

# TORONTO COMPLETE STREETS

Public Open House 01 / June 18, 2015



**dtah** + **NELSON  
NYGAARD** + **MMM GROUP**

# Toronto Complete Streets

- I. Introduction
- II. What is a Complete Street?
- III. Toronto Guide Process
- IV. A New Approach to Street Design



# I: Introduction







Yonge St. North from King











Corner Yonge and Queen Streets, Toronto, Canada.















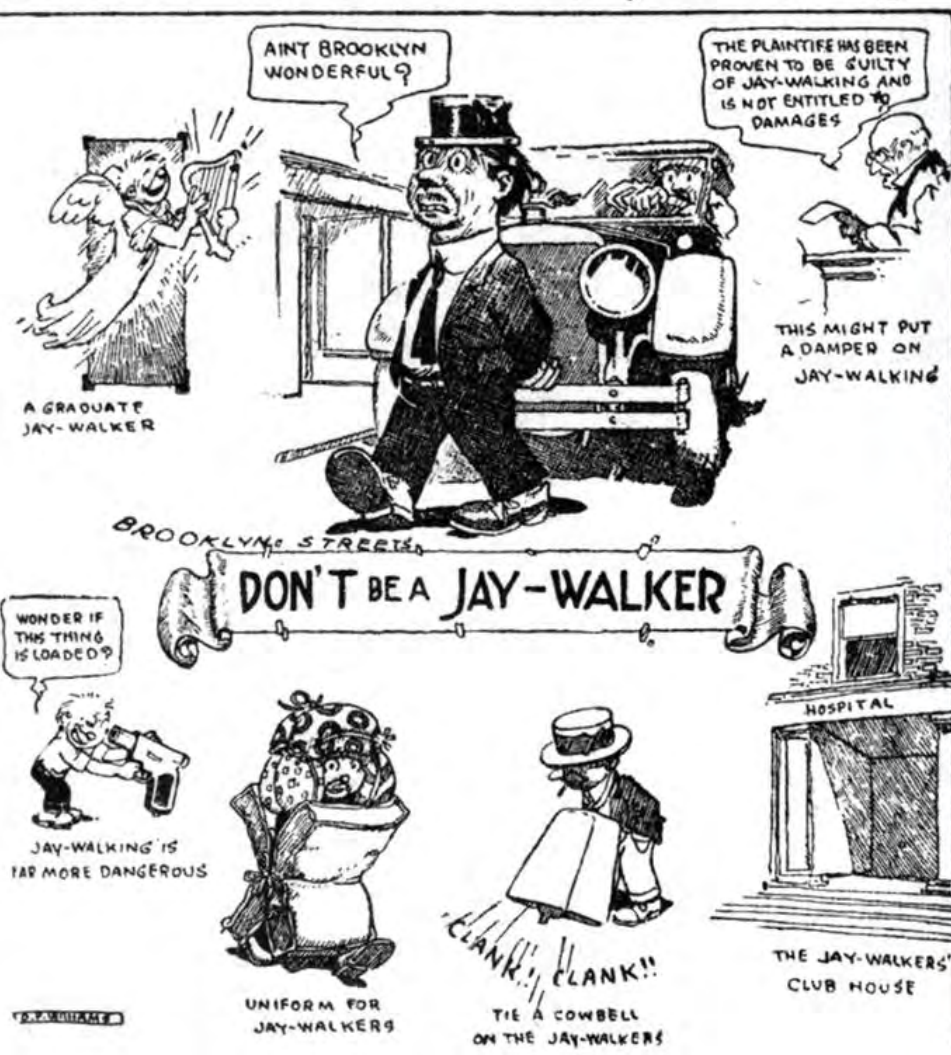
chuckmantorontonostalgia.files.wordpress.com

*Yonge St. Looking North by Day*

*Toronto, Ontario, Canada*



# A Traffic Problem—Jay Walking



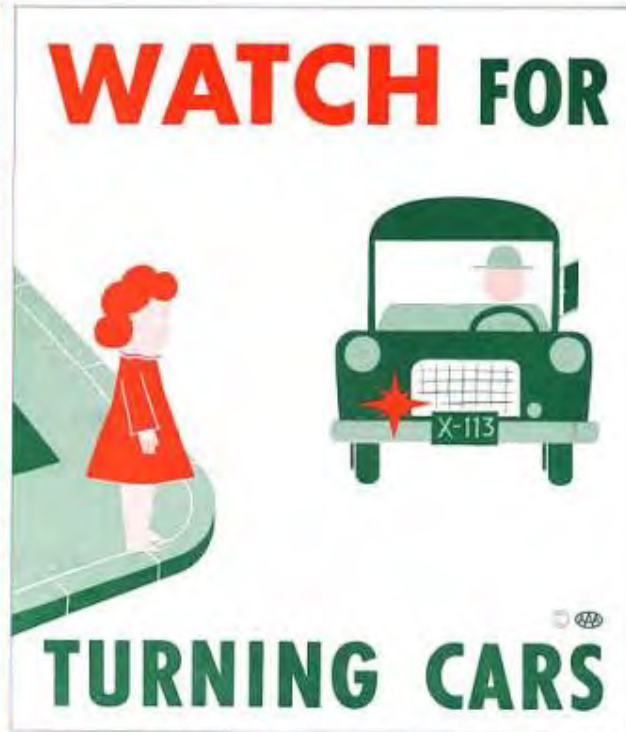
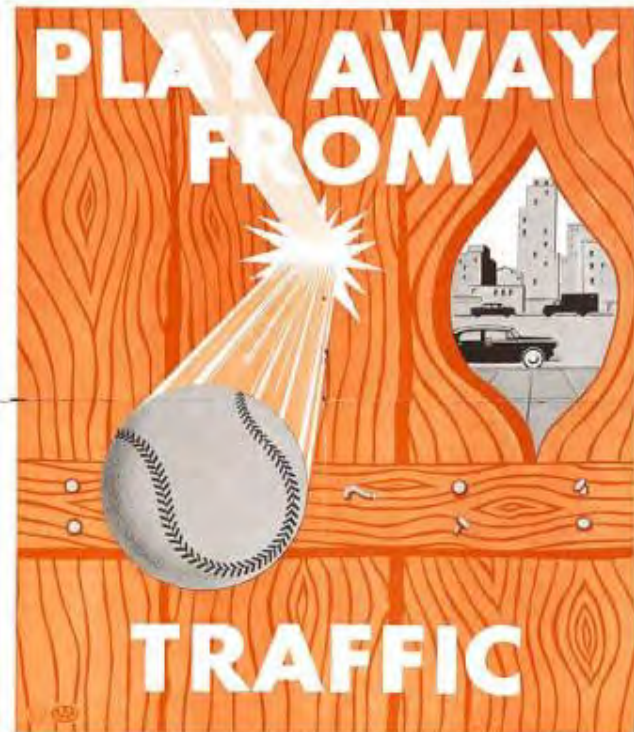
# DON'T JAY WALK



**WATCH YOUR STEP**



## Just Get Out of the Way!



Furnished in the Interest of Safety By  
**THE WISCONSIN DIVISION**  
AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION



THE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF HARTFORD



THE AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF HARTFORD





## Designing Safer Cars but...





...What About Streets?







