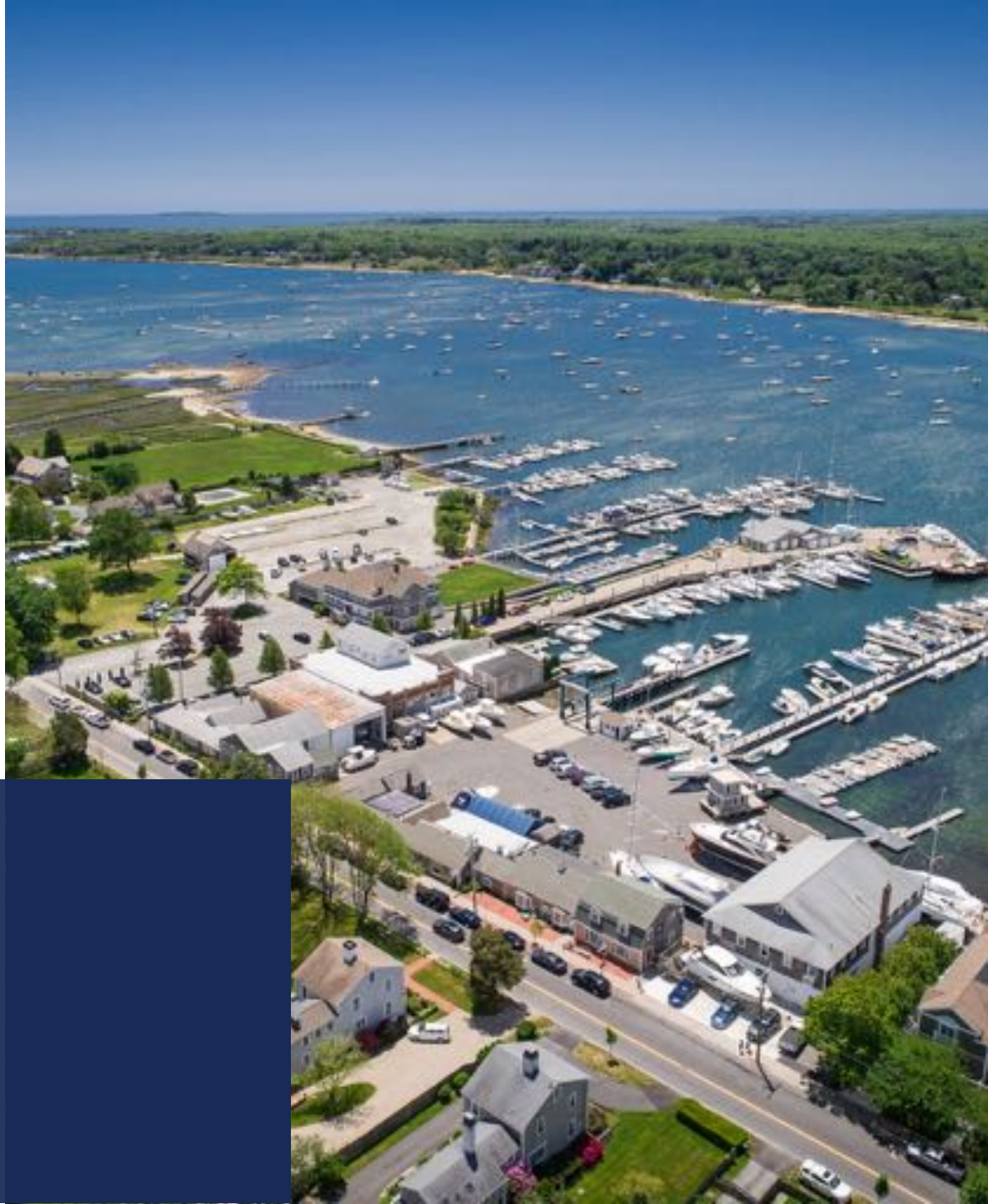




# GETTING BACK TO A NEW NORMAL: REPURPOSING PUBLIC SPACES

# ABOUT US



# AGENDA

## **REGIONAL SURVEY RESULTS**

Lizeth Gonzalez, SRPEDD

## **STATEWIDE EXAMPLES**

Geoffrey Morrison-Logan, VHB

Patricia Domigan, VHB

## **REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION**

Tabitha Harkin,

City of New Bedford

## **PROPOSAL**

Kenneth Buckland,

Town of Wareham

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

Katherine Fichter,

MassDOT





# REGIONAL SURVEY RESULTS

## **CHALLENGES**

- Fiscal outlook
- Public engagement
- Implementation of social distancing measures

## **OUTREACH**

- Virtual meetings
- Email
- Web alerts
- Facebook

## **COMMUNITY NEEDS**

- Access to food and medical care
- Extension of tax due dates
- Temporary zoning permits
- Outreach to small businesses

## **LET'S LEARN MORE...**

- Public health initiatives
- Outreach programs for small business assistance
- Infrastructure maintenance
- Partner with the private sector
- Pop-up programs
- Adapting parking requirements in local centers

# Getting Back to a New Normal: Repurposing Public Space

*Presented by*  
**Geoffrey Morrison-Logan,**  
NE Regional Director of  
Planning, Urban Design and  
Landscape Architecture

**PATRICIA DOMIGAN,**  
DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES

July 21, 2020



Source: Bing Maps

# Headlines and News...

- **Weekend street closure boosts business in San Francisco's Chinatown amid COVID-19 pandemic** ~ *ABC 7 news*
- **New York City Open Streets Program | 9,000+ businesses | 40 miles of street to allow for greater social distancing and plans for 100 miles** ~ *NYC DOT*
- **Will some city streets in Vancouver remain closed after the pandemic?** ~ *CBS News*
- **Philadelphia postpones street closures for outdoor dining over safety, health concerns.** ~ *WHYY PBS*
- **City of Vancouver proposed 50 km of “slow Street” for pedestrian and cyclists**  
~ *Vancouver Urbanized*
- **Baltimore City Slow Street Program – Road Closed: Local Traffic Only**  
~ *Baltimore City DOT*
- **Seattle’s swift street closures show the highs and lows of rushing the process**  
~ *citymetric.com*
- **Mayor Walsh Announces Details of New ‘Healthy Street’ Initiative** ~ *StreetBlog*



