

CHINATOWN CONNECTIONS

通達華埠

CCWG 8

09/17/2025



AGENDA

1. Project Update

2. Street alignment and Traffic Analysis

..... 15min Discussion

3. Community Feedback

4. Concept Design Framework and Update

PROJECT UPDATE

Kimlau Memorial Arch Reconstruction

Updates:

- 1. Construction Fence is planning to be installed at the end of September.

Scope of work

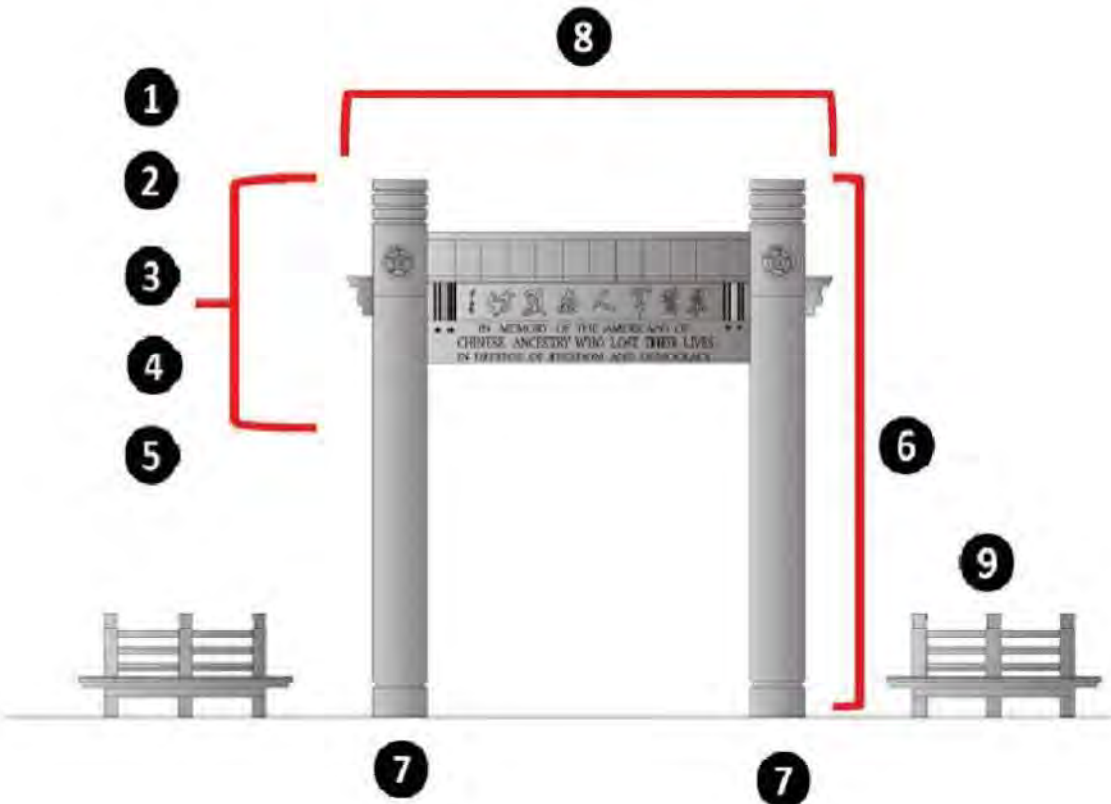
Proposed Work Key

Work shown is typical for all elevations

- 1. Disassemble arch lintel/column connections and lintel roof stones.
- 2. Remove cracked portions of granite and hold for re-use or for modeling new replacement units
- 3. New and/or refurbished structural steel assembly and connections
- 4. New matching granite components or reinstall salvaged building fabric wherever possible
- 5. Rout and replace failed mortar joints
- 6. Chemically clean/wash entire structure
- 7. Footing/foundation stabilization as required
- 8. Install new bird deterrent apparatus along roof ridge, column tops and projecting side brackets.
- 9. Restore and chemically clean existing cast concrete benches



North/South Elevation

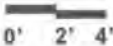


East/West Elevation

TENTATIVE construction fence boundary



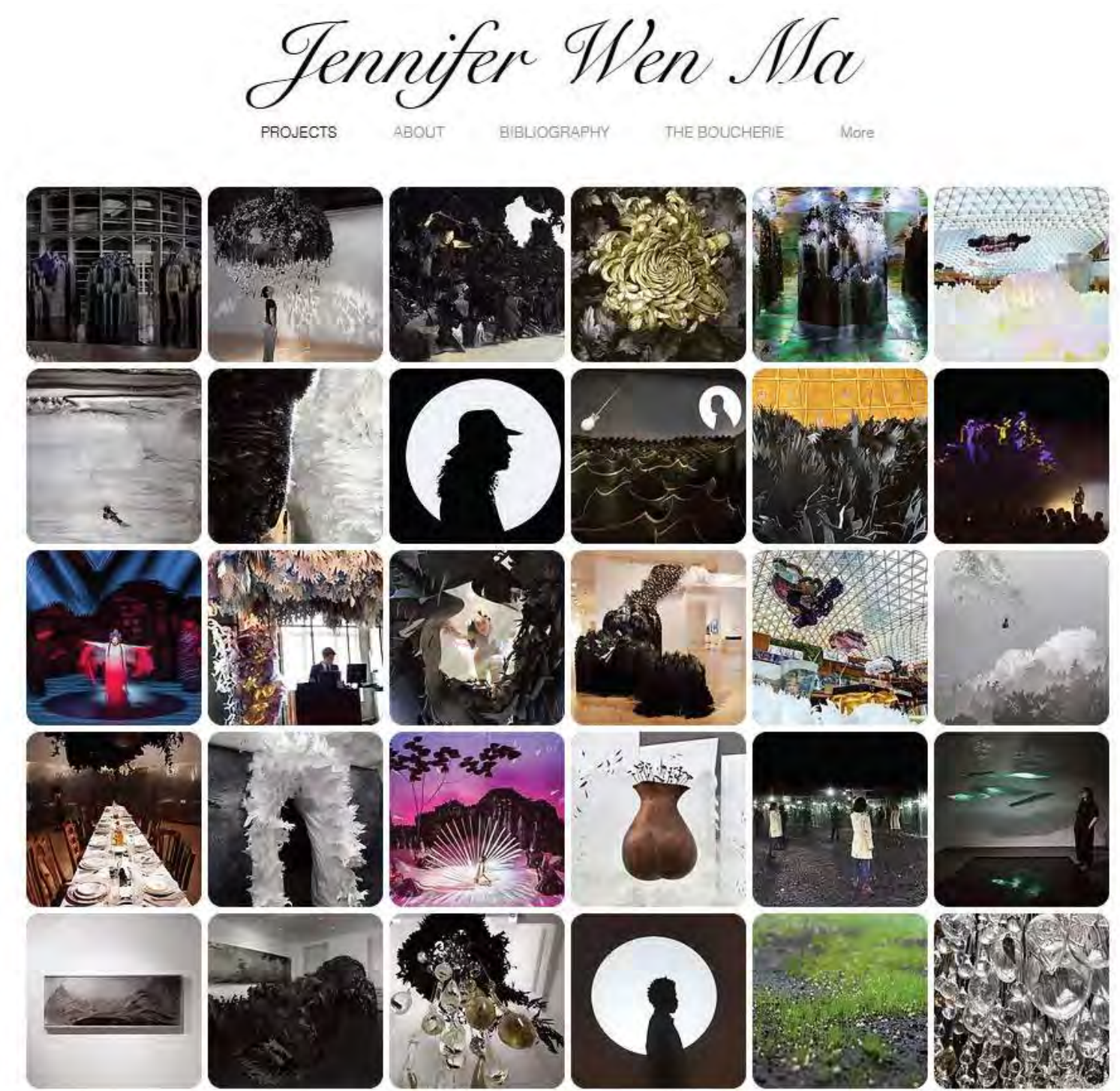
Kimlau Memorial Arch Reconstruction
Kimlau Square | Borough of Manhattan



Welcome Gateway Artist

Jennifer Wen Ma

Website: <https://www.littlemeat.net/>



Location options for the Welcome Gateway will be developed in coordination with several stakeholders including the artist, DOT, BID, etc..

STREET REALIGNMENT AND TRAFFIC ANALYSIS

Traffic and Intersection Existing Condition

Existing Issues



Square has high pedestrian volumes and many long crossings.



Pedestrians are frequently crossing at the same time as turning vehicles.



Square has complicated vehicular movements, requiring Traffic Enforcement Agents.



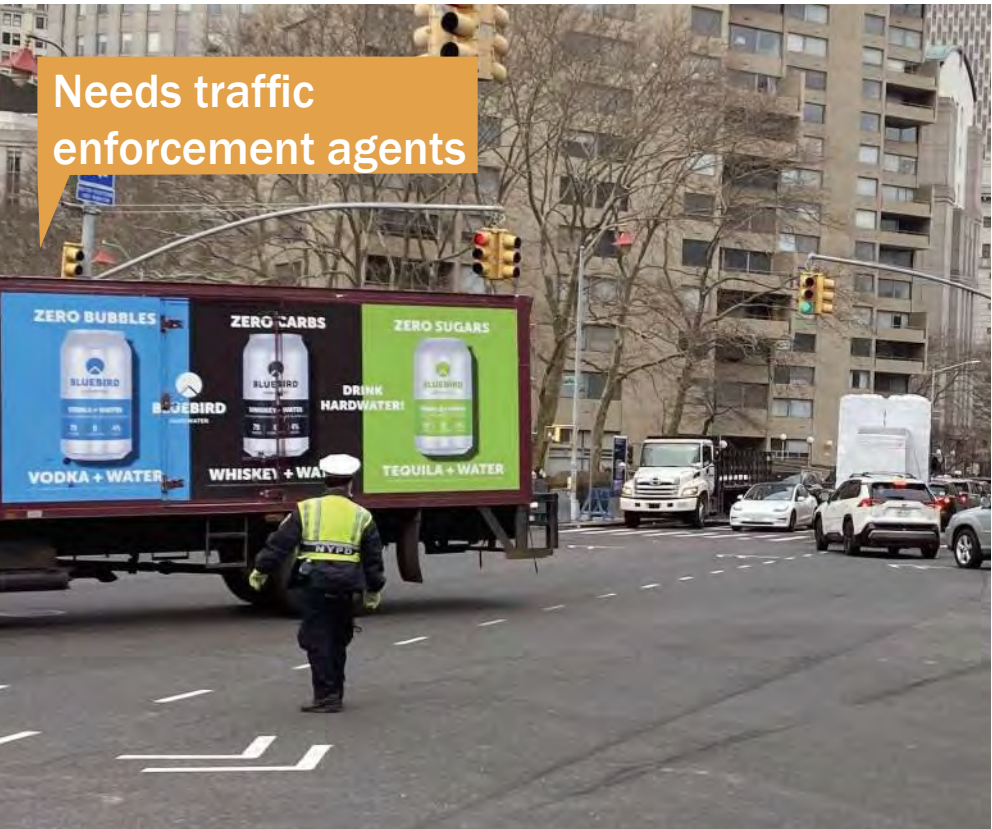
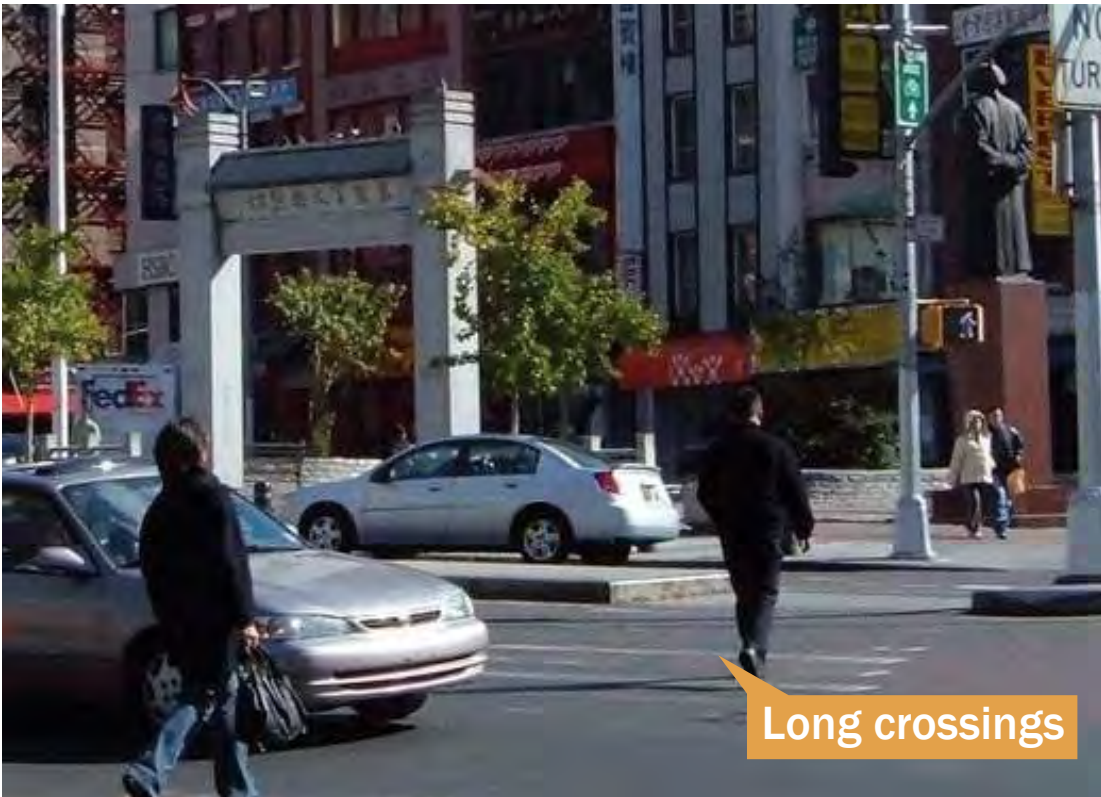
Primary vehicular movements are not direct, and require one or multiple turns.



