



TOWN OF ARLINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING and
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

TOWN HALL, 730 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02476
TELEPHONE 781-316-3090

Current Resident or Business Owner

March 22, 2021

NOTIFICATION: Chestnut Street Corridor Pedestrian Safety Improvements; Public Listening Session on Tuesday March 30

Dear Resident or Business Owner,

The Town of Arlington Department of Planning and Community Development and the Transportation Advisory Committee are hosting a virtual public listening session to discuss safety improvements along the Chestnut Street corridor, and specifically pedestrian safety around the crosswalk at Chestnut Terrace. This meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 30, at 7 PM. This meeting will be conducted remotely due to the ongoing state of emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Go to tinyurl.com/TACChestnutSt to register for this meeting or to the Town's website at www.arlingtonma.gov/tac and go to the Events calendar on the right side of the page.

This crosswalk was the site of a fatal collision when a driver struck a pedestrian on December 31, 2019. The Town would like to hear community ideas about this corridor and feedback on potential short- and long-term improvement options for Chestnut Street. These community recommendations will inform final proposals that will be submitted to the Select Board for review and approval. The goals of the listening session are to improve the pedestrian safety in this area; reduce speed of vehicles through the corridor; and increase the safety and comfort of vulnerable road users, specifically people walking and bicycling. After collecting community feedback, the Transportation Advisory Committee expects to determine final recommendations at their May or June meeting that will be sent to the Select Board with short-term improvements to be implemented as soon as possible.

If you cannot attend this meeting, you may complete an online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/ChestnutStreet by Wednesday, April 14. Paper copies of the survey and information about the proposed recommendations are included in this mailing and can also be found in the vestibule of the Robbins Library lobby.

For questions about this meeting or to request a copy of the survey and proposed recommendations, please contact Daniel Amstutz, Senior Transportation Planner, at damstutz@town.arlington.ma.us or 781-316-3093.



The Town is pursuing pedestrian safety improvements along the Chestnut Street corridor in response to a pedestrian fatality at the intersection of Chestnut Street and Chestnut Terrace on December 31, 2019. This survey is designed to complement the virtual public listening session scheduled for Tuesday, March 30 at 7:00 pm, and can be taken before or after the meeting. To register for the public listening session, visit: tinyurl.com/TACchestnutSt

This survey is available online at surveymonkey.com/r/chestnutstreet. There are four questions in this survey, and it should take less than five minutes to complete. If you do not have a computer or internet access, you can fill out the attached paper survey and return it by mail or by dropping it off at the dropbox at Town Hall:

Town of Arlington
Department of Planning and Community Development
Attn: Daniel Amstutz
730 Massachusetts Ave
Arlington, MA 02476

The survey presents a range of short-term, medium-term, and long-term concepts for improving safety in this area. The Town is soliciting feedback from the community on these concepts. Community comments and suggestions will inform the proposals that the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) develops and submits to the Select Board for review and approval.

The goal is to develop concepts that address the following:

