

CHINATOWN CONNECTIONS

通達華埠

CB1 EXECUTIVE BOARD
PRESENTATION

05/21/2026



AGENDA

- 1. Project Updates**
- 2. Community and Stakeholder Engagement**
- 3. Concept Design**
- 4. Project Timeline**

CHINATOWN CONNECTIONS PROJECT GOALS

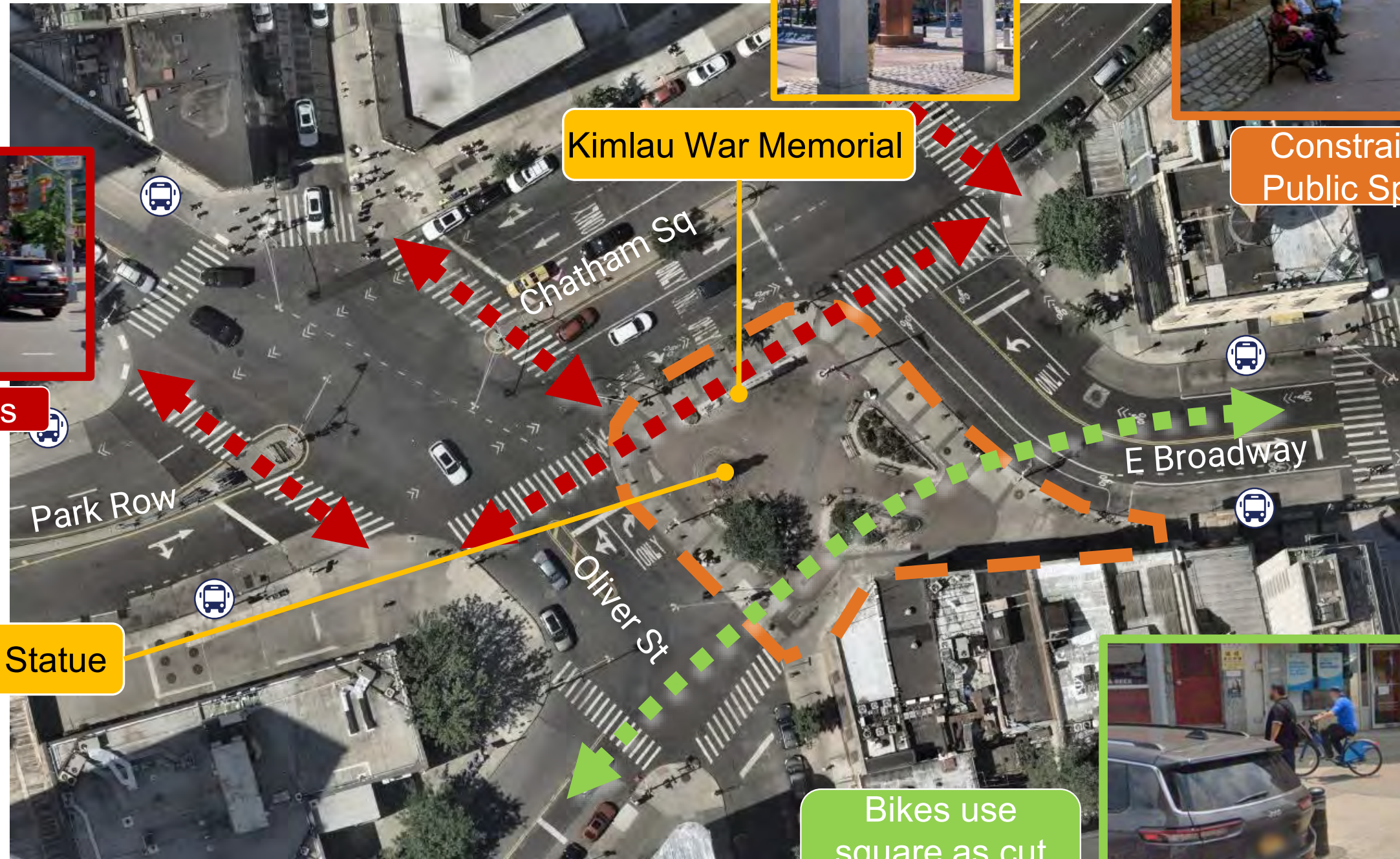
- Support needs of existing community and local economy
- Bolsters neighborhood identity and culture
- Improve quality of life with expanded pedestrian space
- Support connections with surrounding communities by creating safer pedestrian and bike connections at Worth Street and Chatham Square