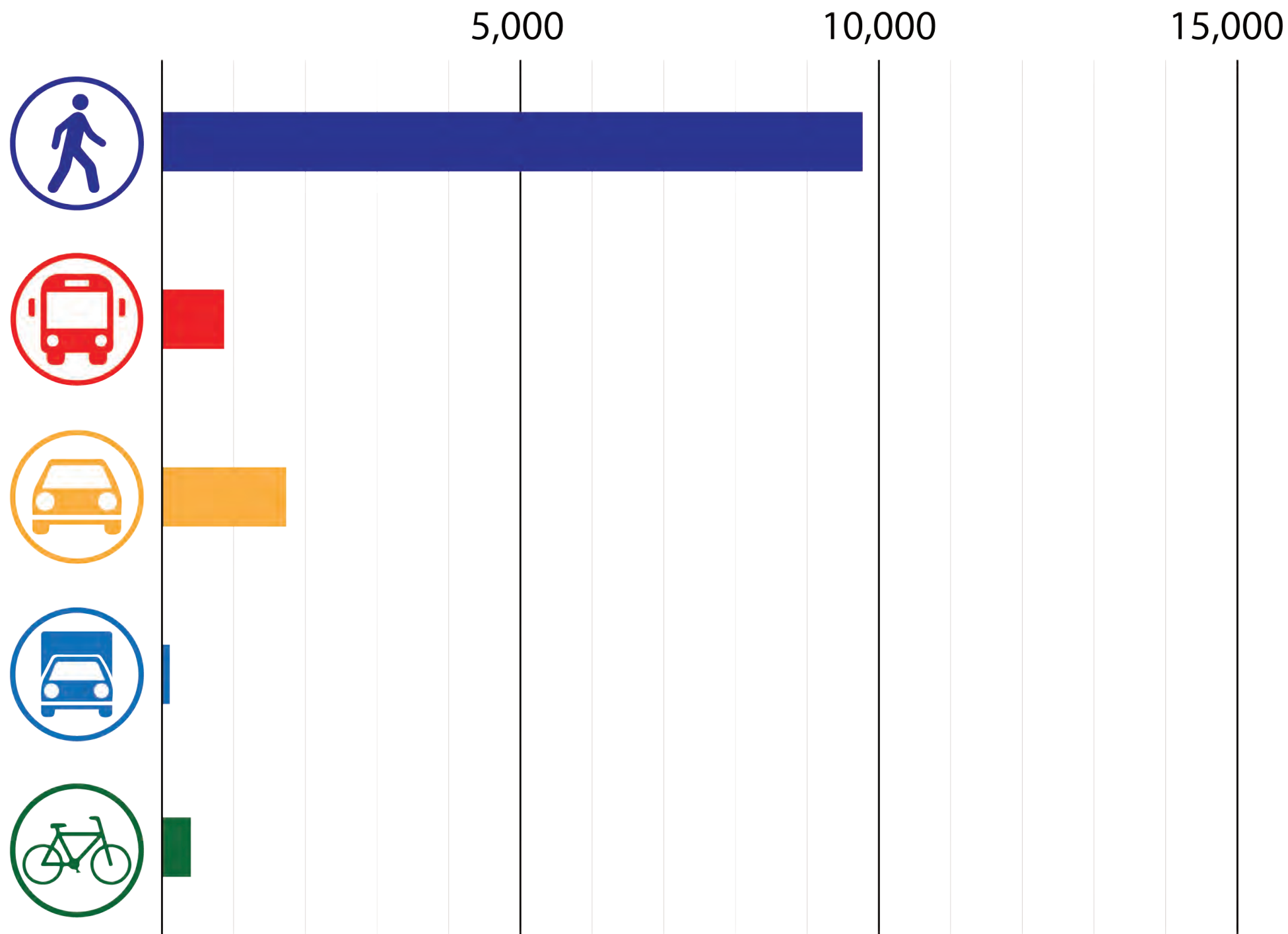
Square feels chaotic, is exposed to traffic noise and congestion.



Square cannot accommodate large events, memorials, and activations.



Existing Users of Kimlau Square (PM Peak Hour)



**THE SQUARE TODAY IS
FULL OF PEOPLE**

**PEDESTRIANS ACCOUNT
FOR ALMOST 80% OF USERS**

Traffic and Intersection Existing Condition

Existing Operation

5 key movements represent 46% of vehicle trips around the existing square:

9% - St James Pl to Bowery

9% - Worth St to E Broadway

7% - E Broadway to Worth St

13% - St James Pl to Worth St

8% - Worth St to St James Pl

These 5 movements represent 20% of routes.



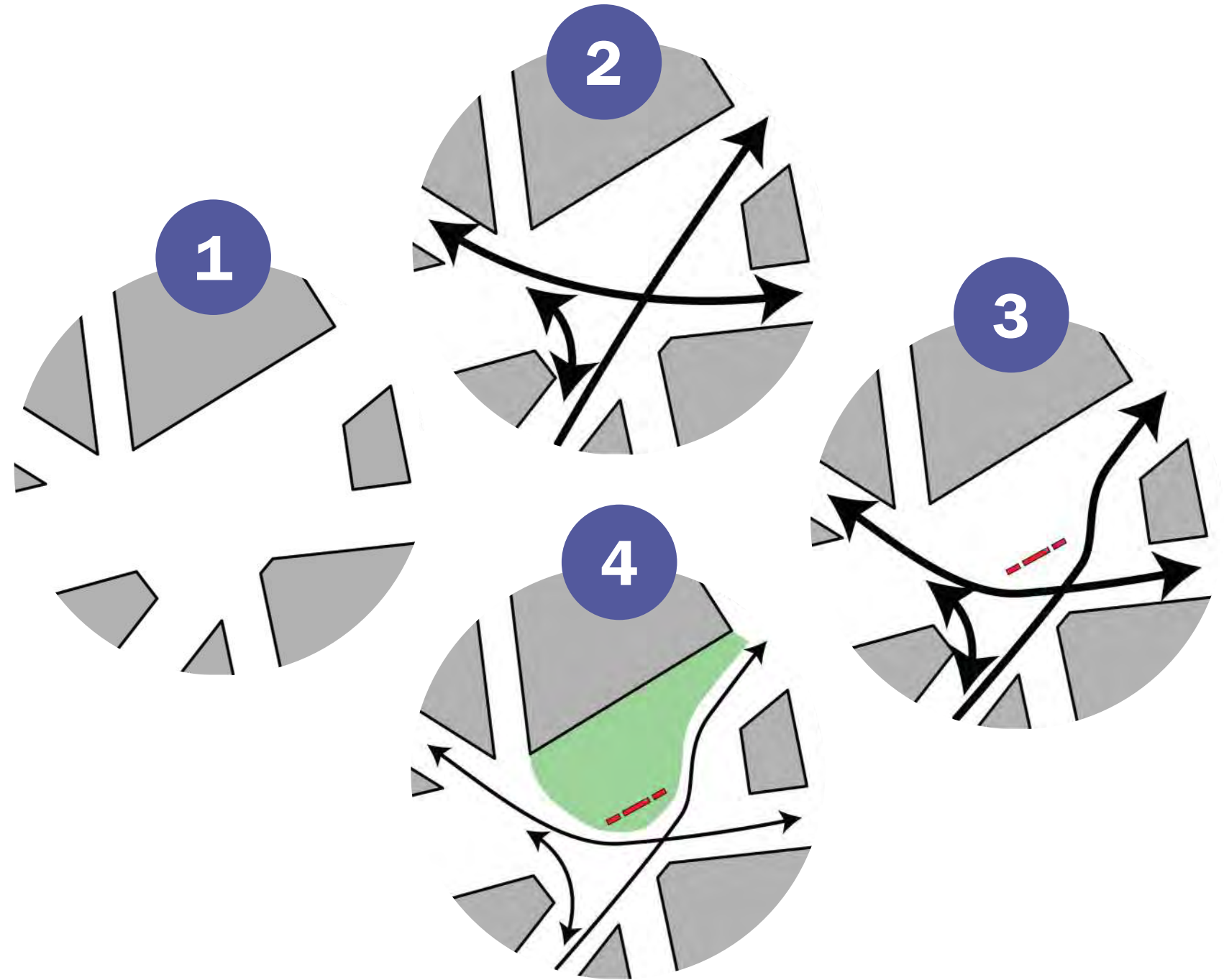
Street and Public Space Design Principles

- 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.