Case Study:  
Moody  
Street  
Waltham,  
MA

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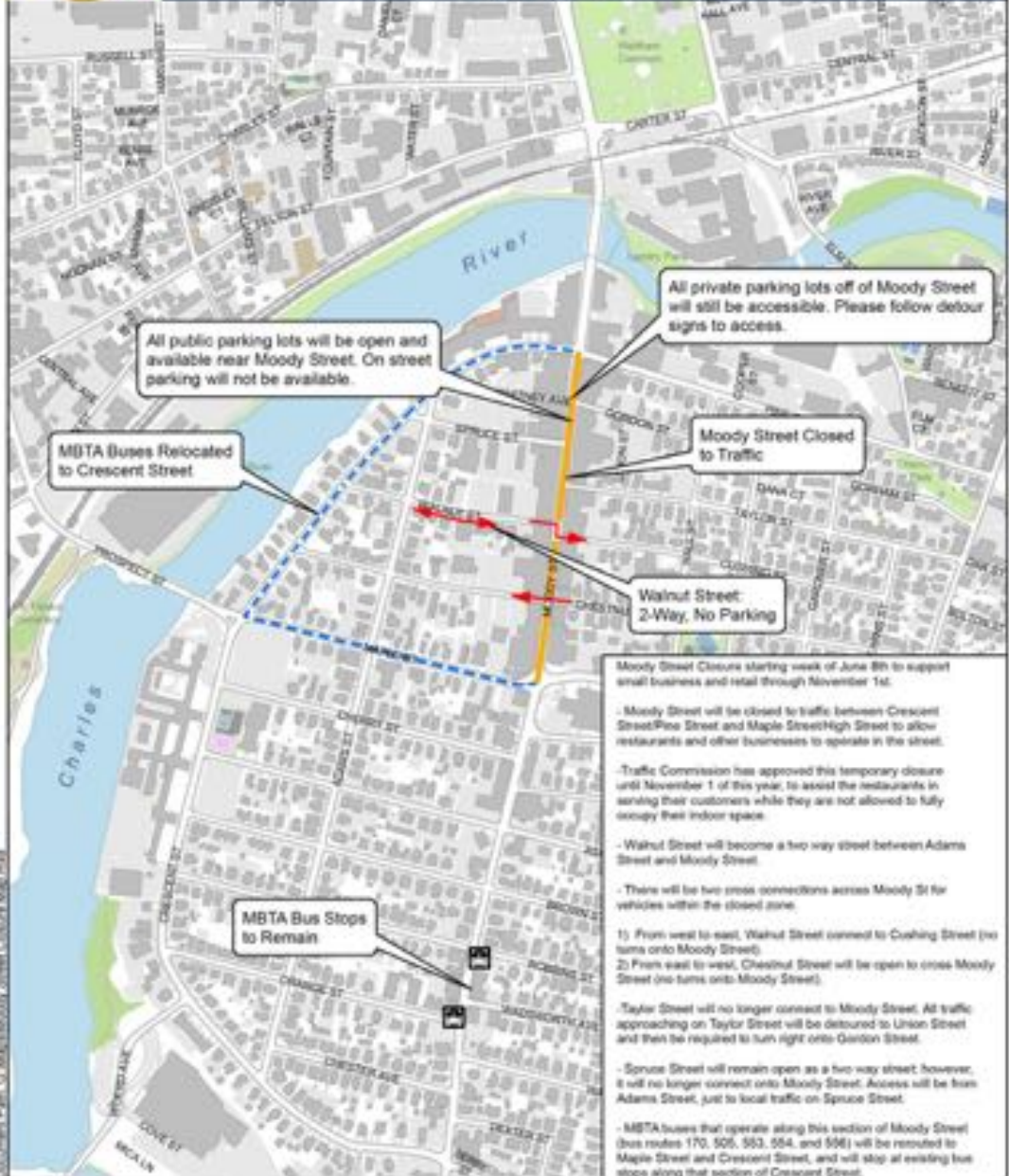


Source: Bing Maps



# Moody Street Closures

STARTING THE WEEK OF JUNE 8TH, 2020  
TO SUPPORT OUTDOOR DINING THROUGH  
NOVEMBER 1ST 2020



Document Path: G:\Maps\Moody Street Closure Map.mxd







MOODY S  
DETOUR











CARNAL  
Quidó's  
RESTAURANT & BAR

SUN RAMP  
COMMERCIAL  
VEHICLES ONLY



















Dia Market

KABAB  
&  
TANDOORI

FOOD  
YOU  
LOVE  
AT  
LOWEST  
PRICE





PARKING IN REAR OFF GORDON ST.

GLOBAL  
THRIFT STORE



























781.899.5873

Boston Bay Travel

Boston Bay Travel  
781-899-5873

WHITE CROWN









# Case Studies: Framingham & Ashland

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Framingham, MA



Source: Bing Maps



Framingham, MA









# What tools and programs does your community have that could impact Public Space?

- Complete Streets Program
- Bike Plan
- Sidewalk Inventory
- Pavement Management Plans
- Wayfinding and Signage Plans
- Open Space and Recreation Plan
- Open Space Cluster Zoning
- Community Preservation Act
- Development Standards for Commercial Uses
- Streetscape Design Standards
- Downtown and Business Associations
- Arts and Cultural Organizations
- Cultural District
- Green Infrastructure Standards
- Sustainability and Energy Plan
- Health chapter in your Comprehensive Plan



# Healthy Mobility

## A Tool for Healthy Communities

The **Healthy Mobility tool** is a planning-level tool that provides estimates for potential chronic disease risk factors. The intent of the tool is to identify the geographic distribution of health-related variables and assist clients in planning for public health interventions.

