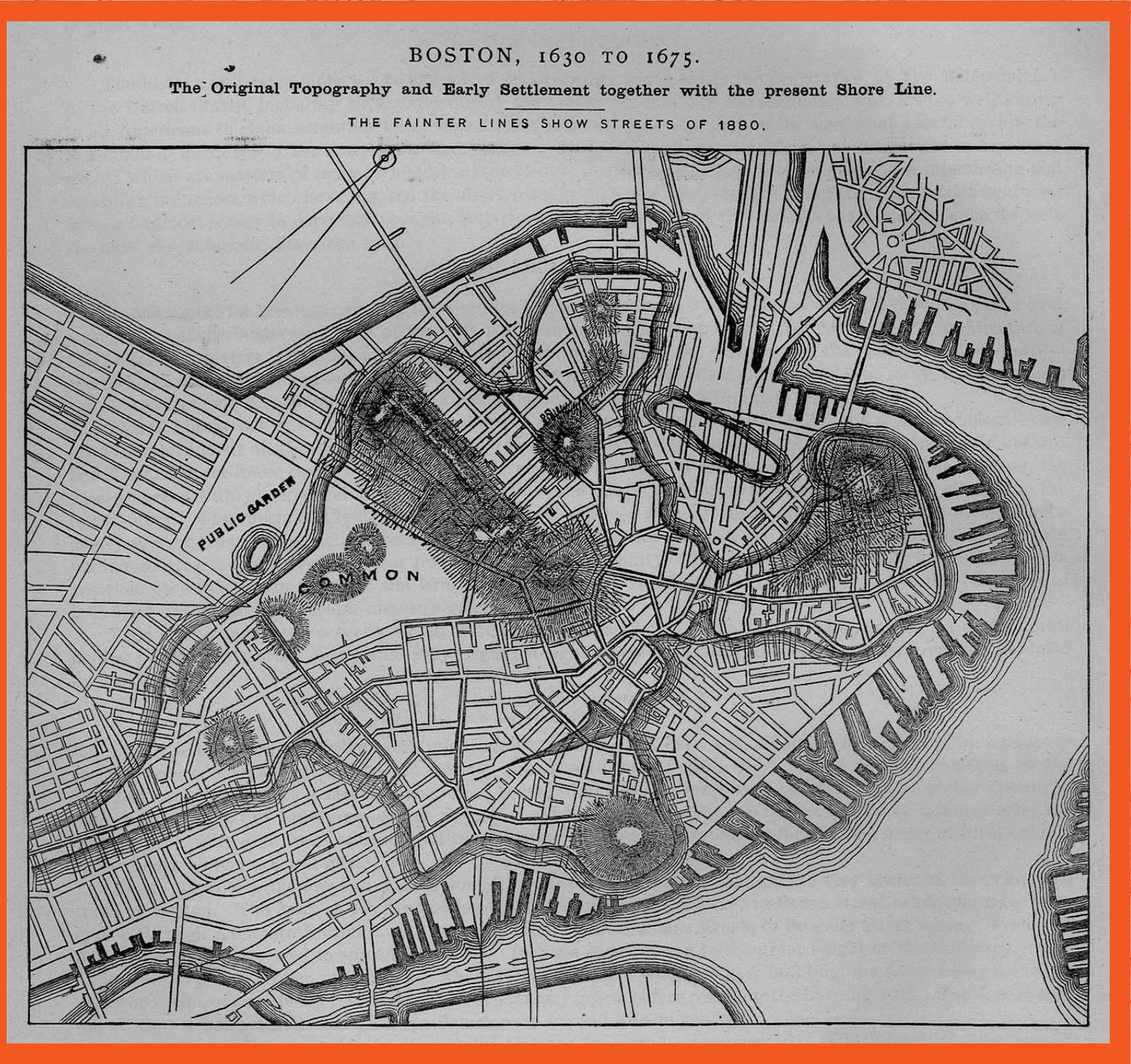




*the*  
**NORTH END**



# *boston's oldest island*



*the island defined through edge*



*the island defined through topography*

Since Boston's inception as a colony, its relationship to water has been an important defining characteristic, not only in terms of physical boundaries but also cultural identity. The North End especially embodies these characteristics because of its history as a part of the original city. Located originally on the Shawmut Peninsula, the North End has always existed as an island, surrounded by water on most of its boundaries<sup>1</sup>. Historical developments have only reinforced this; from Mill Pond and subsequent Mill Creek, to Interstate 93 and its reversal through the "Big Dig," to today's Greenway<sup>2</sup>. The same is true culturally: immigrants throughout history have arrived at and populated the neighborhood, and today the North End is known for its Italian identity and heritage.

The one relatively recent thread that has served as the strongest linkage from the North End to other areas of downtown Boston and beyond is the Freedom Trail. Created in the mid-20th century, the freedom trail has existed as a potent force that continues to flood the North End with millions of tourists every year<sup>3</sup>. While providing the obvious benefits of awareness, relevance, and thousands of dollars to the North End, the Freedom Trail also creates a tension between those who reside in the neighborhood and those who are merely passing through. The question becomes what systems can be created to serve both the "native" population *and* visitors, and will these systems either build upon the past or begin to shift the narrative of the North End as Boston's oldest Island.



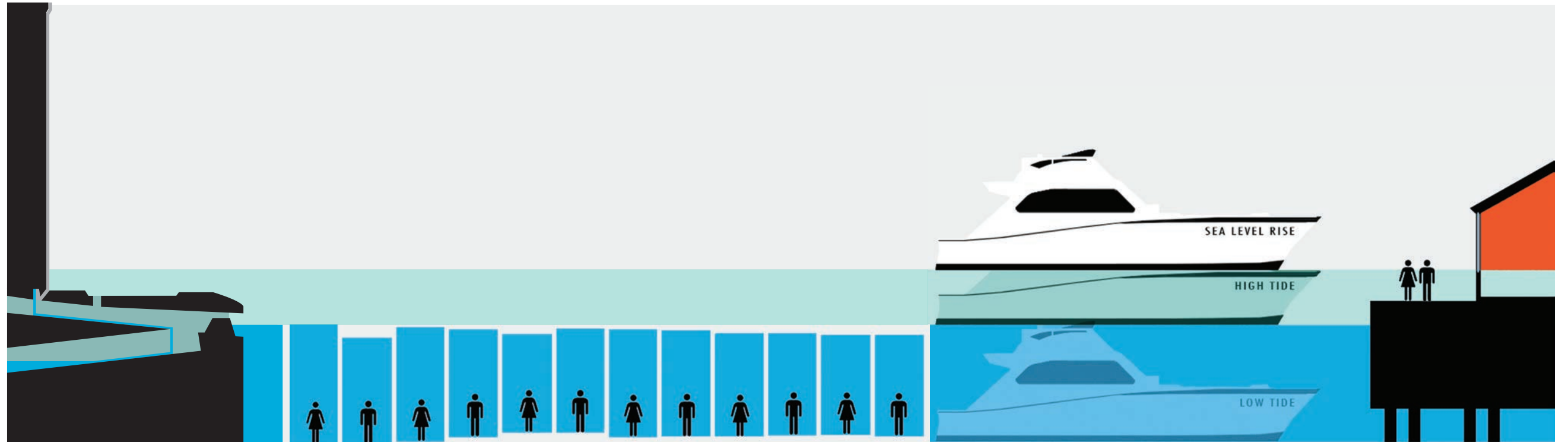
The North End as a neighborhood is being greatly affected by climate change. Its interesting topography and the conditions of being surrounded by harbor on its edge are at the core of its history as an island and its connection to the greater city. The propelling narrative of this research deals with this neighborhood as an edge condition and as dense built environment. Living with water as it is now and as it will become due to time and sea level rise and storm frequency is constant issue and debate. Proposed ecological and topographical changes will occur and the landscape of this neighborhood will forever be impacted by its two conditions- edge fabric and dense neighborhood fabric.



