RESISTAT WARD 7

MAYOR JOE CURTATONE

KATJANA BALLANTYNE
CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT & WARD 7 COUNCILOR

SPRING 2019

AGENDA

- **Welcome –** Ward 7 City Councilor, Katjana Ballantyne
- **Quick Updates -** Taylor Ko, Viola Augustin, Mayor Joe Curtatone
- **Long-Term Planning -** Mayor Joe Curtatone
- **Transportation & Infrastructure -** Adam Polinski
  - Traffic Calming
  - Vision Zero
  - Powder House Boulevard Safety Plan and Bike Lanes
- **Police –** Chief David Fallon
  - Crime Data and Community Updates
- **Office of Housing Stability –** Ellen Shachter
  - Services, Resources, Policy and Program Initiatives

CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT & WARD 7 COUNCILOR

KATJANA BALLANTYNE

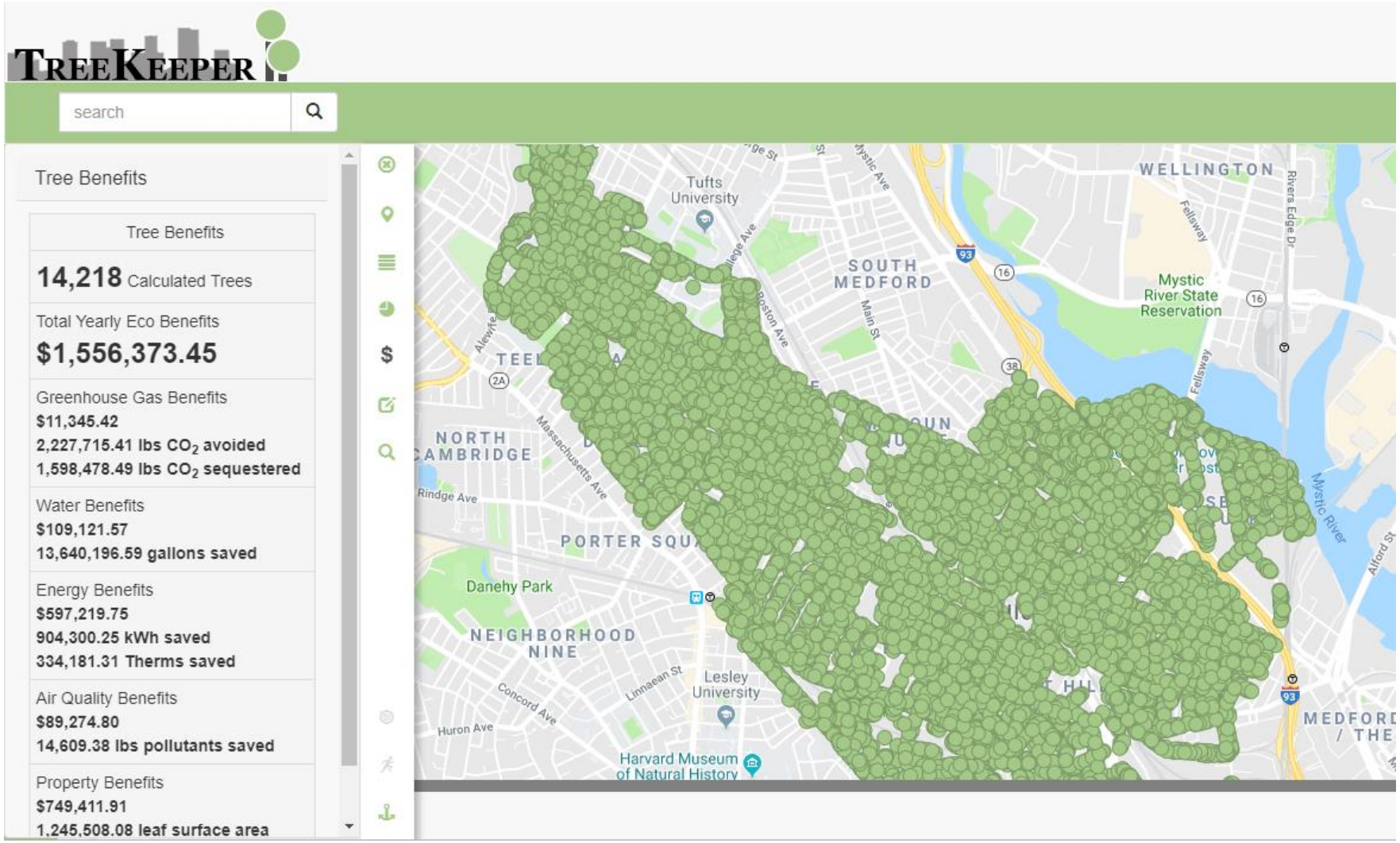
WELCOME

TAYLOR KO

RESISTAT COORDINATOR

QUICK UPDATES

OUR URBAN FOREST



www.somervillema.gov/treekeeper

NEW SOMERVISION PROCESS LAUNCHED

SOMERVISION2040

Sustainability • Diversity • Opportunity • Connectivity • Community

somervision2040.com

2019 POTHOLE BLITZ

WEST BRANCH LIBRARY

See more at:

- somervillepubliclibrary.org
- somervillema.gov/westbranchlibrary

LOYAL 2 LOCAL

- **Support your local businesses through construction**
  - Ball Square
  - Magoun Square
  - Union Square

- **Ways to help**
  - Think of local options
  - Spread the word
    - #loyal2local

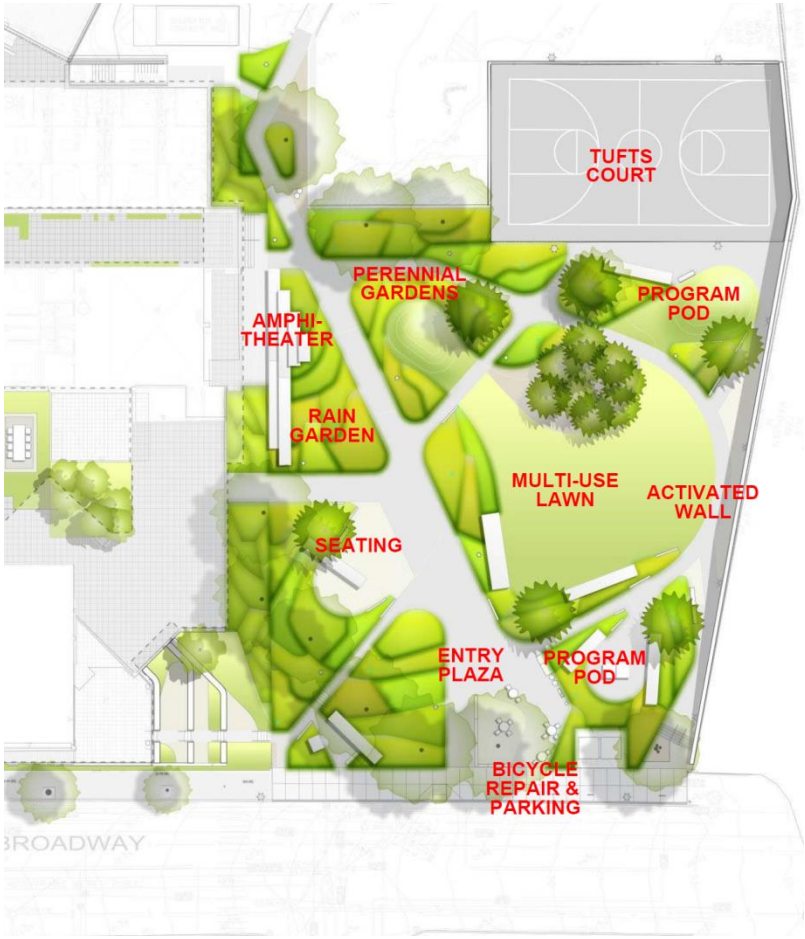
UNITED LEGAL DEFENSE FUND FOR IMMIGRANTS

To donate, please visit:

bit.ly/UnitedDefenseFund

1154 BROADWAY, TEELE SQUARE

PROGRESS ON POWDER HOUSE SCHOOL PROJECT



PARK AT POWDER HOUSE SCHOOL

www.somervillema.gov/phcspark

July 2019

Groundbreaking

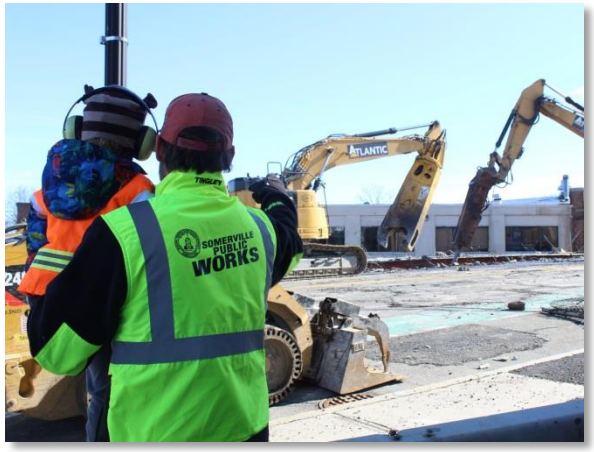
Spring 2020

Park Opens

VIOLA AUGUSTIN
GLX PROJECT LIAISON

GLX UPDATES

GLX CONSTRUCTION AND BRIDGE CLOSURES



- **GLX is on schedule**
  - Service is expected to begin at the end of 2021
- **Broadway Bridge in Ball Square**
  - Expected to re-open around March 2020
- **Other road closures and detours**
  - Medford St. Bridge is scheduled to close May 17
  - Washington St. Underpass closed through Nov. 2019

CITY IS PROVIDING A FREE PUBLIC SHUTTLE SERVICE

7 A.M. TO 7 P.M., MON-FRI

Bridge Hopper

CITY OF SOMERVILLE

https://www.somervillema.gov/glx

STAY INFORMED

- **MassDOT GLX**
  - 24/7 GLX hotline at 1-855-GLX-INFO (459-4636)
  - info@glxinfo.com
  - mass.gov/glx
- **City of Somerville Construction Newsletter**
  - somervillema.gov/constructionnewsletter
- **City Alerts**
  - somervillema.gov/alerts
- **City Newsletter**
  - somervillema.gov/enews

CLARENDON HILL HOUSING

www.clarendonhill.org

TUFTS PILOT

MAYOR
JOE CURTATONE

ALL THE THINGS NO ONE WANTS TO THINK ABOUT:

AKA LONG-RANGE PLANNING

America's Infrastructure Scores a
D+

CHECK
20

Why do

people/governments/etc.

put things off?

There are many barriers to long-range government efforts

- Cost
- Time
- Need for a better understanding of the issue
- More immediate needs
- They're difficult
- To avoid discomfort
- Lack of consensus
- Tunnel vision

But frankly…

The nature of politics and government leads many to avoid costly long-range needs in favor of current needs and quick wins

Somerville is working to flip that model

We are striving to meet today's goals and needs while ALSO tackling a range of complex and long-term issues facing the city

PLANNING FOR TODAY…AND TOMORROW

Jobs

Housing

Revenue

Buildings

Trees

Water & Sewer

Mobility

Climate Change

AND MUCH MORE…

SOMERVISION2040

Sustainability • Diversity • Opportunity • Connectivity • Community

CONSIDER A FEW EXAMPLES…

JOB CREATION & WORKFORCE SUPPORTS

TODAY

- **Workforce development**
- **Education investments**
- **Small business supports**
- **Large business recruitment**
- **Green tech, innovation, and startup supports**
- **Artist and maker supports**
- **Living wage**
- **Etc.**

JOB CREATION & WORKFORCE SUPPORTS

LONG-TERM

Strategic community development:

- SomerVision: 30,000 new jobs by 2030
- Neighborhood plans including job strategy

Proposed Zoning Overhaul:

- To foster startups, makers and artists, biotech, small independent businesses, and larger businesses

