

Why Johnny and Mary Can't Ride to School: Identifying Barriers to Safe Bicycle Access

----- & bonus -----

Why Cambridge Clara Can Ride to Work, but Not Brookline Bella or Dorchester David

Peter Furth & Nathan David Obeng-Amoako

Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, Northeastern University

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Everyday Bicycling: Good for People, for Planet, for Cities

- Carbon-free
- Built-in exercise
- Inexpensive
- Mental health
- Children's development
- YES, it's possible year-round with the right clothing (like skiing)



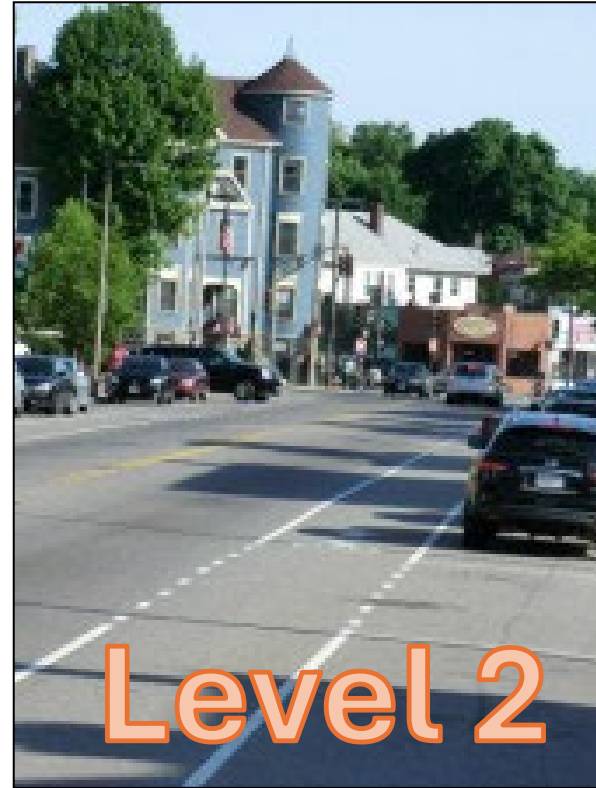
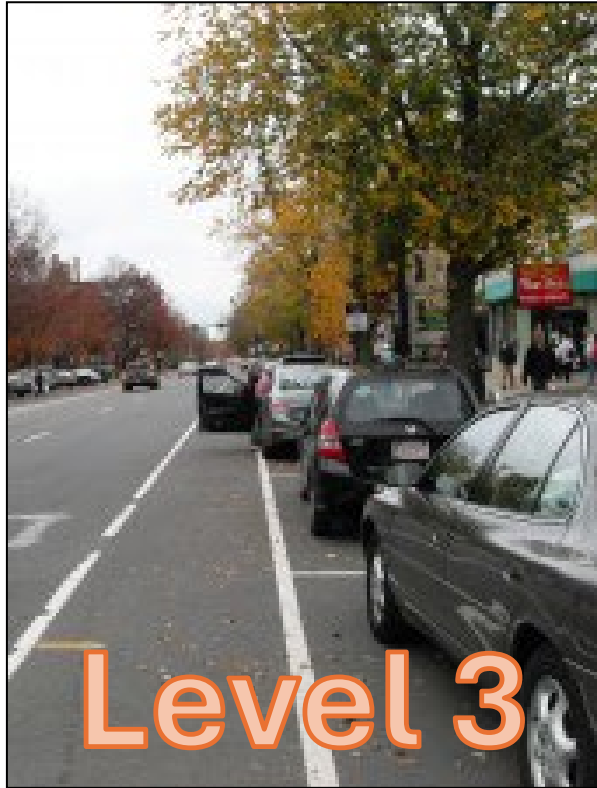
One main thing
stands in the way:

High traffic stress

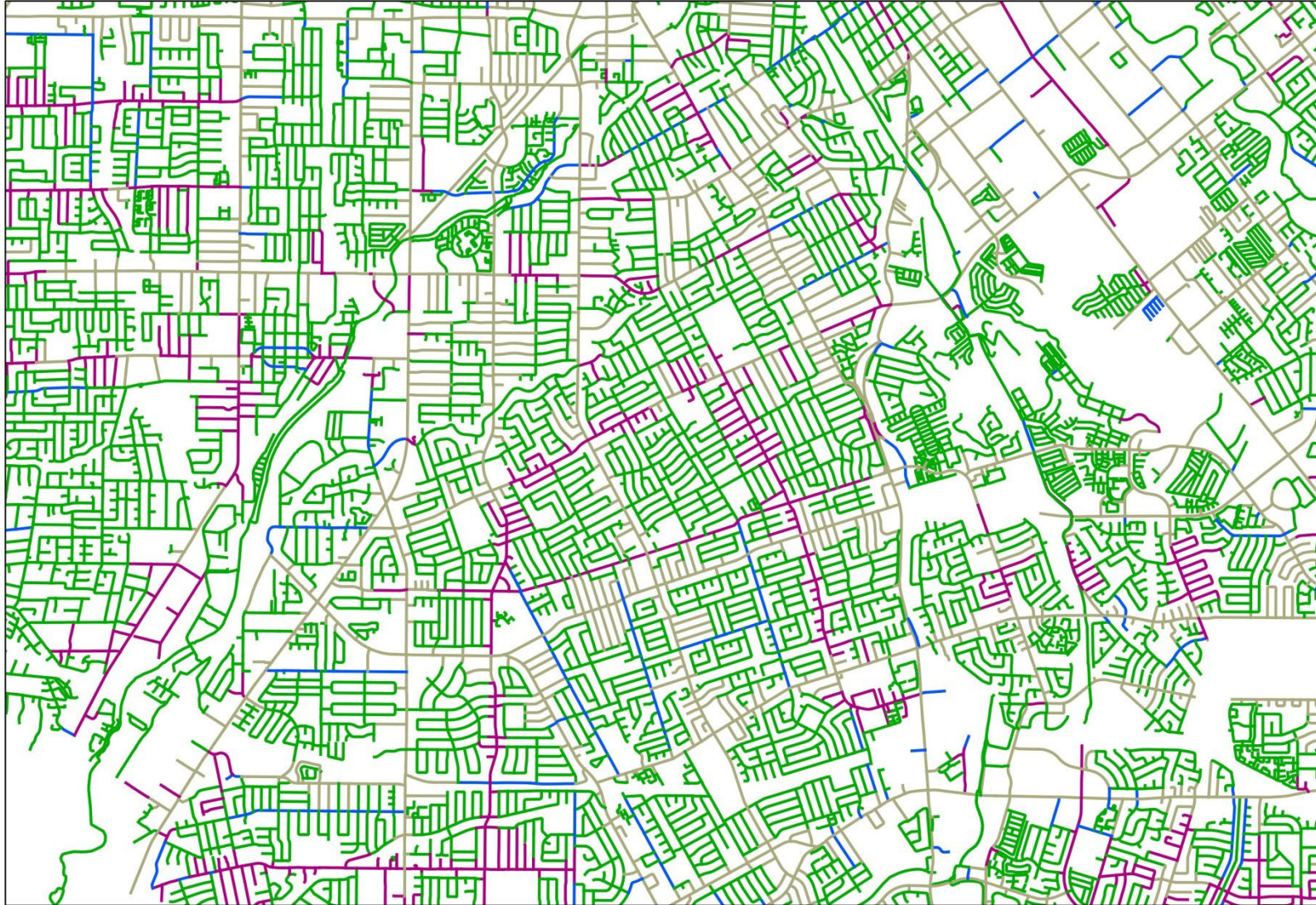
*It's the infrastructure,
stupid*



Levels of Traffic Stress

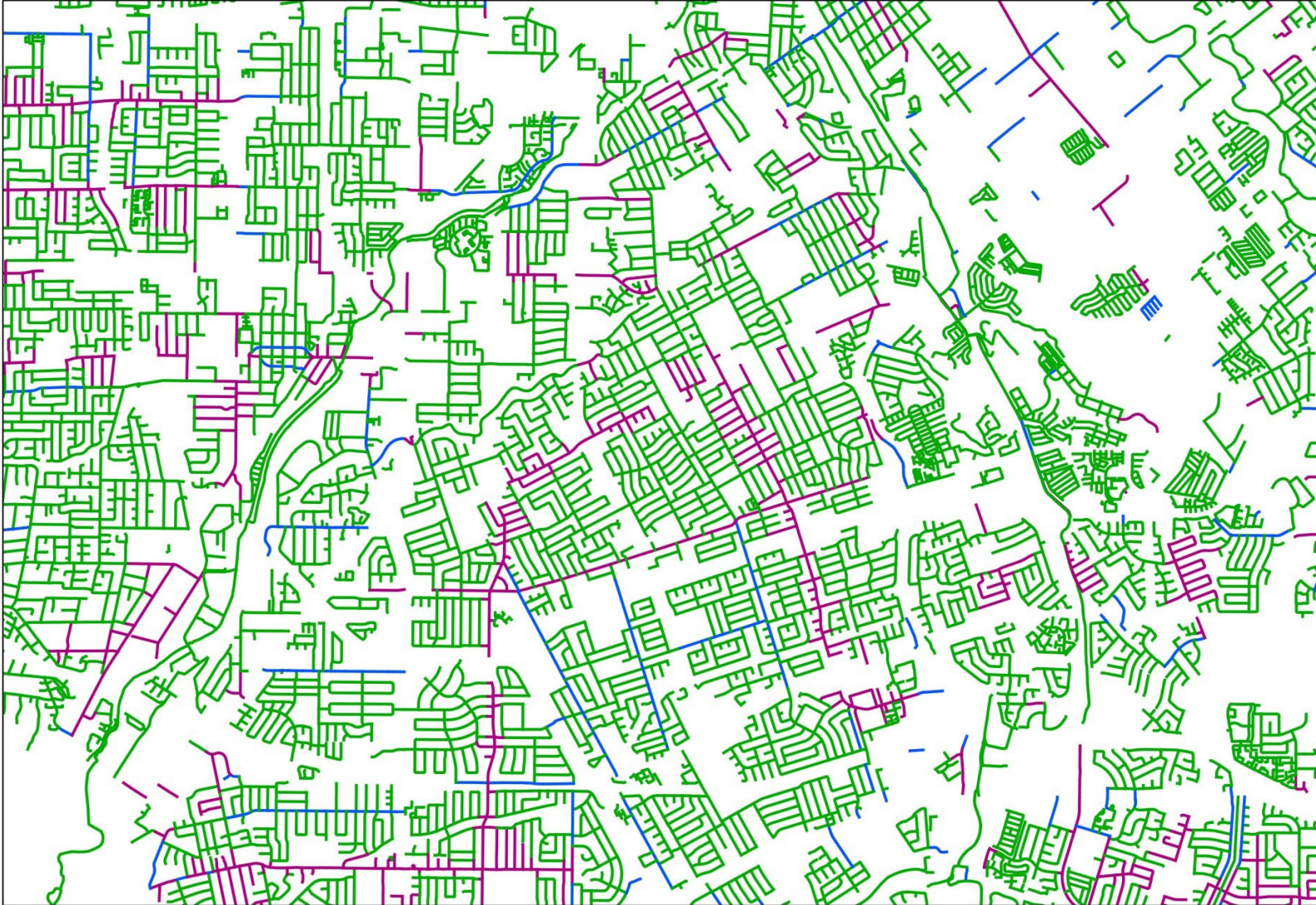


San Jose 2010, All Levels of Traffic Stress

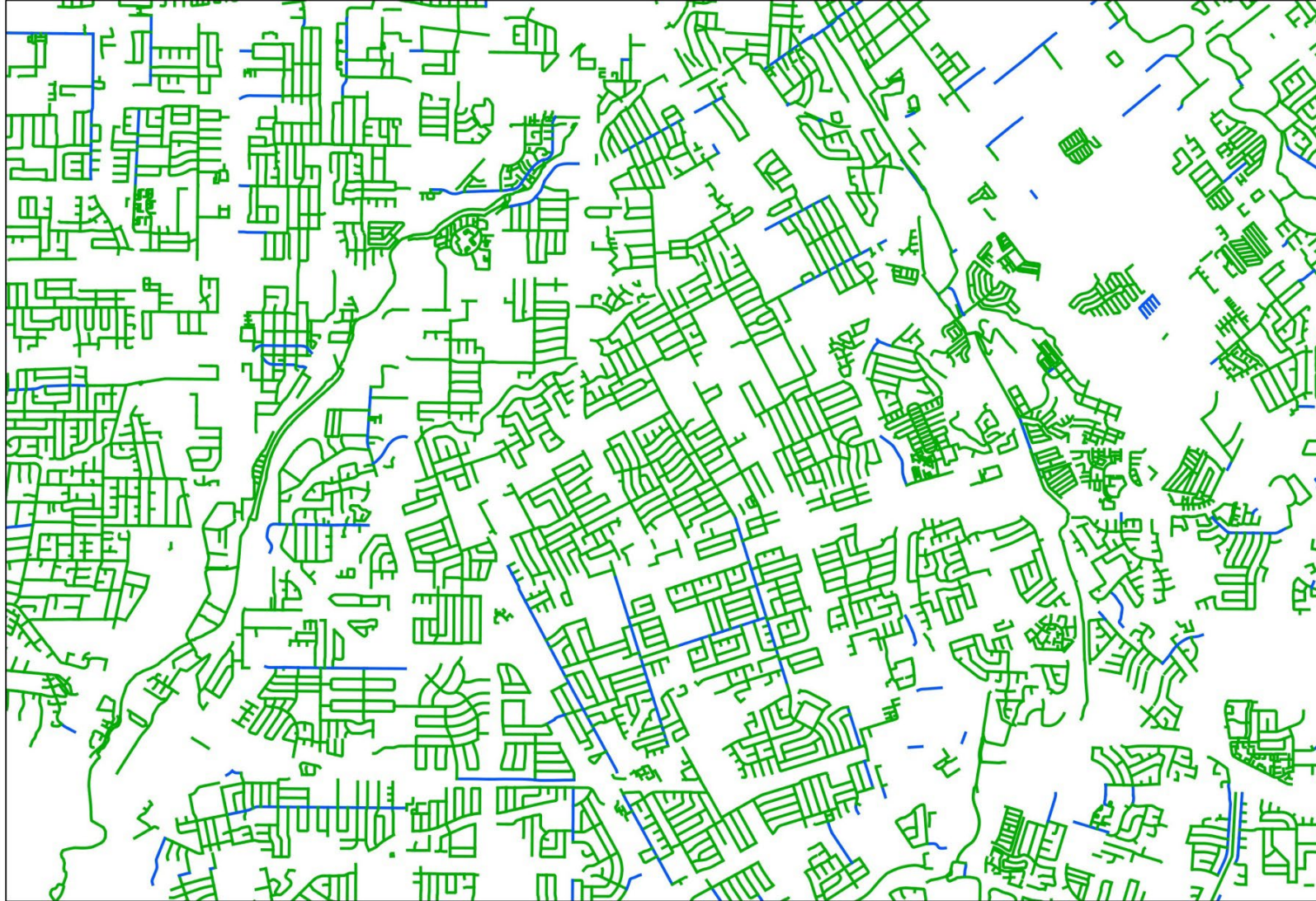