# NATURAL CONDITIONS

# FLOODING & DRAINAGE

*Implications of sea level rise*

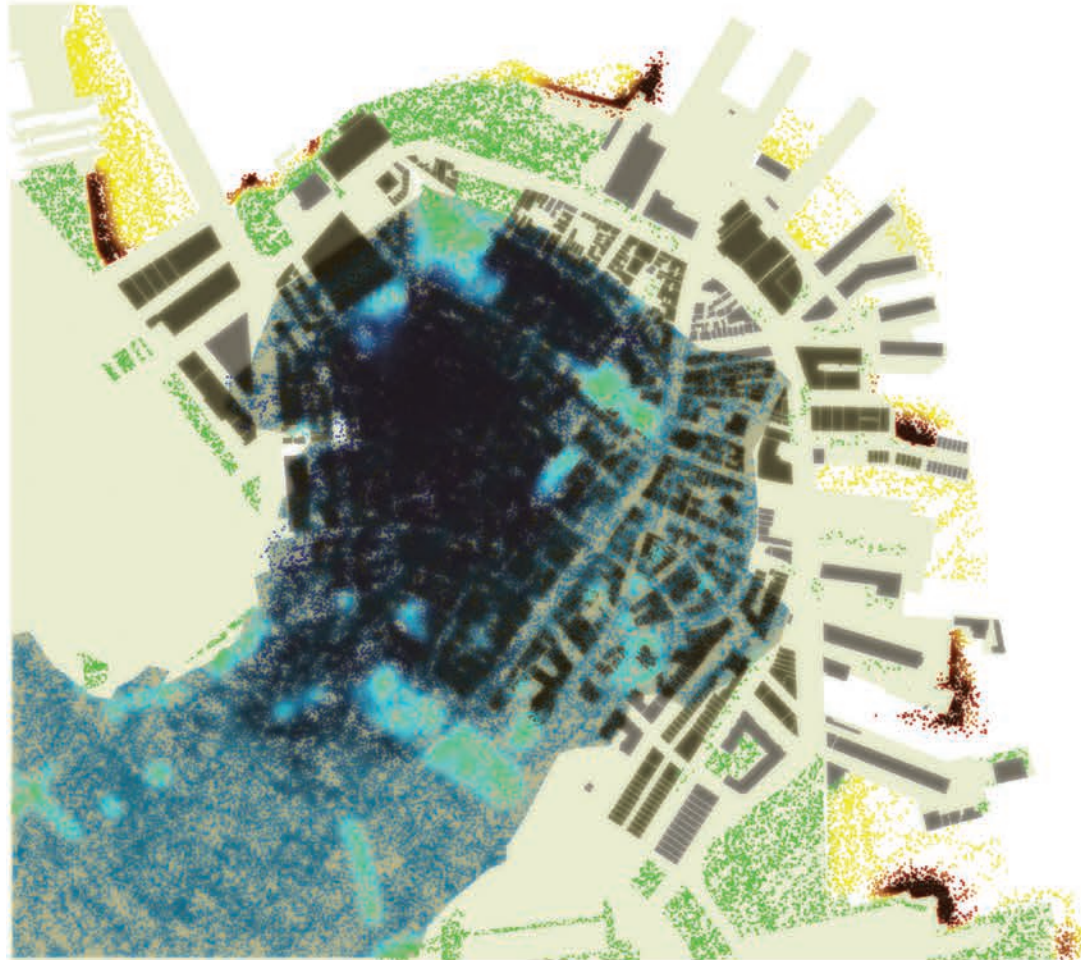




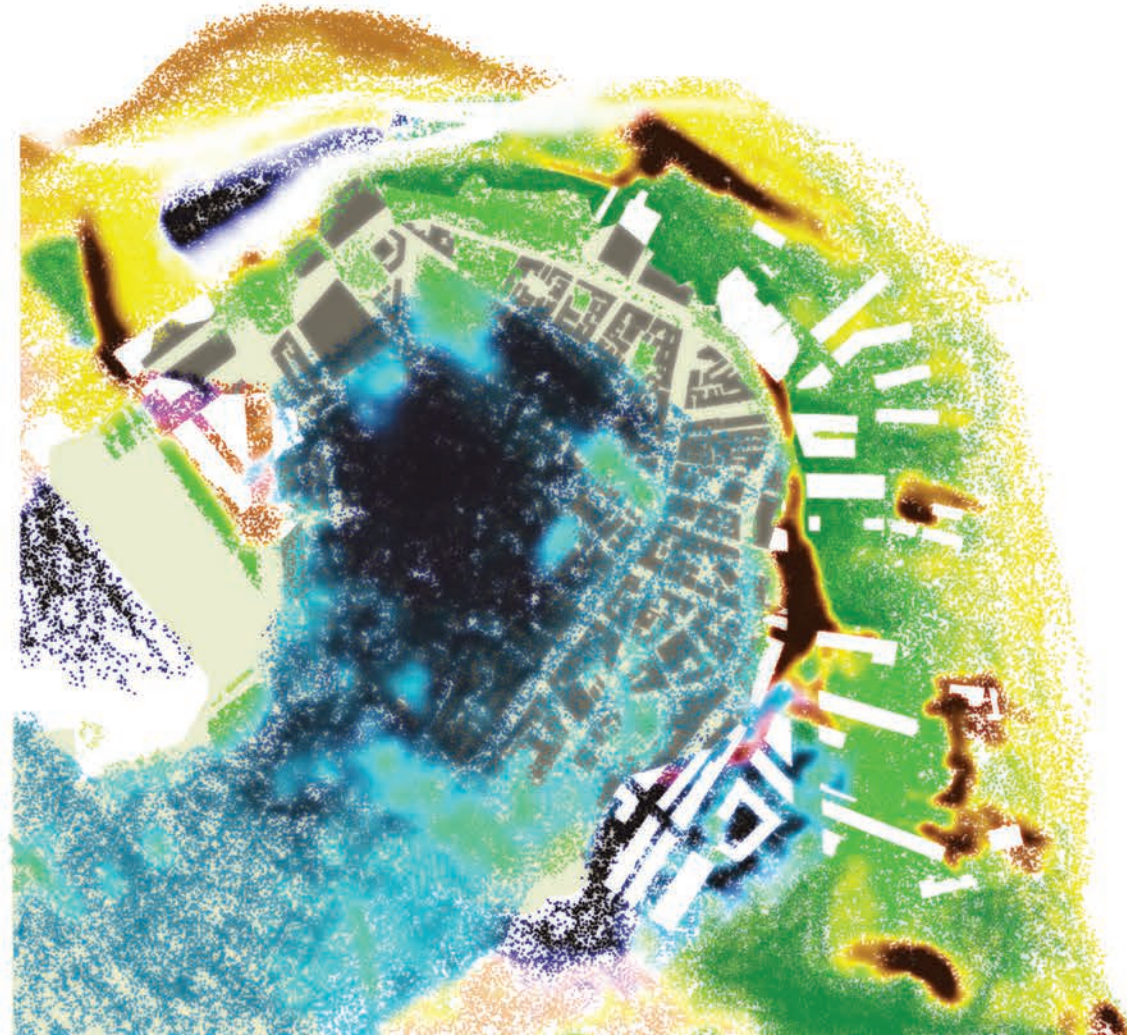
# GEOLOGY & ECOLOGY

## *Historic development of North End conditions*

Existing

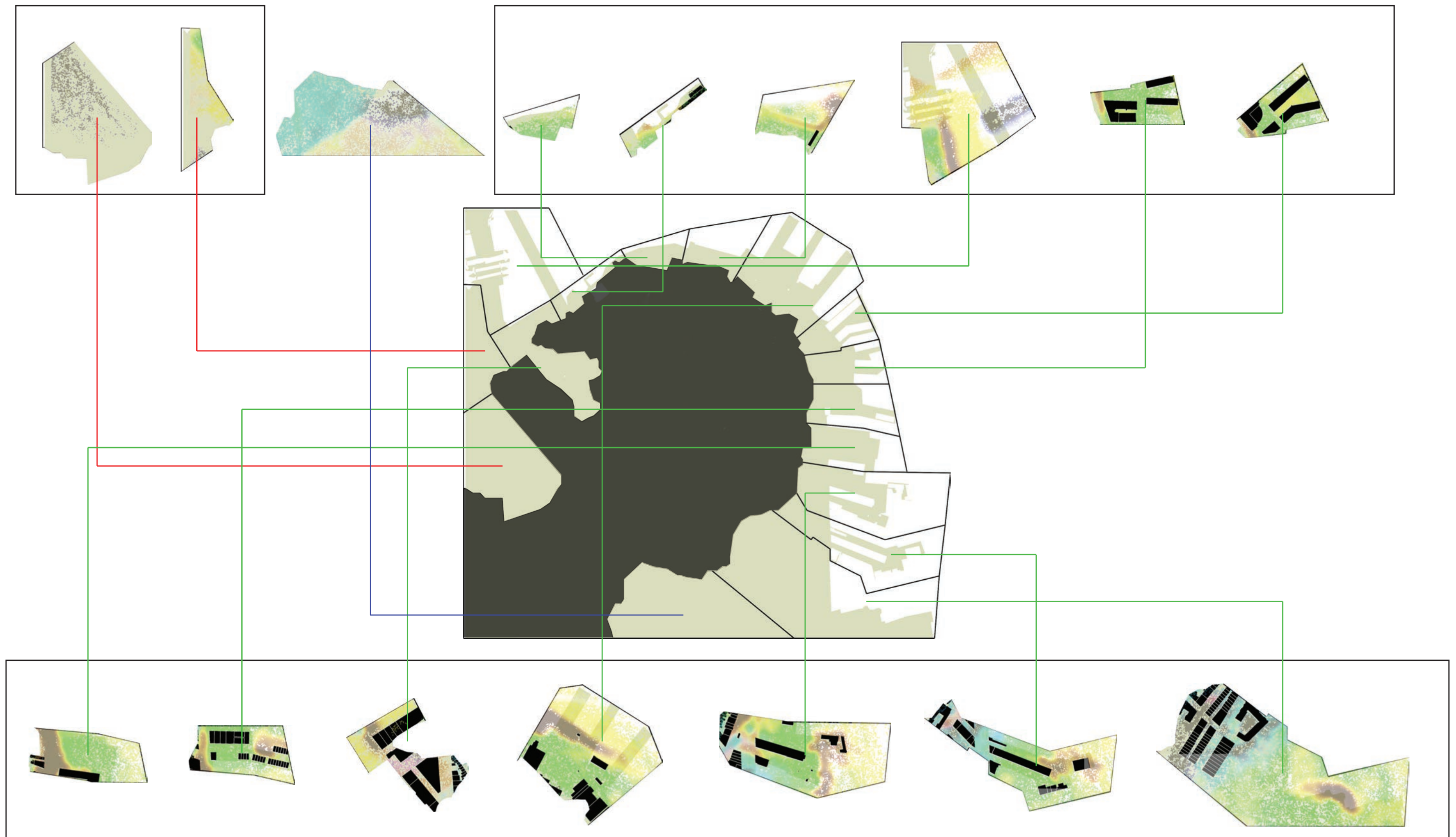


Proposed Respond to Flooding



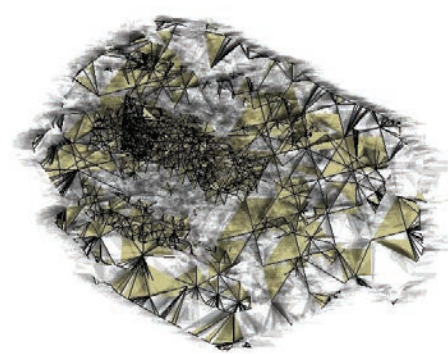
Legend

- Sand Beach
- Needlegrass Rush (*Juncus Roemerianus*)
- Mud Flat
- Gravel Beach
- Bedrock Outcrops
- Unconsolidated Sediment
- Sand Flat
- Drumlins
- Hinckley Merrimac Urban Land (original)
- Man-made Parks
- Grasses and Sumac
- Smooth Cordgrass (*Spartina Alterniflora*)
- Small Sandy Barrier Beach
- Rocky Beach
- Unvegetated Mud Flats

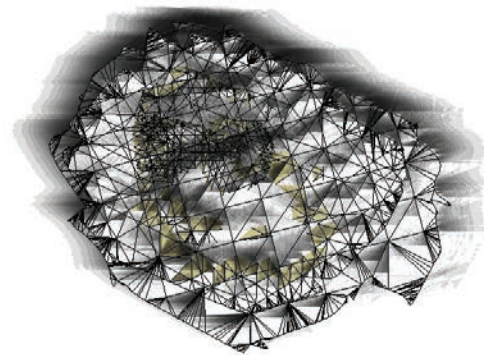


# LAND MASS SHADOWS

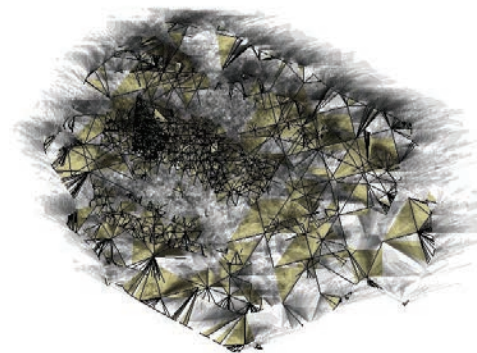
*Solar & Climate characteristics of the North End*



