

April

29

Welcome to

SQUARES + STREETS

Roslindale Square: Squares + Streets Visioning Session

TODAY'S AGENDA



Today's visioning session is intended to ask the community to collaborate with staff on **generating ideas for potential planning and zoning recommendations** for the Roslindale Square Squares + Streets Plan.

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 1. Community Guidelines and What is Square+Streets? | 10 mins |
| 2. Topic-Specific Activities | 2 hours |
| 3. Close Out & Next Steps | 10 mins |

GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION



**ASK FOR CLARIFICATION
IF NEEDED.**



**SAVE LONGER QUESTIONS
OR COMMENTS FOR THE
END.**



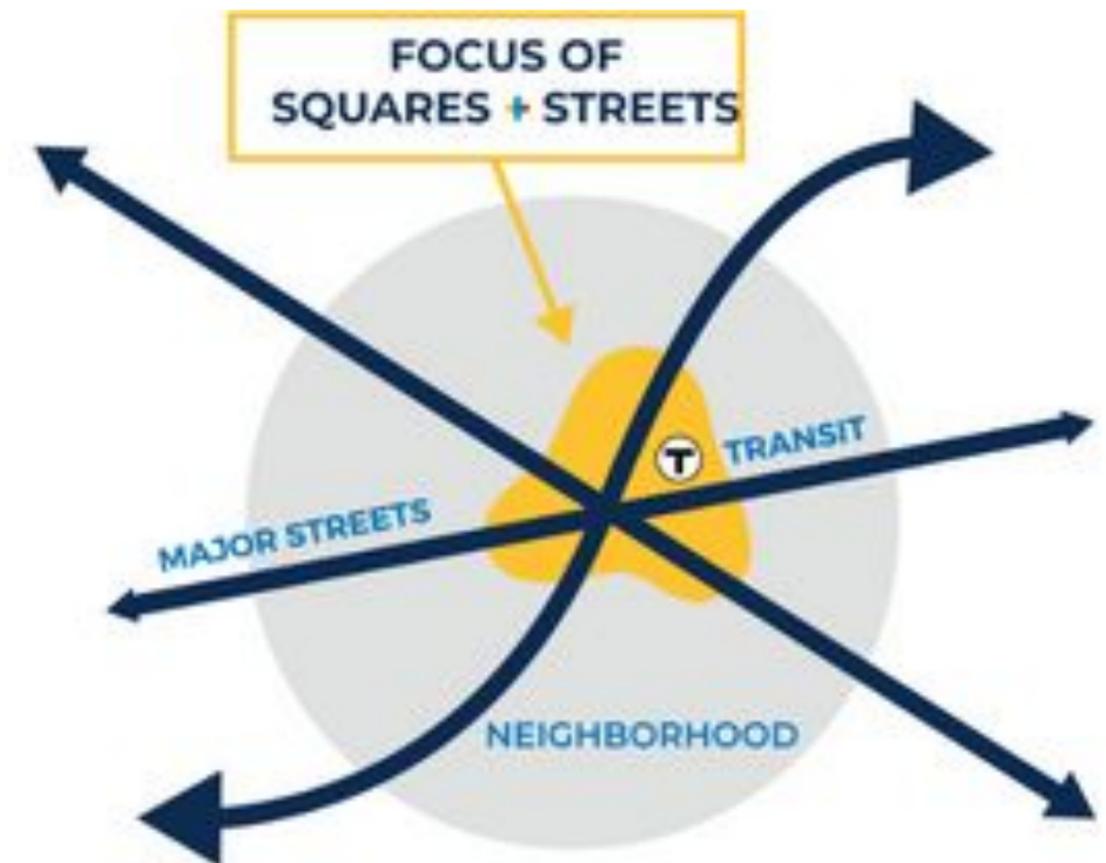
**RAISE YOUR HAND TO
SPEAK AND AVOID
INTERRUPTING OTHERS.**



**RESPECT DIVERSITY AND
AVOID OFFENSIVE REMARKS.
SPEAK FROM THE 'I' AND
NOT FOR OTHERS.**