### GOALS

- 1 Analyze** land use, urban design, and mobility factors that affect community health.
- 2 Establish** baseline health assessment and trends for a community.
- 3 Forecast** likely community health outcomes or conditions.
- 4 Identify** physical and prioritize improvements that can contribute to better community health.
- 5 Leverage** Big Data and Applied Technology into a model that is scalable and transferrable.

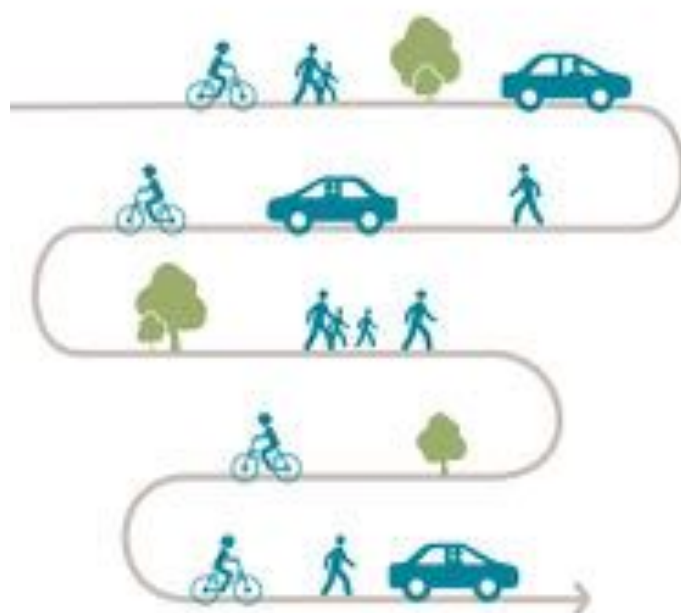
### How are the results used?

- 1** To close the gaps where health data is not readily available.
- 2** To provide a "score" that can be measured against.
- 3** To allow clients to assess public health conditions today.
- 4** To allow clients to track public health conditions over time.
- 5** To identify and prioritize improvements (physical and policy) that have the greatest.





## Checklist For Interim Roadway Modifications For Social Distancing



- ☒ Roadway ownership
- ☒ Roadway functional classification
- ☒ Traffic signal system operation
- ☒ Seasonal traffic variations
- ☒ Local emergency response agencies' routing including police, fire and EMS
- ☒ Public Transit Agency bus routes
- ☒ On-street parking
- ☒ Designated truck routes
- ☒ Impact on pedestrian travel patterns, crossing locations and safety features
- ☒ Evacuation routes
- ☒ Duration of the modification
- ☒ Data collection or monitoring program needed
- ☒ RR grade crossings within the project limits

# *City of New Bedford Restaurant Reopening Working Group*

*Tabitha Harkin & Steve Silverstein Co-chairs*



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*City of NB Restaurant Phase II  
Reopening*





# *Restaurant Working Group Mission Statement & Membership*

- The New Bedford Restaurant Re-Opening Working Group is a public-private collaborative established to develop recommendations for the City of New Bedford on the safe and successful re-opening of restaurants in the city. The Baker administration has indicated that phase two of the Commonwealth's re-opening plan, which is expected for June 8th, will allow for Patio dining. To execute on this aspect of the plan is an unprecedented challenge, necessitating a highly collaborative and creative approach. Comprising City staff, elected officials, industry leaders, and local business community liaisons, the Working Group is tasked with formulating policies, solutions, and practices to allow New Bedford's valued restaurant community to optimally adapt to our new reality.

# *Restaurant Working Group Mission Statement & Membership*

Name	Affiliation	Representing
Tabitha Harkin, Anne Louro	City Planning	City/West End
Steve Silverstein	Restaurant/Bar Owner	Business
Christina Connelly	Mayor's office	City/South End
Derek Santos ; Angela Johnson; Ramon Silva	EDC	City/West End
Joe Lopes Ian Abreu	City Council	City/South End
Jay Lanagan	Restaurant/Bar owner	Business
Richard LaFrance	Conference and Hotel Owner	Business
Rick Kidder	SC Chamber	Business
(Rep for )David Slutz	Restaurant/Bar Owner	Business/ Downtown
Damon Chaplin; Stephanie Sloan; Gail Joseph	City Health	City/West End
Mikeala McDermott; Blair Bailey/Kreg Espinola	City Solicitors	City/West End
Danny Romanawicz	City Inspections	City
Jamie Ponte	City DPI	City/North End
Nick Nanopoulos	City Licencing Board	City
Corinn Williams	CEDC	City/North End
Elissa Paquette	DNB, Inc.	City/Downtown
Steven Froias	Love the Ave	City/North End
Tony Soares	Inner Bay Cafe	Business/South End
Troy Demello	Greasy Luck/Airport Grill	Business/North End
Kristin Raffa Cahill	Pa Raffas	Business/North End
Martha E Gonzalez	Adrianas	Business/North End
Jessica Coelho Arruda Ryan Arruda- GM	Tia Marias	Downtown
Craig Paiva	No Problemo	Downtown
Devin Byrnes	D Soups	Downtown
Dana Ribeiro	Former Councilor	Downtown
Carla Amaral	Novo Mundo	Business/North End
Bobby Alphonso Sandy-GM	Top Shelf	Business/North End
Scott Ferreira	Cafe Mimo	Business/North End
Steve Beauregard	Lic. Board	City

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*City of NB Restaurant Phase II  
Reopening*



# *Compilation of Guidelines: Working Group Share*

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yQSRT\\_La4PnbBTqif4QqW8vfi7\\_K0WB-J?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yQSRT_La4PnbBTqif4QqW8vfi7_K0WB-J?usp=sharing)

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MA State  
Guidelines  
(Required)

Best Practices and  
templates from  
other cities and  
towns

Recently passed  
COVID legislation  
related to Patio  
dining

EDC Briefings

Pertinent News  
Articles

Maps, plans and  
drawings of  
potential layouts

# *EDC Survey #1 Restaurant Feedback*



57 Responses, several emails



39% seek both café and liquor permits



Patio dining desired



34% would not be able to open without serving alcohol



Health and safety concerns



Mixed response on anticipation of returning workforce



78% in favor of street closures



*The Restaurant survey responses were augmented with personal outreach, community survey and interviews... particularly on Acushnet Avenue and for smaller establishments.*