Green = LTS 1, Blue = LTS 2, Purple = LTS 3, Tan = LTS 4

Stress Level 3 or Less



Stress Level 2 or Less



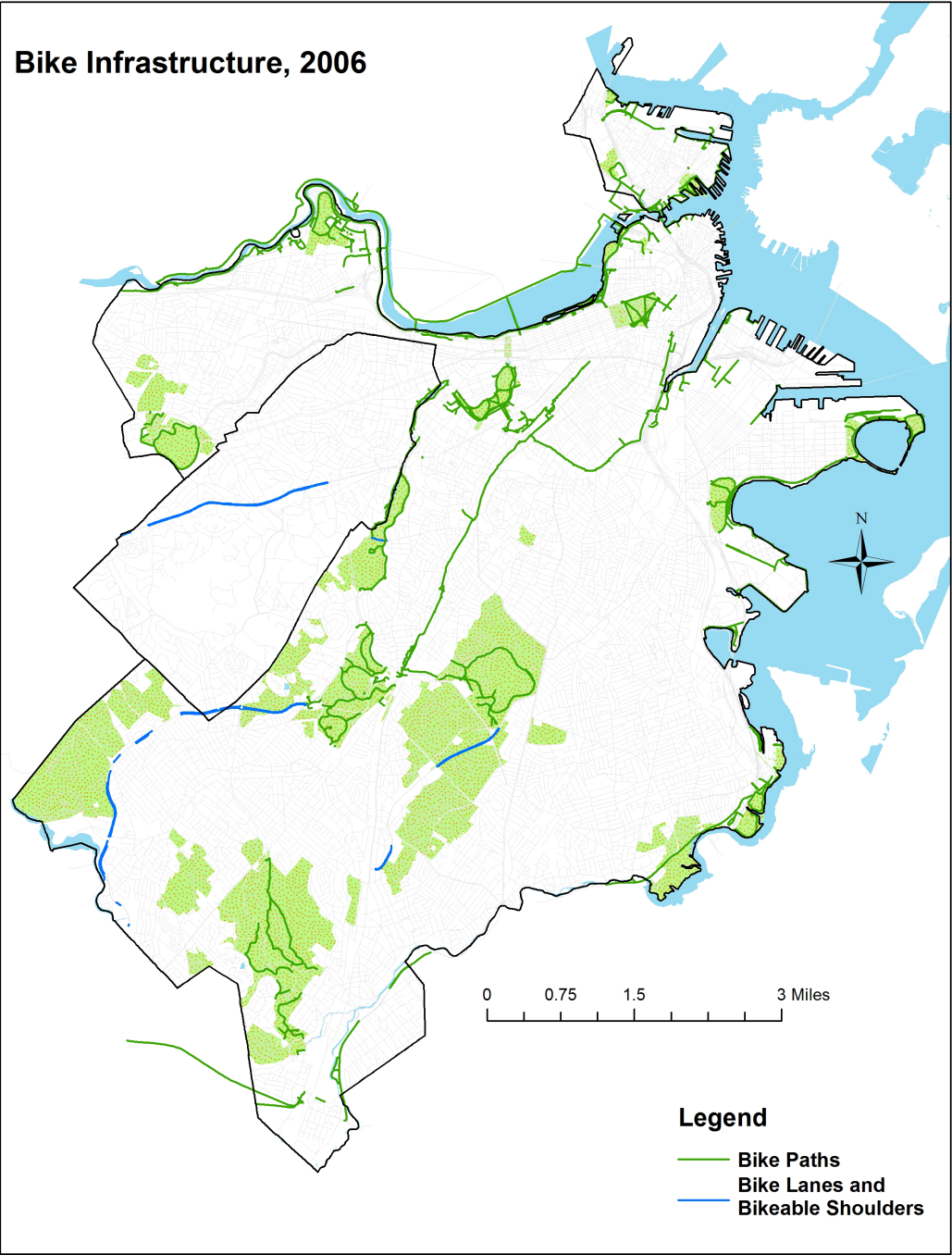
Stress Level 1



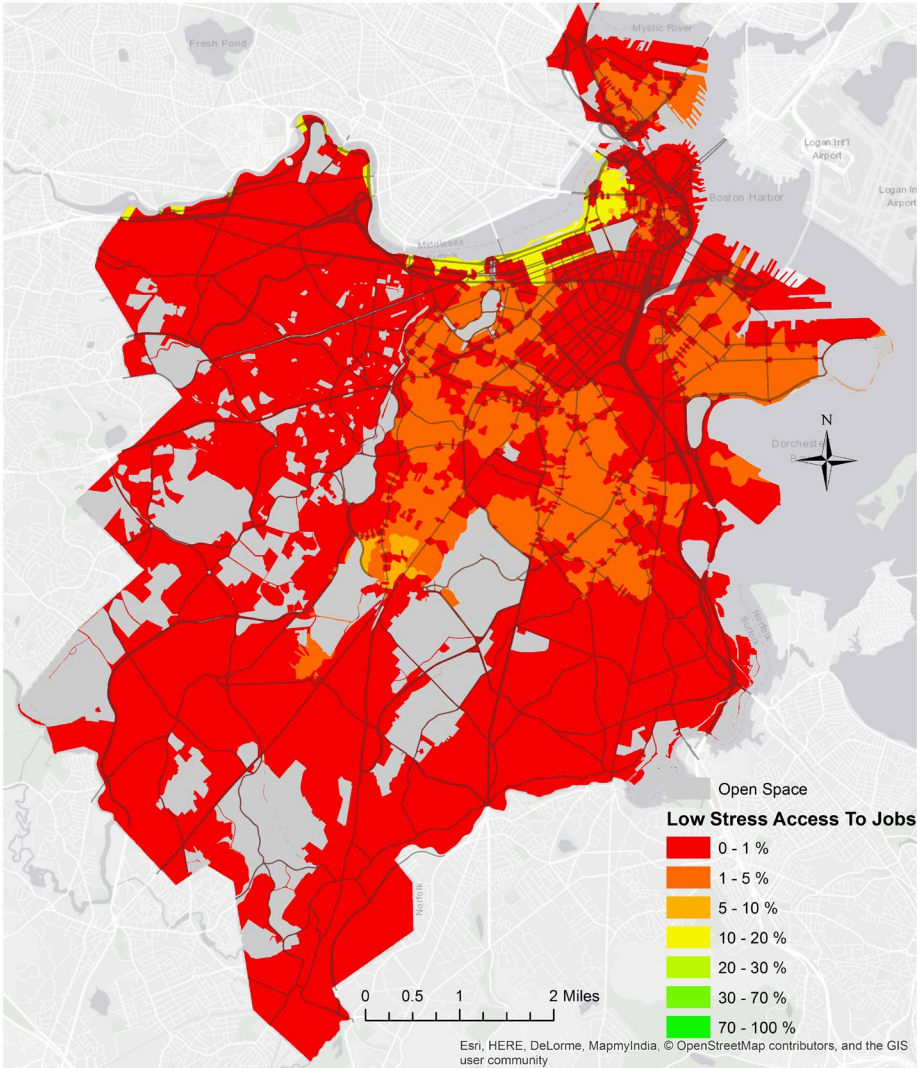
Added in
2026:
Intersection
Crossing
Stress