SITE & PROJECT SCOPE



KIMLAU SQUARE TODAY



Kimlau War Memorial



Constrained Public Space



Long Crossings

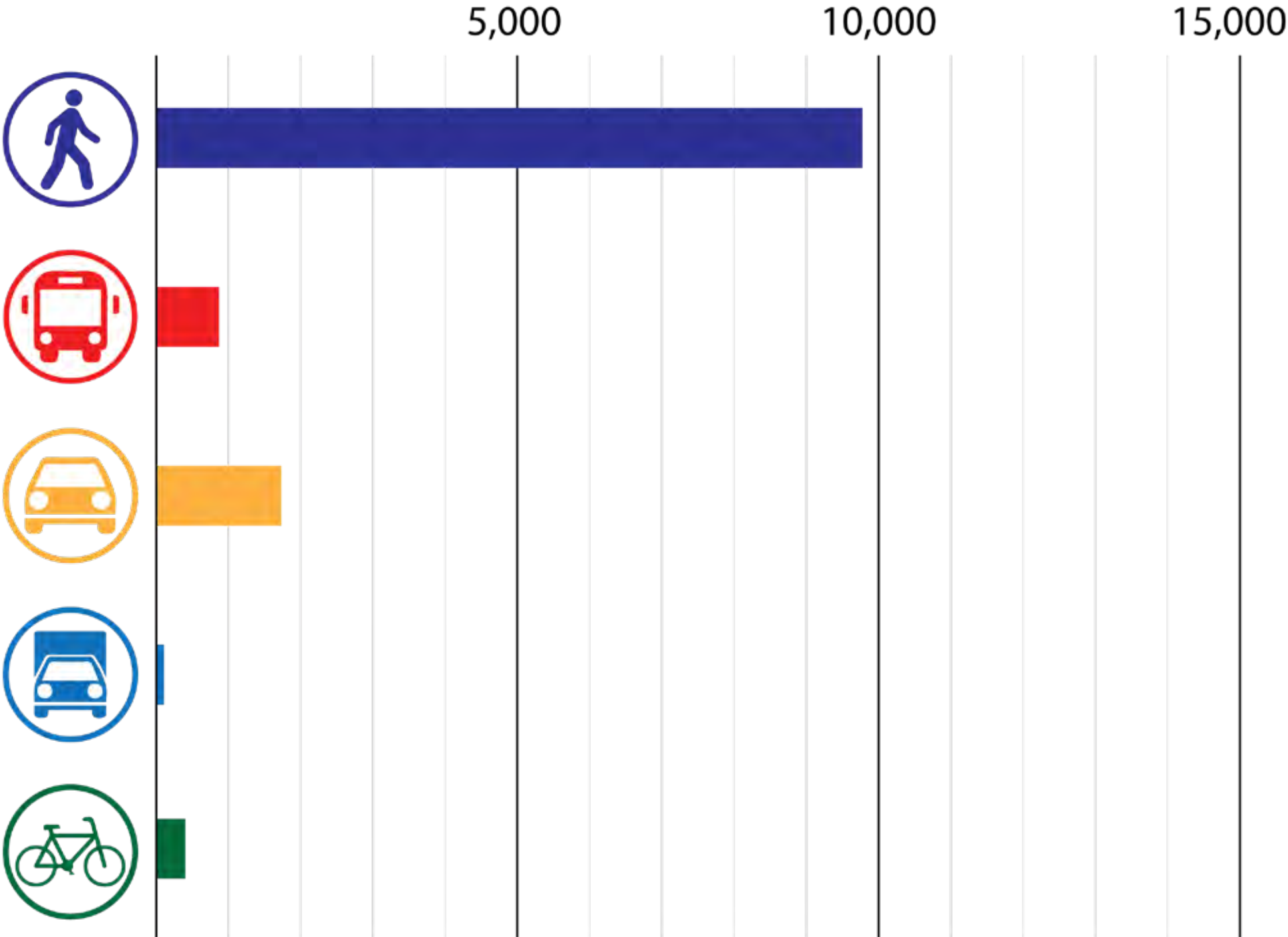


Lin Zexu Statue



Bikes use square as cut through

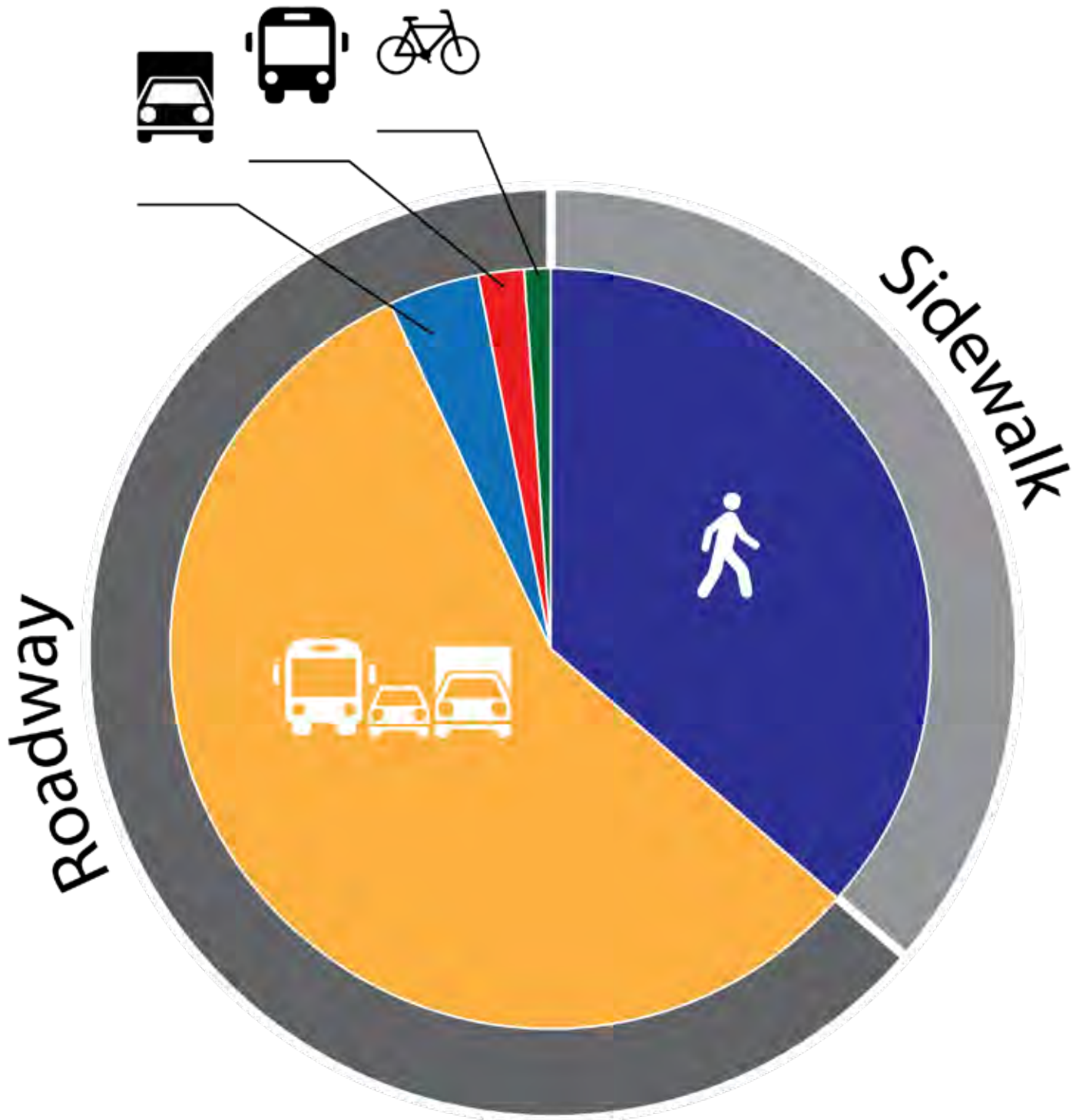
EXISTING KIMLAU SQUARE - USERS AT PM PEAK HOUR



THE SQUARE TODAY IS FULL OF PEOPLE

PEDESTRIANS ACCOUNT FOR ALMOST 80% OF USERS

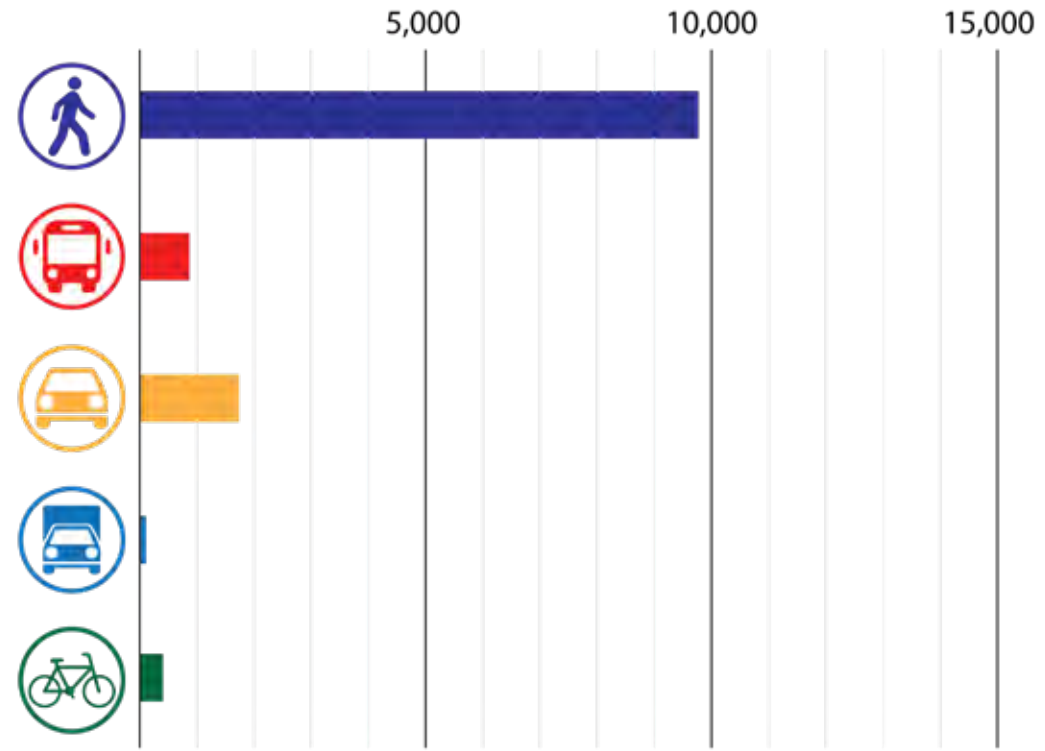
EXISTING KIMLAU SQUARE - ROAD SHARE SPACE CHART



THE CURRENT SQUARE IS MOSTLY ROADWAYS

ONLY 1/3 OF THE SPACE IS FOR PEDESTRIANS

Space shared between different modes - Current



Current Users (PM Peak Hour)

STREET AND PUBLIC SPACE DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- Standard, four-way intersections are safer, more predictable for pedestrians, and function more smoothly.
- Straight, thru-travel movements are safer and more efficient than turning movements.
- Shorter crosswalks reduce exposure and are more accessible/easier to cross for pedestrians, specifically seniors and children.
- Distance between intersections reduce congestion and queuing.
- Larger, consolidated open spaces are more flexible and can better meet a variety of needs.



