-  PROJECT AREA
-  PL6 TANK

Shared Streets Outreach

- Laminated posters, mailers, door-hangers
 - Image of shared street, design plan, public meeting, survey link
- Virtual public meeting in late March
 - Overview, walking through roll plans, plus discussion of each street (in breakouts?)
- Follow up conversations with shared street residents
 - Informal conversations on Zoom or on the street, organized by Block Captains?
- Walk each shared street with residents in April
- Online survey
 - Inform via images and text about shared streets
 - "If you live in The Port Neighborhood, what street do you live on?"
 - Opportunity to provide input on specific street
 - "What do you like about this? What if any concerns do you have about this?"








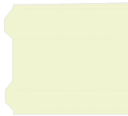










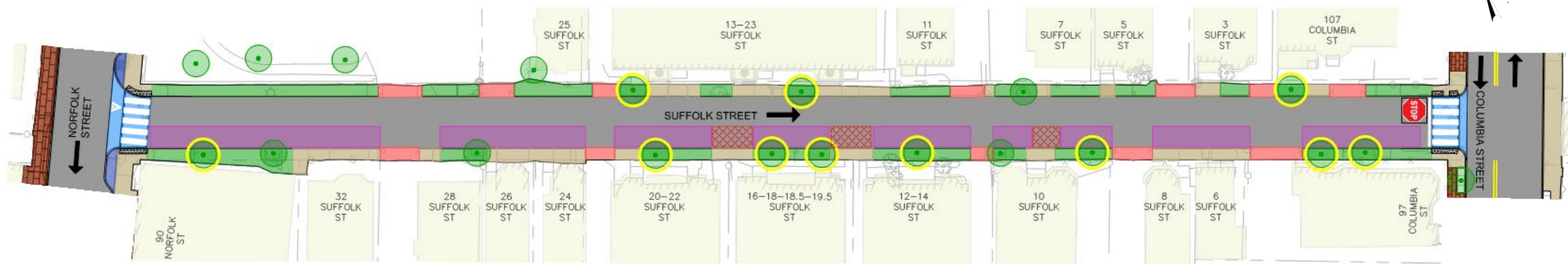
Working Group Discussion: Shared Streets Outreach

- What would be most effective to reach residents and abutters of the proposed shared streets?
- Would you be interested in becoming a Block Captain to help organize the residents of one of these streets?
 - Ashburton Place
 - Cherry Street
 - Eaton Street
 - Pine Street
 - Suffolk Street
 - Worcester Street

Shared Streets Roll Plan Example: Suffolk Street

LEGEND

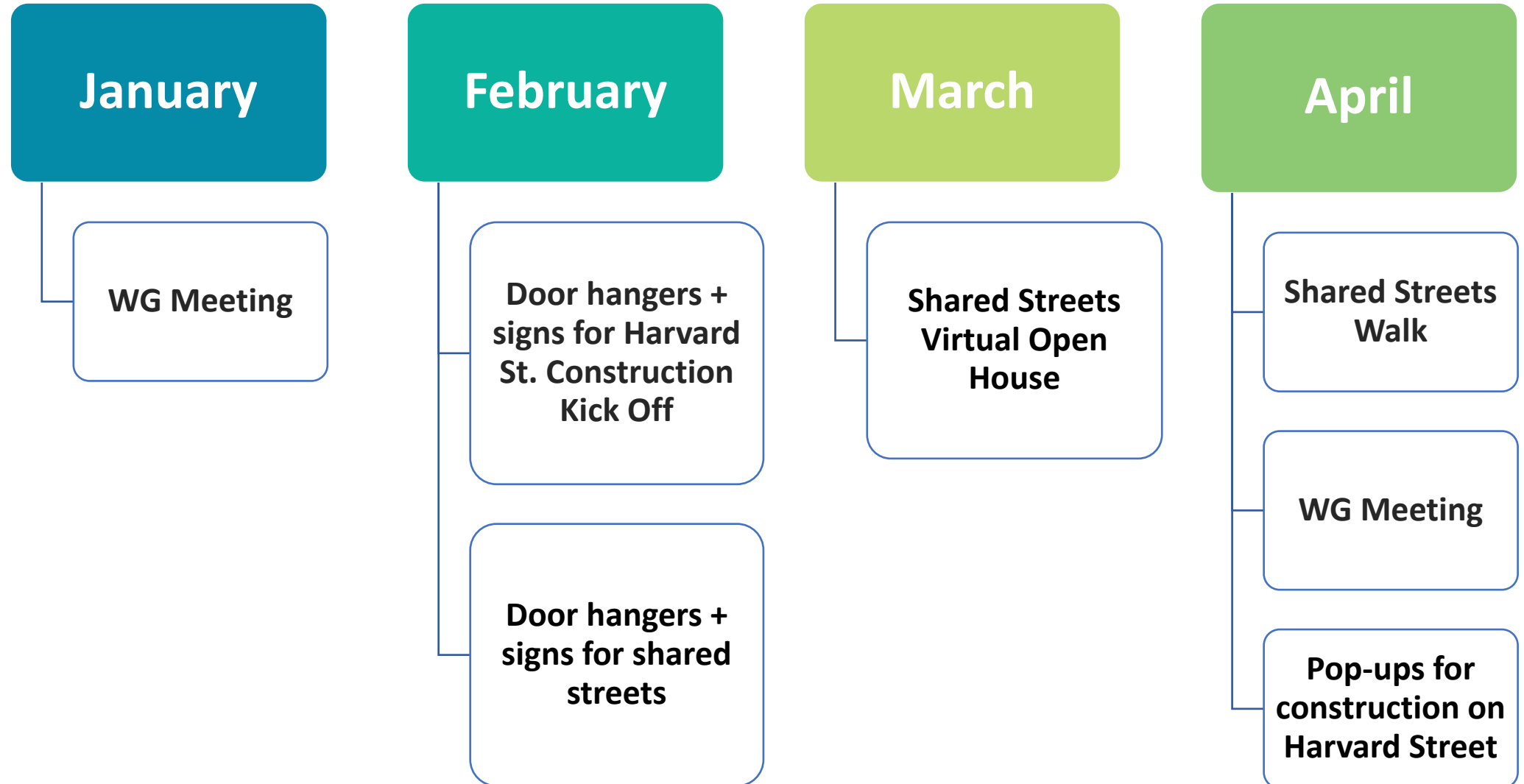
	PROPOSED TREE		DOUBLE YELLOW CENTER LINE
	EXISTING TREE		TRAVEL DIRECTION
	GREENERY/ GRASS AREA		STOP SIGN
	BRICK SIDEWALK		BUILDING
	ROADWAY PAVEMENT		RAISED CROSSWALK
	CONCRETE SIDEWALK		
	PROPOSED SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS		
	PROPOSED ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS		
	PARKING AREA		
	DRIVEWAY		
	RESTRICTED PARKING AREA		