**31 Deaths**  
**2015 (So Far)**  
**21 Pedestrians**  
**3 Cyclists**  
**7 Motorists**



# Streets Can Change

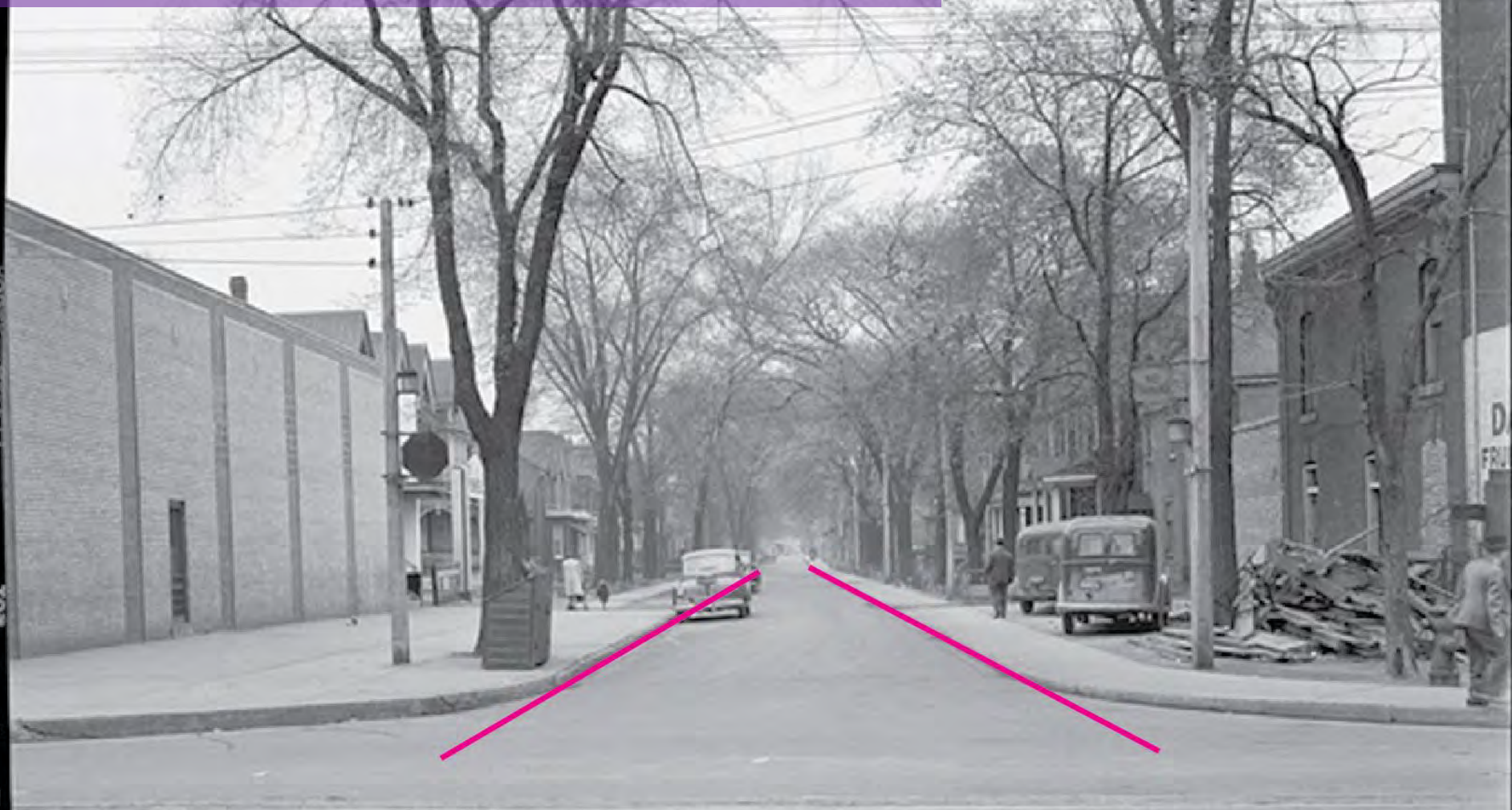
## Post-War Widening Efforts





# Streets Can Change

## Spruce at Parliament 1948



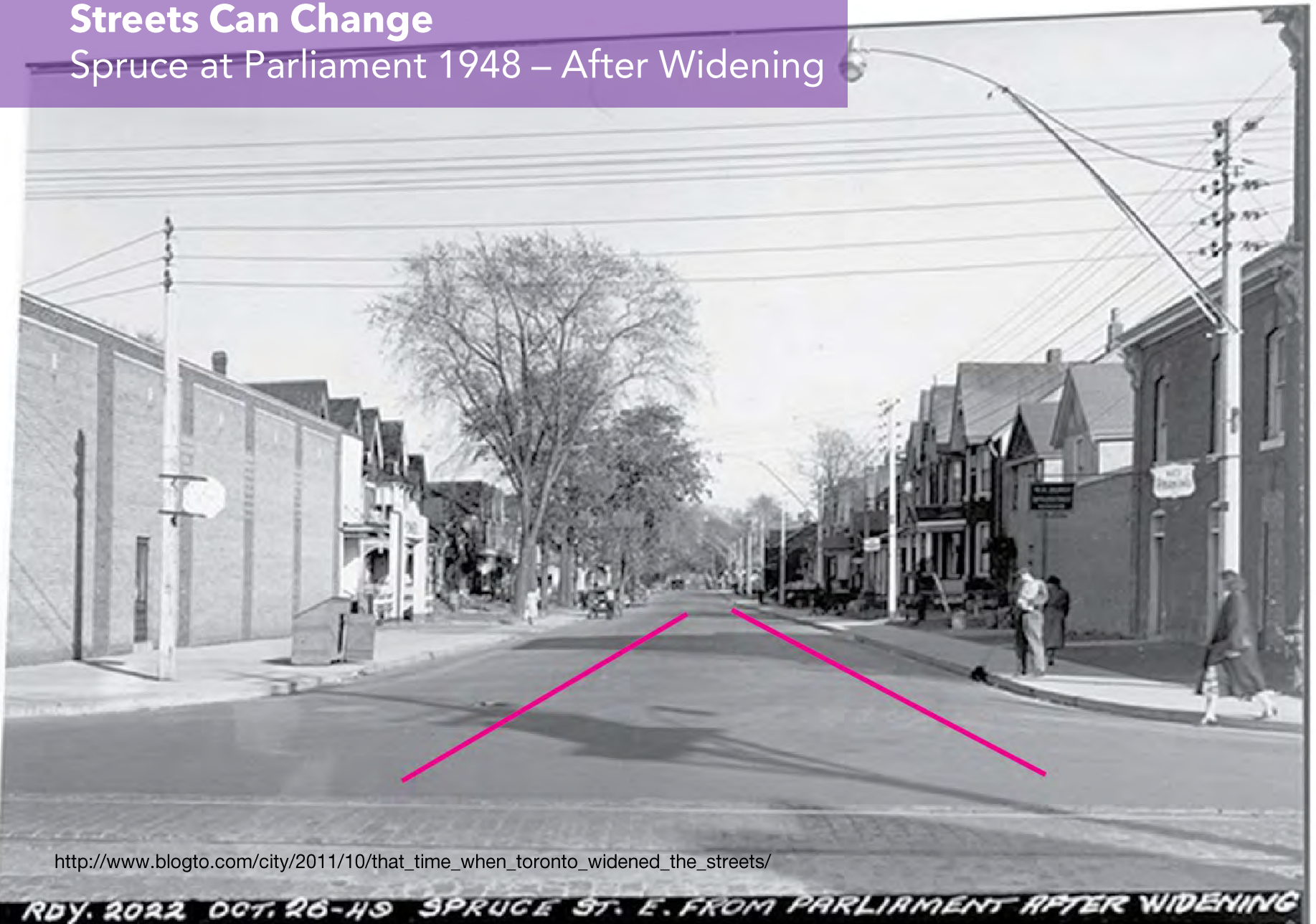
[http://www.blogto.com/city/2011/10/that\\_time\\_when\\_toronto\\_widened\\_the\\_streets/](http://www.blogto.com/city/2011/10/that_time_when_toronto_widened_the_streets/)