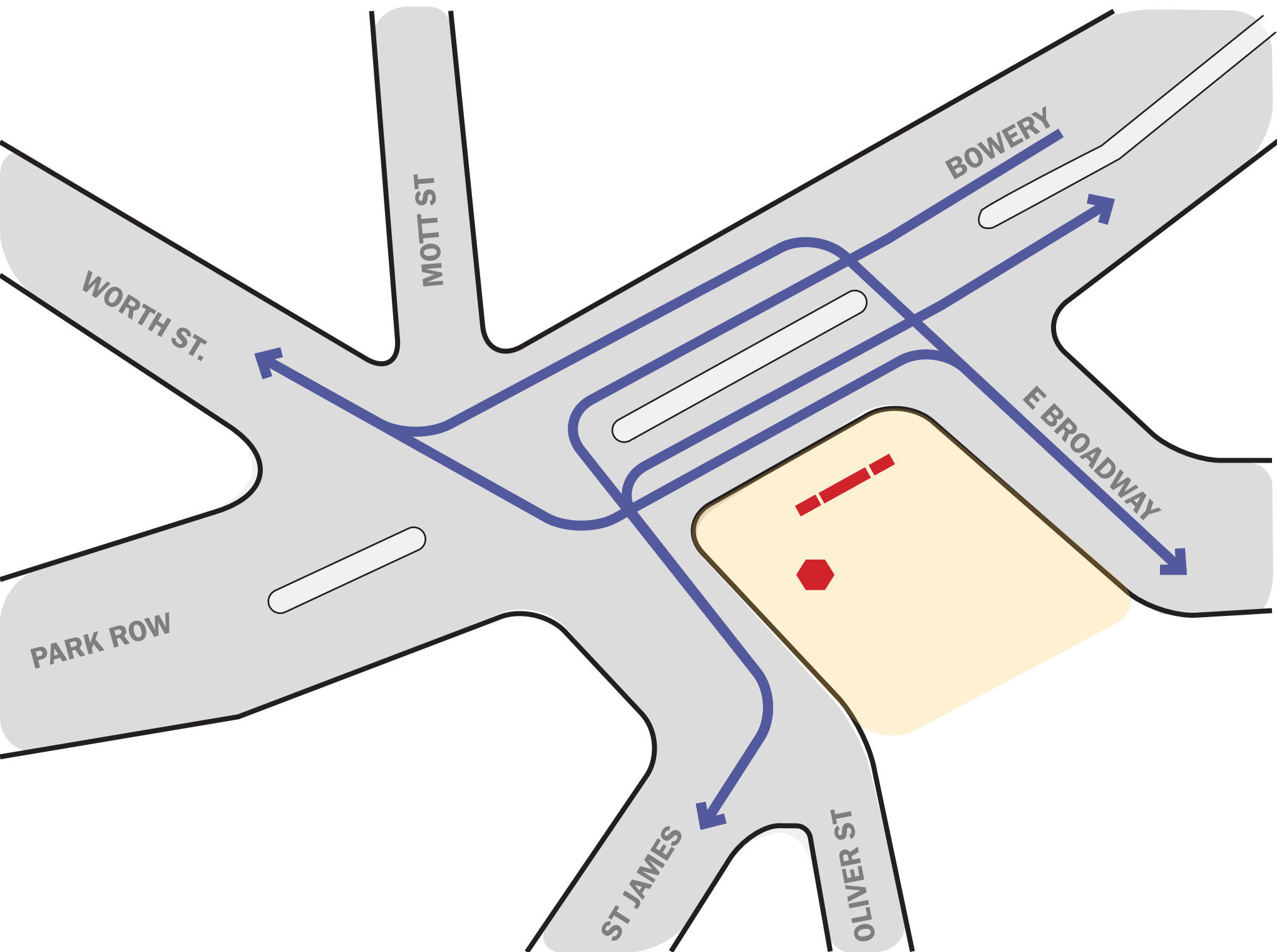
Street and Public Space Design Process

1. Work within the existing right-of-way boundaries.
2. Straighten primary traffic movements.
3. Maintain landmarked Kimlau Memorial Arch in current location.
4. Connect Arch and Public Space to adjacent blocks.



Alternatives Reviewed

Renovate In Place



Does Not Improve Circulation

- Long pedestrian crossings on Bowery
- Complex traffic intersection
- Turning vehicle conflicts with pedestrians
- Key connections require 2 turns

Underground Infrastructure Limitation

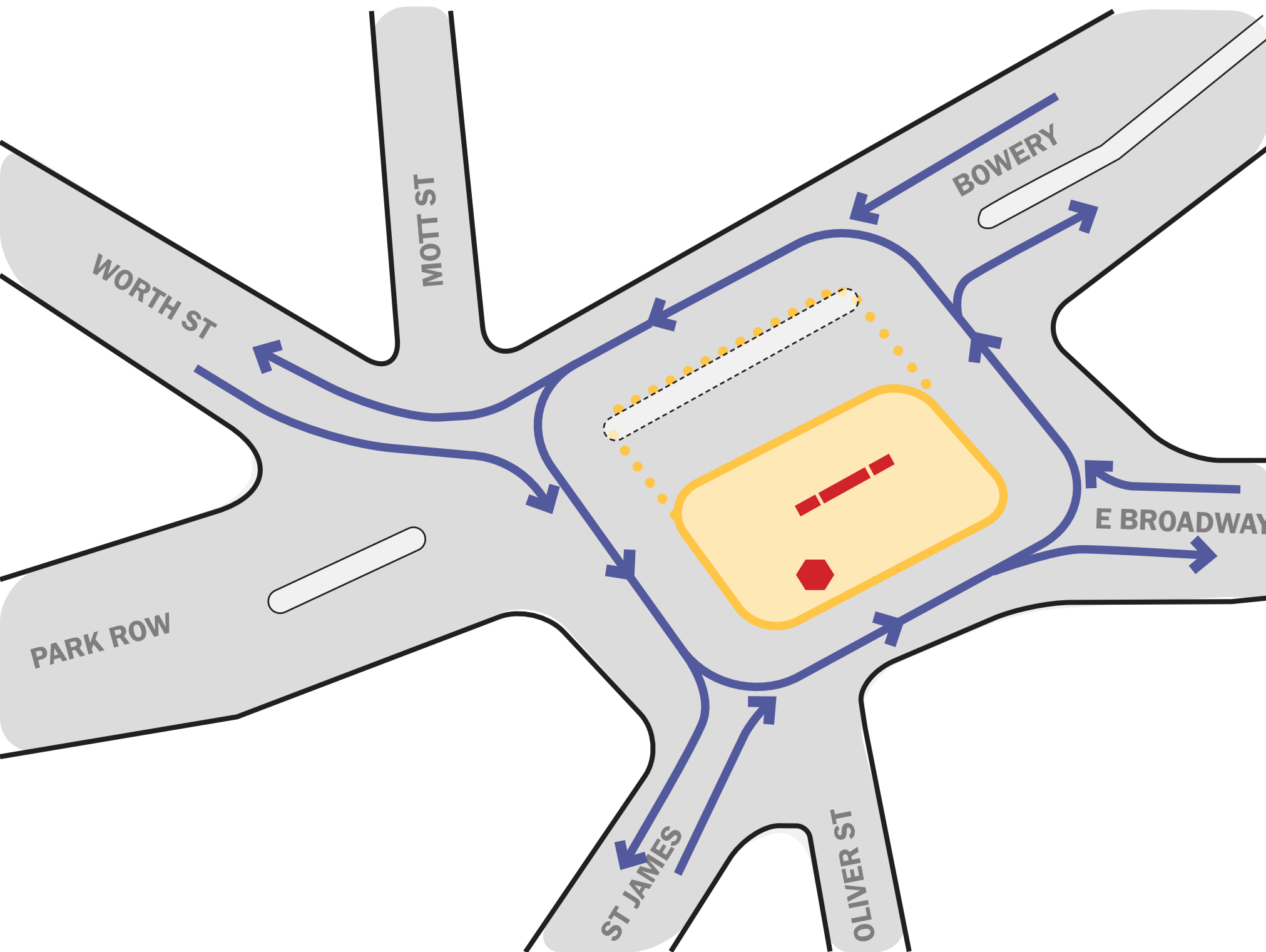
- Limited areas for tree planting
- Plantings must be in raised areas
- DEP and private utility work still needed
- Limited construction timeline benefits

Constrained Public Space

- Limited space for larger events
- Difficult to create buffer from roadways

Alternatives Reviewed

Traffic Circle



Does Not Improve Circulation

- Create more conflicts, reduce pedestrians and cyclists safety
- Long wait to cross street
- Wider roadways needed for large vehicles turning

Underground Infrastructure Limitation

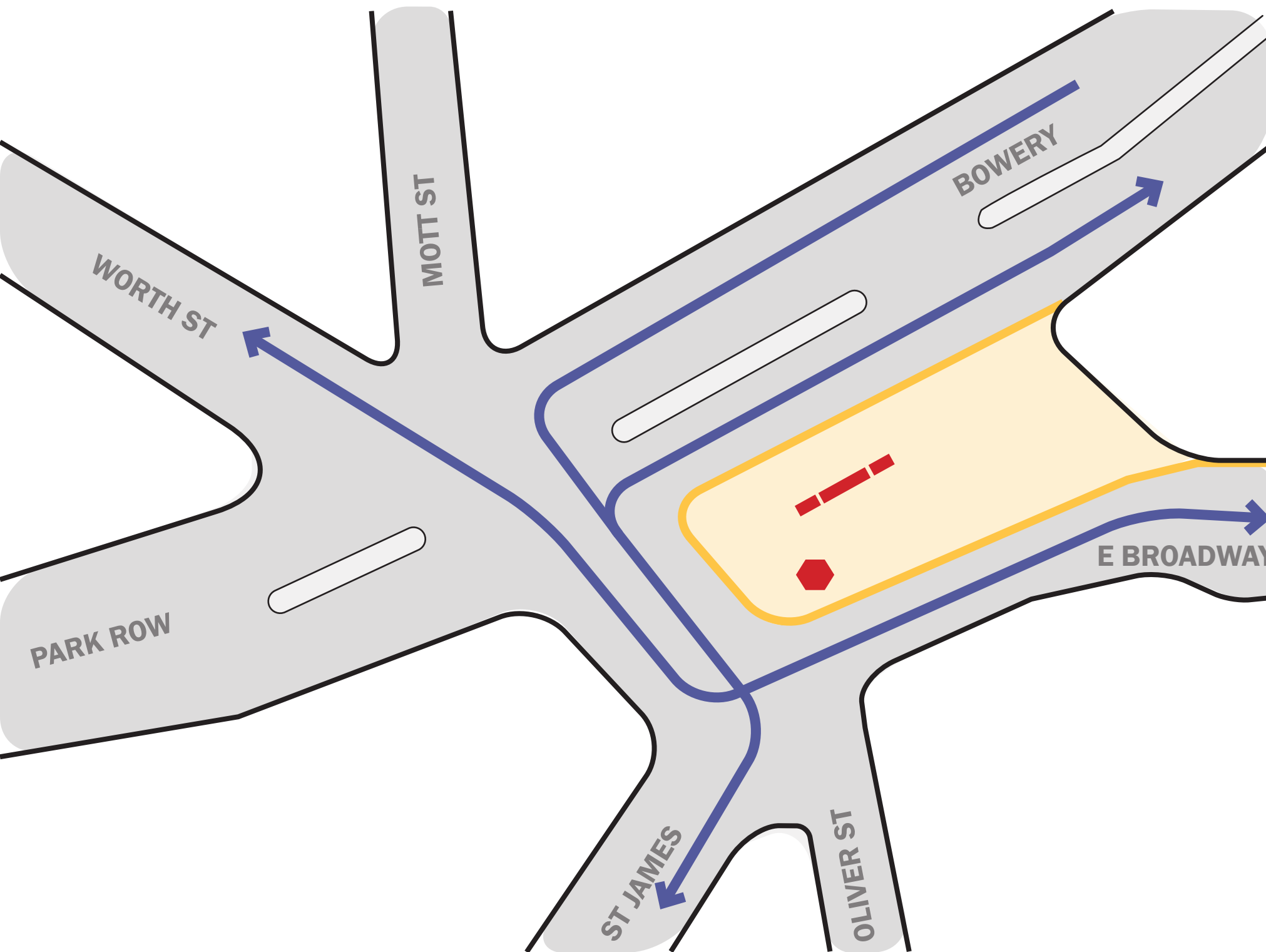
- Limited areas for tree planting
- Plantings must be in raised areas
- DEP and private utility work still needed
- Limited construction timeline benefits

Constrained Public Space

- Smaller footprint will displace existing programming /events
- Surrounded by traffic on all sides.
- Difficult to create buffer from roadways.

