

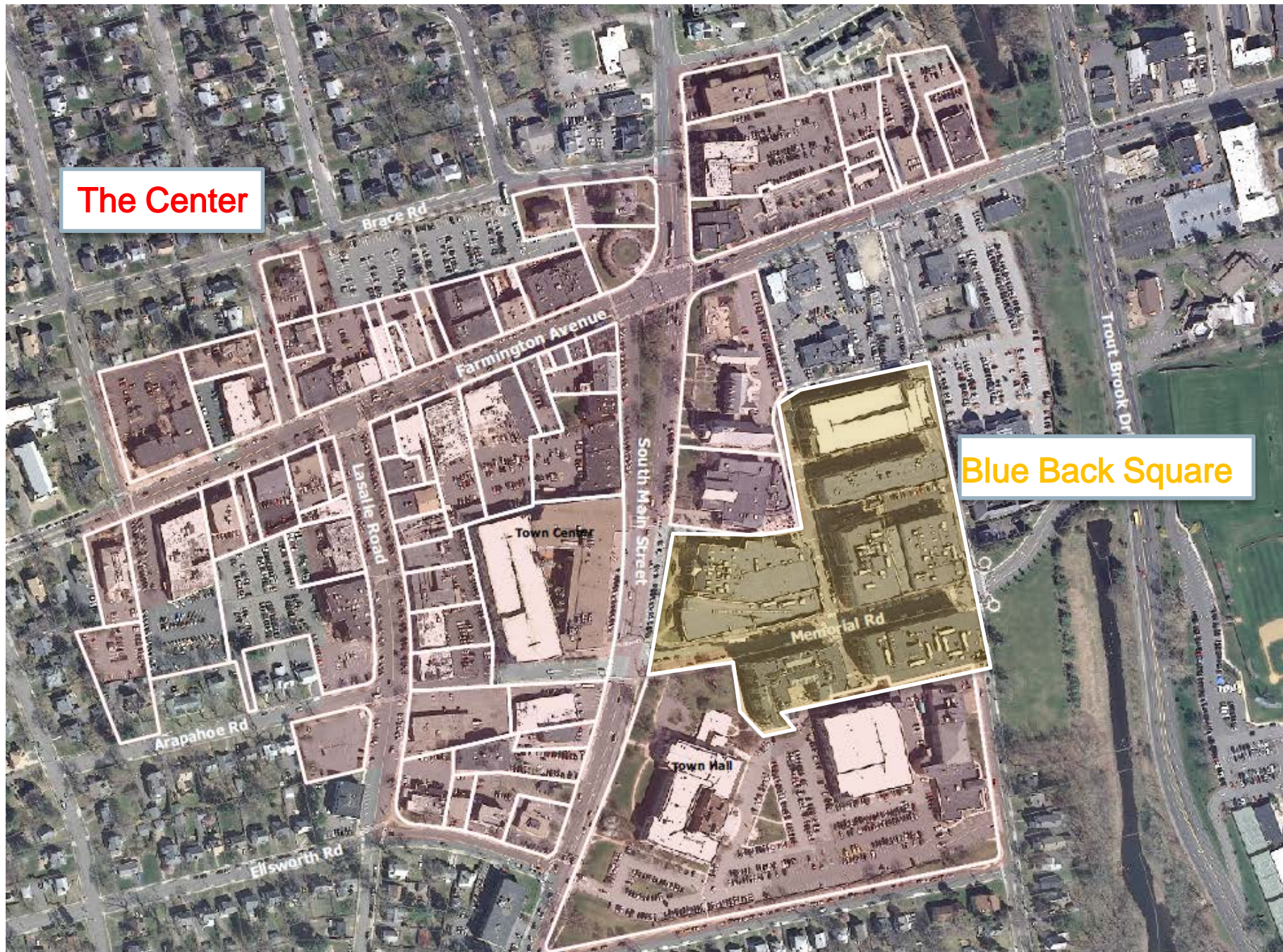
West Hartford

Todd Dumais, Town Planner
Town of West Hartford

Where:



Where:



What & Why:

- Opportunities for Expanded Temporary Outdoor Dining & Outdoor Retail with a focus on use shared use of public space (mostly streets and sidewalks)
- Critical need to support local business impacted by current health pandemic
- Opportunity for large scale test of tactical urbanism techniques consistent with the Town's complete streets policy, POCD, and past planning initiatives.