*Every Restaurant in the City, regardless of size, was considered.*



# *EDC Survey #2 Community Feedback*



258 Responses, several emails



Patio dining desired, still fear disease indoors



Health and safety concerns



Mixed response on anticipation of returning workforce



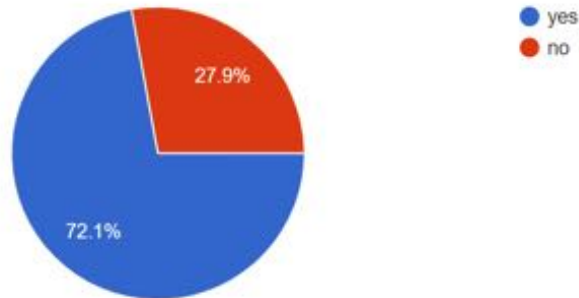
89% in favor of street closures



## Citywide Outdoor Dining

1. Do you feel safe/comfortable going out to dinner under these circumstances?

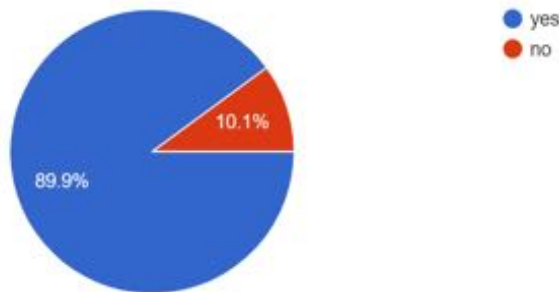
258 responses



## Street Closures

1. Do you think this is worth doing to help restaurants expand their dining capacity?

258 responses



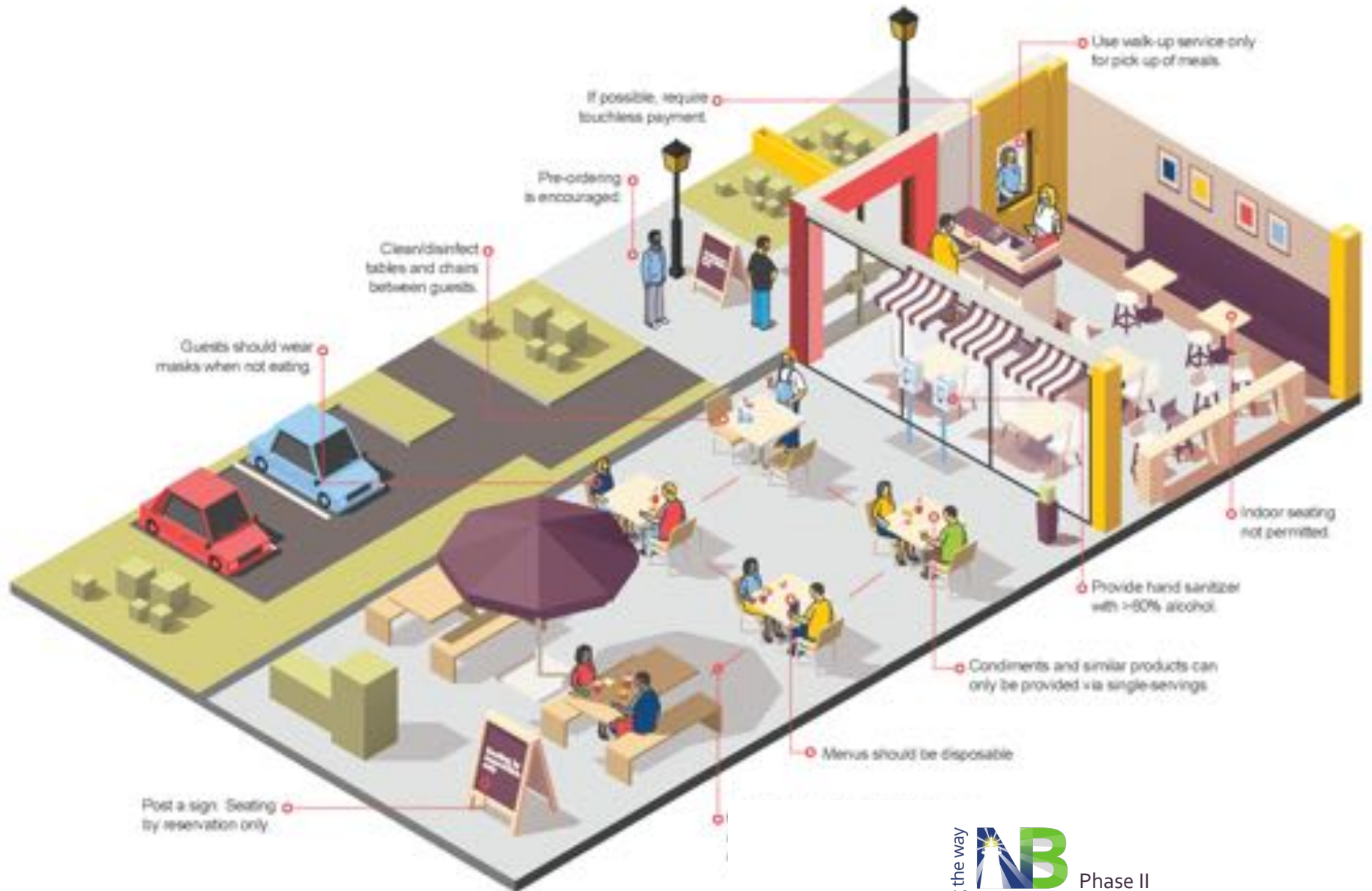
- People want to see masks in place.
- Concerns about wearing masks, risks, and social distancing measures
- Would rather see less temp checks by establishments, belief that you should stay home if sick
- Overall support for road closures but don't feel it is a necessary measure unless restaurants request it.