**RDY. 1792 MAY 6-48 SPRUCE ST. L. EAST FROM PARLIAMENT ST.**



## Streets Can Change

Spruce at Parliament 1948 – After Widening



[http://www.blogto.com/city/2011/10/that\\_time\\_when\\_toronto\\_widened\\_the\\_streets/](http://www.blogto.com/city/2011/10/that_time_when_toronto_widened_the_streets/)

RDY. 2022 OCT. 26-49 SPRUCE ST. E. FROM PARLIAMENT AFTER WIDENING



# Streets Can Change

## Carlaw at Queen 1948



[http://www.blogto.com/city/2011/10/that\\_time\\_when\\_toronto\\_widened\\_the\\_streets/](http://www.blogto.com/city/2011/10/that_time_when_toronto_widened_the_streets/)



## **Streets Can Change**

Carlaw at Queen 1948 – After Widening





# Streets Can Change

## Yonge-Dundas Scramble





# Streets Can Change

## Richmond-Adelaide Pilot





# Streets Can Change

## Roncesvalles Avenue





## II: What is a Complete Street?





# What are Complete Streets?

## Streets designed with all users in mind:

- pedestrians/those with disabilities
- cyclists
- street car and bus riders
- motorists
- street trees
- stormwater
- utilities





## Benefits of Complete Streets

- Improved safety
- Expanded mobility options
- Stronger place making
- Social benefits
- Local economic benefits
- Environmental benefits
- Reduced infrastructure costs
- A more attractive and livable public realm





## Safety for All Users is the Primary Objective

**SAFETY....  
IS PEOPLE NOT  
GETTING HURT**



## Some Users are Better Protected Than Others





# Soft Bodies Are More Vulnerable





# It's Not a Secret

9

JURISDICTIONS WITH  
COMPLETE STREET  
POLICIES IN CANADA

CITY OF  
EDMONTON

CITY OF  
CALGARY

CHICAGO,  
ILLINOIS

CITY OF  
OTTAWA

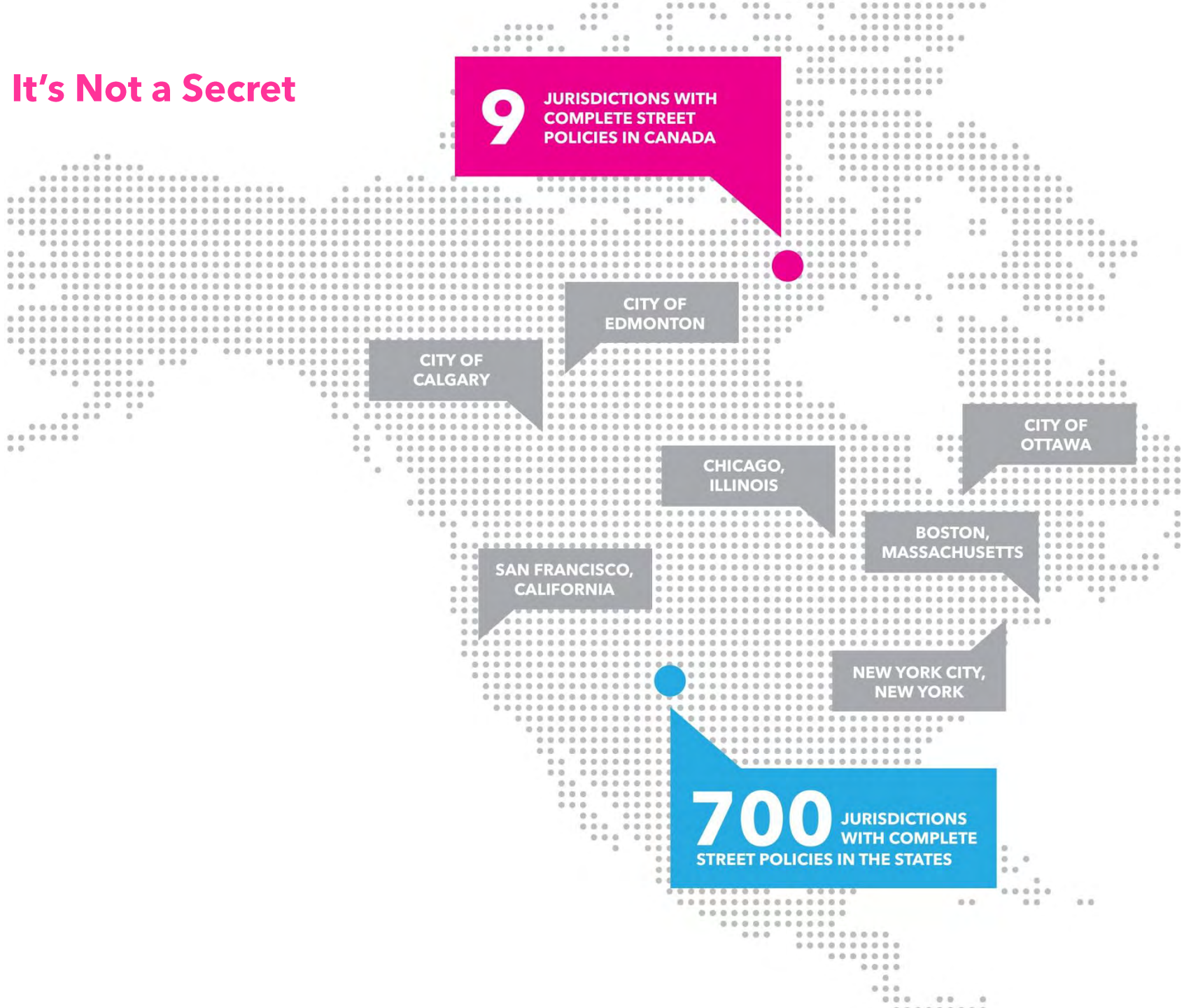
BOSTON,  
MASSACHUSETTS

SAN FRANCISCO,  
CALIFORNIA

NEW YORK CITY,  
NEW YORK

700

JURISDICTIONS  
WITH COMPLETE  
STREET POLICIES IN THE STATES





# Creating Complete Streets

## **Multiple Role of Streets**

- Mobility
- Places of Commerce, Social and Cultural Exchange
- Ecosystems/Stormwater
- Services and Utilities

## **Coordination within the Project Delivery Process**

- Initiate
- Plan
- Design
- Build
- Measure



## Do Complete Streets Cost More? They Don't Have To.





# Toronto Already Has Complete Streets

## St. George Street





# Toronto Already Has Complete Streets

## Market Street





# Toronto Already Has Complete Streets

## Harbord Street





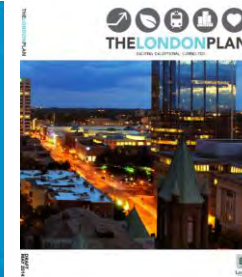
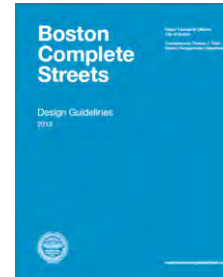
# III: Toronto Guide Process





# What is the Toronto Complete Streets Guide?

- A holistic approach for how we design Toronto's streets
- Building on best practices and many of the city's existing policies, guidelines, and recent successful street design and construction projects
- Improved decision making





## The Guide Will Apply to All Toronto Street Projects...

- Reconstructions
- Resurfacings
- Water/Sewer/Stormwater Management
- Utility Cut Rehabilitations
- Safety/Local Improvements
- New Sidewalk Construction
- Bikeway Construction/Markings
- Street Furniture Installations
- Street Tree Planting/Operations
- BIA Work
- TTC/Metrolinx Projects
- Waterfront TO/PanAm Initiatives
- Private/Developer Sidewalk and Boulevard Improvements
- Environmental Assessments, Avenue Studies, etc.