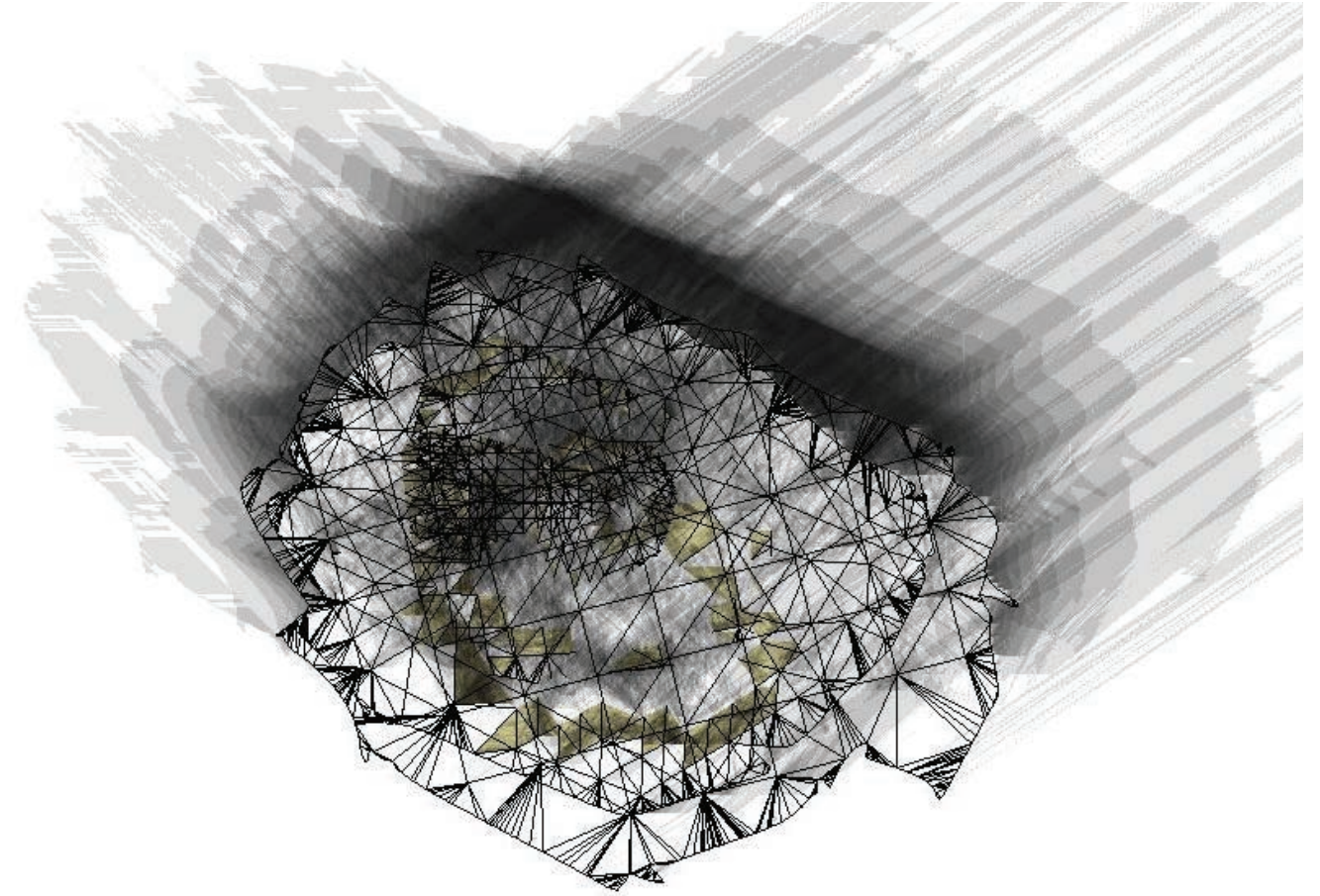
Spring Equinox



Summer Solstice



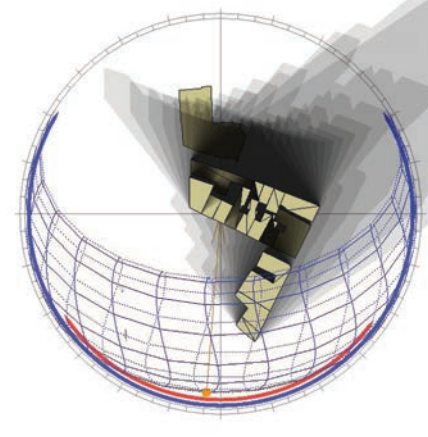
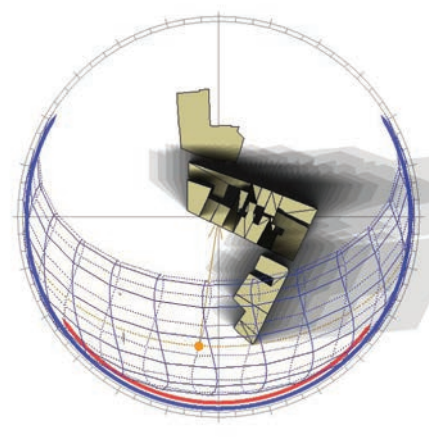
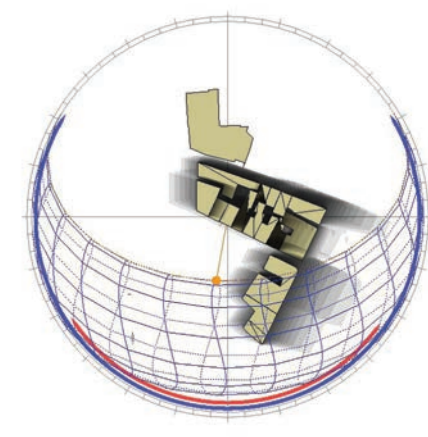
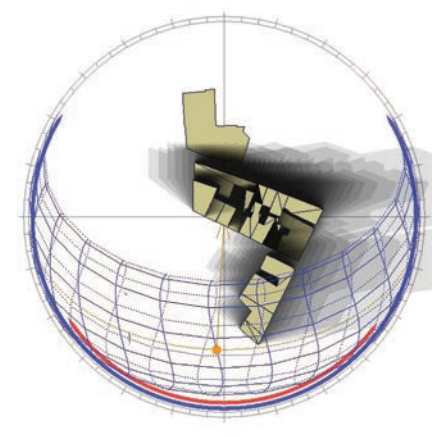
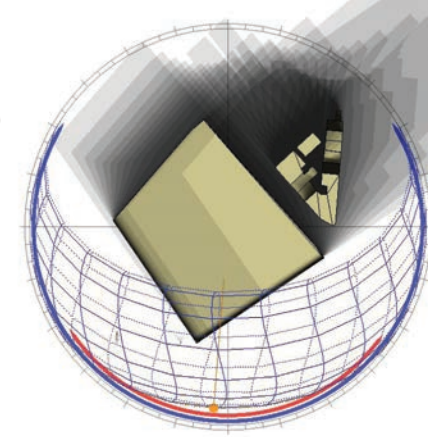
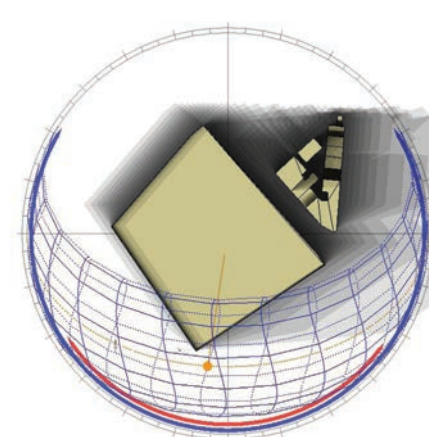
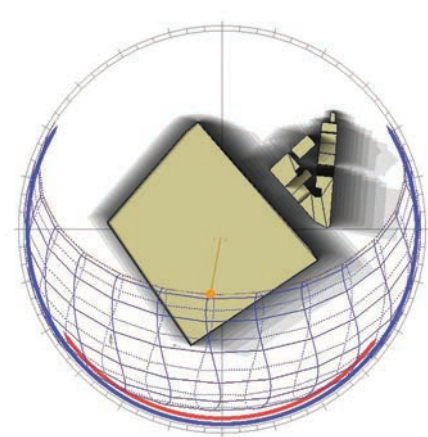
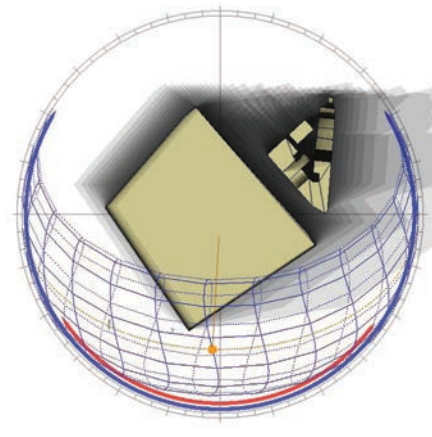
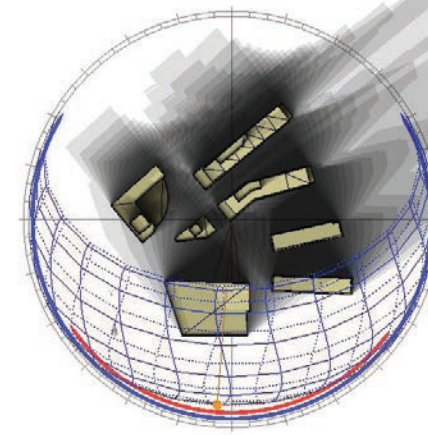
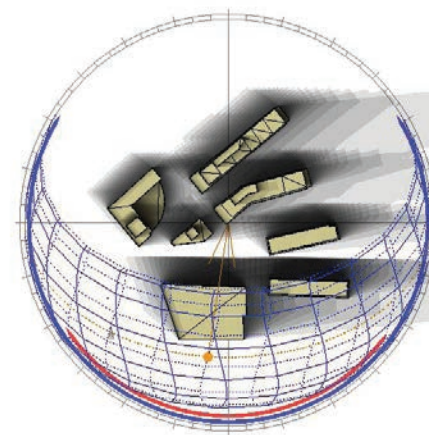
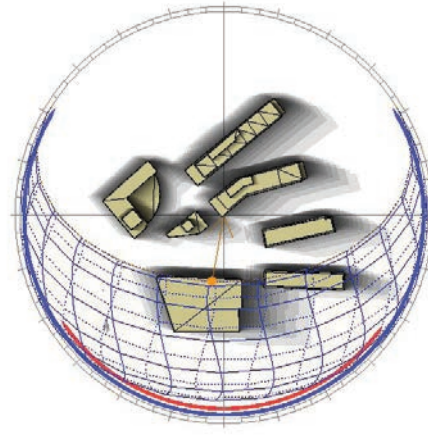
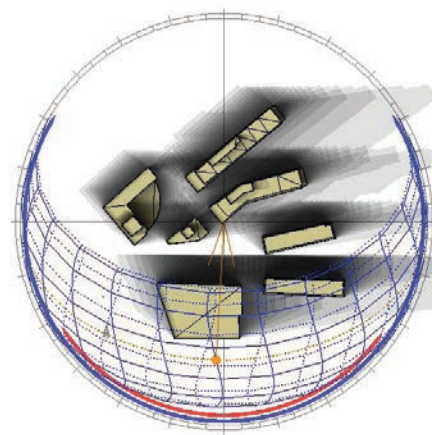
Autumn Equinox



Winter Solstice

Solar Radiation





Spring Equinox

Summer Solstice

Autumn Equinox

Winter Solstice





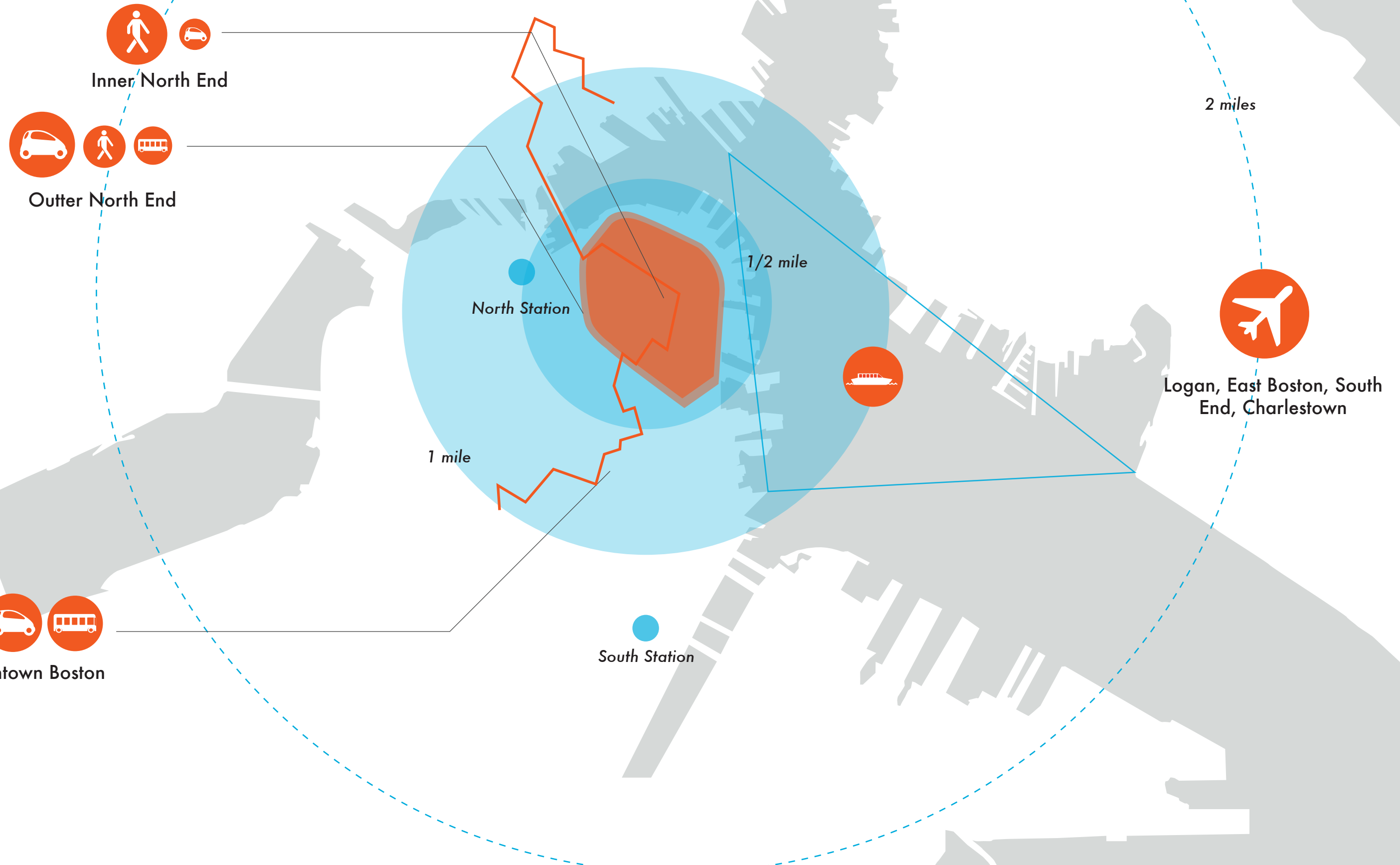
Infrastructure both adjacent and immediately located within the North End reinforces the narrative of the neighborhood as an island, both today and throughout the course of its history. From Mill Creek pond, to the old interstate and its recent reincarnation as the greenway, every piece of infrastructure has played the part of a threshold with varying levels of opacity. However, a new trend is developing with new forms of transportation: water taxis, the silver line, and privately funded taxiing services are beginning to blur the non-physical connections to other areas of greater Boston.



