

CREATING A WALKABLE AND ACTIVE DUDLEY TOWN COMMON

---DUDLEY TOWN COMMONS, DUDLEY STREET AND DUNMORE

Fall 2022 Anti-Displacement Studio

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INTRODUCTION

As it stands, Dudley Town Common is two public open spaces poorly connected by a small corridor on Dudley Street. The space is acutely underutilized. Walking the area amongst the automobile traffic is very dangerous, therefore making the space unwelcoming. There are no bus shelters at either of the open space sites, therefore making them feel uncomfortable and unfinished. The Dudley Town Common also fails to highlight some of the modern wonders of Roxbury. It seems like the space goes unnoticed because pedestrians do not feel safe roaming the area and drivers are moving too quickly to notice anything.



CURRENT CONDITIONS

Open Space

Dudley Town Common - North



Dudley Town Common - South



- » Rough transition from sidewalk to park.
- » Bus stop unsheltered and uncomfortable for passengers, no differentiation, between the Dudley Town Common bus stops and other street stops.
- » Delapidated Structures.
- » Purpose of stage unclear.
- » Minimal seating.
- » There is no music and very little representation of Roxbury's rich history of music.

Traffic



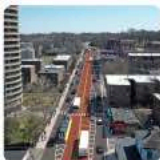
Dunmore Street

- » Cars moving way too fast for pedestrians to feel safe on either side of the road.
- » Cars are parked on the entire sidewalk on the right side.
- » Cars attempting to use the street as a shortcut creating dangerous and enraging situations.
- » Cars unable to see oncoming traffic when attempting to make a turn at the end of the street.

Dudley Street between Hampden Street Mt. Pleasant Avenue and Intersections

- » Extremely hazardous.
- » Low walking times.
- » Unnecessary amount of crossing needed to reach destination.
- » Dangerous environment.

PRECEDENTS & POLICIES



Inman Square, Cambridge

- » Inman Square Loyalty Program for customers who frequently visit the local businesses in the area
- » Artist-run performance space
- » Alternative rehearsal space for local artists
- » via Cambridge.gov



Roslindale Square, Roslindale

- » Traffic calming for pedestrians
- » Decreased speed limit
- » Physical barriers of separation between pedestrians and traffic
- » Removing traffic and parking that disrupts pedestrian sightlines
- » via WalkupRoslindale.org



Columbus Avenue Dedicated Bus Lanes, Roxbury

- » Bright red painted lanes adjacent to bus stops for bus usage only
- » 74% of Riders experienced quicker trips and more consistent service
- » over 80% felt safer on the bus platforms

Boston Creates

- » City partnering with Budget Office to expand public art as infrastructure
 - Parks make up 10% of the budget
- » Alternative Space Pilot Project for Artists program canceled
 - Outdoor space could be considered as alternative rehearsal space

ANTI-DISPLACEMENT DESIGN STRATEGIES

Anti-displacement design strategies are intentional upgrades to a community that prioritizes the needs, desires, and representation of long-term residents of that community. The residents and community leaders of Roxbury that we talked to want to see the following:

- Equitable Public support for the people of Roxbury constructing high-quality projects that are representative of all of them,
- Spaces dedicated to the artistic and cultural significance of their history, and
- Highlighted local businesses and resources that exist in their community today.

We are proposing that in an effort to create cohesiveness with the ARtery proposal by Councilor Tania Fernandes Anderson of Boston's District 7, the Dudley Town Common be improved and activated using strategies gathered by using research and public opinion. The project will take place in three stages:

Stage 1

- Intersection Painting
- Placing No Thru Traffic Signs and Residential Parking Only Signs on Dunmore Street
- Speed limits: 20mph on Dudley Street & 10mph on Dunmore Street

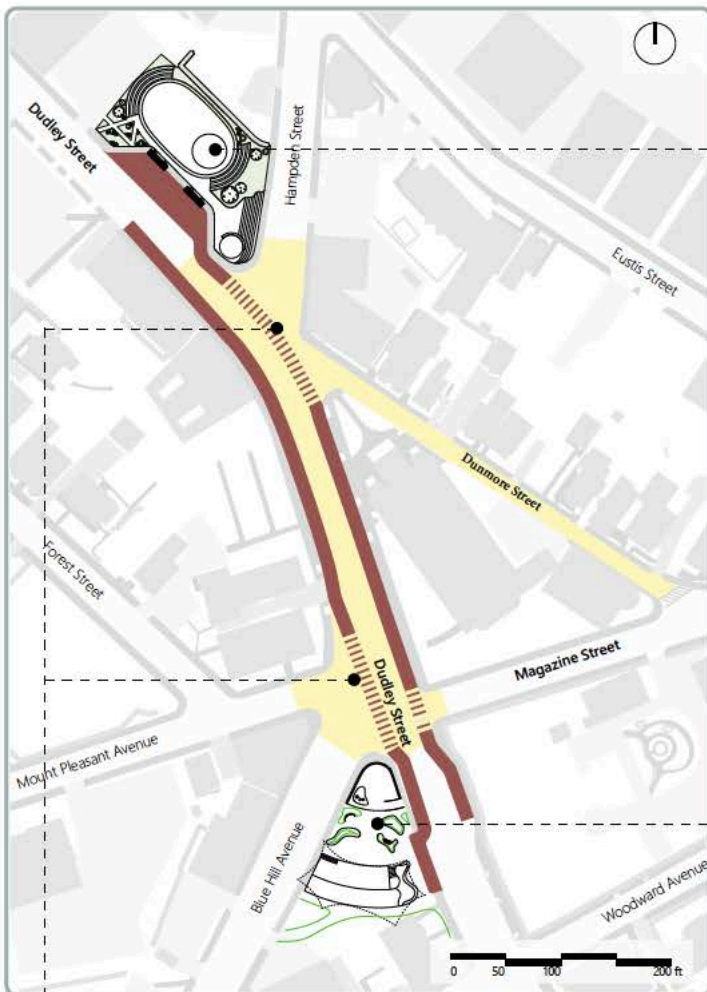
Stage 2

- Securing Bus Shelter Roofs
- Reversing the Traffic Direction on Dunmore Street
- Eliminating Right-Hand Sidewalk on Dunmore Street
- Dudley Town Common South Remodel Complete