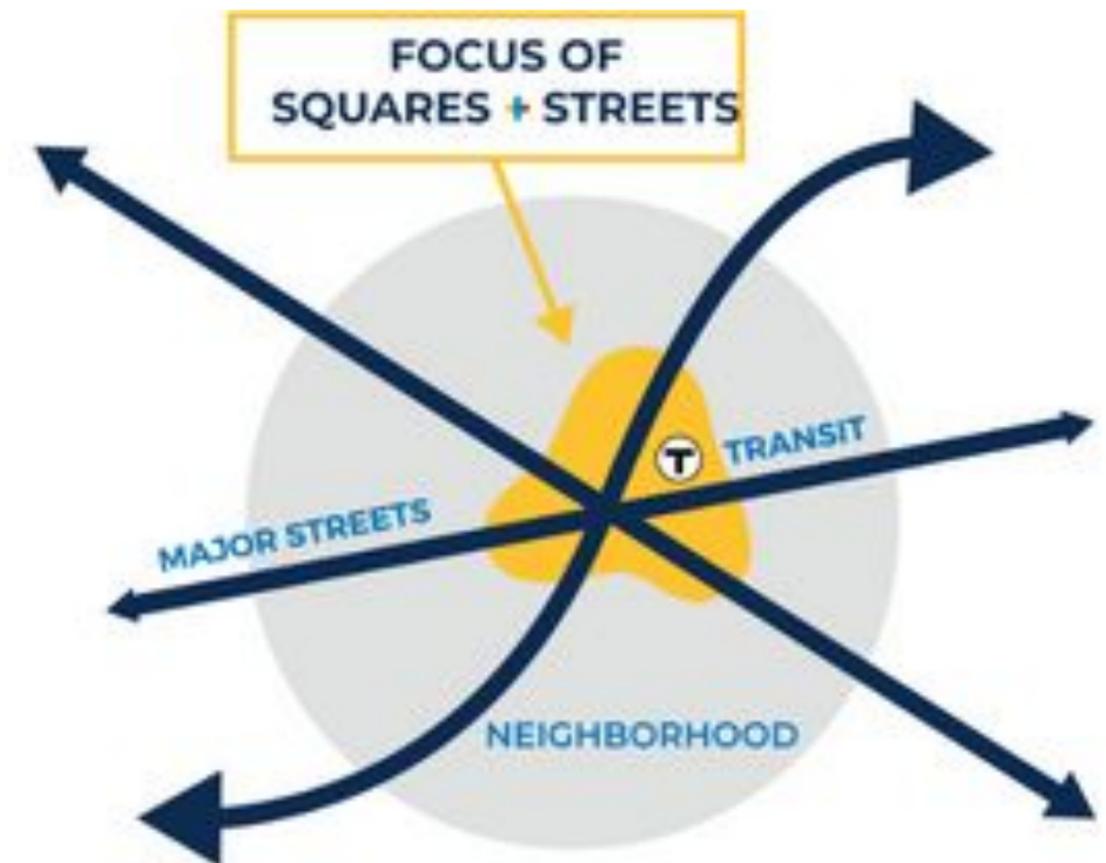
What Are “Squares + Streets” Areas?

- **Transit:** T stops, commuter rail stations, frequent bus service
- **Commercial activity:** main streets districts, retail along streets, businesses within walking distance of both transit and housing
- **Neighborhood centers:** central locations where neighborhood residents access local services to eat, shop, spend time, and run errands
- **Mixed use:** either directly above or directly adjacent to these businesses is housing, allowing some residents to get around without requiring a car
- **Places for growth:** existing housing and businesses are well-utilized, with context and market conditions that are suited for additional housing and economic growth
- **Lack of recent planning:** need for analysis of current neighborhood context, investment needs, and how zoning matches built conditions