2006

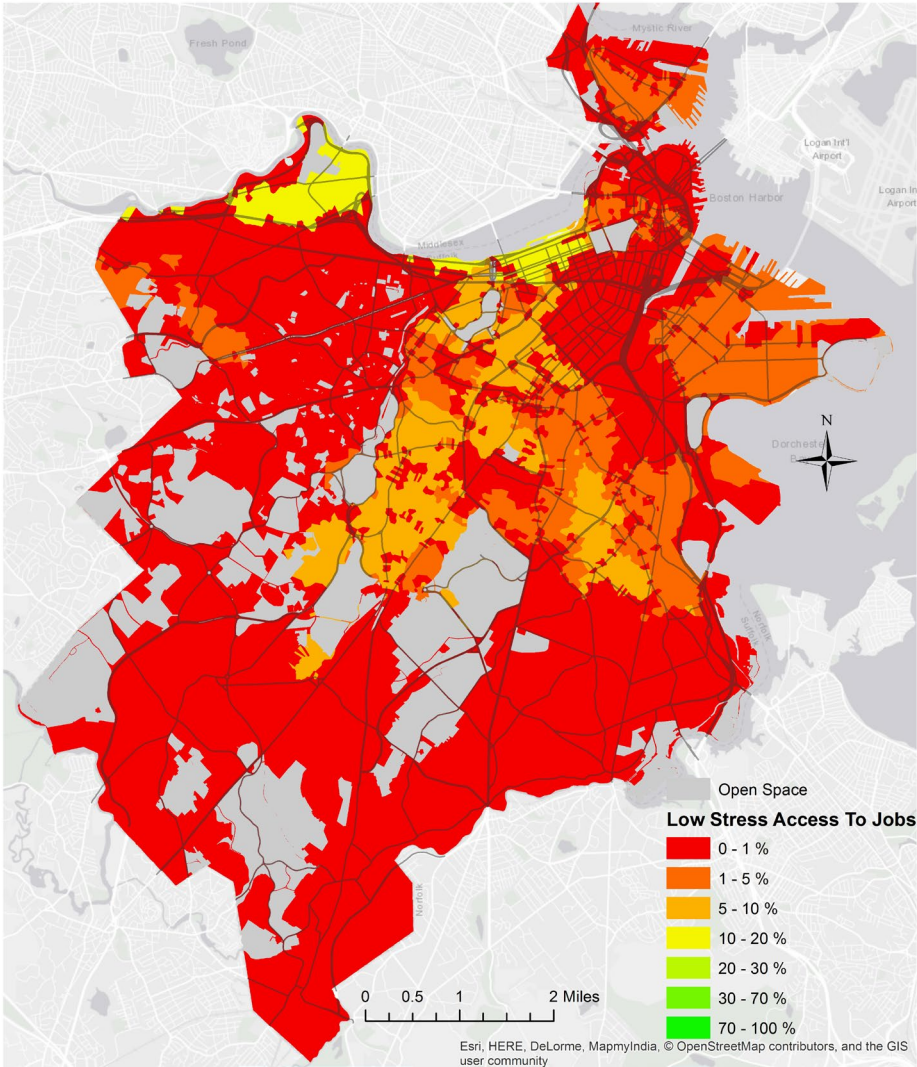
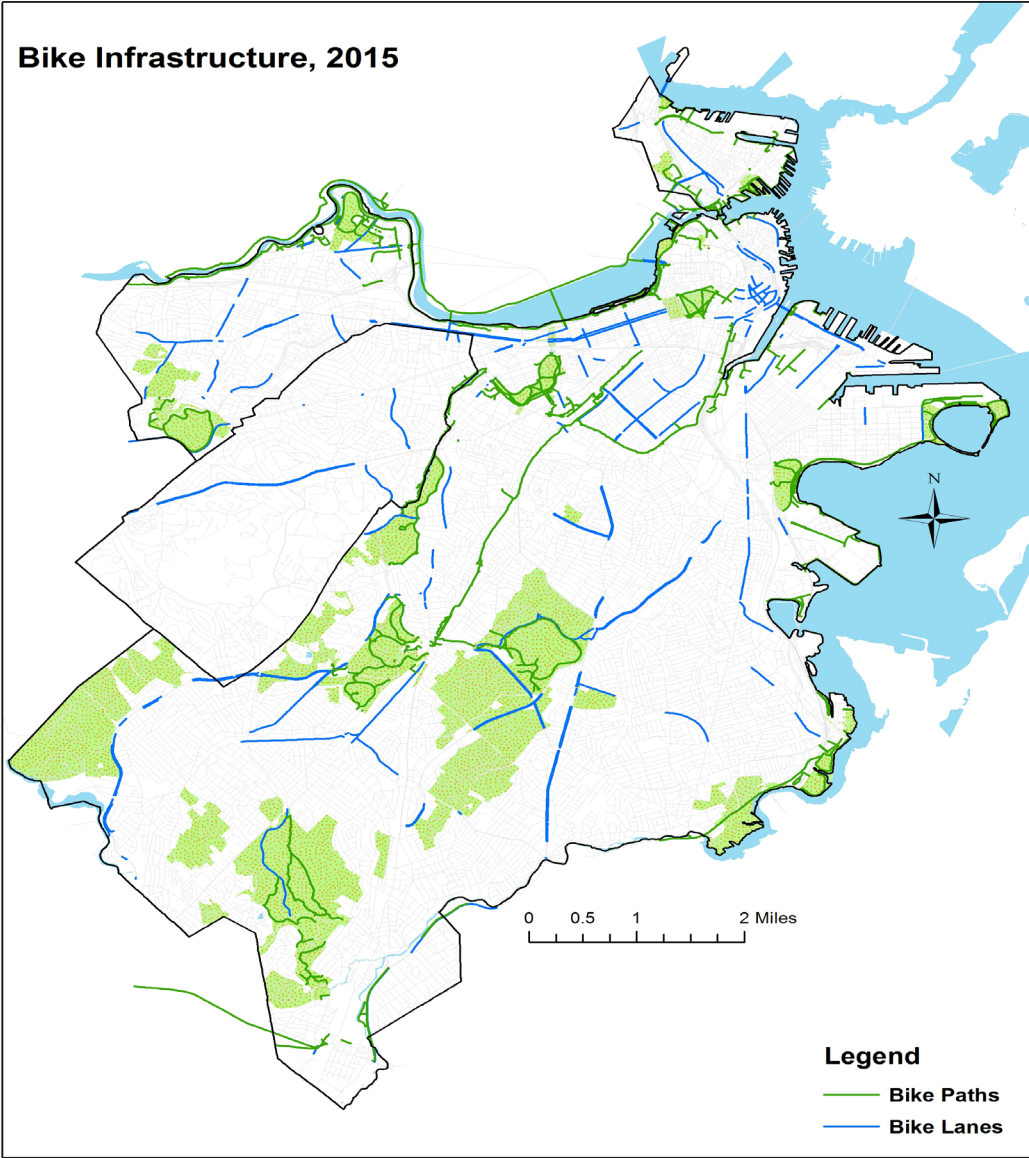


Low-Stress (LTS 2) Accessibility to Jobs
Average = 1.0%