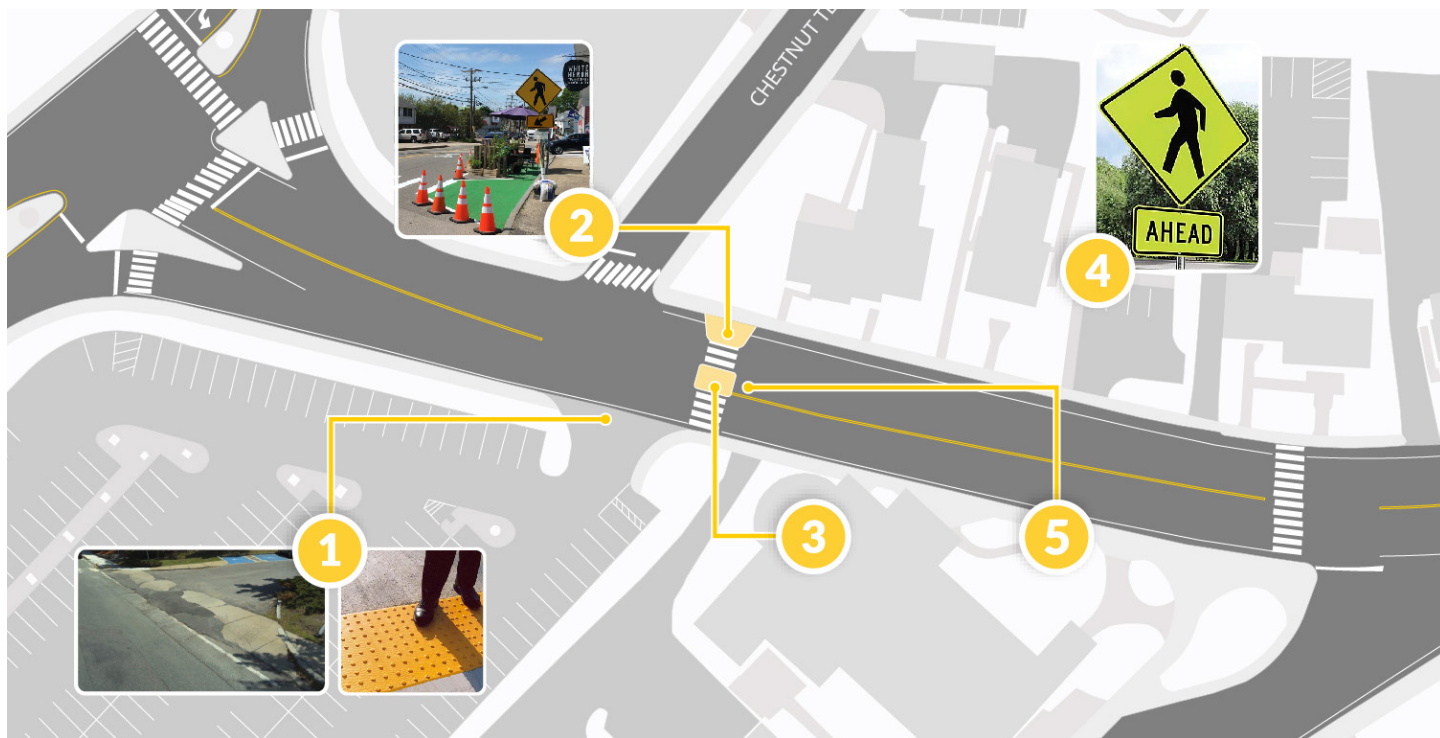
- Improve pedestrian safety
- Improve bicycle safety
- Reduce vehicle speeds through the corridor

The Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) and TAC expect to present final recommendations to the Select Board in May or June, with a goal of implementing short-term improvements as soon as possible.

Please take this survey online or return the paper survey by April 14, 2021.

Short-Term Improvements

Below are a series of options for changes to Chestnut Street, and particularly the pedestrian crossing near Chestnut Terrace, about which we would like to get your feedback. These improvements, with approval by the Select Board, can feasibly be installed and operational by the end of 2021.

