

### City of Burlington

# Great Streets BTV

City of Burlington
Community & Economic Development Office
Public Works
Planning & Zoning

Suisman Urban Design
DuBois & King
Michael Vergason Landscape Architects
Wagner Hodgson Landscape Architects
Urban Rain Design
Domingo Gonzalez Associates
Third Sector Associates

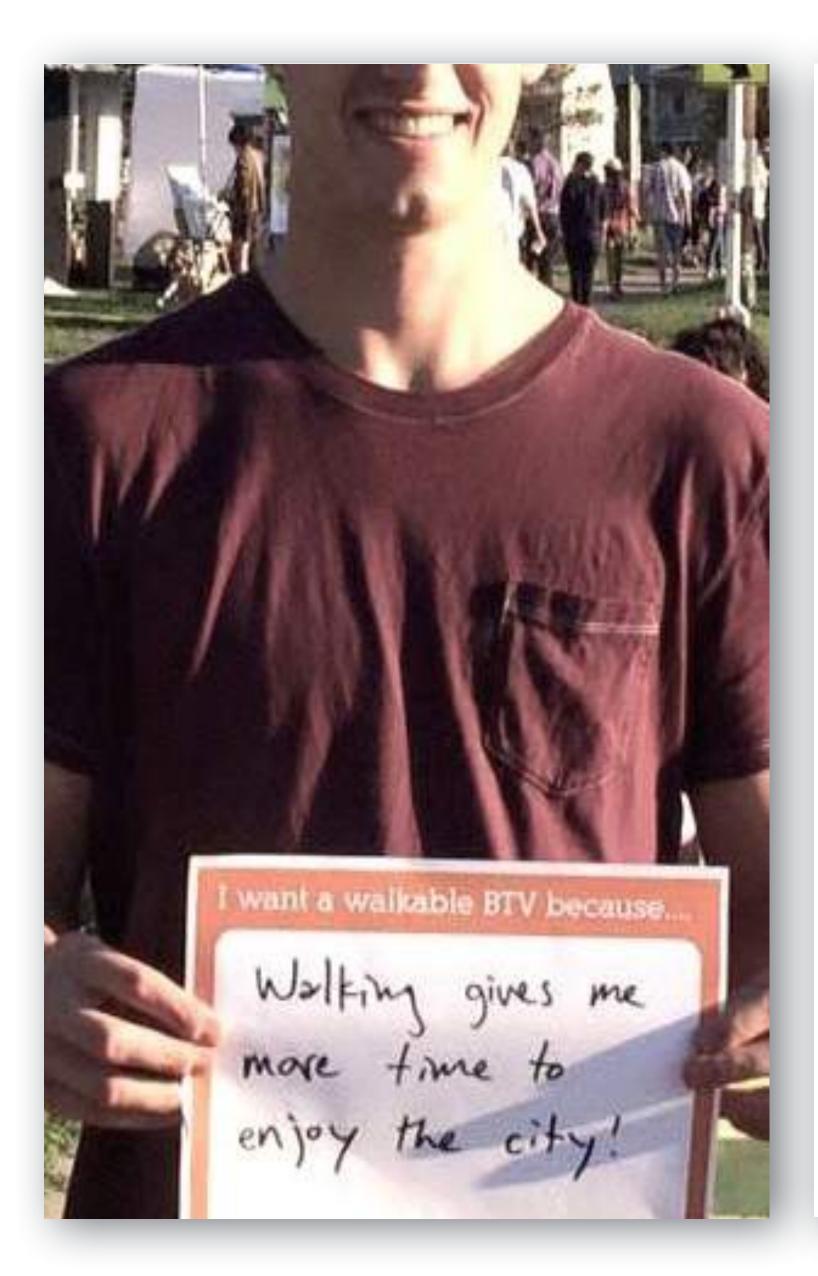
**Great Streets BTV** 



### 1. Introduction & Background

### Vision of Downtown

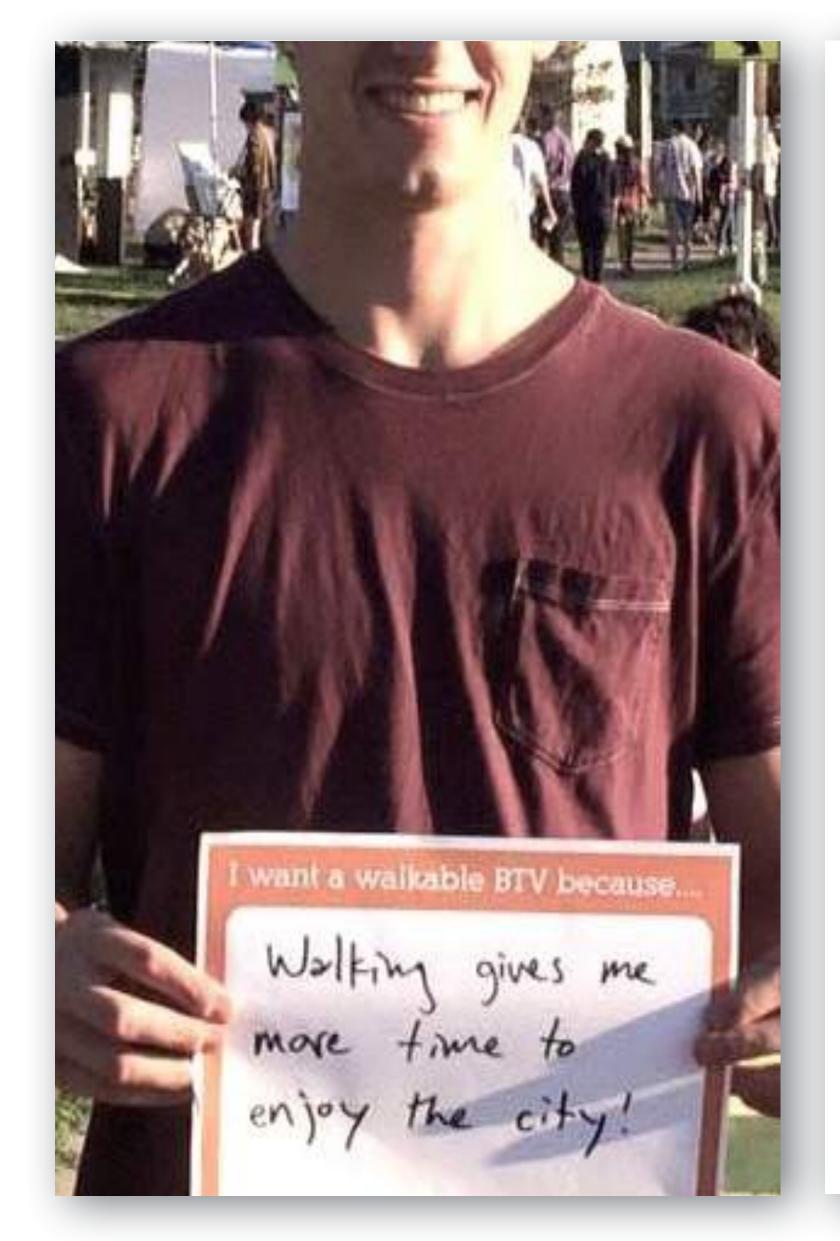
Burlington residents
— through input into
various plans, studies
and other projects —
have asked for a
walkable, bikeable,
sustainable, transitfriendly downtown.





### **Great Streets BTV**

In order to meet this vision, the City has launched the "Great Streets Initiative" to implement the recommendations in these plans, and to guide futher investment in the downtown public realm for decades to come.





### **Great Streets BTV**

"A downtown that is a vibrant, walkable, and sustainable urban center"

-Residents of Burlington

Join us on September 14 or 15 for a presentation to learn more about the Great Streets Initiative, and to review draft concepts for Main Street and the downtown street design standards!

If you miss the presentation on September 14, we have two encore presentations on September 15!

Presentation
 Wednesday, September 14, 2016
 6:30–8:00 p.m.
 Contois Auditorium, City Hall

Encore Presentations
Thursday, September 15, 2016
9:00 a.m. and 12 noon
Contois Auditorium, City Hall

### For questions and information, please visit www.GreatStreetsBTV.com

or contact Diane Meyerhoff at 802.865.1794

The Great Streets Initiative is a project of the City of Burlington



Individuals with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to participate inprograms and activities of the Dept of Planning & Zoning are encouraged to contact the Dept at least 72 hours in advance so that proper accommodations can be arranged. For information, call 802-865-7188 (TTY 802-865-7144).

suisman



### Timeline

Throughout it's history, the City has made significant investments in downtown and the public realm. In recent years, residents have provided significant input on the next generation of investment in downtown.

1785BurlingtonCity Hall constructed in

organized as a Town its current location

**1790s**Court House Square established

**1865**Burlington chartered as a City

1928
Current City Hall
constructed

1981-2004

Church Street Marketplace

established

**1981:** Cherry to College

1994: Cherry to Pearl

2004: College to Main

1993

City Hall Park renovated to current configuration & new fountain installed

 1800
 1850
 1900
 1950
 2000



### **Timeline**

Throughout it's history, the City has made significant investments in downtown and the public realm. In recent years, residents have provided significant input on the next generation of investment in downtown.

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City Hall Park renovated to current configuration & new fountain installed

2011
First City-wide transportation plan

2011–2012
Imagine City Hall Park visioning process

2013
planBTV
Downtown
Waterfront Plan adopted

2014
Community visioning process for the redevelopment of Burlington Town Center

2015
Voters approve TIF for Main
Street & St. Paul Street upgrades
Upgrades to the Downtown &
Waterfront Wayfinding system

2016
Construction of state-of-the-art
Downtown Transit Center
Draft of planBTV Walk/Bike
Great Streets BTV project starts

2018
Great Streets
construction begins

 1800
 1850
 1900
 1950
 2000
 2010
 2015
 2016
 2020

### Introduction Information

### greatstreetsbtv.com

### 2011

First City-wide transportation plan

### 2015

Voters approve TIF for Main Street & St. Paul Street upgrades

2011-2012 Upgrades to the Downtown & Imagine City Hall Park Waterfront Wayfinding system

visioning process

### 2013

planBTV Downtown Waterfront Plan adopted

### 2016

Construction of state-of-the-art **Downtown Transit Center** Draft of planBTV Walk/Bike

**Great Streets BTV project starts** 

### 2014

Community visioning process for the redevelopment of Burlington Town Center

### 2018

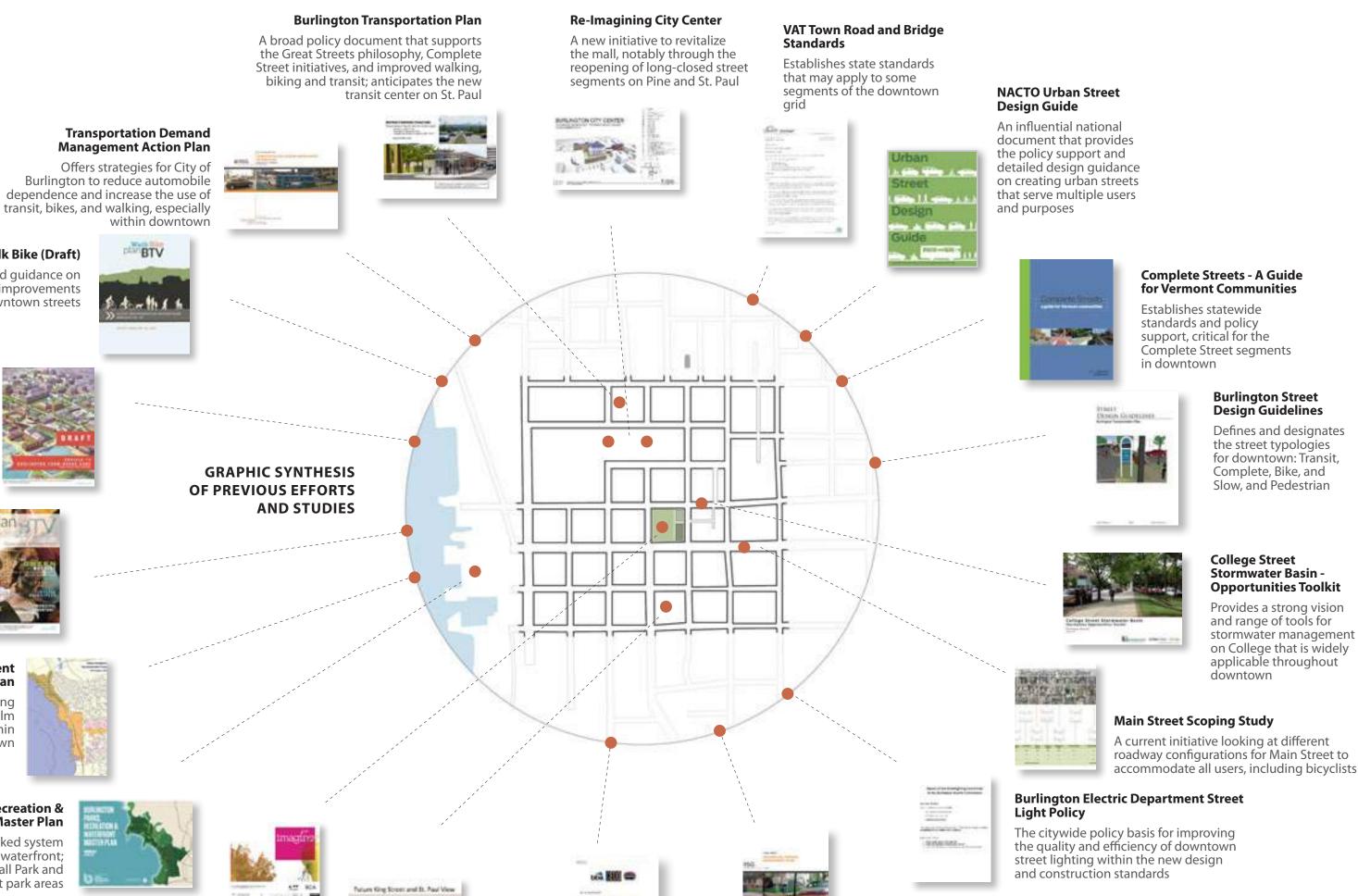
**Great Streets** construction begins

2010 2015 2020 2016



### **Integrating Prior** Recommendations into Great Streets

The Great Streets **Initiative will** draw upon local, state and national plans and guidance, including, but not limited to these:



### **City Hall Park Concept Design**

BTV

Plan BTV Walk Bike (Draft) Provides detailed guidance on

pedestrian and bike improvements

that directly affect downtown streets

**Burlington Form Based** 

Provides a dramatically new approach to citywide zoning

Waterfront

which supports more housing, mixed-use and transit within

Plan BTV Downtown &

Extensive, long-term, citywide effort that

provides the vision and

direction for downtown

as a livable, walkable,

sustainable, transit-

oriented district

**Downtown Tax Increment** 

Plan BTV Burlington Parks, Recreation &

of parks, open spaces, and waterfront;

downtown waterfront park areas

provides reference for City Hall Park and

Positions City Hall Park within a linked system

Provides the basis for funding streetscape and public realm

improvements, especially within

Finance (TIF) Plan

downtown

**Waterfront Master Plan** 

Code (Draft)

downtown

Provides an advanced conceptual redesign of the park, with strong community input and support; critical link between College and Main



### **Champlain College - Eagle's Landing Development Plans**

A key development within downtown that will be designed and built concurrently with the improvements on St. Paul Street

### **Downtown Parking & Transportation Plan**

**Residential Parking Plan** 

residential neighborhoods to

A plan that considers permit parking

protect them from downtown visitor

A comprehensive look at on-street and off-street parking in downtown, along with associated strategies for marketing, wayfinding, and development



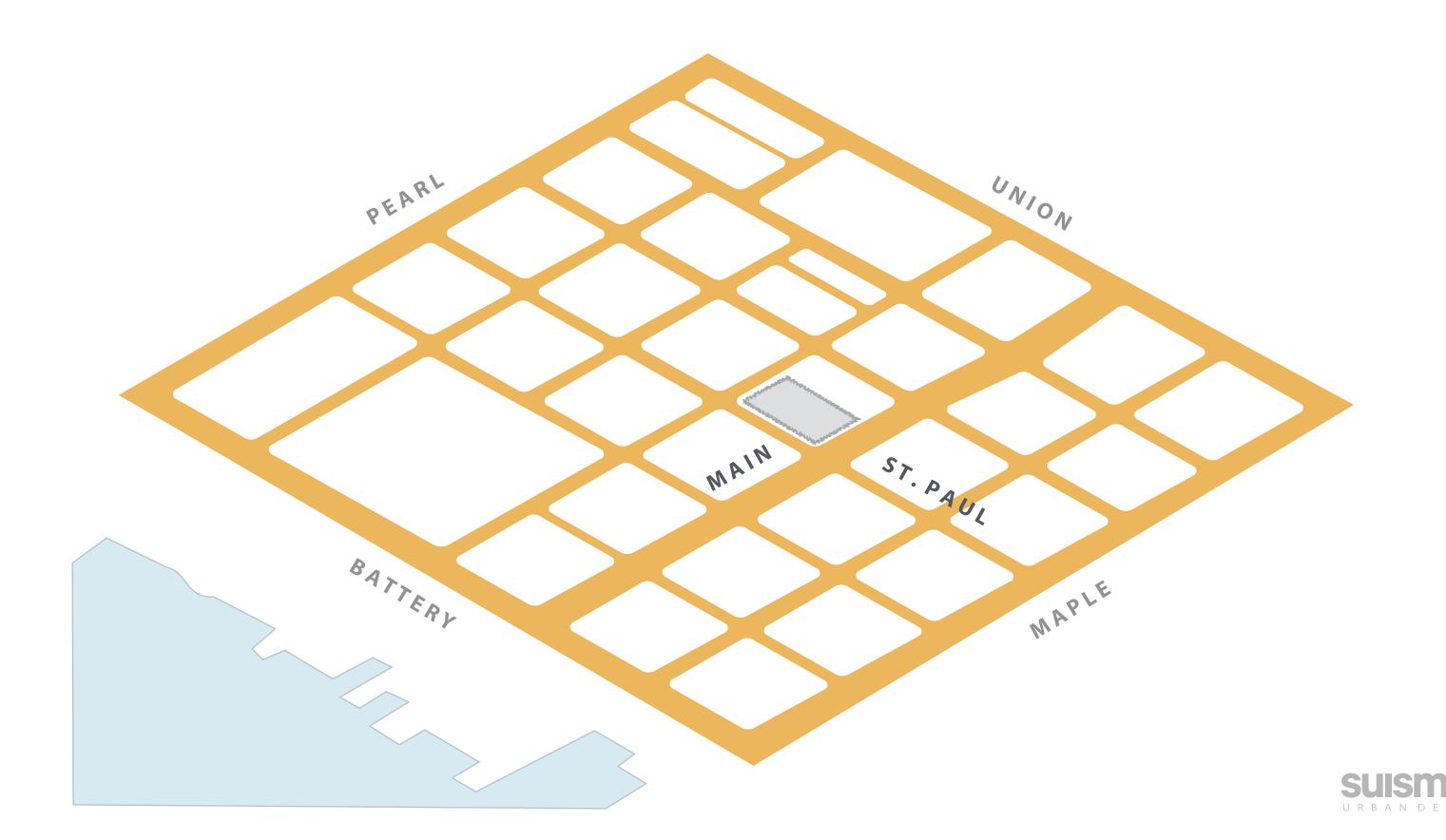
### Introduction **Three-Part Initiative**

### A

### Create

### **Downtown Street Design Standards**

- Stormwater
- Trees
- LightingFurnishings
- Pathways



# Introduction Three-Part Initiative

# A Create Downtown Street Design Standards

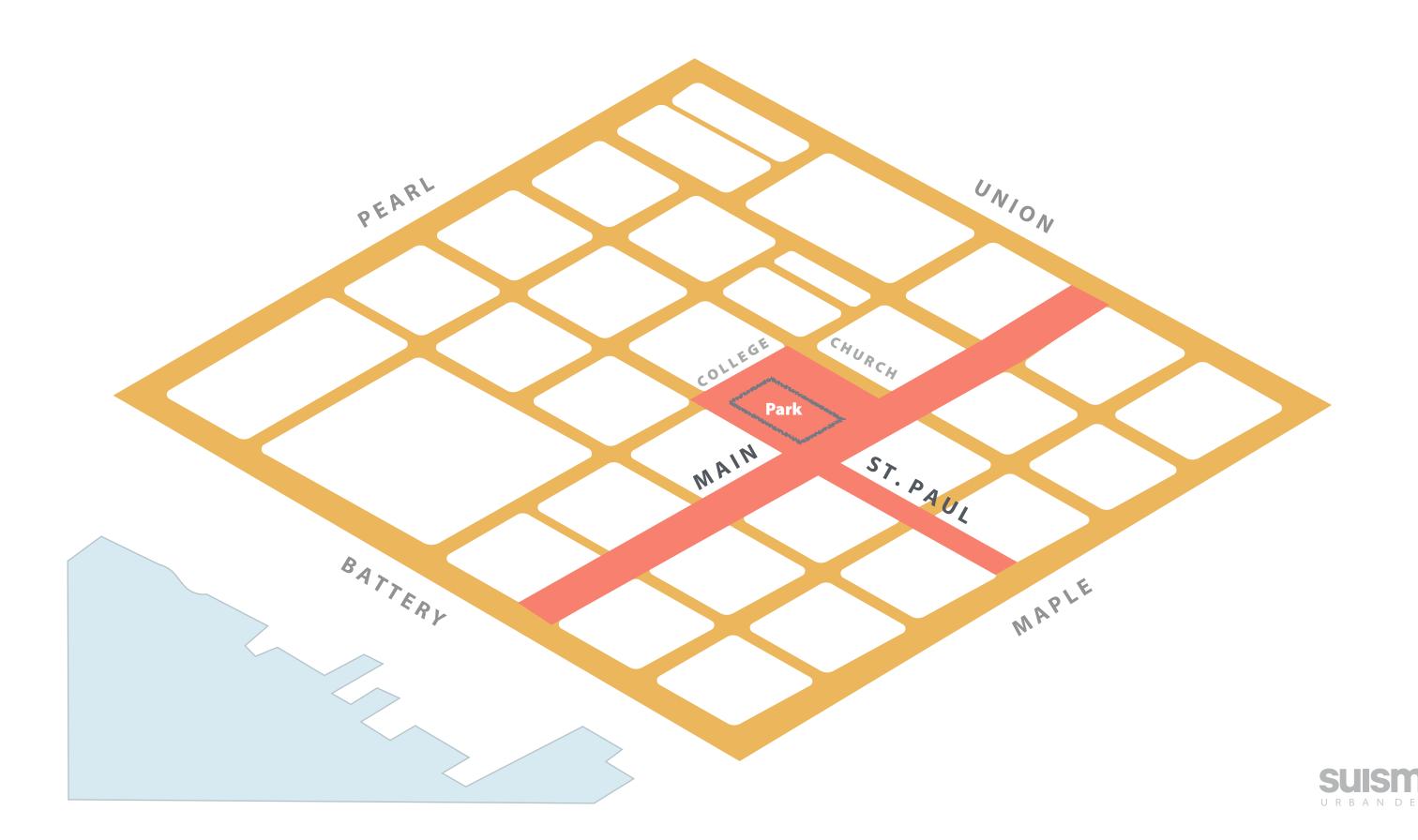
- Stormwater
- Trees
- Lighting
- Furnishings
- Pathways

### $\mathbf{B}$

Create

### Main Street Concept Plan

- Main Street (6 blocks)
- Park Square
- St. Paul Street (2 blocks)



# Introduction Three-Part Initiative

A
Create
Downtown Str

### **Downtown Street Design Standards**

- Stormwater
- Trees
- Lighting
- Furnishings
- Pathways

**B** Create

### **Main Street Concept Plan**

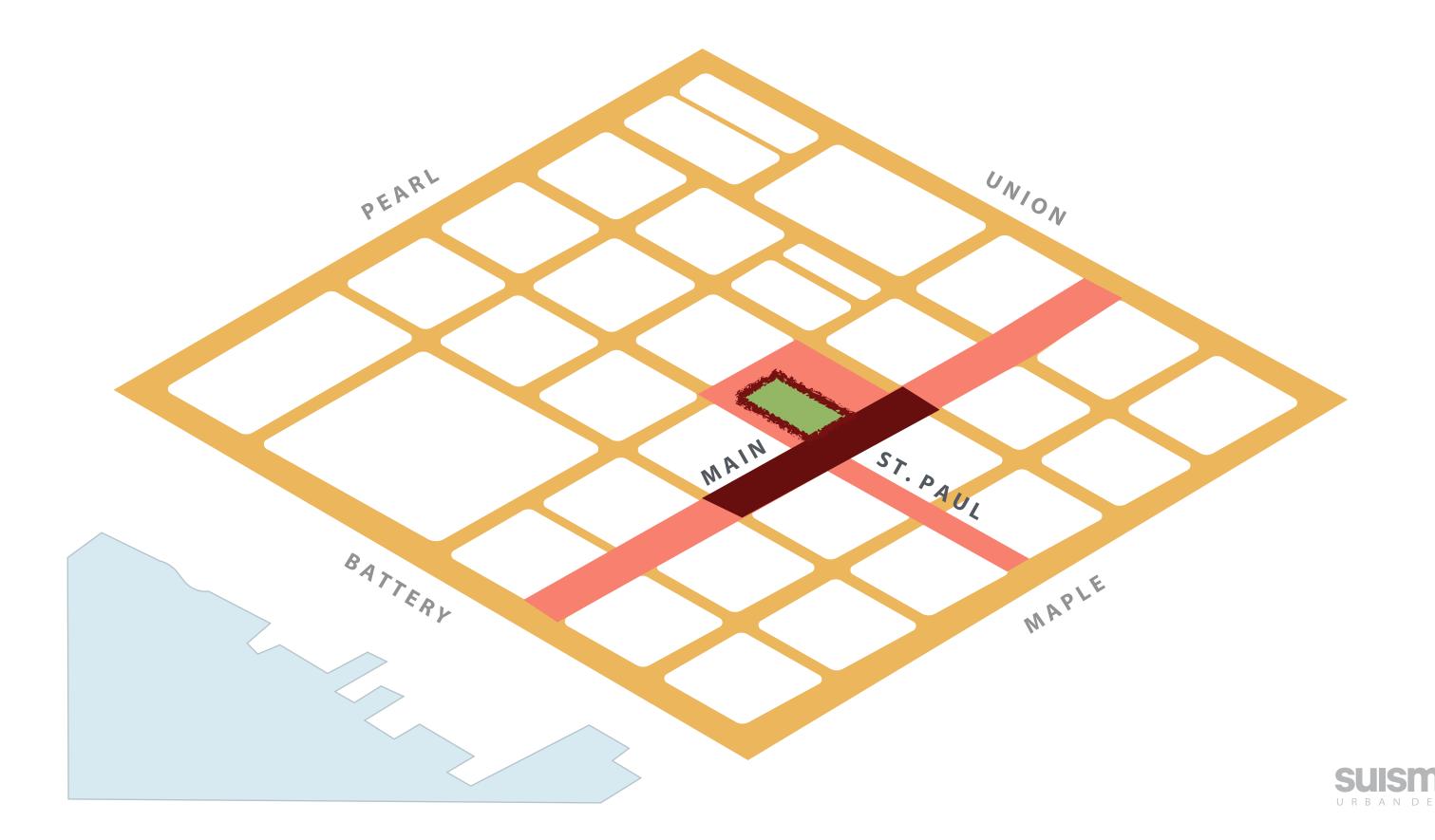
- Main Street (6 blocks)
- City Square
- St. Paul Street (2 blocks)

C

Design & Build

### Park & Main Project

- Main Street (2 blocks)
- City Hall Park





# What is a "great street"?

These are the highlevel guiding principles for street design that are called for in the City's recently adopted plans/documents.