*City of NB Restaurant Phase II  
Reopening*







*City of NB Restaurant Phase II Reopening*

# Potential Street and Parking area reuse plans



Downtown- Purchase Street,  
Acushnet Ave



One Way or full closure



Nights, Weekends?



Designated Curbside pickup area  
required



Barriers for safety, Barrels limited



## DINING PARKLETS



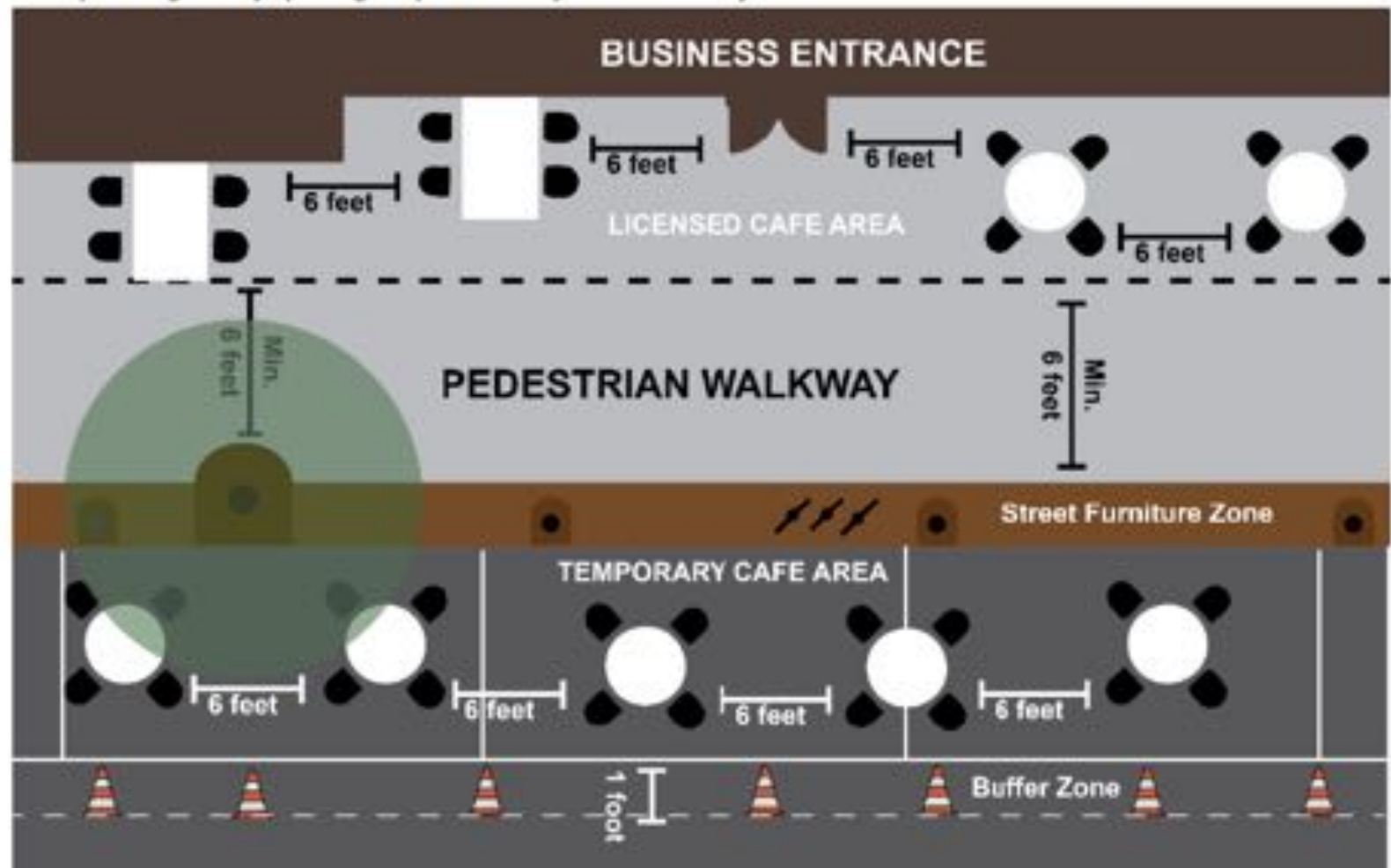
Use of Dining Parklets in areas where sidewalk width is narrow and street closing unfeasible.

DINING  
PARKLETS IN  
PLACE OF  
STREET  
CLOSURES  
ARE LESS  
DISRUPTIVE  
AND ALLOW  
FOR CURB  
SIDE PICK-UP  
AND  
LOADING  
ZONES





*Example Diagram of Spacing Requirements for Outdoor Cafes*



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*DOWNTOWN  
LOCATIONS  
FOR EXPANDED  
DINING*



Potential Use of Dining Parklets

Potential Use of Dining Parks for consumption of Take-Out Food (no alcohol allowed)



## Lower Downtown



Dining Establishment



City owned/public realm



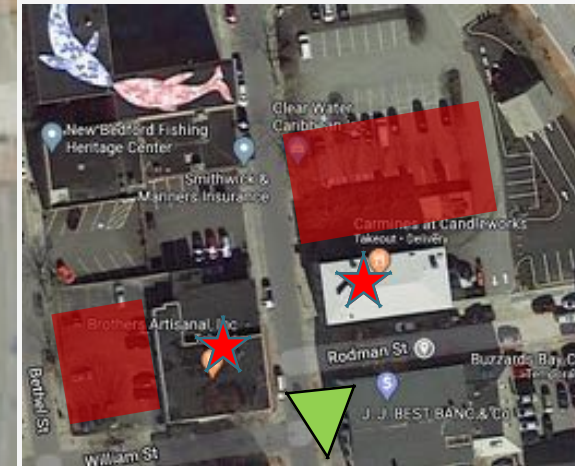
Expanded sidewalk seating  
– including across the street