# *INFRASTRUCTURE*

# LINKAGES/PROXIMITY

## Adjacent modes of transit from North End

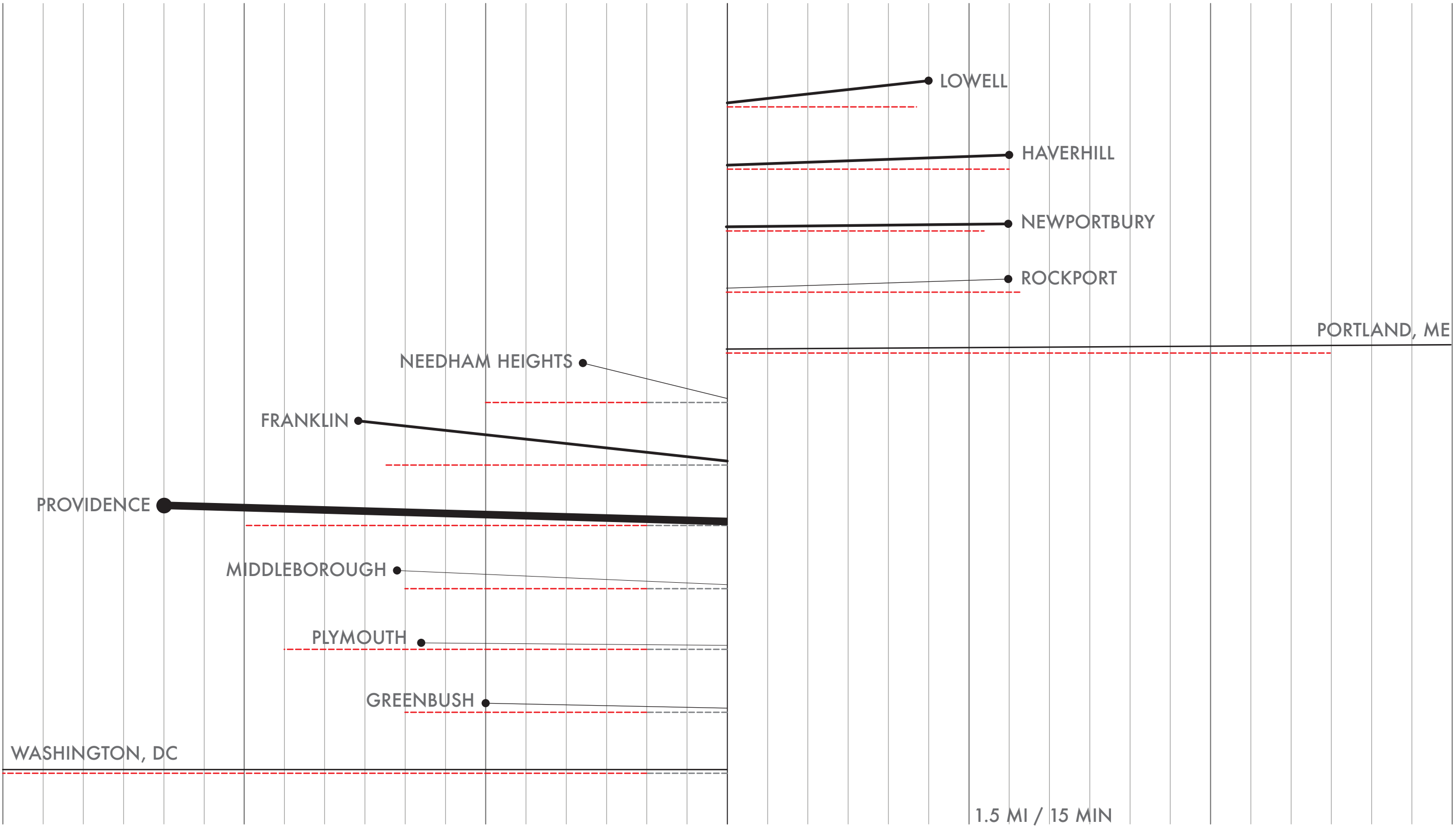




SOUTH - WEST

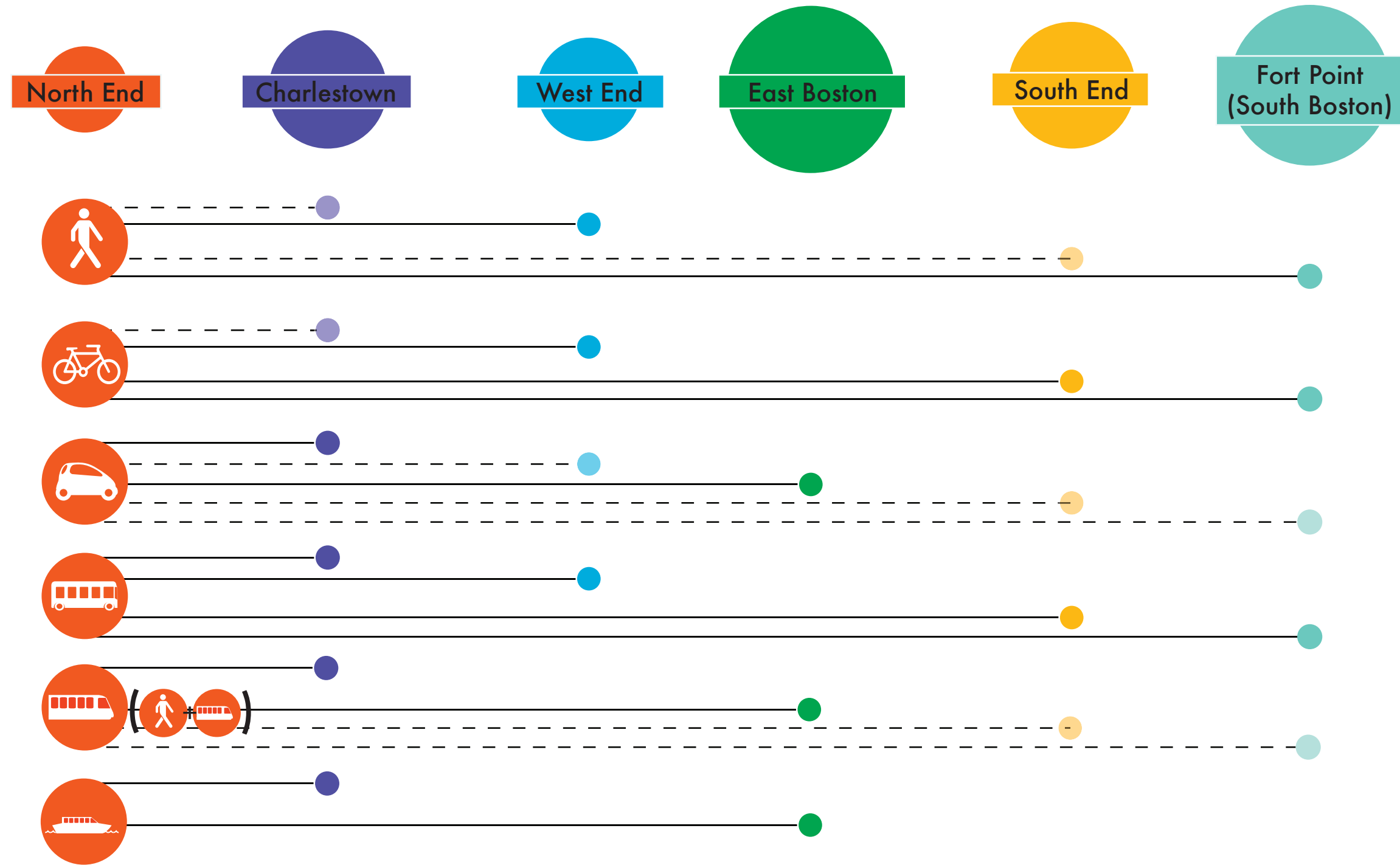
NORTH END

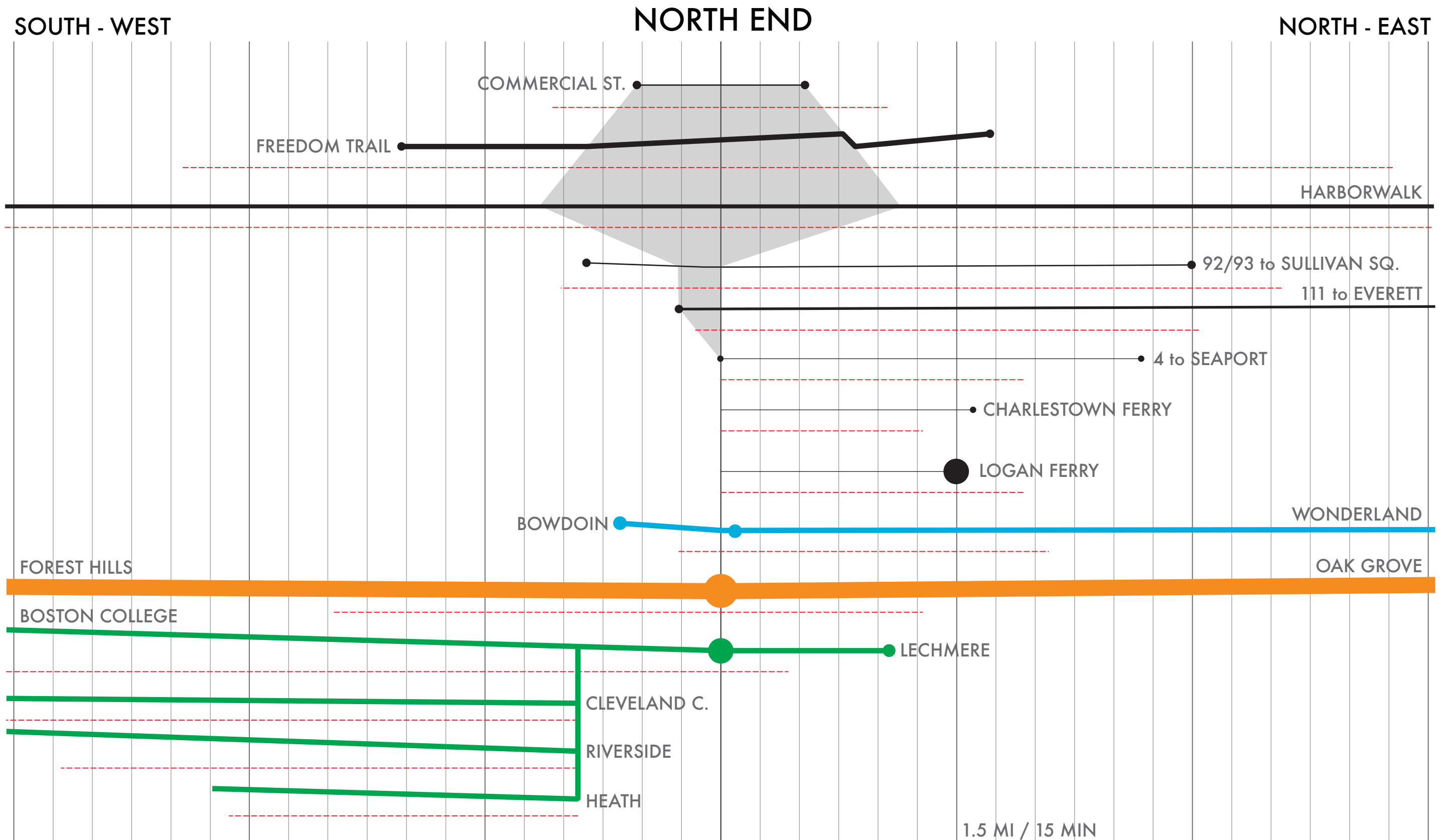
NORTH - EAST



# CONNECTIONS

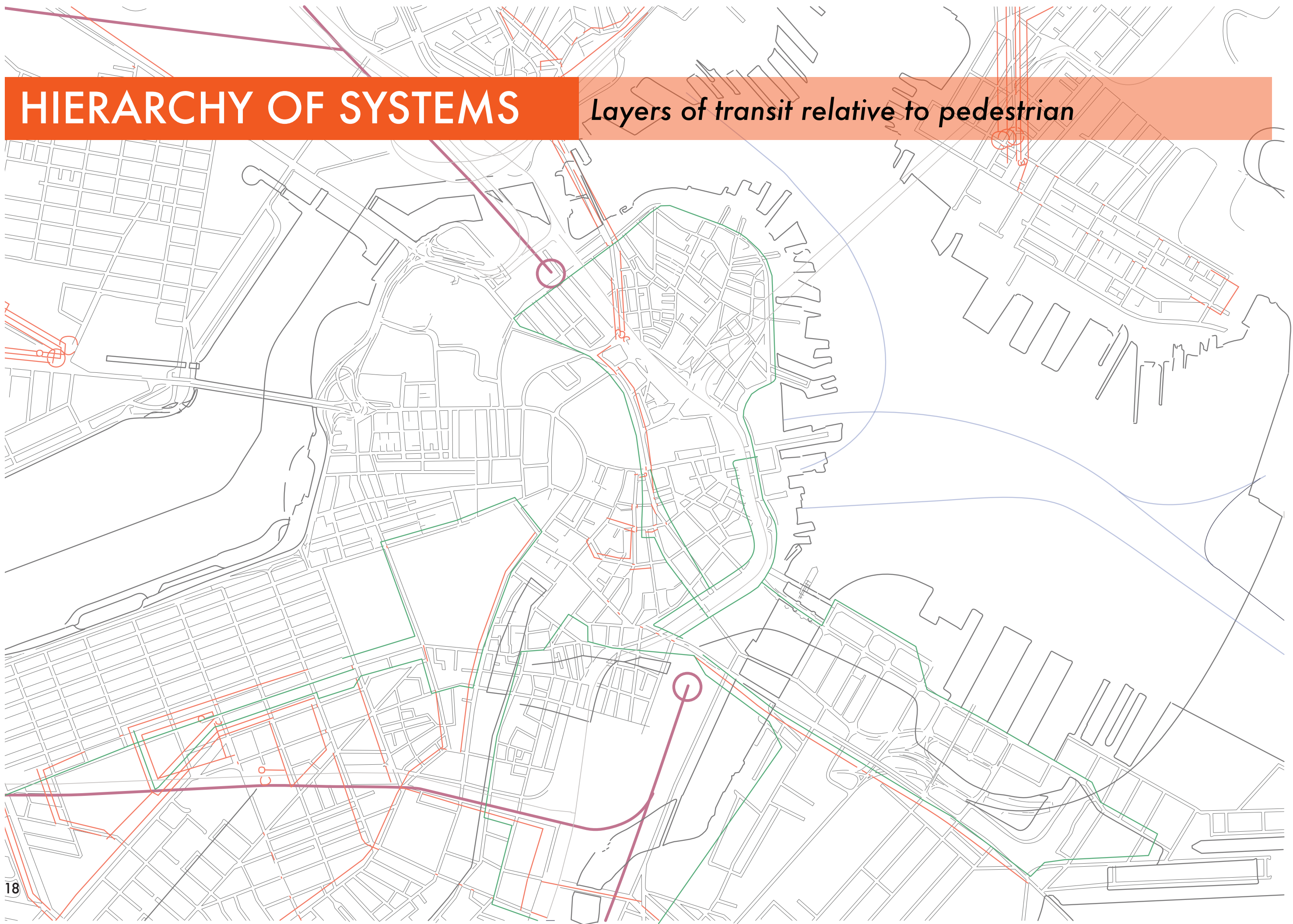
*Accessibility and distance to other neighborhoods*