How:

- Working Group created at the direction of the Town Manager

Challenge : *To do something big & bold to best support our businesses*

- Working Group formation with critical staff and departments identified including: Town Manager, Building, Public Works, Engineering, Economic Development, Health, Legal, Fire Marshal, Police, Public Relations, Planning and Zoning.
- The Working Group then established three sub groups: Permitting; Design and Public / Business Communication & Coordination.

How: Permitting

- Online Seamless Docs with internal review from Zoning, Fire Marshall, Building, Health, Public Works and Risk Management.
- 43 approved applications for temporary expanded outdoor dining and/or retail.
- Average time from review to approval 2.8 days.
- Total of 1458 outdoor dining seats approved



This Special Application applies to all new or expanded outdoor dining and outdoor retail as defined in Governor Ned Lamont's Executive Order No. 7MM. Approval authorized by this Special Application shall be valid as long as the Executive Order remains in effect and supersedes any existing outdoor dining permit approvals from the Town of West Hartford. Approval under this Special Application does not bestow nonconforming use or structure rights. Any complete application may be approved, approved with conditions, or rejected.

All businesses must comply with the REOPEN Connecticut Sector Rules for Restaurants (Outdoor Dining Only) or Retail, as applicable.

Alcoholic liquor may be served only in connection with outdoor dining, which means food prepared on premises or at a food truck adjacent to the premises.

There shall be no consumer bars, and all alcoholic beverages shall be served tableside.

Live entertainment in outdoor dining areas is not permitted.

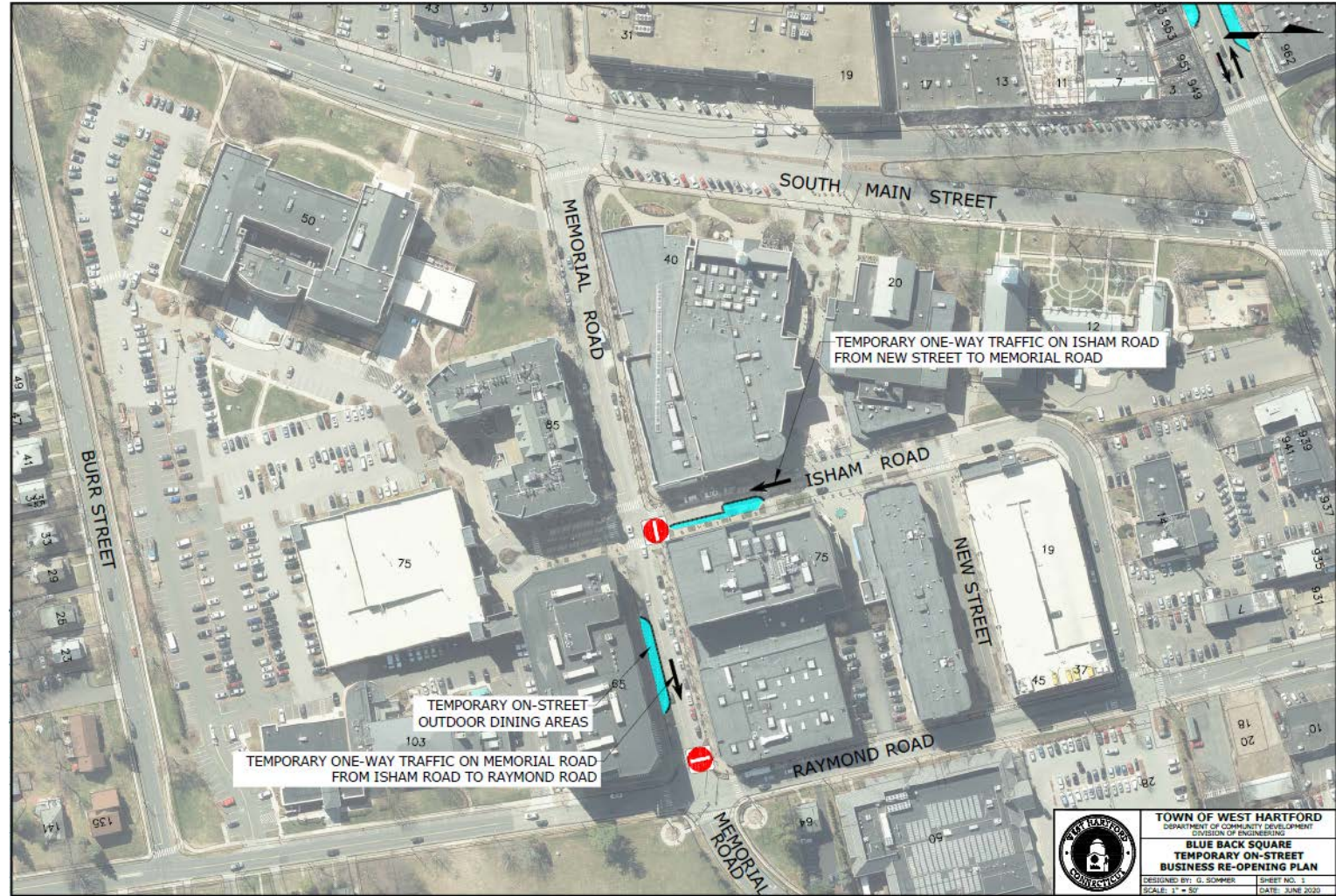
Incomplete applications shall not be accepted or reviewed.