2015

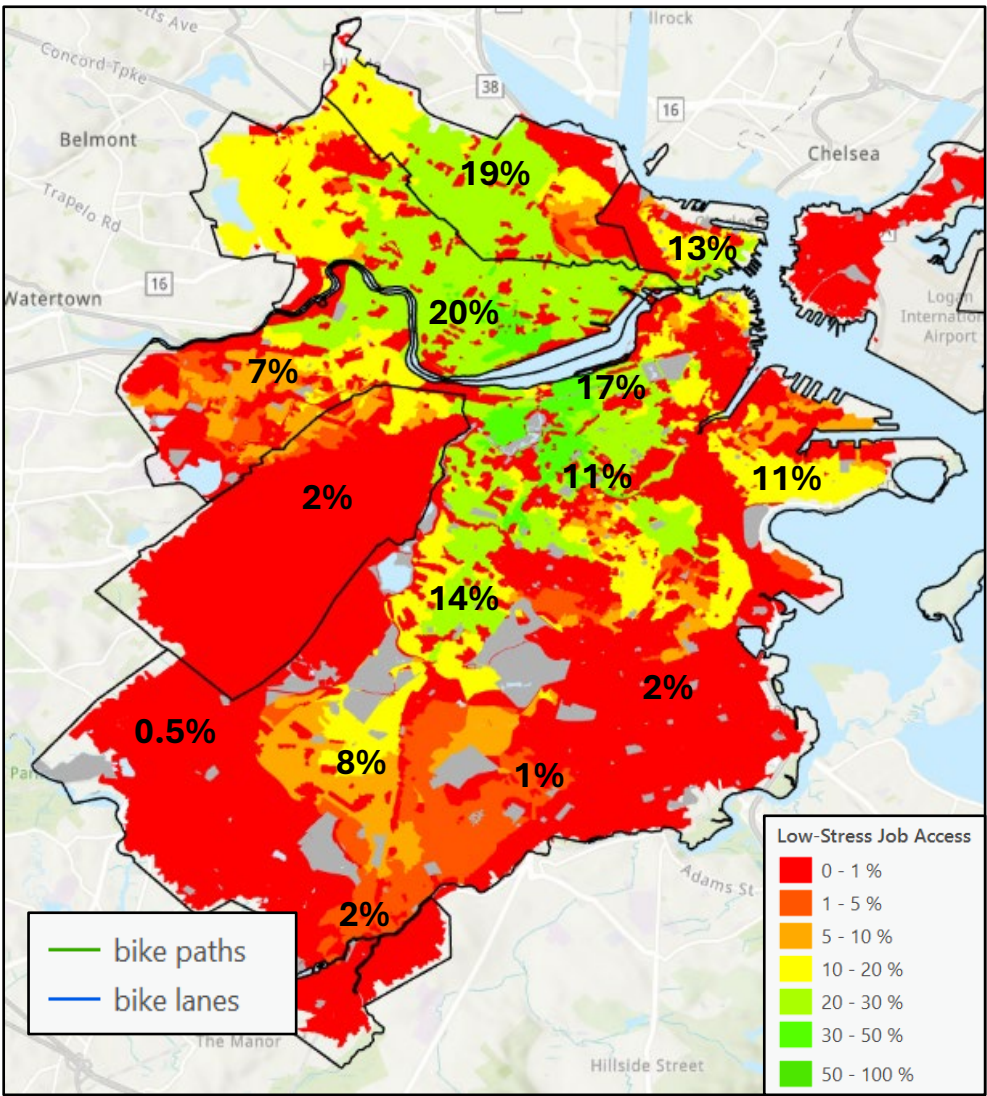
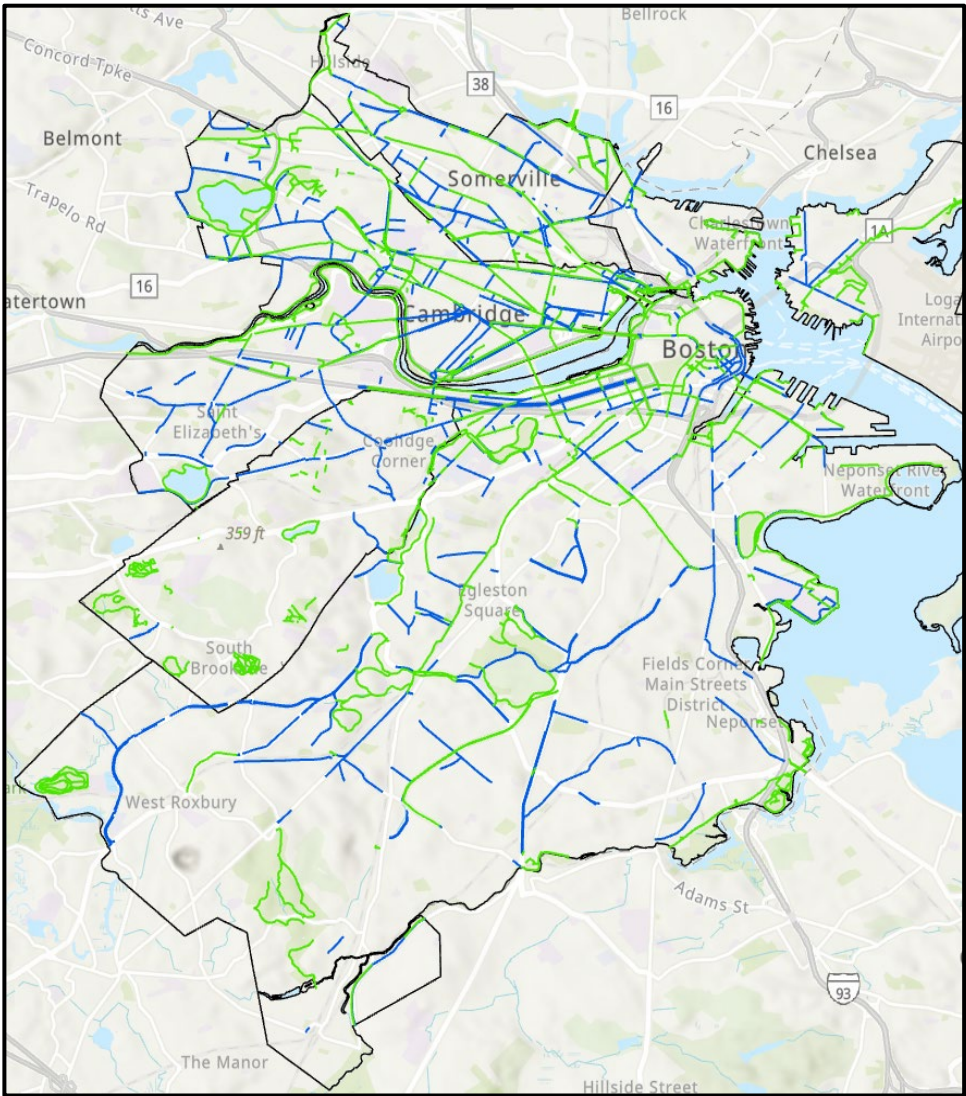
Low-Stress Accessibility to Jobs
(Average = 1.9%)



