

Central Square

A Continuing Quest for Liveability

1980-2011

J. Roger Boothe, Director of Urban Design
Presentation for the K2C2 Central Square Committee
November 22, 2011

1. Facade Improvement Program
2. Central Square MBTA
3. Central Square Enhancement Project
4. Central Square Action Plan/Central Square Overlay District
5. Central Square Improvements
6. Lafayette Square
7. Outdoor Dining
8. Next Steps

Recent history, and ongoing follow-up



1. Central Square Façade Improvements Program 1980-Present



REDLINE

THE BALCON BUILDING

BANK OF AMERICA

DUNKIN' DONUTS

Several people are walking on the sidewalk. A person is standing near a black trash can. A red scooter is parked on the sidewalk. Several bicycles are parked near the entrance of the Dunkin' Donuts store.



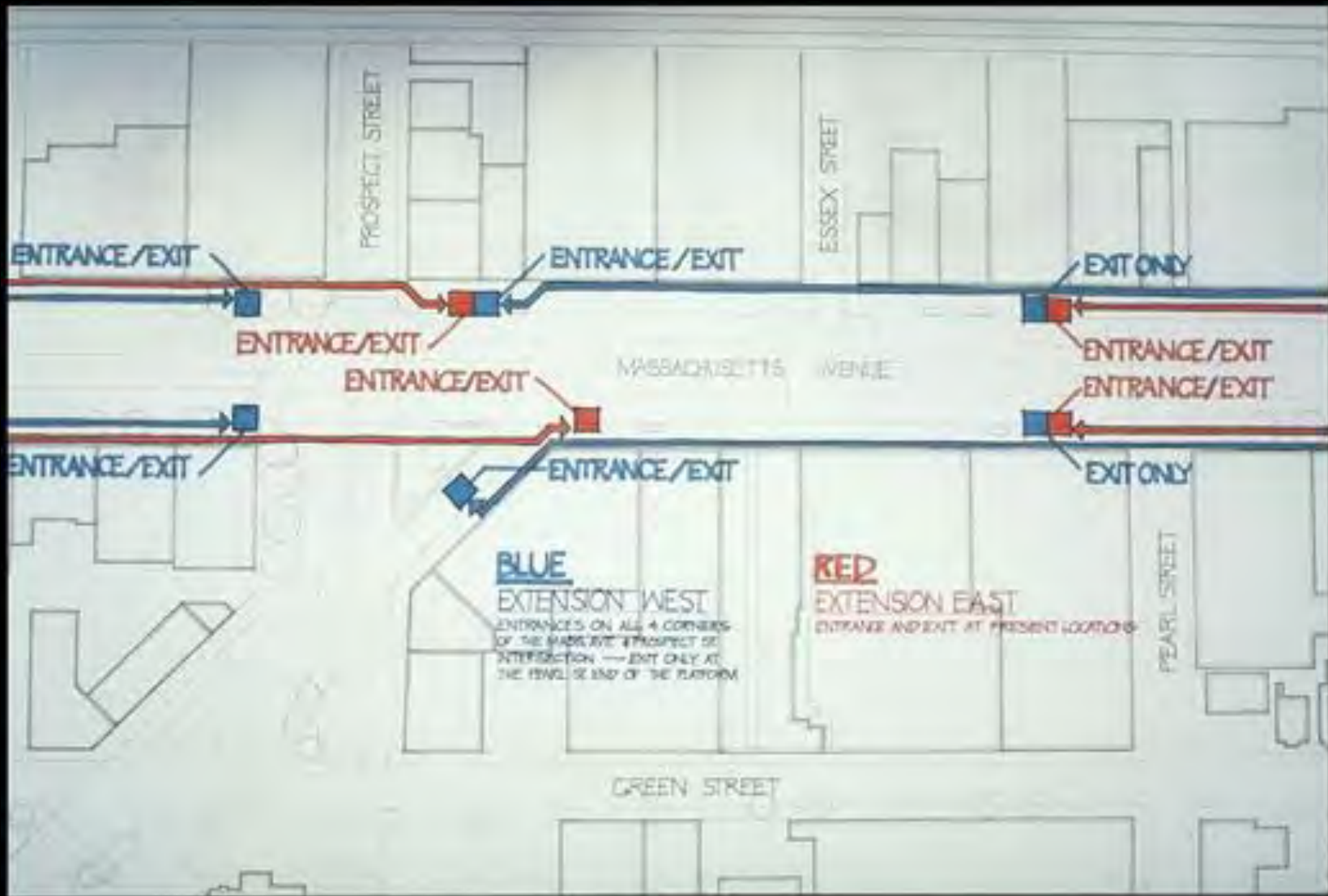
REDWORKS
The Factor Shop

Woolly Arson

Green Street



31



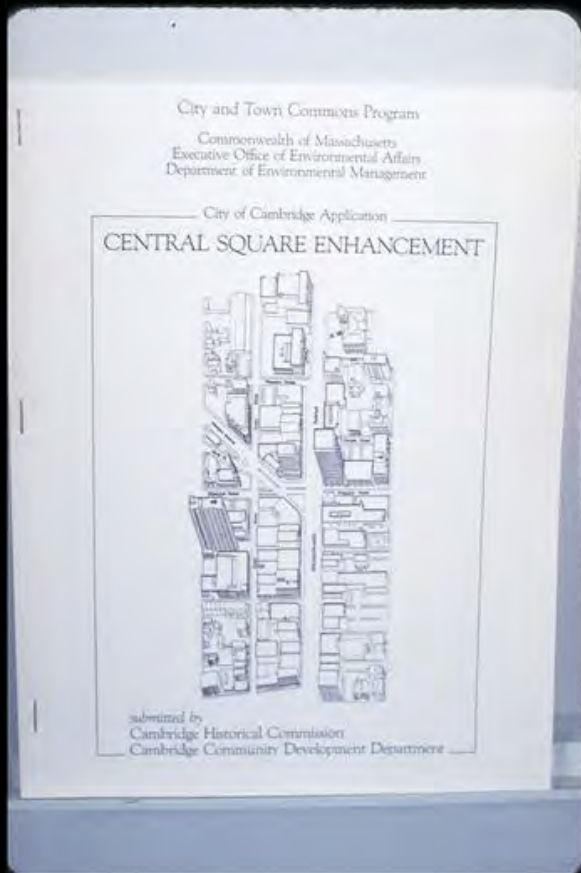
2. Central Square MBTA Station: Platform Lengthening and Modernization 1980







Picture of C
Sq Elevator
upgrade



3. Central Square Enhancement 1987

Gracious entry to the Square
Setting for historic fabric
An early traffic calming project





Western
Ave project



4. Central Square Action Plan 1987

- Central Square Overlay District in Zoning Ordinance
- Provisions for National Register buildings
- Central Square Development Guidelines 1989



The Holmes Block