### Walkable/Bikeable

high quality pedestrian and bike network, safe, convenient, shady, protective

### Sustainable

benefits air and water quality, stormwater smart, energy efficient, transit-friendly

### Vibrant

lively, attractive, diverse, accessible, inclusive, supports economic activity

### Functional

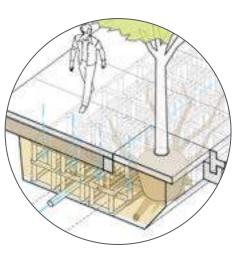
works for all users, vehicles types, emergencies, events; affordable and maintainable



# Potential Features of a Great Street for Burlington



Durable Curbs



**Advanced Street Tree Installation** 



**Expanded Tree Canopy** 



Highlighting of Landmarks



Placemaking / Public Art



Enhanced Crosswalks



Snow Management



Accessible and Inclusive

Enhanced Lighting

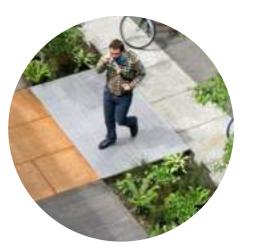
Rain Gardens Bike Lanes Efficient Parking

Transit Facilities

Wider Sidewalks **Shared Space** 

**Bike Parking** 

















### 2. Observations of Existing Conditions

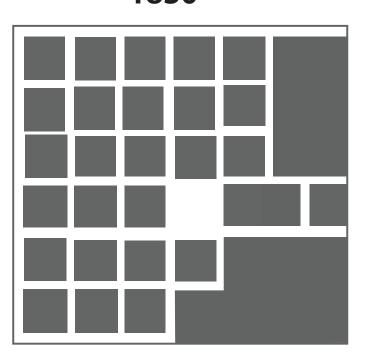
### Observations of Existing Conditions

### Checkerboard

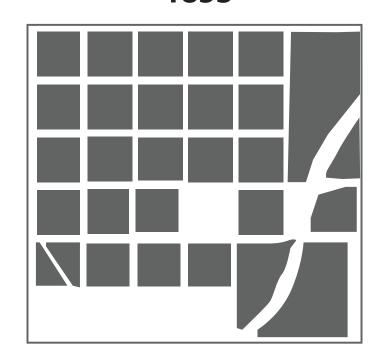
study of the evolution of the downtown grid.....

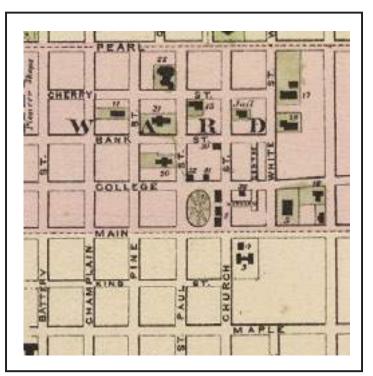


John Johnson **1830** 

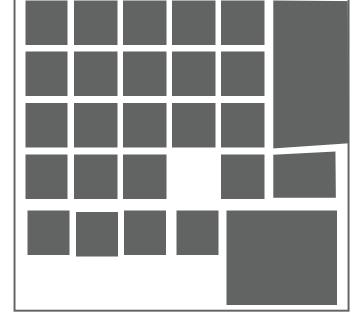


Presdee & Edwards 1853



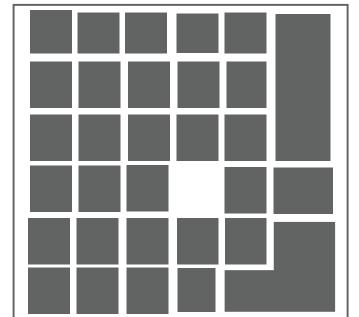


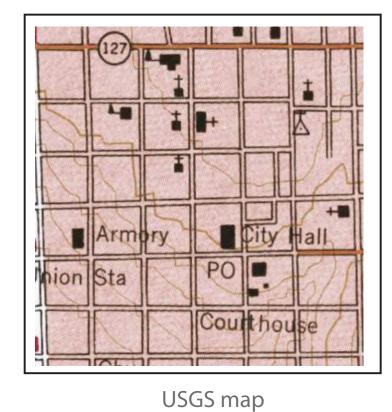
Worley **1873** 

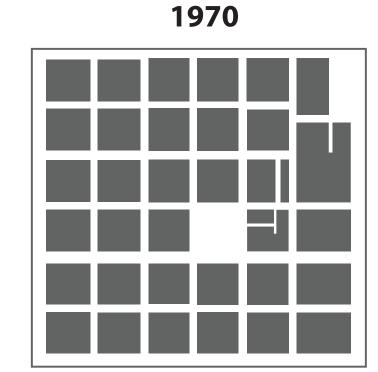




Hopkins 1890



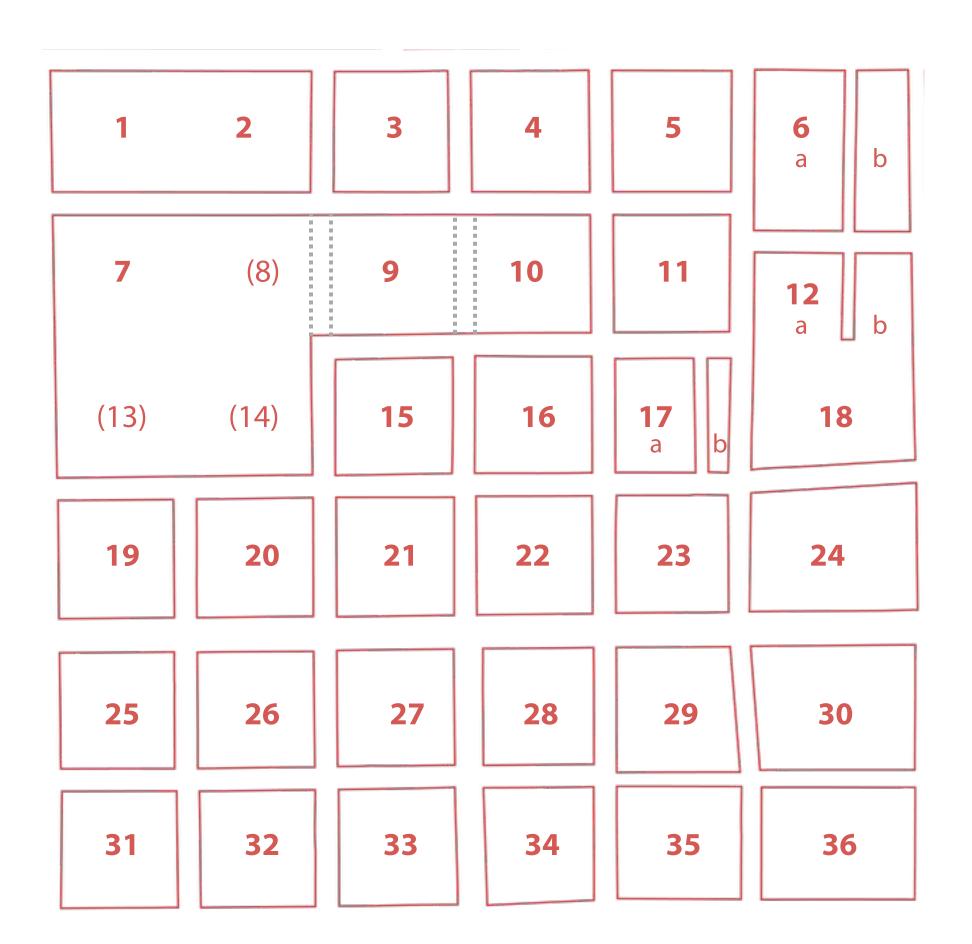






# Observations of Existing Conditions Checkerboard Concept

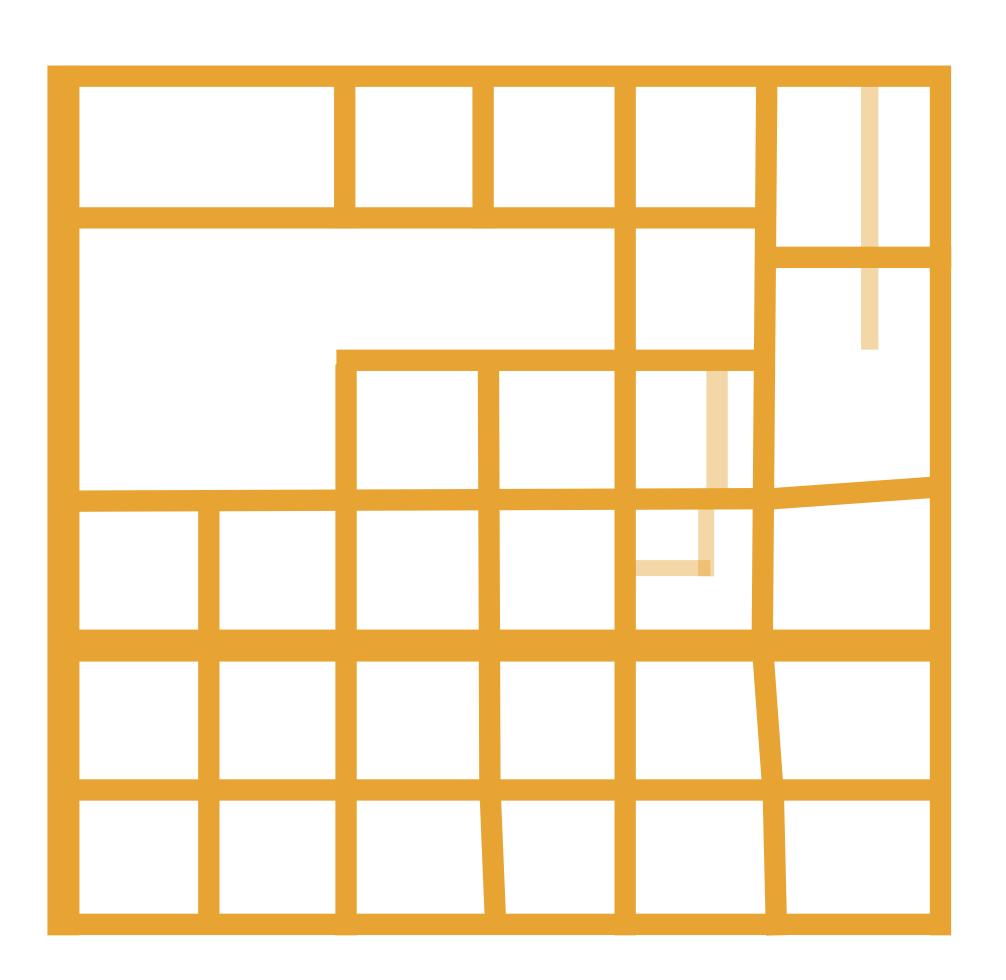
...brings us to this current configuration-- some missing segments, some irregular shapes, etc.





# Observations of Existing Conditions 14 Primary Streets

14 major streets:7 north-south,7 east-west





### Observations of Existing Conditions

### **Total Street Length**

Total: 6 miles - significant for improvements costs and ongoing maintenance

If all the streets in downtown were stretched end to end, they would add up to around 6 miles, the distance traveled from Pearl Street at Battery Park via Colchester Avenue and Route 15 to Essex.

Design and maintenance standards should reflect the extent of their application.





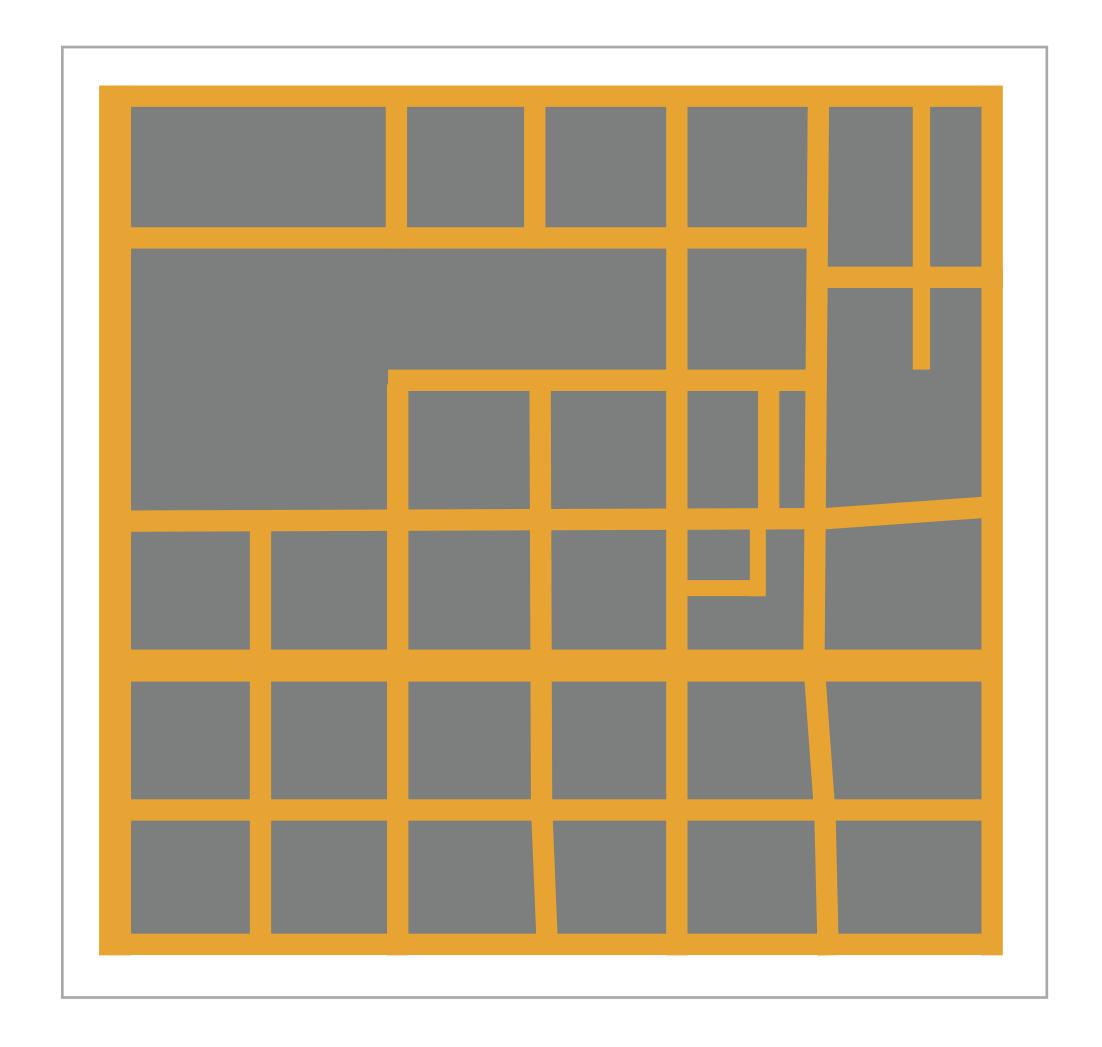


### Observations of Existing Conditions

### **Extensive Public Realm**

Streets take up around 45 acres - 33% of downtown land, making them an important zone for investment





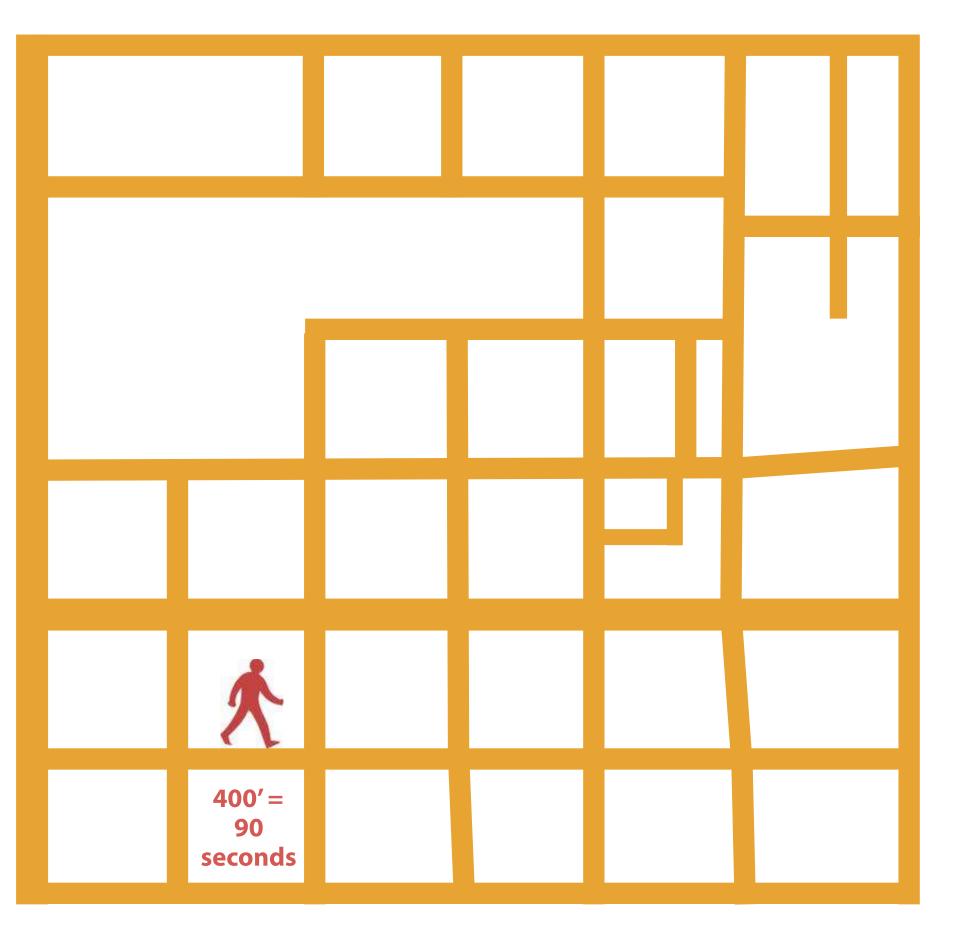


# 1/2 mile = **10 minutes**

# Observations of Existing Conditions Compact

Downtown is compact (10 minutes across) and that's good for walkability.

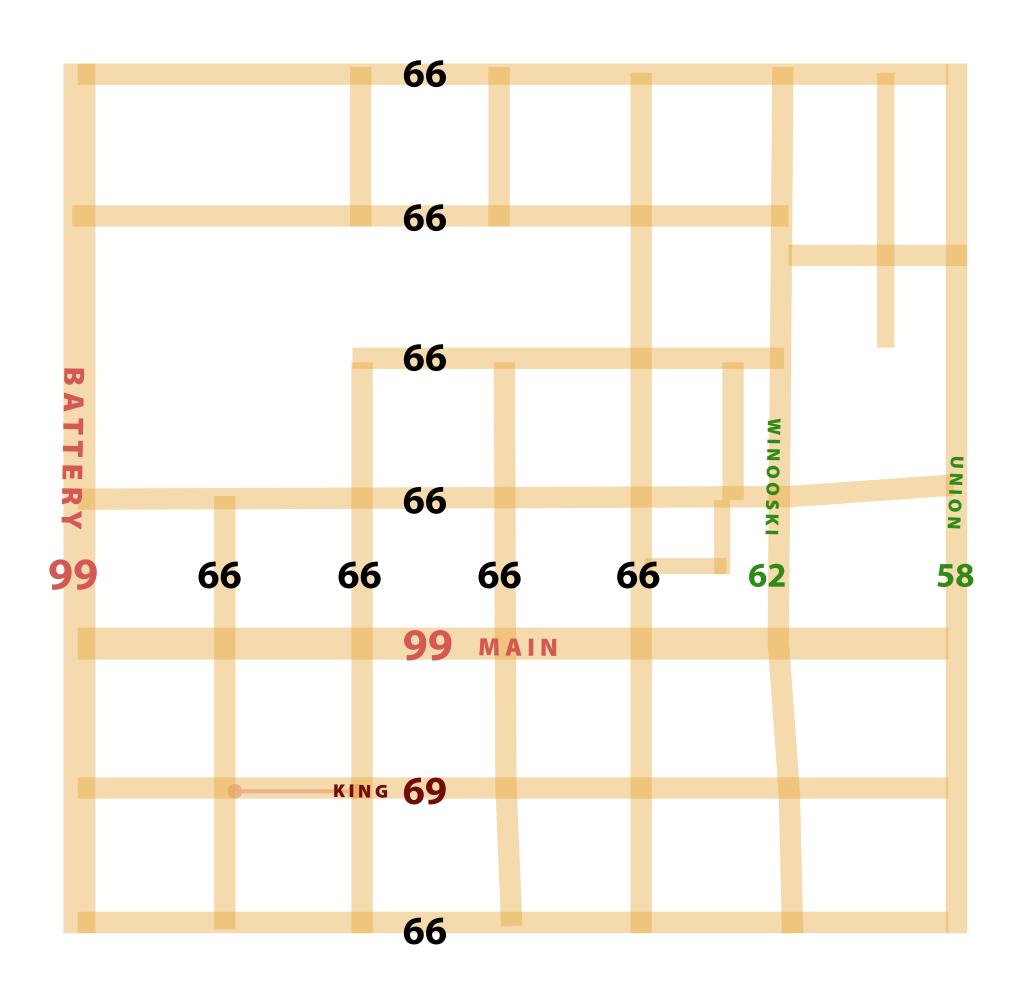




### Observations of Existing Conditions **Mostly Narrow Streets**

Downtown Burlington's typical street right-of-way is 66', which is narrow enough to provide favorably short pedestrian crossings - around 42' curb-to-curb. Bumpouts would shorten crosswalks further, making downtown more walkable.

Main Street and Battery are major exceptions at 99' and require special attention, since their crosswalks are as long as 50', making crossing more difficult for some pedestrians.

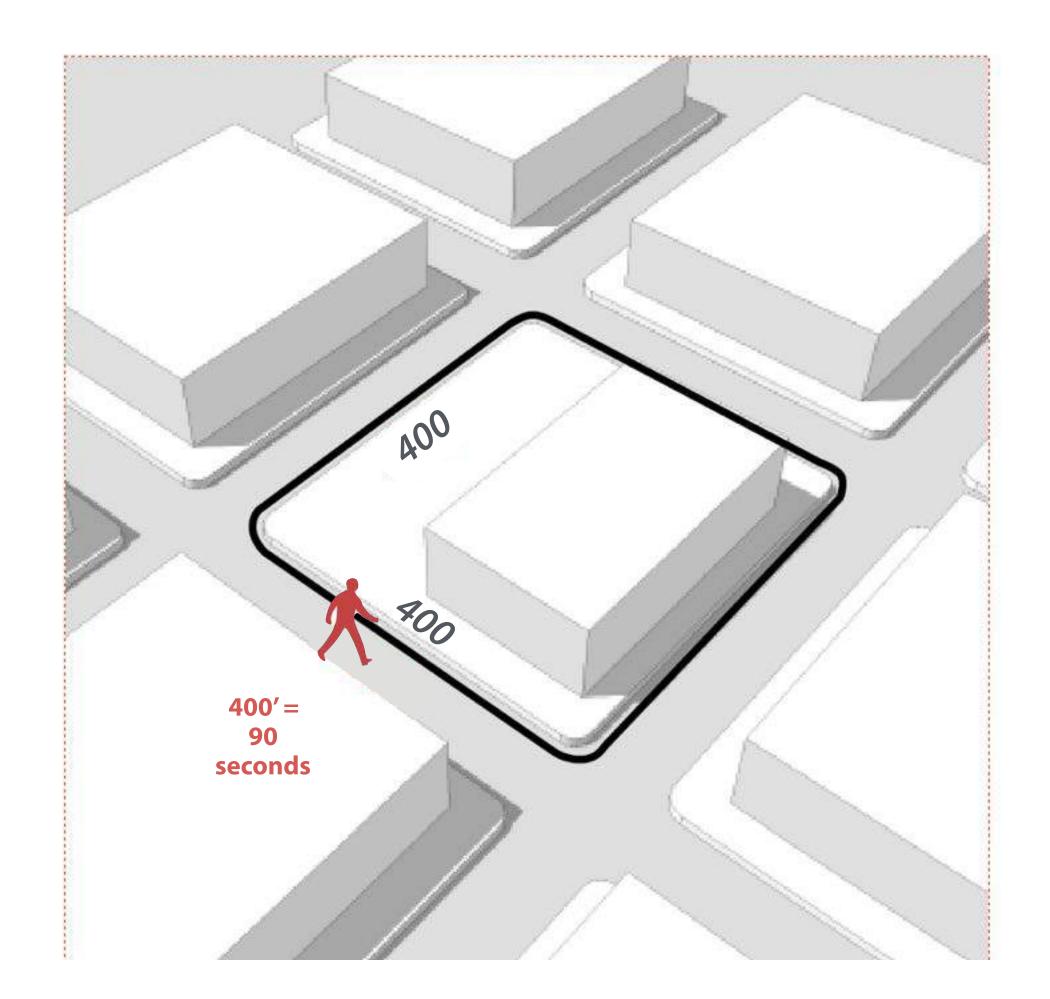




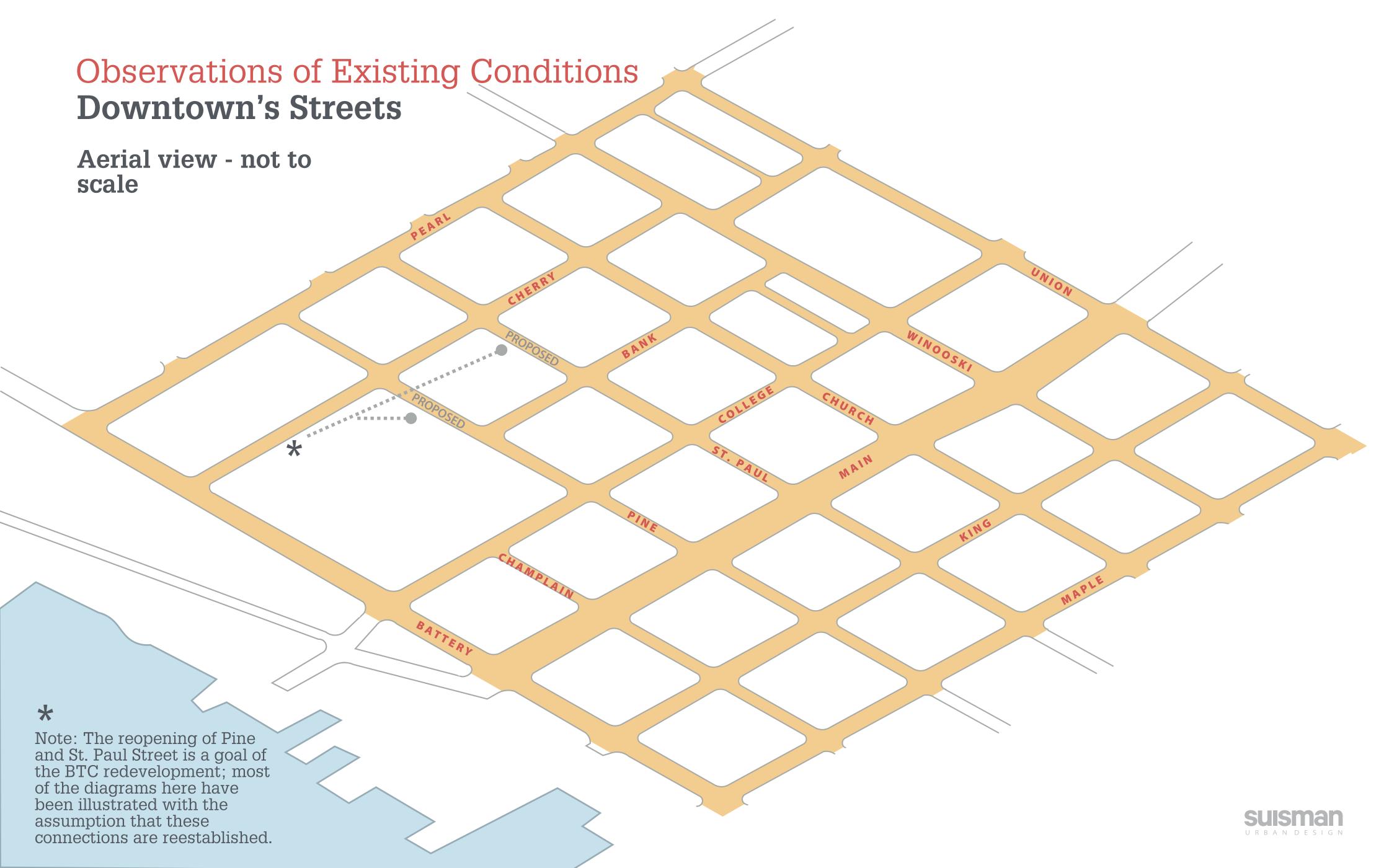
## Observations of Existing Conditions Fairly Short Blocks