Alternatives Reviewed

Expand Plaza to North-east Corner



Does Not Improve Circulation

- Long pedestrian crossings on Bowery.
- Complex intersections
- Turning vehicle conflicts with pedestrians
- Key connections require 2 turns
- New connection between East Broadway and St James only benefits ~2-3% of vehicle trips

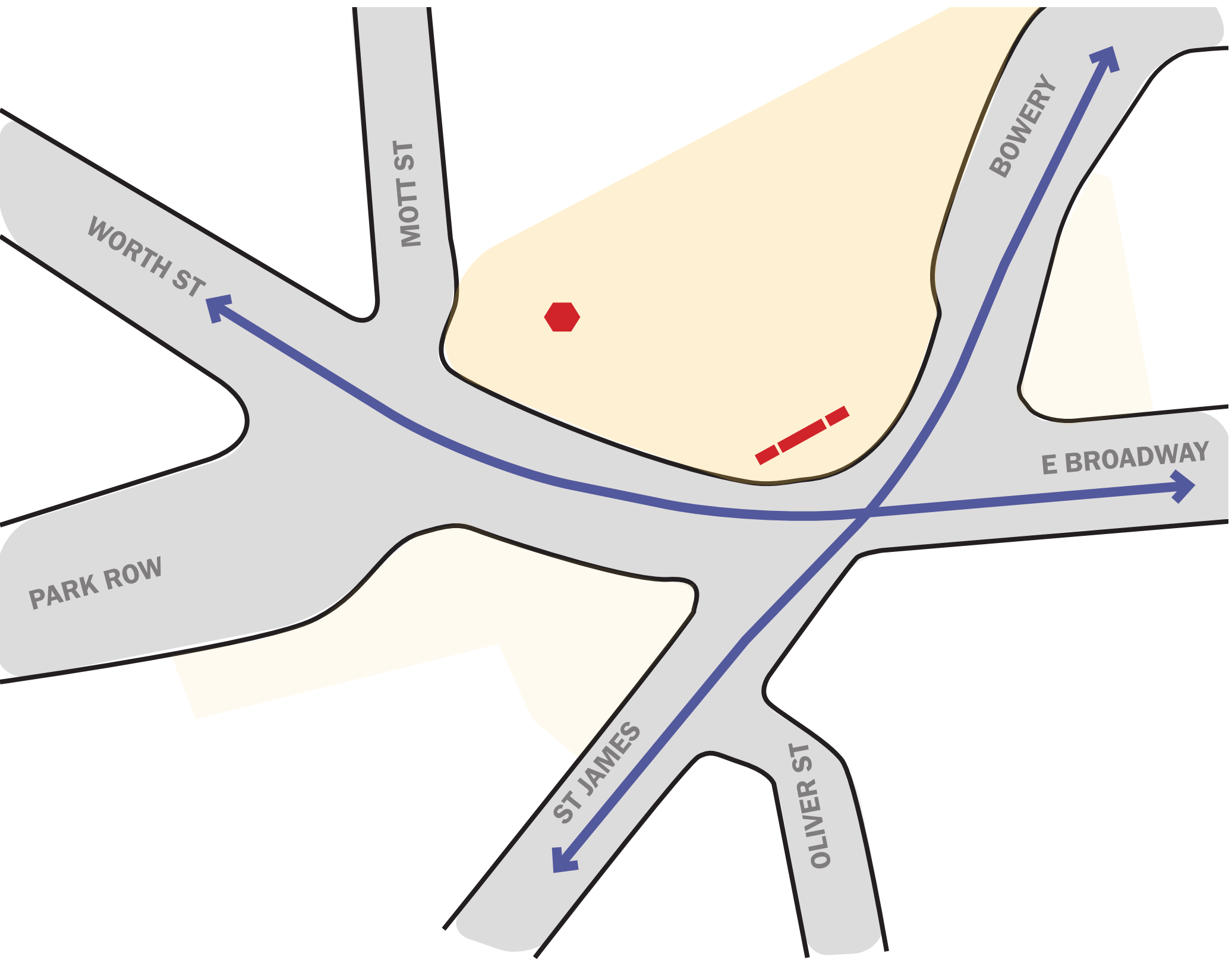
Underground Infrastructure Limitation

- Limited areas for tree planting.
- Plantings must be in raised areas.
- DEP and private utility work still needed.
- Limited construction timeline benefits.

Constrained Public Space

- Smaller footprint will displace existing programming /events
- Surrounded by traffic on three sides.
- Difficult to create buffer from roadways.

Proposed Configuration



Improves Circulation

- Shortens pedestrian crossings
- Simpler intersections
- Reduce conflicts between turning vehicles and pedestrians
- Direct and turn-free key connections

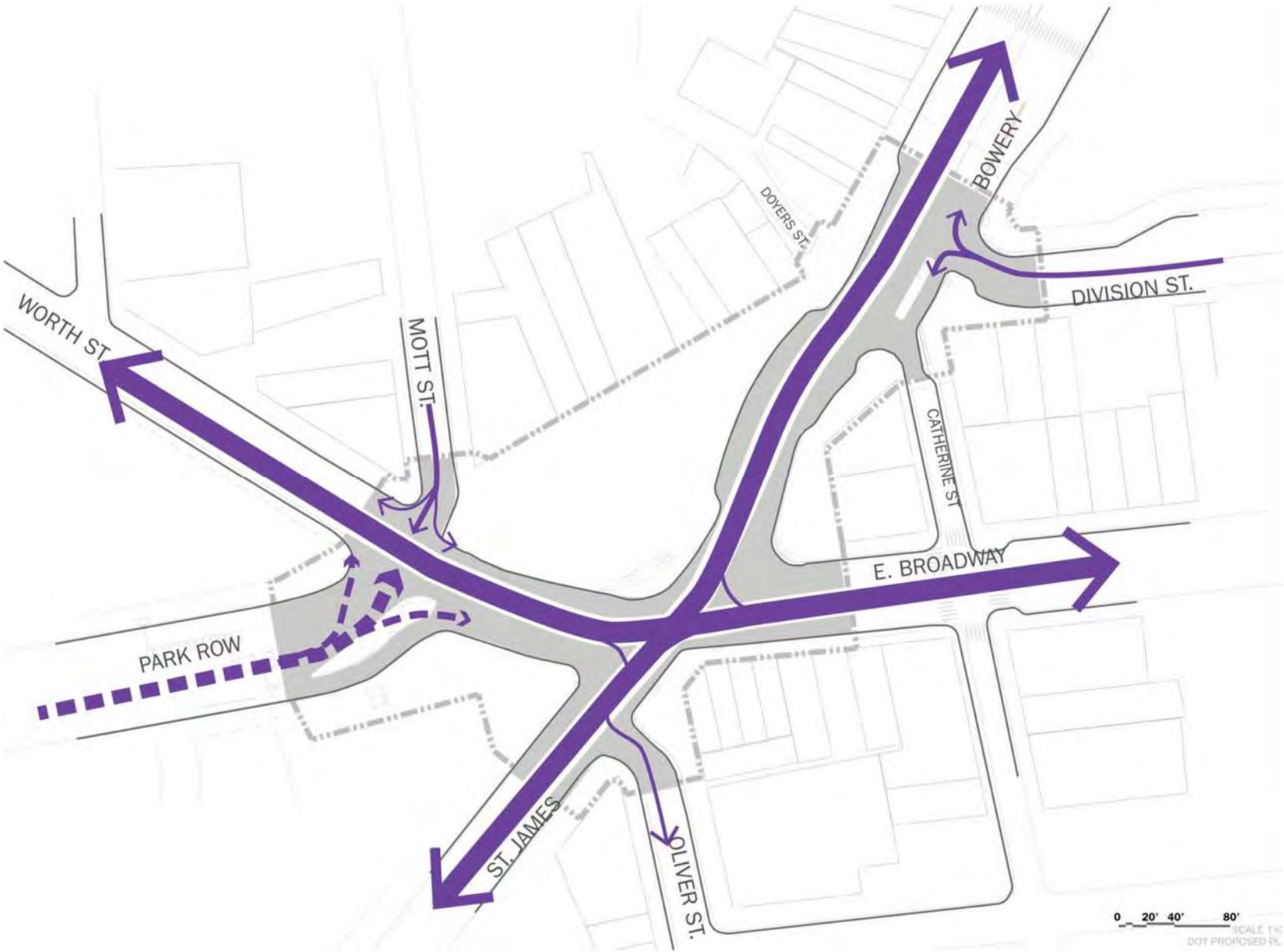
Moves Plaza Away From Complex Underground Infrastructure

- More opportunities for trees and greenery

Substantially Enlarged Public Space

- Larger gatherings to host events
- Surrounded by traffic on only two side.
- More space to create buffer from roadways
- Additional space provides flexibility for the Gateway Art piece