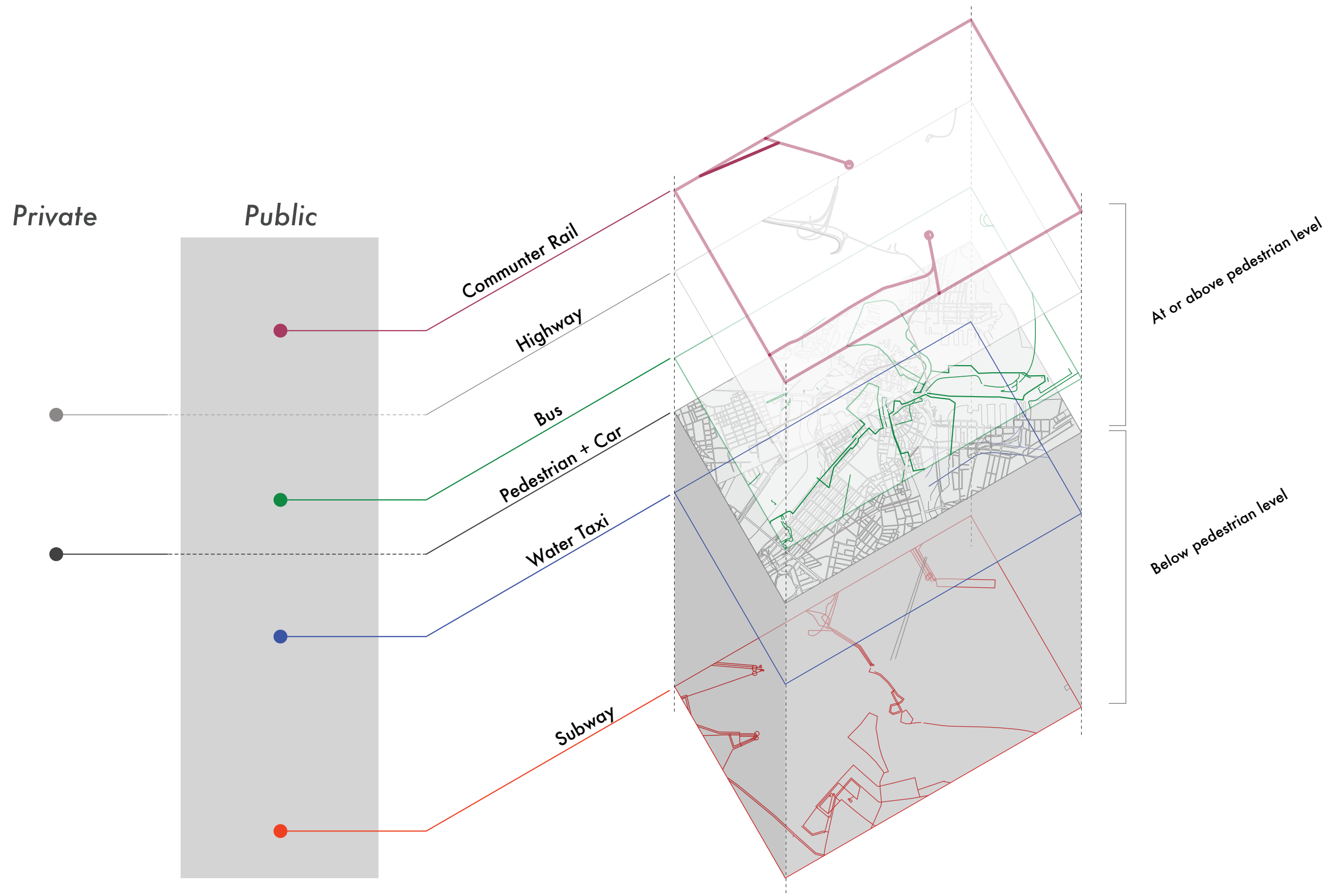




# HIERARCHY OF SYSTEMS

*Layers of transit relative to pedestrian*

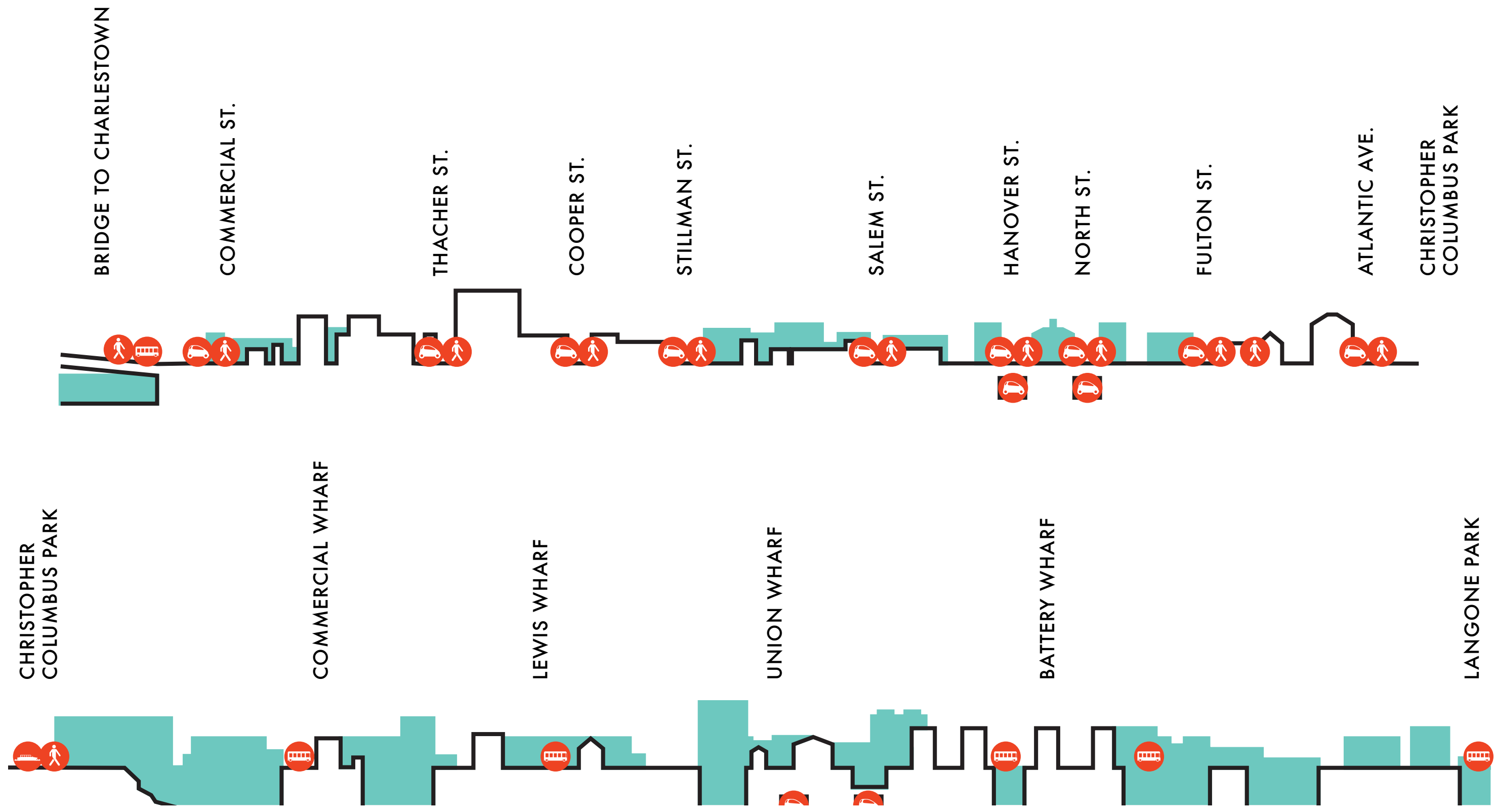




# ENTRY/THRESHOLD

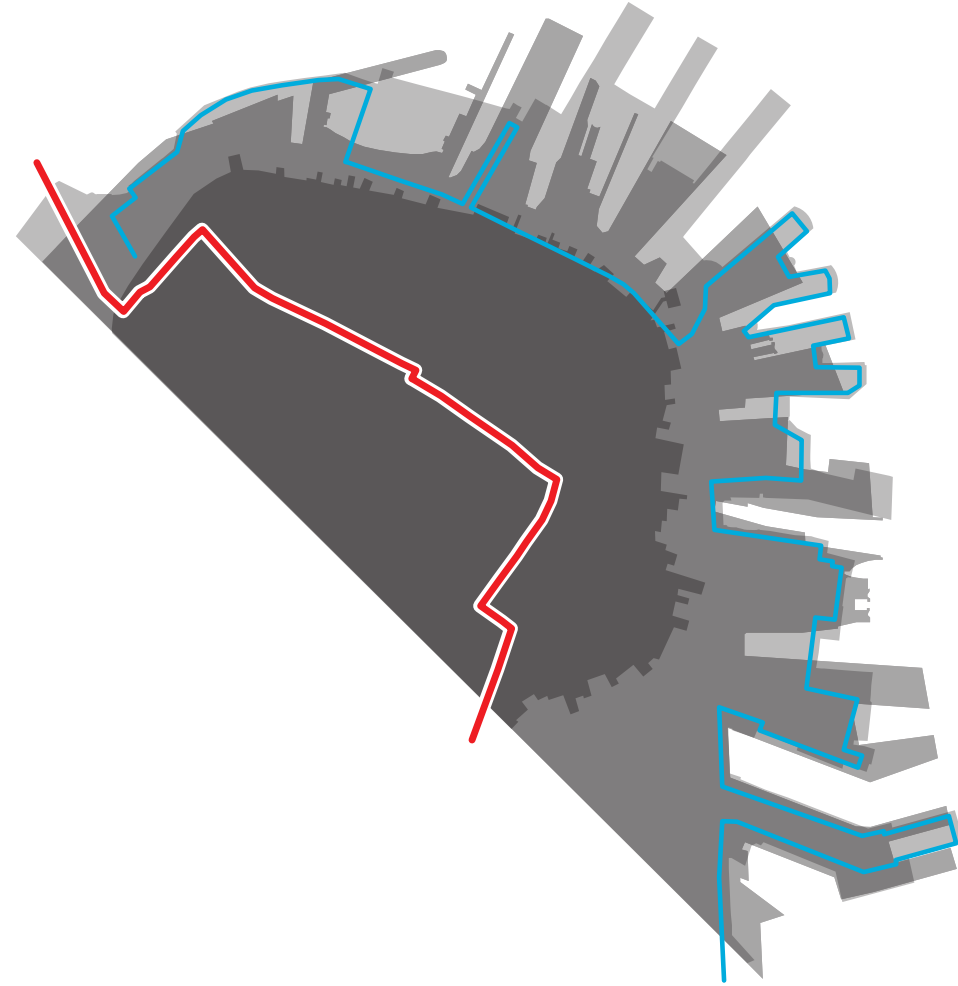
*The nature of each entrance to the North End*





# PAST & FUTURE

*Historic fabric and transportation of tomorrow*



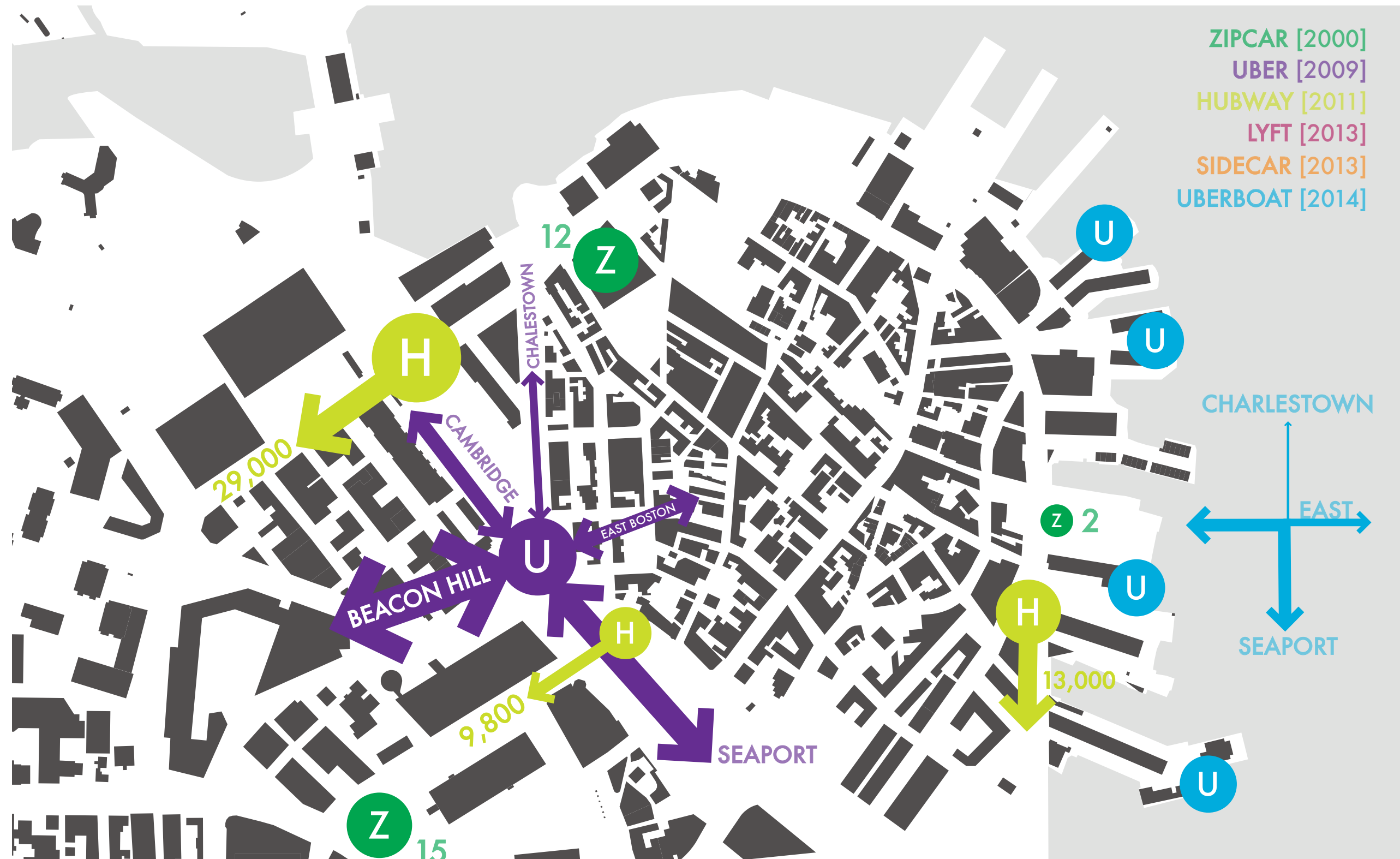
FREEDOM TRAIL

HARBOR EDGE [1676]

HARBOR EDGE [1895]

HARBOR EDGE [2014]

HARBORWALK





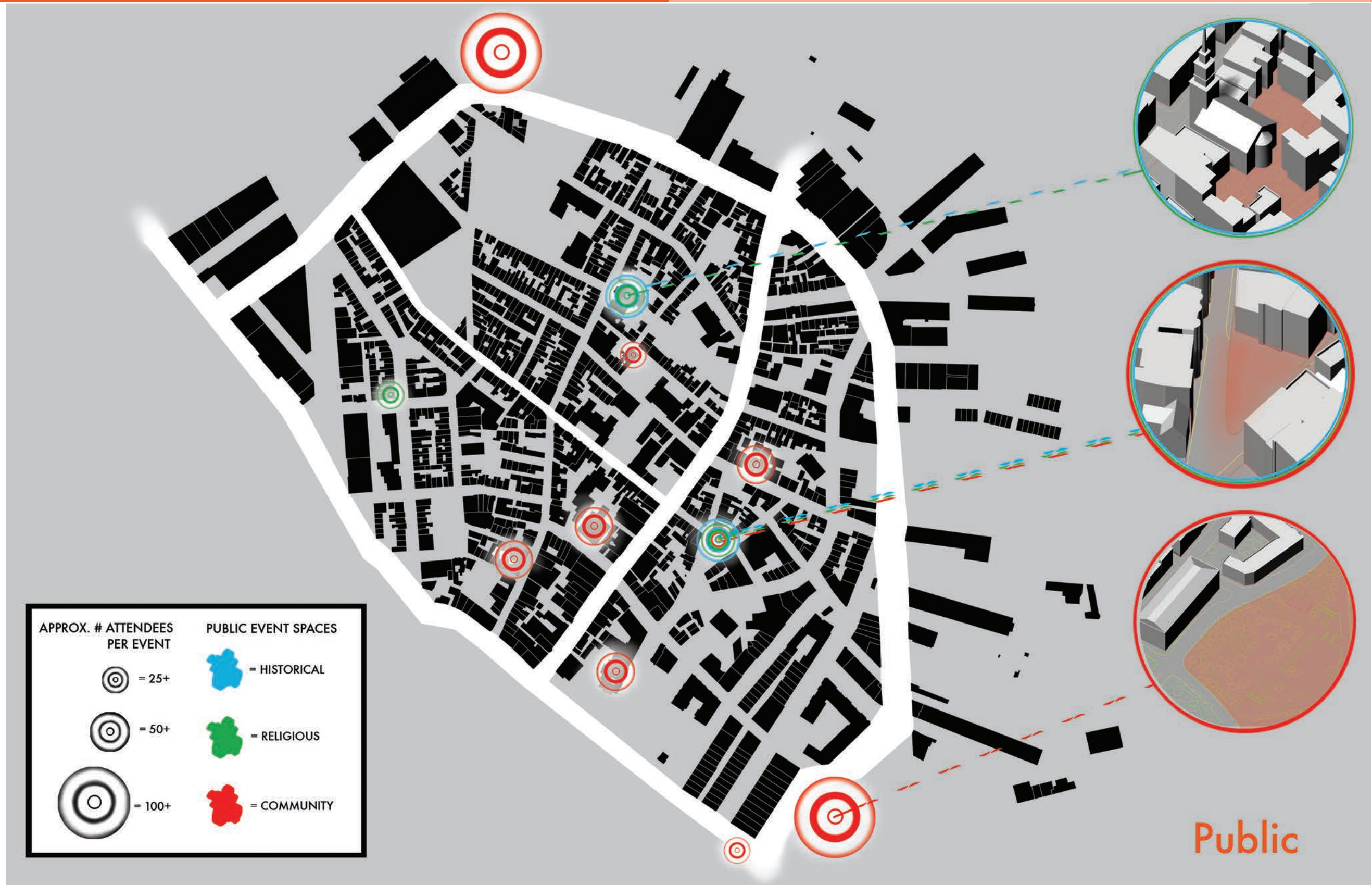
The constructed fabric of the North End is one of the most distinct characteristics of the neighborhood that makes it stand apart from all other neighborhoods in Boston. The impromptu, winding street “grid” (or lack thereof) has generated a fabric that is very specific to the North End: small, low multi-family housing units dominate the landscape. Street widths and public spaces vary throughout the grid, but the majority of buildings are three to five story residential units, some with commercial bases accessible to the public. A few unique institutional buildings stand apart, but ultimately succumb to the North End fabric.