There is no fee associated with this special application.

NOTE: Restaurants with existing outdoor dining permits may operate under those permits provided that there is no expansion of either seat count or dining area, and operation is in full compliance with the REOPEN Connecticut Sector Rules for Restaurants (Outdoor Dining Only). However, if any alterations to kitchen or food preparation areas are made, a separate review by the Health District will be required.

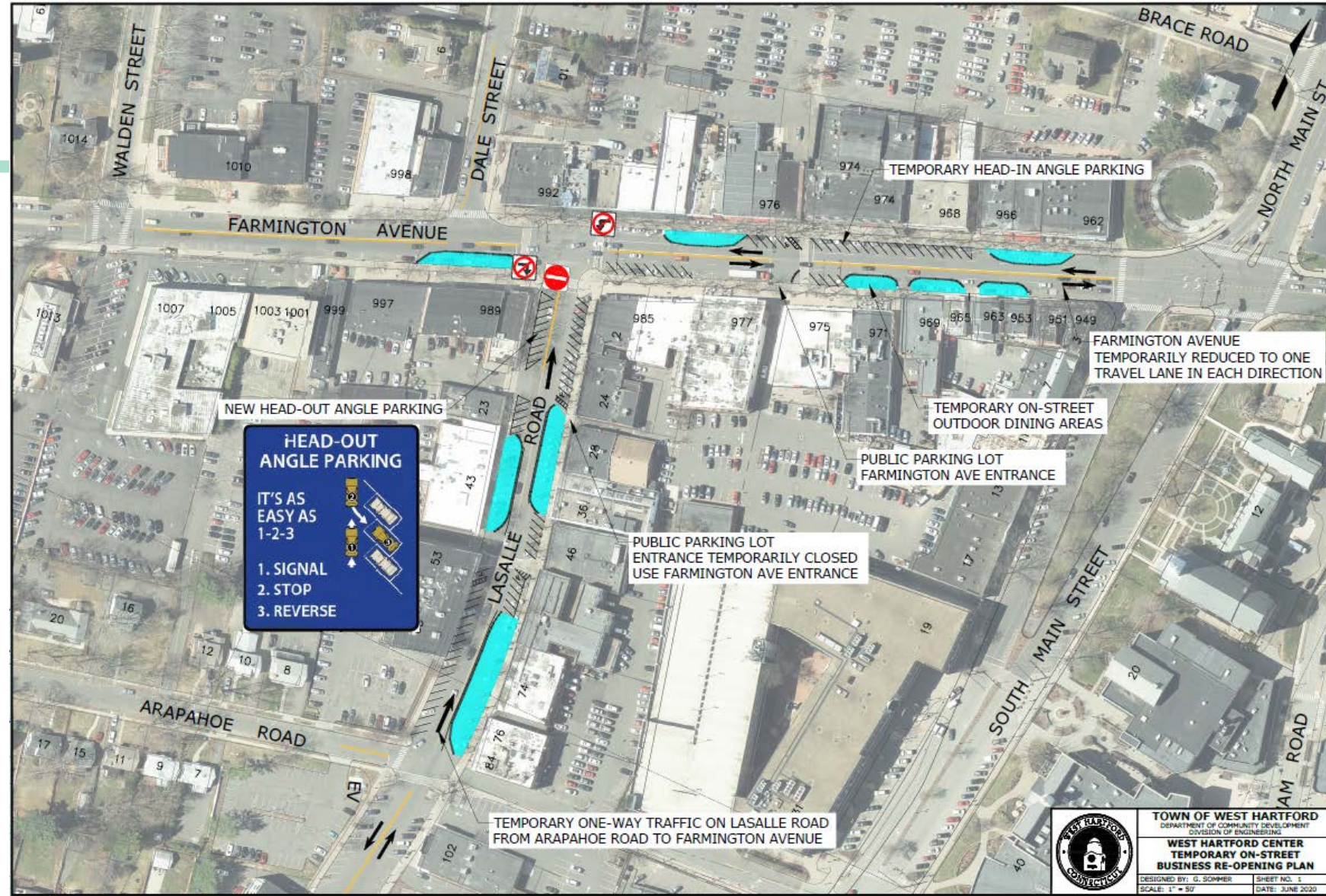
How: Design

- Engineering, Public Works and Planning Staff developed two plans for expanded temporary outdoor dining: West Hartford Center and Blue Back Square.



How: Design

- On-street Dining / Retail Corrals protected by concrete and plastic barriers.
- Temporary street reconfigurations including lane reductions and conversion to one-way traffic flow.
- Conversion to head out angle parking.



How: Engagement

- Town Manager, Economic Development, Public Relations and Planning