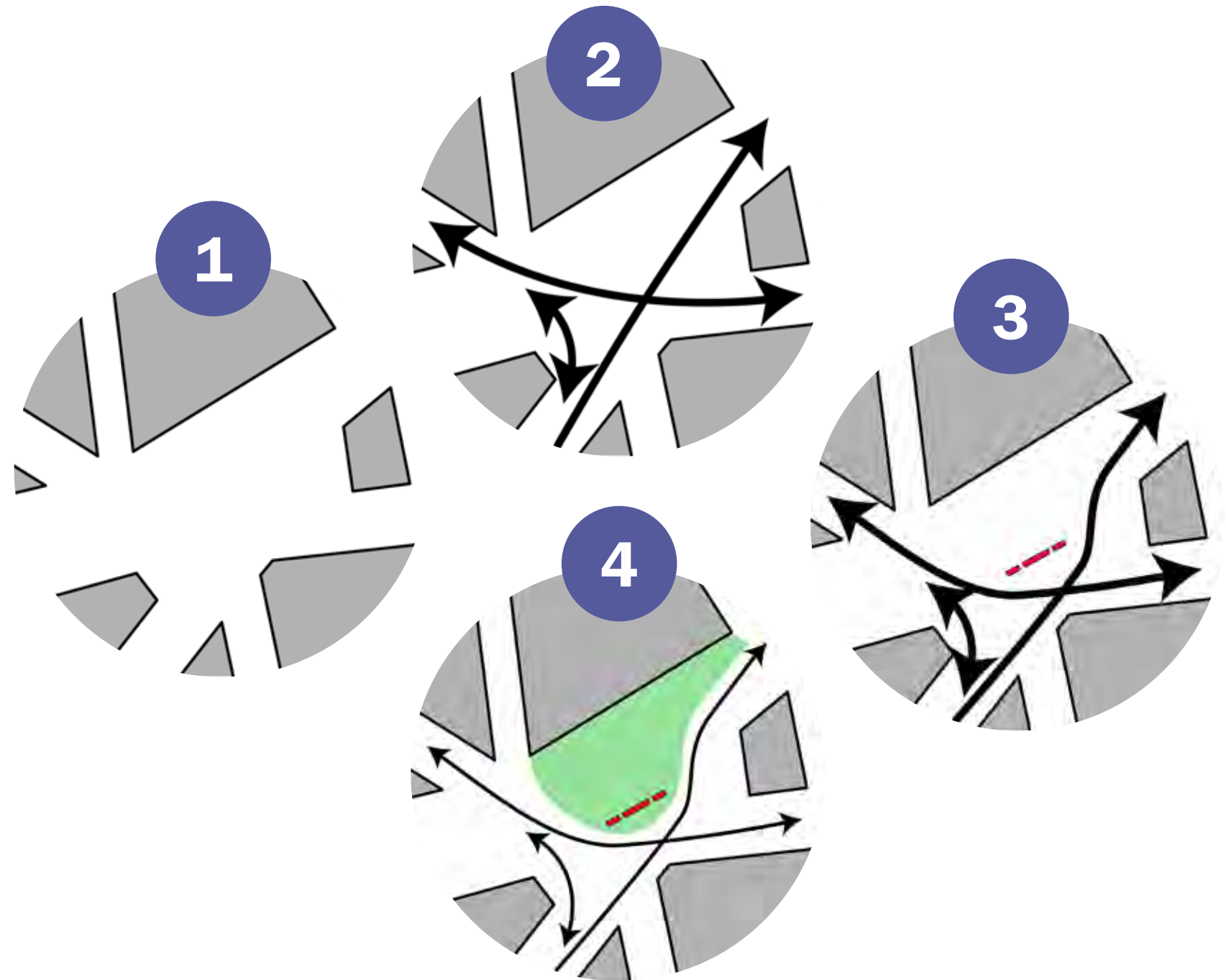
STREET AND PUBLIC SPACE DESIGN PROCESS

1. WORK WITHIN THE EXISTING RIGHT-OF-WAY BOUNDARIES.

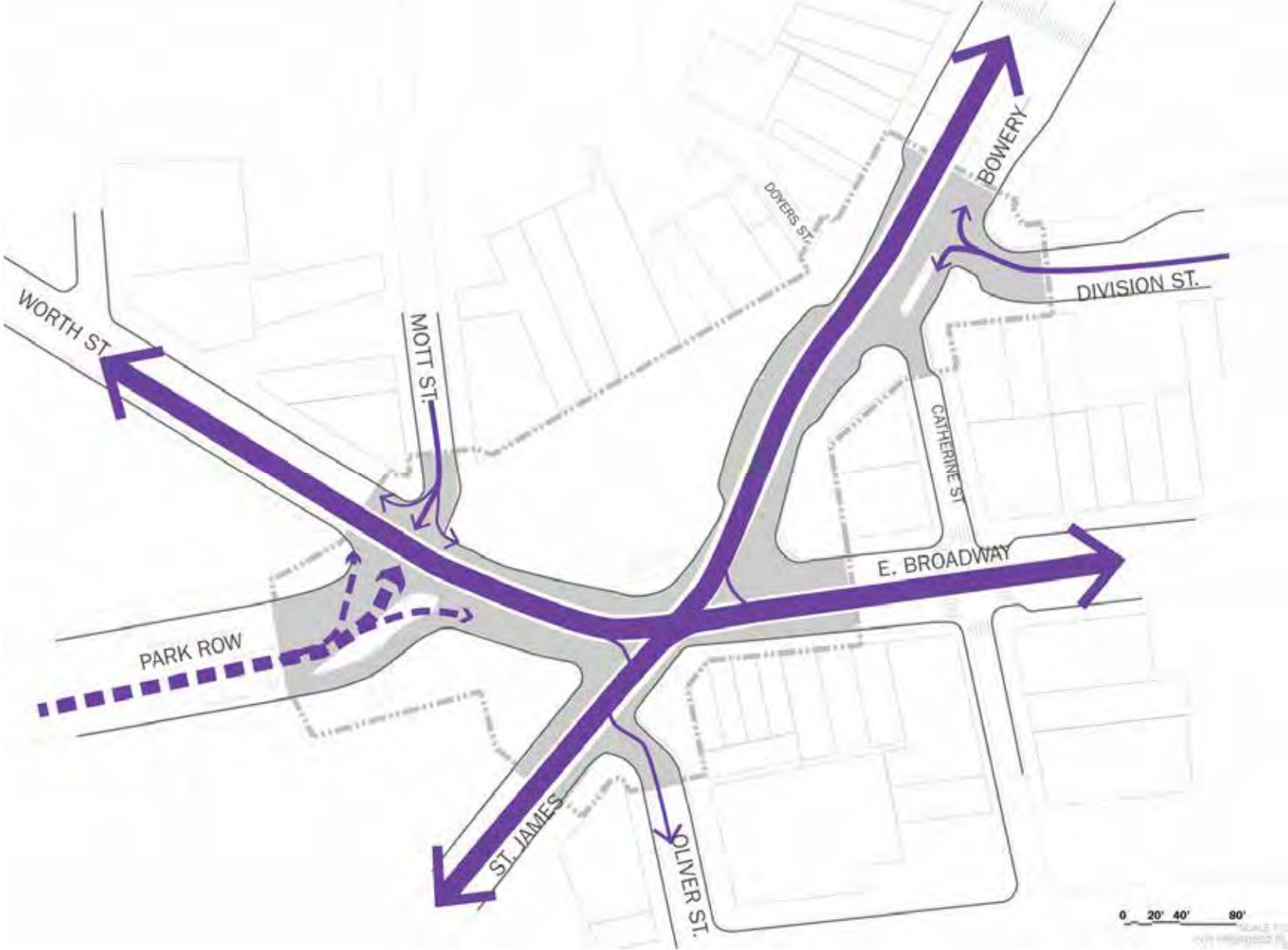
2. REALIGN INTERSECTION TO STANDARD FOUR-WAY TRAFFIC MOVEMENTS

3. RECENTER/RELOCATE MONUMENTS

4. PRIORITIZE PUBLIC SPACE WITHIN THE INTERSECTION



PROPOSED PRIMARY VEHICULAR FLOWS



REALIGNMENT SIMPLIFIES MOVEMENTS

ONLY 1/3 OF MOVEMENTS WOULD BE TURNS

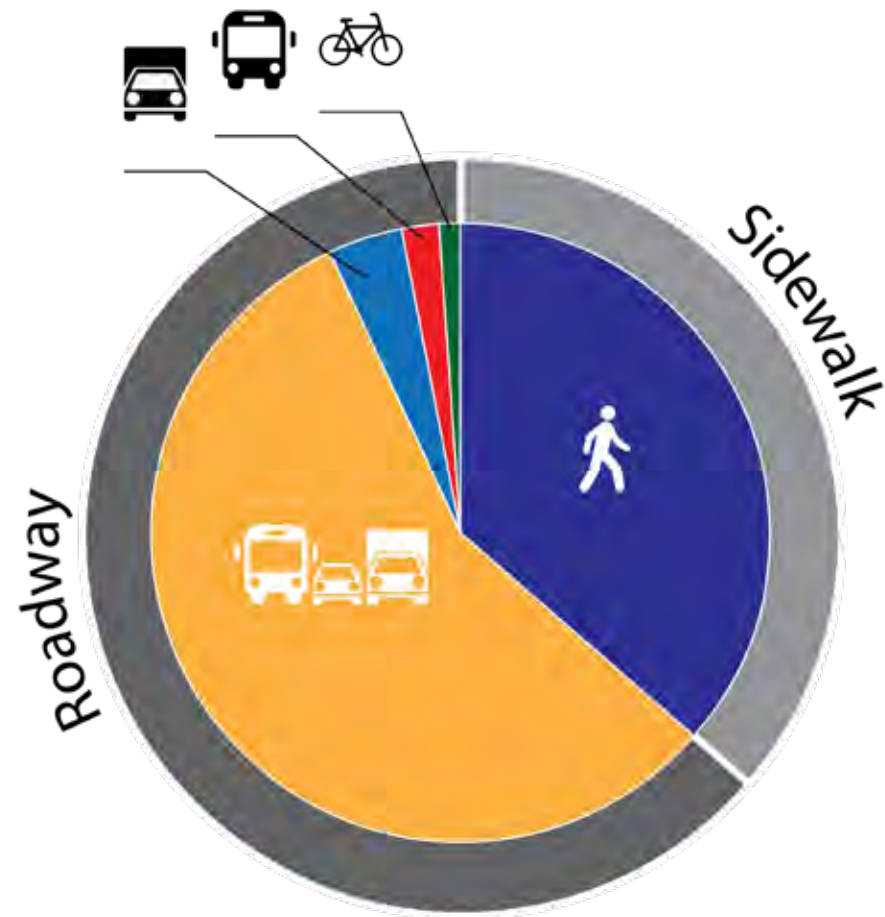
FULFILLS THE GOALS OF SIMPLIFYING TRAVEL PATTERNS AND CREATING A MORE TYPICAL AND PREDICTABLE INTERSECTION

PROPOSED



SPATIAL COMPARISON KIMLAU SQUARE

EXISTING VEHICULAR-CENTERED

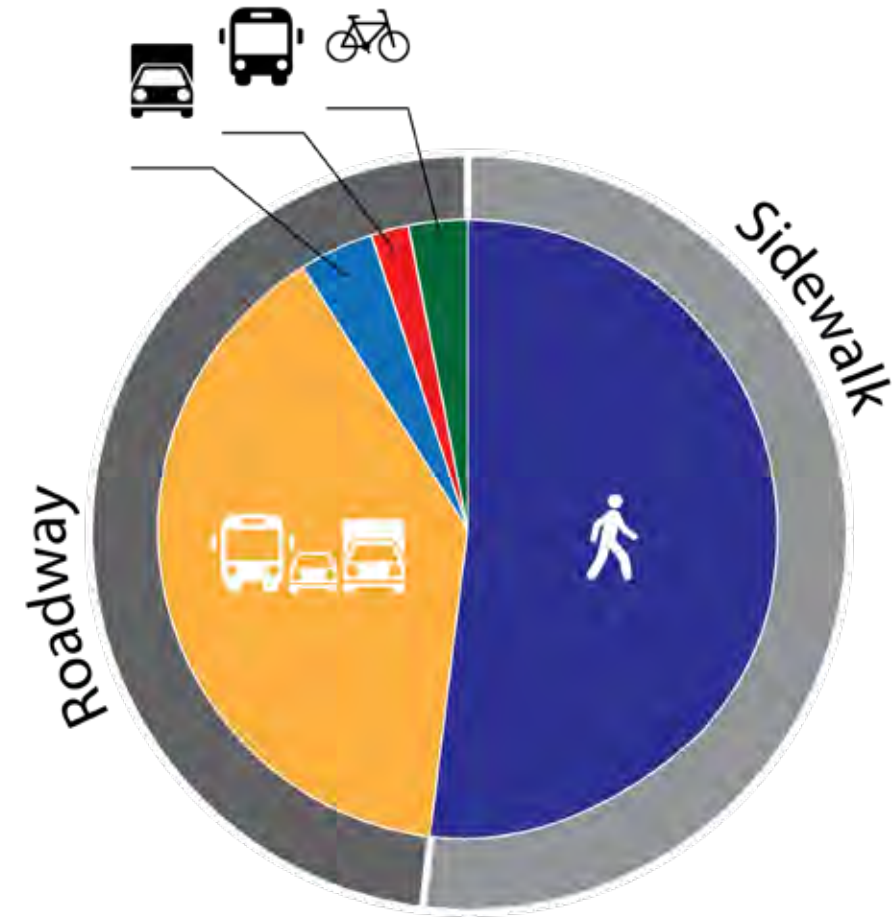


Space shared between different modes - Current

THE CURRENT SQUARE IS MOSTLY ROADWAYS

ONLY 1/3 OF THE SPACE IS FOR PEDESTRIANS

PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN-CENTERED

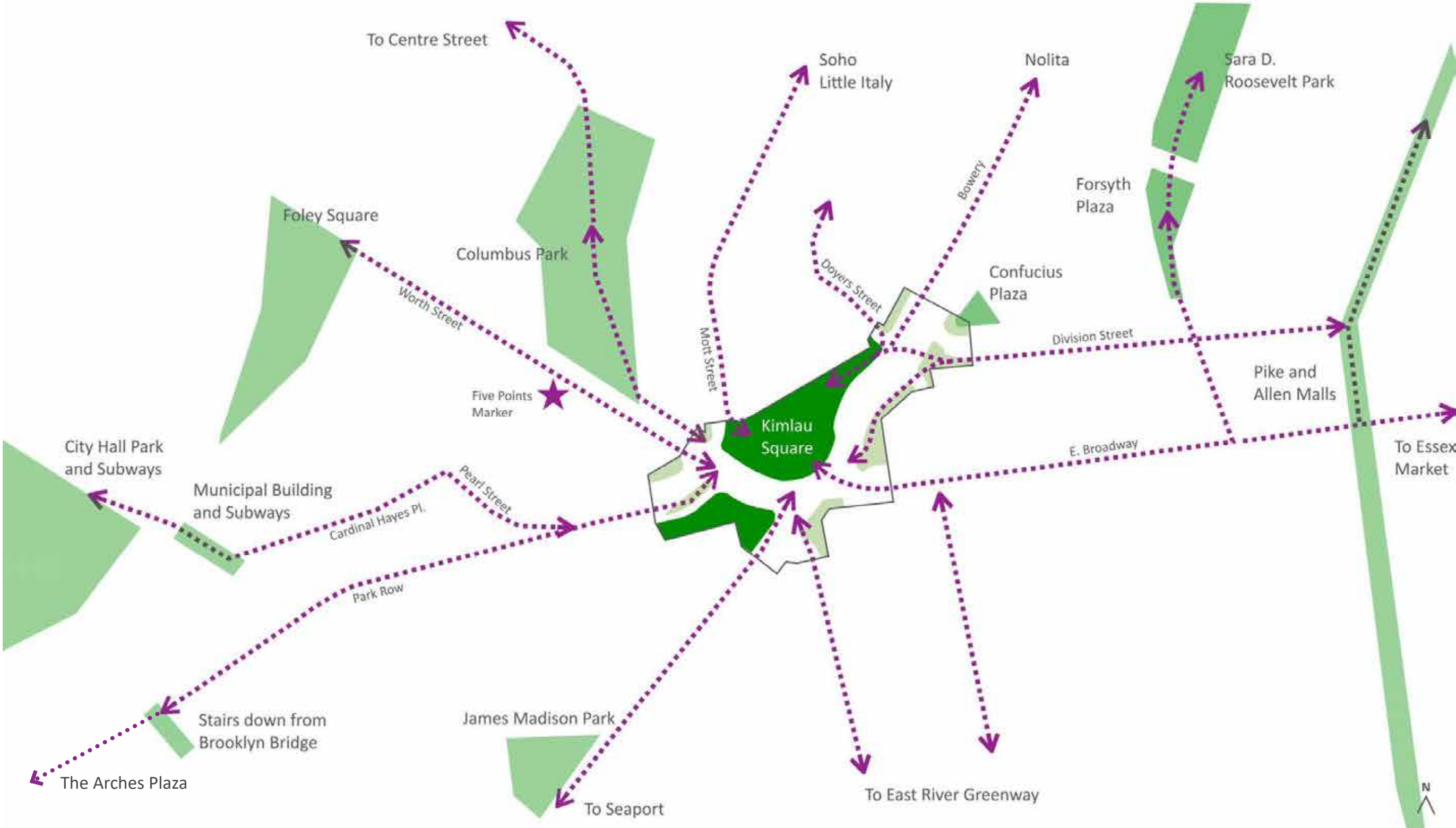


Space shared between different modes - Proposed

A REDESIGN ALLOWS FOR THE CREATION OF A MUCH LARGER OPEN SPACE

FULFILLS THE GOAL OF BETTER ACCOMMODATING CULTURAL FESTIVITIES AND GATHERINGS

CHINATOWN PUBLIC REALM: CREATING CONNECTIONS



The team conducted **55** outreach and engagements across Chinatown between **2025-2026**

Community Stakeholders Walk-Through
 Public Meeting
 CCWG + CB
 Online Survey
 Stakeholder Meetings
 Local Residents

Pop-ups

- Kimlau Square #1, #2, #3
- Transfiguration Church
- Columbus Park
- Confucius Plaza
- Chinatown Supermarket

Tabling

- Smith Houses
- Gotham Park Block Party
- Chinatown Bid Pell Open Street
- 80th Anni. of the AL, Lt. B.R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291
- E.E.E. Festival
- BID Summer Refreshing Weekend
- Chinatown Block Party
- AL Veterans Day

Senior Center

- CPC's Open Door Senior Center
- VHS Chinatown NNORC
- 100 Gold St.