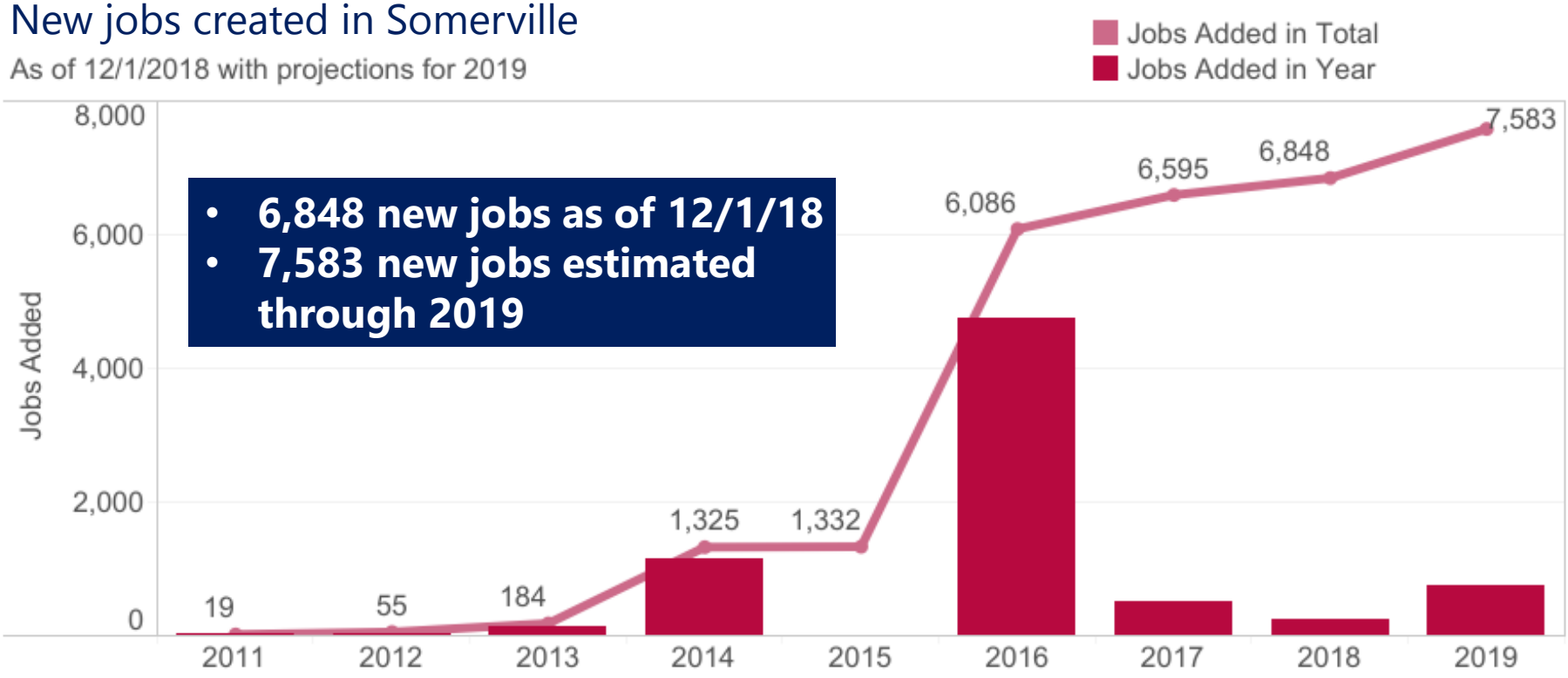
Jobs Linkage: ~$3M in near-term

- Somerville Talent Equity Playbook
- Jobs Creation and Retention Trust

WE ARE ALREADY SEEING THE RESULTS: NEW JOBS

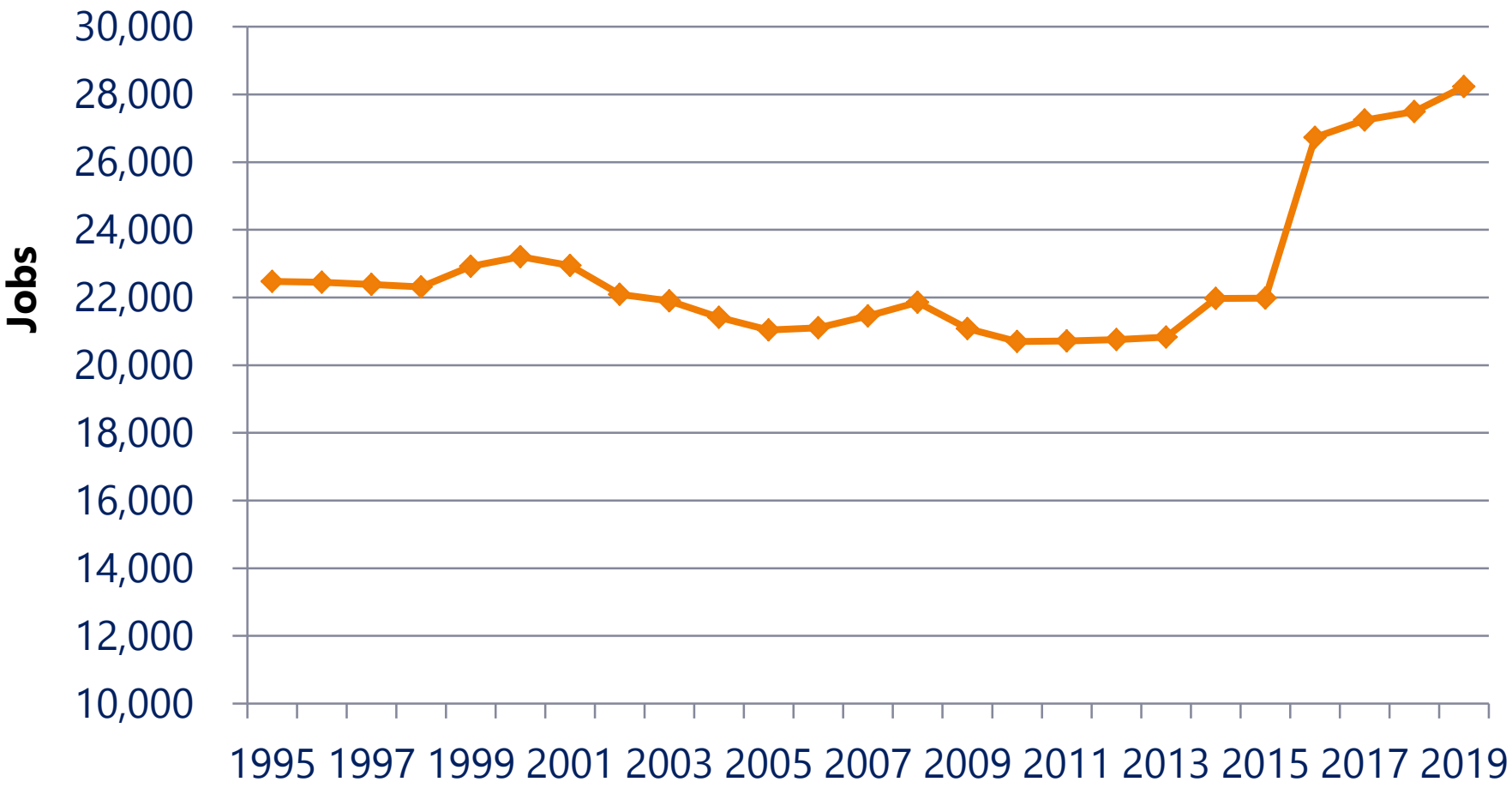
New jobs created in Somerville

As of 12/1/2018 with projections for 2019



- **6,848 new jobs as of 12/1/18**
- **7,583 new jobs estimated through 2019**

JOBS IN SOMERVILLE: FROM NEARLY FLAT LINING TO GROWTH



WE MUST ADDRESS UNDEREMPLOYMENT: THE SILENT CRISIS

Underemployment has a cascading negative impact on workers:

Less income for housing, no health insurance,

slowed career advancement, decreased financial stability

- **Thanks primarily to the gig economy and the shift to temporary hiring:**
  - One in six workers in MA has a job beneath their skill level
  - Rising underemployment in MA now exceeds 100k workers

    vs. 70k in 2007
  - It's not just younger works. Senior underemployment in MA is rising:

    4.2% in 2018 vs. 2.6% in 2015

WATER SYSTEM:
340 YEARS TO UPGRADE AT CURRENT PACE

PREVIOUS

- **Virtually no proactive line & main replacement prior to 2006**
- **Extensive emergency repairs only**

TODAY

- **Water System Improvement Plan (WSIP): $1.5M / year**
- **Established new 16-year WSIP (now four years in)**
- **Relining, replacement of mains and lines**
- **Lead service replacement $0.75M / year**

WATER SYSTEM:
102 YEARS TO COMPLETE

LONG-TERM

Increase proactive updates and repairs: $5M / year

- Maintain water quality and fire fighting flow
- Repair and update decrepit valves, mains, and lines

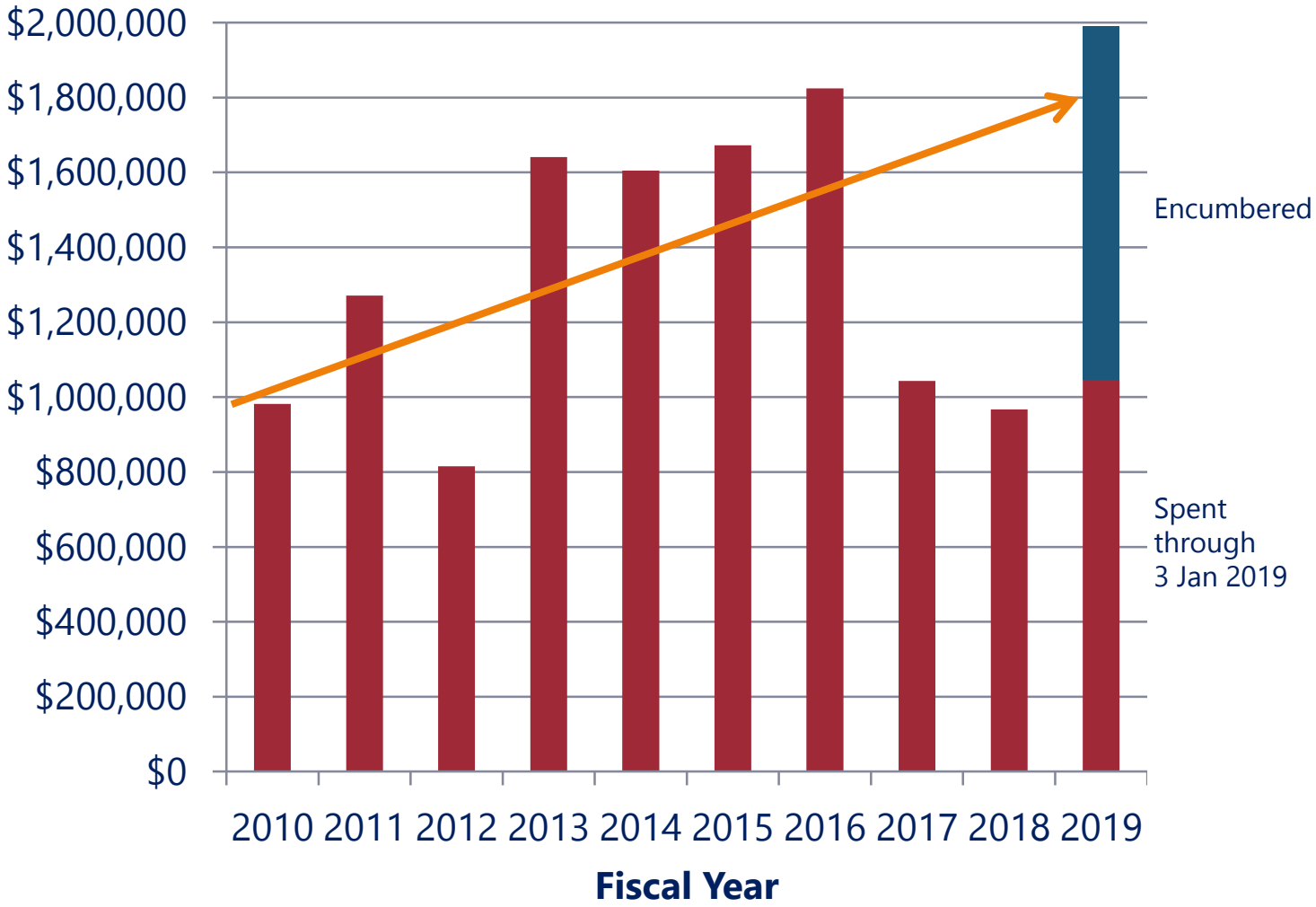
Revise Water System Investment Plan

- Collect new flow test data, update hydraulic model, include future demands, complete risk-based prioritization

Escalate Lead Service Replacement at 4% per year

- Estimated 8 years to replace known lead pipes, 60 years replace all non-copper pipes

WATER SYSTEM EMERGENCY REPAIR SPENDING



FY-2017/18

- Gap in contract

CY-2018

- 27 pipes repaired
- 28 valves replaced

HOUSING CREATION & SUPPORTS

- **20% Inclusionary**
- **Affordable Housing Trust Fund**
- **Community Preservation Act**
- **Housing Linkage**
- **100 Homes**
- **Office of Housing Stability**
- **Tenant and housing supports**
- **Updated Condo Conversion Ordinance**
- **Short-term rental ordinance**
- **Regional collaboration on housing production**
- **And more**

HOUSING CREATION & SUPPORTS

LONG-TERM

Proposed zoning overhaul:

- To support diverse and affordable housing creation

Bold initiatives

- Community Land Trust, Transfer fee, Rent stabilization, etc.

6,000 new housing units locally by 2030 (and more?)

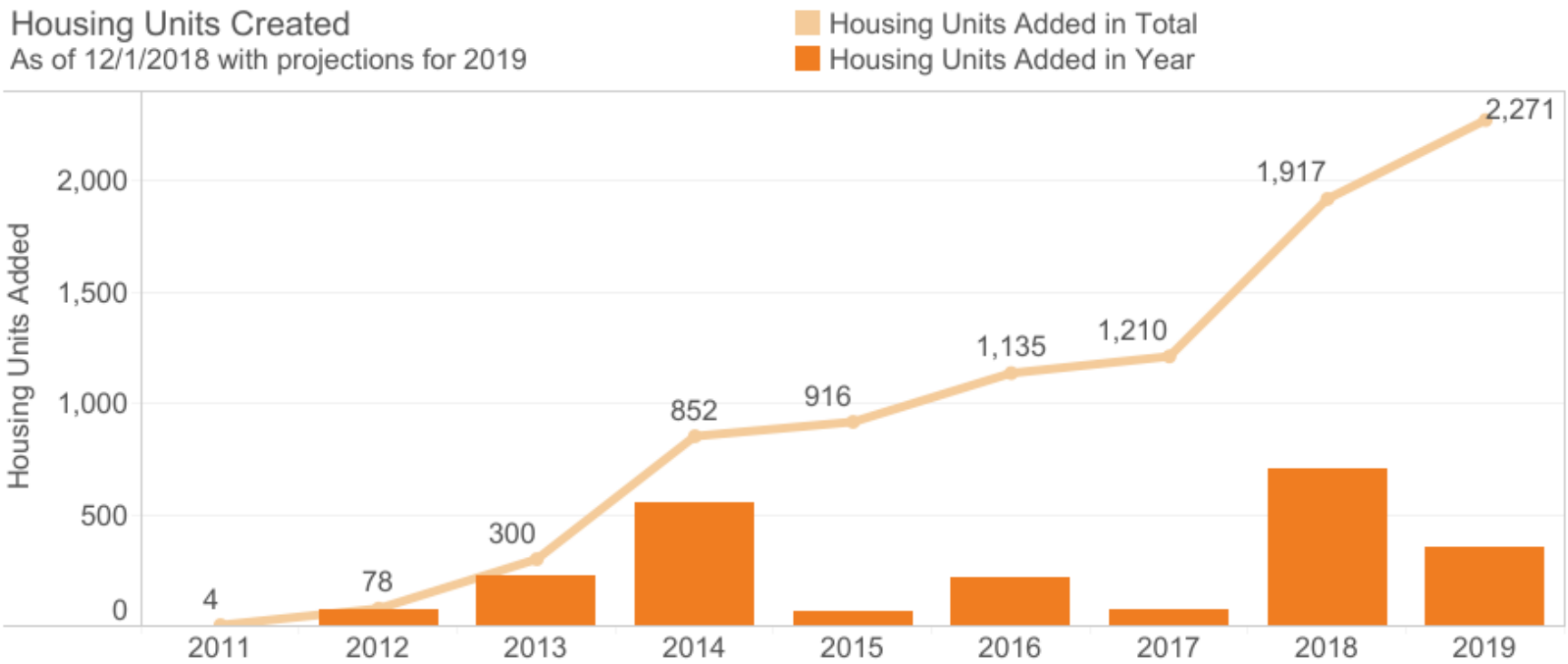
- SomerVision update discussion

185,000 new housing units regionally

- Metro Mayors Coalition Housing Task Force commitment

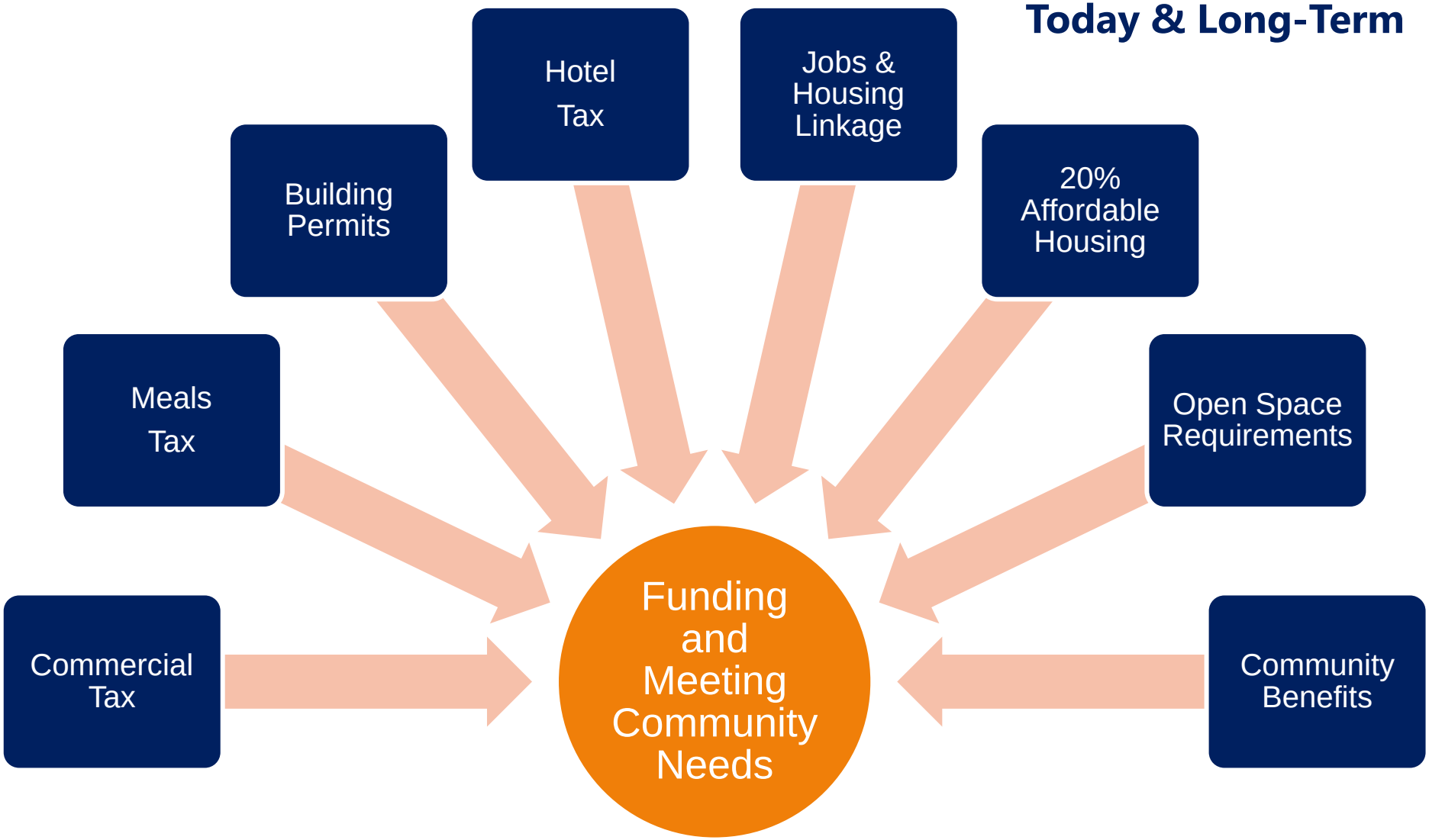
WE ARE SEEING THE RESULTS: BUT THE NEED IS GREATER

Our city has added more than three times as many affordable units in just the past six years than we did in the previous 20. But we must step up the pace.