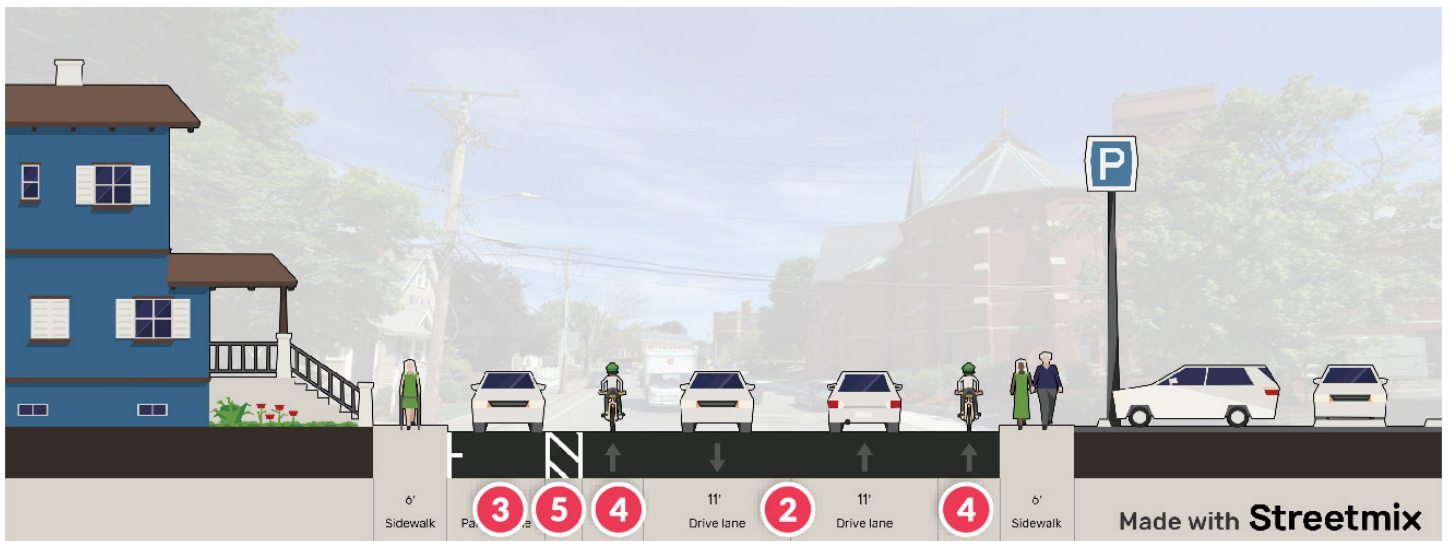
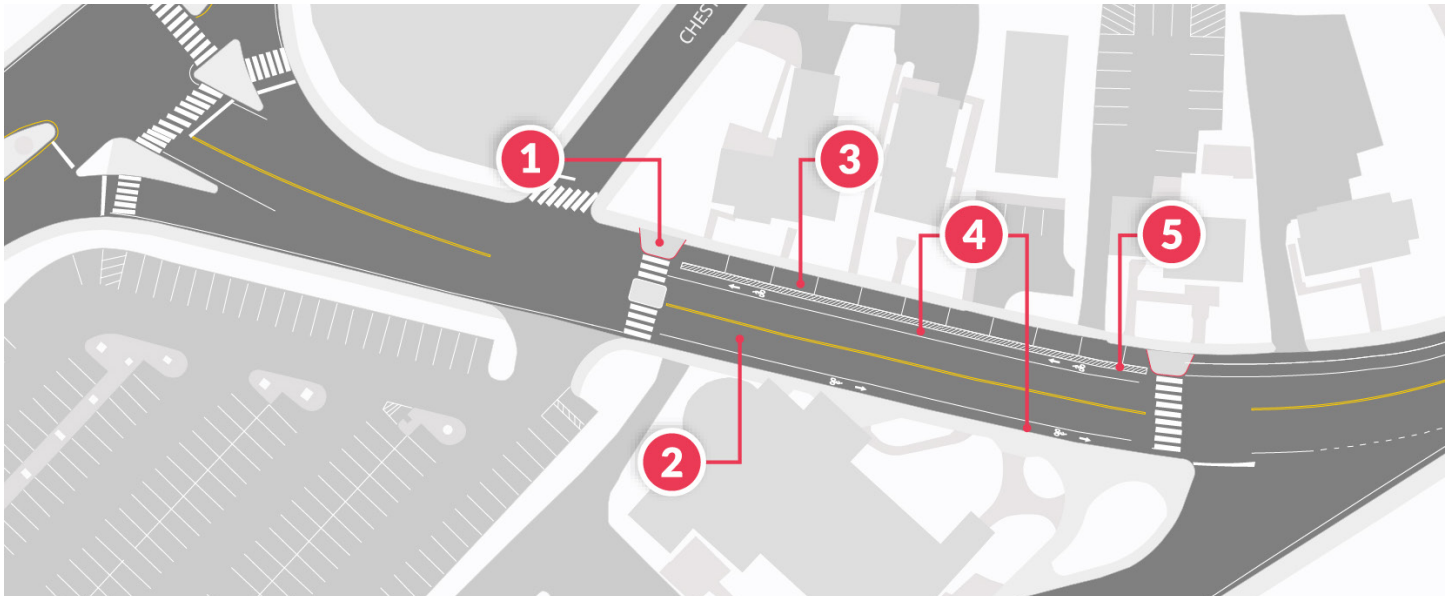


Which of these short-term options would help improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety at Chestnut Street and Chestnut Terrace? Option numbers below correspond to the locations called out in the map above. *(Select all that apply.)*

- ☐ **1** Repair sidewalk spanning the Russell Common Lot driveway; install detectable panels on both sides of driveway
- ☐ **2** Install a temporary bumpout at the Chestnut Terrace crosswalk and monitor improvements to safety
- ☐ **3** Install a temporary pedestrian island mid-street at the Chestnut Terrace crosswalk and monitor improvements to safety
- ☐ **4** Install additional crosswalk warning signs throughout the Chestnut Street corridor
- ☐ **5** Remove the crosswalk at Chestnut Terrace and re-route pedestrians to crosswalks at Medford St or Mystic St
- ☐ Other *(please specify)* _____
- ☐ None of the above

Mid-Term Improvements

The options below have been considered by DPCD and TAC, but require additional funding and scheduling before they could be implemented. Any items with an * can first be implemented on a temporary basis to measure effectiveness before considering permanent installation.