2026, after 8 years of adding protected infrastructure

Boston average: 8.9%
Region: 10.9%

Though at LTS 1,
still below 1%



Six Schools

Brighton High School

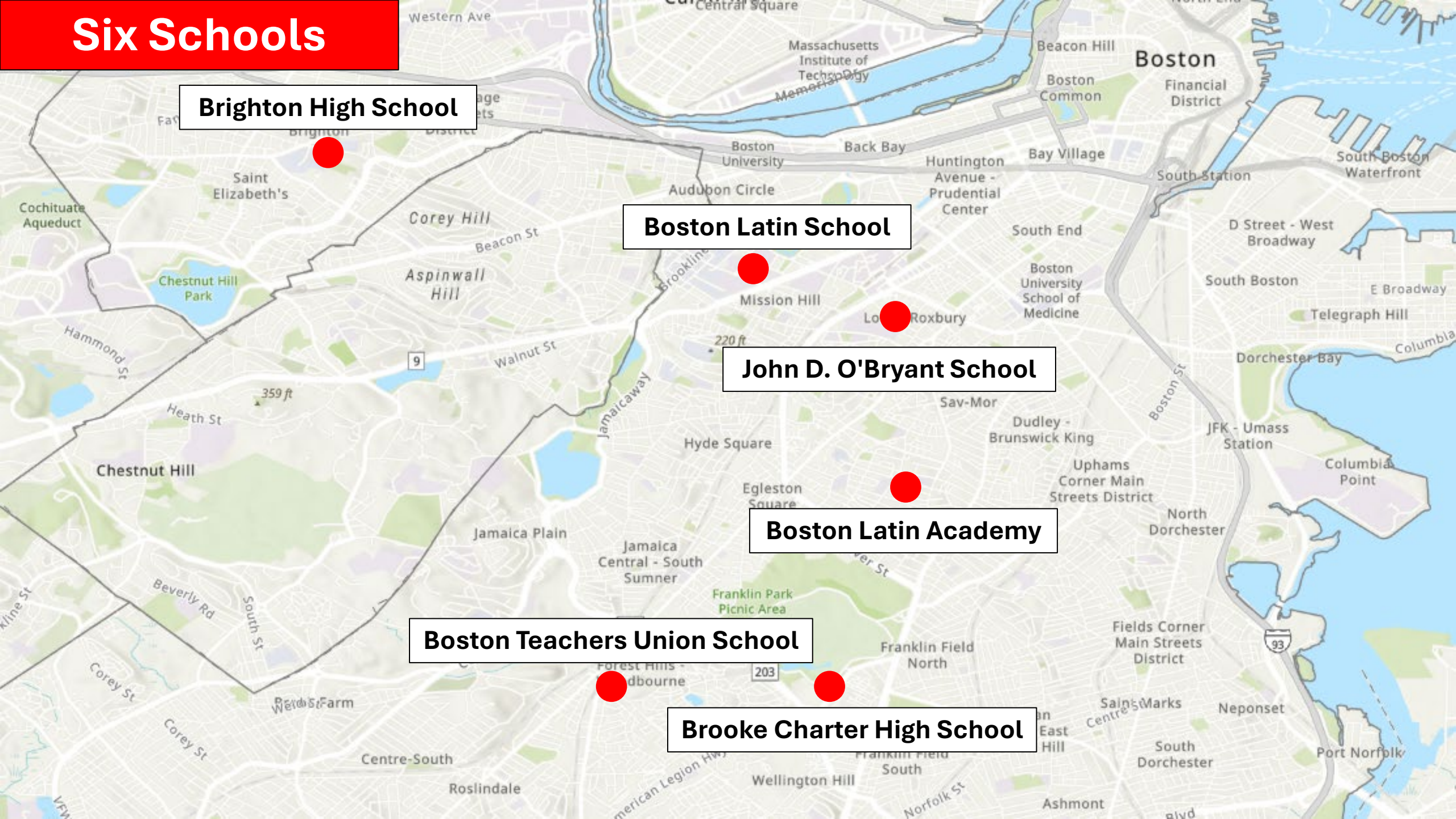
Boston Latin School

John D. O'Bryant School

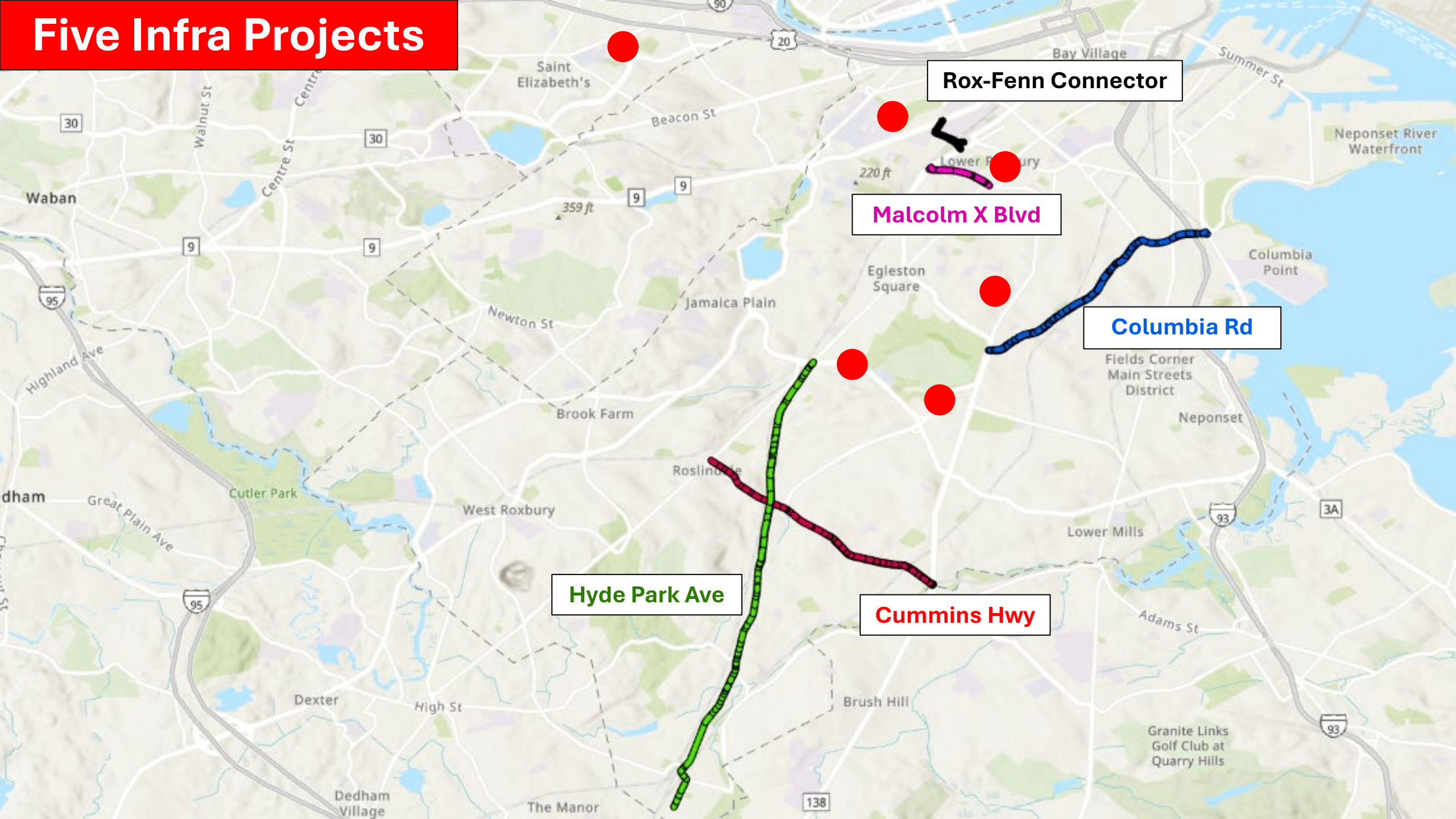
Boston Latin Academy

Boston Teachers Union School