- Created an online survey to gauge expanded outdoor dining interest and sent to all restaurants and all Center retailers.
- Conducted a Zoom Meeting with all Center Retailers and Restaurateurs to seek input and feedback on the design plan.
- Phone calls, emails and letters also went out.
- Plan reviewed at Town Council meeting (webex, public t.v. and streamed on YouTube) and ultimately endorsed.

The Results:



Image Sources: West Hartford Planning Division



The Results:



Image Source: HBJ Joe Cooper



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The Results:

LaSalle Road

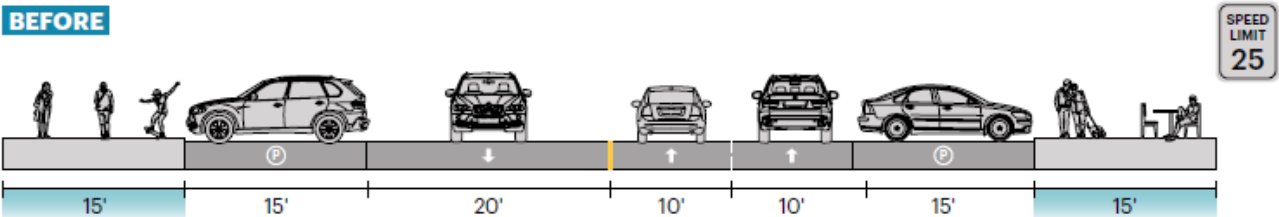
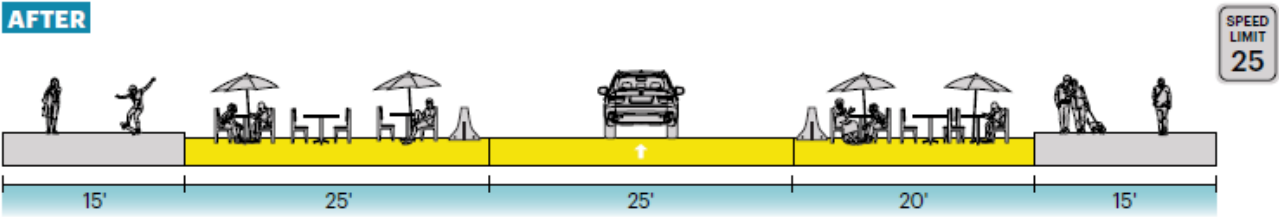


Image Sources: West Hartford Planning Division

The Results:



Image Source: Peter Schaller

Farmington Avenue



Image Source: Peter Schaller

LaSalle Road

Critical Takeaways

- Identify and engage important stakeholders as early as possible
- Communicate clearly and often
- Even temporary improvements cost \$\$\$
- Will not be able please everyone
- Don't forget to create true public space

QUESTIONS?
