



 complete streets

BOXER SQUARE

STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT



WHERE
WE
ARE
NOW

 COMPLETE STREETS IN STAMFORD

HAVE A VISION OF WHERE YOU WANT TO GO

“The complex intersection of Stillwater Avenue and Smith Street in Stamford, Connecticut, more commonly referred to as “Boxer Square” by long-time residents of the City, received its nickname in 1995 when two local residents envisioned the creation of a park in a small traffic circle. Through a grassroots effort, a focal point in one of the State’s oldest communities was created. Its centerpiece, a sculpture created by a local welder, A.D. Richardson, depicting the epic final fight between Mohammad Ali and Joe Frazier on October 1, 1975, in the Philippines, known as the “Thrilla in Manila,” was forever immortalized in this bustling neighborhood halfway across the globe.”



HAVE A VISION OF WHERE YOU WANT TO GO

“With permission but no funding from the city, the project became a grassroots effort, stitched together from favors asked from members of the community. Pellicci pitched in the money for the marble base, local construction companies supplied the concrete and wood, while Antonacci, a former electronics engineer, provided the design and muscle along with random handymen he managed to wave down in the neighborhood.”



GET A PLAN OR TWO

- Stillwater Avenue Corridor Study: Implementation Strategy (2010)
- Stamford West Side Neighborhood Plan (January 2012)
- Stamford Master Plan 2015 – 2025
- Stamford West Side Transportation Study (October 2015)
- Stamford Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan



Farmland Public Outreach Event



April 1, 2015 Public Meeting Series



April 1, 2015 Public Meeting Series



VISION

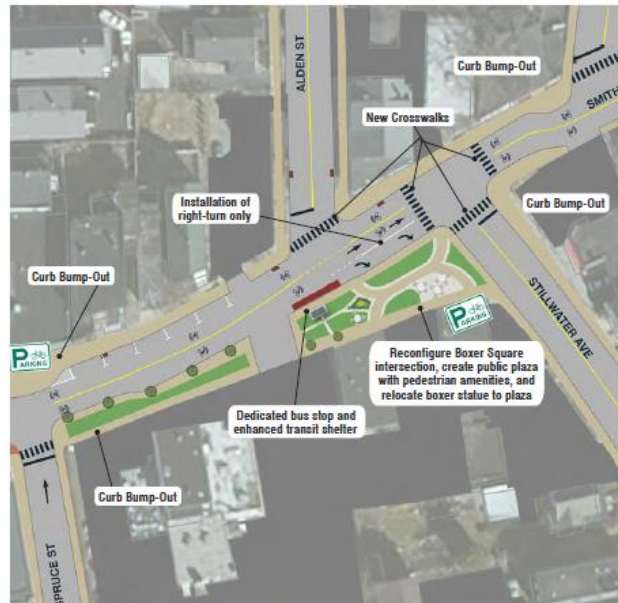
The elements of a neighborhood vision are derived from a series of prior planning efforts, including:

- City of Stamford Zoning Regulations
- Stamford Master Plan 2002
- Stamford Master Plan 2002 Citywide Policies Report (October 2002)
- City of Stamford Streetscape Guidelines (May 2003)
- Stillwater Avenue Corridor Study: Implementation Strategy (2010)
- Stamford Transportation Center Plan 2010
- Stamford Master Plan 2002: Sustainability Amendment (December 2010)
- US Route 1: Greenwich/ Stamford Operational Improvements Study; Volume 1: Existing Conditions Report (October 2010)
- US Route 1: Greenwich/ Stamford Operational Improvements Study; Volume 2: Public Involvement (May 2011)
- US Route 1: Greenwich/ Stamford Operational Improvements Study; Volume 3: Future Conditions and Implementation Plan (October 2011)
- Stamford Neighborhood Traffic Calming Report (2012)
- Stamford West Side Neighborhood Plan (January 2012)
- Bicycle-Pedestrian Safety Corridors Study (2012)
- Traffic Evaluation: Park Square Redevelopment Plan (July 2012)
- Vita Health & Wellness District Plan (2012)
- Stamford Master Plan 2015 – 2025

CREATE A BLUE PRINT FOR PLACEMAKING

The Solution (continued)

Safety Recommendations



Recommended concept plan for the realignment of Stillwater Avenue at Boxer Square