Schools

- P.S. 124
- P.S. 130
- CPC Christie St. After-school Program

Gateway

- Artist Selection Info Sessions
- Artist Selection Charrettes
- 1 on 1 with Stakeholders, Local Artist, Residents





THROUGH 2025 AND 2026, THE TEAM CONDUCTED 55 OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENTS ACROSS CHINATOWN



55 OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENTS

GROUPS ENGAGED:
SENIORS, CHILDREN, COMMUNITY MEMBERS, RESIDENTS, ELECTED OFFICIALS, VISITORS

700+ PEOPLE ENGAGED

332+ WRITTEN COMMENTS

268 VOTES ON DESIGN ELEMENTS

148 SURVEY RESPONSES

2025

FEBRUARY

1. CCWG 6 (2/19/25)

MARCH

2. Stakeholders: Walk Through (3/21/25)
3. Public Meeting #2 PS001 (3/29/25)
4. Online Survey (3/29/25 - 6/30/25)

APRIL

5. Pop-Up: Kimlau Square #1 (4/8/25)
6. Pop-Up: Transfiguration Church (4/8/25)
7. Senior Center: NNORC Advisory Board Meeting (4/16/25)
8. Pop-Up: Columbus Park (4/17/25)
9. Pop-Up: Confucius Plaza (4/17/25)
10. Pop-Up: Chinatown Supermarket of Manhattan (4/18/25)
11. Pop-Up: Kimlau Square #2 (4/18/25)
12. School: PS130 (4/21/25)
13. School: PS124 (4/22/25)
14. Tabling: Earth Day Event at Smith Rec Center (4/23/25)
15. Senior Center: Open Door (4/24/25)
16. School: Chrystie St SACC (4/25/25)
17. Pop-Up: Kimlau Square #3 (4/26/25)
18. Tabling: 80th Anni. Of the American Legion, Lt. B. R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291 (4/26/25)
19. Tabling: Chinatown Bid Pell Open Street (4/26/25)

MAY

20. Tabling: Gotham Park Block Party (5/3/25)
Press Release: Gateway Artist Selection (5/3/25)
21. Senior Center: NNORC VNS Health (5/6/25)
22. Gateway Artist Info Session at American Legion (5/19/25)
23. Gateway Artist Info Session at Think! Chinatown (5/22/25)

JUNE

24. Tabling: EEE Festival (6/15/25)
25. Senior Center: 100 Gold St. (6/25/25)

JULY

26. CCWG 7 (7/16/25)
27. Gateway Artist Charettes Day 1 (7/29/25)
28. Gateway Artist Charettes Day 2 (7/30/25)

AUGUST

29. Tabling: BID Summer Refreshing Weekend (8/9/25)
30. Tabling: Chinatown Block Party (8/10/25)
31. Stakeholders: BID Concept Meeting (8/11/25)
32. Stakeholders: BID, AL, UOFAA Concept Meeting (8/20/25)
Press Release: Selected Artist (8/21/25)

SEPTEMBER

33. Tabling: Smith House Backpack Giveaway (9/2/25)
34. CB1 (9/3/25)
35. CB3 (9/9/25)
36. Chatham Tower (9/10/25)
37. CCWG 8 (9/17/25)
38. Chatham Green (9/18/25)

OCTOBER

Press Release: Conceptual Design (10/21/25)

NOVEMBER

39. Stakeholders: BID - Maintenance and Operation meeting (11/7/25)
40. Stakeholders: AL Veterans Day at GoGo Dimsum (11/11/25)

DECEMBER

41. Stakeholders: BID - Maintenance and Operation Meeting (12/15/25)

2026

FEBRUARY

42. CCWG 9 (2/11/26)

MARCH

43. Stakeholders: American Legion - Memorial Arch Relocation (3/9/26)
Press Release: American Legion + UOFAA (3/18/26)
44. CCWG 10 (3/18/26)

APRIL

45. Stakeholders: BID - Maintenance and Operation Meeting (4/4/26)
46. Gateway: BID (4/8/26)
47. Gateway: American Legion (4/9/26)
48. Gateway: CCBA (4/9/26)
49. Gateway: Think!Chinatown (4/23/26)

MAY

50. Tabling: Gotham Block Party (5/2/26)
51. Gateway: Phillip Poon (5/5/26)
52. Gateway: Chatham Green (5/5/26)
53. Gateway: Chatham Towers (5/8/26)
54. CB3 (5/12/26)
55. CB1 (5/21/26)

Upcoming:

- Gateway: Schools
- Gateway: Senior Centers
- Gateway: Fujianese Associations
- Gateway: Local Artists
- Gateway: Local Residents
- CCWG 11

DESIGN GOALS

Safe and Connected



Simplify the existing travel patterns in the square to create a more typical intersection and ensure smoother, more direct connections for all roadway users

Celebrate and Share Culture



Develop a cohesive design standard for the square to create a visually distinctive entrance to the neighborhood that highlights the existing memorials and statues and provide a location for a new gateway installation

A Place to Gather



Create a premier, expanded, and more functional open space for Chinatown to better accommodate the plethora cultural festivities and gatherings that occur in the neighborhood.

DESIGN INTENT

The new public plaza will **serve as a gateway** to Chinatown, **expand the public space**, and **minimize conflicts between different modes of movement.**