**...But it Won't Make New Projects or  
Change Approved Projects**

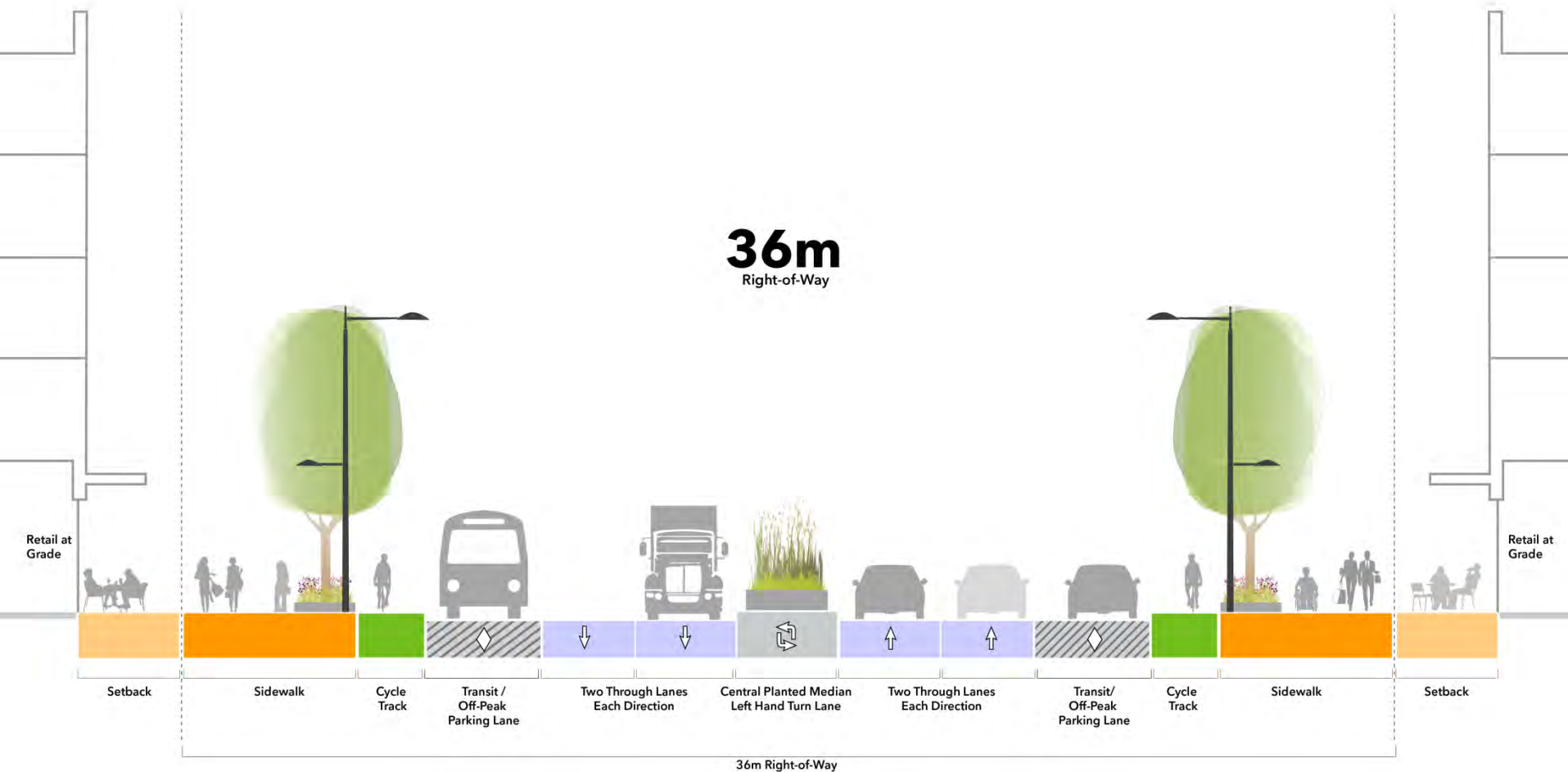


**BURNHAMTHORPE RD.**



# Making Decisions: When Everyone Gets Their Space

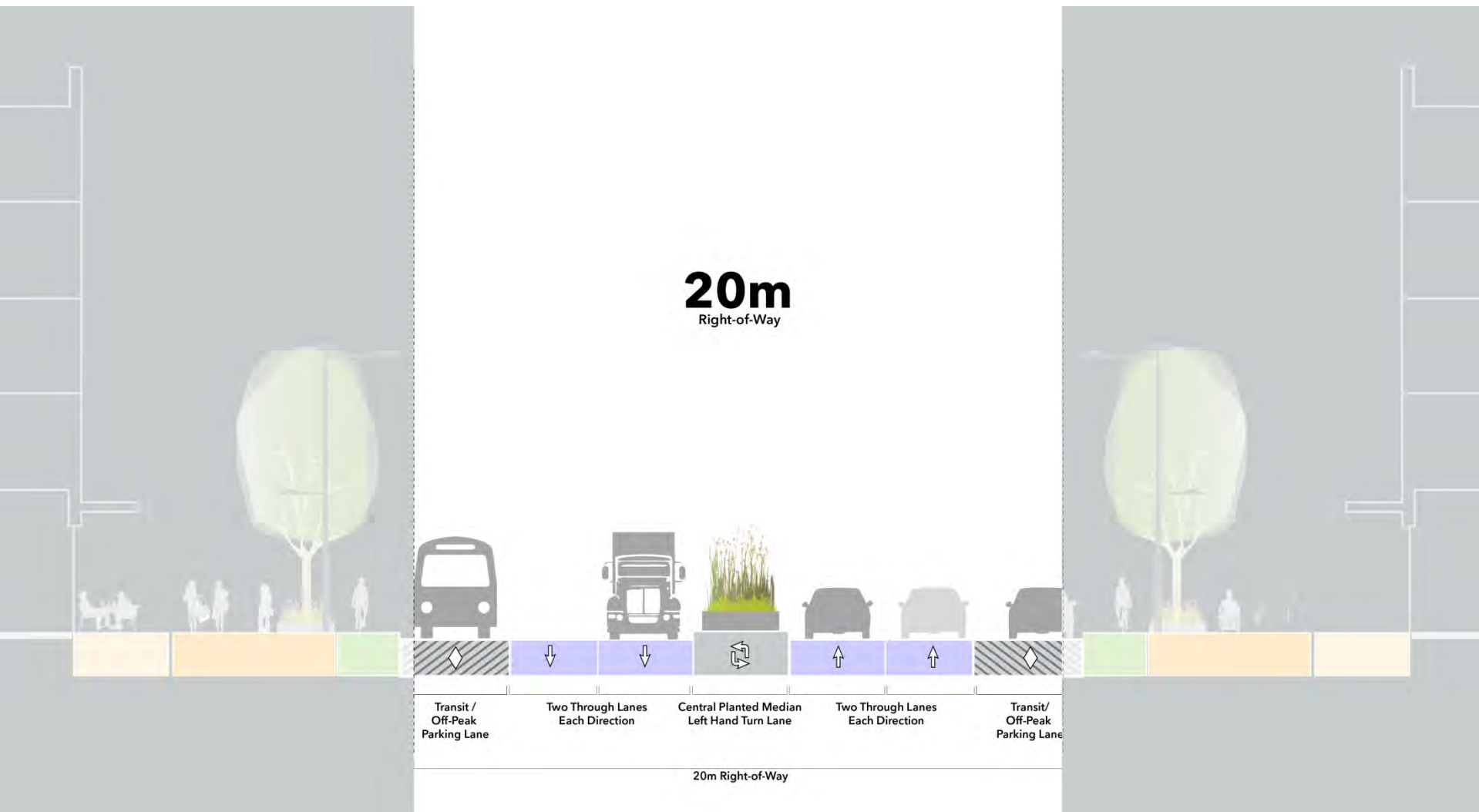
Thru-Lanes/Bike Lanes/Transit Lanes/Sidewalks/Trees