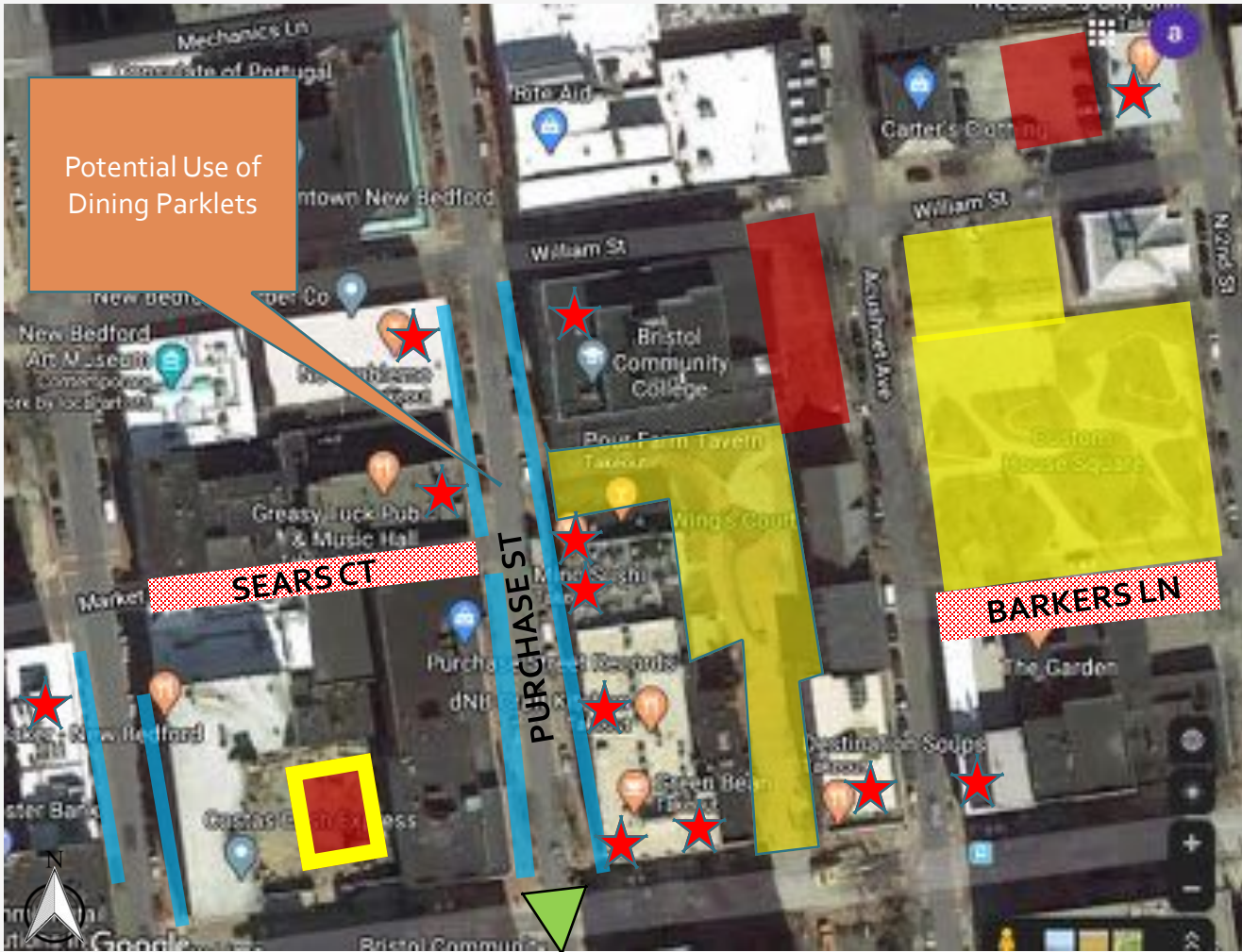


Privately  
owned/potential for  
Patio dining  
Potential Street Closing









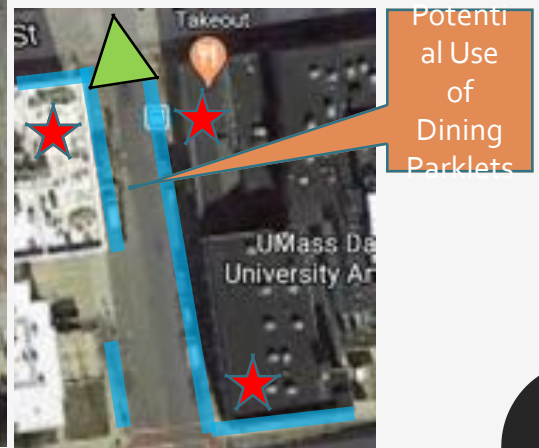
Map Connector





**Mid Downtown**

-  Dining Establishment
-  City owned/public realm
-  Expanded sidewalk seating – including across the street
-  Privately owned/potential for Patio dining
-  Potential Street Closing
-  Map Connector