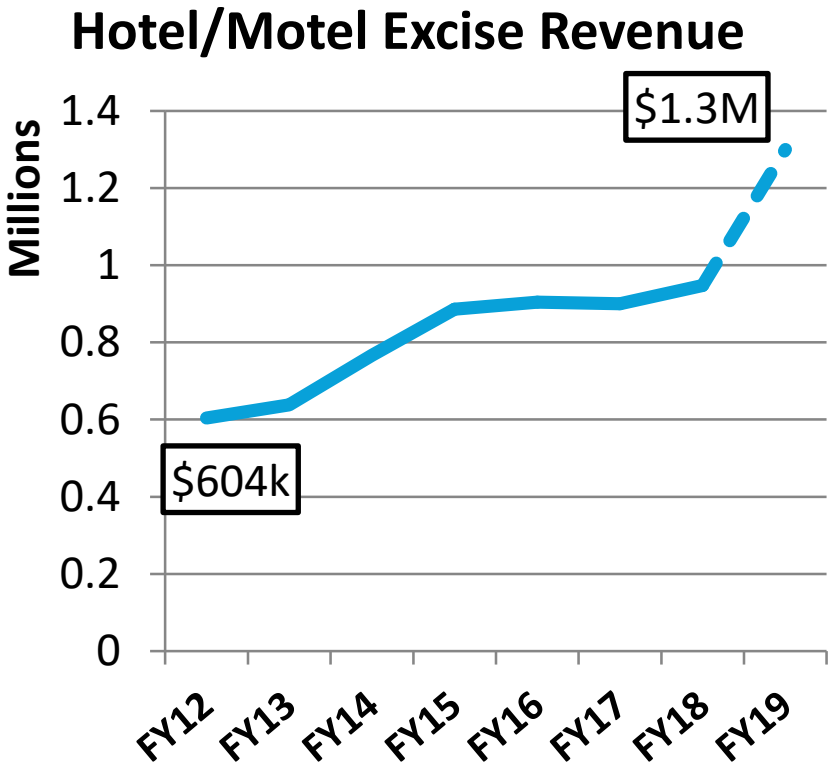


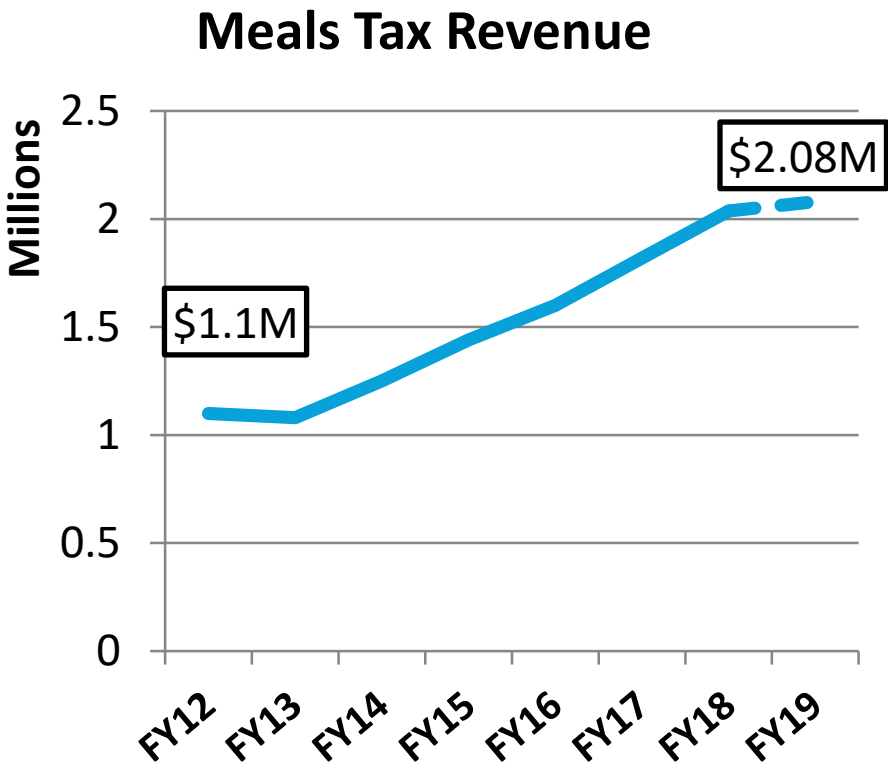
SPURRING COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT TO MEET GROWING NEEDS

Today & Long-Term

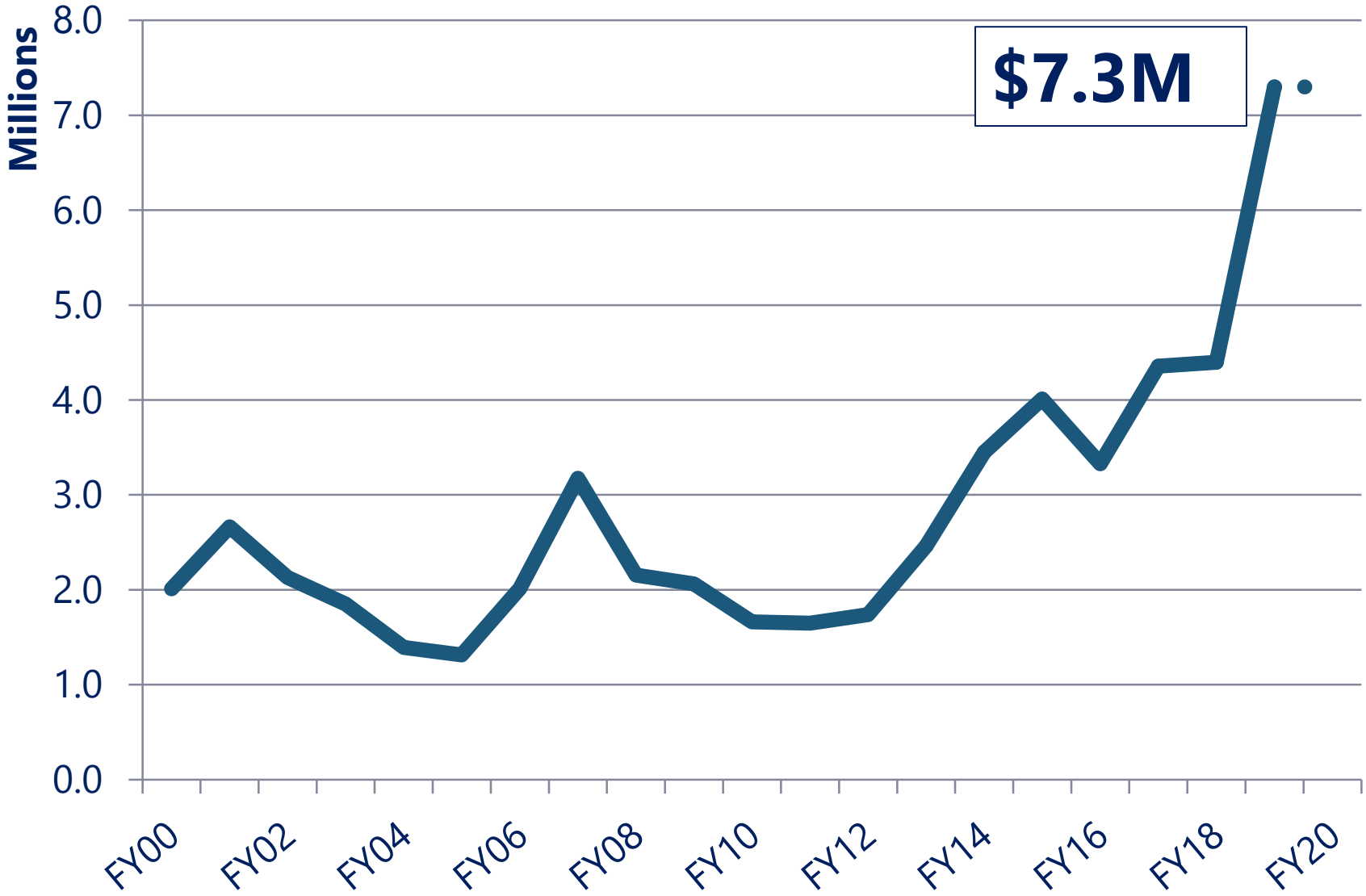


HOTEL & MEALS
TAXES HAVE NEARLY DOUBLED SINCE FY12





TAX REVENUES BOOSTED BY NEW GROWTH



Taxes collected on new growth

*FY19 Projected

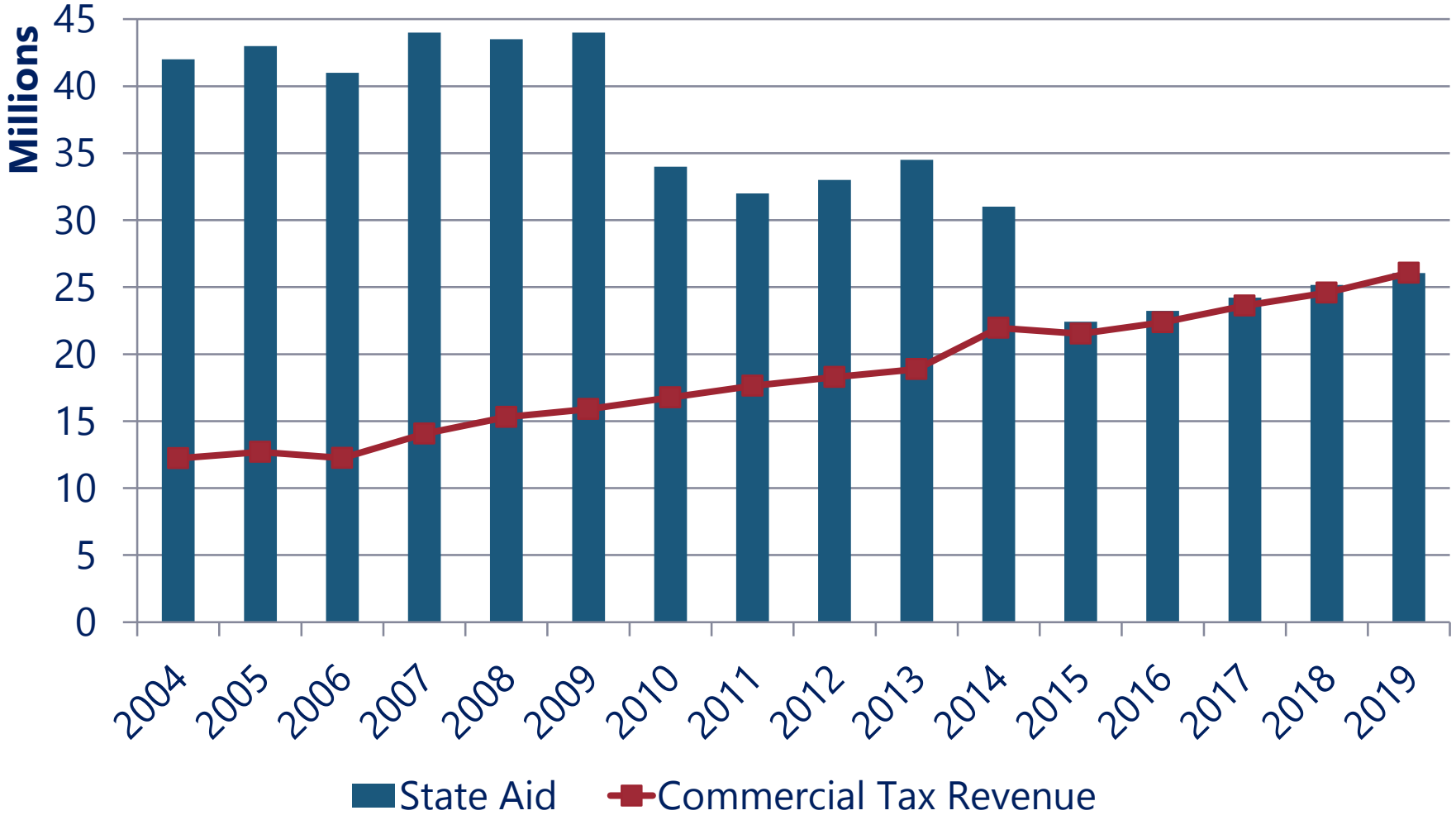
GROWING COMMERCIAL TAXES TO REDUCE SIZE OF RESIDENTIAL TAX INCREASES

1.3 Buildings

- Estimated ~$750 million in value at full buildout
- ~$13 million in new growth over ~next 4 years
- After that, ~$13 million in new commercial and personal property taxes annually

Cambridge Crossing at North Point

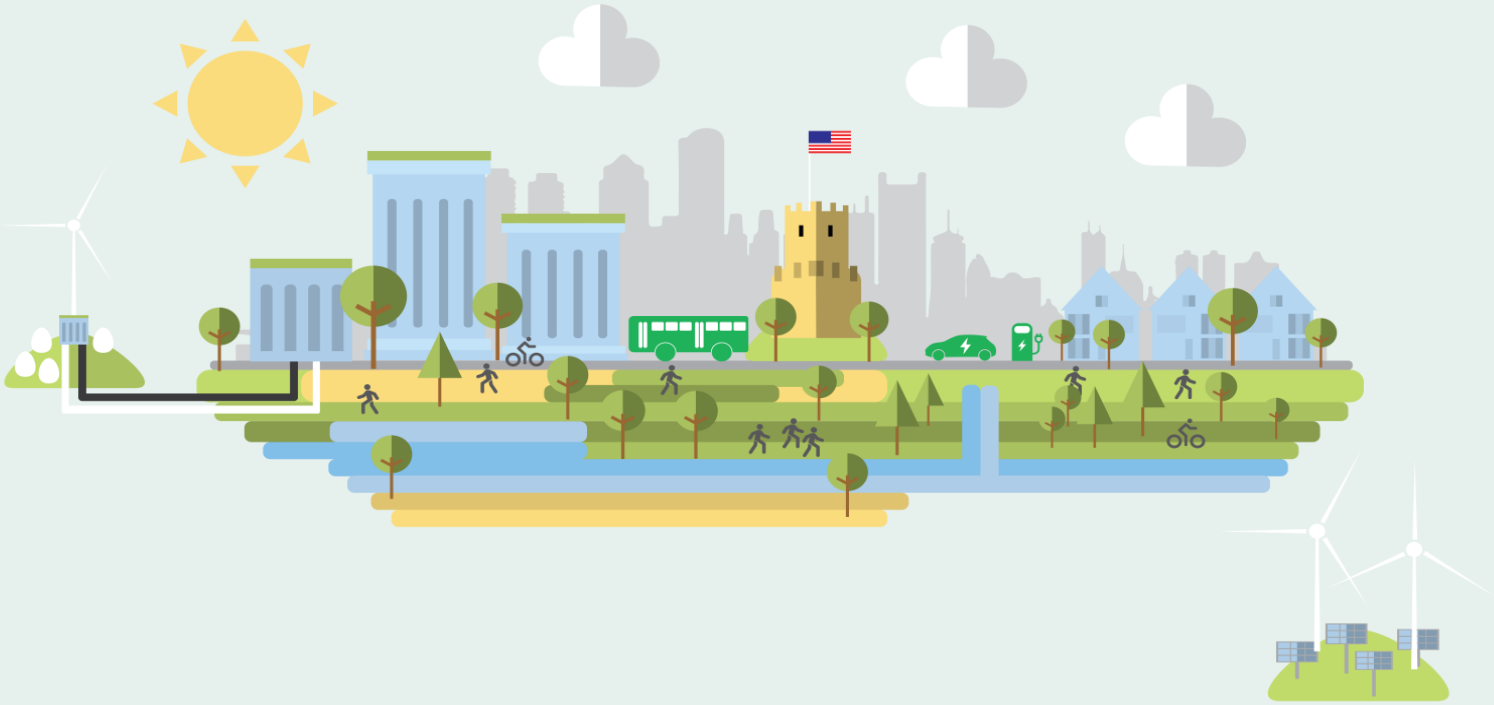
COMMERCIAL TAX REVENUE NEEDED TO OFFSET DROP IN STATE AID



Simply put, long-range needs can be very costly. We're working to make sure our residents are not paying for them alone.