Brooke Charter High School



Five Infra Projects



Rox-Fenn Connector

Malcolm X Blvd

Columbia Rd

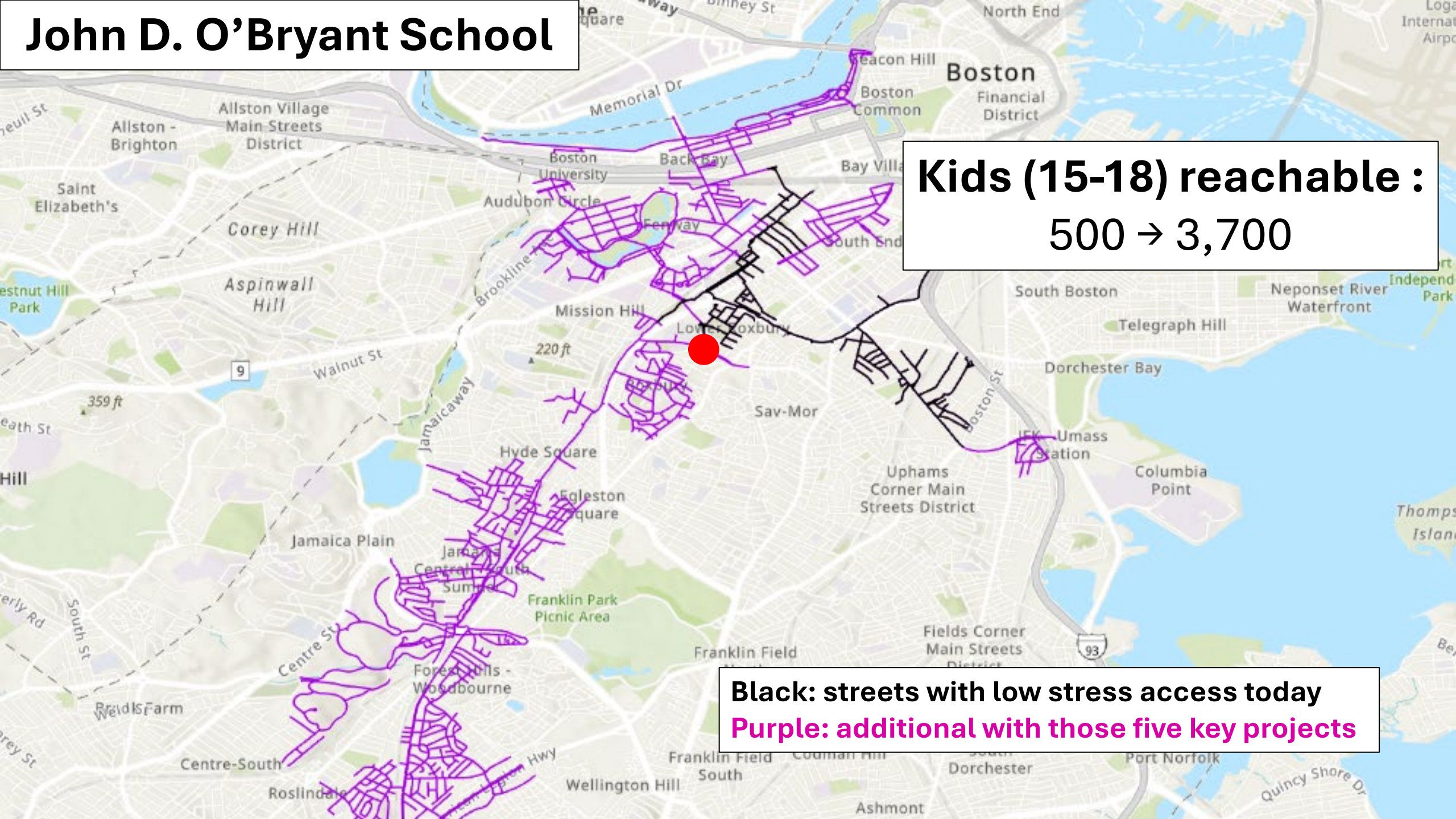
Hyde Park Ave

Cummins Hwy

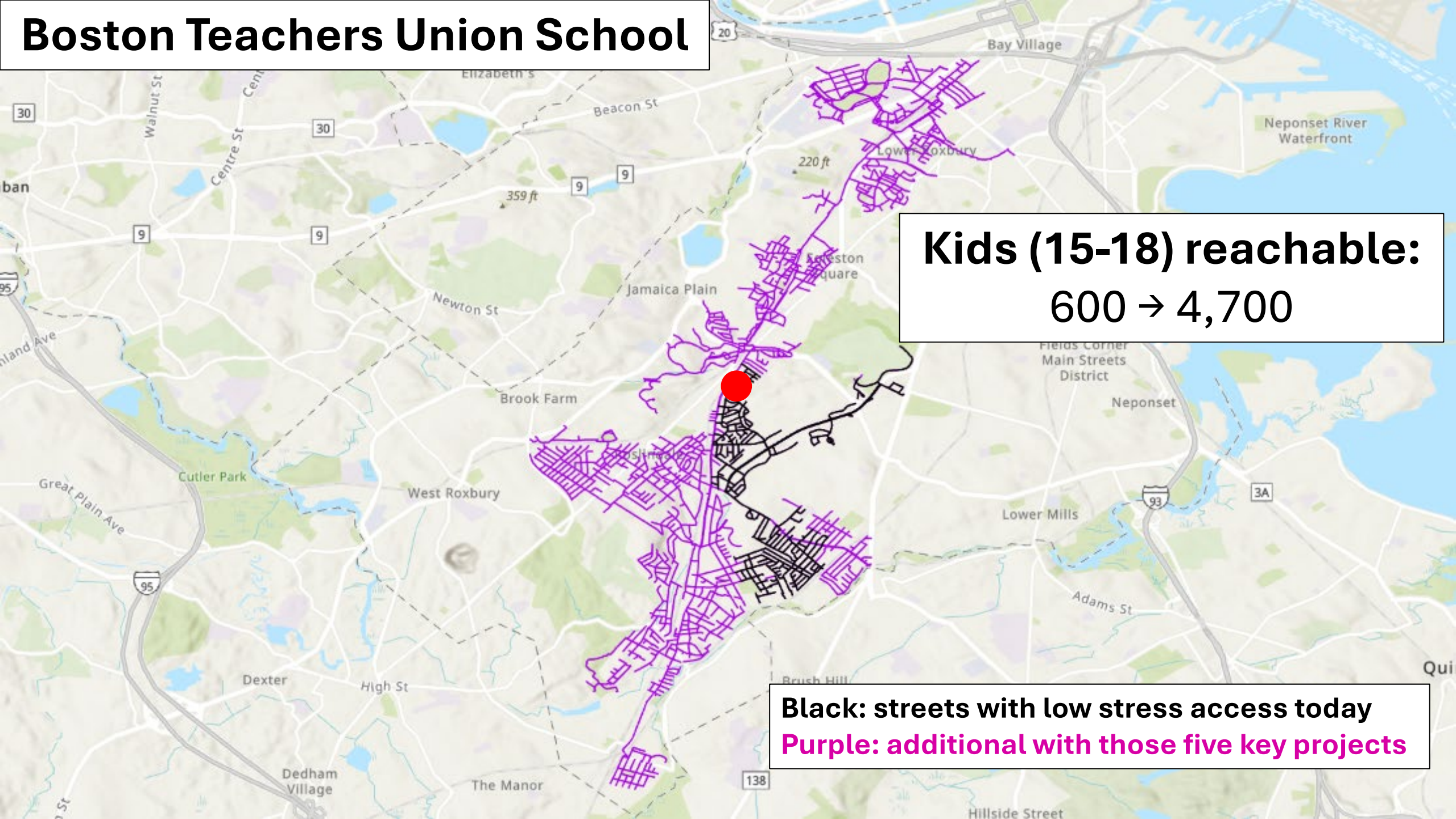
John D. O'Bryant School

Kids (15-18) reachable :
500 → 3,700

Black: streets with low stress access today
Purple: additional with those five key projects