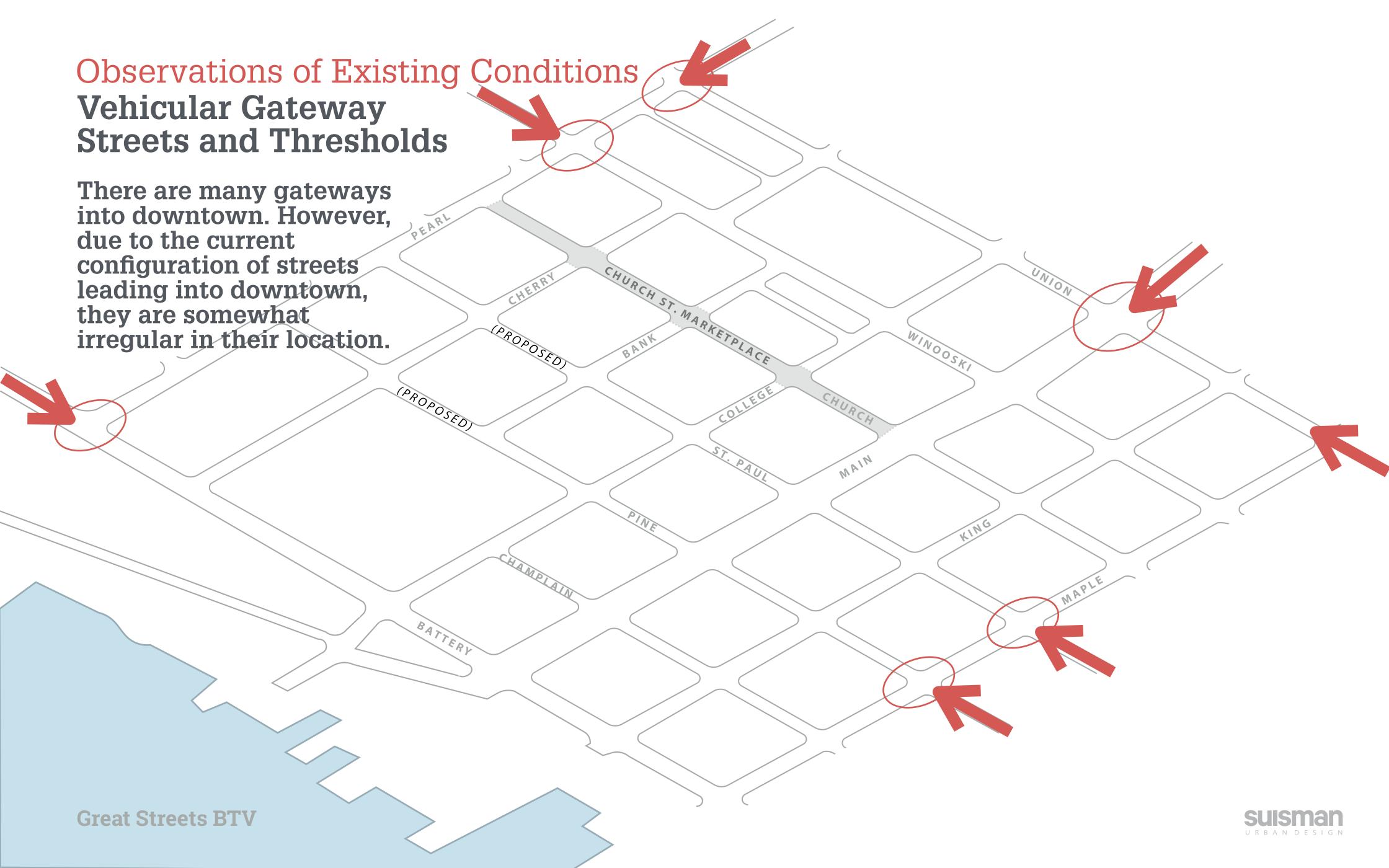
Typical 400' long (most city blocks range from 200'-600'): shorter blocks better for walkability (provide more route options)

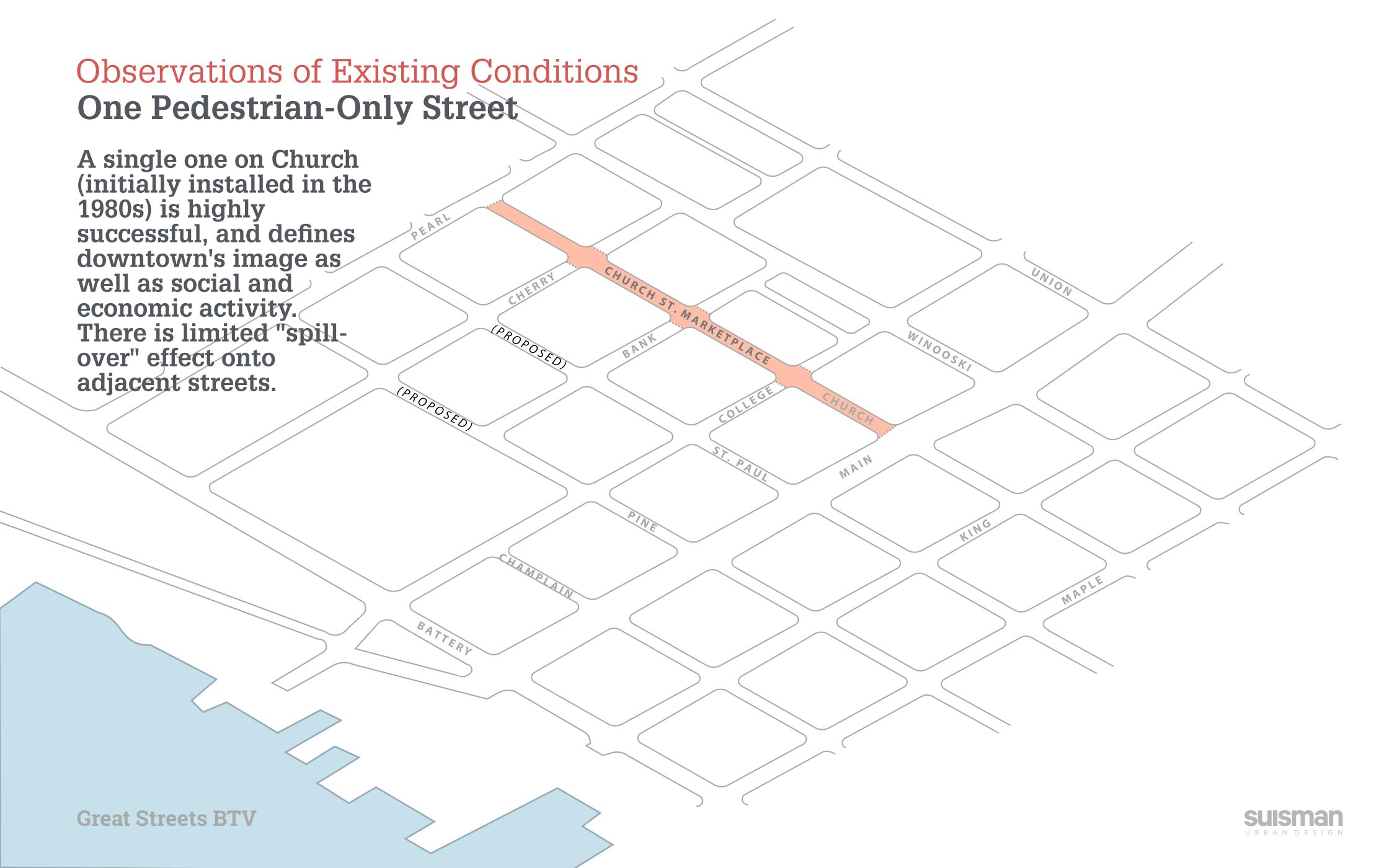
Burlington's 400' x 400' square blocks are somewhat unusual. They demarcate around 4 acres of land. For comparison, Portland, Oregon's unusually small blocks are 200' x 200'. Many American cities have rectangular 300' x 600' blocks because they are a mathematical derivative of the American Land Grant measuring system.