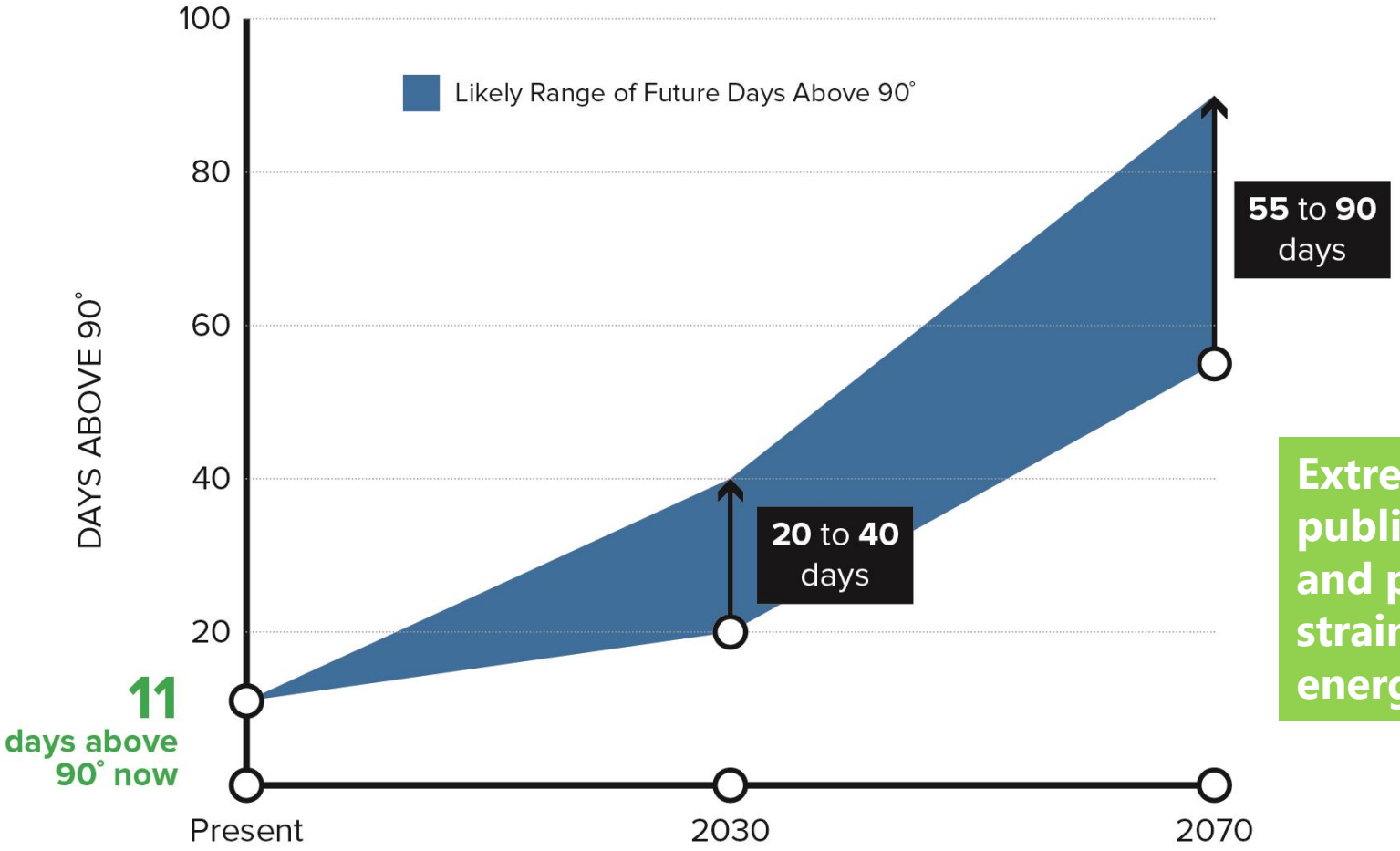
SPEAKING OF…

A CLOSER LOOK:
CLIMATE CHANGE AND MOBILITY



SOMERVILLE CLIMATE FORWARD

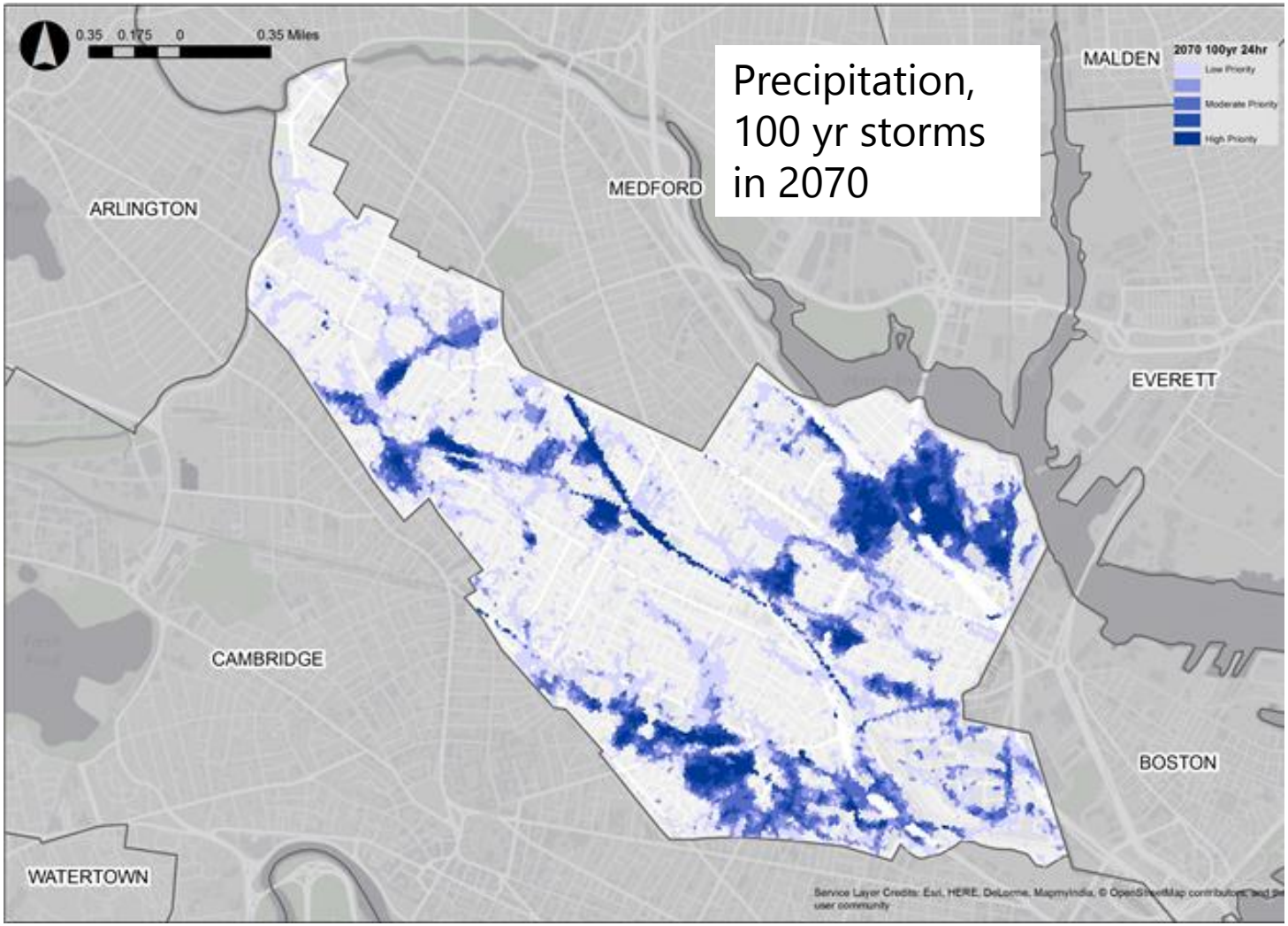
WE'RE ALREADY FEELING THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE



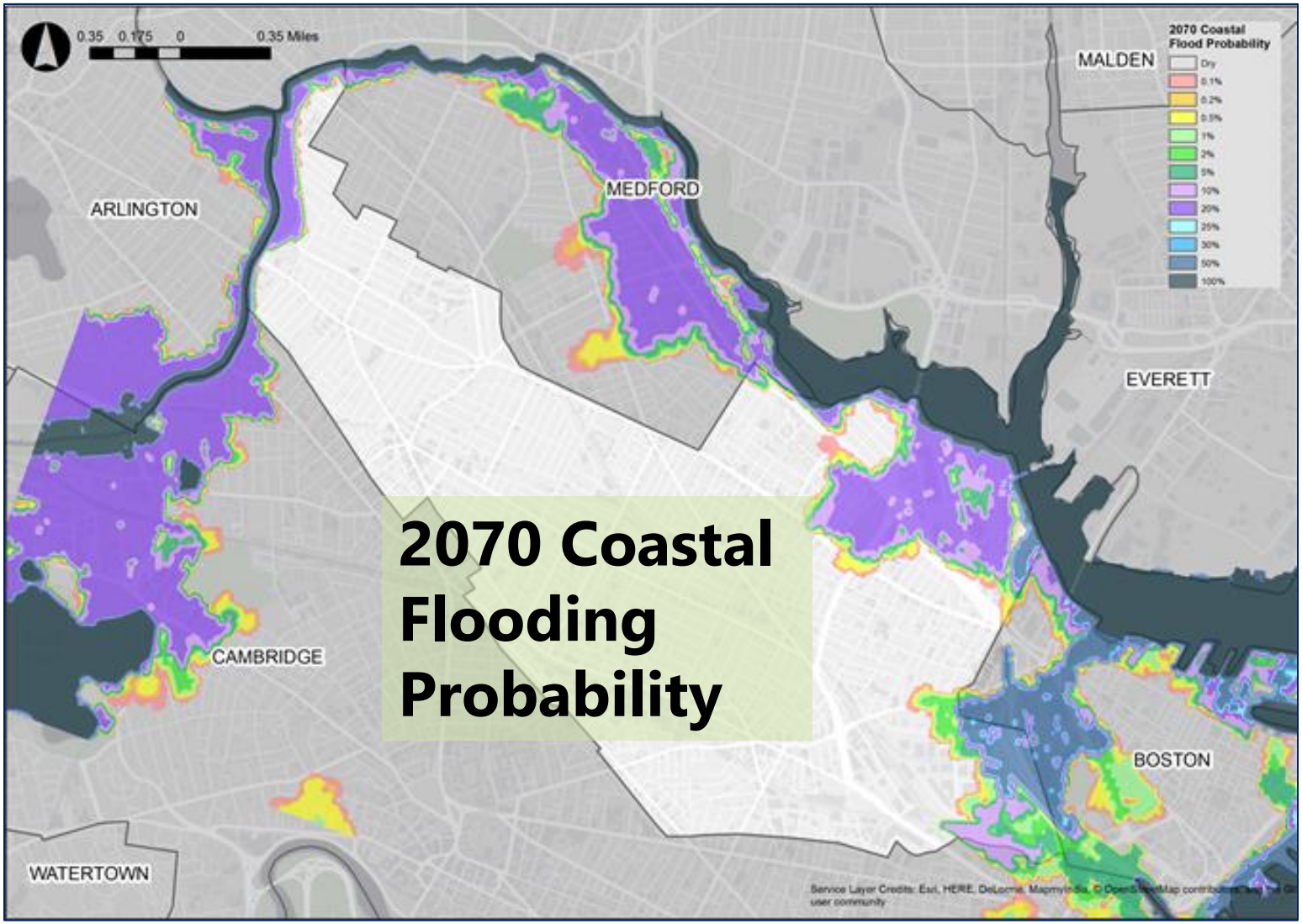
Extreme heat is a public health risk and puts extra strain on our energy systems.

THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE WILL ONLY GET MORE SERIOUS

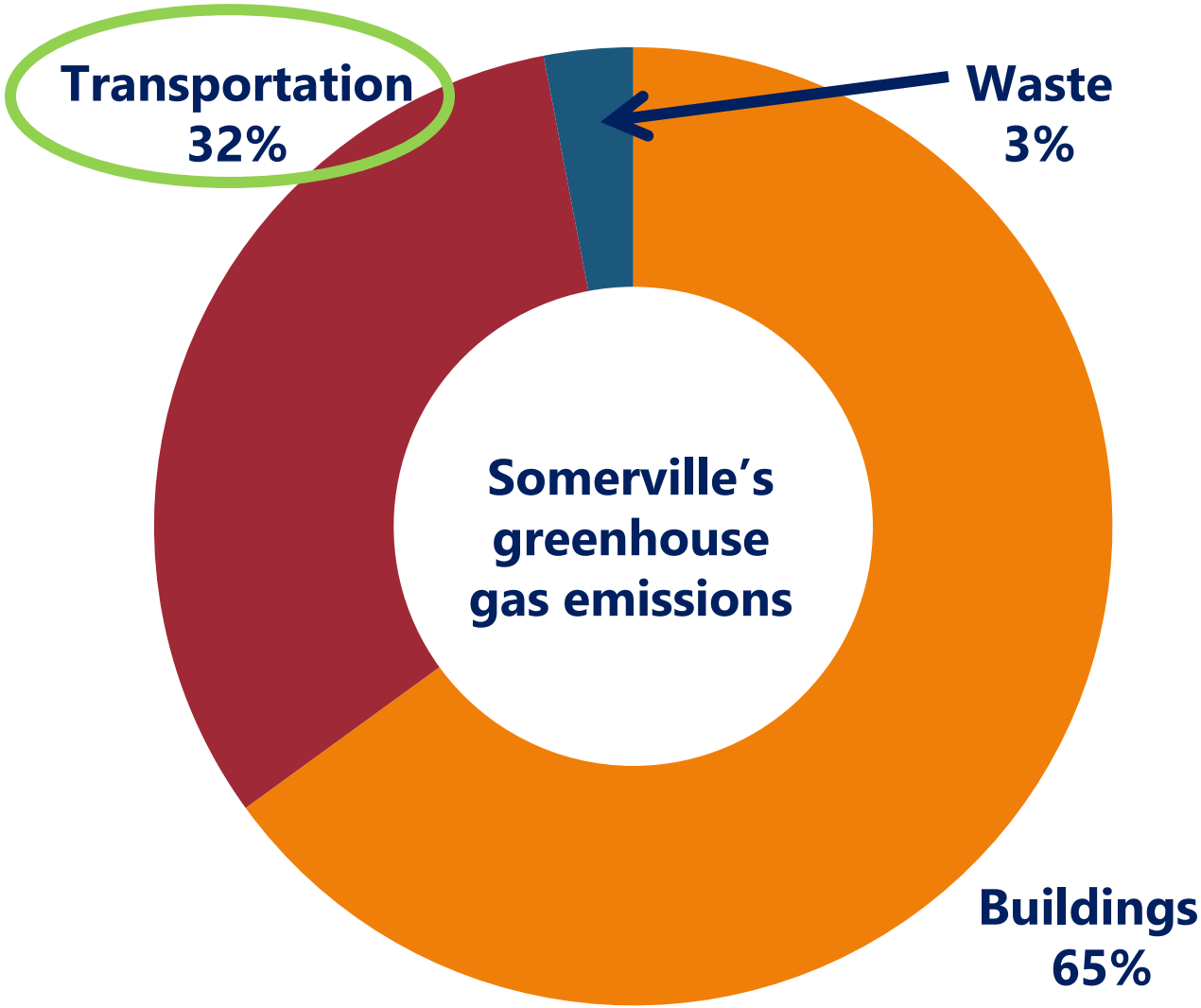
Climate change will increase the frequency and intensity of precipitation, which will worsen existing flooding issues.