Proposed Primary Vehicular Flows



PROPOSED

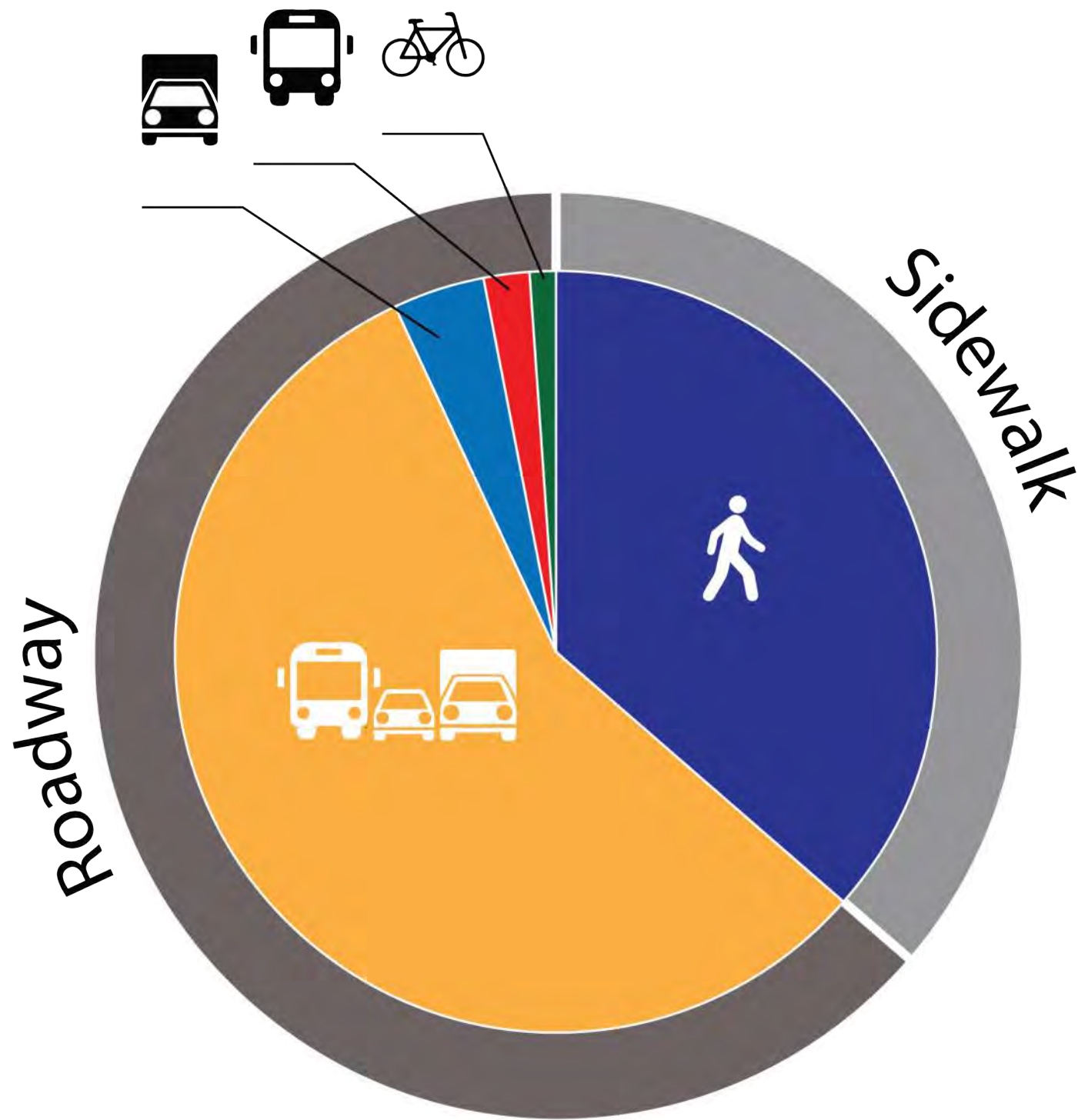


REALIGNMENT SIMPLIFIES MOVEMENTS

ONLY 1/3 OF MOVEMENTS WOULD BE TURNS

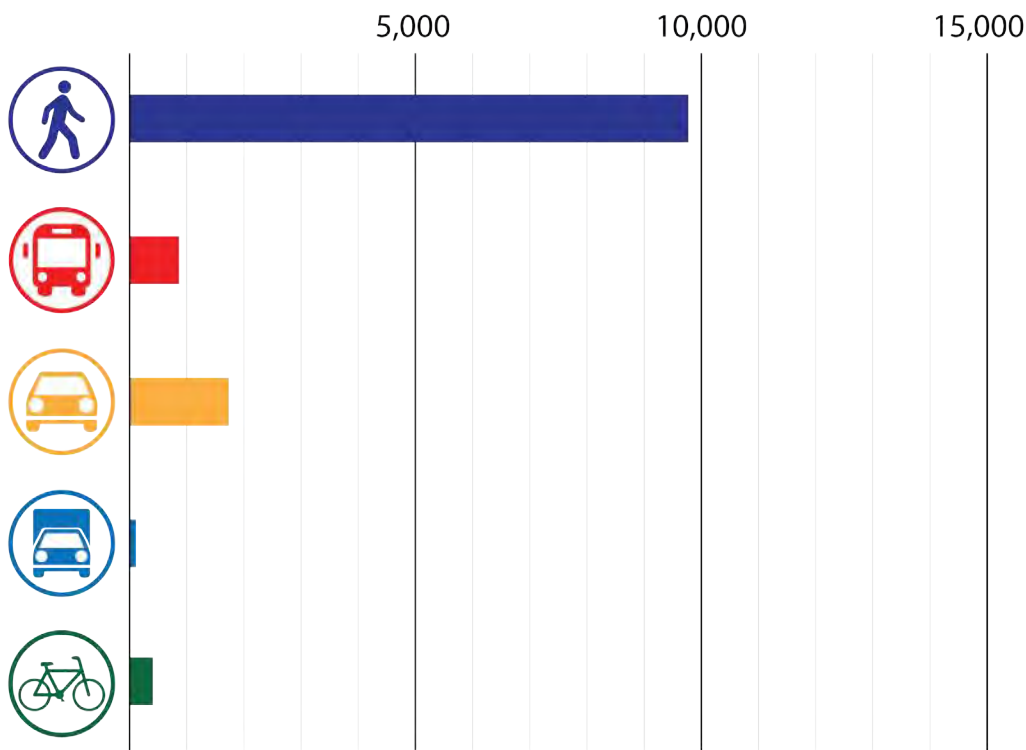
FULFILLS THE GOALS OF SIMPLIFYING TRAVEL PATTERNS AND CREATING A MORE TYPICAL AND PREDICTABLE INTERSECTION

Existing Kimlau Square - Vehicle Centered Design



**THE CURRENT SQUARE IS
MOSTLY ROADWAYS**

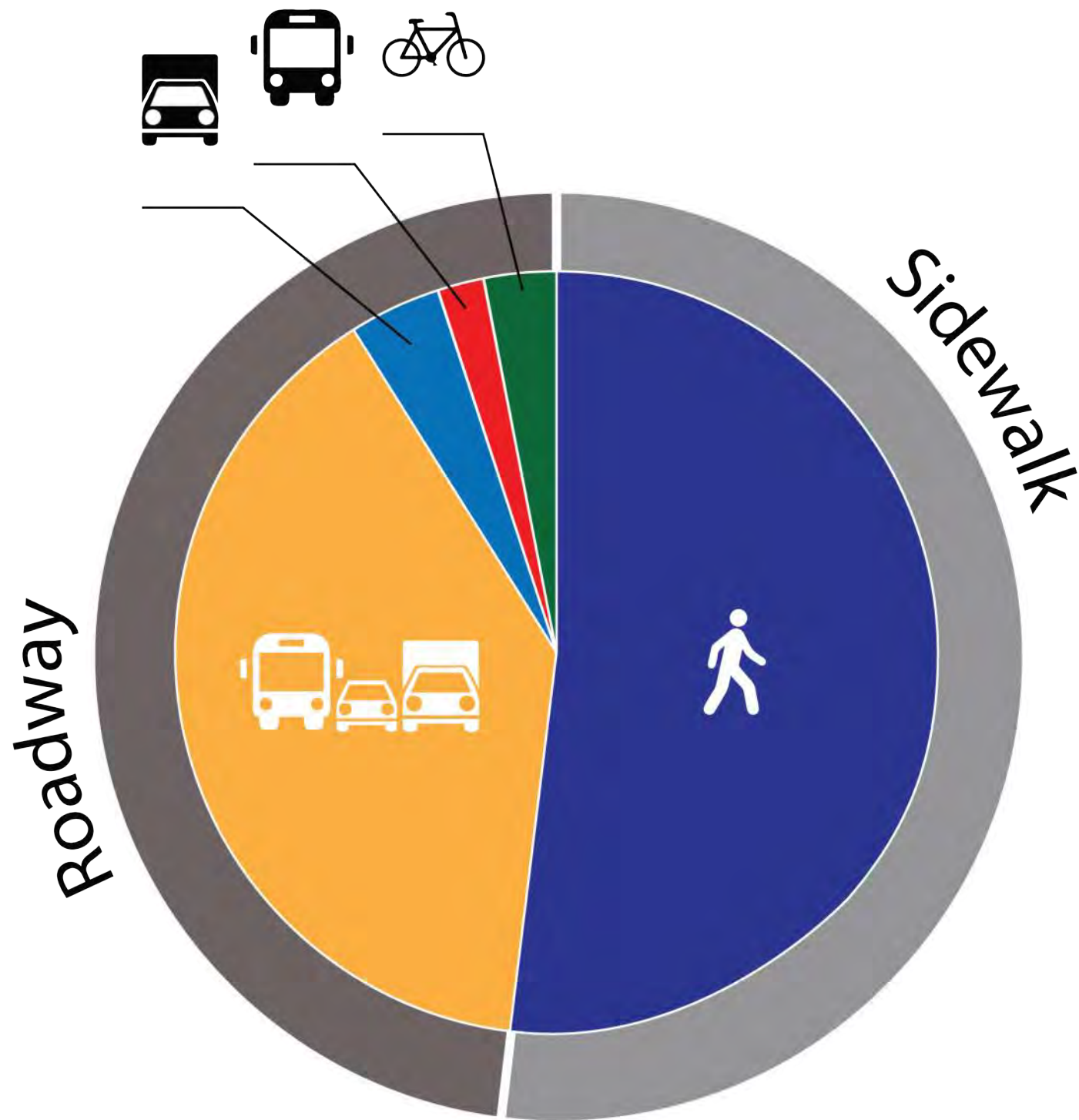
**ONLY 1/3 OF THE SPACE IS
FOR PEDESTRIANS**



Space shared between different modes - Current

Current Users (PM Peak Hour)