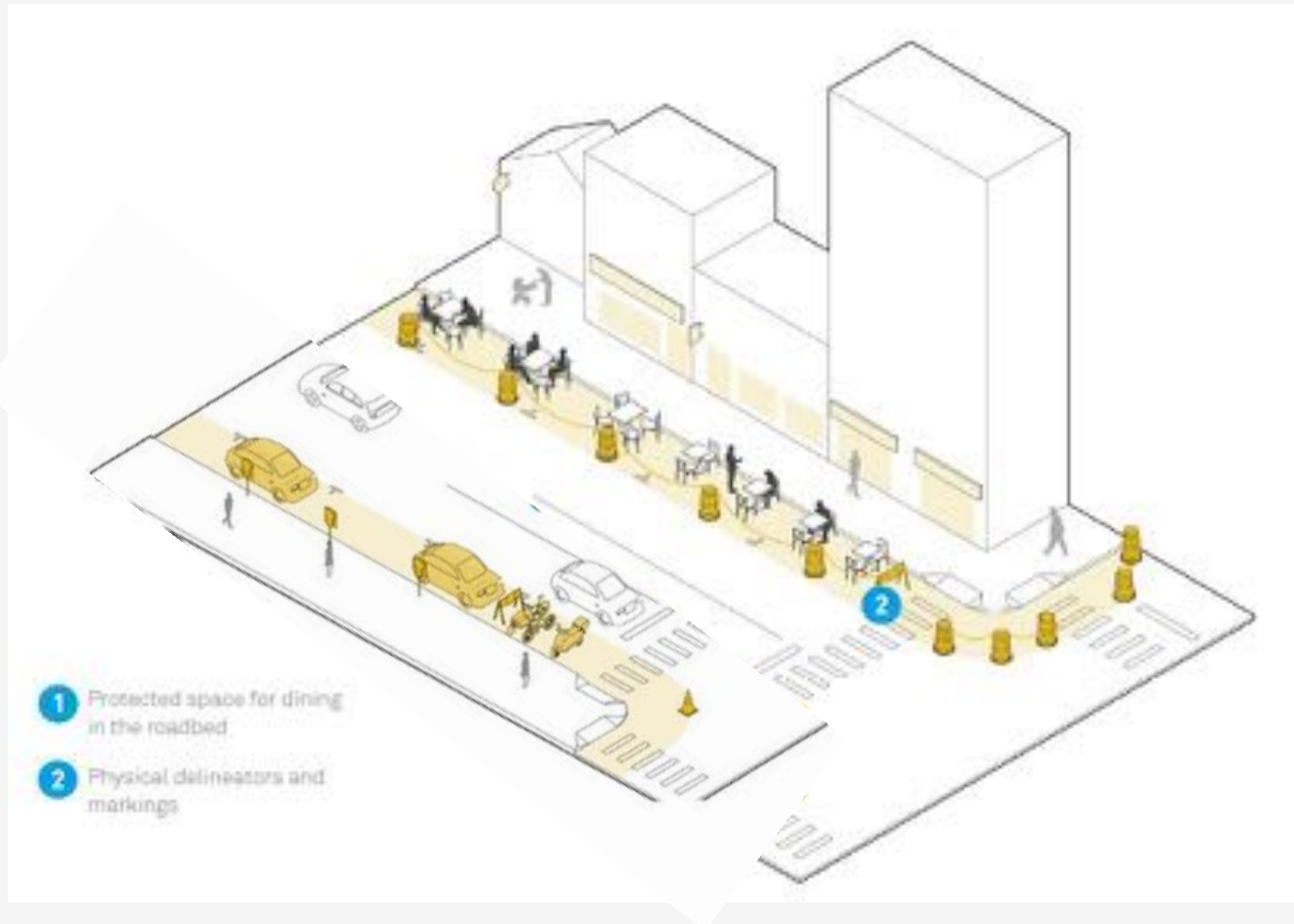




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*POTENTIAL  
ACUSHNET  
AVENUE  
LOCATIONS FOR  
STREET DINING*

Designate a **Street Dining Zone** along a portion of Acushnet Avenue where a cluster of restaurants exist. Implement One Way Traffic and use of metered parking spaces for dining parklets.