SITE & PROJECT SCOPE

Current: ~ 11,250 SF



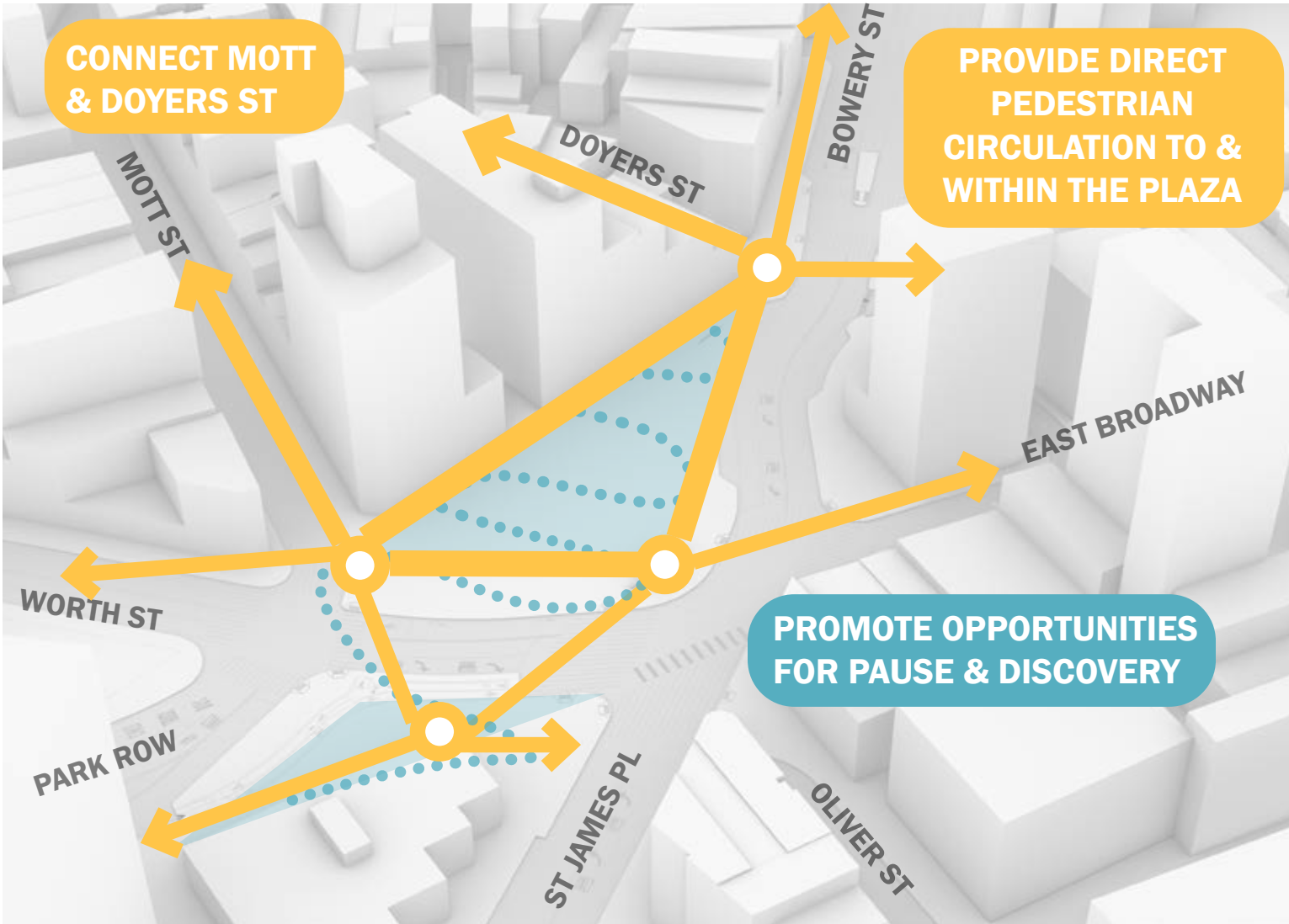
Proposed: ~ 27,700 SF

Enlarged x2.5



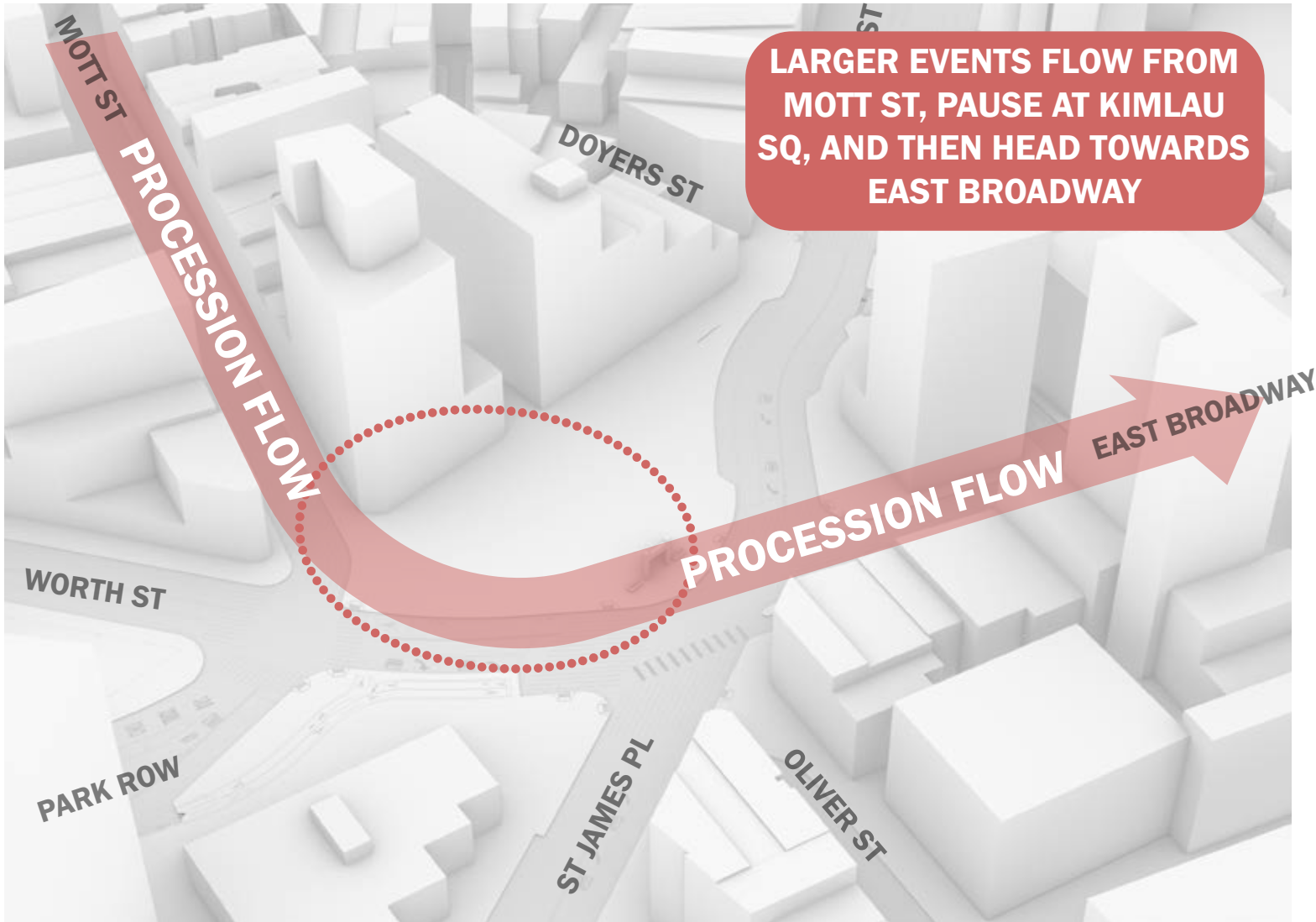
CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

CIRCULATION - PEDESTRIAN DAY TO DAY



- DIRECT PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION
- MEANDERING PATH

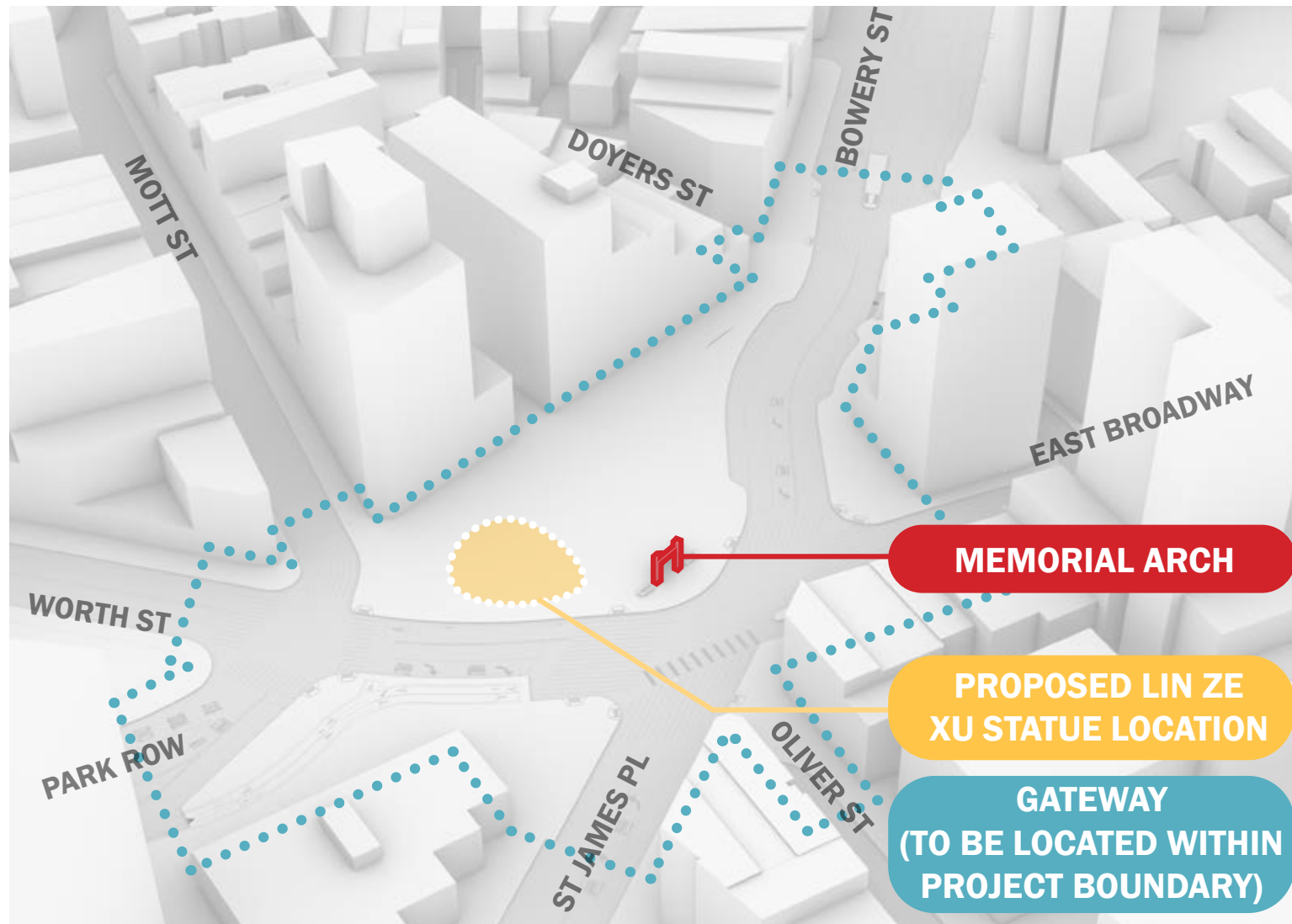
CIRCULATION - EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS



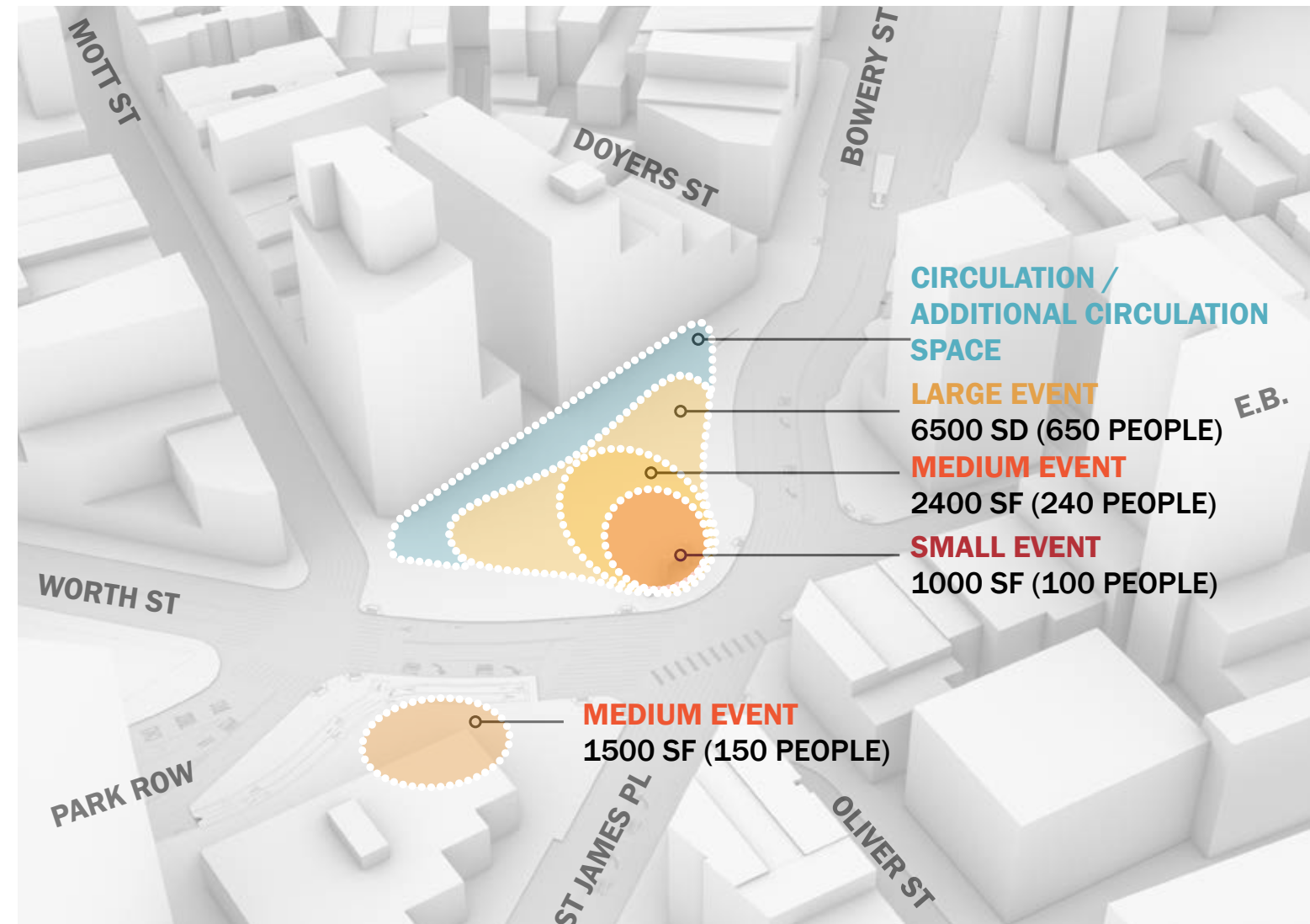
- PROCESSION FLOW

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

FLEXIBILITY - GATHERING SPACE FOR DIFFERENT CULTURAL MARKERS



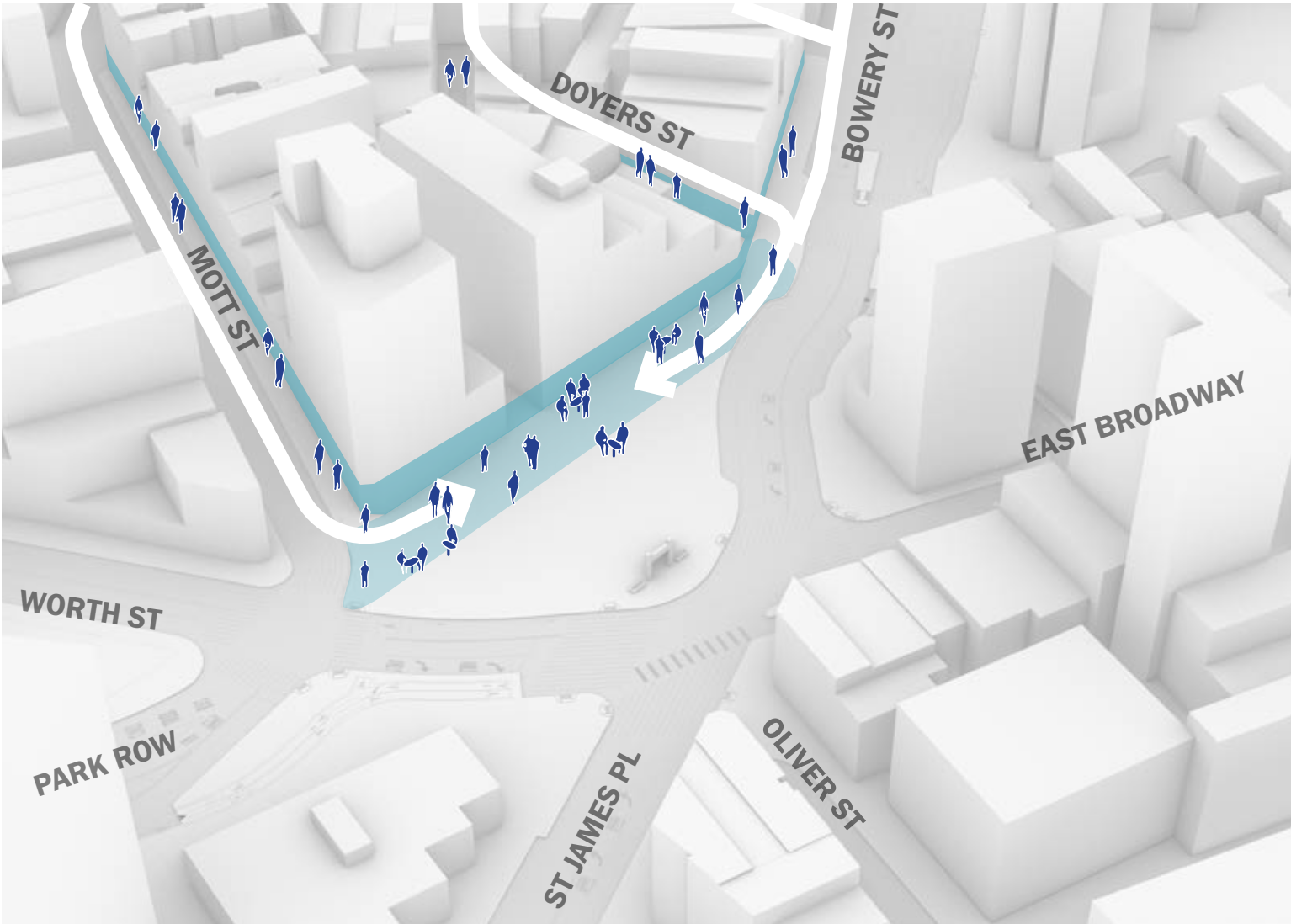
FLEXIBILITY - GATHERING SPACE FOR DIFFERENT SCALES



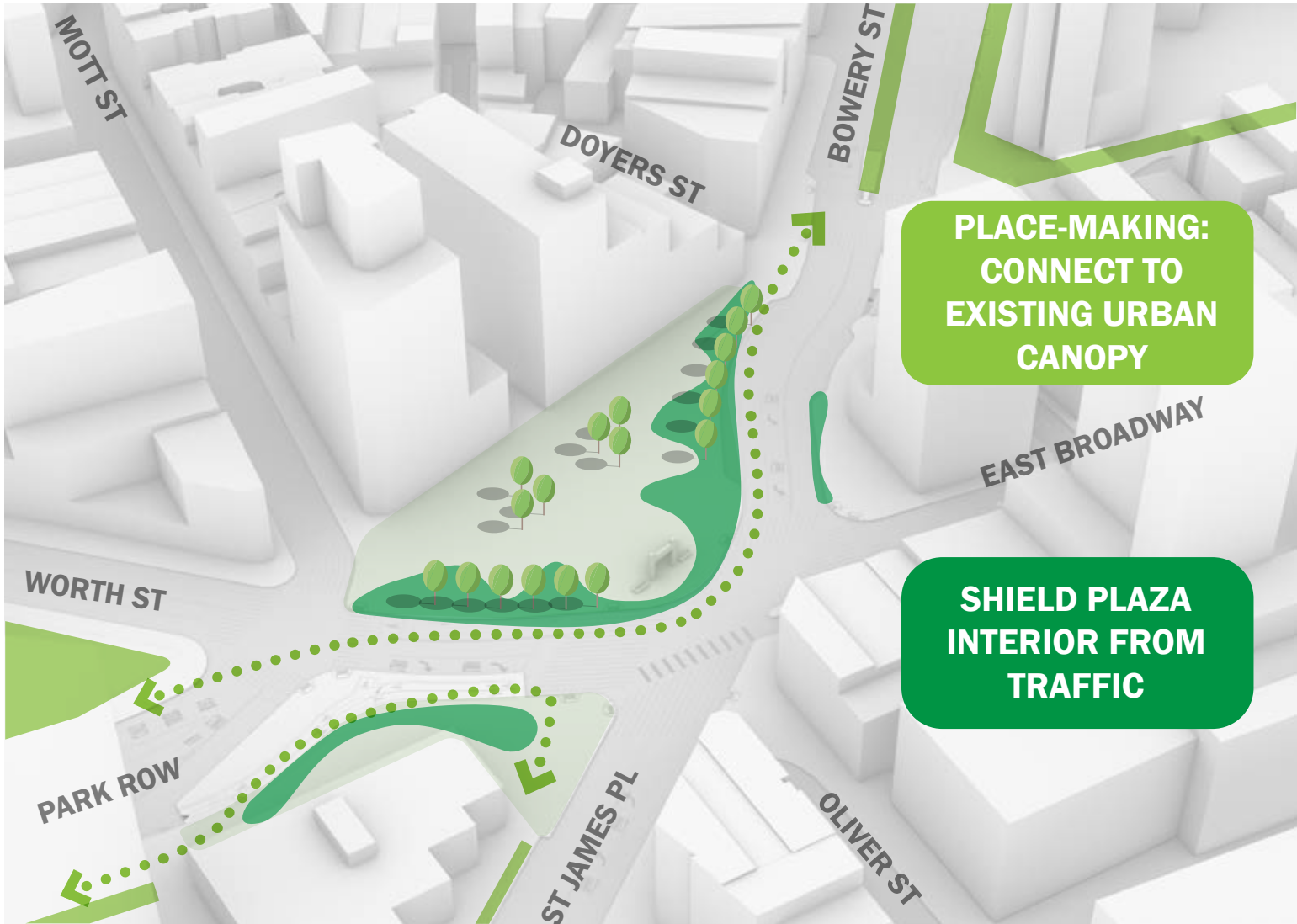
Estimated event capacity is based on coordination with the Chinatown Business Improvement District and attendance from their current programs. The diagram above assumes 10 SF/ person (i.e. arms-length, loose crowd).



CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

STREET LEVEL COMMERCIAL ACTIVATION



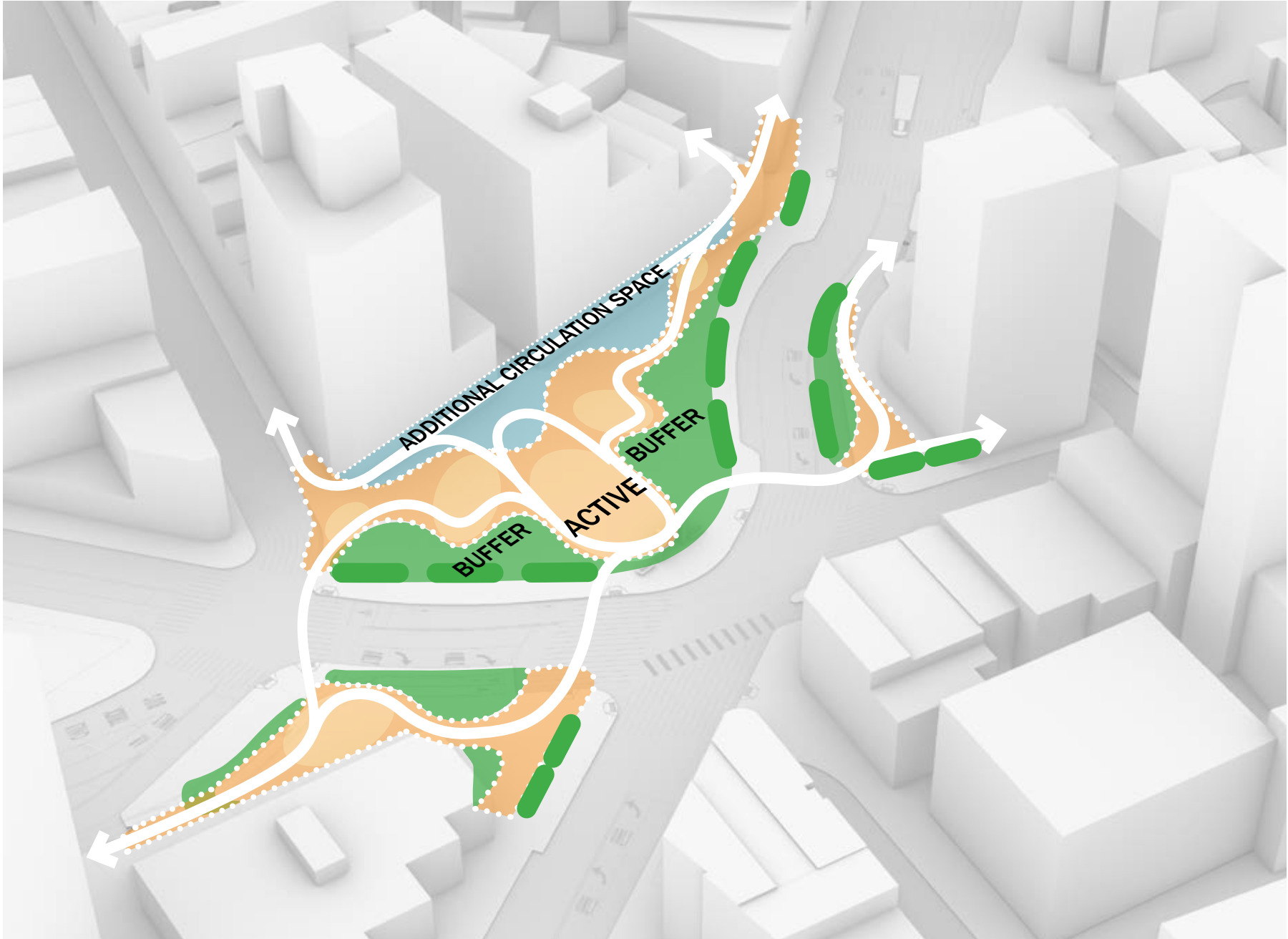
PLANTING - BUFFER



-  PROPOSED PLANTING BUFFER
-  EXISTING TREE CANOPY

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK - MEANDERING

THE MEANDERING GEOMETRY IS A SPATIAL FRAMEWORK THAT LINKS THE ARRAY OF COMPONENTS WITHIN THE PLAZA. DRIVEN BY A THEME OF CONNECTION, THE DESIGN FACILITATES A NATURAL FLOW OF PEOPLE WHILE INTENTIONALLY CARVING OUT POCKETS FOR RESPITE AND REST.