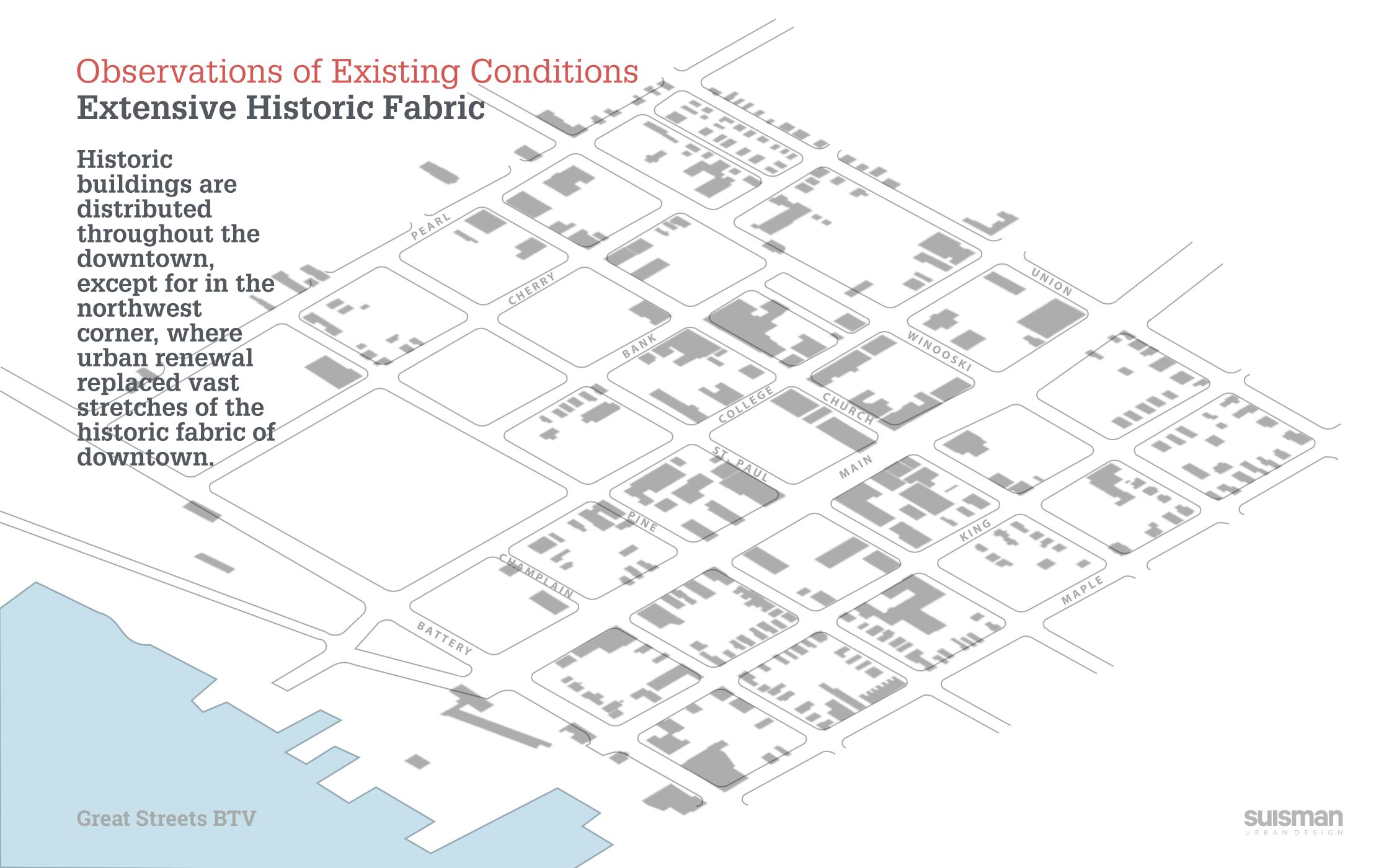


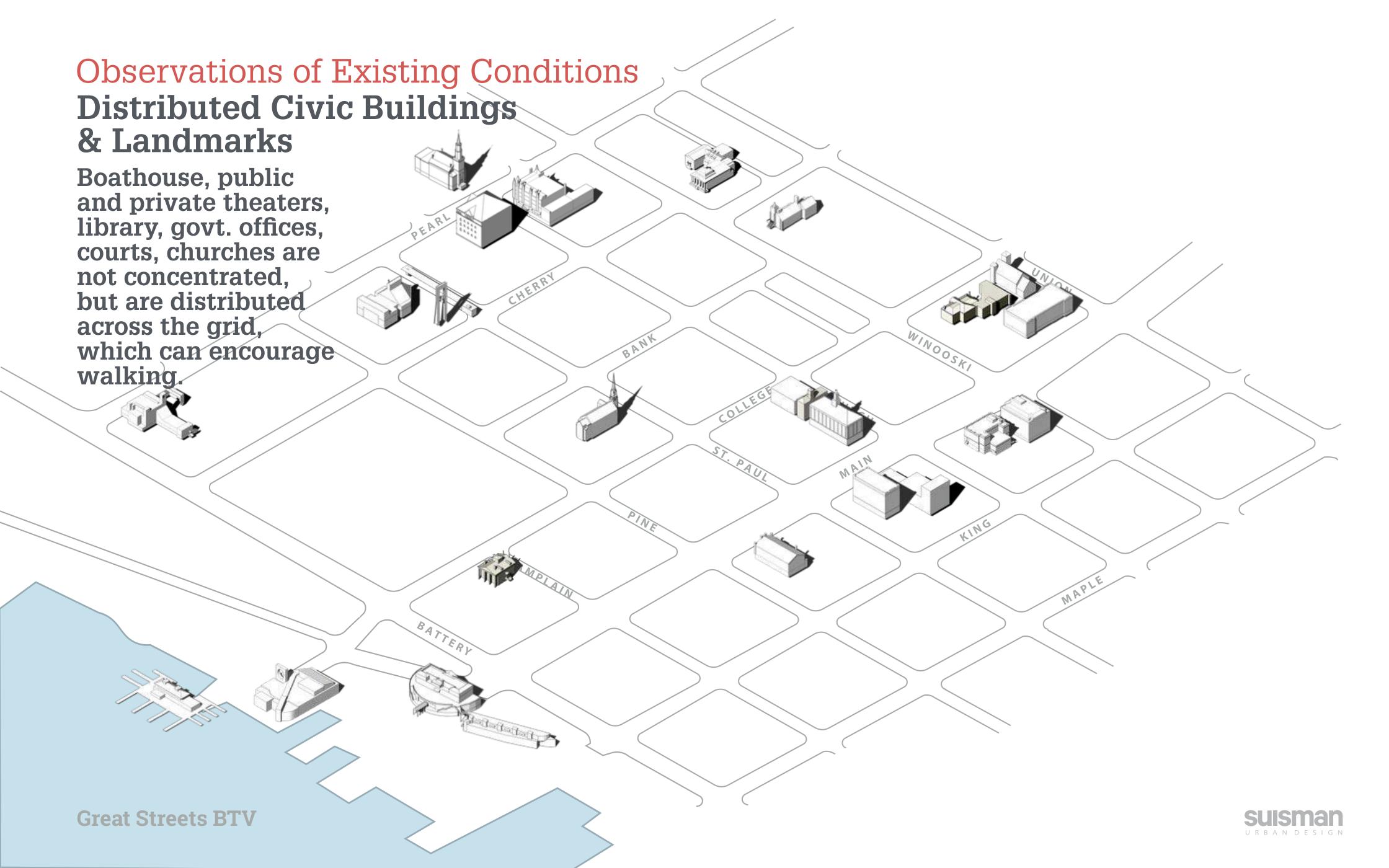






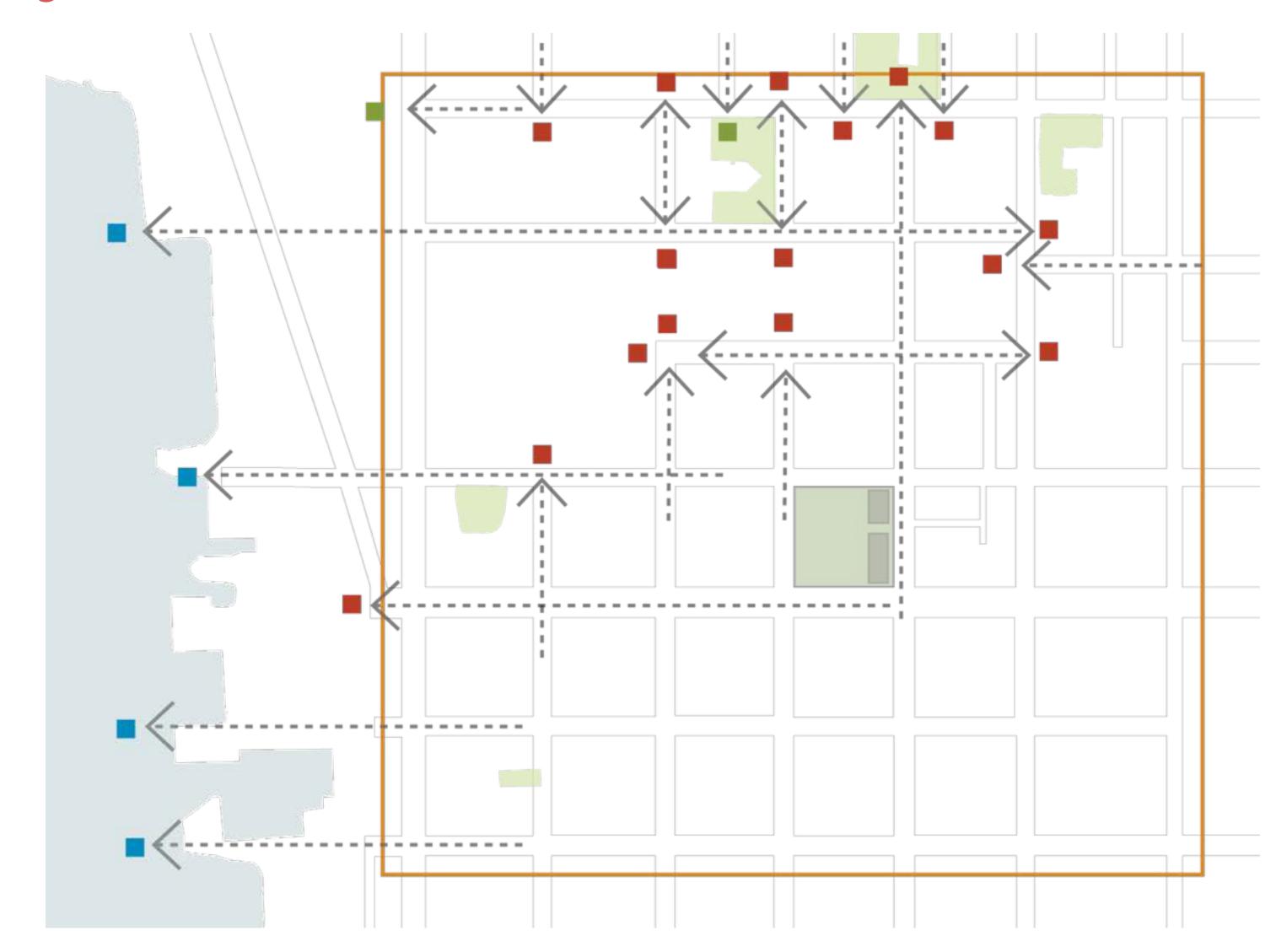


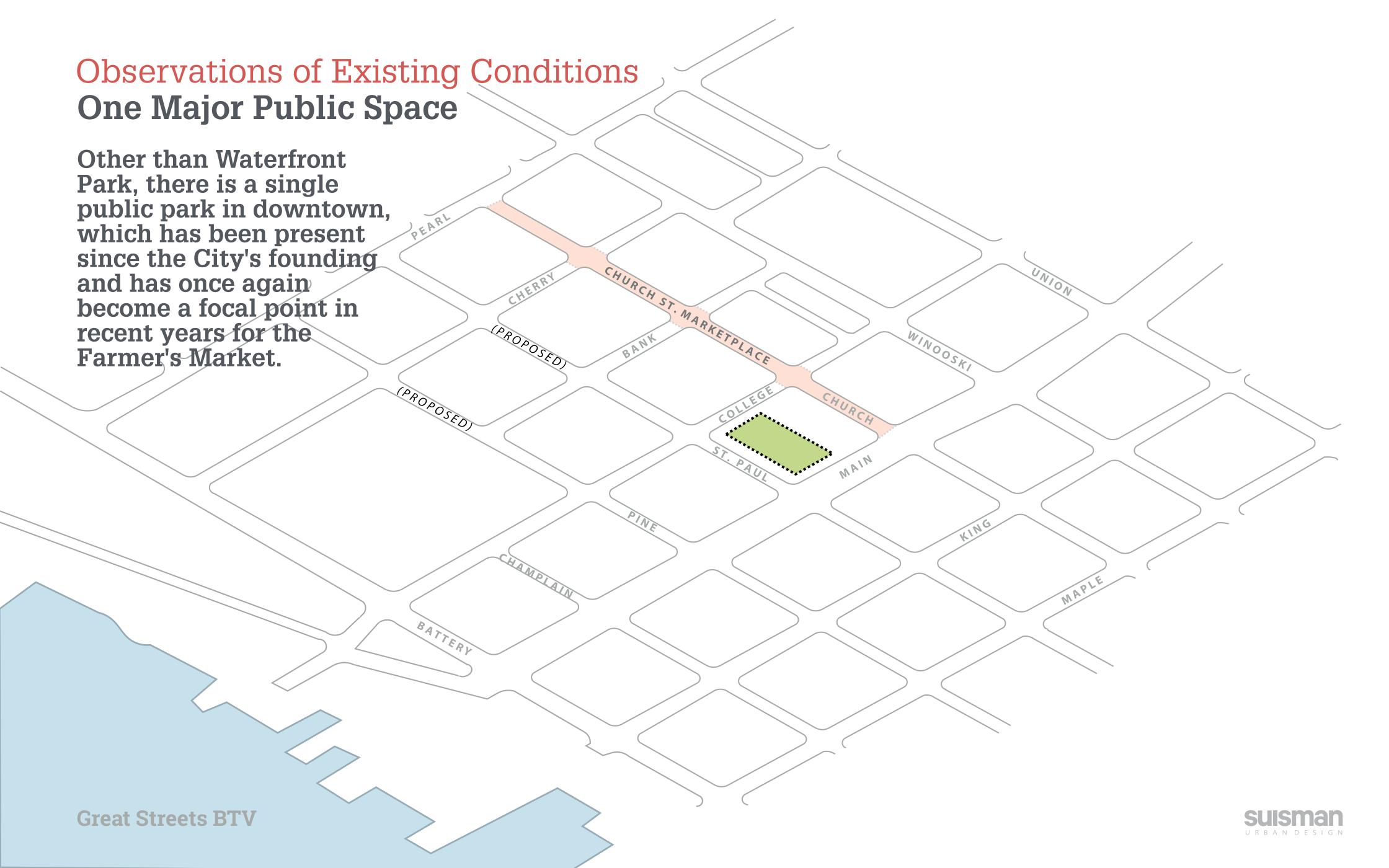




Observations of Existing Conditions

**Key Visual Terminations** 



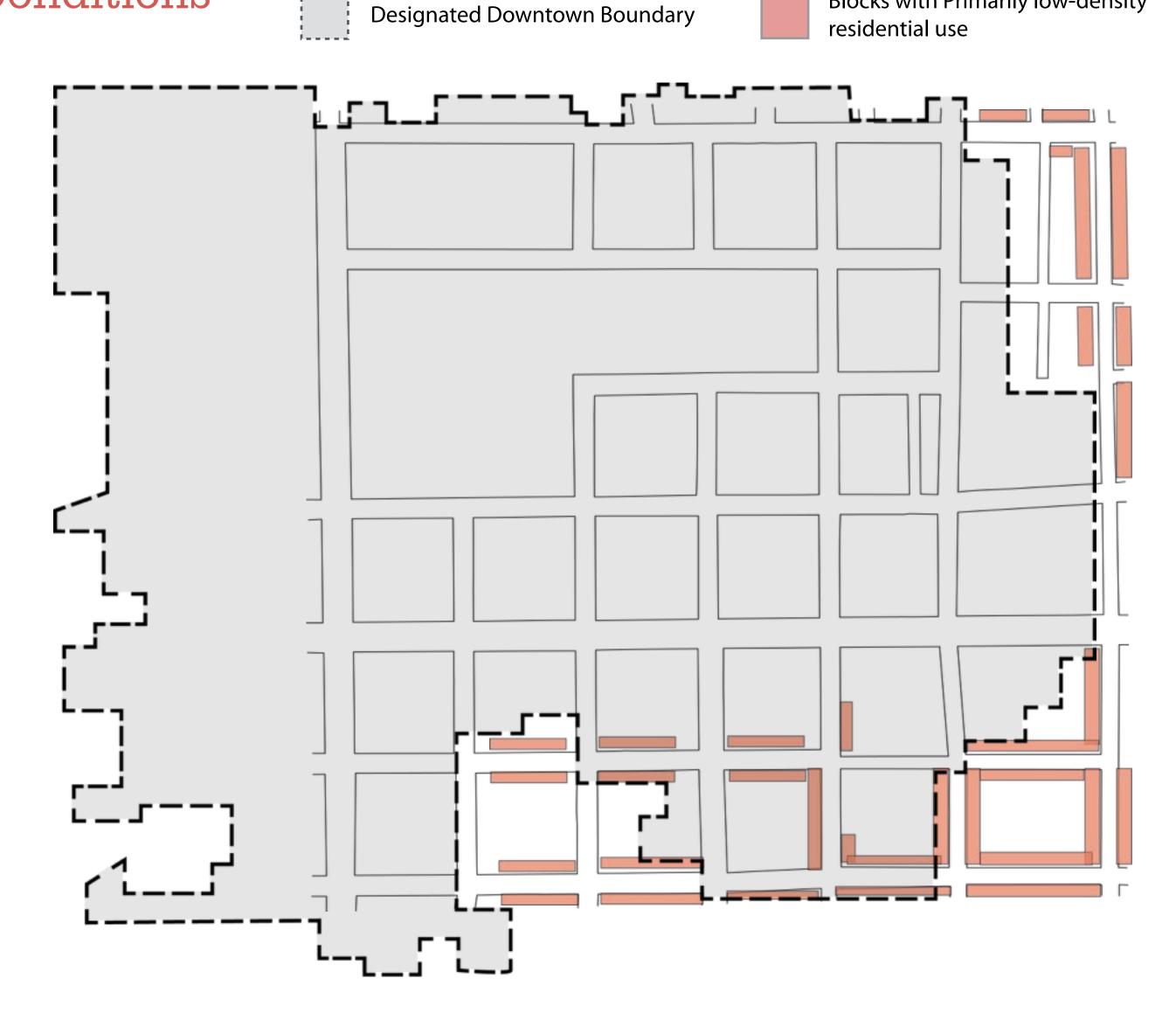




### Observations of Existing Conditions

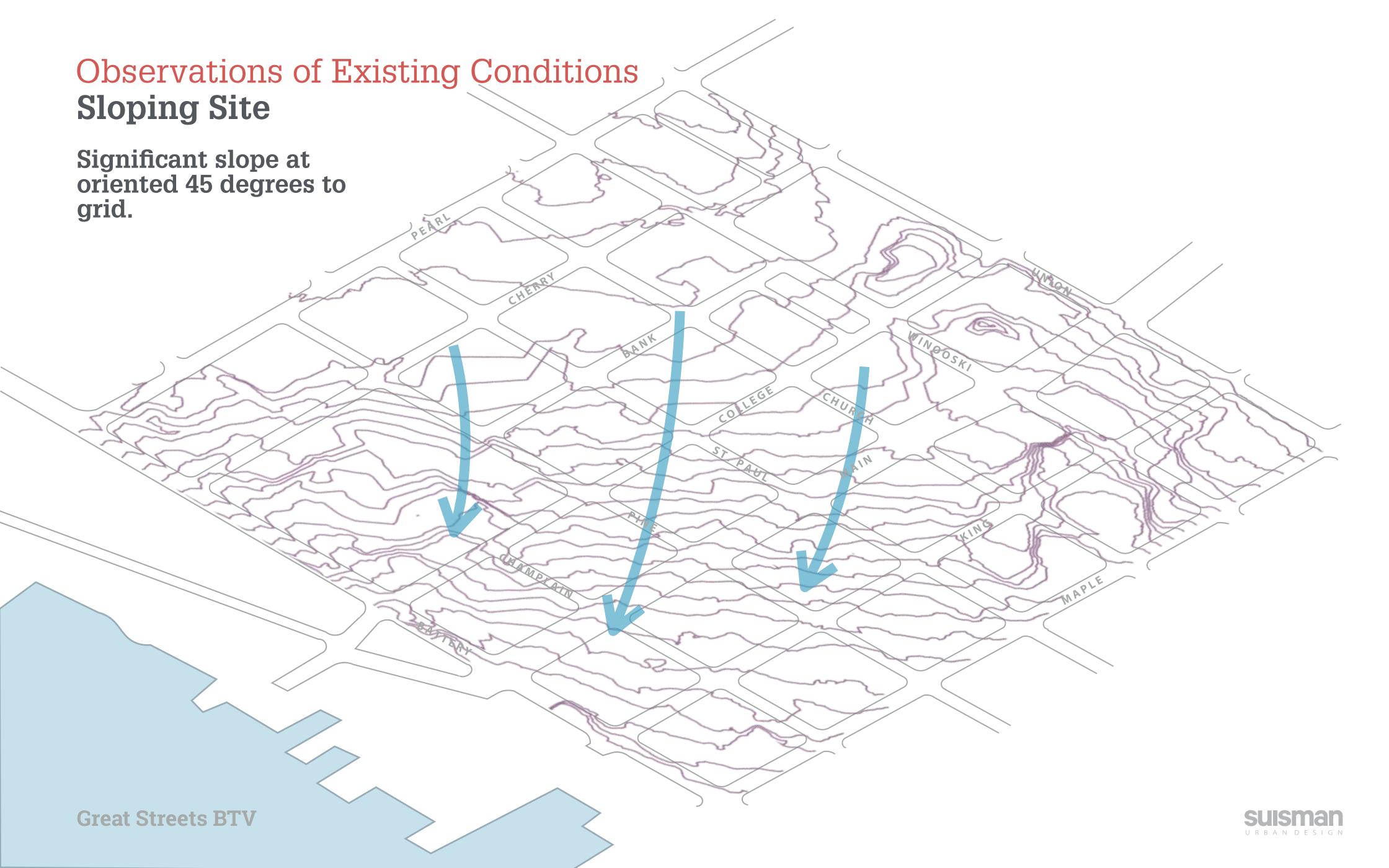
### **Mixed Uses**

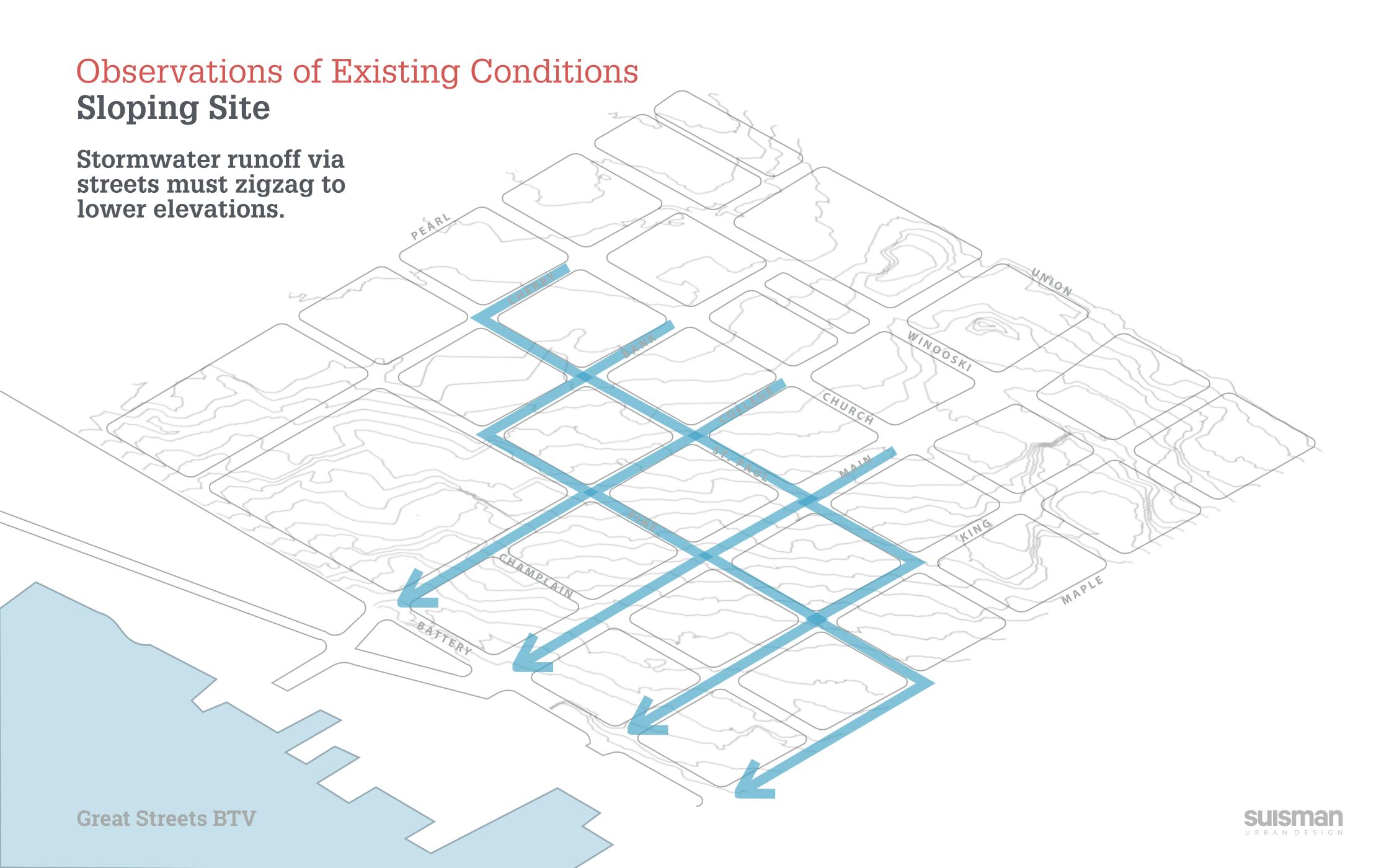
The character of our public streets both drives and is driven by the land uses along those streets. Within the area of downtown that will be included in the design standards, there is a typical mix of uses at the core with some historic residential pockets to the south, southeast and northwest edges. The area also includes most of the "Designated Downtown" district.





Blocks with Primarily low-density





# Key Design Ideas for Great Streets Hole in Tree Canopy

There is a large gap in Burlington's tree canopy in the densest part of downtown, where tighter sidewalk conditions are less favorable to tree growth.

While the area surrounding Burlington is lush and green, canopy coverage is severely limited downtown in areas of high pedestrian activity.

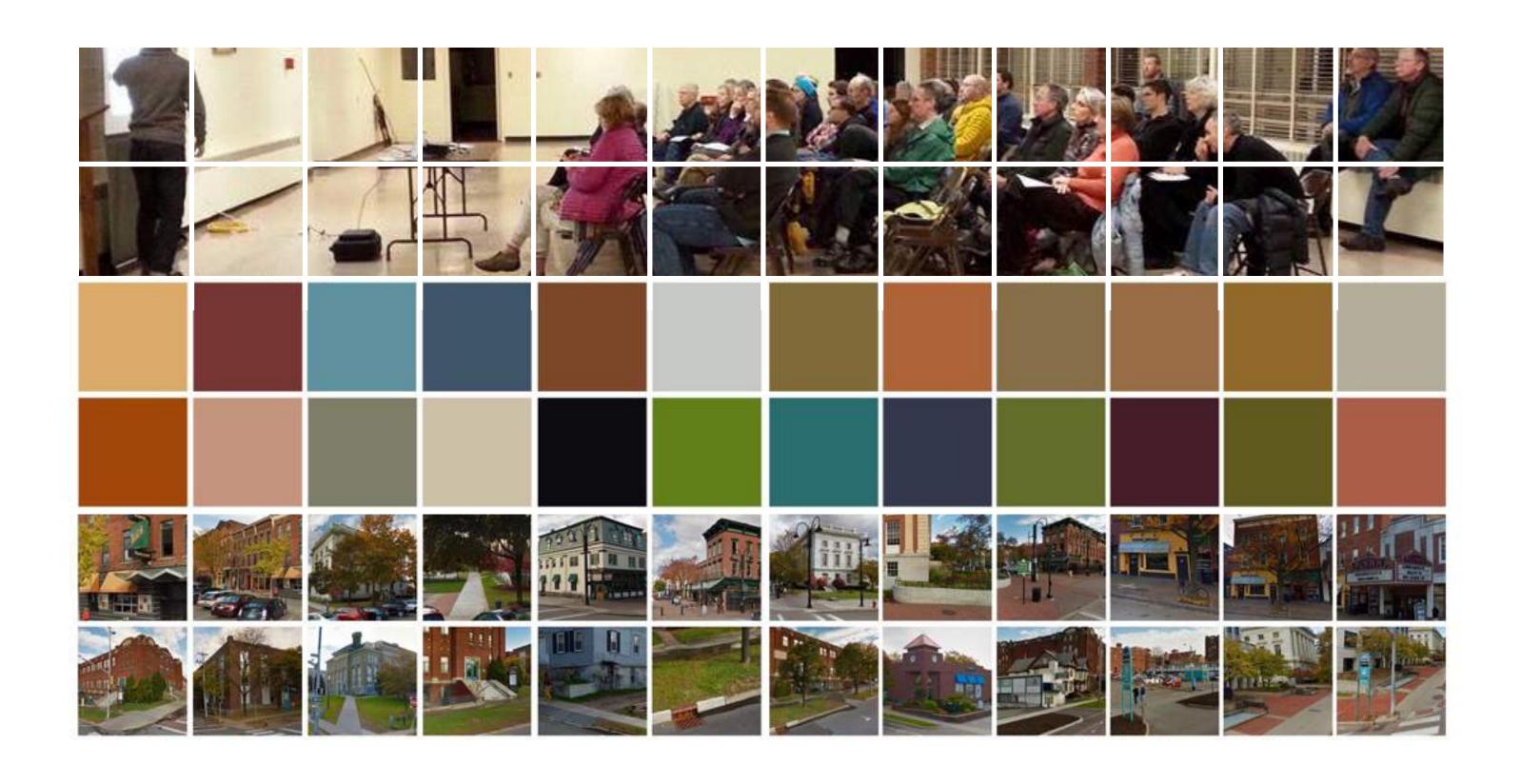


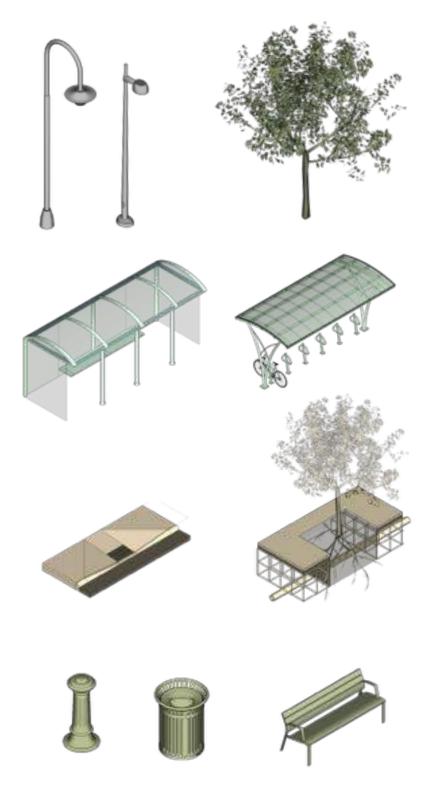
### 3. Key Design Ideas for Great Streets



# Key Design Ideas for Great Streets Distinctive Design Standards

design standards should feel like Burlington and reflect its history, character, architecture, people Stormwater
Trees
Lighting
Furnishings
Pathways



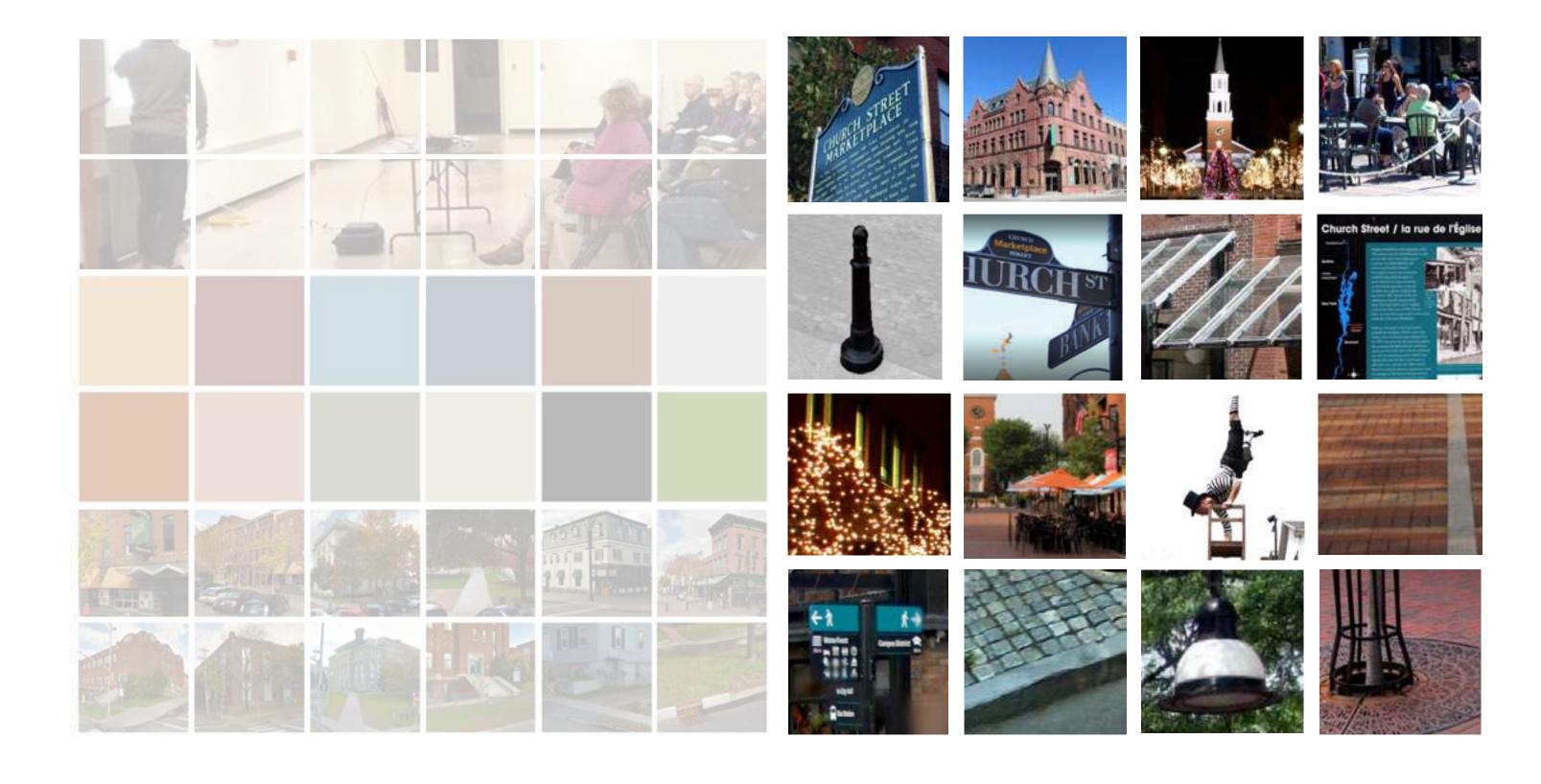


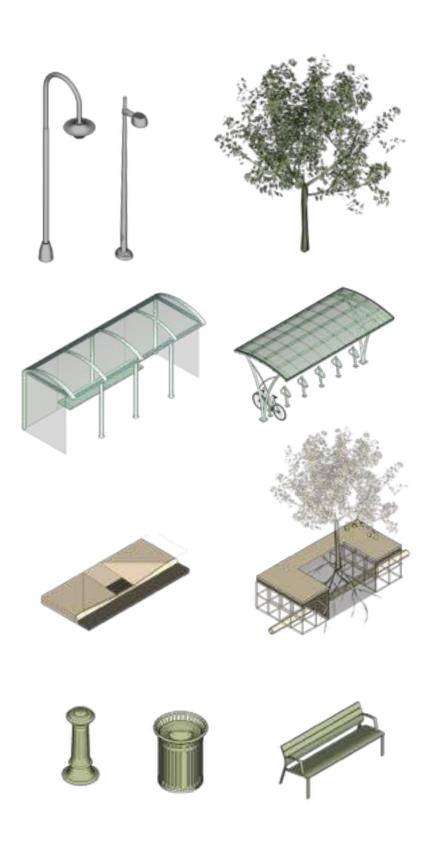


## Key Design Ideas for Great Streets Church Street Remains Special

The Marketplace has its own design standards and this should continue, but harmonize with rest of downtown

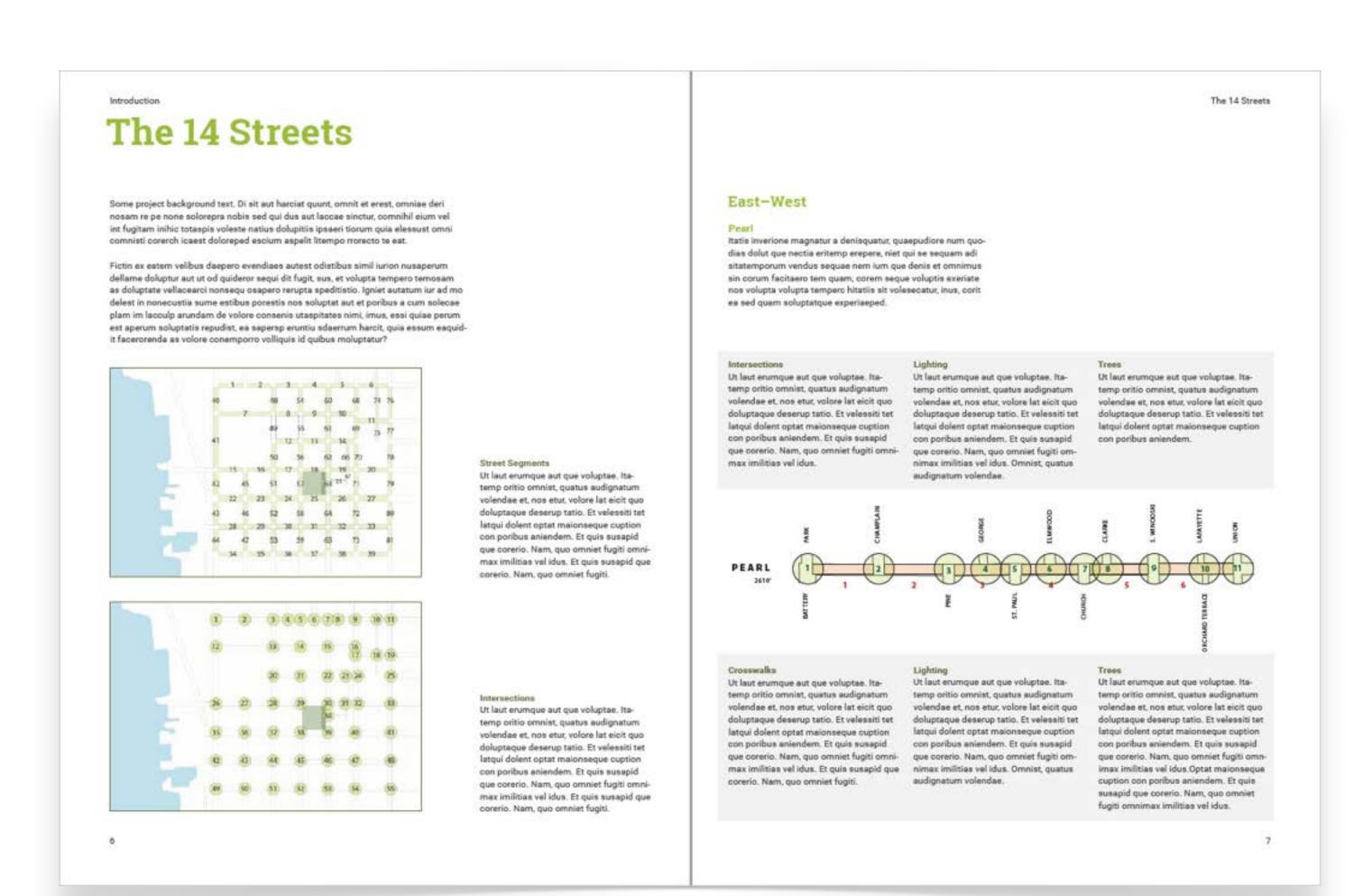
Stormwater
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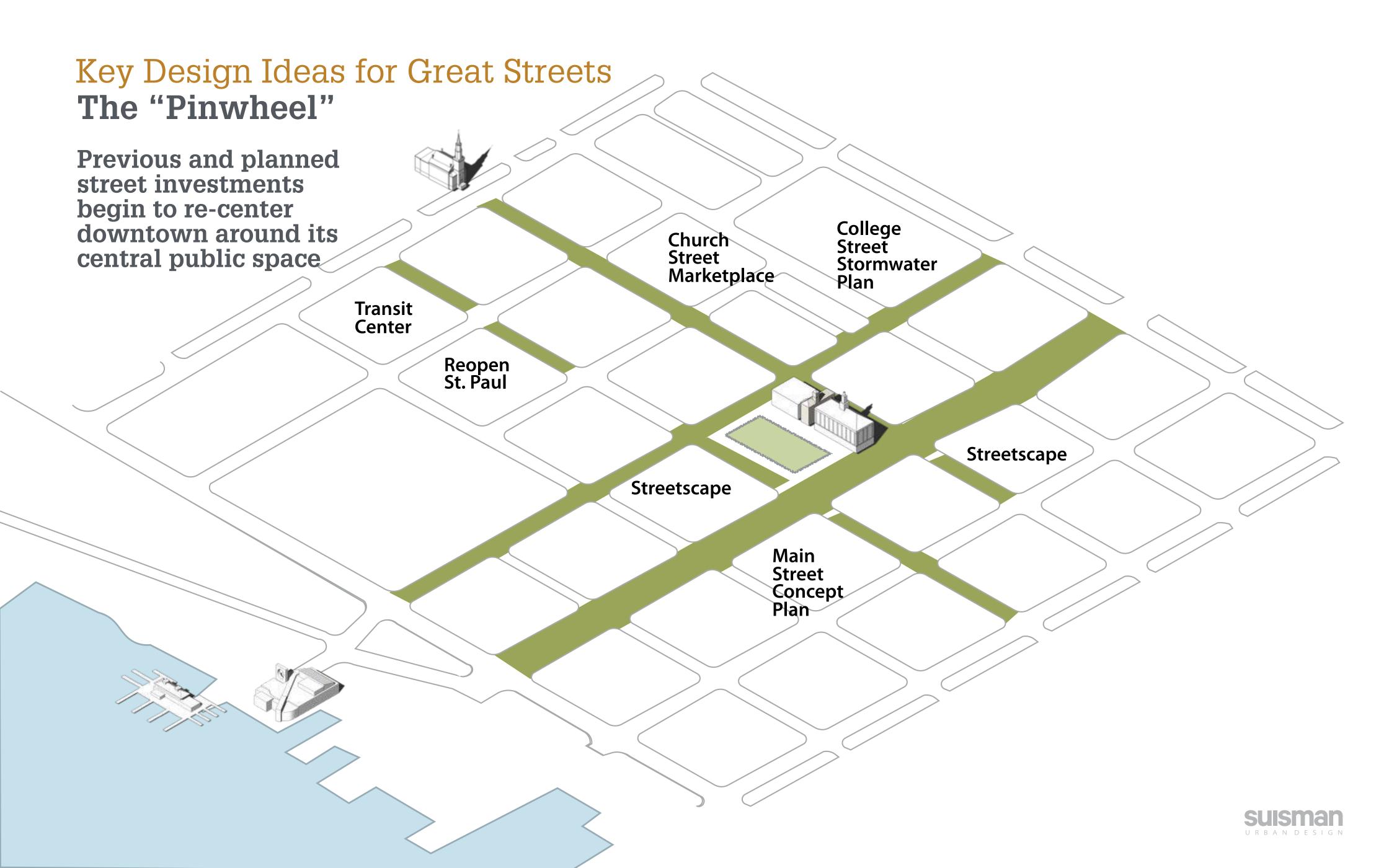


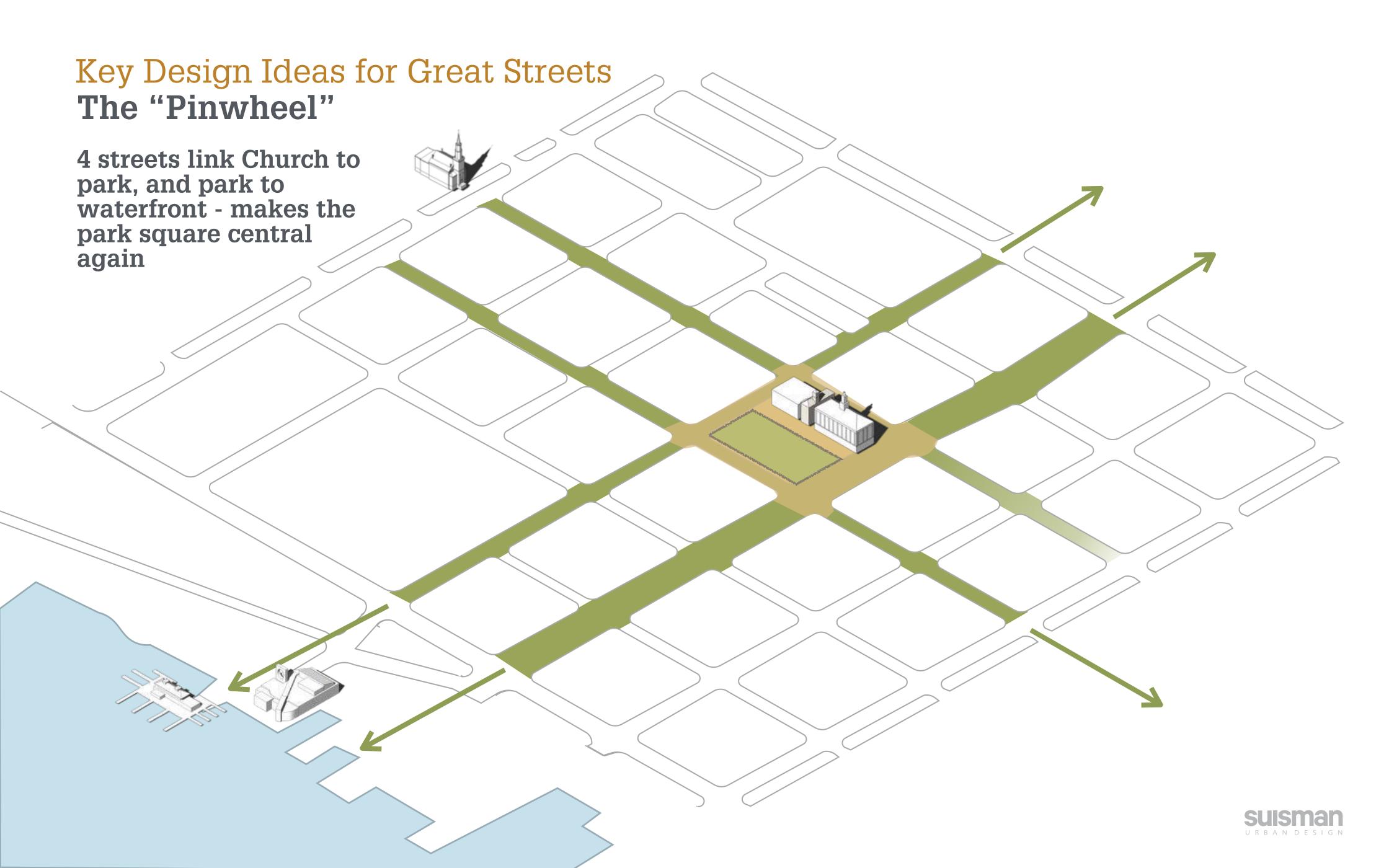


## Key Design Ideas for Great Streets 14 Corridors

The character and uses along each of the 14 street corridors can help develop standards which guide the level and type of public infrastructure investments.