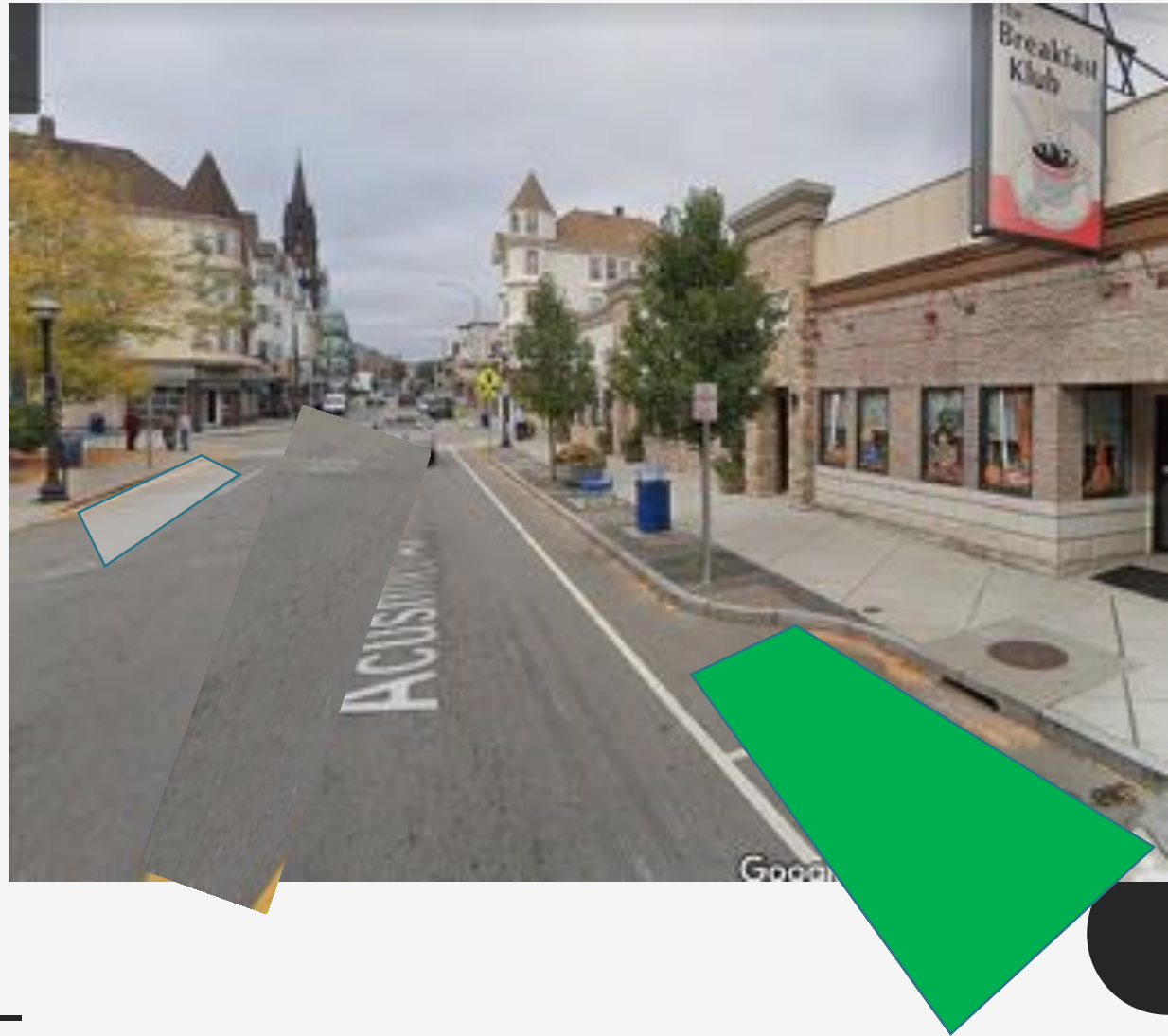


### Typical Acushnet Ave. Parklets

- 6' wide parklet – length TBD in field
- Acushnet Ave – **ONE WAY**
- Remove parking on west side of street in parklet locations.
- Restripe street in parklet locations.
- Provide appropriate barriers & signage near corners and at intersections.

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Alternative: Close portion of Ave on weekends only.



# SURVEY SAYS....

## Collective Dining Space.

Would you be interested in drinking and dining in a “biergarten” type of space like Custom House Square? You would be able to buy an alcoholic beverage from a rotating series of vendors and enjoy a takeout meal in a space that is accommodate social distancing.

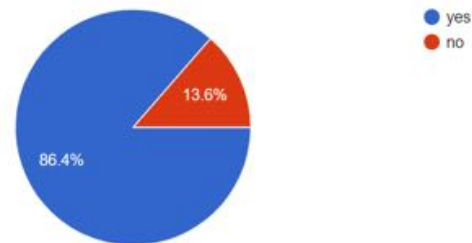
258 responses



## Purchase Street between Union and William Streets

1. Would you support a partial closing of Purchase Street between Union and William Streets allowing for slow one-way vehicular traffic, offer valuable sidewalk and street space for outside dining options?

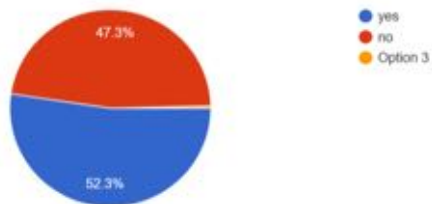
258 responses



## The Avenue and near North End

1. Are you interested in patronizing outdoor Cafe Seating along Acushnet Avenue in the north end?

258 responses





# *Branding and Outreach*



Open Communication & Survey



Ongoing Engagement with community groups- Love the Ave, Downtown Squad, Ward Councilors



Clear and Illustrated Information



Direct assistance to all café permit applicants



Guidance document and permit on City website front page

## Outreach Recommendations

Due to the short lead time & Covid-19, most outreach measures will be in a virtual format.

- **Electronic Postcard:** Create and design internally an electronic postcard with information directing business owners to city website or contact phone# (TBD)
- **City Website:** All Outreach link to guidance, toolboxes, and regulations found *prominently* on the City's MAIN Webpage.
- **Social Media:** City, DNB, Inc., & Love the Ave Platforms will share links (Face Book, Instagram, Twitter)
- **NBEDC:** Constant Contact Email
- **City Councilors:** Most Councilors have social platforms for outreach and can contact business owners directly.
- **NB Guide / Radio / S-T:** Large platforms/use of local media.

### Consumer Outreach & Marketing

- Work with Jonathan C., Brooke Vinagre, Elissa Paquette & Steve Froias for communication outreach.
- May need budget if want to bring in an entity like Medium Studios to create a distinct marketing communication.
- Utilize all above listed Social Media Platforms, radio & newspaper



# *Phases 3-4*

- Check back, iterative process-  
what needs adjusting
- Indoor Dining, Music, Biergartens,  
...More coordination will be  
required





WAREHAM  
Massachusetts

- OLD TRAIN STATION
- NEW SHARED SPACE

Wareham Planning and Community Development, 2020









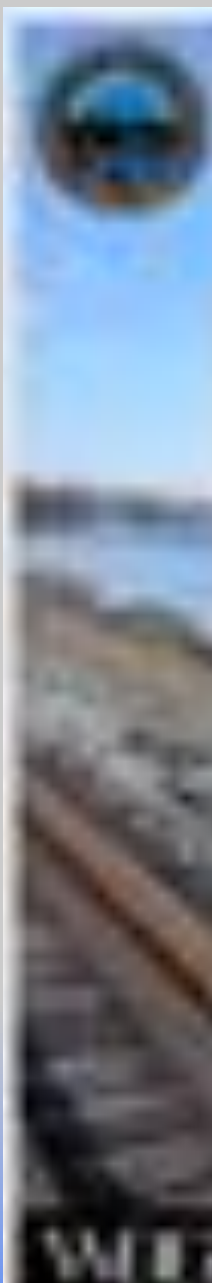








WMB







## Program of Improvements:

- Security gates; accordion style between posts
- Tables and chairs; café style
- Improve toilet rooms, replace windows
- Planters, security style for alleyway
- Paint
- LED lighting
- Sign



## **Program of Uses**

Available for:

- Outdoor dining for the village restaurants
- Food trucks to park beside and serve
- Cultural events and street fairs

Lottery system to sign-up for week

Security gates allow vendors to store certain equipment



# DISCUSSION

COVID-19 OUTREACH SERIES



# CONTACT US

## **SRPEDD**

Lizeth Gonzalez  
lgonzalez@srpedd.org

## **VHB**

Geoffrey Morrison-Logan  
gmorrison-logan@vhb.com

## **CITY OF NEW BEDFORD**

Tabitha Harkin  
tabitha.harkin@newbedford-ma.gov

## **TOWN OF WAREHAM**

Kenneth Buckland  
kbuckland@wareham.ma.us

## **MASSDOT**

Katherine Fichter  
katherine.fichter@state.ma.us