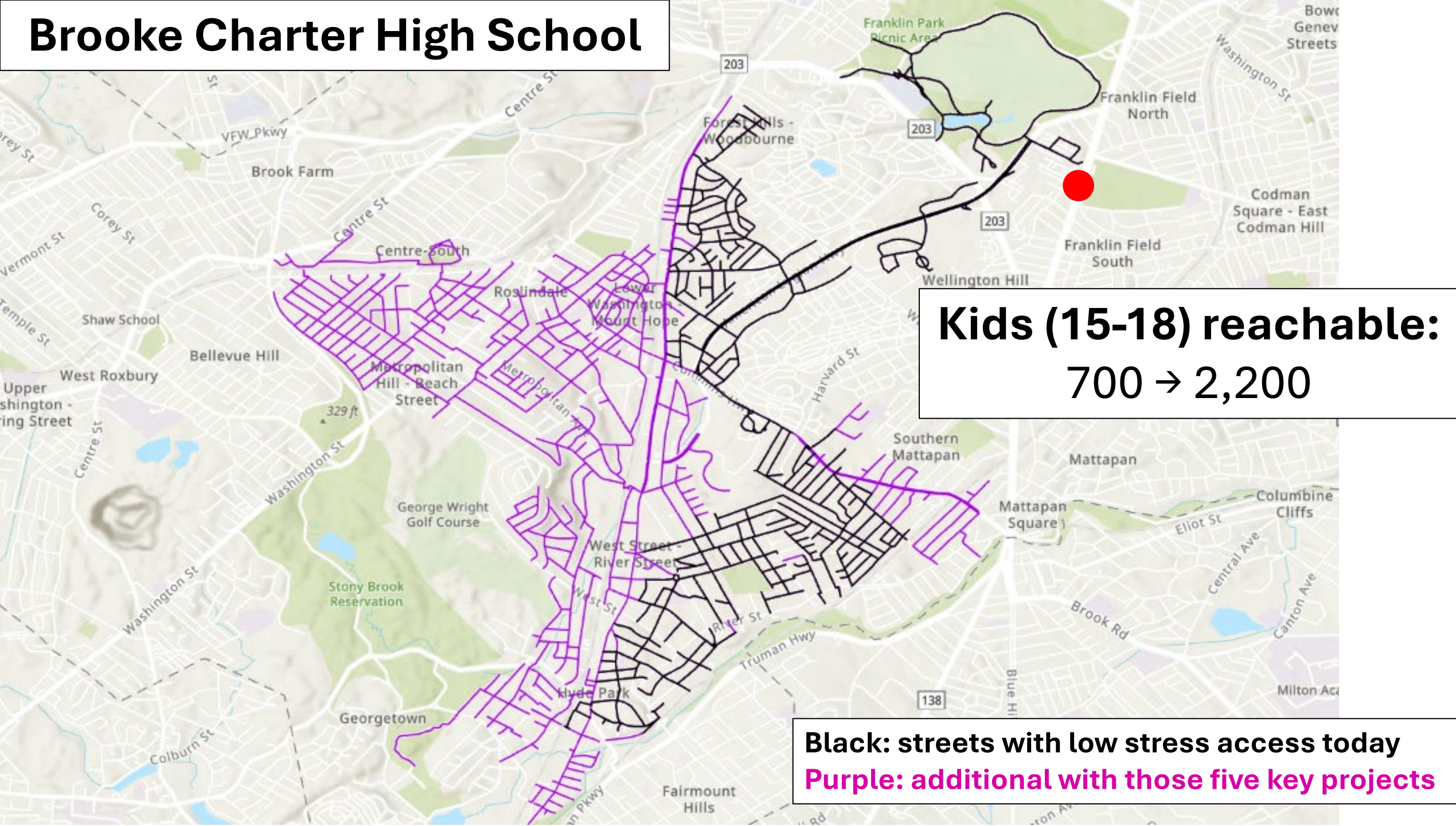
Boston Teachers Union School



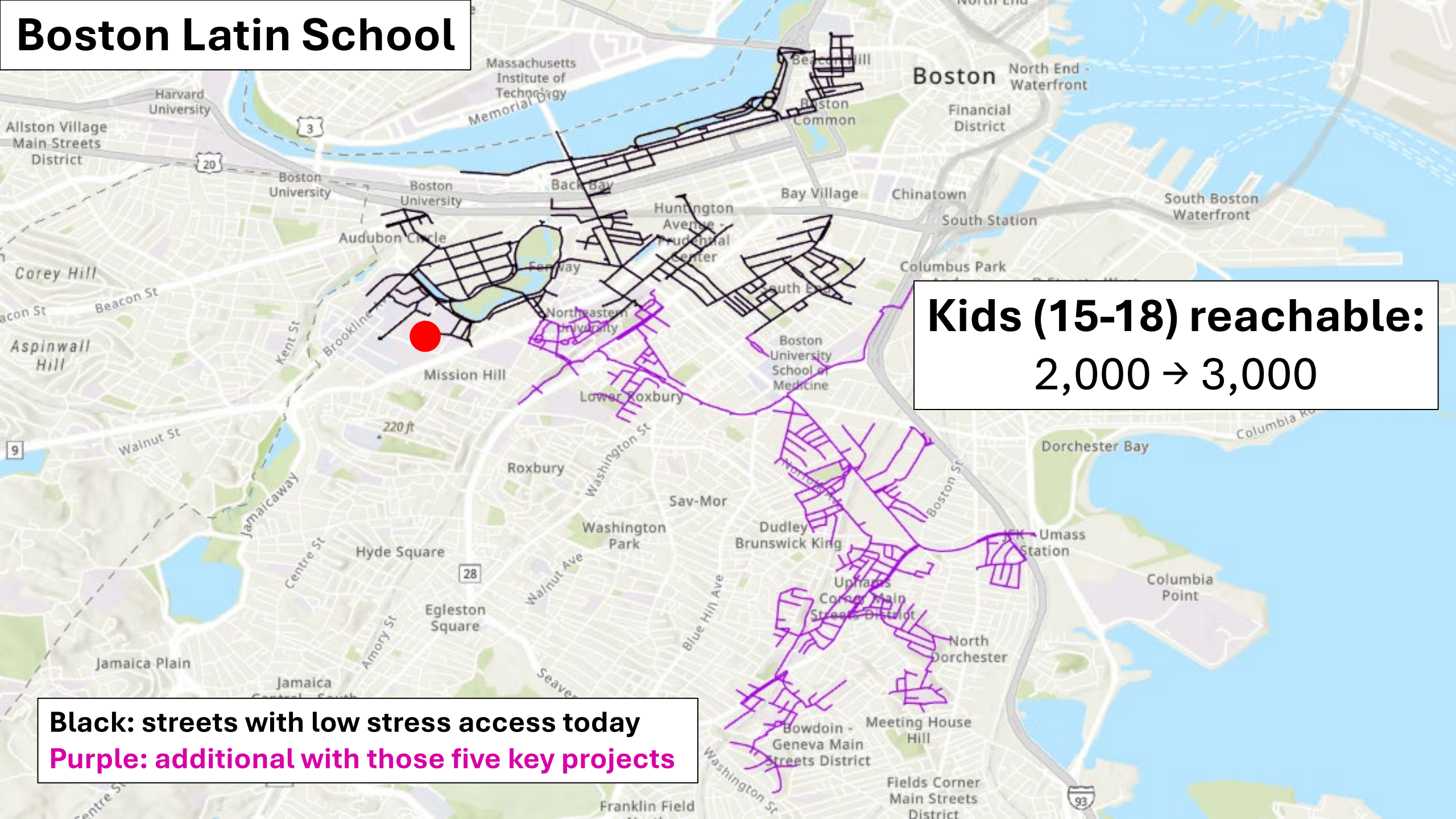
Kids (15-18) reachable:
600 → 4,700

Black: streets with low stress access today
Purple: additional with those five key projects

Brooke Charter High School



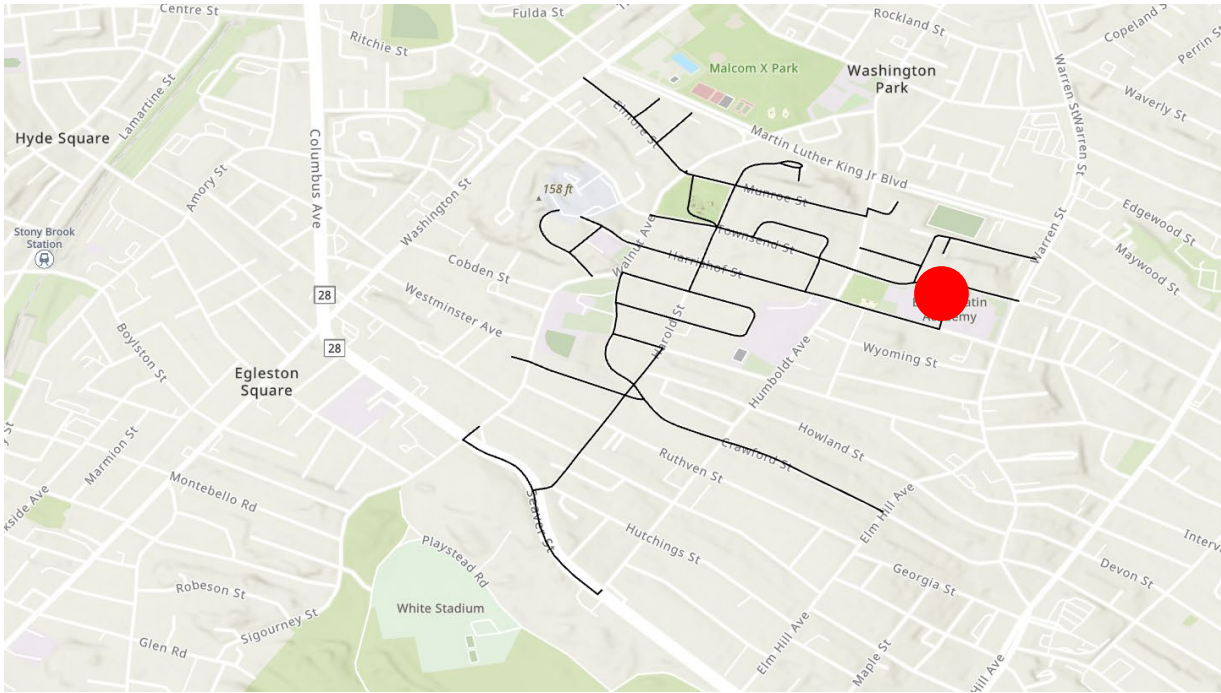
Boston Latin School



Kids (15-18) reachable:
2,000 → 3,000

Black: streets with low stress access today
Purple: additional with those five key projects

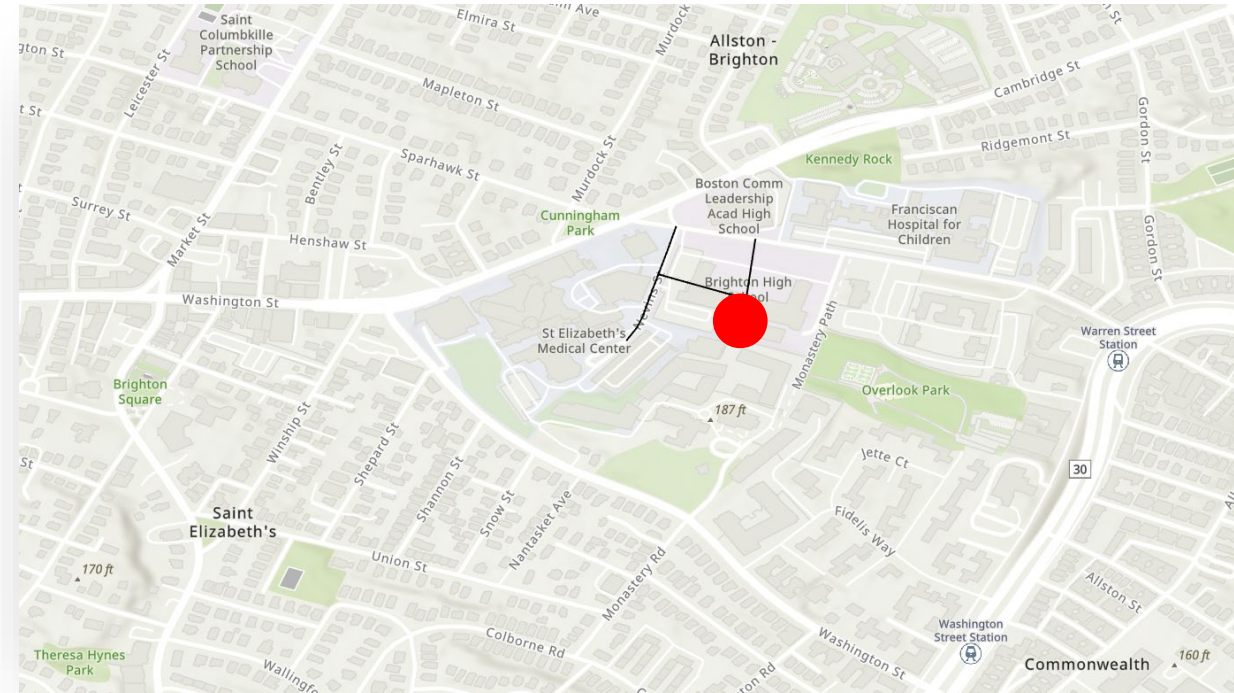
Boston Latin Academy



Kids (15-18) reachable :
200 → [no change]

Black: streets with low stress access today
Purple: additional with those five key projects

Brighton High



Kids (15-18) reachable :
2 → [no change]

Why Johnny & Mary Can't Ride to School: Taking Down the Barriers

1. Protected bike lanes on major roads (*compare Bicycle Safety Ordinance of Cambridge & Somerville*)
2. Bike safety / children's safety before parking convenience (*compare Cambridge & Somerville policy*)
3. Crossing islands & crossing signals
So easy, even a child can do it