# Key Design Ideas for Great Streets Park "Square"

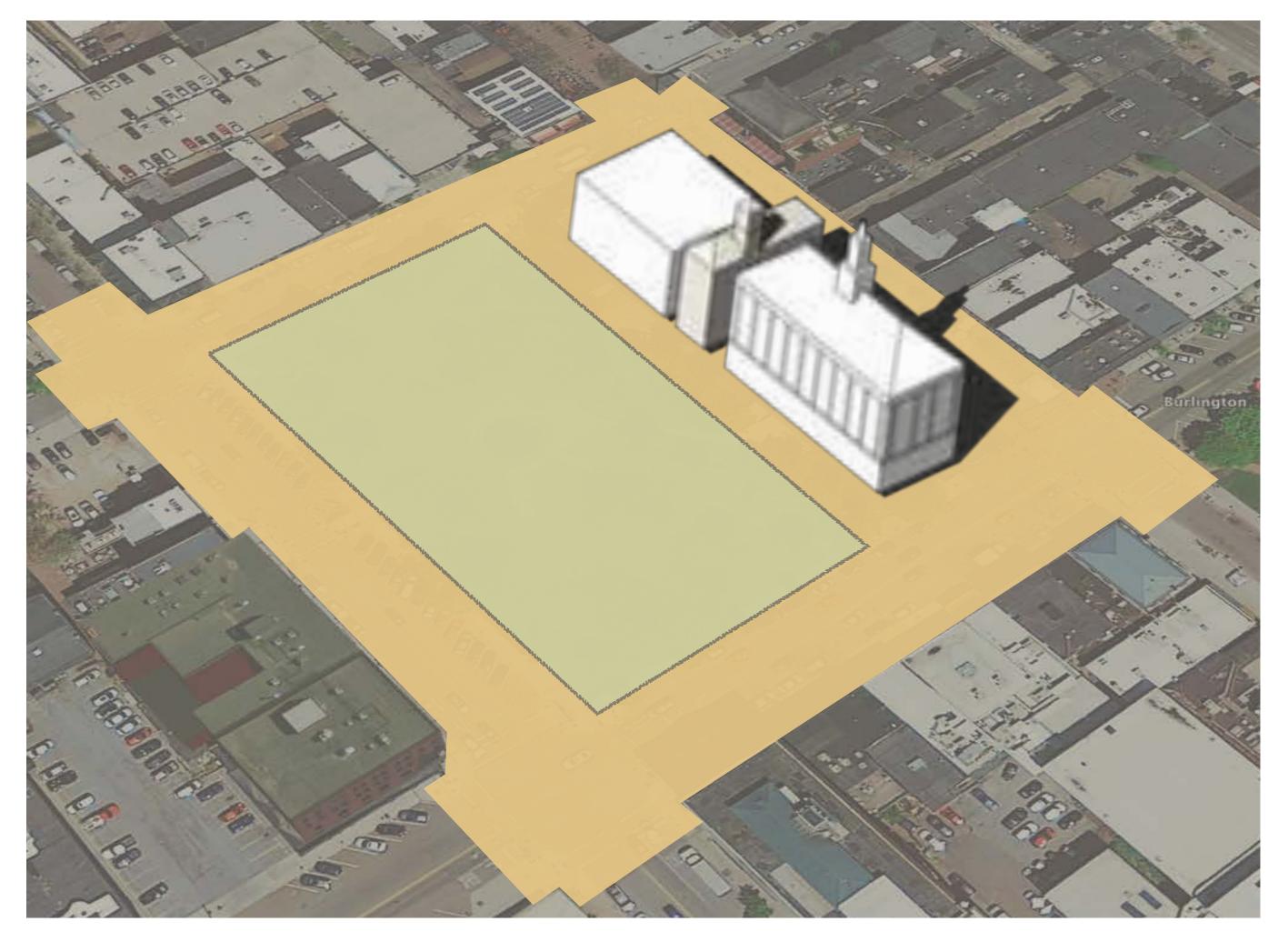
design entire block and space around the park, building face to building face - needs connecting - mid-block crosswalks? shared space? (park's final landscape design should come after the design standards, Main Corridor, and park square are clarified)





# Key Design Ideas for Great Streets Park "Square"

design entire block and space around the park, building face to building face - needs connecting - mid-block crosswalks? shared space? (park's final landscape design should come after the design standards, Main Corridor, and park square are clarified)





## Key Design Ideas for Great Streets Repair Hole in Tree Canopy

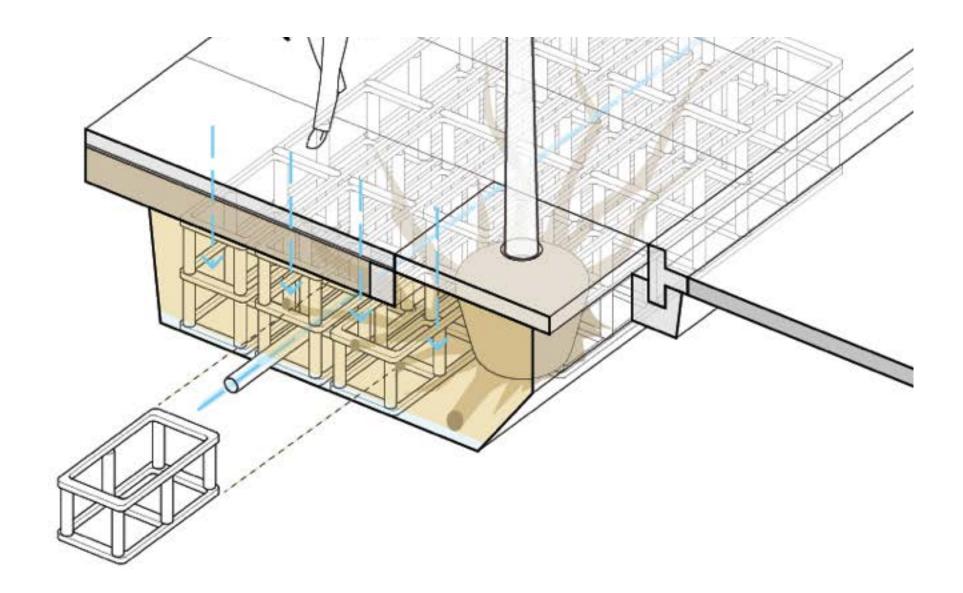
Downtown trees need help - weave street trees through the "oval hole" - improve planting conditions, increased soil volume

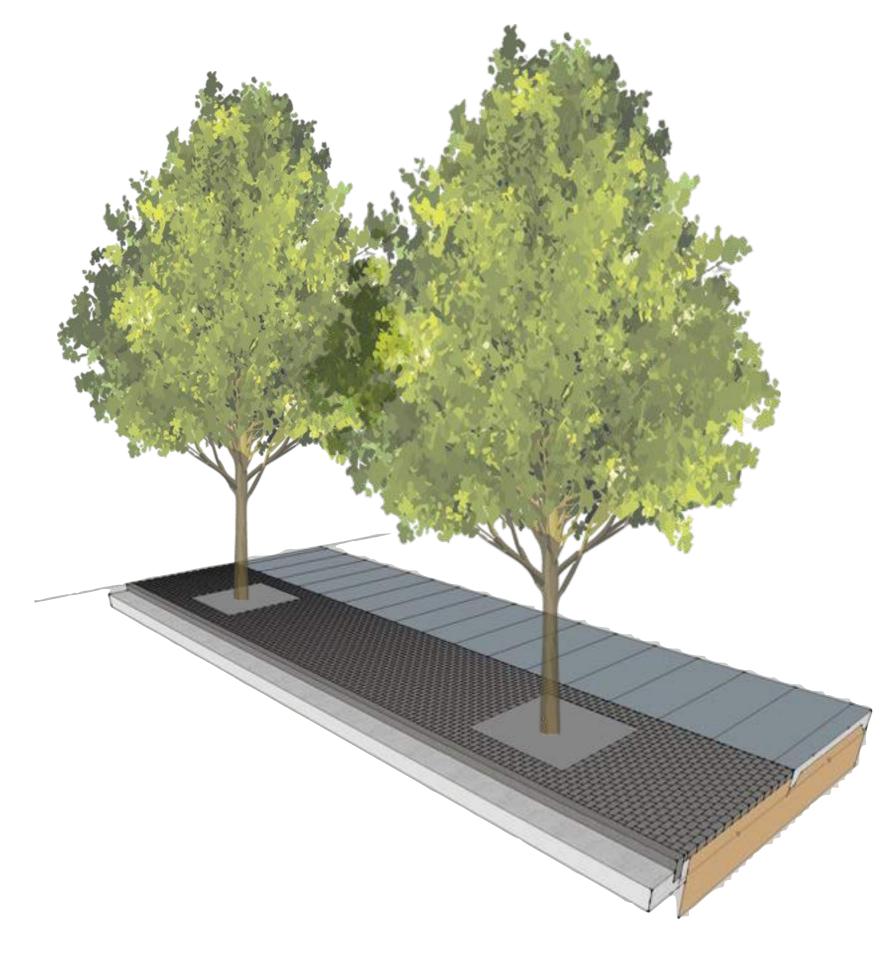
Burlington has the opportunity to extend the canopy into the downtown. By incorporating green infrastructure and adequate soil volumes in Great Street design guidelines, Burlington can weave trees throughtout the downtown.



## Key Design Ideas for Great Streets Green From Sidewalk Up

Let stormwater design and healthy tree installation help set design direction





## Key Design Ideas for Great Streets Durable Materials Needed

broken concrete curbs leave bad impression; in treebelt, grass not sustainable, existing cobbles not performing well







The City now uses concrete curbs, which are not very durable, and show widespread damage from weather, snowplowing, and age. Materials like granite are historic, very durable, attractive, and locally available material. It is used by many cities, despite higher initial cost, because of lower life-cyle costs.





## Session A. Downtown Street Design Standards



## A

Create

## **Downtown Street Design Standards**

- Stormwater
- Trees
- Lighting
- Furnishings
- Pathways

## $\mathbf{B}$

Create

## **Main Street Concept Plan**

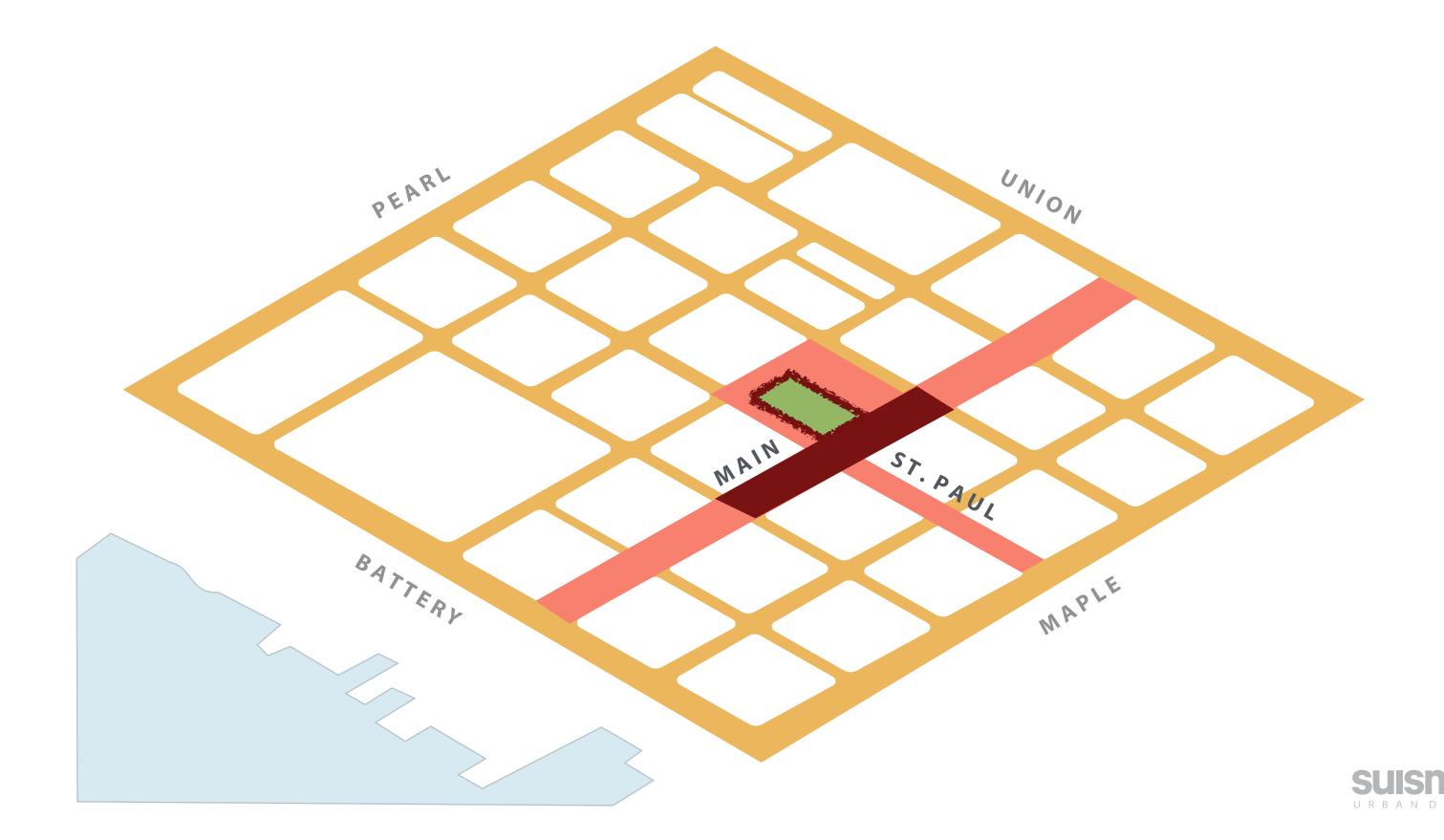
- Main Street (6 blocks)
- City Square
- St. Paul Street (2 blocks)

## C

Design & Build

## Park & Main Project

- Main Street (2 blocks)
- City Hall Park



## A

## Create

## **Downtown Street Design Standards**

- Stormwater
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## $\mathbf{B}$

## Create

## Main Street Concept Plan

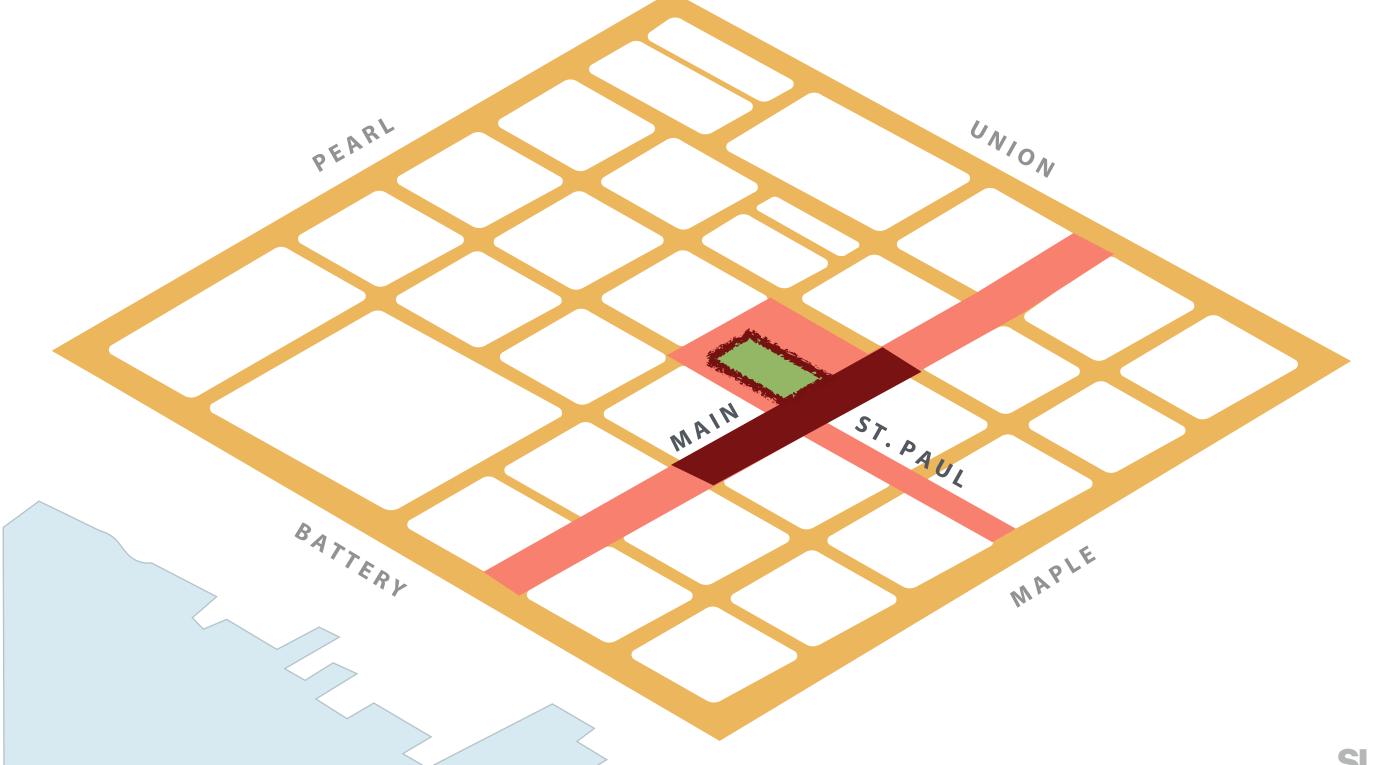
- Main Street (6 blocks)
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### C

Design & Build

## Park & Main Project

- Main Street (2 blocks)
- City Hall Park



Create **Downtown Street Design Standards** Stormwater Trees

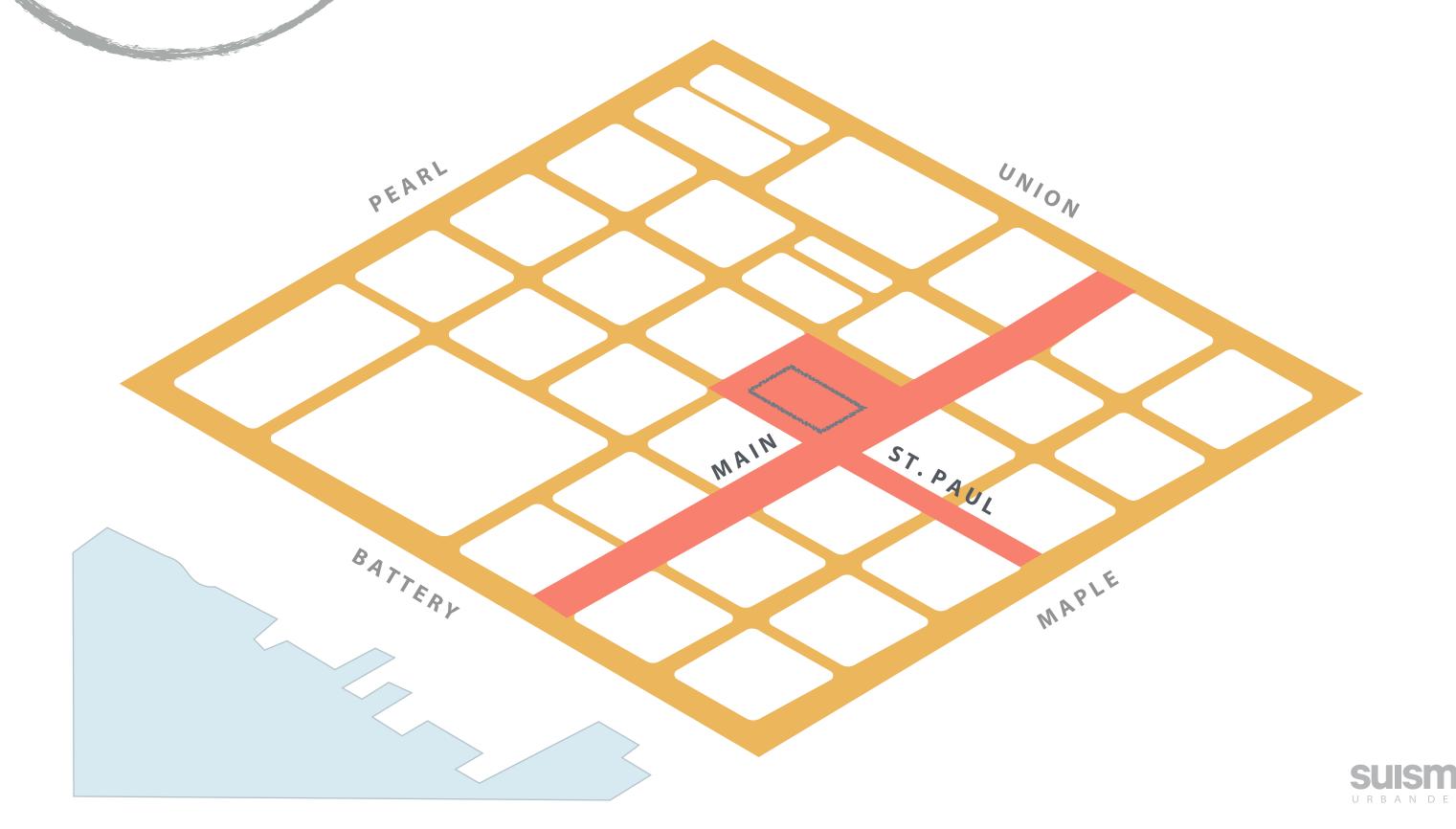
- Lighting
- Furnishings
- Pathways

B

Create

**Main Street Concept Plan** 

- Main Street (6 blocks)
- City Square
- St. Paul Street (2 blocks)



## A Downtown Street Design Standards

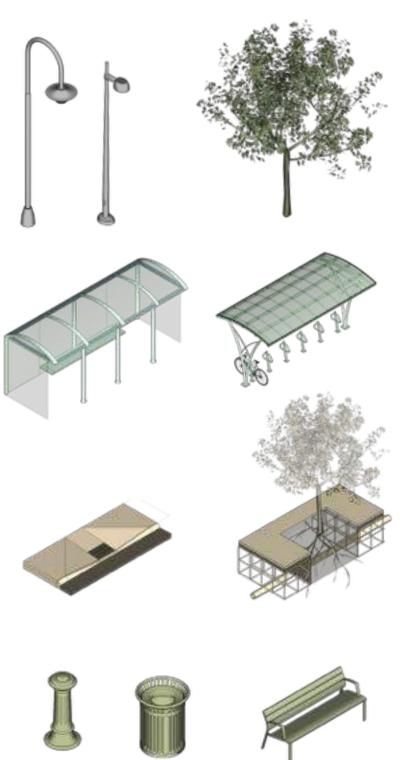
A manual to guide street design in downtown Burlington for the next generation