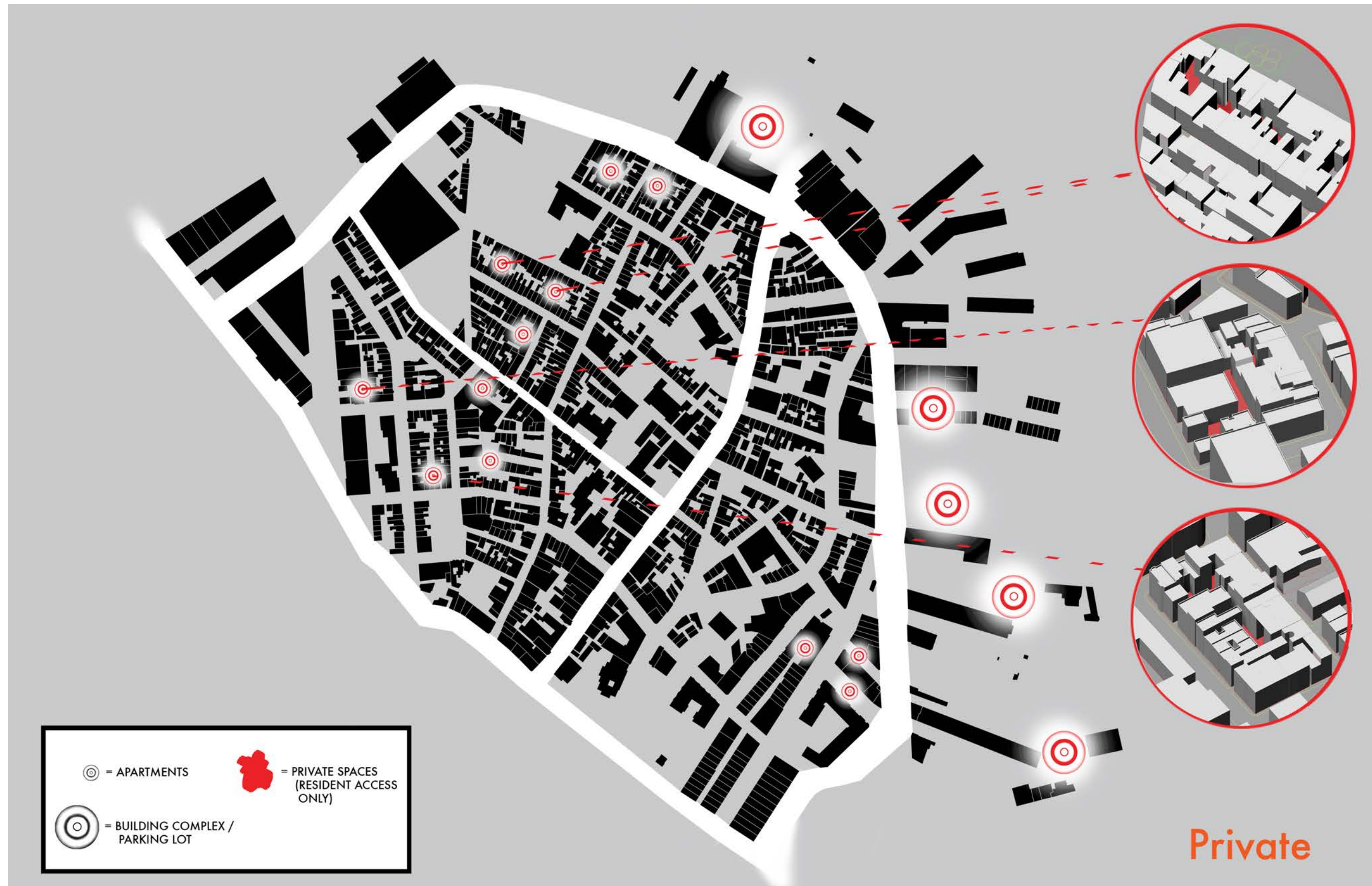


# CONSTRUCTED FABRIC

# PUBLIC & PRIVATE SPACES

*Locations and qualities of North End spaces*

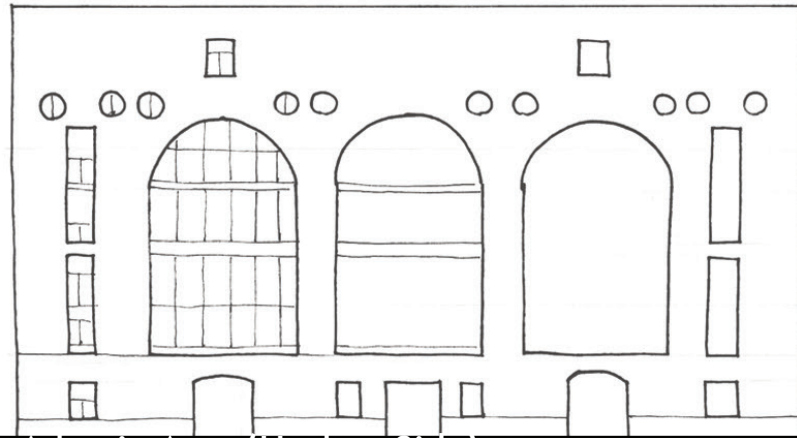




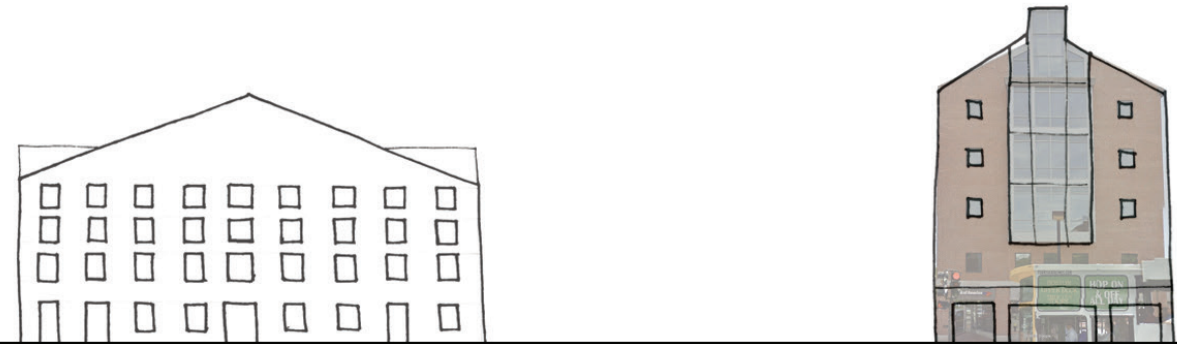
# CONSTRUCTED FABRIC

*Urban surfaces: streets, sidewalks, facades*

Public



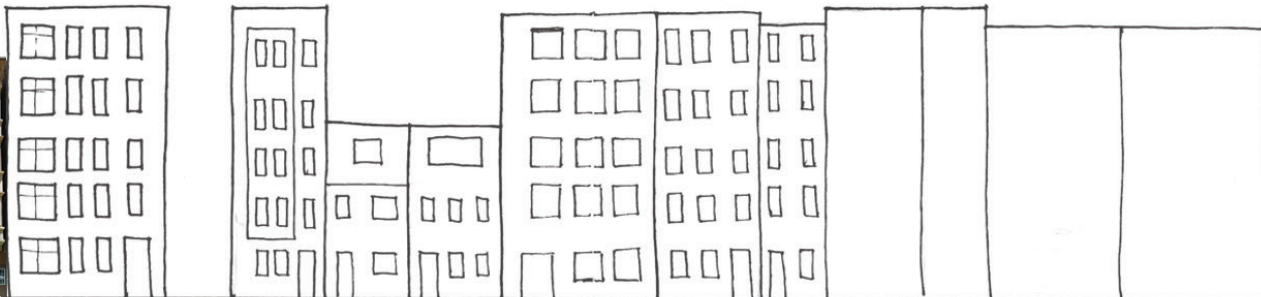
Atlantic Ave. (Harbor Side)



Commercial St. (Commercial)



Hanover St. (Residential)



Private

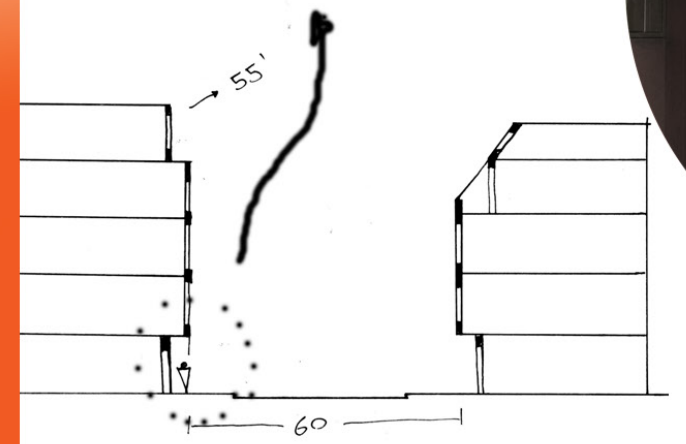
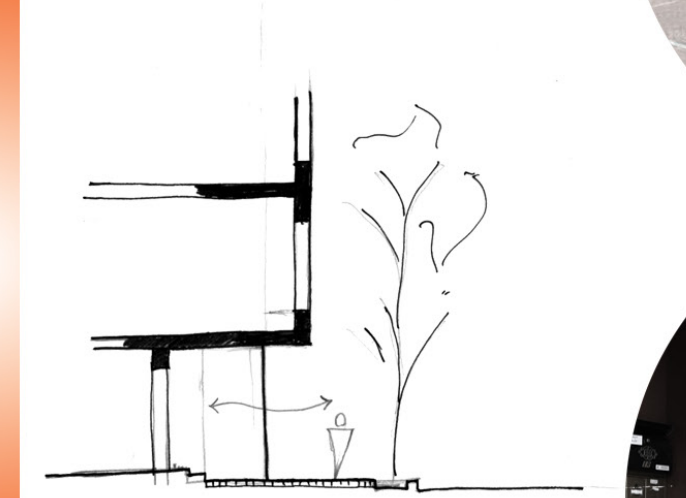
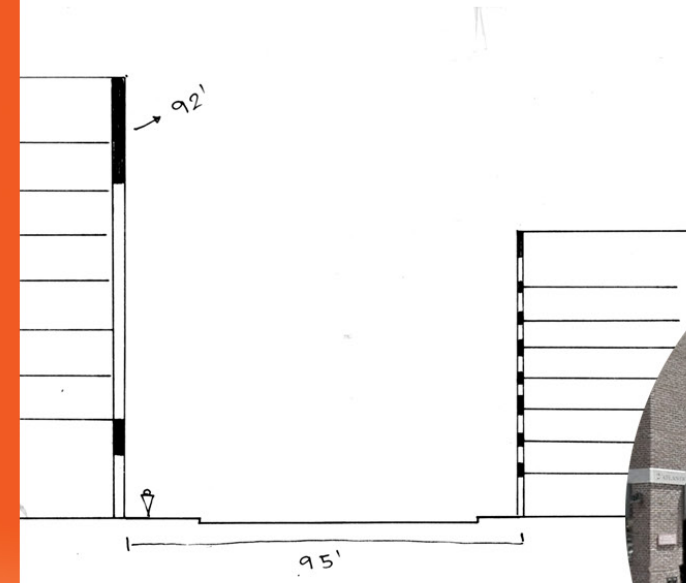


Solution St. (Residential/back-alley)



Public

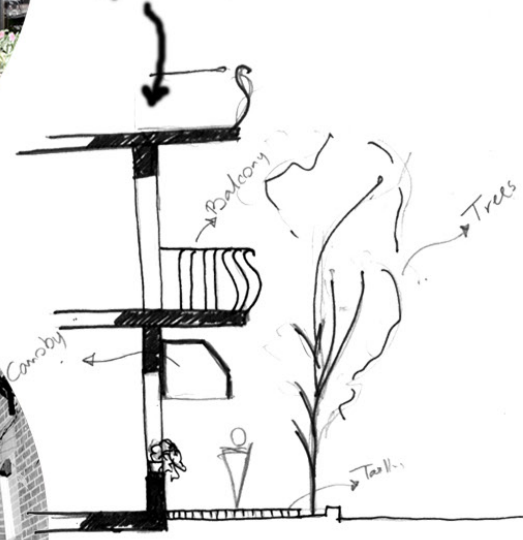
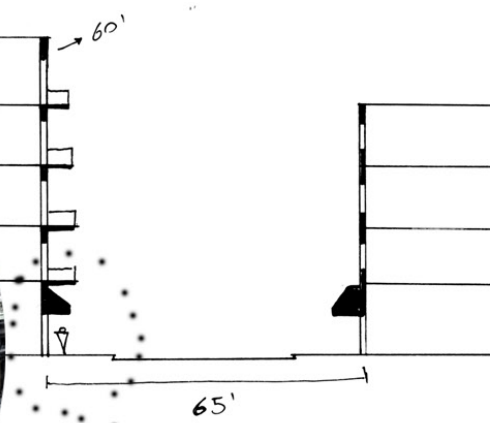
Private



Atlantic Ave.