Proposed Kimlau Square - Pedestrian Centered Design

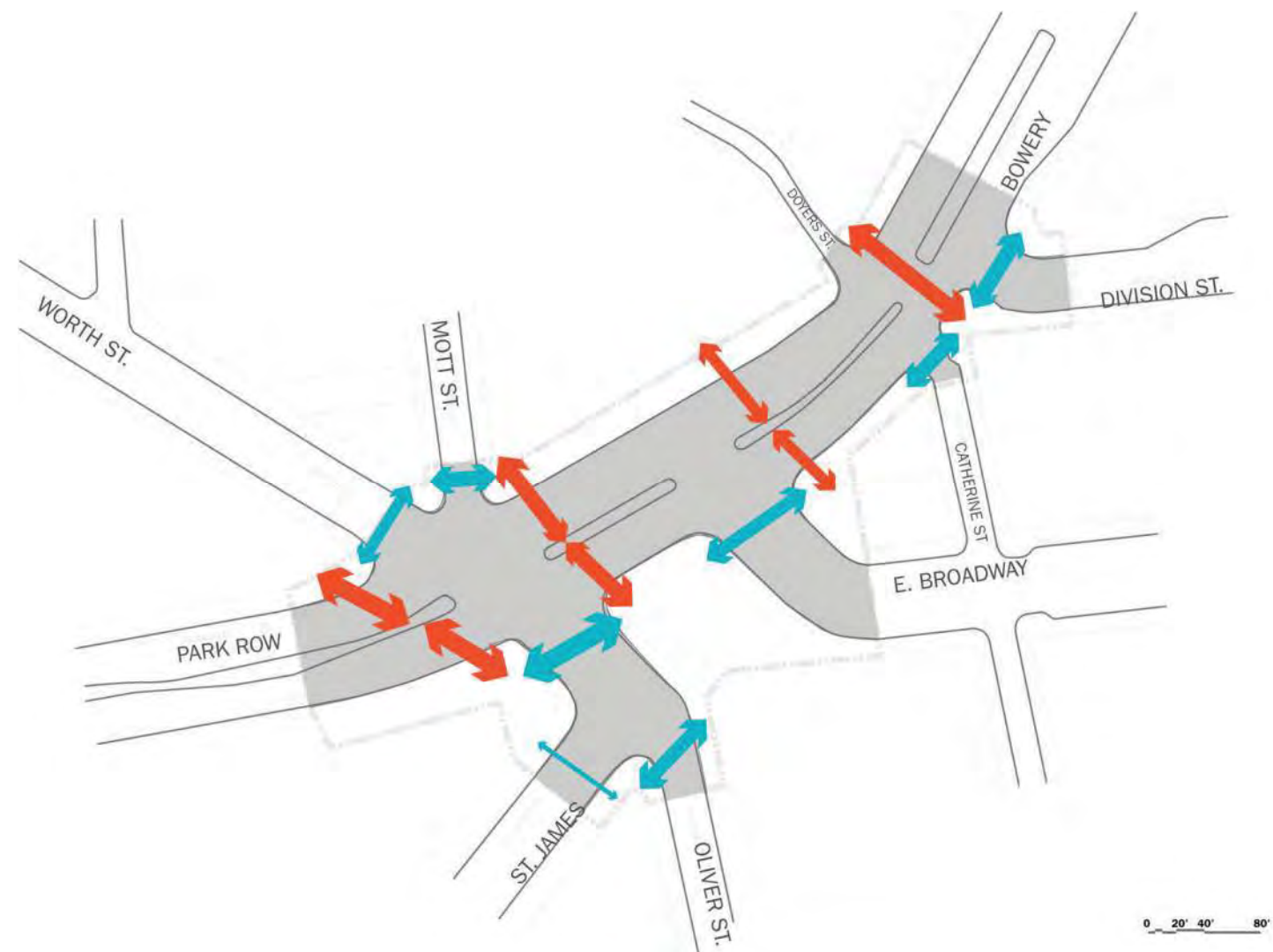


A REDESIGN ALLOWS FOR THE CREATION OF A MUCH LARGER OPEN SPACE

FULFILLS THE GOAL OF BETTER ACCOMMODATING CULTURAL FESTIVITIES AND GATHERINGS

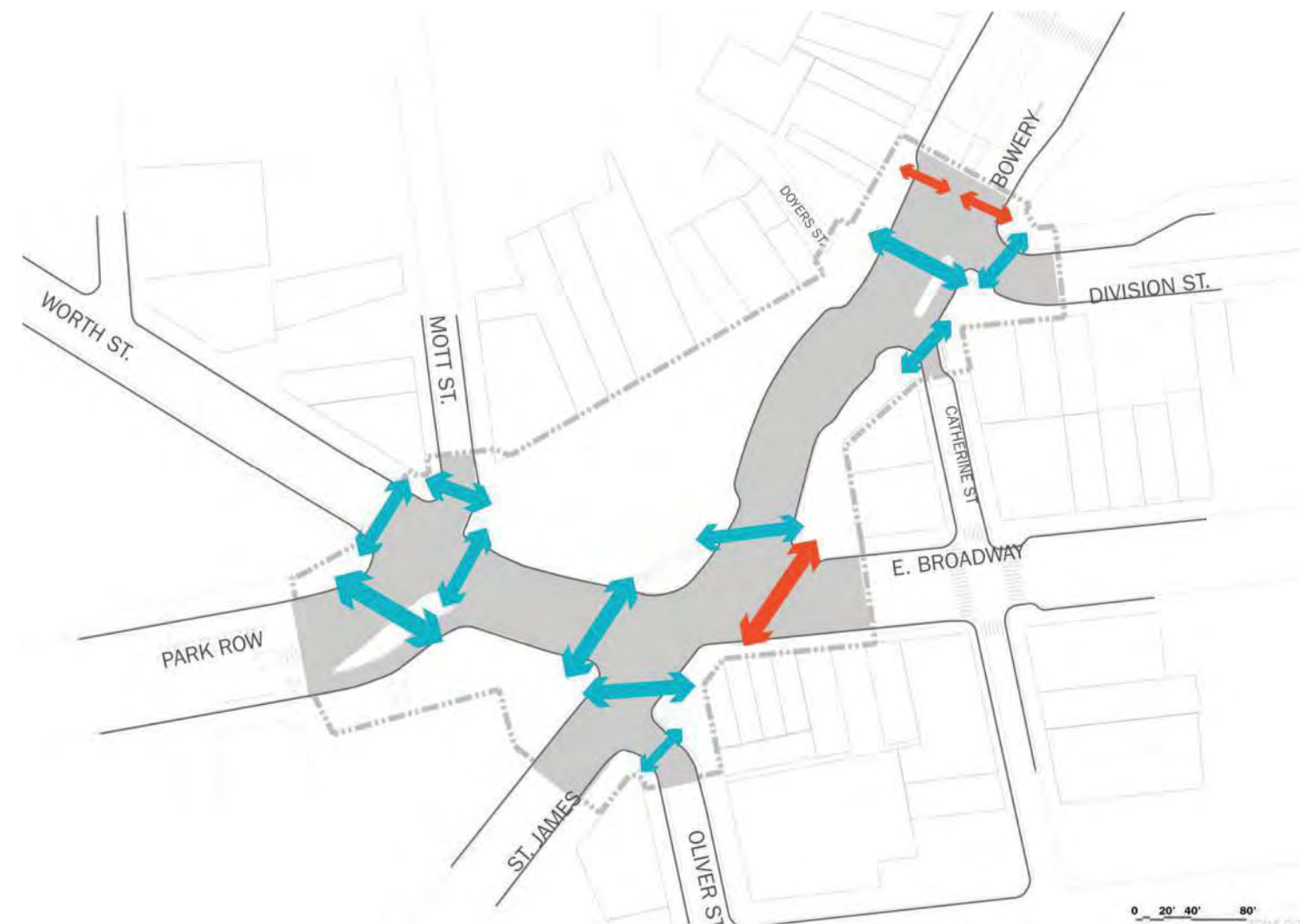
Space shared between different modes - Proposed

Reduce Crosswalk Length



CURRENT

- SHORT CROSSWALK (<65')
- LONG CROSSWALK (>65')



PROPOSED

- SHORT CROSSWALK (<65')
- LONG CROSSWALK (>65')

Expand Public Space

Current: ~ 11,250 SF



Proposed: ~ 27,700 SF

Enlarged x2.5



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

What we have heard

Meeting with Chinatown BID

- **“The square should be a world class plaza.”**
- **“The plaza hosts frequent community events. Gathering spaces should be flexible to support both daily use and events of all sizes.”**

1. Lunar New Year Parade	11. Earth Day Event
2. 911 Remembrance Event (Current not have enough space)	12. Lantern Festival
3. Volunteer Clean-up	13. Veterans Day
4. Transfiguration Church Annual Assumption Festival (near plaza)	14. Memorial Day
5. National Night Out	15. July 4th
6. Thanksgiving Turkey Give-away	16. New Year’s Eve
7. Fujianese Stage	17. October 1st, October 10th
8. Mid-Autumn Festival	18. Open Streets through the year
9. Backpack Give-away	
10. Confucius Ceremony (at Confucius Plaza)	
- **“Event Movement: processions approach from north, down Mott st., pause at Kimlau square, continue to E. Broadway.”**
- **“Use greenery as buffer zones to shield traffic. Maintenance need to be discussed with DOT/Parks.”**
- **“Create a destination for tourists coming from Park Row.”**

What we have heard

Meeting with American Legion

- **“Gathering space should focus around the 3 cultural markers (Memorial Arch, Lin Ze Xu Statue and the Gateway art piece).”**
- **“Flat, defined gathering space in front of the Memorial Arch.”**
- **“Need power for light and sound for events.”**
- **“Pigeon proofing of the 3 cultural markers is essential.”**
- **“Planting should act as buffer, especially behind the Memorial Arch.”**
- **“Provide flag pole, and locate to the audience’s left.”**

What we have heard

Meeting with Fujianese Groups

- **“Clear circulation and visual connections between cultural markers.”**
- **“Shading is needed.”**
- **“Planting should not obstruct views of Lin Ze Xu Statue.”**
- **“Lin Ze Xu statue faces East Broadway, and should be visible when approaching from East Broadway.”**
- **“Create a defined gathering space in front of Lin Ze Xu Statue: for 100-200 people, potentially expand to 500.”**
- **“Create a cohesive, well connected space between the main plaza and adjacent enlarged sidewalks.”**
- **“Street closure only occurs very rarely.”**

We are continuing the Community Engagement effort throughout Concept Design in August 2025

3 Tablings at Community Events

Chinatown BID Summer Refreshing Weekend
08/09/2023



90+ PEOPLE ATTENDED
49 WRITTEN COMMENTS
346 VOTES ON VISUAL SURVEY

Think!Chinatown Block Party
08/10/2023



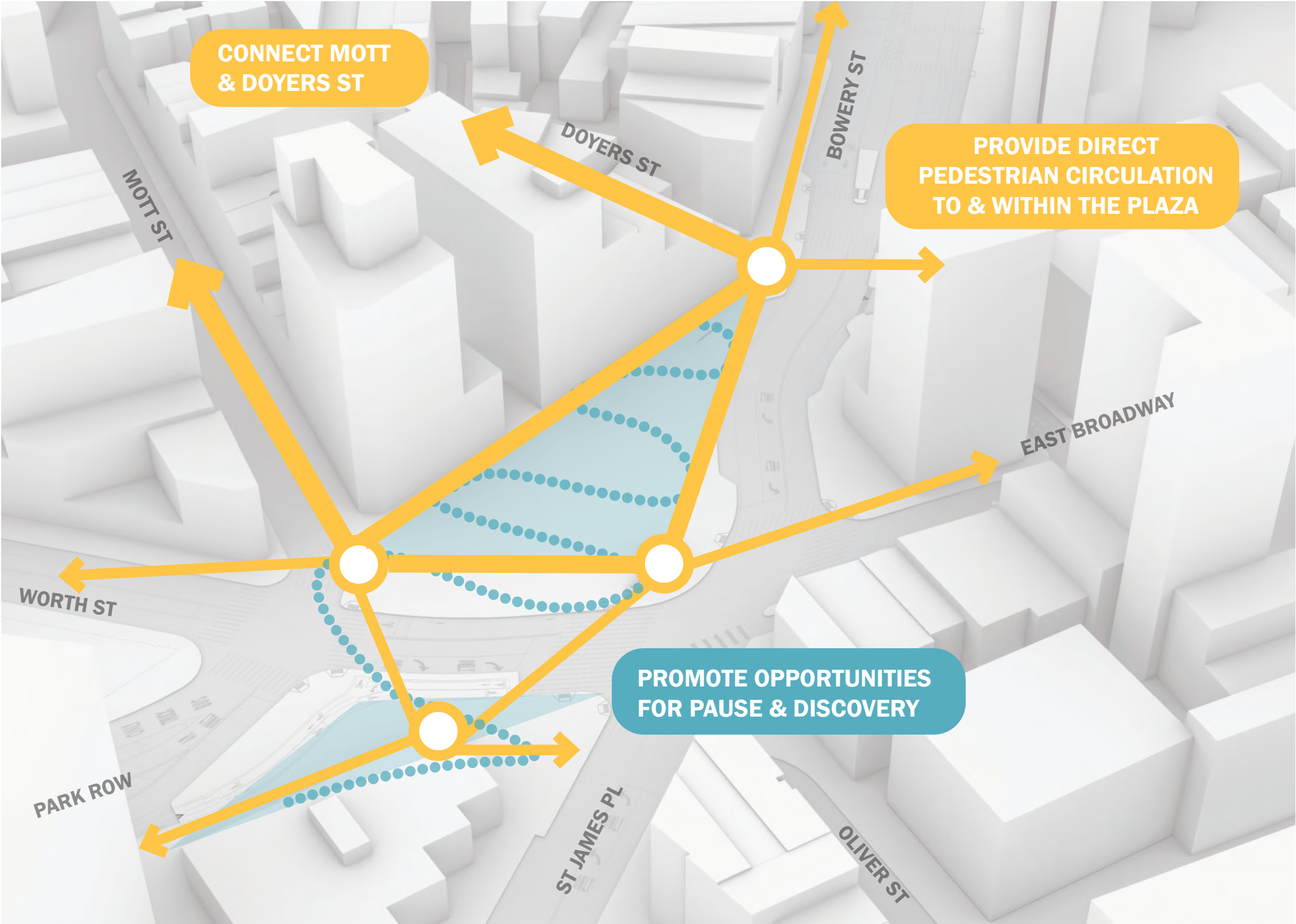
Smith House Family Day
08/23/2023



CONCEPT DESIGN APPROACH

What we have heard

Circulation - Pedestrian Day to Day



Doyer St.