# Great Streets

City of Burlington **Street Design & Construction Standards** 

August 1, 2016

**Stormwater** Trees Lighting **Furnishings Pathways** 







## A Downtown Street Design Standards

A manual to guide street design in downtown Burlington for the next generation

Mobility Systems

## Streets

### Pedestrian Pathway

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### Sidewalk Type 3

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Type 1: Concrete paving



Type 2: Brick pavers

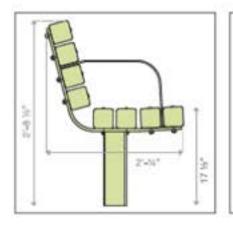


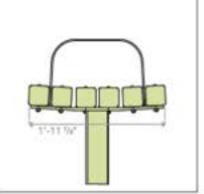
Type 3: Granite pavers

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Short description of this sidewalk

material. Short description of this

sidewalk material. Short description

### Bench 1

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### Bench 2

Short description of this sidewalk

Cost: \$XX.00

Cost: \$XX.00

material. Short description of this

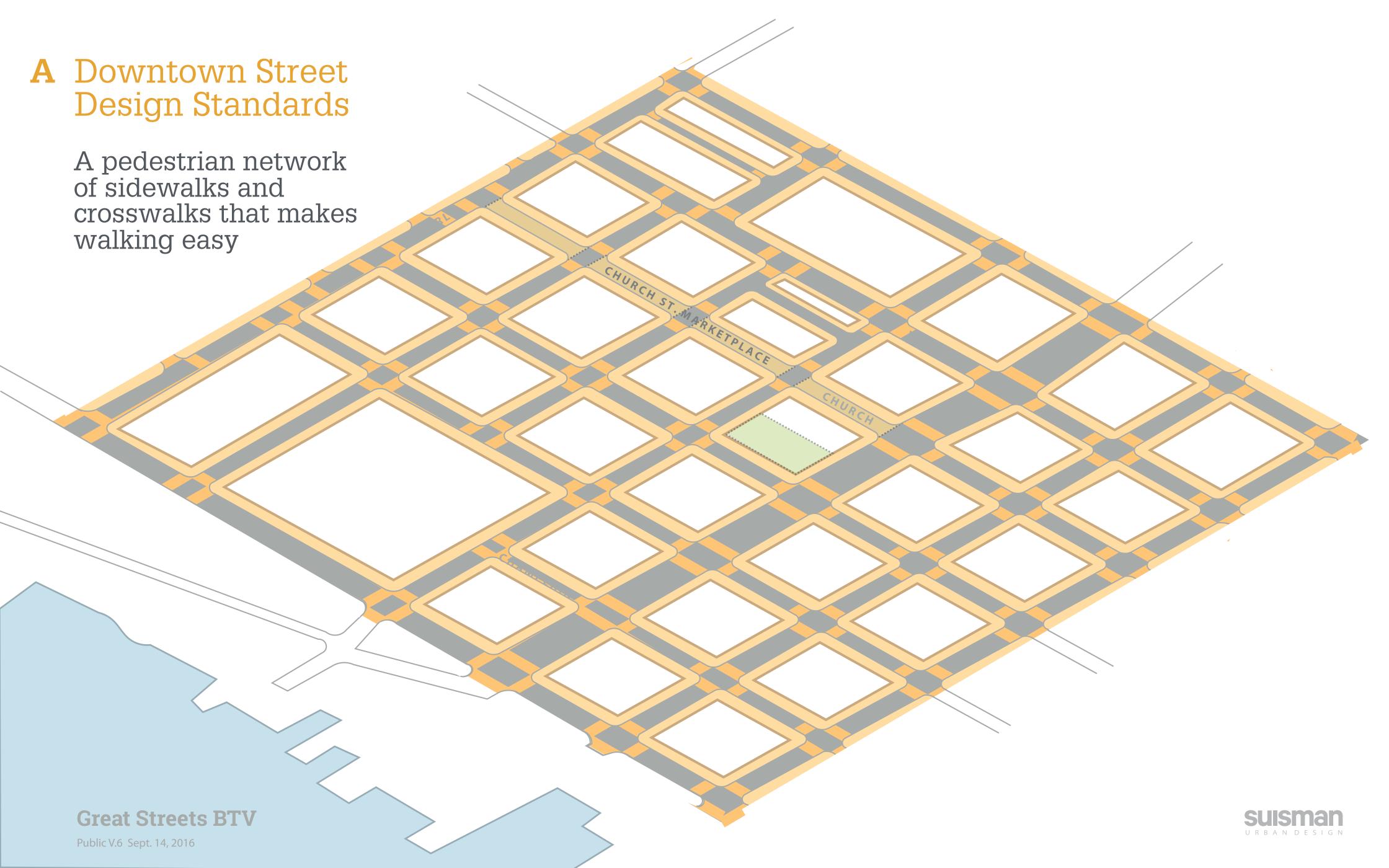
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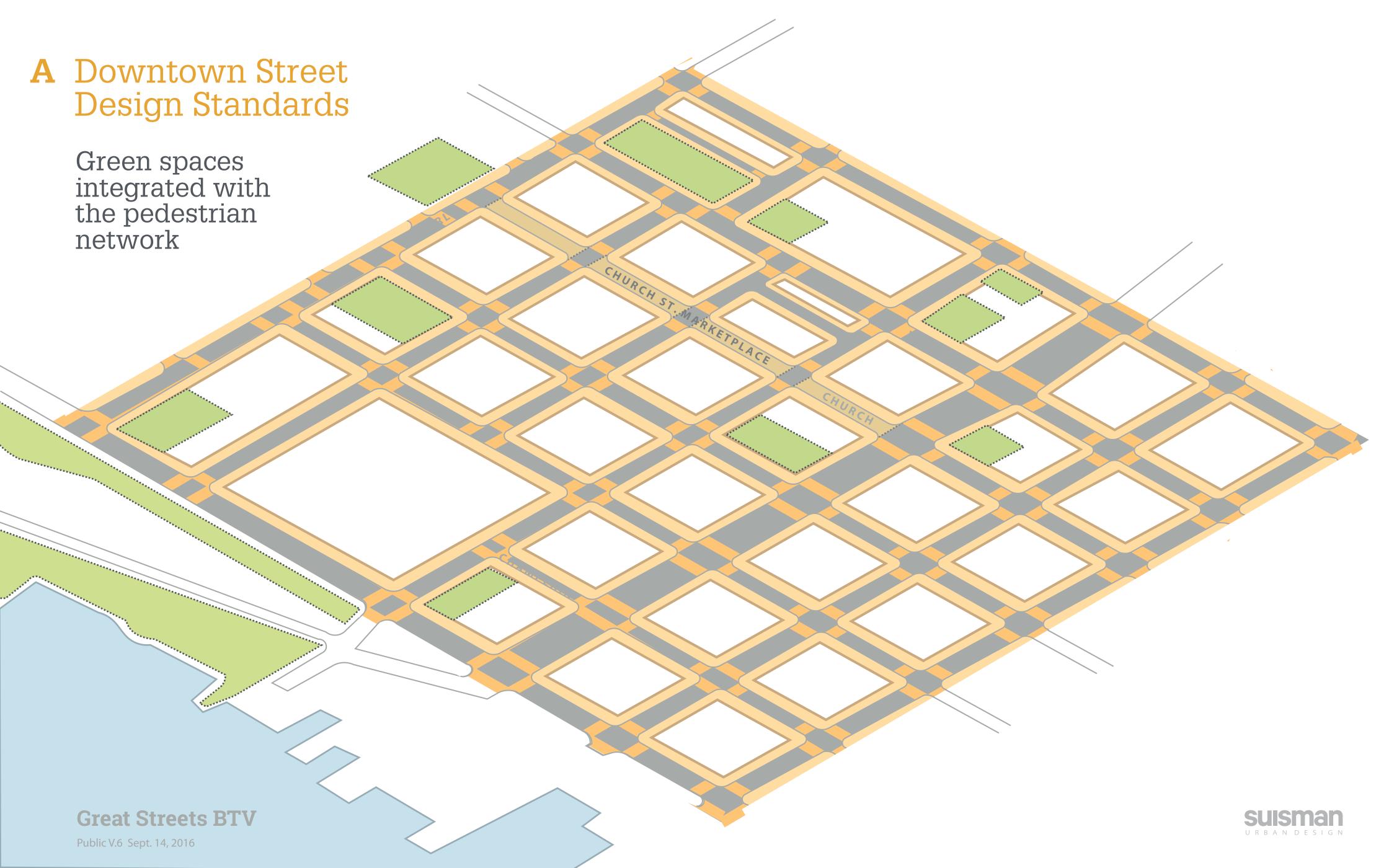
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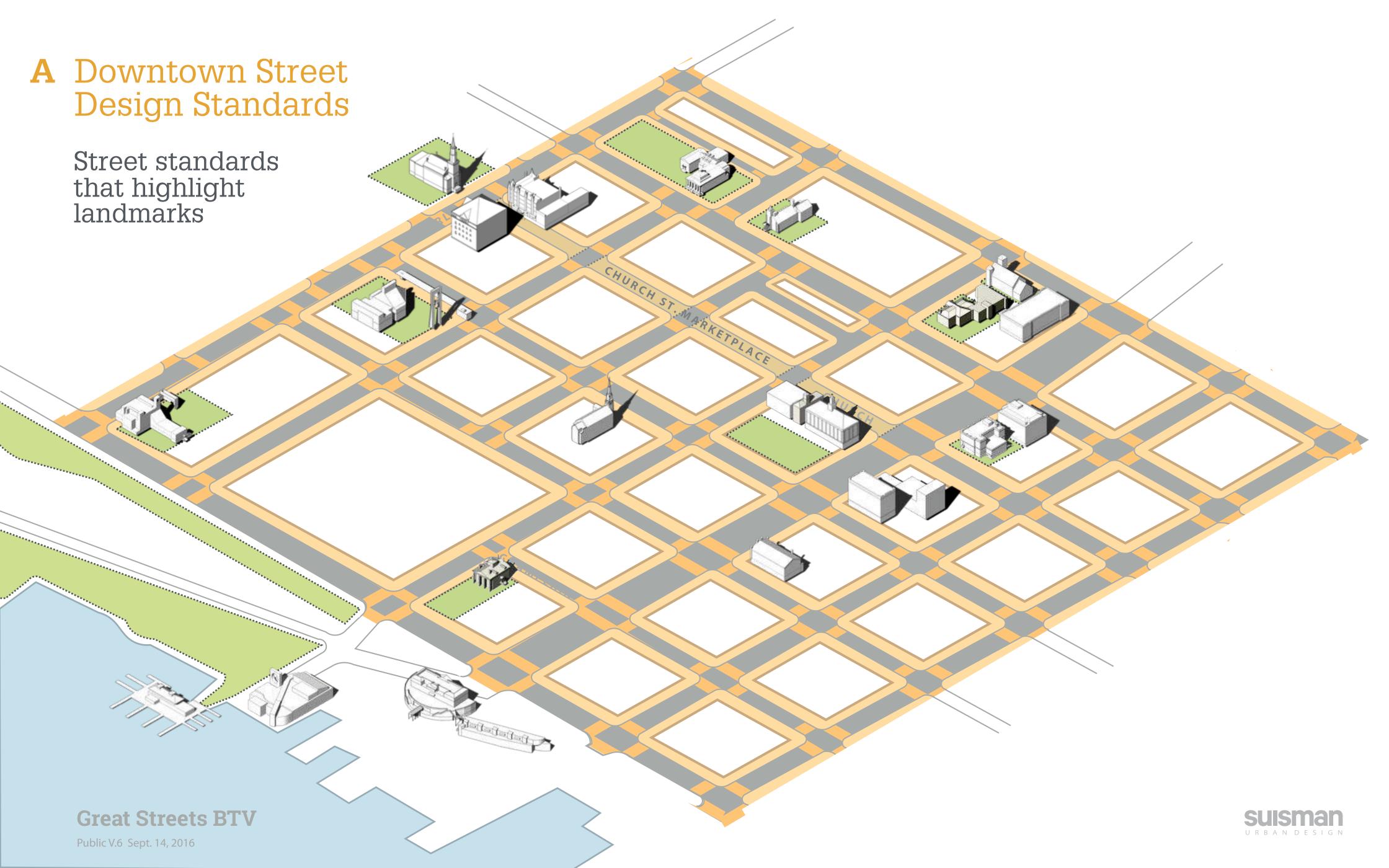
of this sidewalk material.

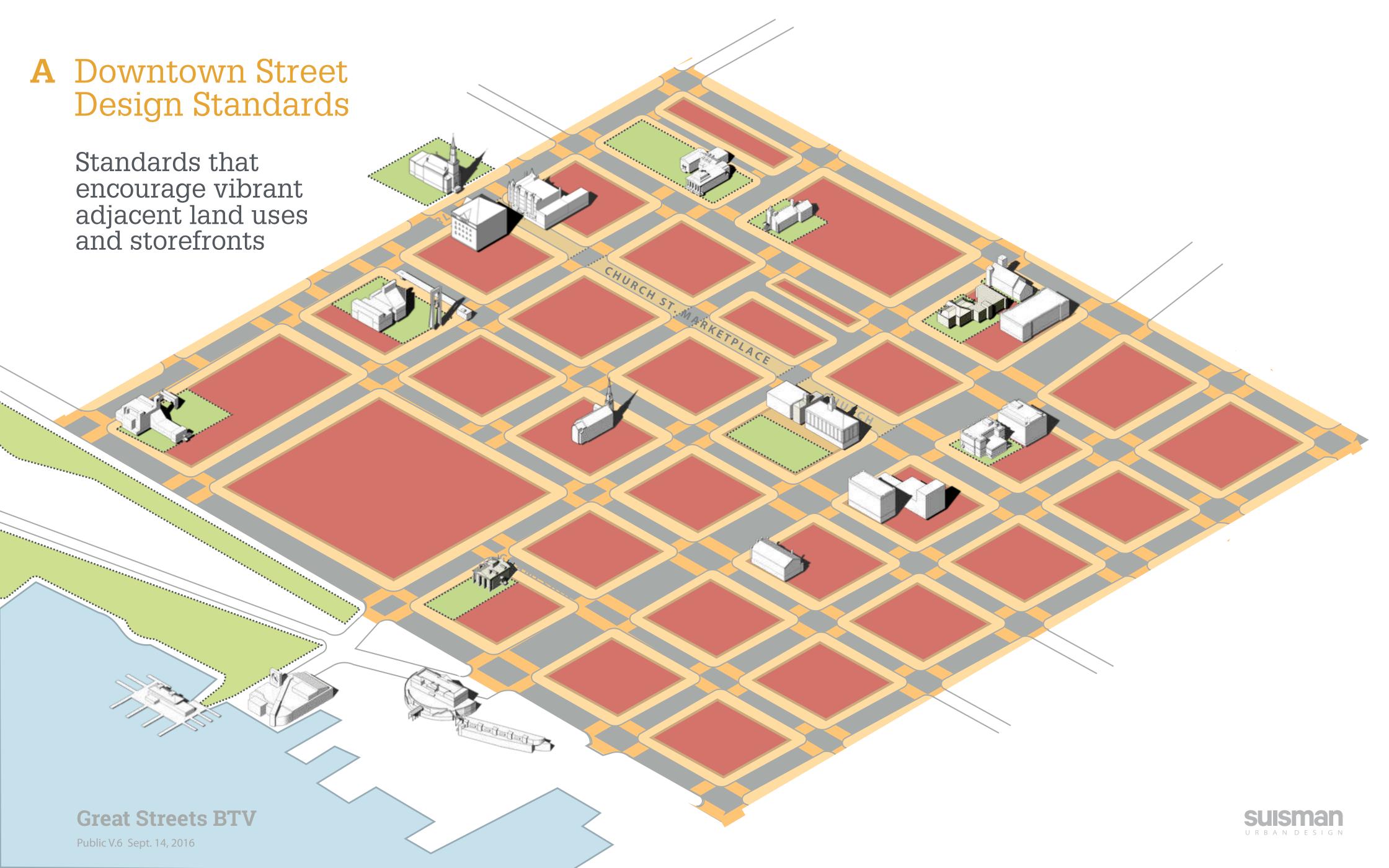
Cost: \$XX.00

Bench 3



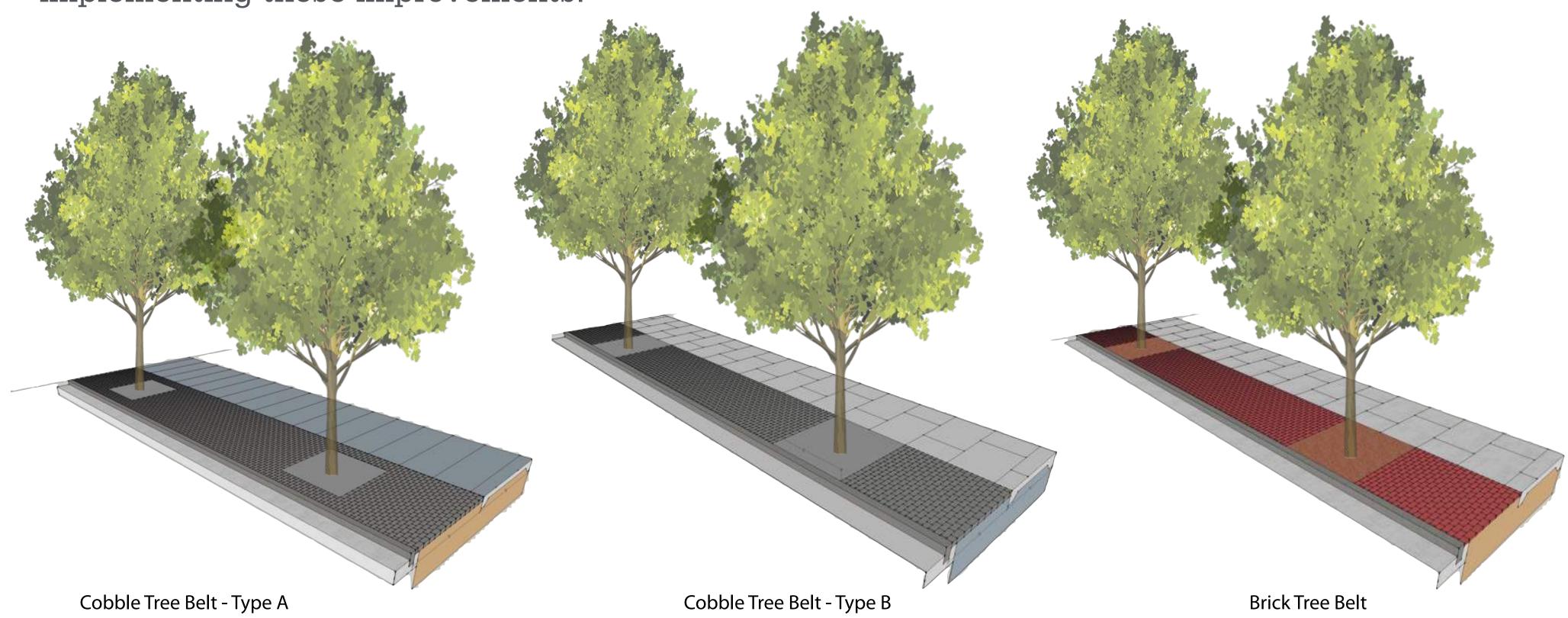






## A Downtown Street Design Standards

Example of design options that can address constraints/trade-offs that the City may be faced with when implementing these improvements.



## Session B. Main Street Concept Plan

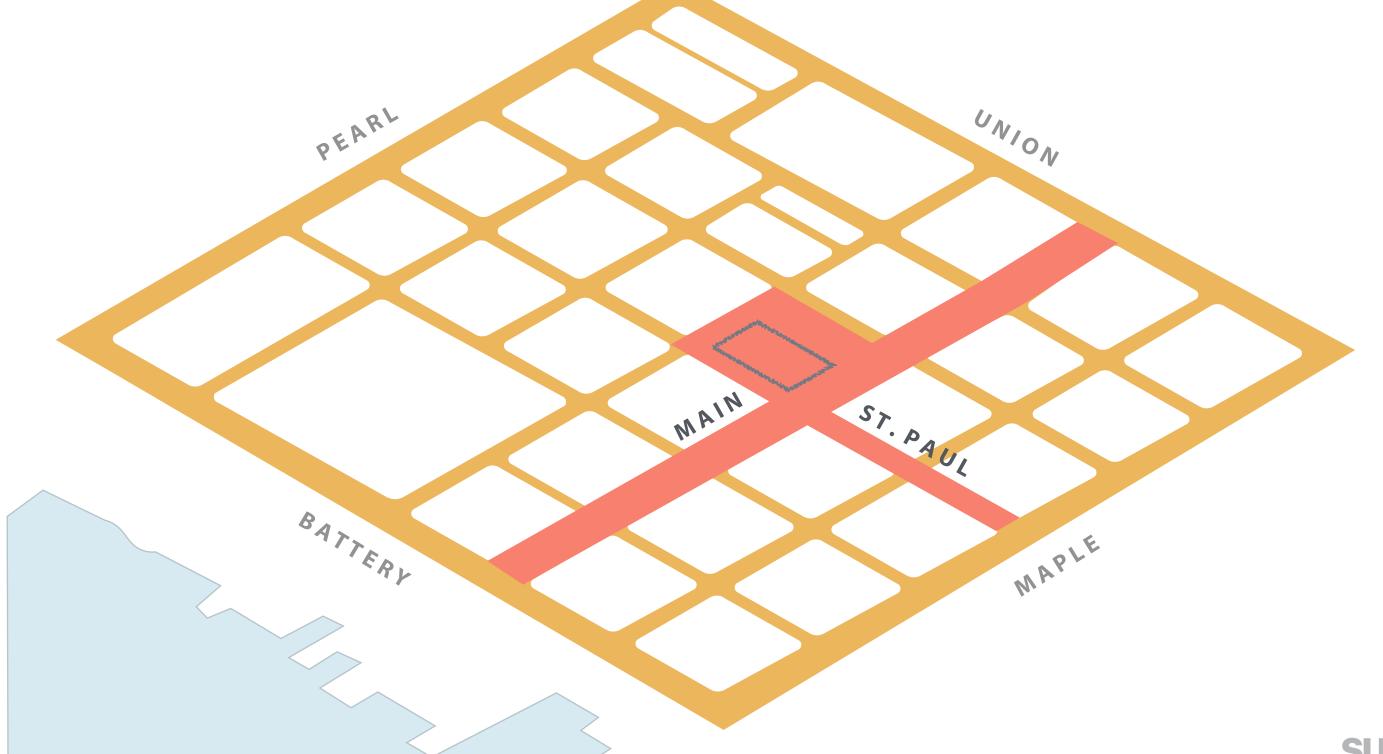


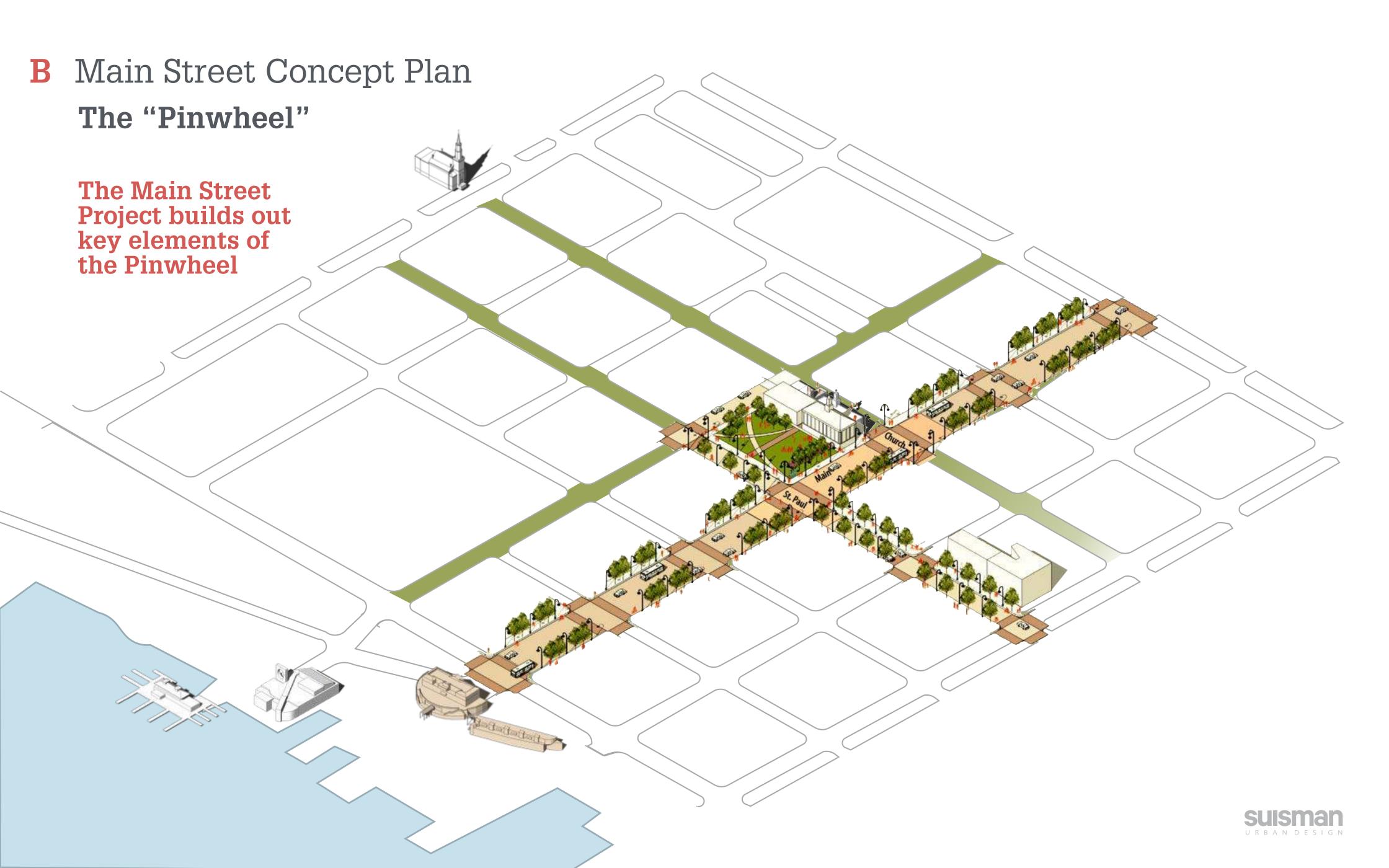
# A Create Downtown Street Design Standards

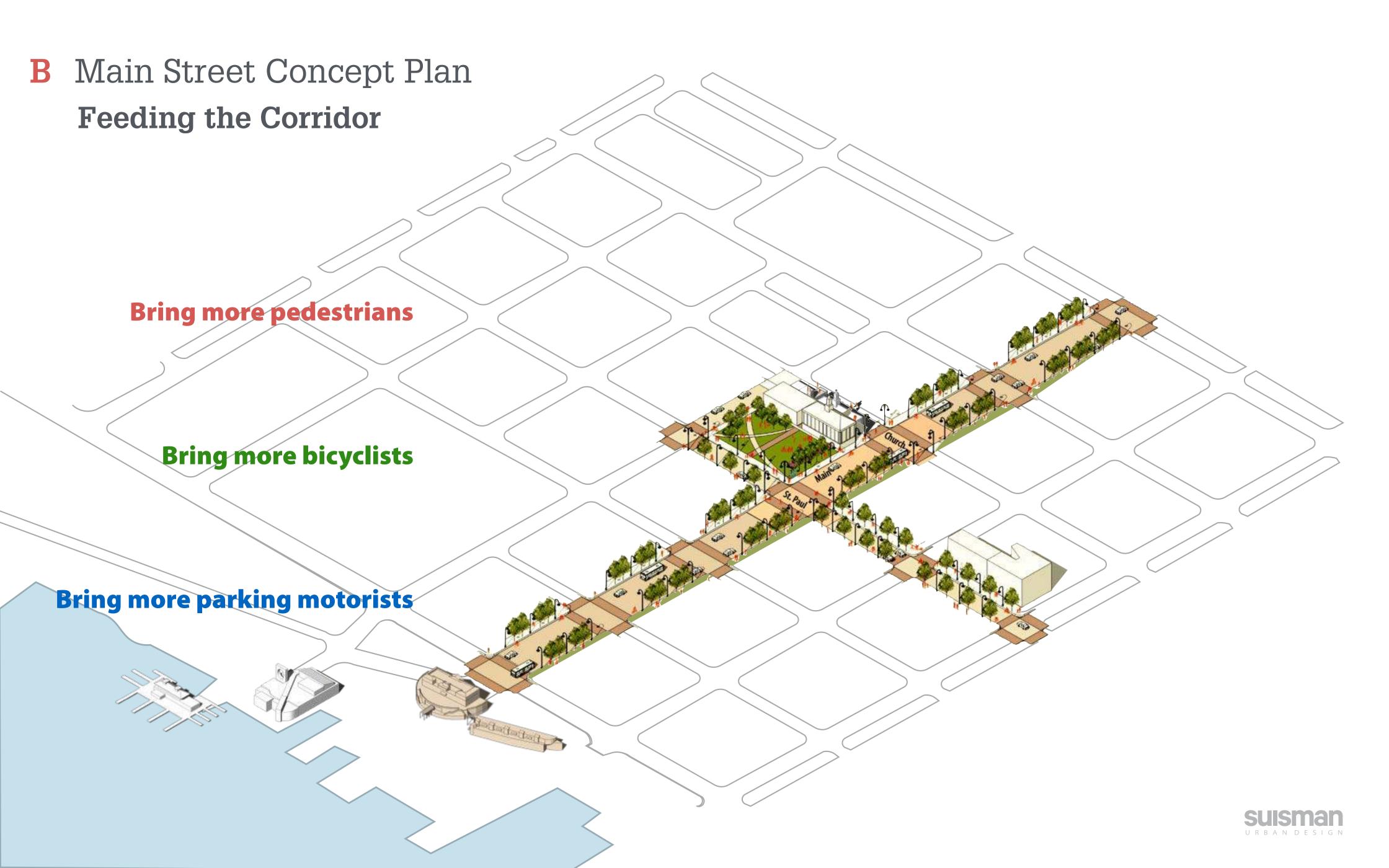
- Stormwater
- Trees
- Lighting
- Furnishings
- Pathways

# B Create Main Street Concept Plan

- Main Street (6 blocks)
- City Square
- St. Paul Street (2 blocks)