- ↔ MOVEMENT THROUGH SPACE
- GATHERING SPACE
- GREEN BUFFER
- ADDITIONAL CIRCULATION SPACE

PLAN VIEW



TREE IN GRATE

TREE IN PLANTING BED

RELOCATED
LIN ZE XU STATUE

SHADED SEATING AREA

BUFFER FROM TRAFFIC/NOISE

MOTT ST. TO DOYER ST. CONNECTION

FDNY FIRE LANE ACCESS

LOADING AND UNLOADING ZONE

BUFFER FROM TRAFFIC/NOISE

PROPOSED KIOSK LOCATION
(9' L X 12' W X 10' H)

FLEXIBLE GATHERING SPACE

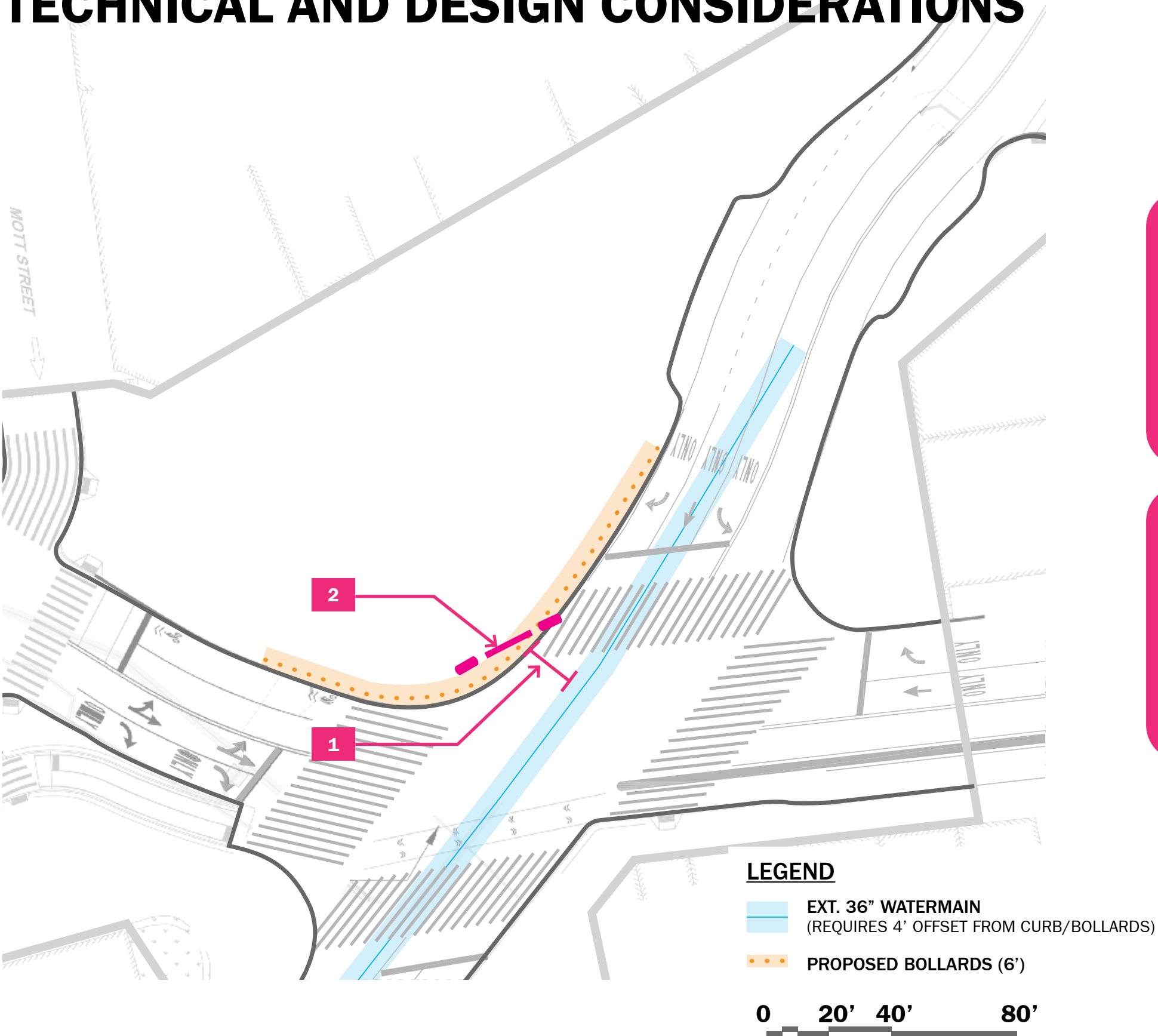
FLAG POLE

MEMORIAL ARCH

BUS STOPS



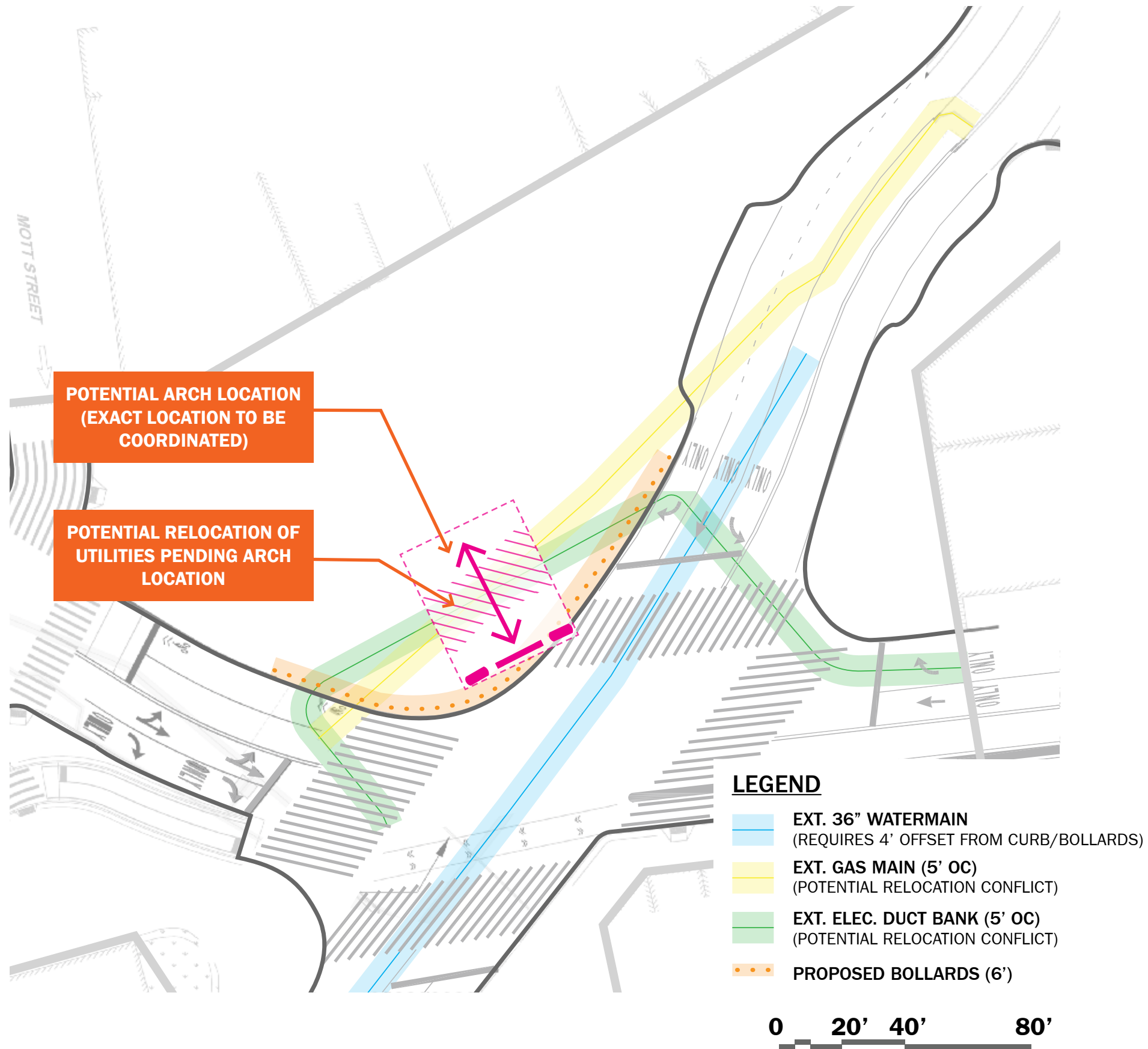
MEMORIAL ARCH RECENTERING TECHNICAL AND DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS



1. MINIMUM OFFSET REQUIRED BETWEEN EXISTING WATERMAIN AND PLAZA CURB-LINE

2. EXISTING ARCH LOCATION OVERLAPS WITH PREFERRED ROADWAY GEOMETRY AND PROPOSED BOLLARD LINE

KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR RECENTERING



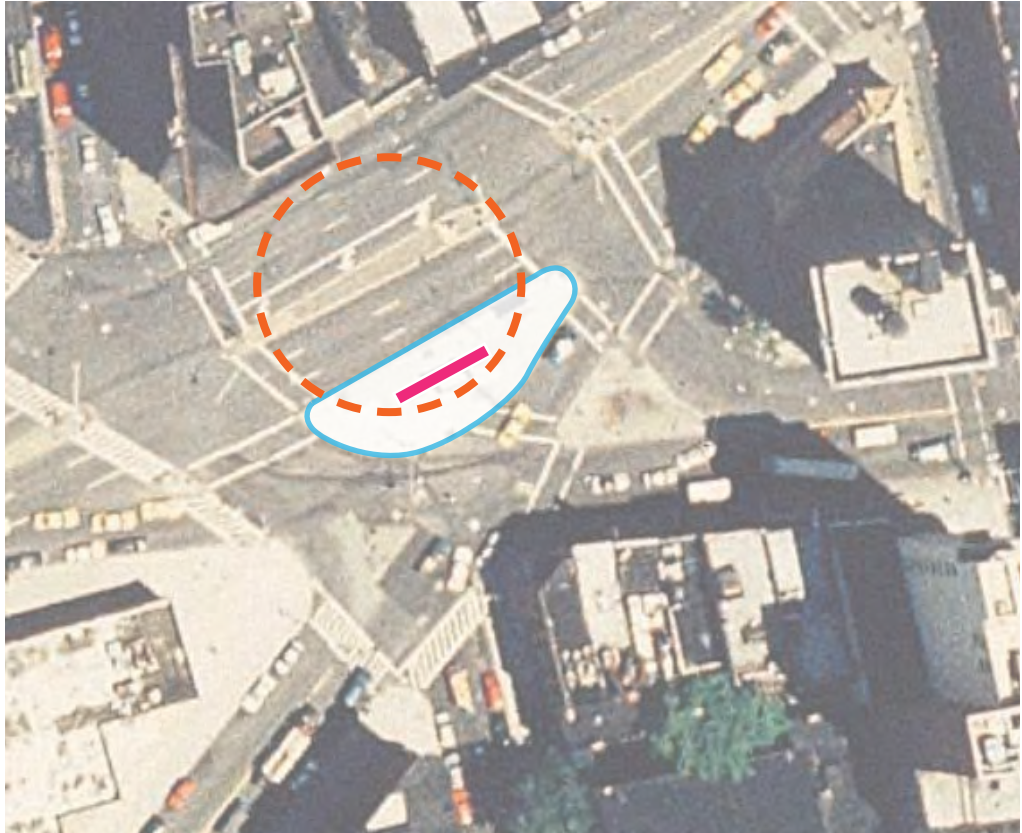
1. SETTING
- RESPECT ORIENTATION
- ALLOW USE ON ALL SIDES
- MAINTAIN ALIGNMENT

2. VIEWSHEDS
- MAINTAIN SIGHTLINES FOR PEDESTRIANS
- CONSIDER PROXIMITY TO OTHER STRUCTURES
- VEHICULAR SIGHTLINE CLEAR

3. COMMUNITY
- SAFER PUBLIC SPACE
- FACILITATE LARGER COMMUNITY EVENTS

THE MEMORIAL ARCH AS A GATHERING SPACE

OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND ON THE ORIGINAL INTENDED EXPERIENCE AROUND THE MEMORIAL ARCH



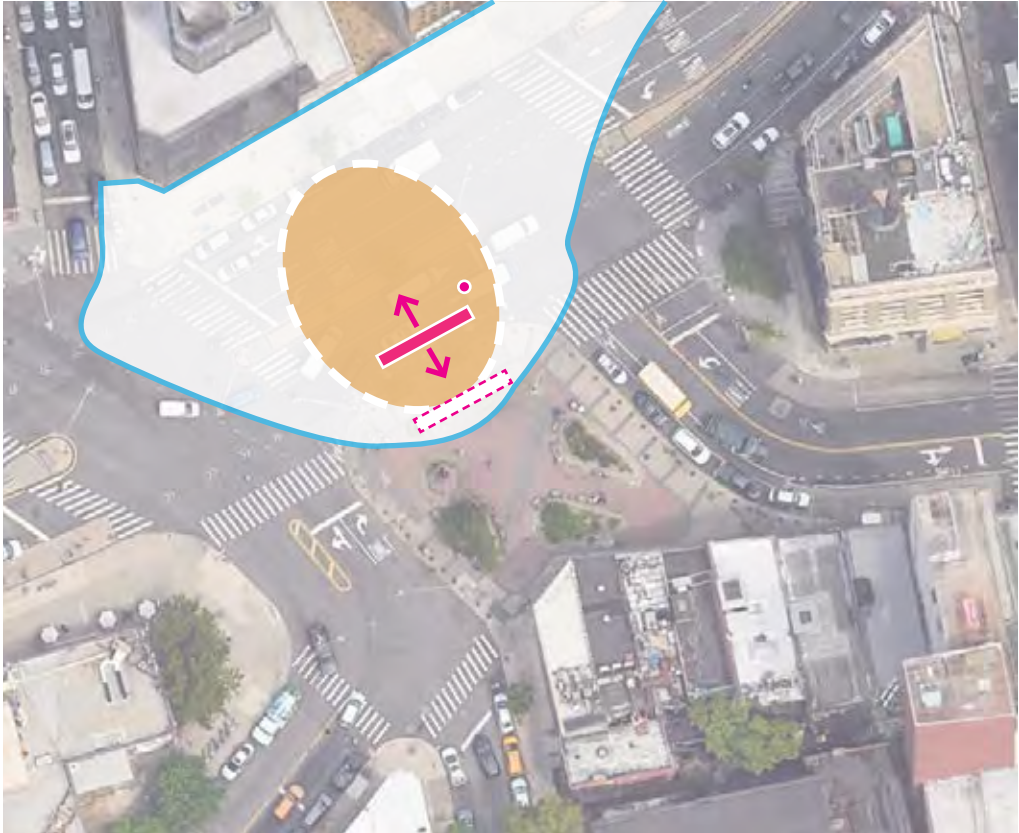
1960'S

GATHERING REQUIRES STREET CLOSURE



EXISTING CONDITION






LIMITED GATHERING IN SMALL PLAZA
OR WITHIN TRAFFIC



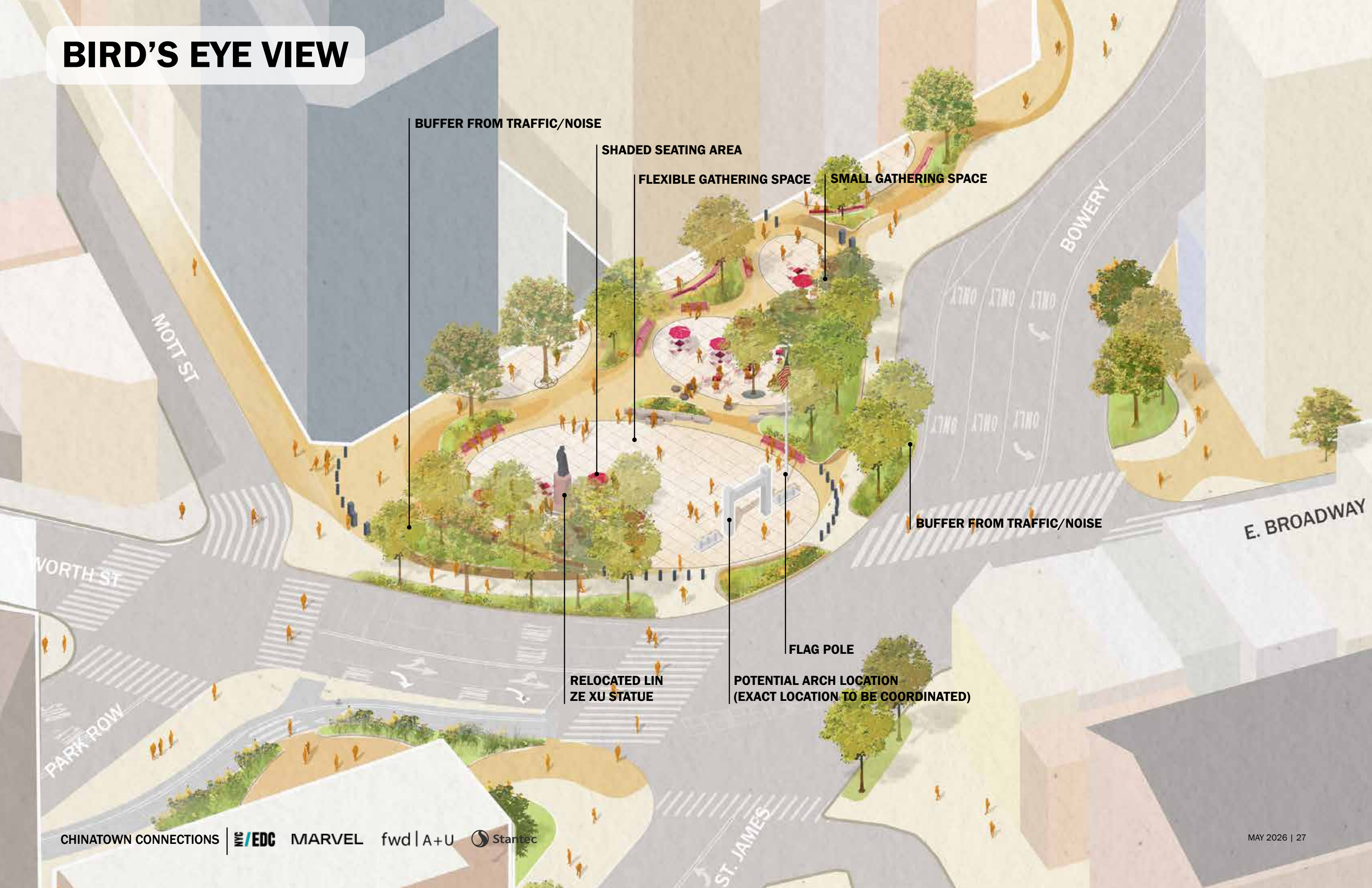
**RECENTERING MEMORIAL ARCH
ON PROPOSED KIMLAU SQUARE**

LARGER GATHERING WITHIN PLAZA AND
TWO-SIDED MULTIPLE CONFIGURATIONS

LEGEND

-  GATHERING REQUIRES STREET CLOSURE
-  GATHERING SPACE AT PLAZA
-  MEMORIAL ARCH
-  FLAG POLE
-  PLAZA BOUNDARY

BIRD'S EYE VIEW



BUFFER FROM TRAFFIC/NOISE

SHADED SEATING AREA

FLEXIBLE GATHERING SPACE

SMALL GATHERING SPACE

BUFFER FROM TRAFFIC/NOISE

RELOCATED LIN
ZE XU STATUE

FLAG POLE
POTENTIAL ARCH LOCATION
(EXACT LOCATION TO BE COORDINATED)

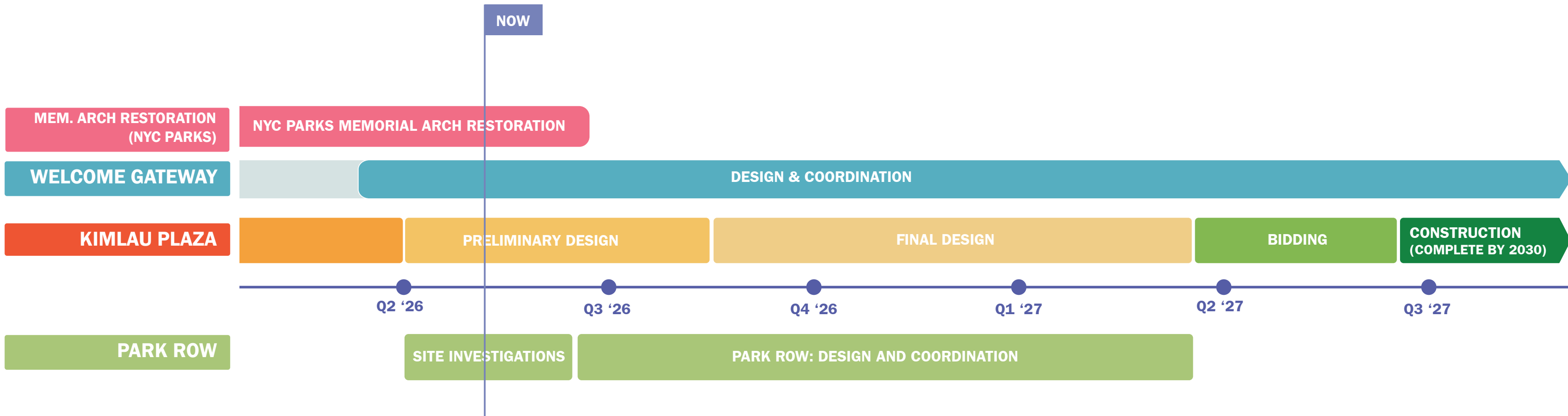
VIEW FROM KIMLAU SQUARE FACING SW (PARK ROW)



VIEW FROM KIMLAU SQUARE FACING EAST BROADWAY



PROJECT TIMELINE & NEXT STEPS



NEXT STEPS:

- TEST PITS TO CONFIRM SUBGRADE INFRASTRUCTURE
- CURB GEOMETRY
- WELCOME GATEWAY CONCEPT DESIGN