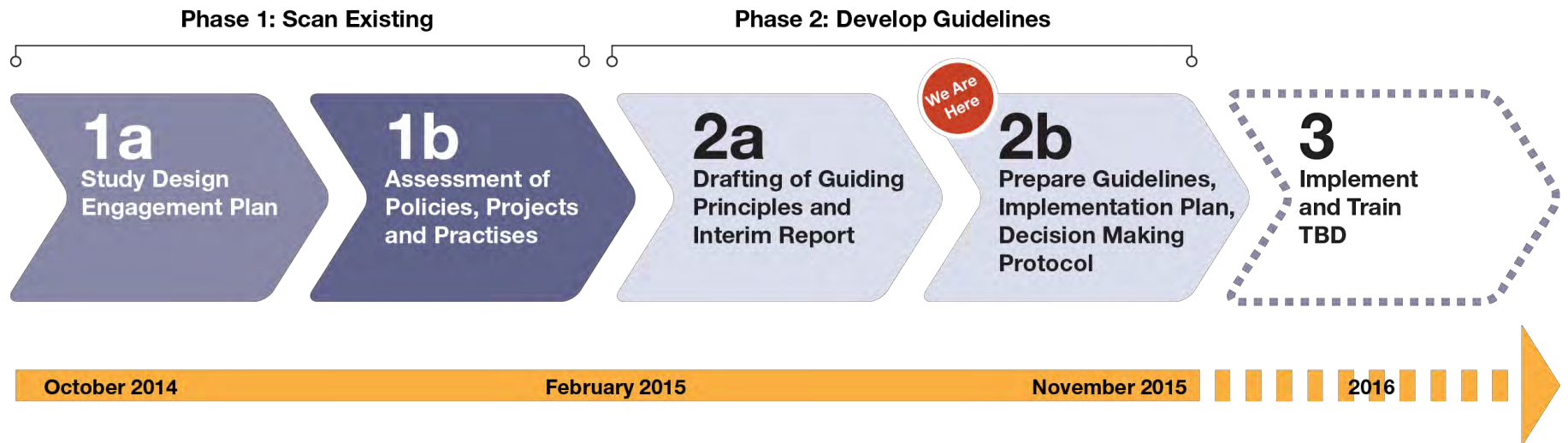


# Making Decisions: Our Common Reality

What To Do With Limited Space?

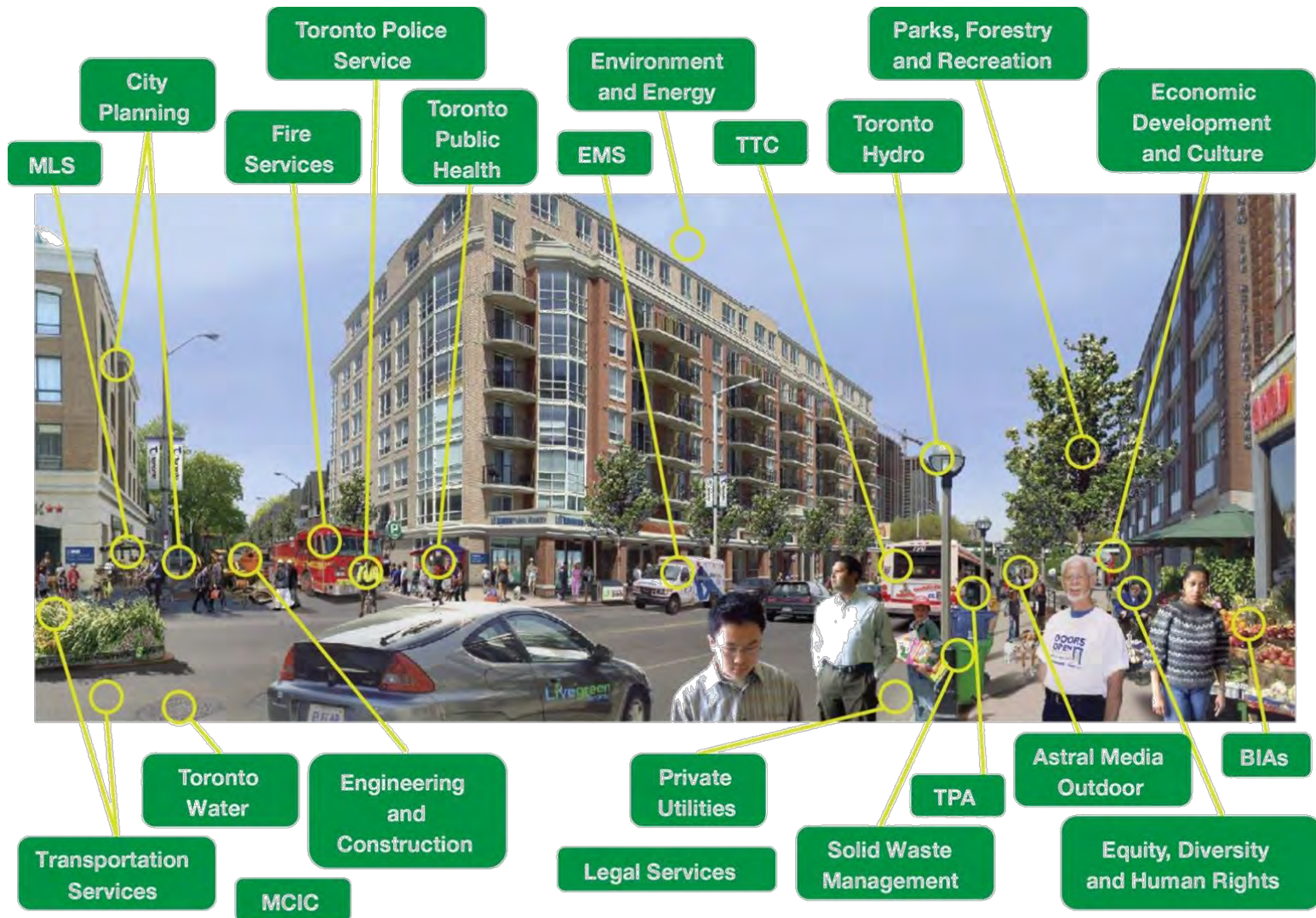


# Project Schedule





# Who Is Involved?



## Who Is Involved?



**PROJECT  
STEERING  
COMMITTEE**



**35+**  
**CITY DIVISIONS,  
COMMITTEES, AND  
COMMISSIONS**



**30+**  
**EXTERNAL  
STAKEHOLDERS  
AND THE PUBLIC**



# External Stakeholders

## 8-80 Cities

**Active and Safe Routes to School**

**Alliance for Equality for Blind Canadians (AEBC)**

**Architecture for Humanity**

Autoshare

Beanfield

Bell Canada

BionX International Corporation

**Building, Industry, and Land Development (BILD)**

Canada Post

Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment

**Canadian Automobile Association (CAA)**

**Canadian National Institute for the Blind**

**Council of Canadians for the Blind**

Canadian Courier and Logistics Association

Canadian Environmental Law Association

Canadian Institute of Transportation Engineers

Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA)

Cancer Care Ontario

CARP

Centre for Independent Living in Toronto (CILT)