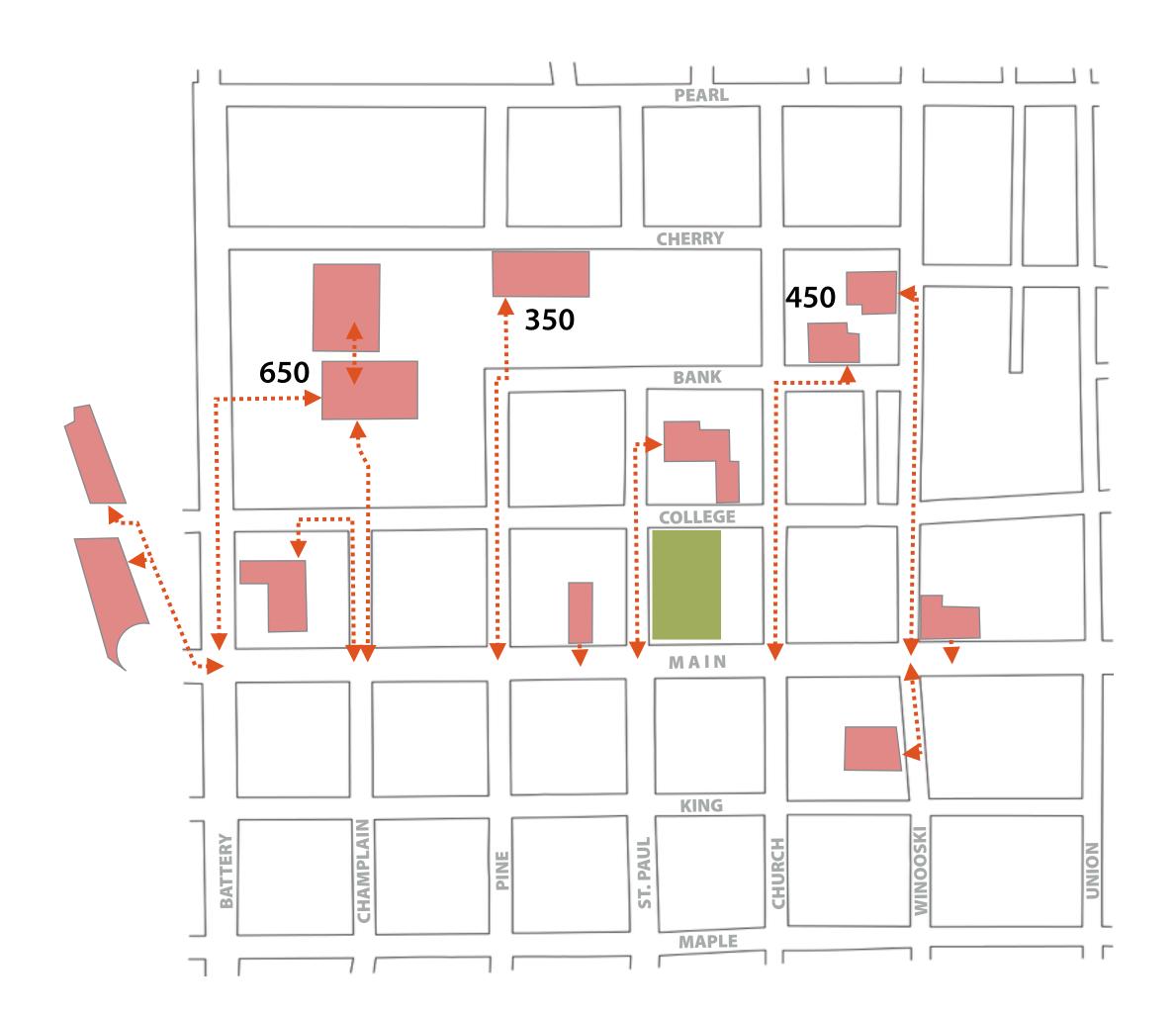




Developing a dynamic district program to connect Main Street businesses with all parking resources, on street and off street



Pedestrian / Vehicular Route





## Capitalizing on the benefits of a protected bike lane

## Long-Term Bikeway Network

Shared Use Path

Protected Bike Lane

Neighborhood Greenway

Buffered/Conventional Bicycle Lane

- - Advisory Bicycle Lane

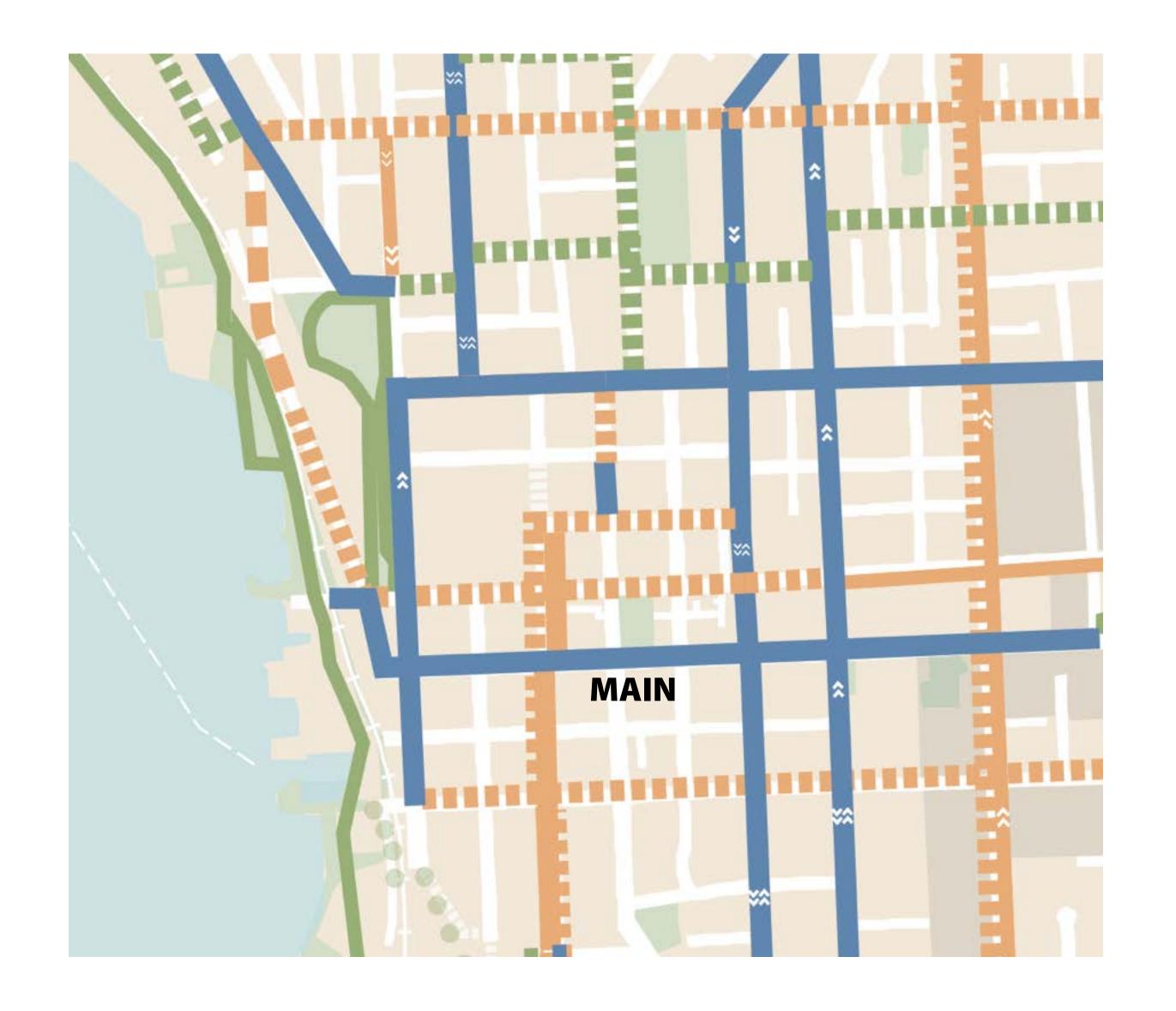
Shared Use Lane Markings

•••• Potential Path Easement

----- City Boundary

Park

University/Campus Area





Diagonal parking takes more pavement per parking space:

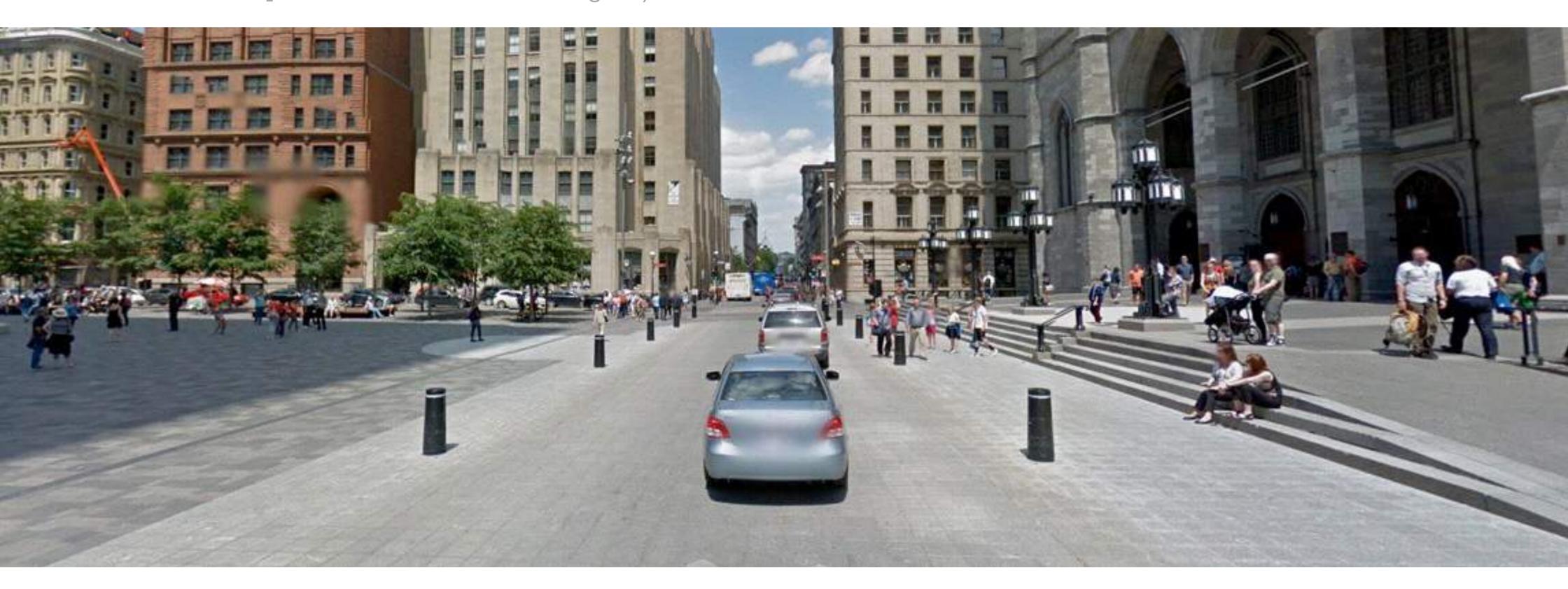
- Wasted corners
- Circulation needed to maneuver into spaces

Each diagonal parking space takes 150% the area of parallel





Example of Shared space (Place d'Armes, Montreal) (note: shown for reference only; no conversion to one-way streets is anticipated for downtown Burlington)



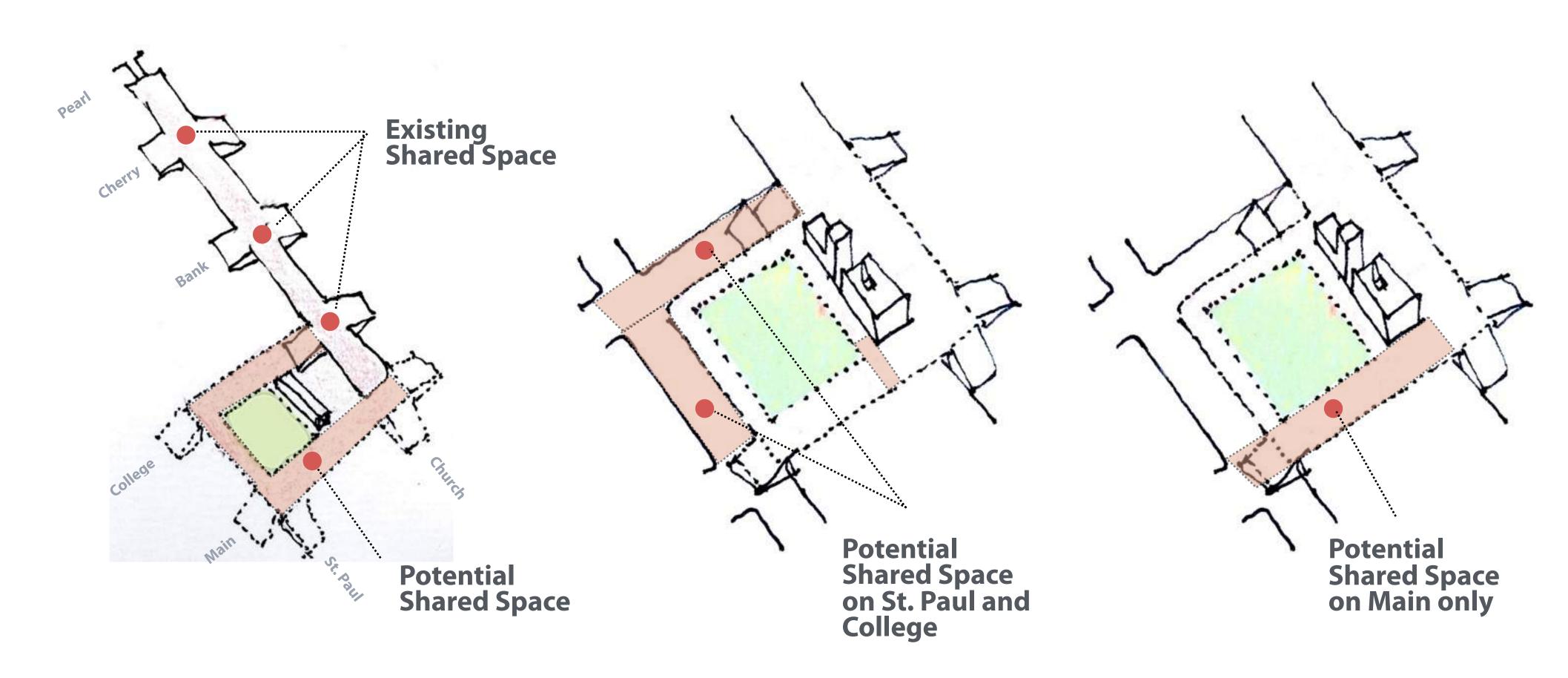


Potential shared space for the park square





Potential shared space for the park square





## Design Team



Doug SUISMAN



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GIBSON



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## Questions



# A Street Design Standards Stormwater

## Rain Gardens

Stormwater runoff contributes to the pollution of Lake Champlain. One method for reducing runoff is to introduce rain gardens into the sidewalk areas and bump-outs to help slow down and pre-treat runoff. Should the City invest in innovate approaches for stormwater management within its public streets?





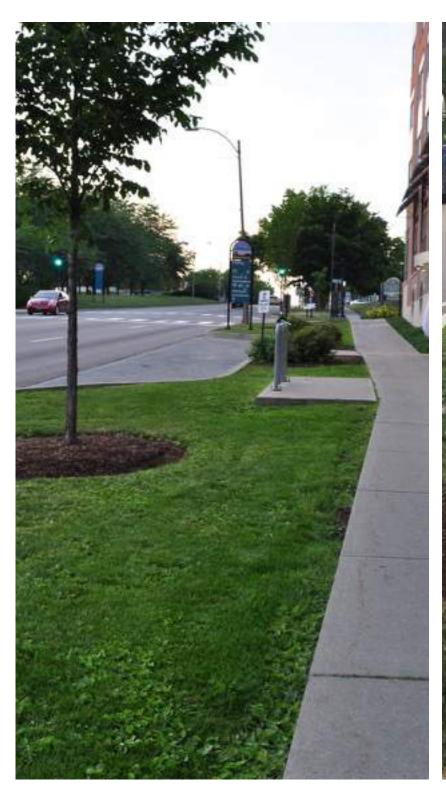




# A Street Design Standards Stormwater

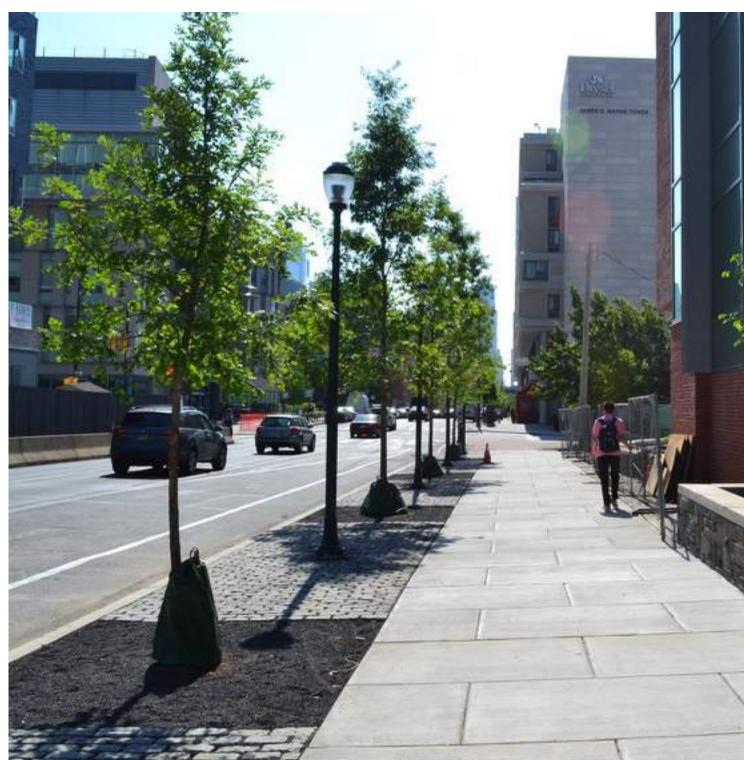
## **Treebelt Paving**

Many of downtown's street trees are growing in grass plots between sidewalks and parking lanes. These plots can cause problems for stormwater runoff and maintenance due to heavy pedestrian use downtown. Pavers or cobbles can be used instead to allow water to permeate, but must be well-designed and maintained. Should the City invest in permeable paving materials such as pavers, cobbles or bricks to encourage tree growth and protect from erosion?









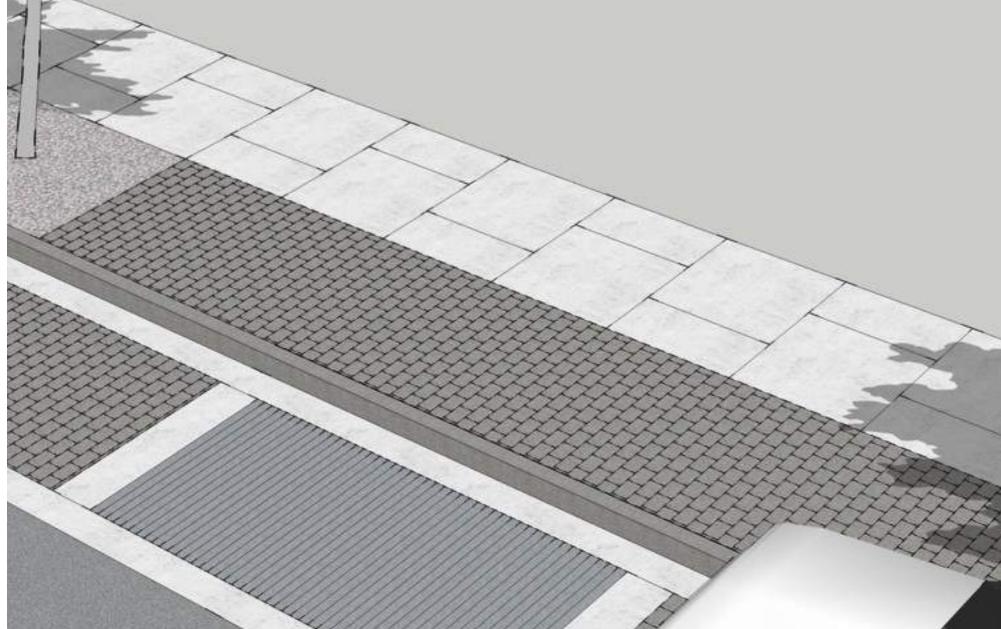
Existing Possible Treatment Possible Treatment

### A Street Design Standards Stormwater

#### **Parking Lane Grates**

Stormwater runoff contributes to the pollution of Lake Champlain. One experimental method for reducing runoff is to introduce grates in parking lanes. These capture runoff and channel it to raingardens on bumpouts downstream. Should the City consider a pilot project to test innovative approaches such as this?



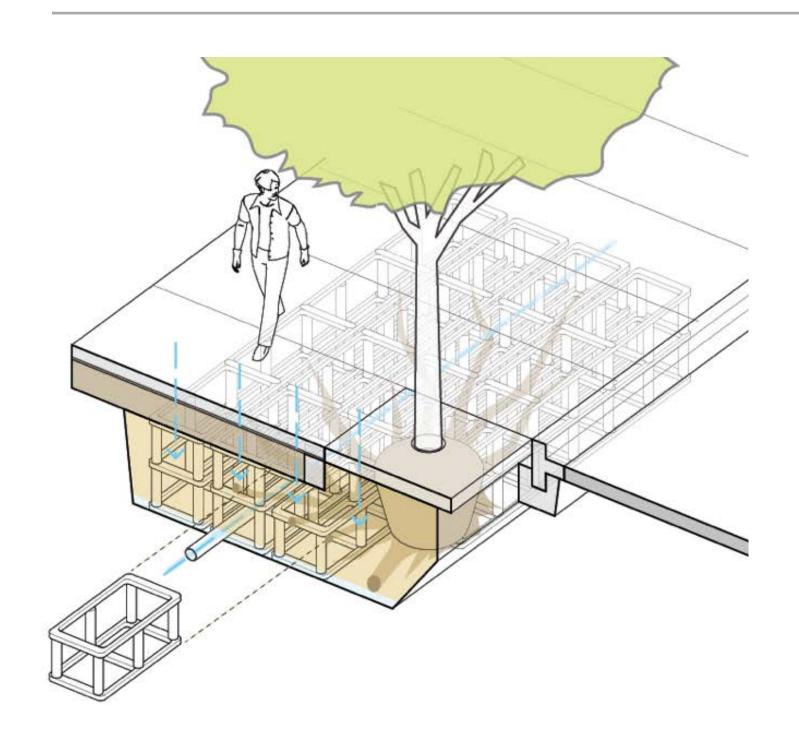


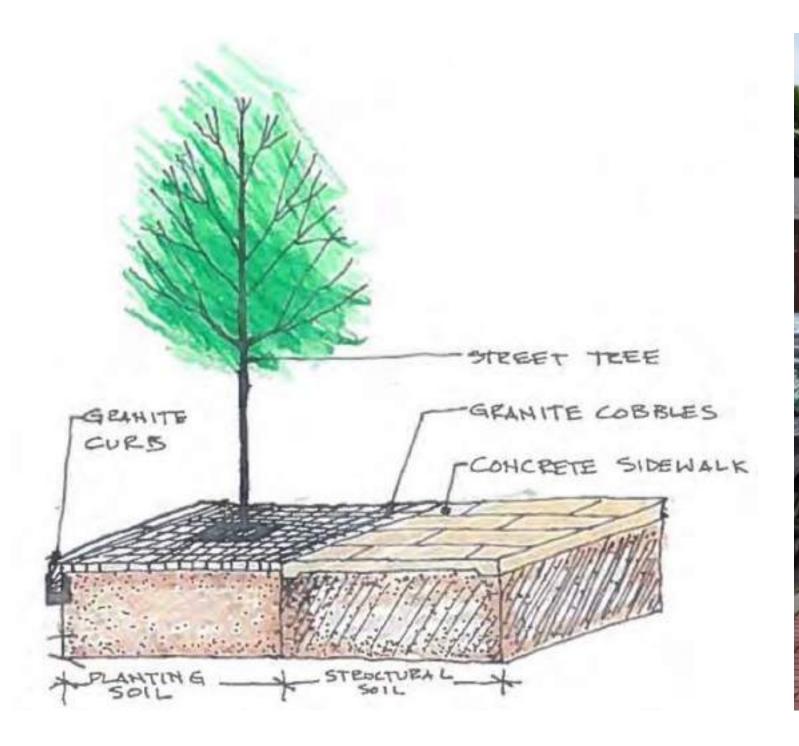


### A Street Design Standards Trees

#### Silva Cells / Structural Soils

There is a large gap in the tree canopy in downtown; many trees are struggling to grow because compacted soil is preventing healthy root growth and others have been lost to disease or damage. Two methods for improving street tree health are silva cells, which is a below-grade cage, and the use of structural soils; both of these allow roots to spread out and grow; but are more expensive to install. Should the City invest in innovative approaches to expand the downtown tree canopy?







### A Street Design Standards Furnishings

#### **Covered Bike Parking**

The DRAFT Bike/Walk Plan calls for Burlington to add more high-capacity bicycle parking facilities, and expand infrastructure that will encourage more winter cycling. Covered bike racks can help with both of these things, but they cost more. Should the City invest in covered bike racks in its downtown?











### A Street Design Standards Pathways

#### **Durable Curbs**

In downtown outside of Church Street Marketplace, the City generally uses concrete curbs, which are not very durable and often show damage from weather, snowplows and age. Many New England communities use materials like granite, which have an historic and attractive aesthetic, long lifespan, durability in cold-weather climates, and local availablity. Despite a higher initial cost, these curbs often have lower life-cycle costs. Should the City invest in a curb material like granite for both its durability and appearance?



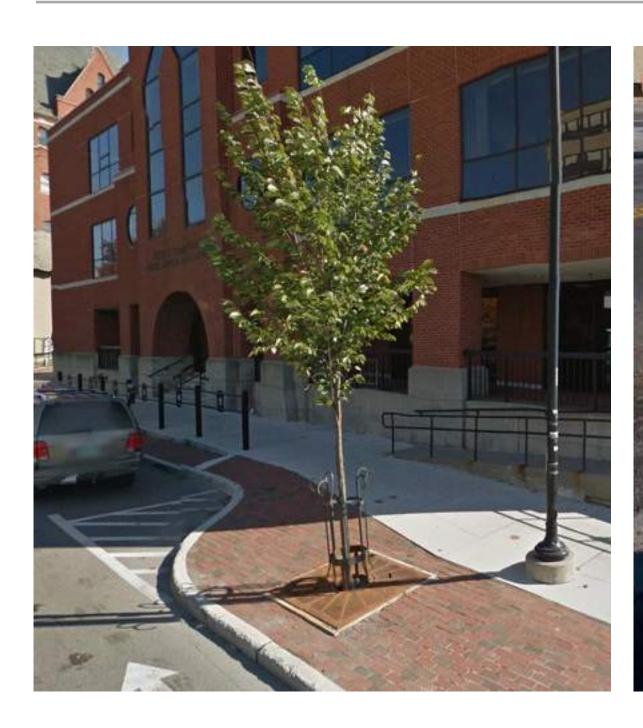




## A Street Design Standards Pathways

**Bumpouts** 

Burlington already uses bumpouts at some intersections to widen pedestrian space, improve safety, and provide more room for street furnishings and landscaping. Should the City invest in more bumpouts throughout downtown as a way to improve these conditions?









### A Street Design Standards Pathways

#### **Concrete Sidewalks**

Many downtown sidewalks need to be reconstructed and widened. Brick sidewalks, which are currently associated with Church Street, can be attractive to build and maintain. Some communities use colored concrete as an alternative, but it is not usually a convincing substitute. Should the City invest in less expensive, more durable concrete sidewalks with natural coloring and reserve more expensive materials for tree belts, accents, etc.?











## A Street Design Standards Pathways Enhanced Crosswalks

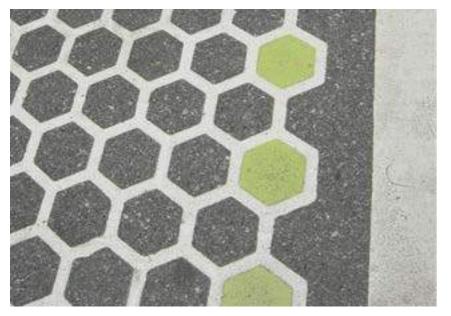
Downtown already has some enhanced crosswalks around Church Street, but most are the conventional painted type. There are new methods of scoring and thermoplastic patterning crosswalks that are more visible for safety, cost-effective, attractive and durable. Should the City invest in these innovative techniques?













## B The Main Street Project Main Street Protected Bike Lane

There is considerable public support for a "protected" bike lane (physically separated from traffic) on Main Street, from UVM to the lakefront. Such a lane is feasible through downtown if some on-street parking is reduced or the street trees are modified along some stretches of Main. Understanding these potential tradeoffs, should the City incorporate the protected bike lane in the design for Main Street?