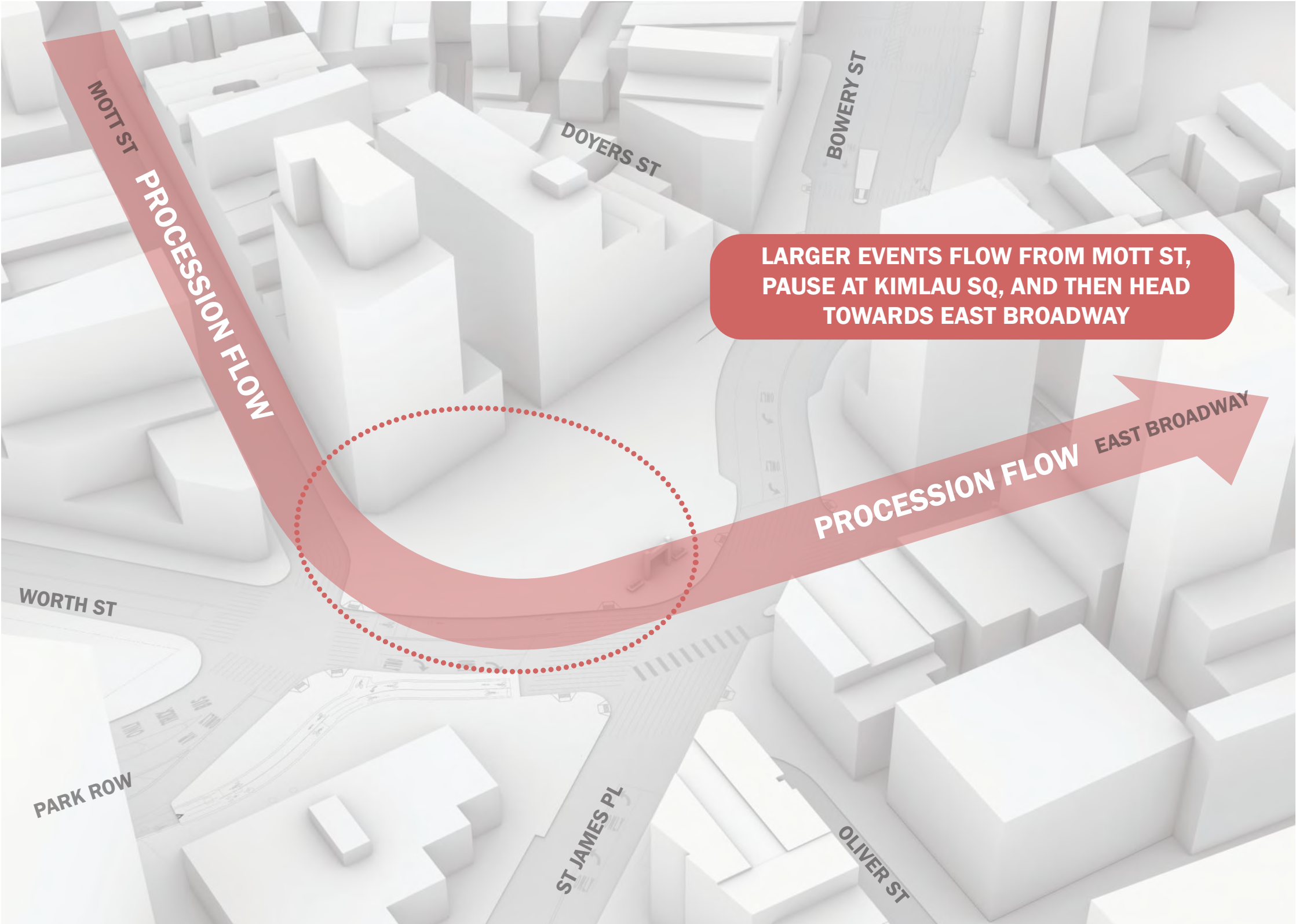


Mott St.

-  DIRECT PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION
-  MEANDERING PATH