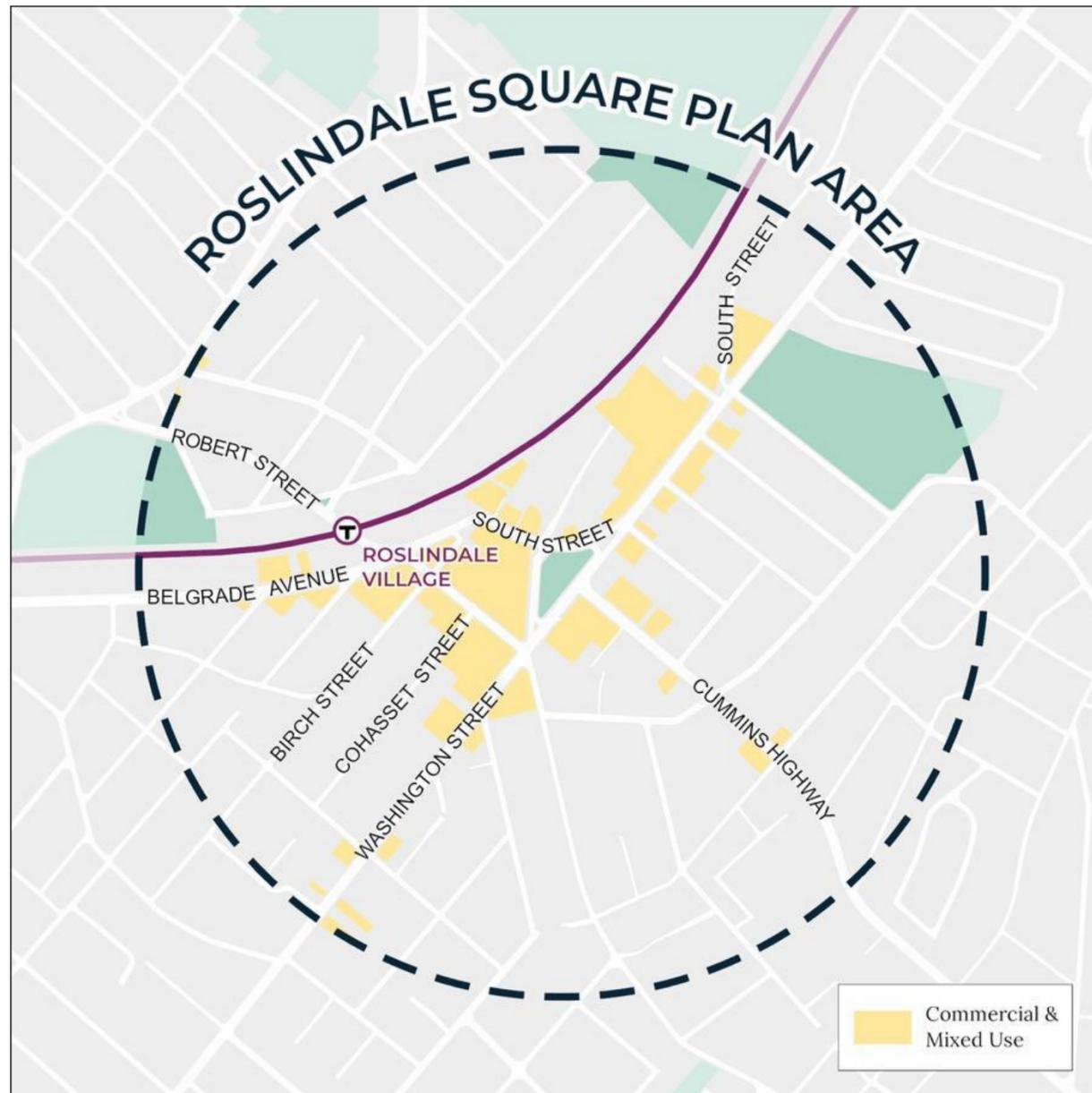


Why Focus on Squares + Streets?

- Ensure every Bostonian has access to **neighborhoods with everyday resources and services**
- Provide **more housing** to support Boston's current and future residents
- Pair housing growth with areas that supply an abundance of commercial, civic, cultural, and transportation resources to **expand benefits beyond access to housing**
- Focus on developing plans for transit-accessible geographic hubs to deliver **zoning reform** and coordinated, impactful, and visible **investments across City Departments** that address a range of needs



WHAT IS a “SMALL AREA PLAN”?



A Quick Brief:

Small Area Plans are focused on a small geography that will receive a **6-9 month planning and engagement process.**

The Roslindale plan area will be $\frac{1}{3}$ of a mile **around the main intersecting streets** of South Street and Poplar Street.

Proposed zoning map amendments - to be determined with the community - **will not include this entire area.**