RISING SEA LEVELS INCREASE THE RISK OF FLOODING



HOW CAN WE FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE?



How can Somerville be carbon neutral by 2050?

Energy Efficiency

Carbon-Free Electricity

Switch Off of Fossil Fuels

WE CAN HELP MAKE A MOBILITY SHIFT AN EASIER CHOICE

TODAY

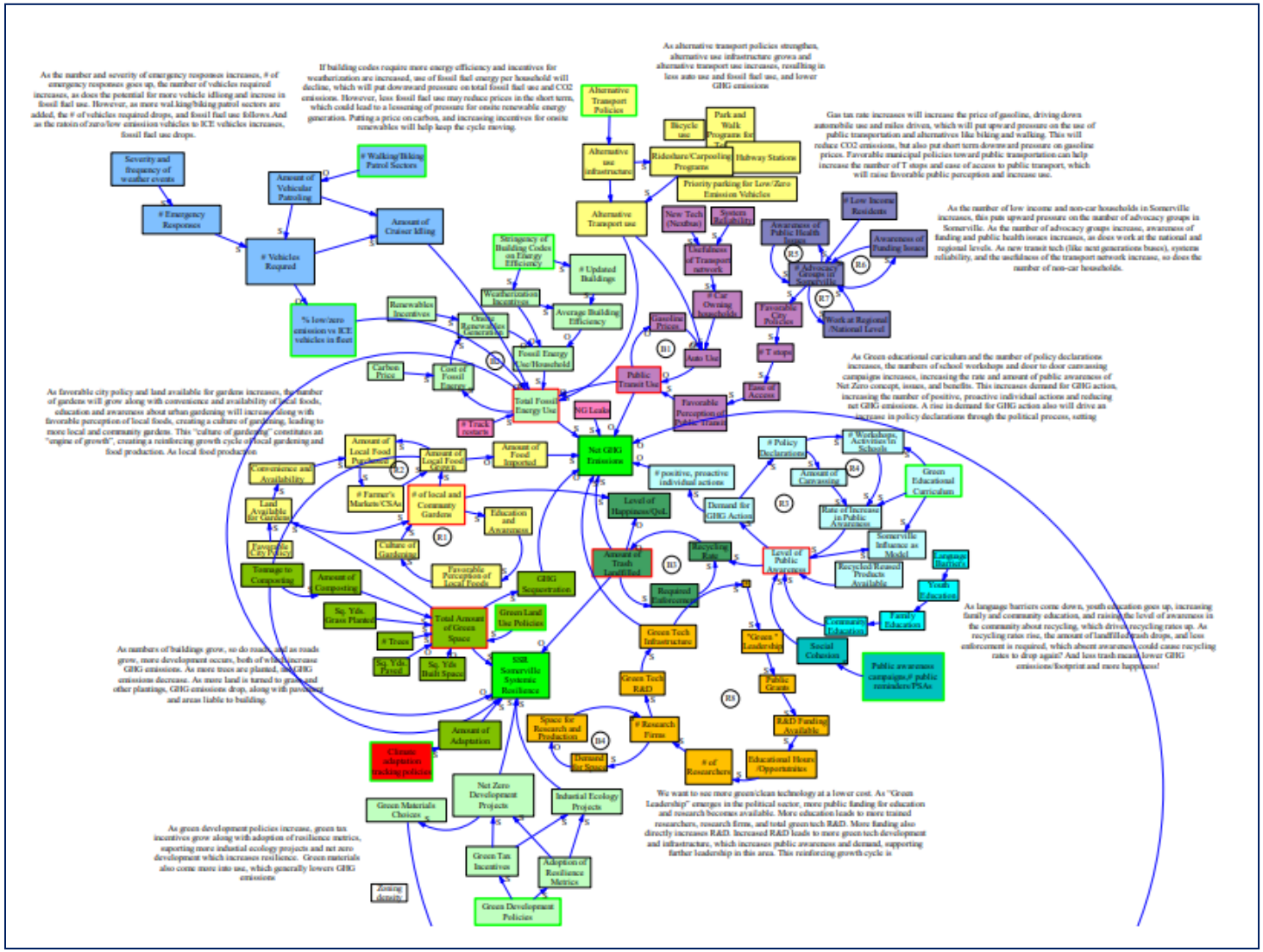
- **Investing in dedicated bus lanes Prospect, Broadway Winter Hill & Clarendon**
- **17 miles of bike lanes and 28 miles of sharrows**
- **Introduction of protected bike lanes**
- **Citywide crosswalk and lighting improvements**
- **Traffic calming**

LONG-TERM

- **Zoning that encourages reduced car use**
- **Vision Zero investments**
- **$50M investment and decades of advocacy for Green Line Extension**
- **Community path extension**
- **Regional cooperation on Mystic trail network and connections**
- **Regional cooperation on congestion relief**

After a century of car-centric culture, these changes might feel sudden and they may be uncomfortable. But we can’t afford to wait any longer to address climate change.

IT'S ALL CONNECTED



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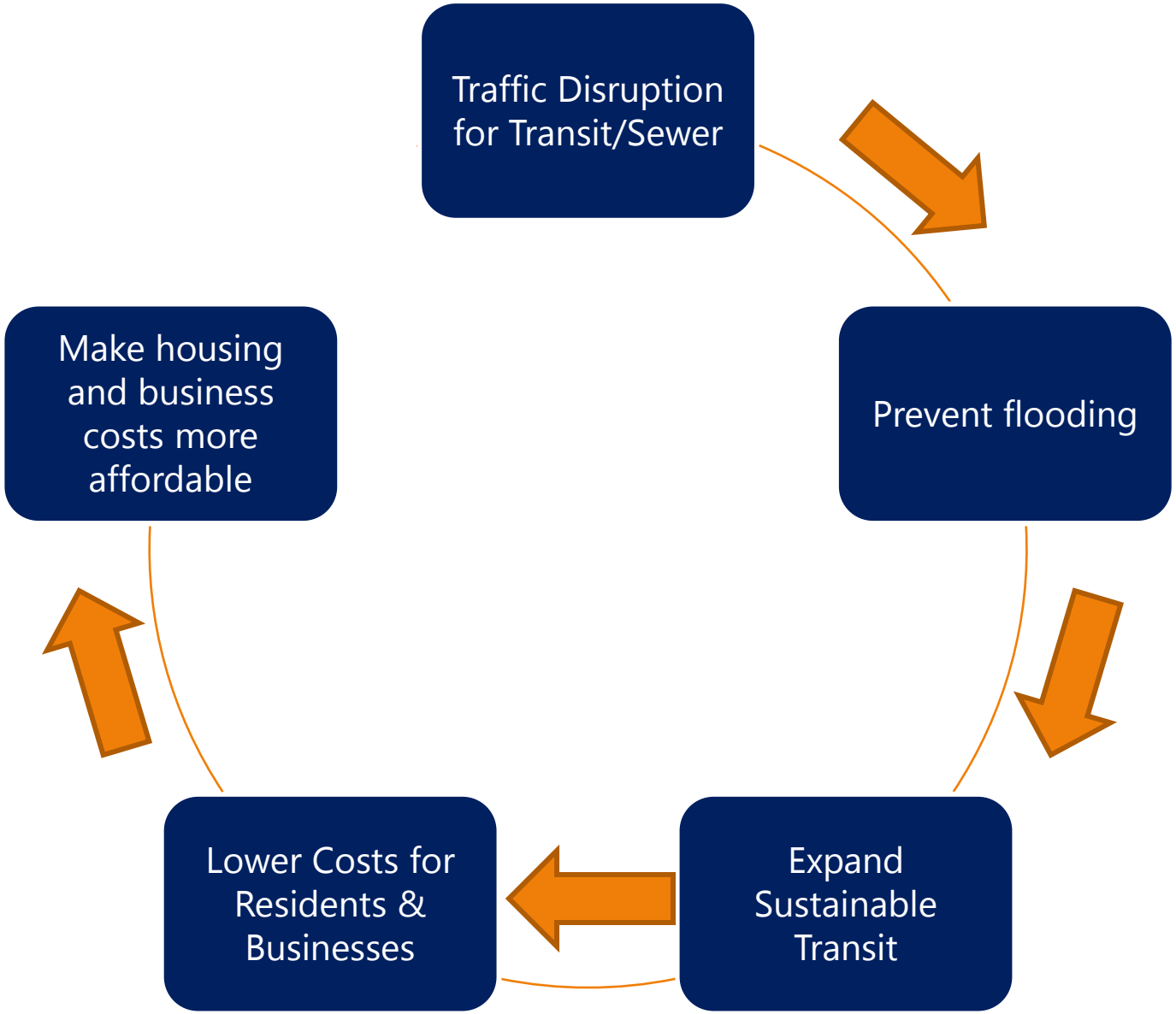
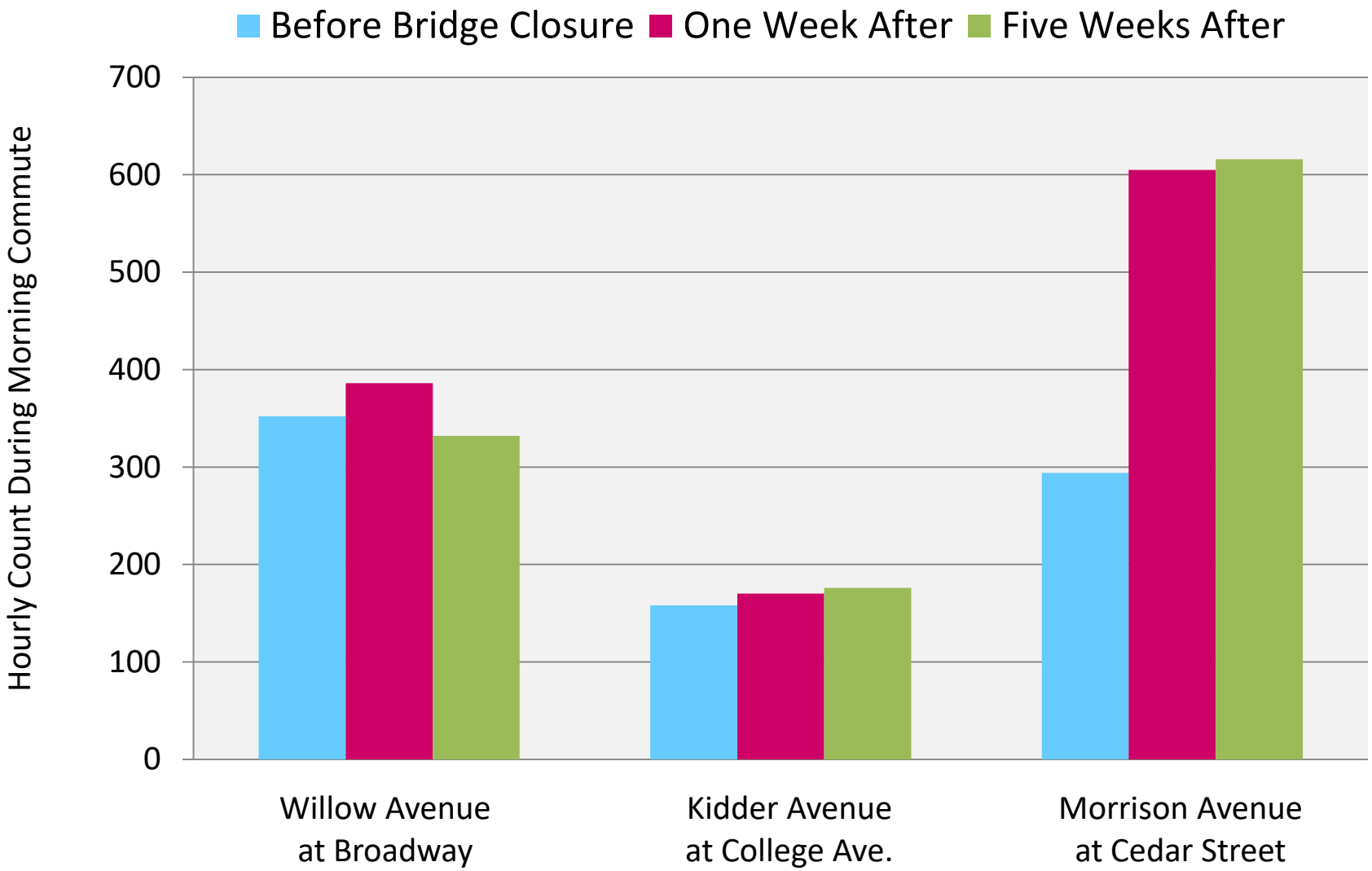


Somerville, a city committed to meeting its current and future responsibilities.

ADAM POLINSKI, EIT
TRANSPORTATION ANALYST

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

City is Monitoring Traffic Volumes in the Neighborhood



City is Conducting Low-Cost Traffic Calming Experiments

Preliminary results for Neighborhood Flex-Post Pilot #1

	Centerline	Curb Extension	Choker
Posts Deployed	31	20	32
Standing at Day 30	1	4	11
Retention Rate	3%	20%	34%

City is Conducting Low-Cost Traffic Calming Experiments

Preliminary results for Arterial Flex-Post Pilot #1

Location: Powder House Boulevard at Hardan Road

Curb Extension

Centerline

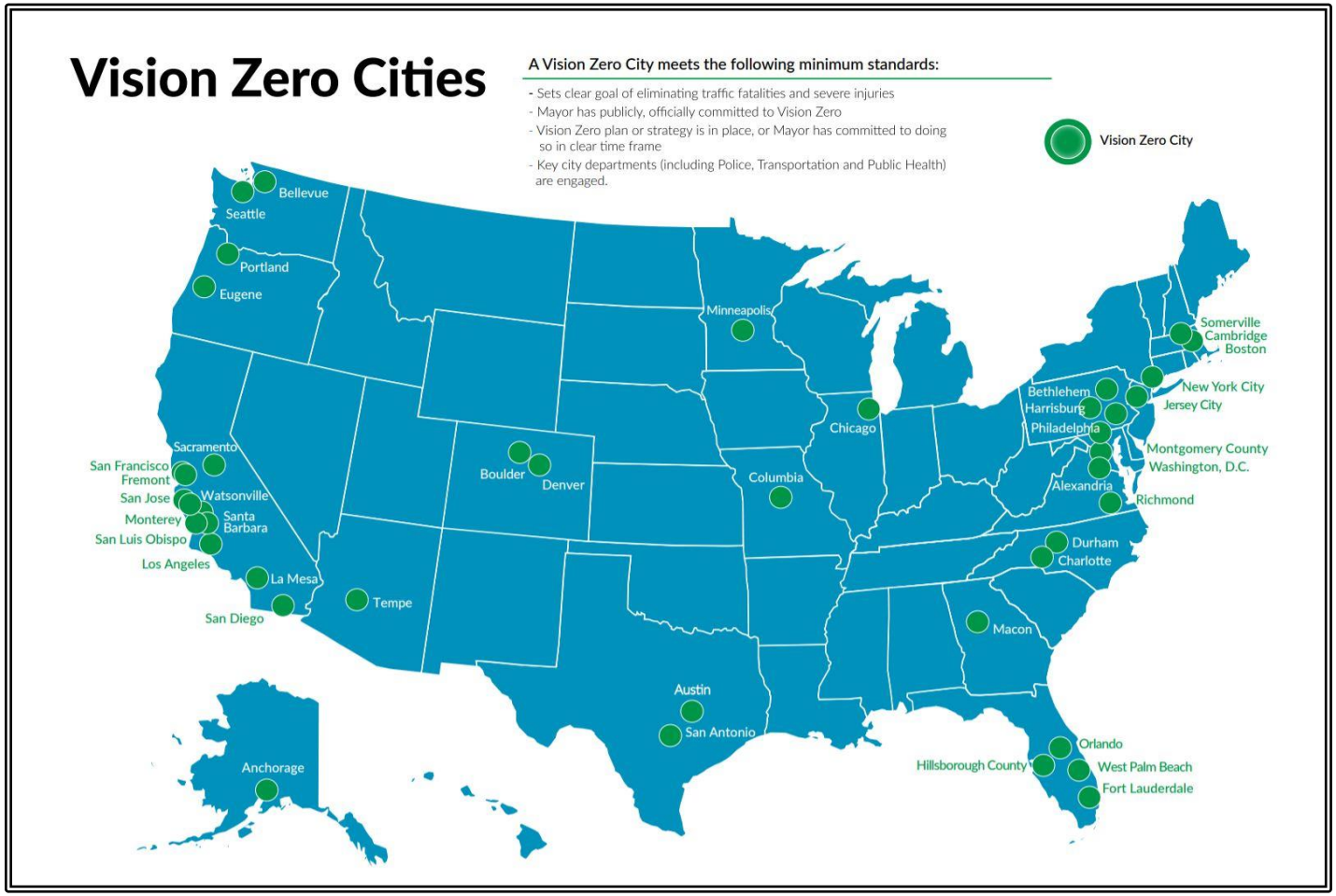
	Before (April 2017)	**After** (March 2019)
Speeding Rate	57%	38%
Typical Speeds	26 mph	24 mph