Stage 3

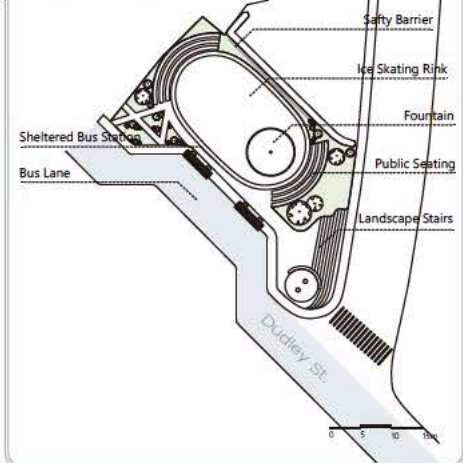
- Indented Sidewalks Bus Stops
- Raised Roads
- Dudley Town Common North Remodel Complete
- Re-paving of Dunmore Street
- Speed limits: 15 mph on Dudley Street & 5 mph on Dunmore Street

MASTER SITE PLAN



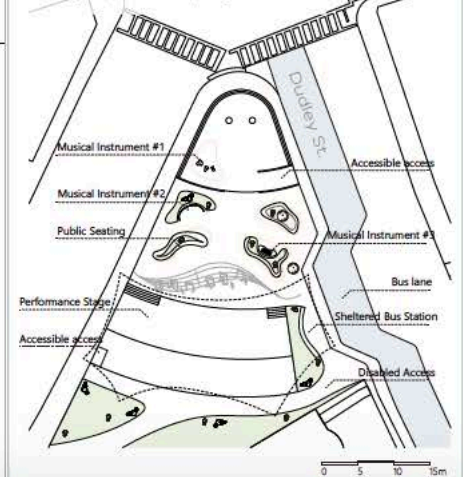
Dudley Town Common - North Ice Skating Park

This park pays homage to the jazz and entrepreneurial culture that once characterized the South End neighborhood, formerly known as Roxbury.



Dudley Town Common - South Music Square

This park is well connected to multiple modern wonders of the neighborhood and can be enjoyed year-round by all ages.



Intersection - Traffic Calming

Traffic calming and intersection improvements create active spaces filled with pedestrians. Navigating the space, pedestrians need to feel safe, they need to have fun, and they need to understand how to move to and from the space. Wayfinding to local businesses and live updates of the transit that brings them to those places helps with activation. All stop lights going red to allow for 30 seconds of crossing promotes pedestrian priority and shortens pedestrian trips. Activation occurs when there is a feeling of safety caused by decreased speed limits, physical barriers to speeding, and more space between the pedestrian and automobile traffic.



VISUAL DESIGN - PARKS

Bus Station



Moving the bus stops inward will provide a safer environment for passengers to board and get off, as well as avoid traffic congestion caused by stops.



A sheltered bus station offers a more welcoming waiting environment for residents and an electronic information board can keep people informed about upcoming buses, local businesses, and resources in the area.

Ice Skating Park



The addition of landscaped steps and public seating improves the accessibility and welcoming character of the public space.



This common will have multiple applications throughout the year. The space will be used as an ice skating rink in the winter, and an open plaza in the other seasons.

Music Square



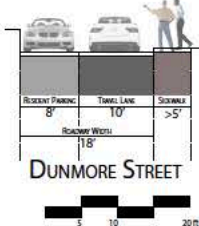
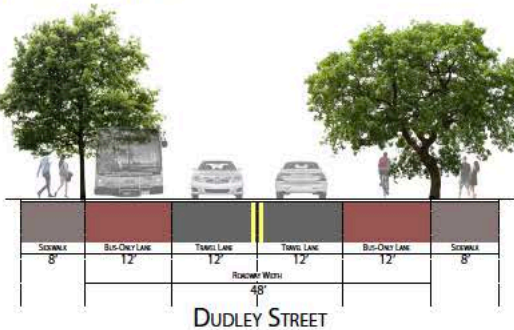
A sheltered performance stage can increase usage of the music square.



Outdoor Musical Instruments can add interest to the square and active the space.

VISUAL DESIGN - STREETS

Street Sections



The Dudley Street Redesign addresses the horizontal underutilization of the road, creates safer spaces for pedestrians, connects the two park locations to one another, and improves transit mobility in the area. Buses are primarily used more than 5 times per week by long-term residents of Roxbury.

Therefore, prioritizing their travel is an anti-displacement strategy. According to local residents, the Columbus Avenue bus lanes created safer environments at bus stops, more frequent, consistent, and quicker trips (boston.gov). This is why Dudley Street between the Town Common Parks is a perfect candidate for bus lanes and wider sidewalks.

Dunmore Street

These road features effectively control driving behavior to be appropriate for the corresponding environment:



SPEED BUMP



BRICK PAVING



NO THRU TRAFFIC

The Dunmore Street Re-Design provides a space for older adults and children who do not have the ability to move in the automobile realm. It will now be a safe place for parking that is dominated by pedestrian traffic. The street will remain one-way, but the direction will be reversed to eliminate the thru traffic attempting to speed down the small street as a shortcut around Dudley Street traffic.