Shared Streets Rendering Example: Suffolk Street



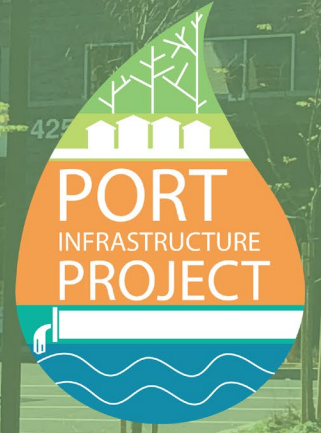
Outreach Events and Activities





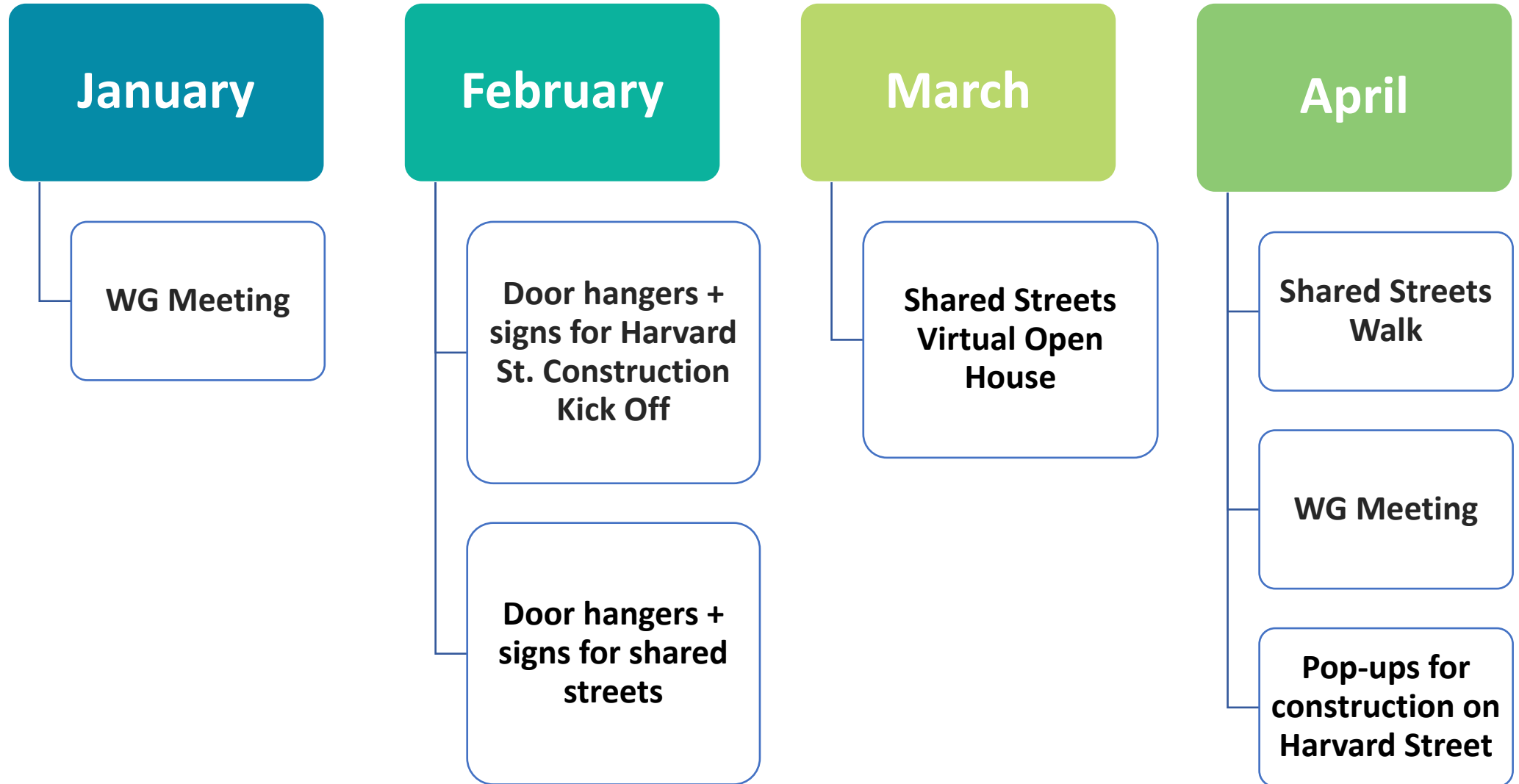
Questions? Concerns? Suggestions?

Public Comment



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Next Steps



For more information visit:
cambridgema.gov/theport

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**COMMENTS &
QUESTIONS?**