Conceptual Rendering, Boxer Square Public Plaza



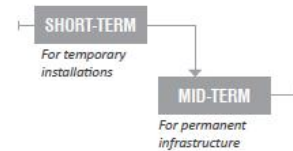
Conceptual Rendering, Boxer Square Public Plaza

Costs



- This estimate assumes that an interim public plaza would be implemented for a period of 3-5 years before construction were to begin on permanent infrastructure

Timeline



Resources



- NACTO Urban Street Design Guide: Interim Public Plazas (<http://nacto.org/publication/urban-street-design-guide/interim-design-strategies/interim-public-plazas/>)

FIND A PROGRAM THAT ALIGNS WITH YOUR GOALS



UNDERSTAND THE COMMUNITIES NEEDS

“Unfortunately, over-time the small traffic circle (presumably the remnants of an old street car turn around) received notoriety for all the wrong reasons. The intersection was problematic from the start, the small island in the middle of intersection and home to Boxers resulted in poorly aligned roadways often confusing motorists as to who had the right-of-way; the lack of sidewalks connecting this public space not only made it difficult to appreciate its centerpiece but also made it dangerous to cross.”



UNDERSTAND THE COMMUNITIES NEEDS

“As a result Boxer Square returned to the spotlight, this time as one of the most accident prone locations in the City. Between January 1, 2013 and November 8, 2016, approximately 45 accidents were reported at this location (3 of which involved pedestrians); ultimately tearing apart a community at the very location that was once envisioned to bring it together.”



HOW WE GET THERE

“The intersection improvement plans included teeing up of the intersection of Stillwater Avenue and Smith Street to create an all-way STOP controlled intersection, the removal of problematic curb cuts, the extension of curbs to create bump-outs, improvements to streetscape to invite foot traffic, dedication of a public plaza to celebrate the rich history of the intersection and crosswalks and bicycle lanes to improve connectivity for all roadway users.”



BUILD A NETWORK

“The project began construction in May of 2019 simultaneously with a \$600,000 City funded project to mill, repave and implement a large scale corridor improvement plan centered on Boxer Square. The resurfacing project set the stage for the implementation of an approximately one (1) mile bike lane through the heart of Boxer Square; serving a community in which 30 percent of residents do not own a car.”



CREATE POINTS OF INTEREST

“The project, completed in September 2019, resulted in the creation of a beautiful community space, a permanent resting place for the iconic boxer sculptures (for which the intersection originally received its nickname after) and created a better intersection for all drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.”



START SMALL

“More importantly the project brought an underserved community together; throughout the project neighbors gave up their own time to water plantings on a daily basis, a volunteer-powered and socially responsible neighborhood farm made a commitment to maintain the plaza to perpetuity, City Departments chipped in to ensure all state-of-the-art amenities were provided and local business owners with a renewed sense of pride, flooded the streets to clean their frontages.”



CELEBRATE YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

“it’s hard to accurately capture the spirit of community within a transportation project; whether it be the generosity of its residents canvassing the neighborhood to deliver frozen water bottles to construction workers in the dead heat of summer, or the eagerness of residents to bypass construction activity and detours to open up and share stories of their heritage and deep routes within the community or simply portray the joy of residents as they exclaim the project as the “best investment in their neighborhood in their lifetime.” It is an understatement to say I was truly humbled by the community; nothing can describe the joy I experienced during the ribbon cutting event as we at last minute unveiled “West Side Pride” banners through-out the Square, which I hope capture just a little bit of that spirit.”



COMPLETE STREETS, COMPLETE COMMUNITIES



BOXER SQUARE

"SURVIVORS"

THE INSPIRATION FOR THIS AWESOME CREATION BY LOCAL SCULPTOR, A.D. RICHARDSON IS THE EPIC FINAL FIGHT BETWEEN MUHAMMAD ALI AND JOE FRAZIER ON OCT. 1, 1975, IN THE PHILLIPINES, KNOWN AS THE "THRILLA IN MANILA."

IN 1995, LOCAL RESIDENTS, RALPH ANTONACCI AND ANTHONY PELLICCI ENVISIONED THE CREATION OF A PARK. THROUGH A GRASSROOTS EFFORT, A FOCAL POINT IN THE COMMUNITY WAS CREATED. THIS PLAZA IS DEDICATED TO THE ARTIST AND ALL THOSE WHO HELPED MAKE THEIR VISION A REALITY.

THANK YOU!



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