THE GOALS

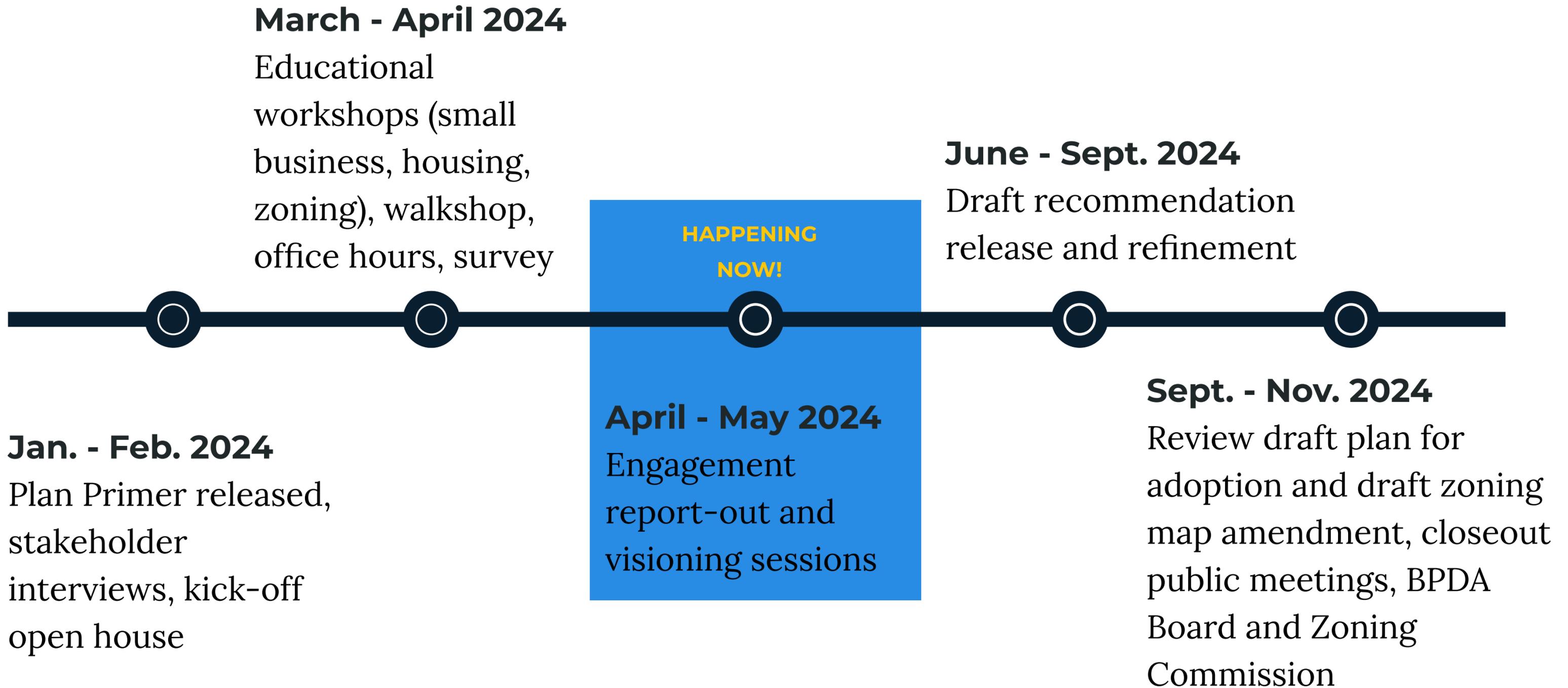


These plans are meant to accomplish the following goals:

- **Update zoning** to support mixed-use development and better allow for a diverse range of housing and commercial opportunities
- **Preserve, enhance, and produce affordable housing, retail, and cultural spaces** through policy, design, and funding resources
- **Coordinate local transportation and public space improvements** to increase accessibility and promote active forms of transportation
- **Identify capital and program investments** across City departments to signal coordinated investment in these geographies
- **Identify specific design interventions** to advance climate resilience



PROJECT TIMELINE



Visioning Session Activities

A QUICK BRIEF:

There are several topic-specific tables set up around the room that we will ask attendees to move around to engage with fellow community members and staff in completing activities to help us better understand how we can realize community goals through Squares +Streets

1



Room Set-Up and Activities

The room is set up with 7 topic-specific stations on the following topics in your booklets: **Housing and Real Estate, Built Form and Design, Zoning, Transportation, Open Space and Resiliency, Small Businesses, and Arts + Culture**

- Use your booklet to read more about the existing conditions on each topic, community values, and activity questions to be discussed at each topic-specific table
- The tables are staffed with BPDA/City staff who are there to facilitate activities for each topic
- You will rotate around each table in 15-minute increments, starting at the tables that you are seated at, with some time at the end to circle back to any table that you want to revisit!

Room Set-Up and Activities Con't

Although each topic has its own table, they are all interconnected! We encourage attendees to think through the following prompts while engaged in activities:

- Connections between topics (for example, resiliency elements such as Green Infrastructure as opportunities for placemaking)
- Ideas may be complementary to each other (for example, a desire for ground floor small businesses and requirements for active ground floors in certain Squares + Streets zoning districts)
- Contradictions in your own vision for the future of Roslindale Square (for example, a desire for both parking accessibility and walkability improvements)



Close Out and Next Steps

2

What are we doing with this engagement feedback?

1. First, we will compile and record all comments and results from the activities in this engagement and report out themes in the [Roslindale engagement storymap](#).
2. The comments we receive at this engagement will form the **basis for discussions with City colleagues** - including the Mayor's Office of Housing, The Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion, and the Boston Transportation Department - on **ways that we can respond to community input through Squares + Streets Small Area Plan recommendations**
3. The **next stage of engagement will present ideas that will be refined with the community** as a precursor to the draft recommendations in the draft Roslindale Square: Squares + Streets Plan later this summer/fall.