Special Permit #133, 1998











5. Central Square Improvements Committee 1995

Formed by City Manager in response to
recommendations from Mayor's Commission to
Promote and Enhance Central Square Now!! 1994





PEDS & BIKES

- Added bike lanes
- Subtracted 10 feet from street, added to sidewalk
- Reduced ped crossings from 70 to 55 feet
- Better pedestrian signals at crossings



BETTER PUBLIC SPACES

- Plant trees, add benches, space for outdoor dining
- High lighting for crosswalks, lower lights for sidewalks
- Carl Barron Plaza redesign



VIEW FROM MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE SIDEWALK LOOKING EAST TO BLOCKBUSTER VIDEO



• New bus shelters, improved alleyway, landscaping in City parking lots



**Pedestrian signal on Bishop Allen at Prospect
Now, wider sidewalks on Prospect a big plus
And City upgrading areas that are showing wear**



6. Lafayette Square/Jill Brown-Rhone Park

Conceived in 1983, completed 2008

Makes ped flow much safer

Creates a real place





COLUMBIA ST

TOW ZONE
NO STOPPING
ANYTIME
←→



7. Outdoor Dining

- City has worked to encourage over many years
- 1369 Café one of earliest
- Flour one of newest
- Expect more will be on the way



Toscanini's

Made right here!

PASTA





Next Steps

Suggest improvements to design, process, etc.

Make recommendations to City

Consider links to Kendall Sq via Transition Area