**City of Mississauga Transportation Works Department**

Civic Action

Clean Air Partnership

**Code Red TO**

Council for Canadian Urbanism

Creating Healthy and Sustainable Environments

**Cycle Toronto**

Cycling Think and Do Tank

Ecojustice

**Enbridge Gas Distribution**

Environmental Defense Canada

Enwave

Evergreen

**Green Communities Canada**

**Harbord Village Residents Association**

Heart and Stroke

iTaxiWorkers

Jane's Walk

LEAF

Metrolinx - GO Transit

**Metrolinx - Smart Commute**

Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence against Women and Children (METRAC)

Municipal Engineers Association of Ontario

**Municipal Urban Designers Roundtable (MUDR)**

Neptis Foundation

**North American Native Plant Society**

**Ontario Association of Landscape Architects (OALA)**

Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO)

Ontario Motor Coach Association

Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI)

Ontario Public Works Association (OPWA)

**Ontario Traffic Council**

Ontario Trucking Association

**Park People**

People Plan Toronto

Pollution Probe

**Public Space Workshop**

Registered Nurses Association of Ontario

Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario

Ryerson University

Senior's Strategy Leader

**Share the Road Coalition**

Spacing

Steve Munro

**The Laneway Project**

**Toronto and Region Conservation Authority**

**Toronto Association of BIAs (TABIA)**

**Toronto Atmospheric Fund**

**Toronto Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT)**

Toronto Community Foundation

**Toronto Electric Riders Association (TERA)**

Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA)

**Toronto Society of Architects**

**Toronto Women's City Alliance**

Transportation Options

**TTC Riders**

University of Toronto

Urban Land Institute

**Urban+Digital Walk Toronto**

Waterfront Regeneration Trust

**Wellesley Institute**

## Toronto Complete Streets Vision

### Revised OP Policy 3.1.1(5)

**"City streets are significant public open spaces which connect people and places and support the development of sustainable, economically vibrant and complete communities..."**





## Guiding Principles

### Streets For People

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**Improve Safety &  
Accessibility**

Give People  
Mobility Choices

Make Connected  
Networks

Promote Healthy &  
Active Living

### Streets As Places

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Create Beautiful &  
Vibrant Public Spaces

Respond to Local  
Area Context

Improve  
Environmental  
Sustainability

### Streets For Prosperity

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Support Economic  
Vitality

Enhance Social  
Equity

Balance Flexibility &  
Cost-Effectiveness

## For Discussion

- What do you like about the Draft Guiding Principles?
- Is anything missing from the Guiding Principles that you think should be added?



# IV: A New Approach to Street Design



## Streets Design is not Plumbing

The typical access vs. mobility framework is like plumbing:

- big pipe
- medium pipe
- small pipe















cars...







# Road



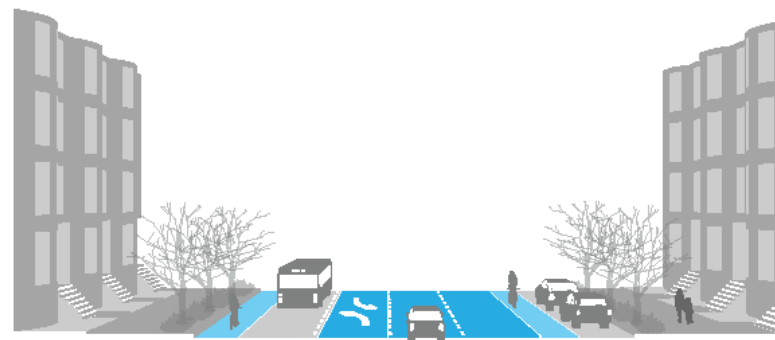
# Street



# Highway Classification v Street Context (Sample: Boston)



Traditional road classifications emphasize vehicle movement.



Complete Street Types emphasize the character of the entire street.

## Traditional Highway Class

- ▶ Arterials
- ▶ Collectors
- ▶ Locals

## Complete Street Types

### New Street Types

- ▶ Downtown Commercial
- ▶ Downtown Mixed-use
- ▶ Neighborhood Main
- ▶ Neighborhood Connector
- ▶ Neighborhood Residential
- ▶ Industrial

### Special Street Types

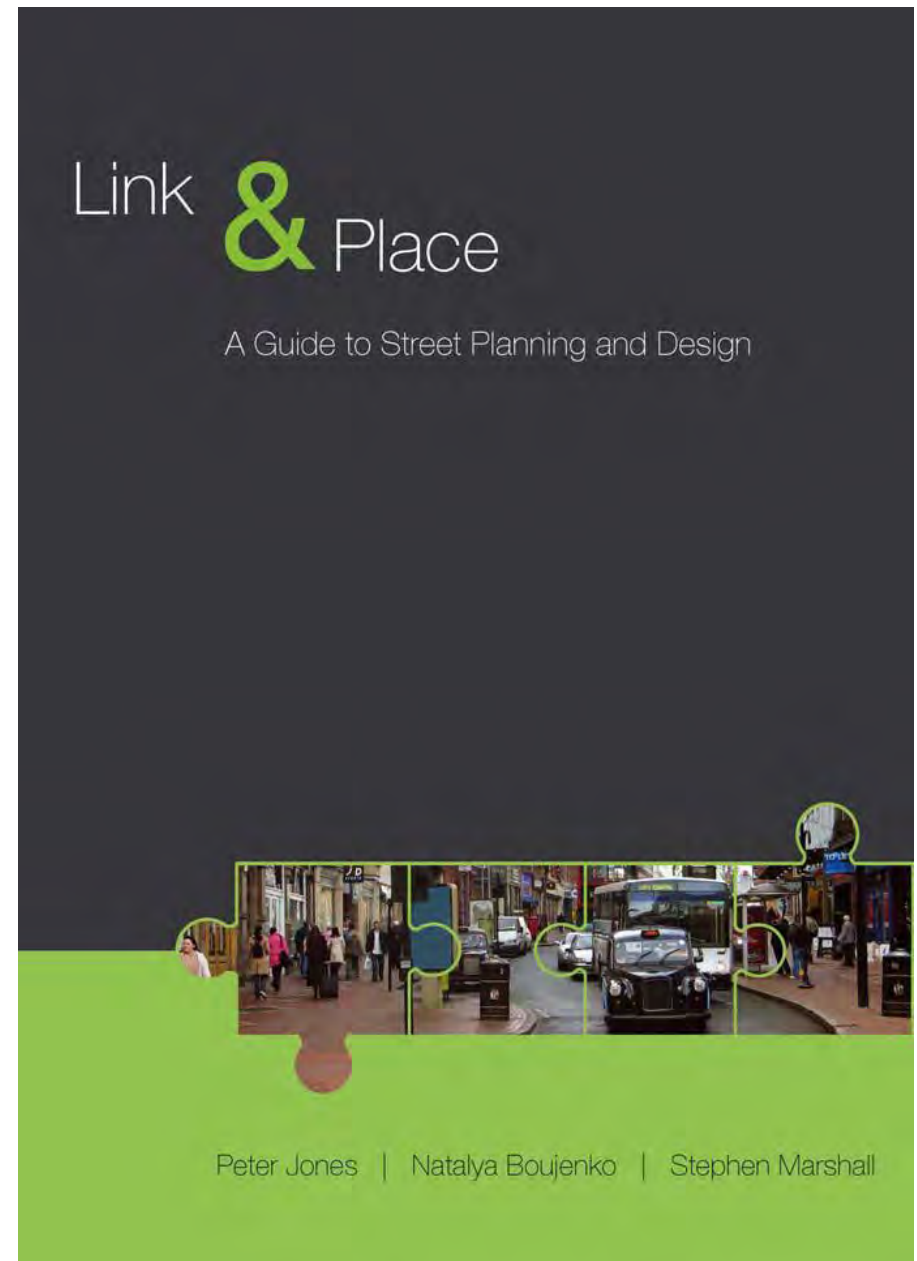
- ▶ Shared Street
- ▶ Parkway
- ▶ Boulevard



