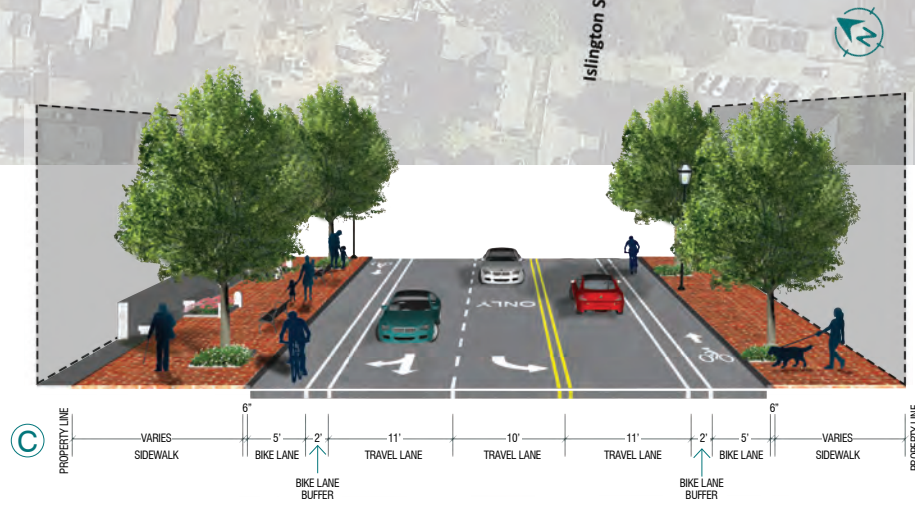
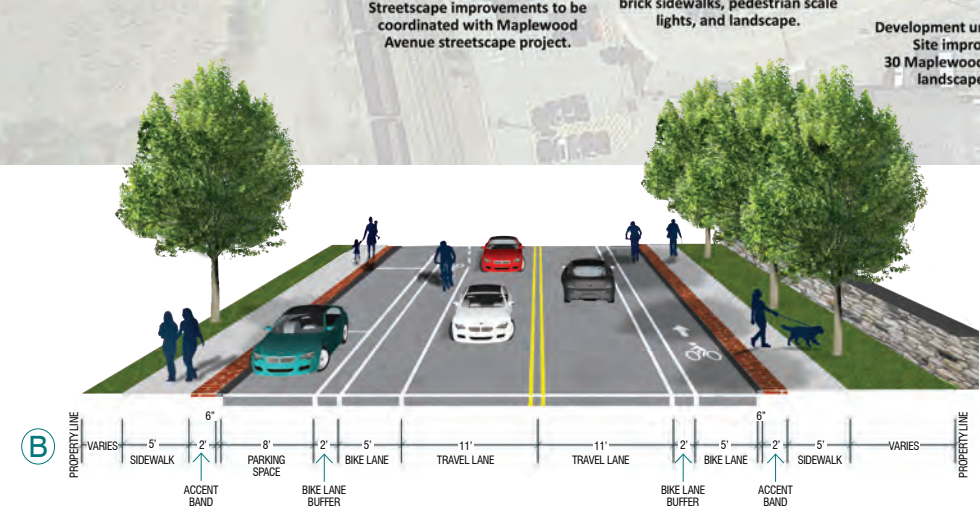
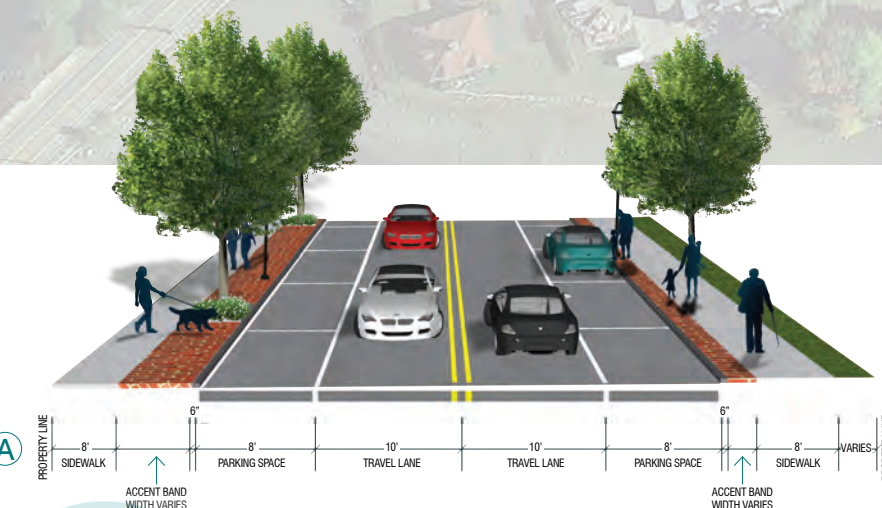
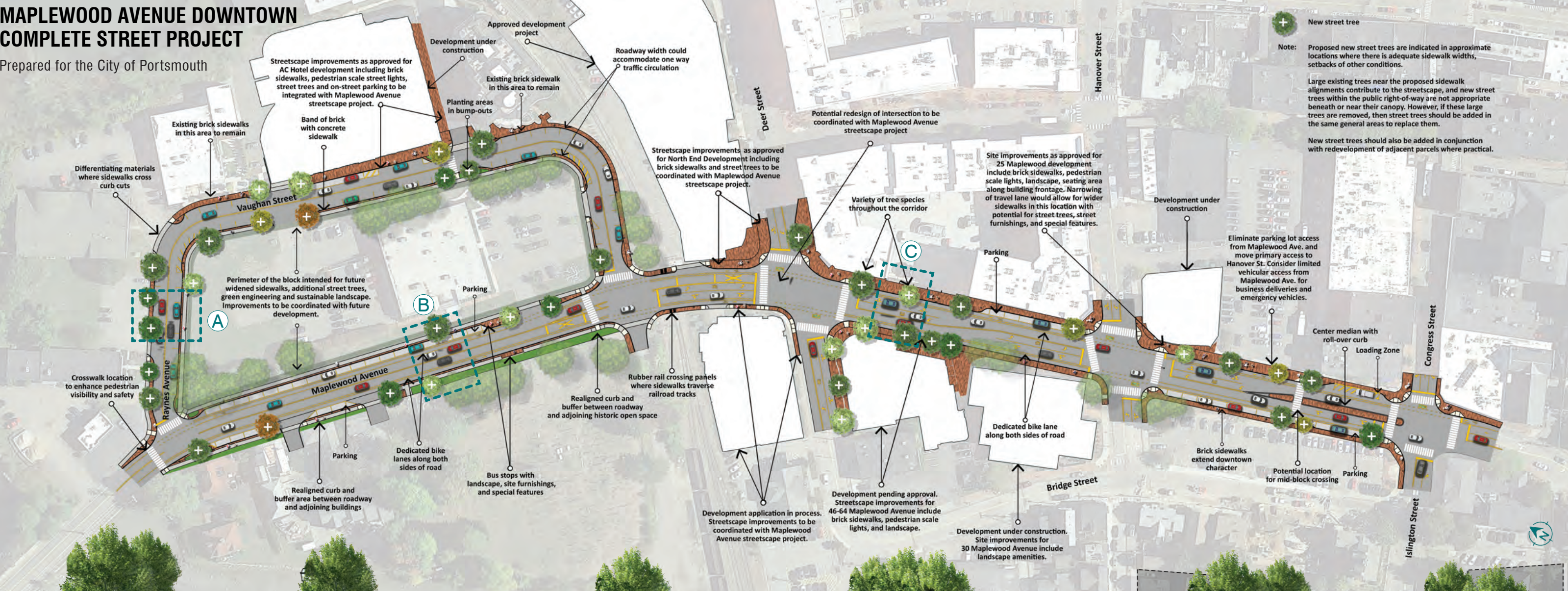