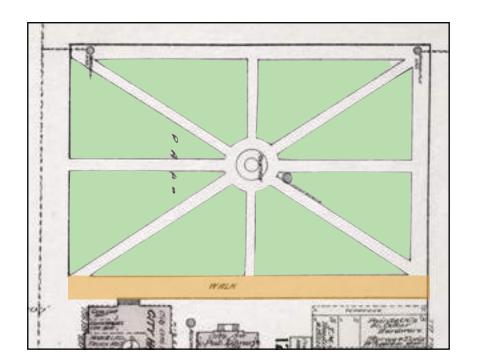




### B The Main Street Project Park Square

#### Mid-block Crosswalks

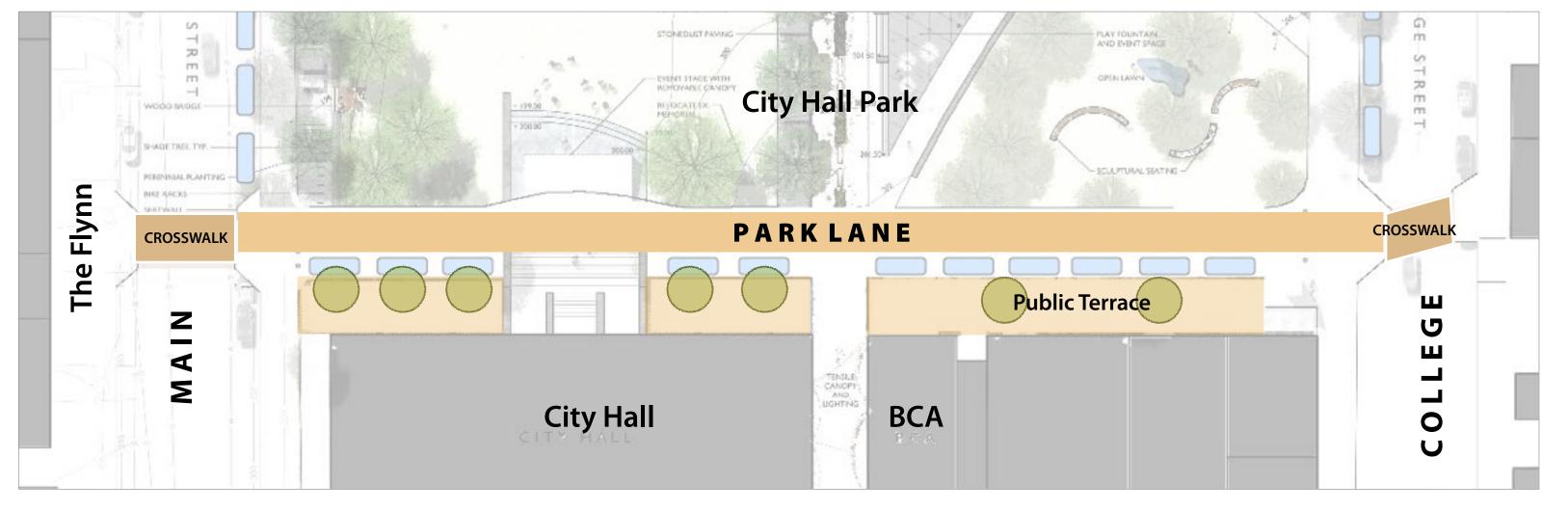
Mid-block crosswalks from City Hall Park across Main and across College would help connect the park to the Flynn and surrounding uses. They would also help bring more pedestrians to the historic "park lane" along the park's eastern edge, adding to safety and vibrancy. The crosswalks could be at roadway level or raised "speed tables". Should the City create such crosswalks?



Historic park "walk" or "lane"

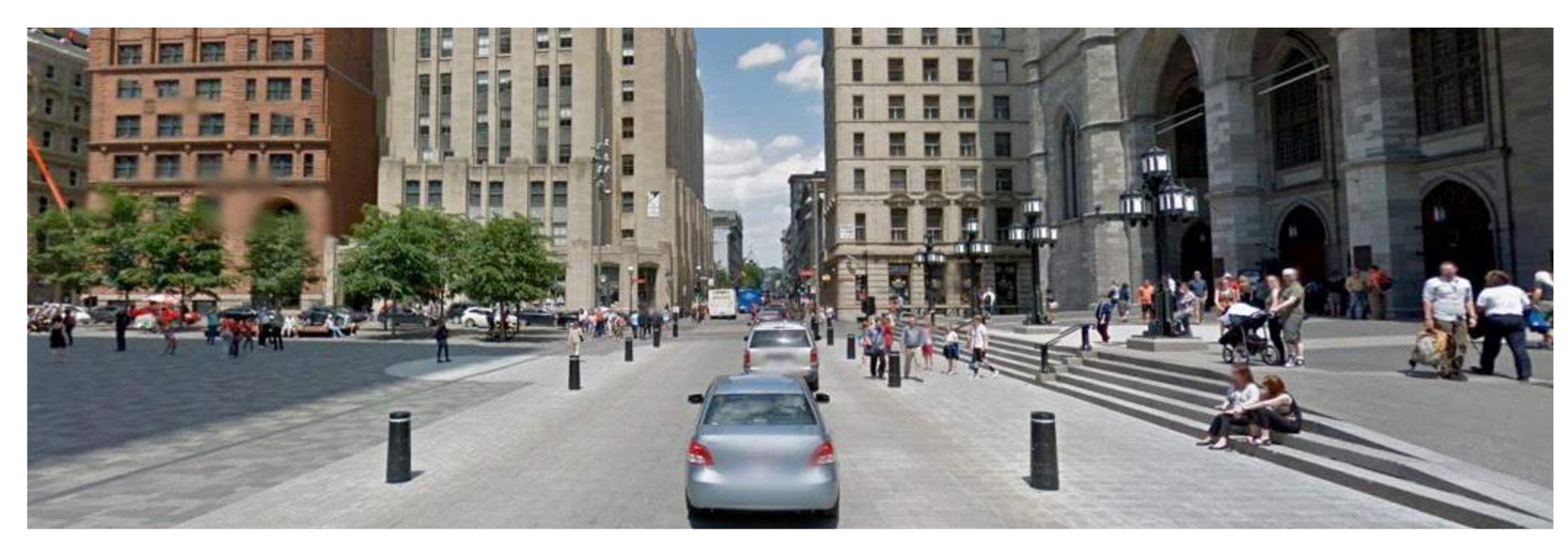


Possible crosswalk to Flynn



## B The Main Street Project Park Square "Shared Space" on Main

Instead of just a raised crosswalk, the roadway along the entire block of Main along City Hall Park could be raised to create a level crossing (this is called "shared space" and already exists at Church St. Marketplace intersections). This would powerfully connect the Flynn block and the park. Should the City consider this approach?



(note: shown for reference only; no conversion to one-way streets is anticipated for downtown Burlington)



### B The Main Street Project Park Square

"Shared Space" on St. Paul and/or College Shared space, or raised roadways, could also be considered on St. Paul and/or College, which would entirely connect the park to its surrounding buildings (an example of this is Place d'Armes in Montreal). Should the City consider a complete shared space for the "square" around City Hall Park?



(note: shown for reference only; no conversion to one-way streets is anticipated for downtown Burlington)



# B The Main Street Project Park Square Bike Hub along Main

The majority of cyclists approaching Farmers Market and other events approach City Hall Park from Main. A bike hub with covered parking and other bike amenities along Main has been suggested (in association with a protected bike lane if built). Should the City explore such facilities?









#### Extras



Main Street as Public Space: Mardi Gras



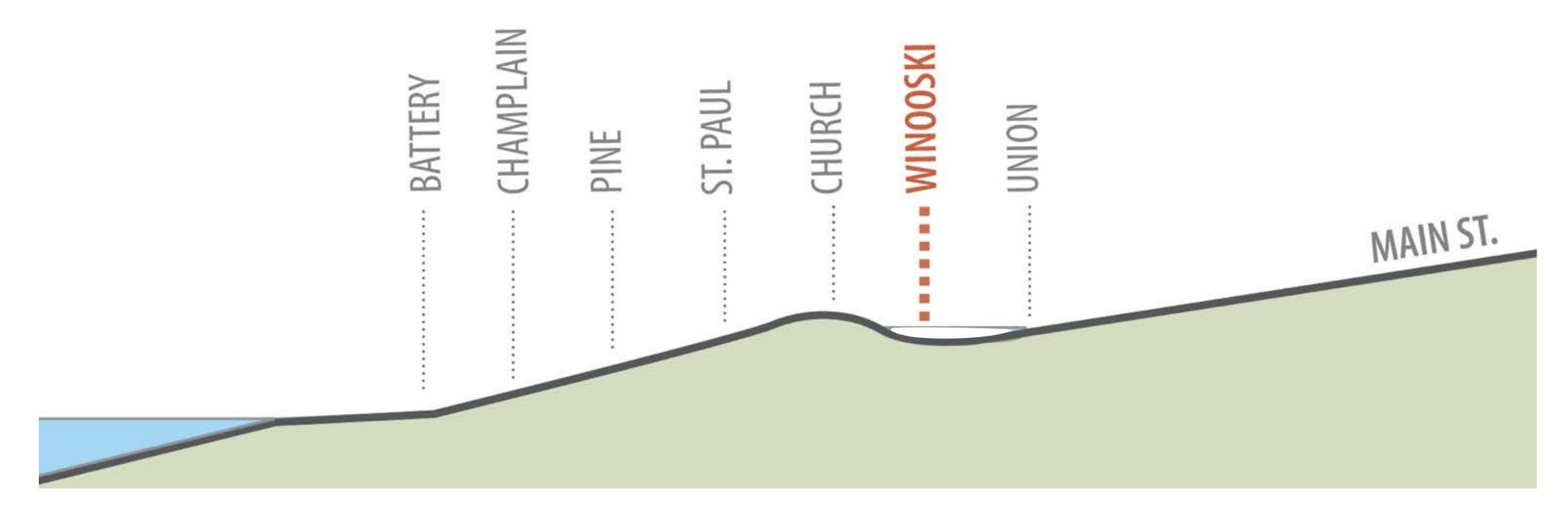
Example of Shared space (Carlyle U.K.) (note: shown for reference only; no conversion to one-way streets is anticipated for downtown Burlington)

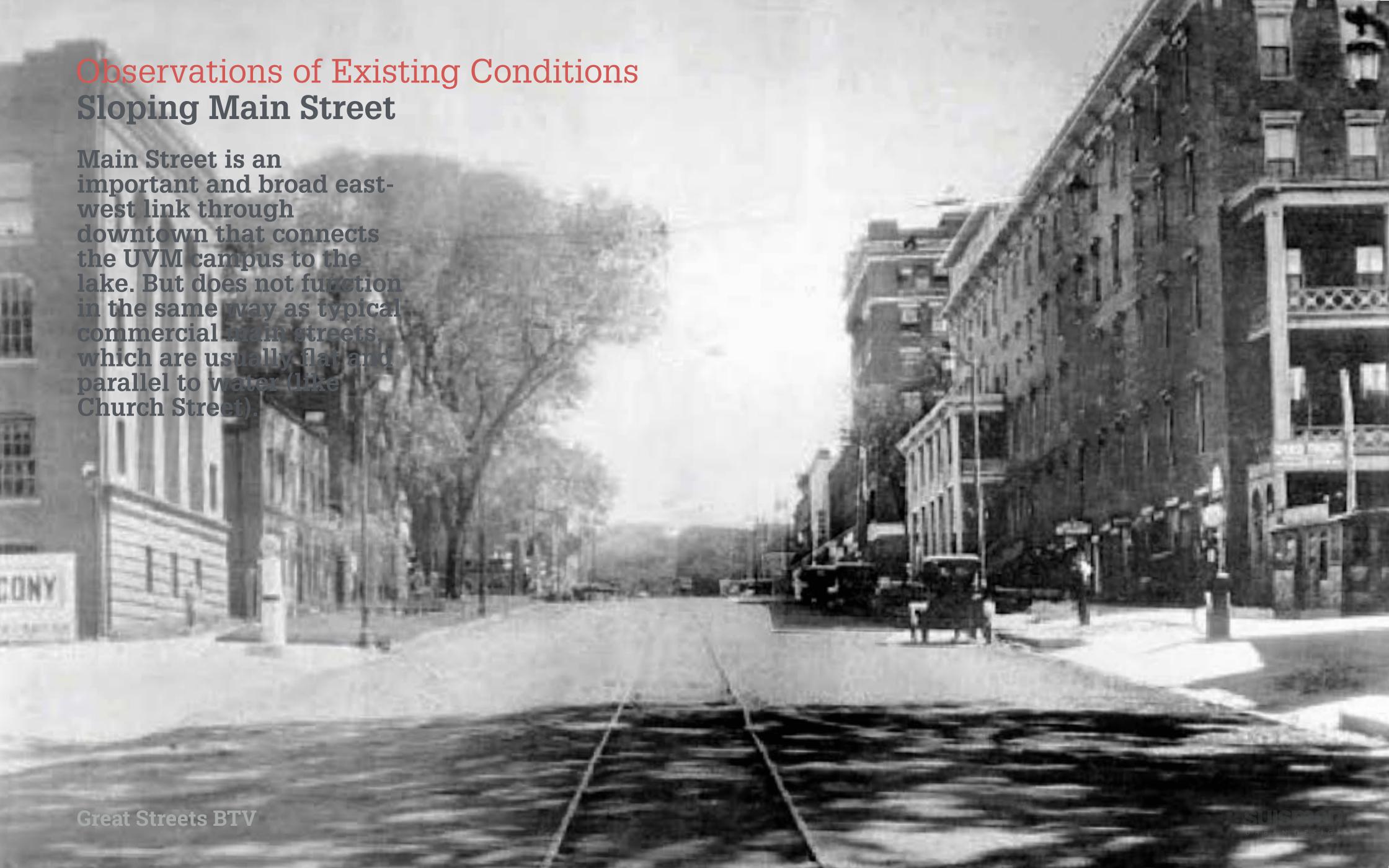




### Observations of Existing Conditions Sloping Main Street

Main Street is an important and broad east-west link through downtown that connects the UVM campus to the lake. But does not function in the same way as typical commercial main streets, which are usually flat and parallel to water (like Church Street).





Historic / current land uses





View from digital model



Typical cross-section study

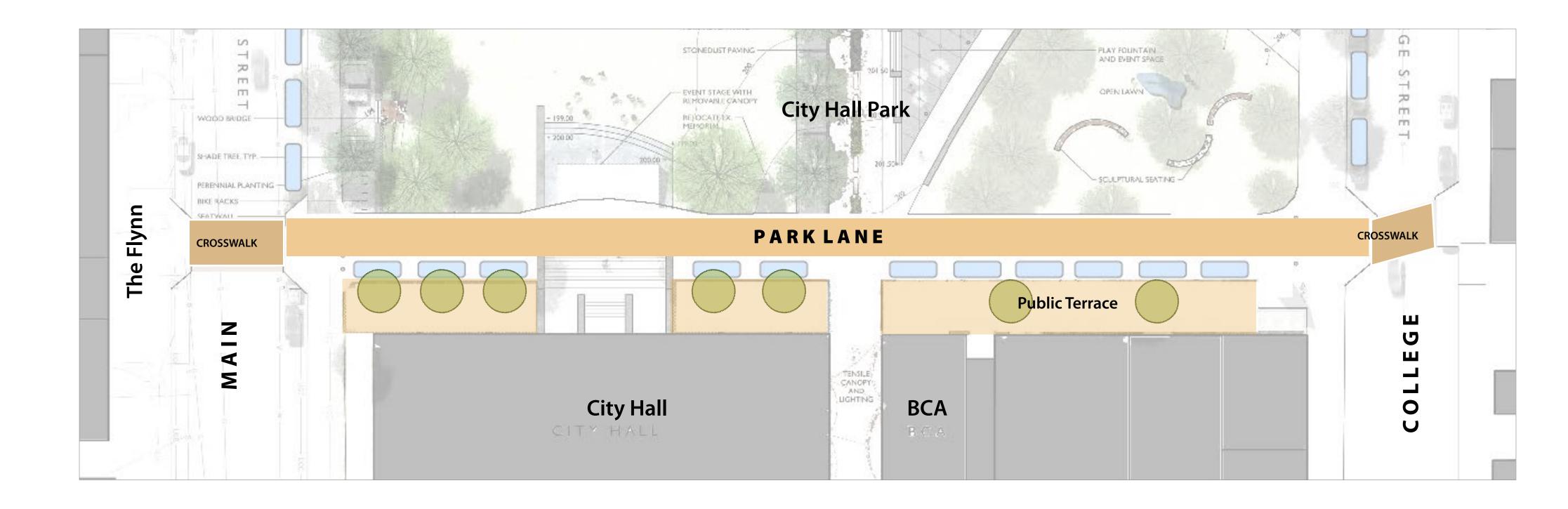


Main Street frontage





Mid-blocks crosswalks and "Park Lane"

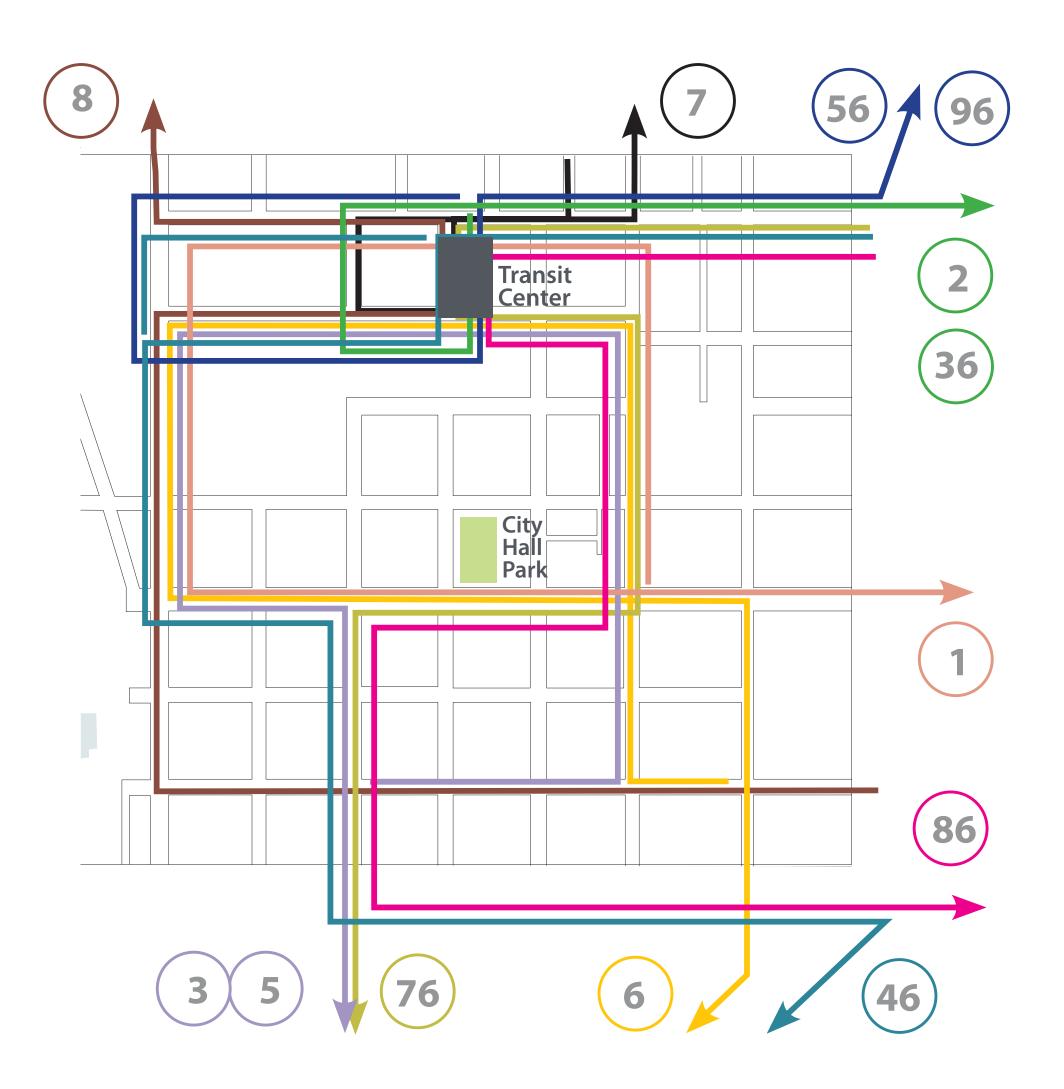




#### Observations of Existing Conditions

#### **Transit on 9 Streets**

Transit buses are widely distributed across the street grid - there is no single primary corridor or corridors. 9 out of the 14 streets have at least some bus service. There is service on 41 of 81 street segments, with roughly 30 stops not including the new Transit Center.



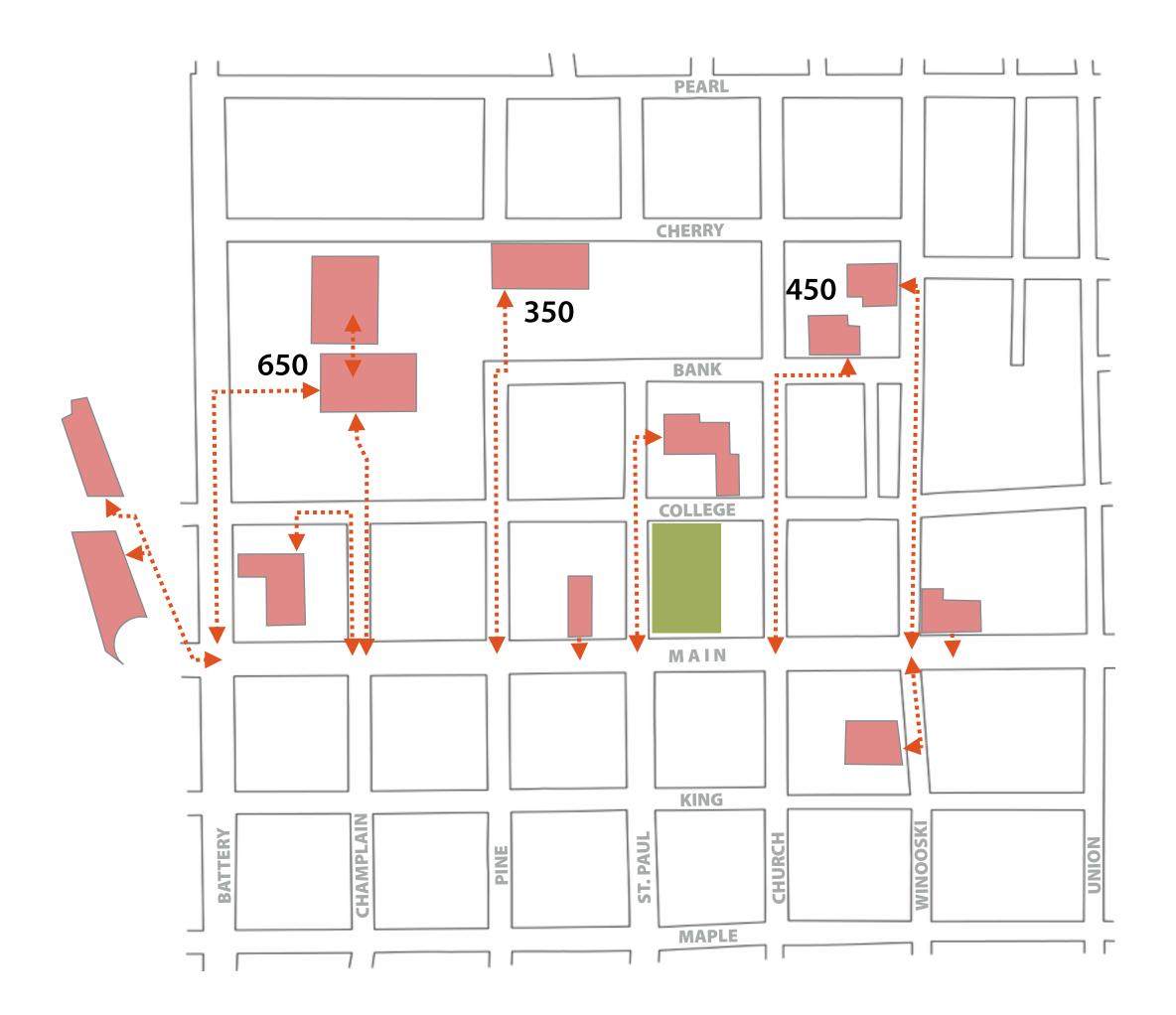
**Pattern of Bus Routes** 



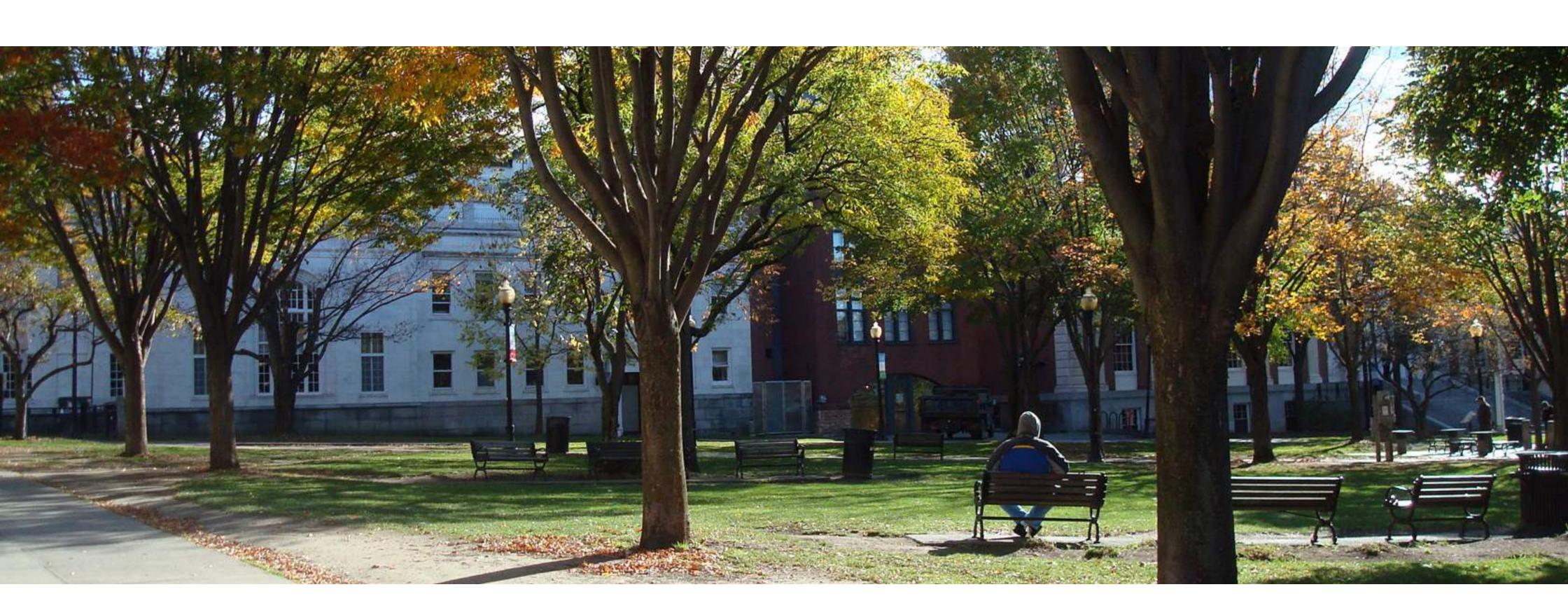
Available off-street parking within walking distance of Main Street businesses

Surface Lot or Structure

Pedestrian / Vehicular Route







City Hall Park Isolated















### B The Main Street Project Park Square

**Historic Roster of Names** 

Мар	Year	Map Name	Name of Public Space
Square B	1830		Court House Square
	1853		Square
	1862		[no name]
	1869		Public Square
CHIPTENSON:	1873		City Park
	1877		[no name]
PARK TO THE PARK T	1890		City Park