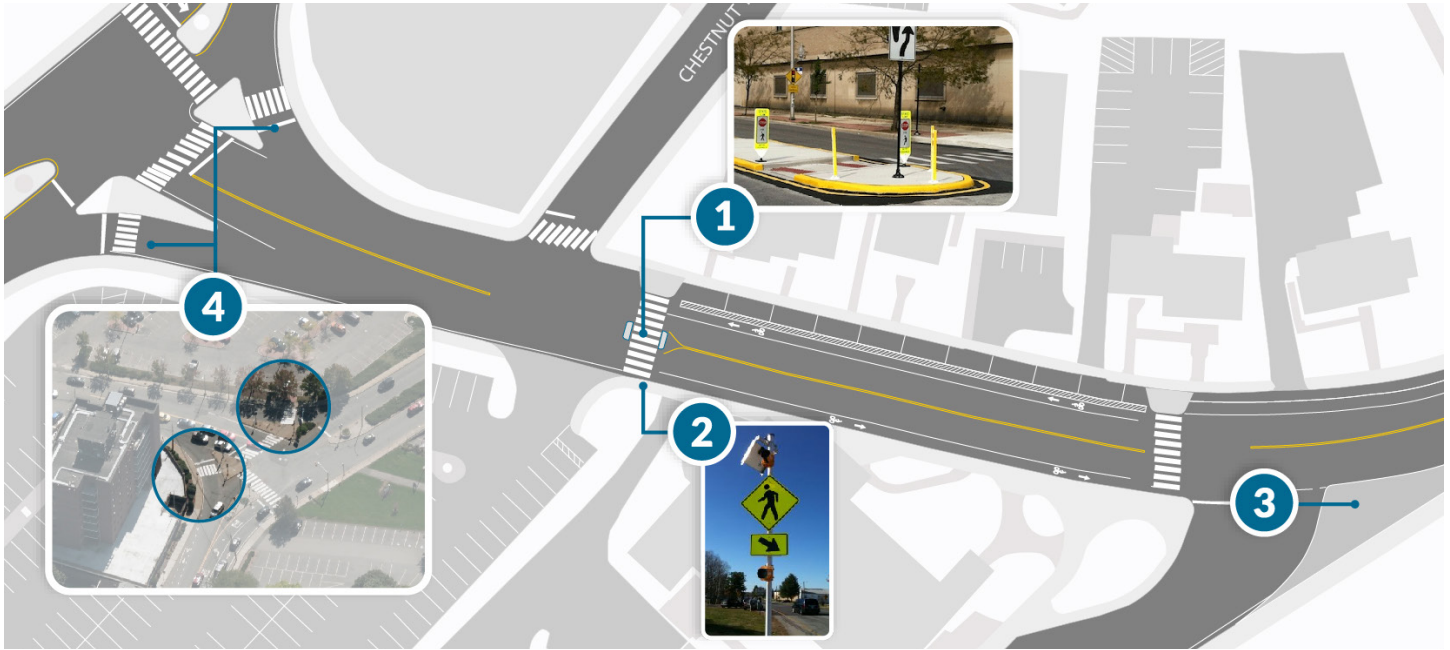


Which of these medium-term changes would help improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety at Chestnut Street and Chestnut Terrace? Option numbers below correspond to the locations called out in the map above. *(Choose all that apply.)*

- ☐ **1** Install permanent 8' bumpouts at the Chestnut Terrace and Medford Street crosswalks*
- ☐ **2** Narrow street markings to 11' in each direction to narrow the travel lanes
- ☐ **3** Re-paint and formalize an 8' parking lane on the north side of Chestnut
- ☐ **4** Install 5' bicycle lanes on each side of Chestnut Street
- ☐ **5** Install a 3' buffer between the westbound parking lane and bicycle lane
- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ Other *(please specify)* _____

Long-Term Improvements

The options below have been considered by DPCD and TAC but would require significant lead time and financial investment before the Town is able to implement them. Items with an * can first be implemented on a temporary pilot basis to measure effectiveness before considering permanent installation.



Which of these long-term options would help improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety at Chestnut Street and Chestnut Terrace? Option numbers below correspond to the locations called out in the map above. *(Select all that apply.)*

- ☐ **1** Install a permanent 5' pedestrian refuge island in the Chestnut Terrace crosswalk*
- ☐ **2a** Install a pedestrian-activated signal at crosswalk
- ☐ **2b** Install an automatic flashing warning signal at crosswalk
- ☐ **3** Reconstruct the intersection of Chestnut and Medford Street as a traditional T-intersection*
- ☐ **4** Reconfigure the Chestnut and Mystic Street intersection to eliminate slip lanes and improve pedestrian and bicycle travel
- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ Other *(please specify)* _____

Do you have additional ideas on how to improve safety in the Chestnut Street corridor in the short-, mid-, or long-term, or are there any improvements that are different from what you've seen here that we should consider? Please share them below.

Thank you for sharing your feedback on options for improving the Chestnut Street corridor! Please join us for the public listening session on Tuesday, March 30, at 7:00 pm, where we will be discussing these options and listening to community ideas and concerns. Registration info is on the front page of this survey.

Please **return this survey by April 14, 2021** either by mail or by dropping in the Town Hall dropbox (in the Academy Street parking lot):

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