What we have heard

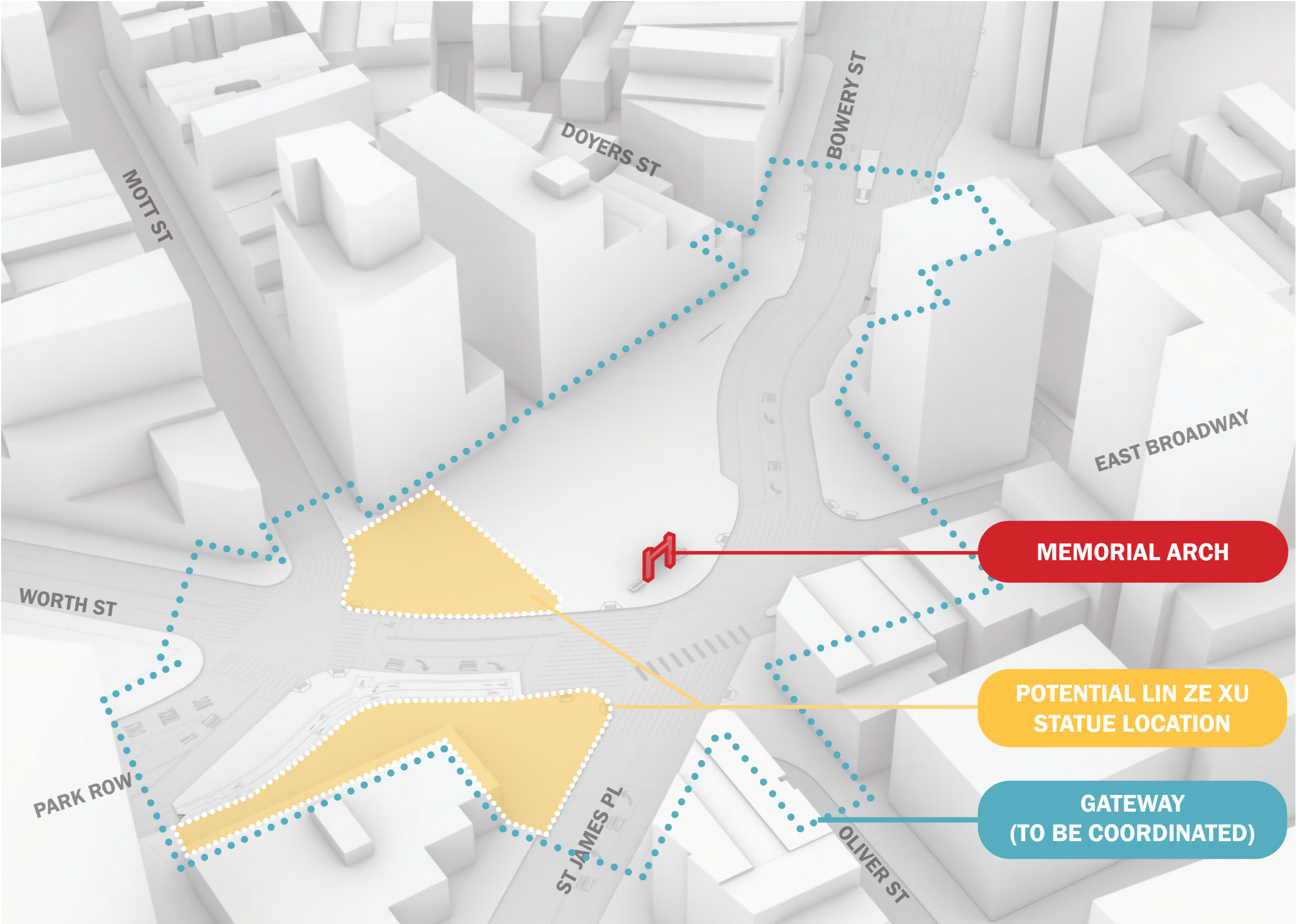
Circulation - Event



PROCESSION FLOW

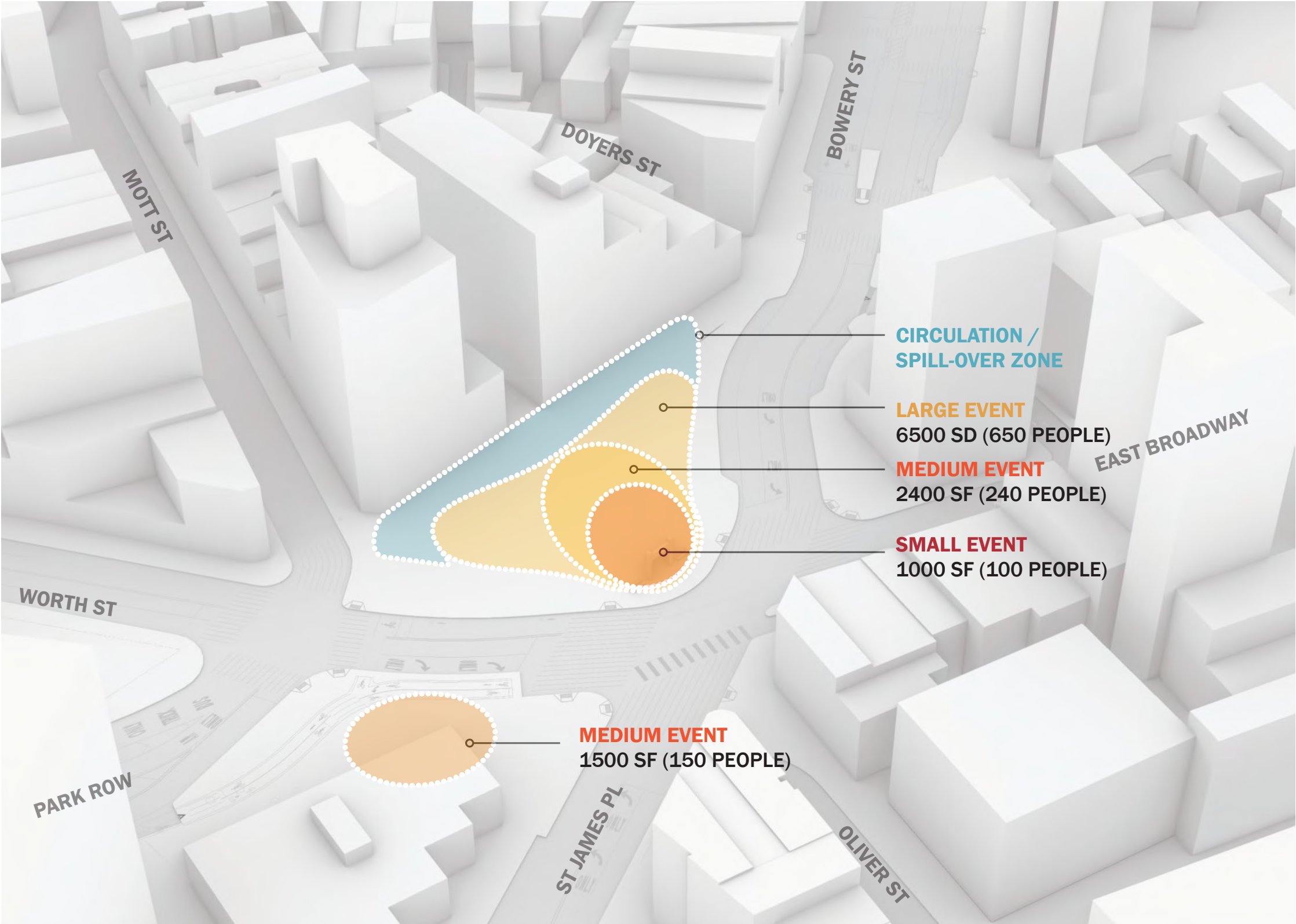
What we have heard

Flexibility - Gathering Space for Different Scales



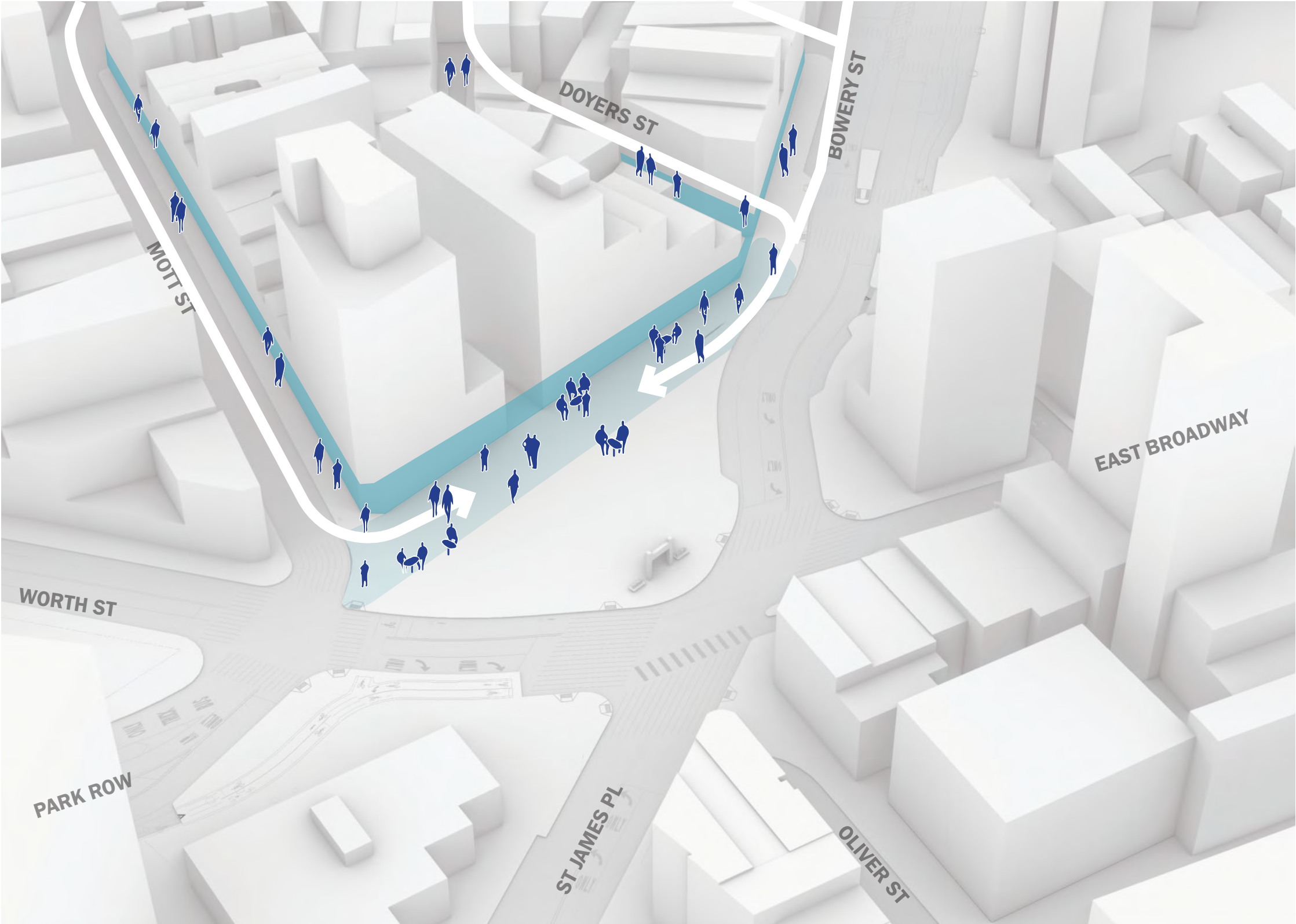
What we have heard

Flexibility - Gathering Space for Different Scales



What we have heard

Street Level Commercial Activation



Doyer. St



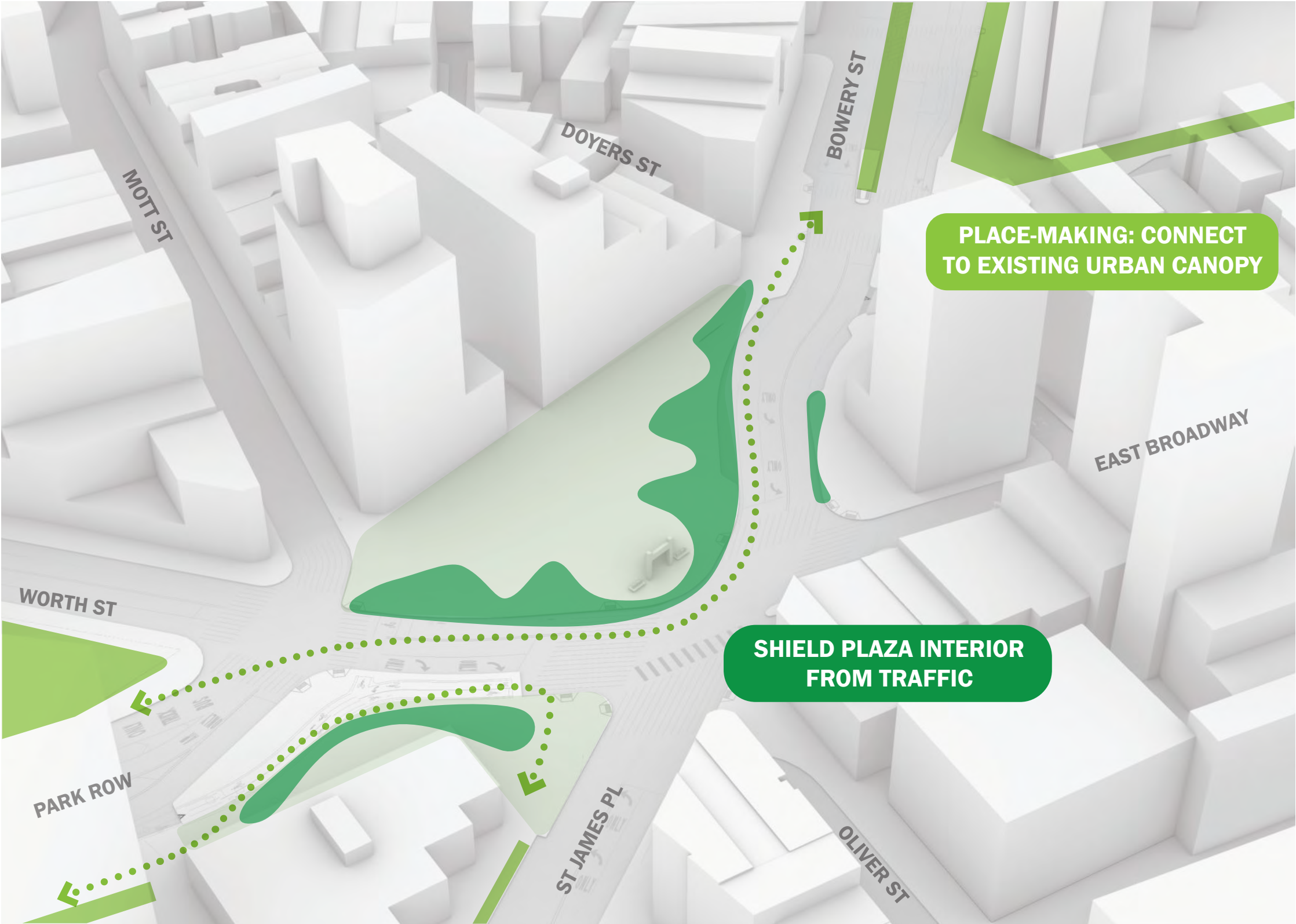
Mott St.



Pell St.

What we have heard

Planting - Buffer



- PROPOSED PLANTING BUFFER
- EXISTING TREE CANOPY

What we have heard

Canopy and Shade



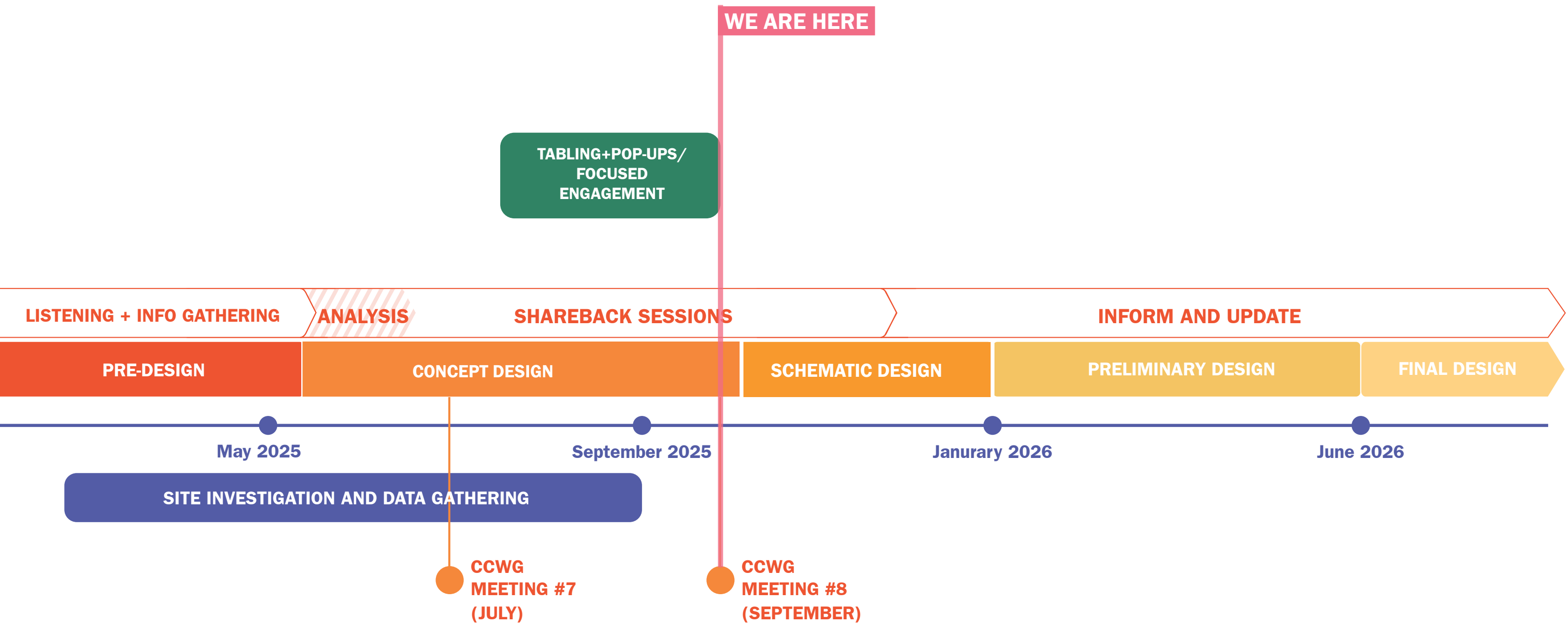
What we have heard

Conceptual Framework



- ↔ MOVEMENT THROUGH SPACE
- ACTIVE PROGRAM ZONES
- GATHERING SPACE
- FLEX SPILL-OVER SPACE
- GREEN BUFFER

Timeline



DISCUSSION