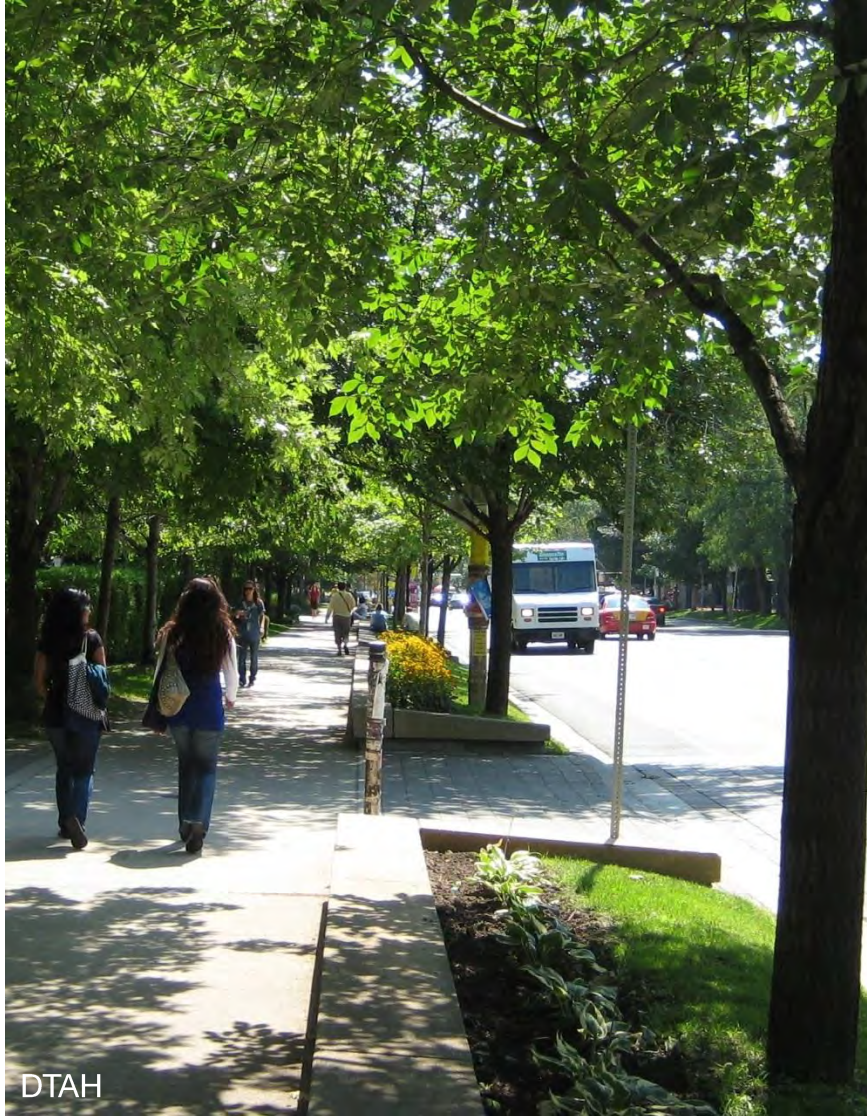
## Link and Place

Jones, Boujenko, and Marshall (2007).

- **Dual function of streets as Links and as Places**
- **Shift from a roads-based to a streets-based approach**
- **Informs:**
  - Classification
  - Design values
  - Priorities
  - Performance measures
  - Design outcomes