What's Coming Next?



Upcoming Opportunities for Involvement

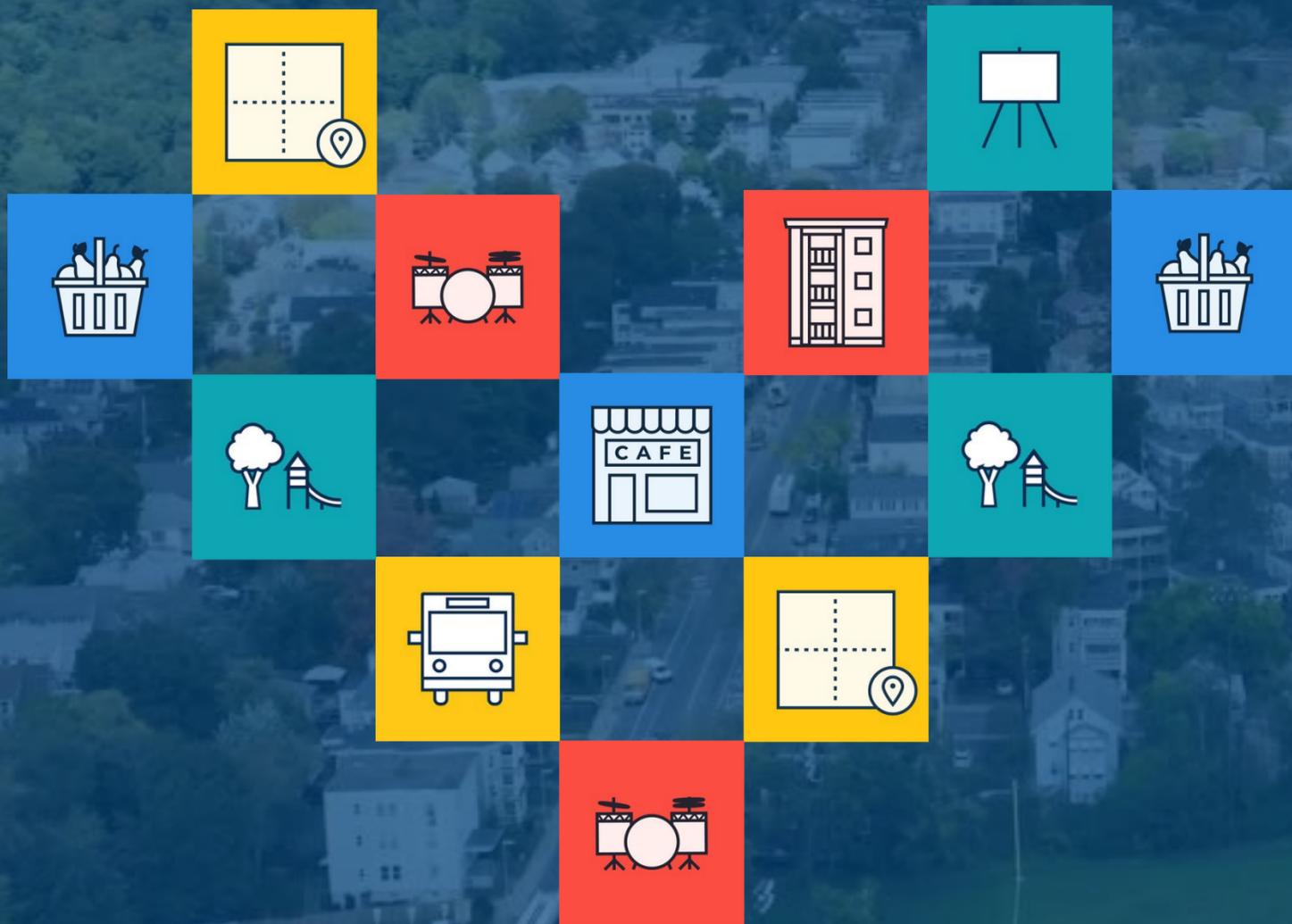
Planned upcoming meetings include:

- Office hours every Wednesday @ Workhub in The Substation 10 am - 12 pm, 1 pm - 3 pm
- Small Business focus group: Monday, May 6th, 10:15 am - 11 am @ the Roslindale BPL
- Virtual visioning session: Tuesday, May 7th, 2024 6 pm - 8 pm

Contact Information:

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Roslindale Square Squares + Streets website: bostonplans.org/roslindale-square



THANK YOU