The **Vision Zero Action Plan** puts forth the City's strategy to eliminate serious injuries and fatalities on our streets.

www.somervillema.gov/visionzero

https://www.visionzerocoalition.org/

Vision Zero is an International Movement for Safe Streets

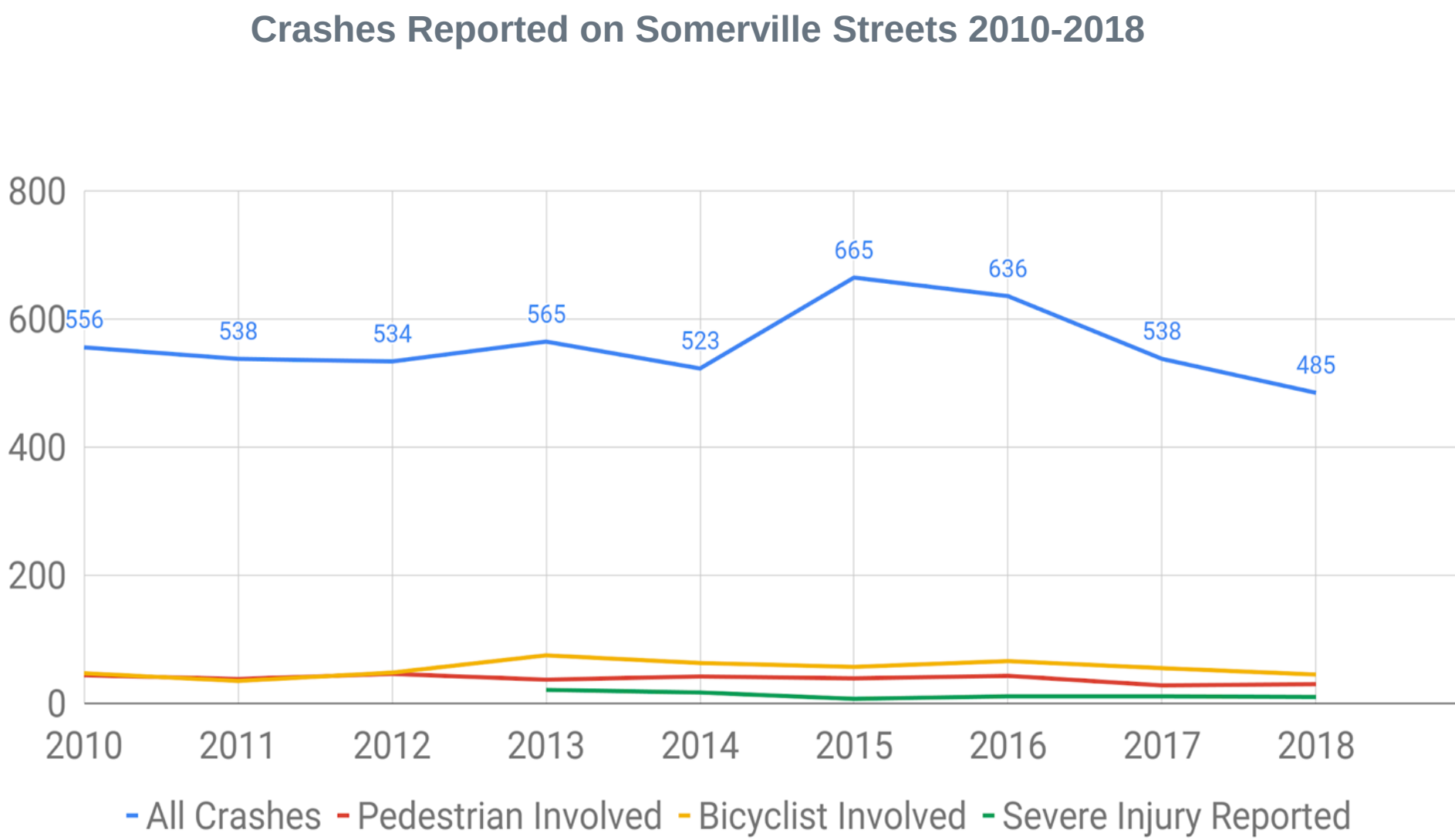


VISION ZERO SOMERVILLE

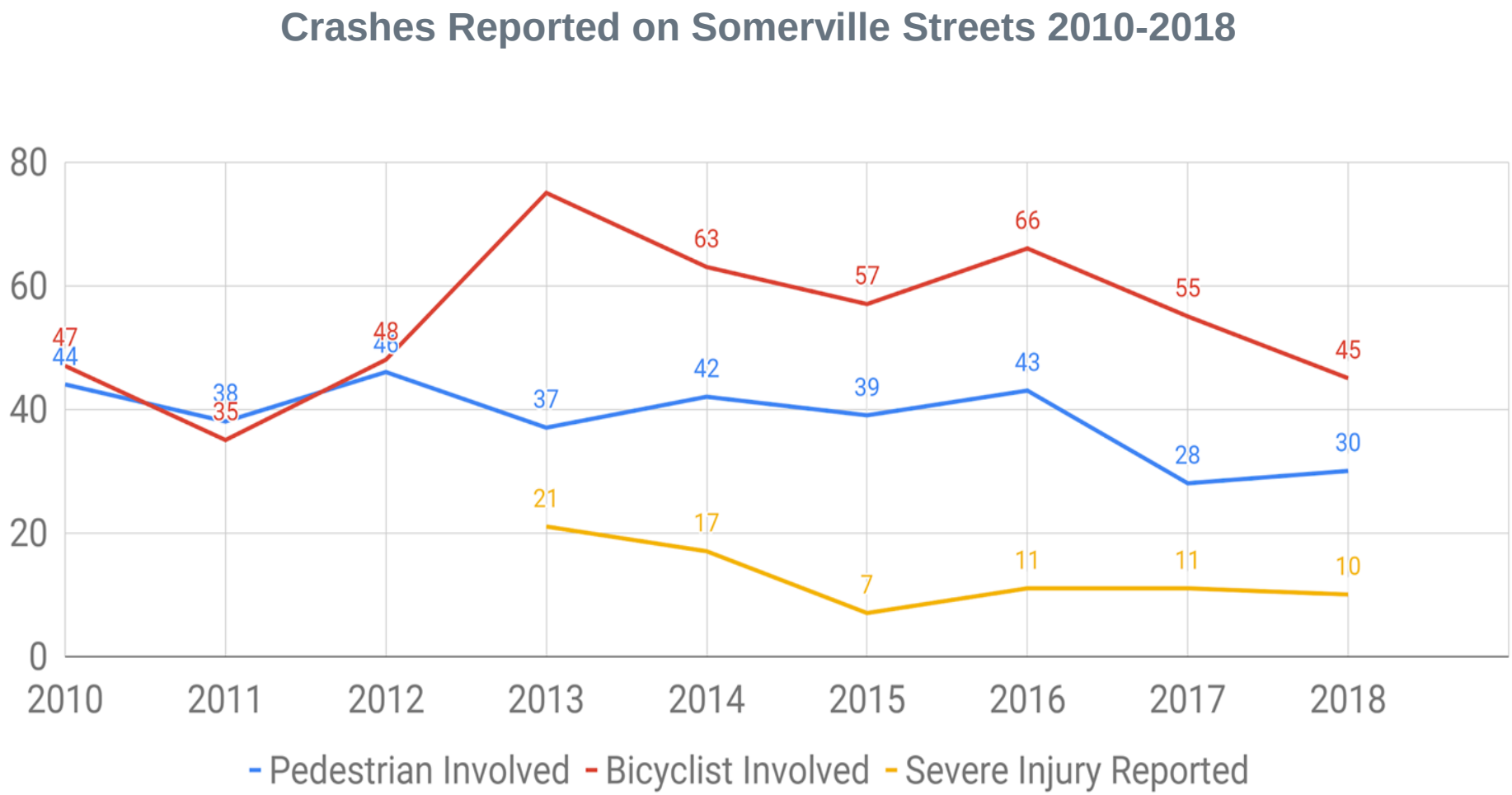
Vision Zero Boston

VISION ZERO CAMBRIDGE

Vision Zero Measures and Reports Progress



Zooming in on Crashes with High Consequences



Fatal crashes in 2011, 2014, 2017, 2019

Vision Zero Action Plan: Process to Date and Next Steps

Sept. 2018	Vision Zero Task Force formed
Oct. – Jan. ‘19	Task Force regular meetings
Feb. 2019	“Street Team” outreach began
March 27	Community Meeting
April 3	Public Hearing
April 24	Community Meeting
May -June	Task Force regular meetings
June - July	Draft plan release for comment

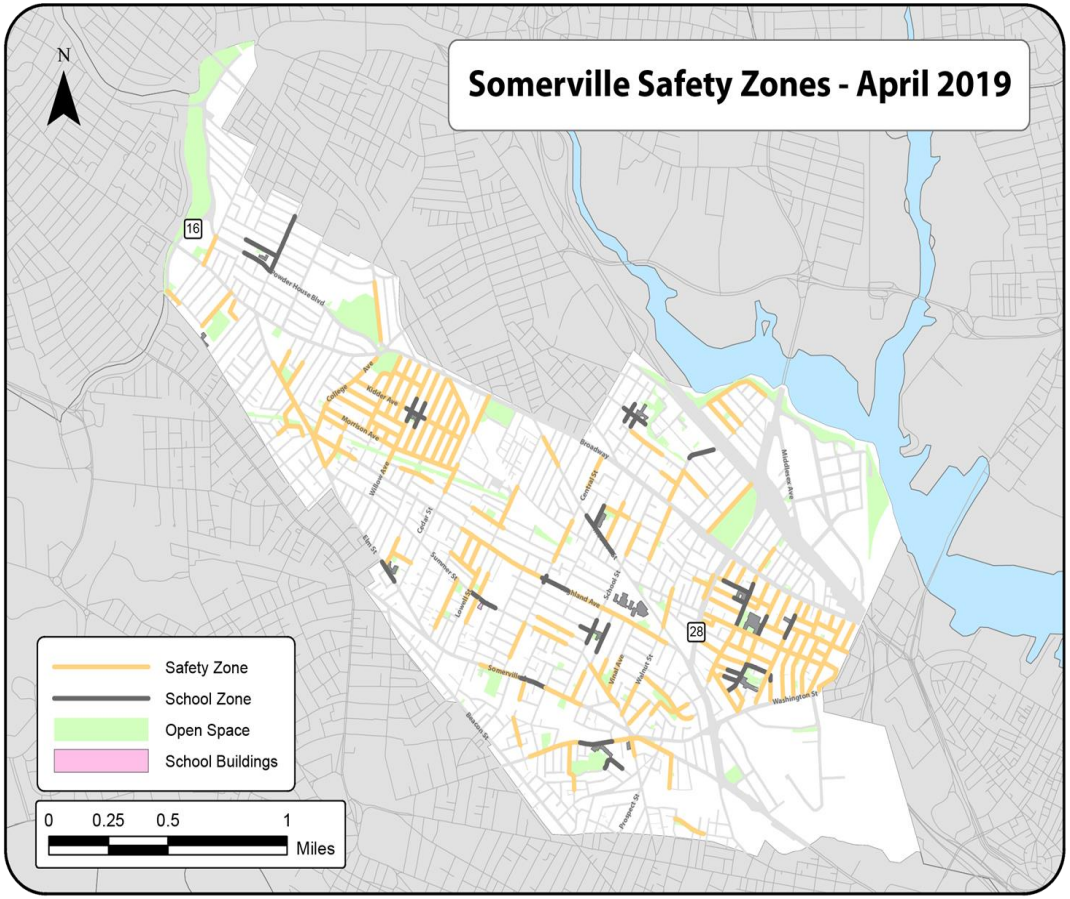
KEY STRATEGY AREA:

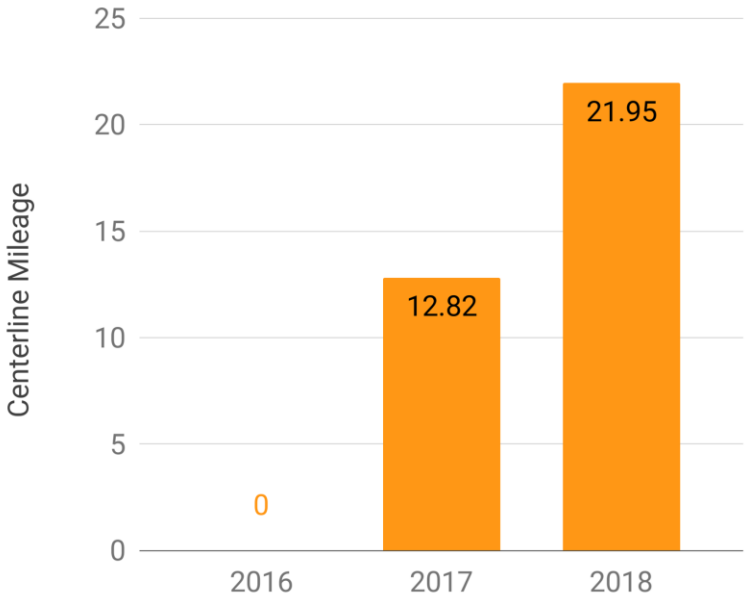
1

Set and Enforce Safe Speed Limits

PROGRESS TO DATE

Centerline Mileage of 20mph Safety Zones in Somerville





KEY STRATEGY AREA:

2

Physical Traffic Calming

Location: College Avenue at Dearborn Road

Before

After

2017-2018 Accomplishments

- Somerville Avenue (at Union Square Plaza)
- College Avenue (Dearborn-Professors Row)
- Temple Street (at Mystic Avenue)
- Cedar Street (Broadway-Highland)
- Lowell Street (Medford-Vernon)

2019 Projects

- Powder House Boulevard
- Powder House Rotary
- Beacon Street
- Munroe Street

Draft Plan 3-Year Goal

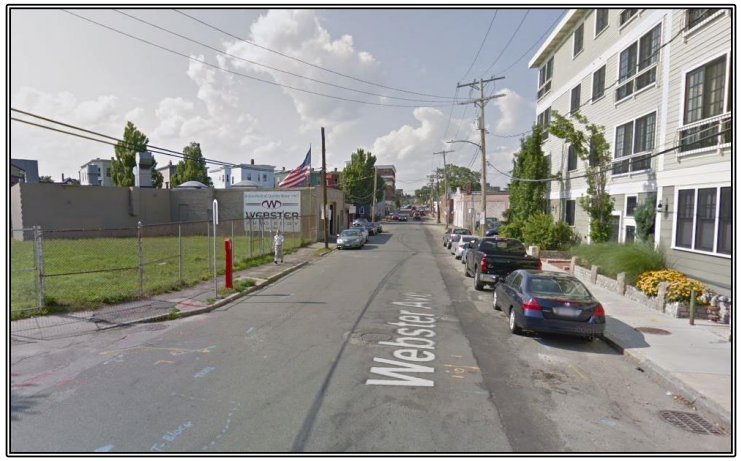
- Four projects per year

KEY STRATEGY AREA:

3

Safer, Separated Bike Lanes

Location: Webster Avenue



Before

After

2017-2018 Accomplishments

- Prospect Street
- Webster Avenue
- Washington Street (Union-McGrath)

2019 Projects

- Beacon Street (Oxford-Washington)
- Medford Street (Somerville-Gore)
- Washington Street (Franklin-Inner Belt)
- Broadway (Cedar-Temple)
- Cedar Street (Highland – Elm)
- Grand Union Boulevard
- Mount Vernon Street
- Shore Drive

Draft Plan 3-Year Goal

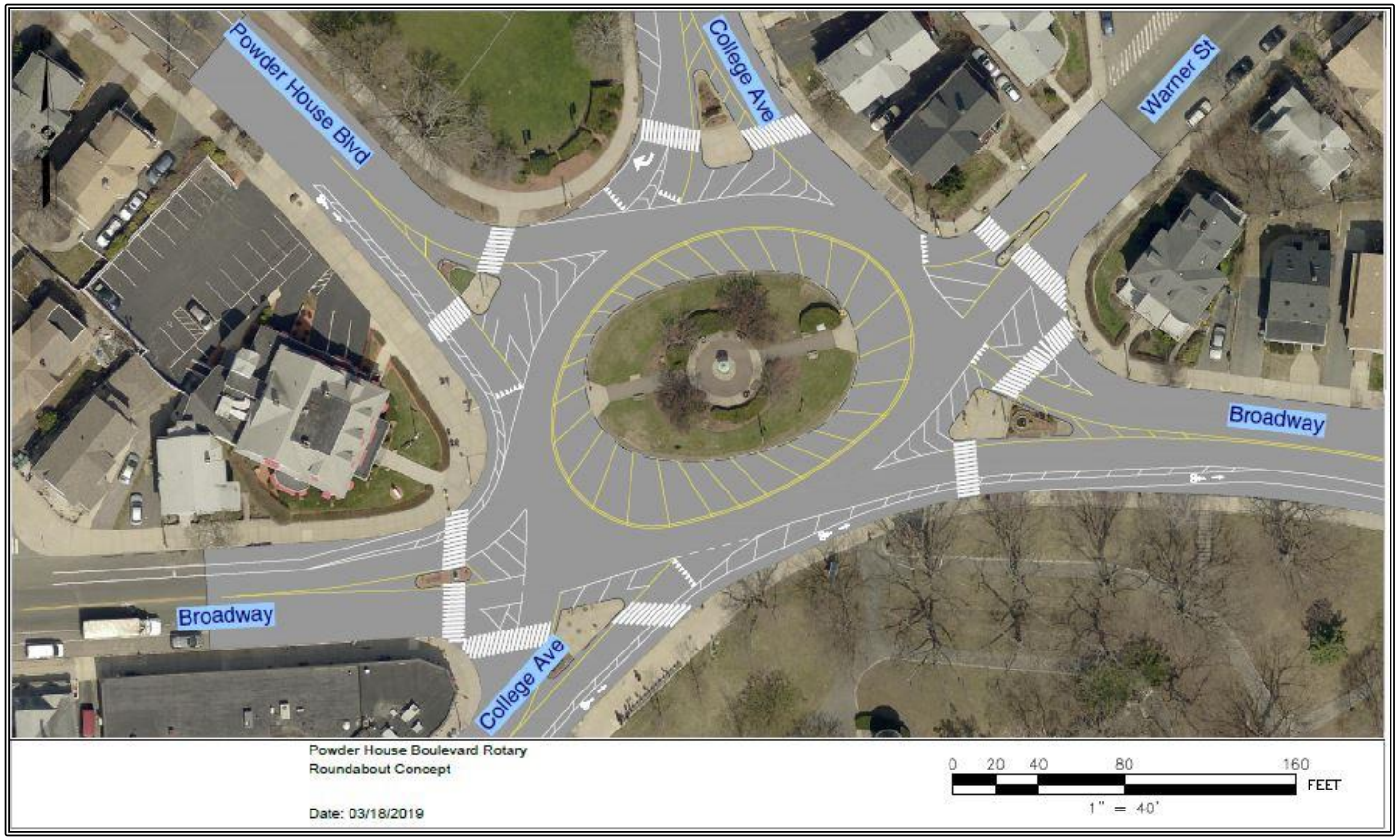
- Two projects per year

KEY STRATEGY AREA:

4

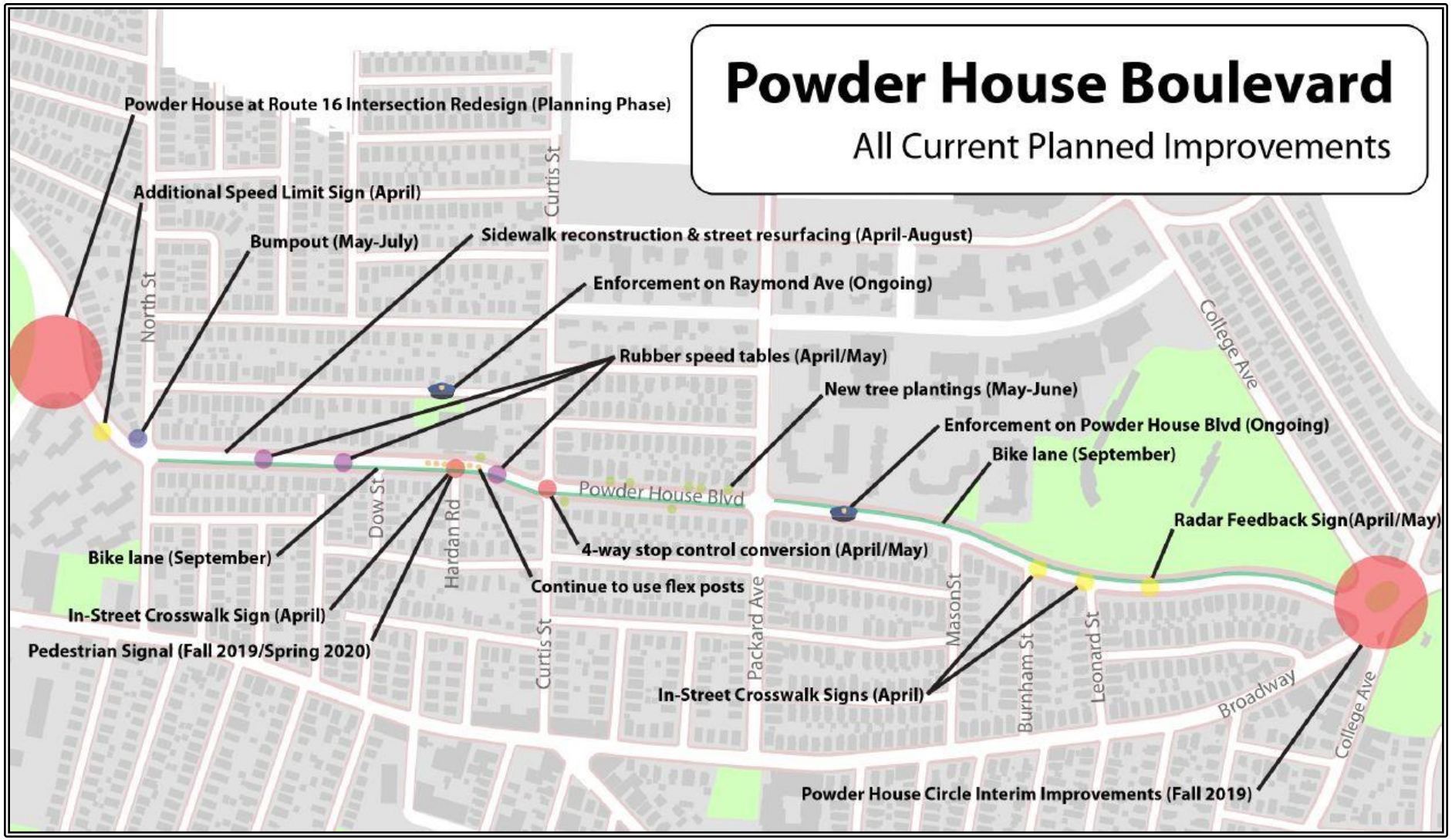
Address Powder House Rotary

Spring 2019 Update: Engineering review is underway; potential interim changes Fall 2019

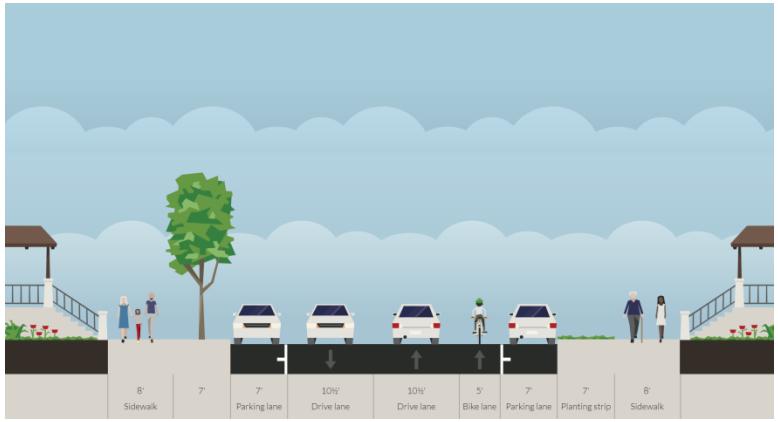


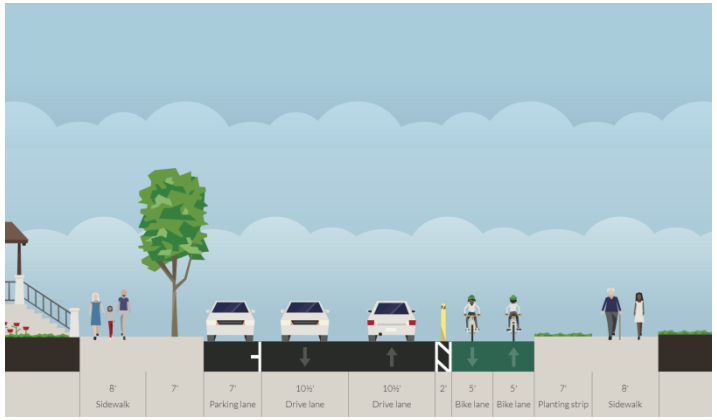
Issues and next steps

- New England roundabouts should not be signalized!
- Center island crosswalks are the only thing that requires signals here
- In this scenario, safety and congestion improve but pedestrians lose the center island
- Bike lane strategy is still under review


Powder House Boulevard
All Current Planned Improvements
Powder House at Route 16 Intersection Redesign (Planning Phase)
Additional Speed Limit Sign (April)
Bumpout (May-July)
Sidewalk reconstruction & street resurfacing (April-August)
Enforcement on Raymond Ave (Ongoing)
Rubber speed tables (April/May)
New tree plantings (May-June)
Enforcement on Powder House Blvd (Ongoing)
Bike lane (September)
Radar Feedback Sign(April/May)
Bike lane (September)
4-way stop control conversion (April/May)
Continue to use flex posts
In-Street Crosswalk Sign (April)
Pedestrian Signal (Fall 2019/Spring 2020)
In-Street Crosswalk Signs (April)
Powder House Circle Interim Improvements (Fall 2019)
North St
Curtis St
Dow St
Hardan Rd
Powder House Blvd
Packard Ave
MasonSt
Burnham St
Leonard St
Broadway
College Ave

Powder House Blvd Bike Facility Options





Option 1: Bike Lane in 1 Direction

- The City's existing plan
- Westbound side
  - From Powder House Circle to Packard Ave
- Eastbound side
  - From North St to Packard Ave
- Bicyclists traveling in other direction would share the lane with motor vehicles

Option 2: 2-Way Protected Bike Lanes

- Strong interest expressed by the Somerville Bicycle Committee and residents
- Would require reallocation of some space currently used for on-street parking to non-automobile users

CHIEF DAVID FALLON

WARD 7: POLICE

Ward 7 Crime

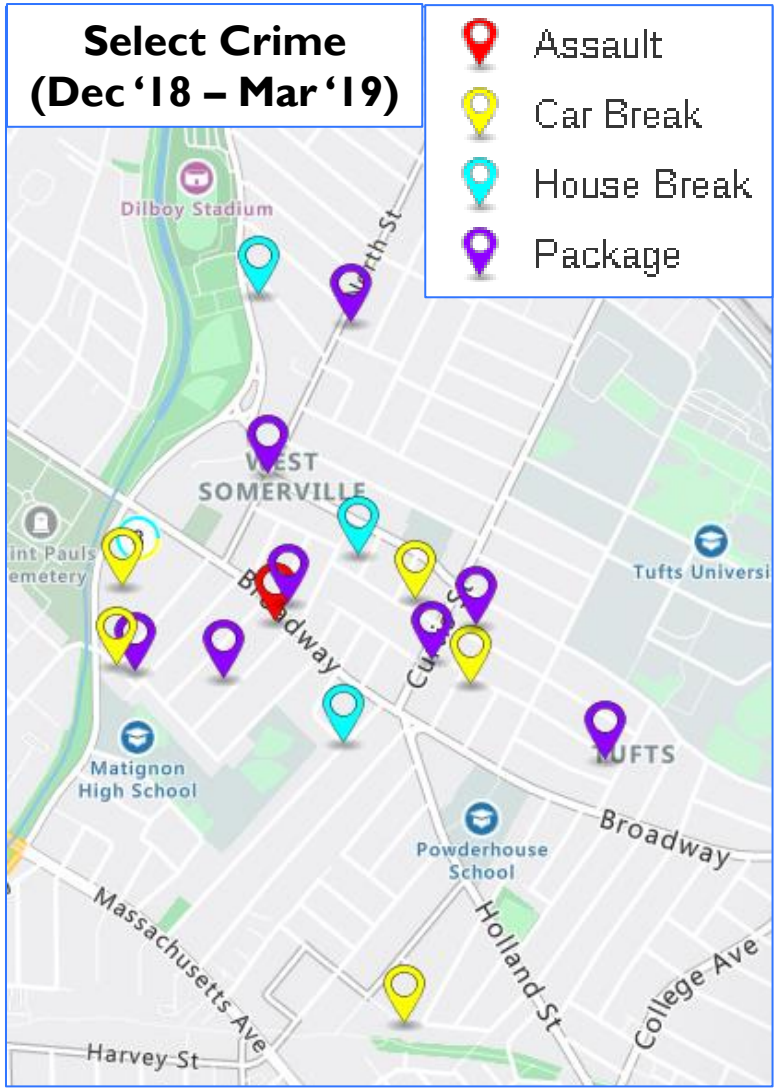
Index Crime Trends

- **Citywide:**
  - Index crime is down 6% over one year and down 13% over two years.
- **Ward 7:**
  - Index crime has increased 16% over one year and 22% over two years due to increases in larceny (particularly package theft).