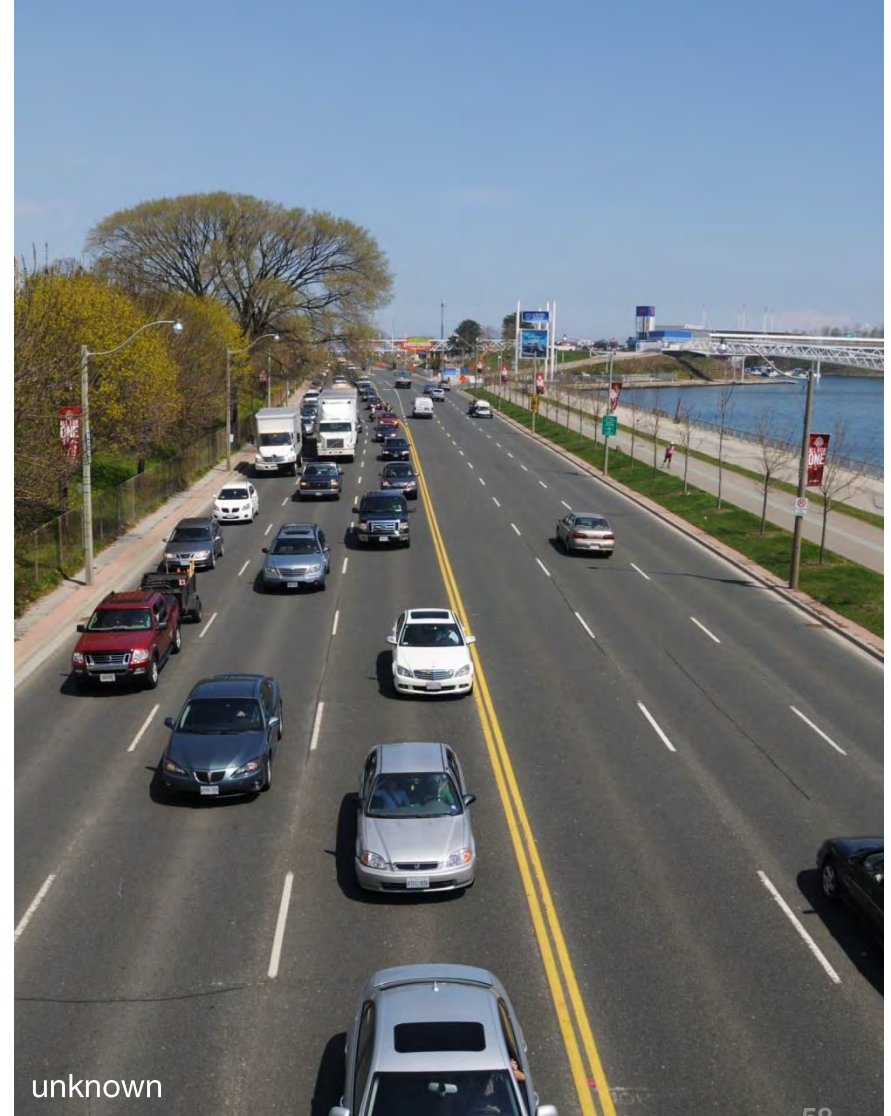


# TO PLACE



DTAH

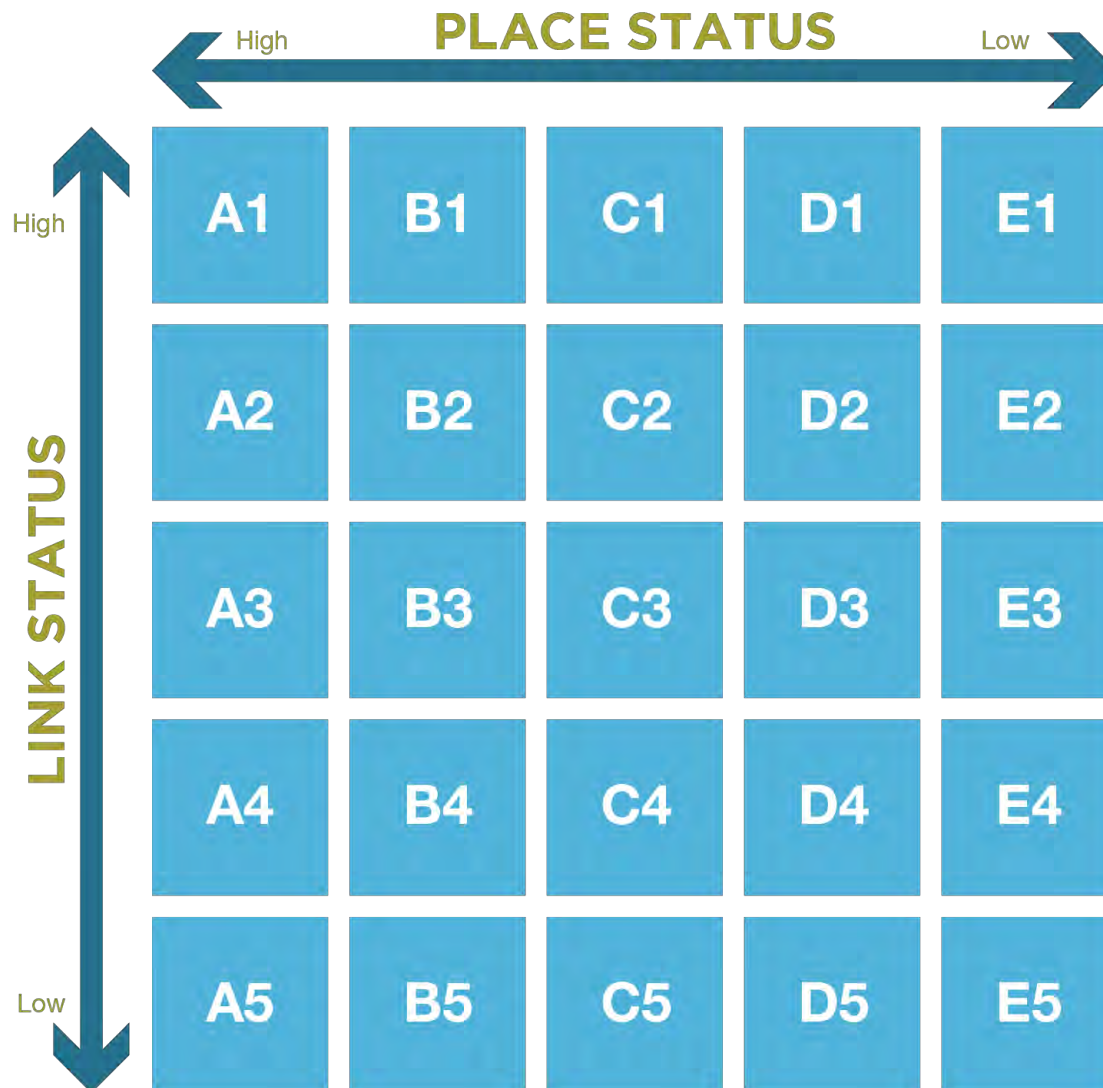
# THROUGH place



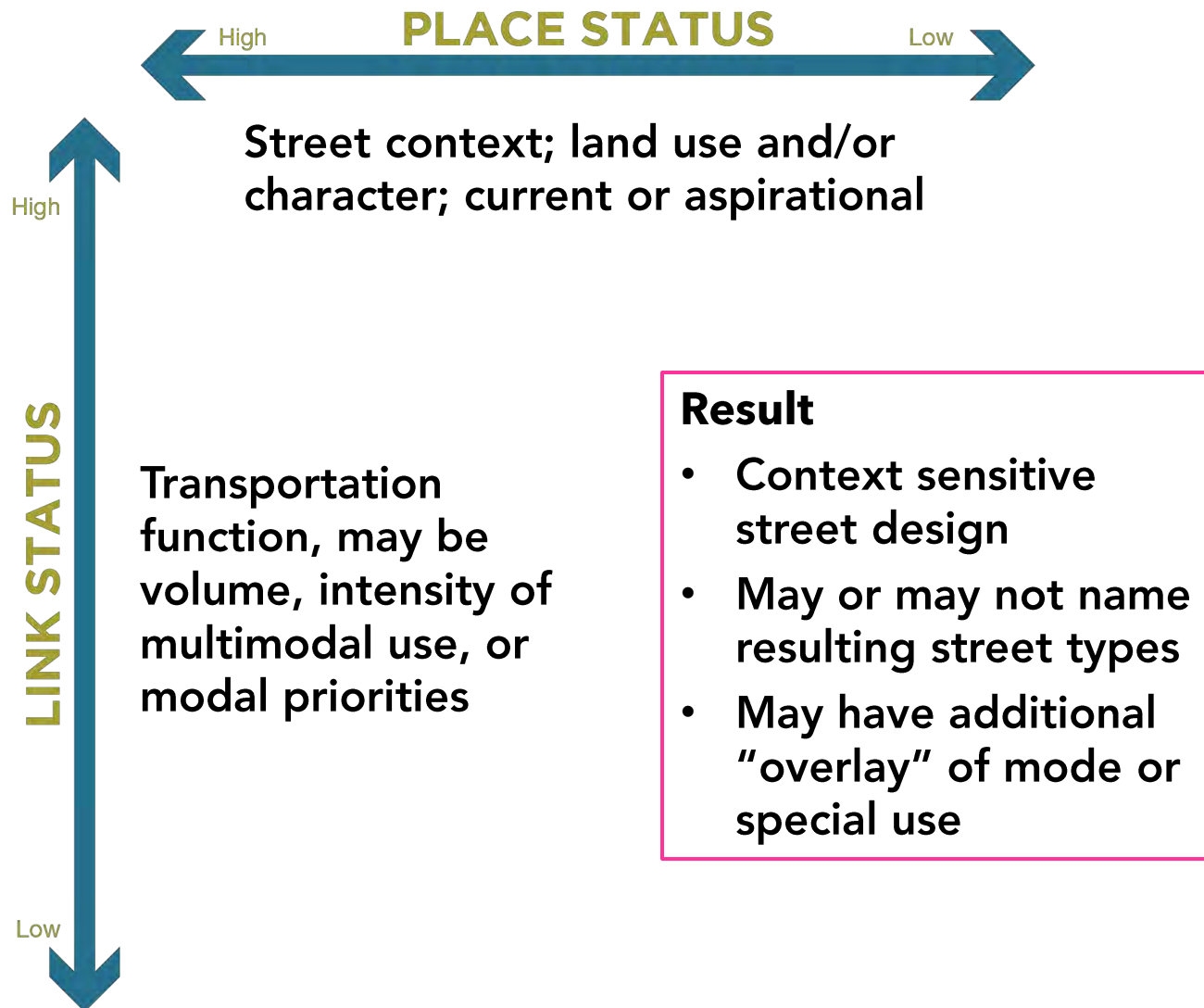
unknown



## Link + Place



# Link + Place Model





## Link (Functional Classification Only)



## Link + Place (Example)





# Link Alone: Arterial

Example: Dufferin Street - Past





# Link Alone: Arterial

Example: Dufferin Street - Existing





# Link + Place: Neighbourhood Main Street

Example: Dufferin Street - Aspiration





## For Discussion

Think of a street that matters to you.

It could be a street where you live, where you shop, where you go out, where you work, or one you use to get around.

What would you call that type of street?

What is its role as a link and as a place?



## **Upcoming Engagement Activities**

### **June 2015:**

#### **Round 1 of 2**

- **Moving Conversations (20<sup>th</sup>)**
  - North York Centre
  - Islington Village, Etobicoke
- **Design Review Panel (22<sup>nd</sup>)**
- **On-Line Survey (June 18 - July 2)**  
**[www.toronto.ca/completestreets](http://www.toronto.ca/completestreets)**

### **September/October 2015:**

#### **Round 2 of 2**

