



## August 2021 PTAC Meeting: City Update

# Agenda

- Alewife Brook Parkway @ Powder House Boulevard Intersection
- Other Project Updates

# Alewife Brook Pkwy. @ Powder House Blvd.

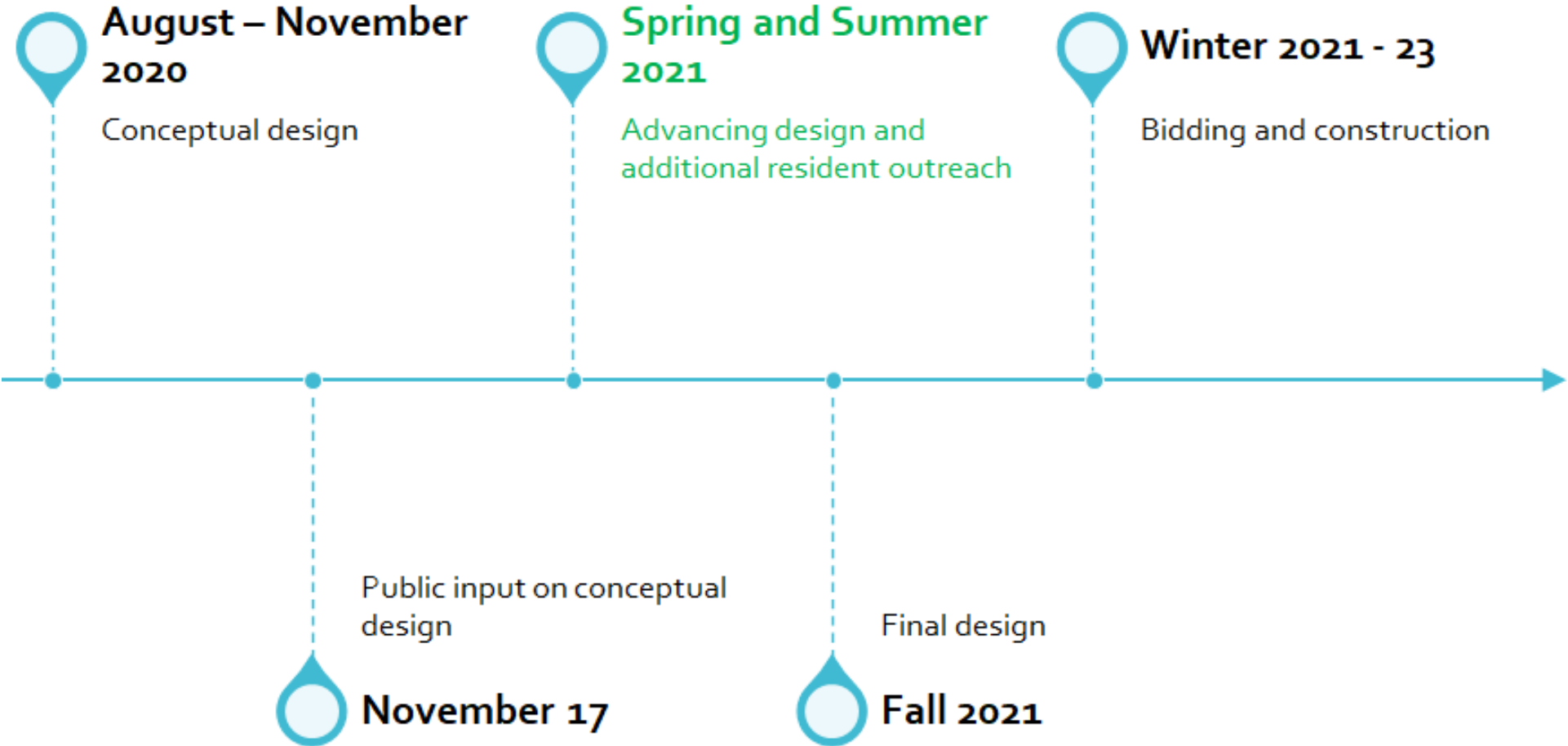
## **Existing conditions**

- Thousands of cars per day (5-6k during peaks)
- Hundreds of bikes and peds per day (200-300 during peaks)
- High crash location
- Important connection point between residents and transit, essential services, and recreation area/open space

## **Project Goals**

- Improve safety for all road users
- Enhance bike and ped connections
- Improve access
- Slow vehicles
- Retain green space

# Project Timeline



# Redesigned Signalized Intersection

- “Pinch point” at Alewife Brook Pkwy. Crosswalk
- Safer bike and ped connections
- Larger accessible green space/park
- New residential road/shared street

**Overview of Draft 60% Plans**



# What is a Residential Shared Street?

# Residential shared streets include...



- Physical design to slow vehicles
  - Raised crosswalk at entrance
  - Narrow driving space
  - Plantings or parking spaces to create 'chicane'
- Driving space flush with curb to reinforce pedestrian-priority nature of street
- Residential access only



# Residential shared streets include...



Images from NACTO





# Local examples



# Initial Residential Shared Street Concept







# Existing

# Proposed

- Maintain or expand existing sidewalk and adjacent grass/tree area
- Narrow roadway/driving area
- Create parking or landscaped areas to slow cars
- Create seamless connection to new park area

# Project Updates

- [Somerville Ave Utility and Streetscape Improvements Project](#) (SAUSI)
  - Paving and most of the striping in the heart of Union Square is now complete
  - Additional striping, signage, flex posts over the next few weeks
  - Substantial completion from Webster to Mansfield in October
  - Substantial completion from Mansfield to McGrath next summer
- Flex post installations
  - Installation is complete on Cedar St, Beacon St, Shore Dr, and Grand Union Boulevard.
  - Mobility working through a small number of abutter concerns and making modifications as needed



SAUSI Sign installations

Grand Union Boulevard flex posts



# Project Updates

- Washington Street Underpass
  - Flex posts were installed on both sides; busway is open and operational
  - Intermittent closures may continue for MBTA bridge work over the next few weeks
- College Ave
  - Sidewalk reconstruction continues and is moving toward Davis
  - Traffic Commission decision has been appealed
- Powder House Circle
  - Detailed StoryMap posted: [somerlevillema.gov/powderhousecircle](https://somerlevillema.gov/powderhousecircle)
  - Layout is now underway
  - Goal is to grind out old markings, cover signals, paint all white lines, and install signs next week (weather dependent)
  - Specialty materials (tan, green, posts) will happen in September

Washington Street Underpass



Powder House Circle layout



# Project Updates

- Union Square Plaza and Streetscape
  - Information on SomerVoice:
    - <https://voice.somervillema.gov/union-square-p-and-s>
  - Ongoing outreach by Community Design Group (CDG)
    - Focus Groups
    - Pop-Up Events (Farmers Market, Union Square Plaza)
    - **Survey:** [bit.ly/UnionRedesignSurvey](https://bit.ly/UnionRedesignSurvey)
  - Next step to integrate feedback into design options
  - Conceptual design scheduled to be completed summer 2022



Project Limits



CDG at Farmers Market

# Follow-up and upcoming meetings

- PTAC comments on 6 intersections (ASAP)
- PTAC comments on Alewife Brook and Powder House intersection (by 9/16)
- Upcoming meeting topics
  - GLX update
  - 311 and constituent response
  - Vision Zero check-in
  - Bus Network Redesign