Crime Prevention

- **Package Theft**
  - Deliver to your place of work
  - Deliver to side / back of home to reduce visibility
  - Arrange delivery when you will be home; require a signature
- **Car Breaks**
  - Always lock your vehicle

Select Crime (Dec '18 – Mar '19)



Index crime statistics based on previous 12 months (4/1/18 – 3/31/19) year-over-year

GLX Bridge Closures by the Numbers

- 16+ officers in the Broadway bridge area from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. during first two weeks
- At least one officer at each side of the Broadway bridge 24 hours a day
- GLX Reboot Your Commute campaign sent to:
  - 96 neighboring cities and towns
  - 84 media outlets
  - 29 hospitals and medical facilities
  - 26 colleges and universities
  - Large employers

Bravo Team: Strategic deployment to address bridge closures and road safety

- SPD prepares action plans for each construction site in the city
- Bravo Team was created as an offshoot of Cops on Bikes for Regional Assistance (COBRA)
- 4 additional officers will be in the community on bikes (specially trained)
- They will support traffic enforcement, emergency response, city events, and other needs

Bravo Team

COBRA members at 2019 Boston Marathon

Comprehensive enforcement strategy for all road users

- Heavy enforcement of failure to stop/yield
- Targeted enforcement of speeding in safety zones and reduced speed zones
- Additional focus on distracted driving and occupant protection
- Construction zones & areas impacted by traffic overflow

- Bicycle enforcement throughout city, with attention to Somerville Ave and Beacon St corridors

- Enforcement of vehicle crosswalk violations
- Verbal warnings to pedestrian violators

Traffic Enforcement Grants

- $21,000 awarded in Traffic Enforcement Grant in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2019, a 75% increase from FFY 2018 due to quality of reporting and enforcement

Grant / Mobilization	FFY18	FFY19
Traffic Enforcement Grant	$12,000	$21,000
Impaired Driving Campaigns (2)	*$8,000*	*$14,700*
Distracted Driving	*$4,000*	*$2,100*
Click it or Ticket	*n/a*	*$4,200*
Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety Enforcement Grant	$4,750	$8,000
Child Passenger Safety Equipment Grant Program	$5,000	$3,500

Images from the Noun Project; Car by Jon, Bicycle by Samuel Q Green, Pedestrian by Adrien Coquet

Safe streets require more than enforcement

Traffic enforcement is one component of Vision Zero. Reducing crashes is a community and multi-department effort

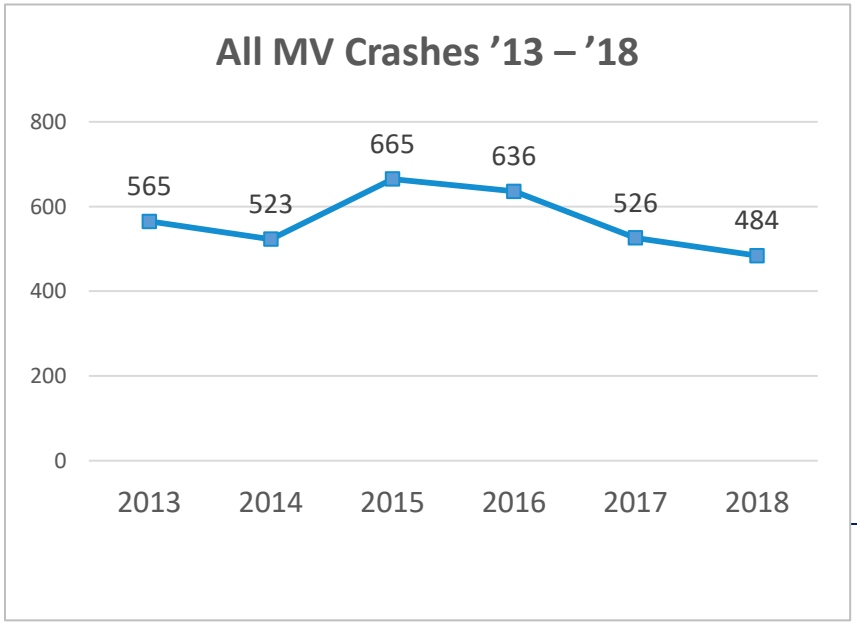
Education

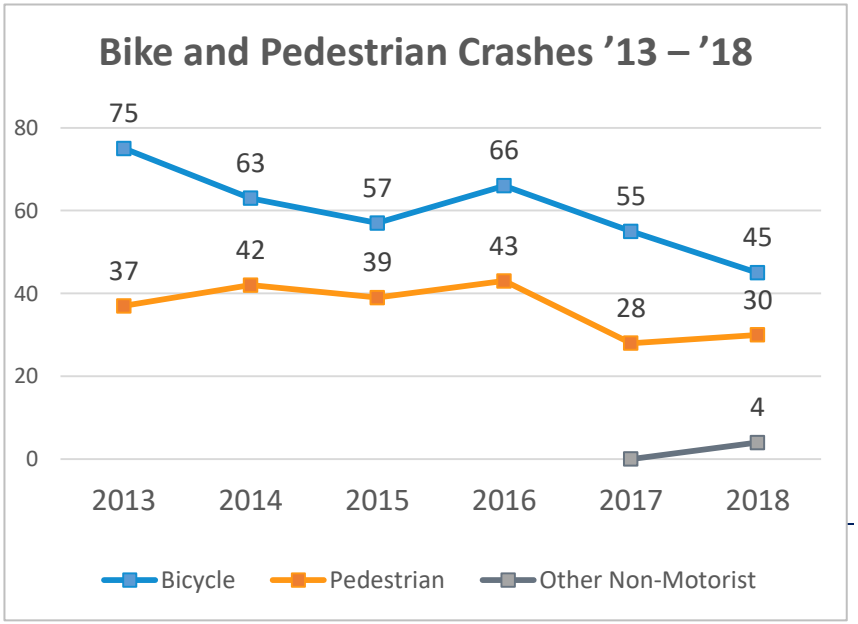
- Safe Routes to School: SPD collaborating with Mass DOT and SPS to develop implementation plan
- CYCLE Kids: Focus on bicycle safety for SPS 5th graders

Relationship Building

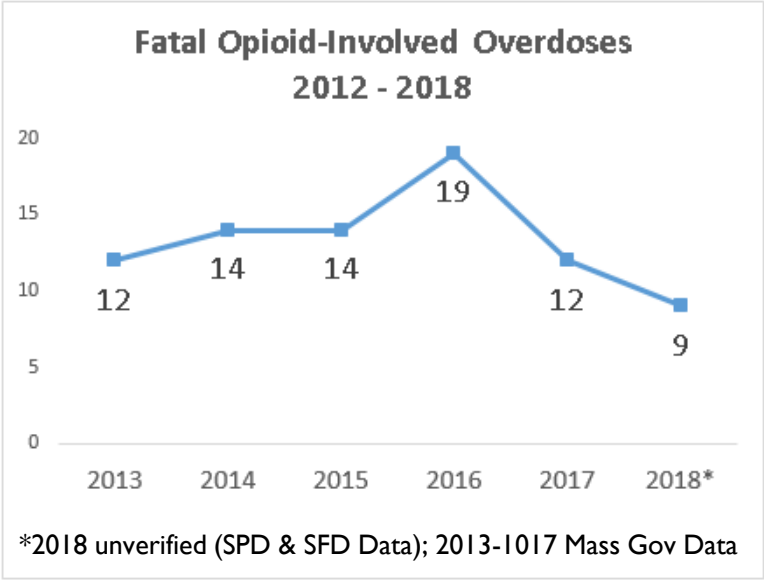
- Emphasis on positive police interactions with the community
  - STEPS Program
  - Community policing strategies
  - Relief spots at schools

Trend data on crashes show recent decreases in motor vehicle (MV) crashes

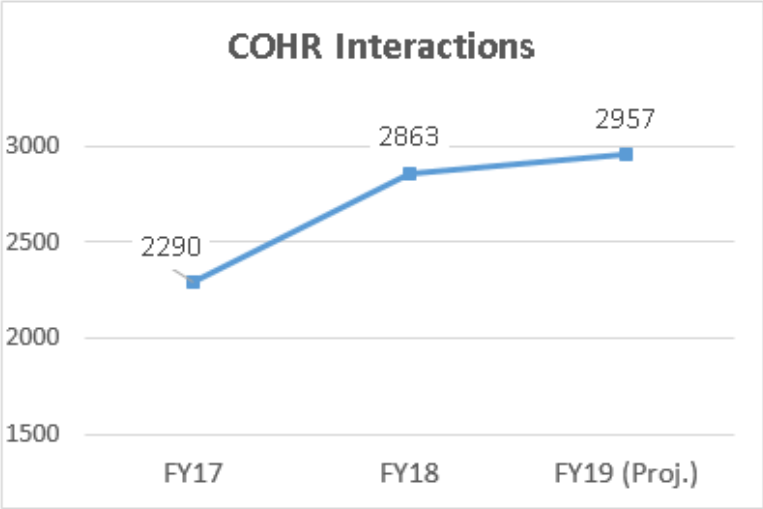




Fatal Opioid Overdoses & COHR Unit



*2018 unverified (SPD & SFD Data); 2013-1017 Mass Gov Data



Overdose Trends

- Non-Fatal OD's have decreased 12% over 1 year and 23% over 2 years.
- Fatal Opioid-involved Overdoses are estimated to have decreased 25% over 1 year and 53% over 2 years.

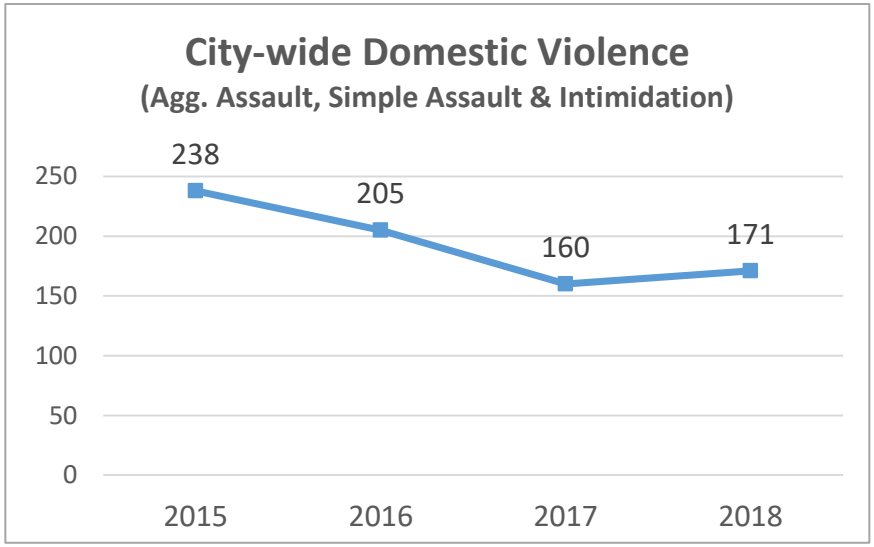
Office of Community Outreach, Help & Recovery

- Assists those with addiction and/or mental health issues by connecting to services & developing self-care strategies
- COHR Case Management Team is projected to have 2,957 interactions with clients in FY19.
- COHR Case Management Team Members: COHR Director, Jail Diversion Coordinator, Recovery Coach (PT Intern), MSW Intern (PT)

Domestic Violence

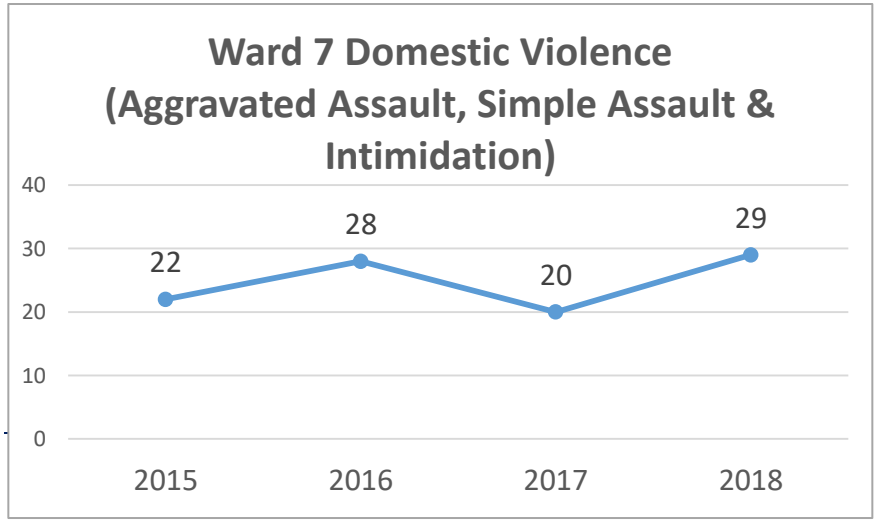
Domestic Violence Trends

- Citywide:
  - Incidents of Domestic Violence are up 7% compared to 2017 but down over 2 and 3 years (-17% and -28% respectively).
- Ward 7:
  - Incidents are up 45% (9 incidents) compared to 2017, up 4% (1 incident) over 2 years and 32% (7 incidents) over 3 years.



As the Somerville Police Department Victim Witness Advocate I follow up with every victim of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Elder Abuse, Child Abuse, and crimes against people with disabilities. These individuals are provided with assistance in understanding their 209A rights, the court process, access to local resources, and when appropriate, the Restraining or Harassment Order process. I act as a liaison between victims and the Detectives in the Family Services Unit as well as the court and District Attorney's Office. Our Unit works closely with community and private agencies to develop and implement best practices and keep abreast of new community resources. This enables us to provide every victim with the best possible services and support.

-Maureen Dipaolo, Victim Witness Advocate



Substance Misuse, Mental Health, Domestic Violence, and Sexual Assault Support

	Contact	Service	Contact Info.
Substance Misuse	MA Substance Use Hotline	Treatment program info	800-327-5050
	Cambridge Health Alliance	Walk-ins Tue. 11:30; MA Health accepted	617-591-6051
	Caspar First Step Outreach	Assist in accessing detox.	617-661-0600
	Riverside Community Care	Outpatient; MA Health accepted	617-623-3278
	North Charles	Maintenance therapy; MA Health only	617-661-5700
	Column Health	Counseling, medication assisted treatment	339-368-7696
	Learn 2 Cope	Family support; Mon. 7 PM	1575 Cambridge St, CAM
	Family Anonymous	Family support; Tue. 7 PM	121 Washington St, MEF
Mental Health	Cambridge Health Alliance	Inpatient & outpatient services	Adults: 617-591-6033 Juveniles: 617-665-3458
	BEST Team	Psychiatric emergency services; MA Health	800-981-4357
	Riverside – Child Guidance Center	Juvenile/family services	617-354-2275
	Neighborhood Counseling & Community Services	Counseling, skill & strength-based strategies	781-600-6074
Domestic Violence	RESPOND	Shelter, crisis hotline, services, education	Hotline: 617-623-5900 Services: 617-440-7267
	Maureen Dipaolo, SPD Family Services	Victim Witness Advocacy	617-625-1600 x 7279
Sexual Assault	BARCC (Boston Area Rape Crisis Center)	Free legal consultation, counseling, and education for survivors and family members of survivors	Hotline: 800-841-8371 https://barcc.org
Additional Services	Cambridge Health Alliance Victims of Violence Program	Adult out-patient trauma clinic providing mental health services for crime victims	617-591-6360
	De Novo	Free civil legal assistance and affordable psychological counseling for low-income people	617-661-1010 Denovo.org

Thank you

For questions related, to crime statistics, please email crimeanalysis@police.Somerville.ma.us.

ELLEN SHACHTER
DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF HOUSING STABILITY

Office of Housing Stability

Fully Staffed as of March 2019

Ellen Shachter
Director

Fred Berman
Co-Deputy Director

Susan Chimene
Co-Deputy Director

Marie Dumé
Housing Intake & Special Projects

Lydia López
Case Manager & Communications

Brooke Murphy
Case Manager & Landlord Outreach

HOUSING INSTABILITY SNAPSHOT

332 eviction cases in Somerville District Court in 2018

Approximately 17.8% of renter households paying over 50% of income for shelter

Median rents:

1br - $2,125

2br - $2,400

3br - $2,925

1,130 rental units were converted to condos from 2010-2017

Many affordable housing waitlists have 5-10 year wait times or are closed entirely.

DIRECT SERVICES THROUGH OHS

- Advice and information on housing issues
- Referrals to community agencies to prevent displacement
- Financial assistance to prevent homelessness
- Advocacy with landlords and agencies to resolve housing issues
- Tenant case management
- Housing search
- Workshops and on-line resources for landlords
- Up-to-date information on local and regional affordable housing opportunities

POLICY AND PROGRAM INITIATIVES

Program/Policy	Status
Formation of OHS Advisory Board	First meeting on May 1, 2019
Updated condo conversion ordinance	Passed by the City Council on March 27 (regulations under development)
Real estate transfer fee	Pending State legislation and home rule petition
Right to purchase for tenants and affordable housing non-profits	Pending City ordinance and State legislation
Right to counsel in eviction cases	Pending State legislation
Working with landlords to include OHS info when tenants are served a notice to quite	Planned
Targeting existing resources to residents who were displaced or at risk of being displaced	In place for 100 Homes Initiative

THANK YOU

RESISTAT 2019