# MAPLEWOOD AVENUE DOWNTOWN COMPLETE STREET PROJECT

Prepared for the City of Portsmouth



## STREETSCAPE CONCEPT DESIGN NARRATIVE

This illustrative plan expresses the design concept for the Maplewood Avenue Complete Street project. The project is being designed to integrate public circulation improvements for all modes of transportation within an attractive streetscape environment. The design is being coordinated with other public initiatives and private developments. This plan indicates the approximate locations and configuration of streets, intersections, bike lanes and bicycle facilities, bus stops, sidewalks, and pedestrian connections. The plan also illustrates landscape improvements and their relationship to adjacent land.

The improved streetscape will extend the overall character of the existing Downtown streetscape, accompanied by an increased emphasis on natural plantings and landscapes that combine the principles of sustainable landscapes and green engineering. The streetlighting will continue the pattern of lantern-styled lighting fixtures conducive to the historic features and pedestrian scale.

Many sidewalk segments will include full-width brick sidewalks, street trees, materials and amenities similar to other areas of the downtown. These elements will be included in the streetscape from Congress Street to Deer Street, and along the front of new developments on Vaughan Street. This streetscape will also include granite curbing and edging, granite bollards, and granite banding to complement the brick paving. Raised planters with granite curbing will be used where sidewalk widths and circulation patterns allow, and steel tree

grates will be employed in other locations.

Several segments are intended to serve as transitions from the downtown to the bridge that crosses North Mill Pond, and to the neighborhoods beyond it. Along these segments, a brick band will be created along the curb edge, backed by patterned concrete sidewalks with brick accent areas near bus stops, seating areas, and the like. The plant materials will be deliberately varied, including a range of street tree species chosen to complement their surroundings, rather than a single, uniform type. The ground covers and shrubs will be chosen for hardiness in coastal conditions and reflect native plant species that thrive along the edges of Portsmouth's inlets. In appropriate locations, the streetscape will incorporate plantings and planting beds as part of stormwater management.

The existing public right-of-way is generally sufficient to accommodate all elements of a Complete Street program. However, the perimeter of the block bounded by Maplewood St., Vaughn St., and Raynes Avenue has a relatively narrow public edge. If the enclosed parcels are redeveloped in the future, the sidewalks and landscaping should be expanded to better match the other segments of the Maplewood Avenue Complete Street designs.