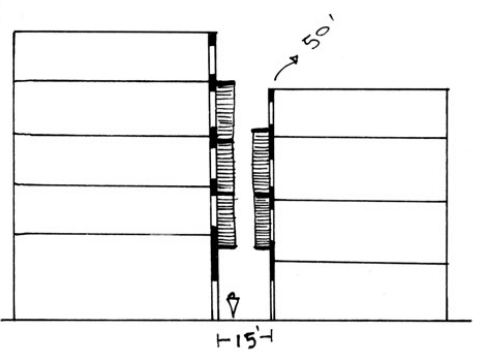
Commercial St.



Hanover St.

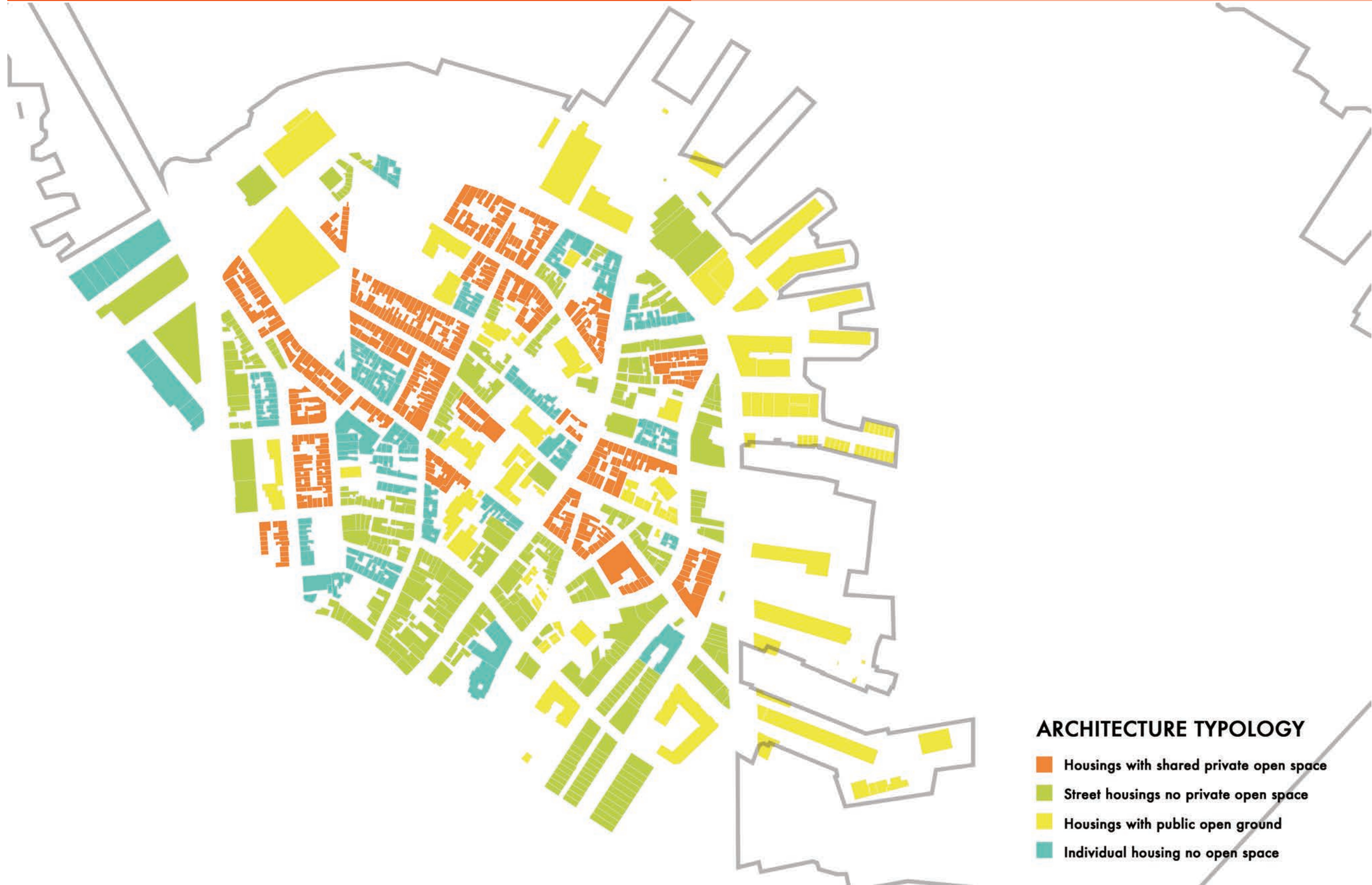


Solution St.



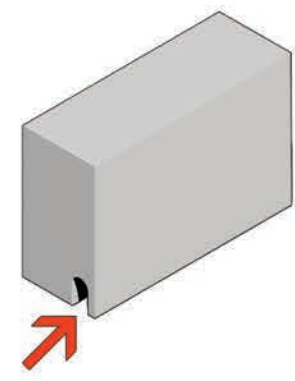
# TPOLOGY

*Building types, sizes, and their relationship to N.E.*

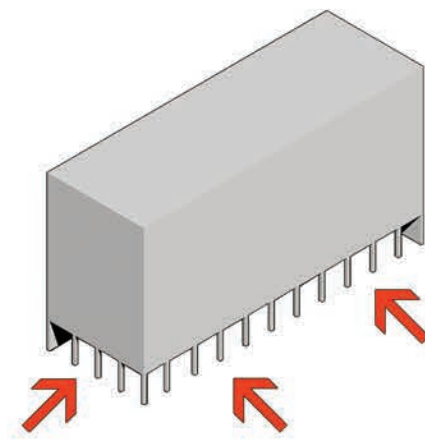




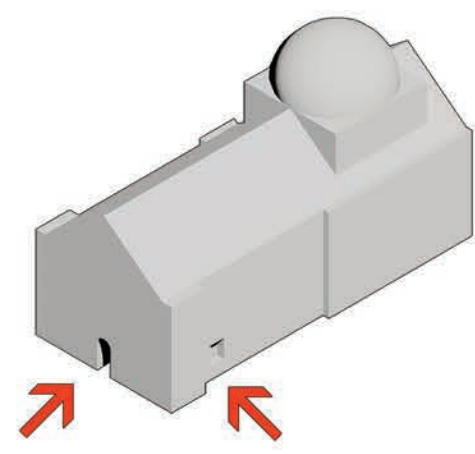
UNITS



Typical housing:  
Residential housing with  
one or two entrances



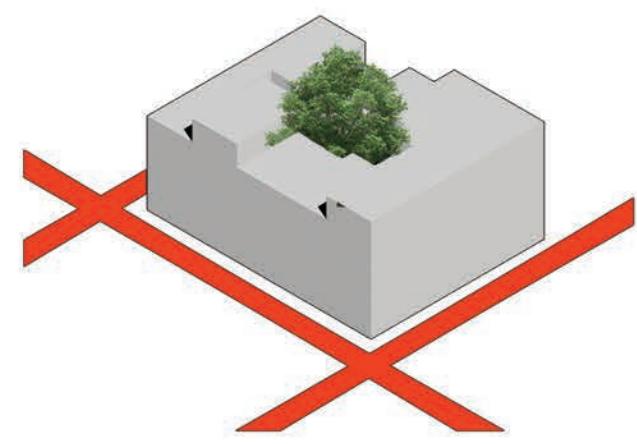
Typical street store:  
Commercial stores with  
open first floor



St Leonard Church  
Roman Catholic Church



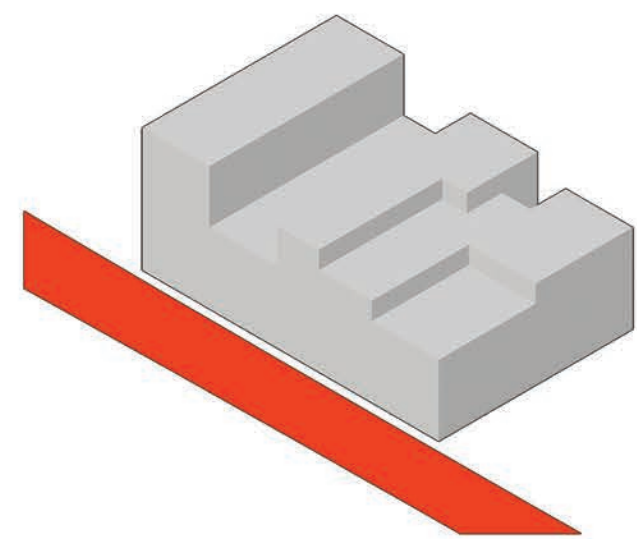
ANALYSIS



Sharing the inner backyard,  
Not facing to arterial road



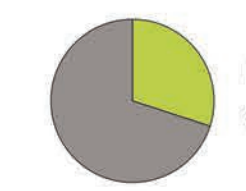
14% type 1



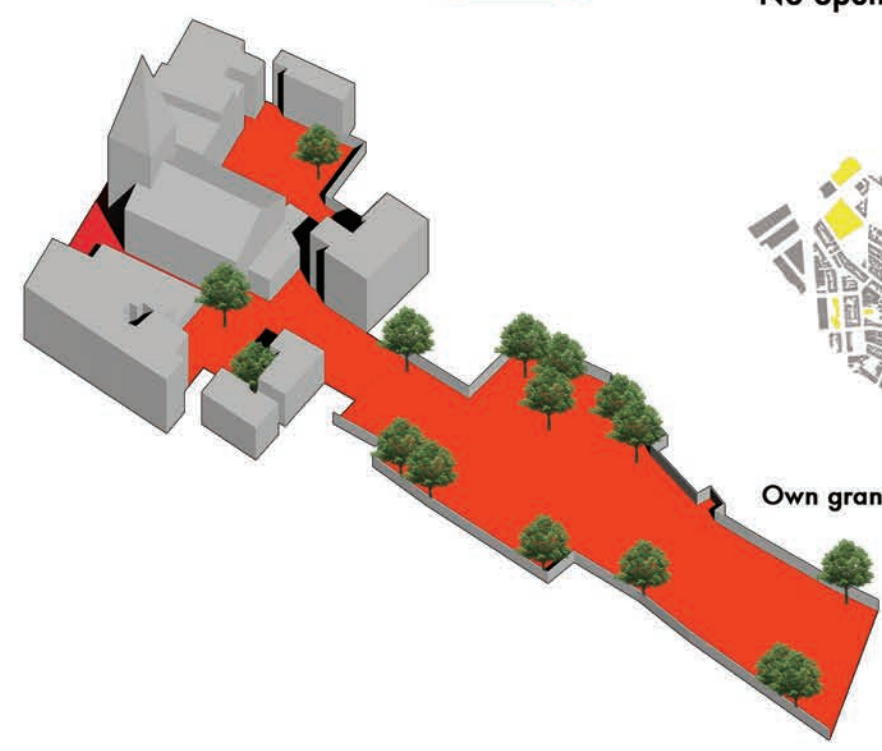
Facing to arterial road,  
No open space



30% type 2



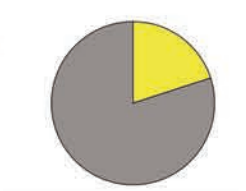
In type 2  
70% commercial



Own grand public open space



38% type 3



In type 3  
80% residential



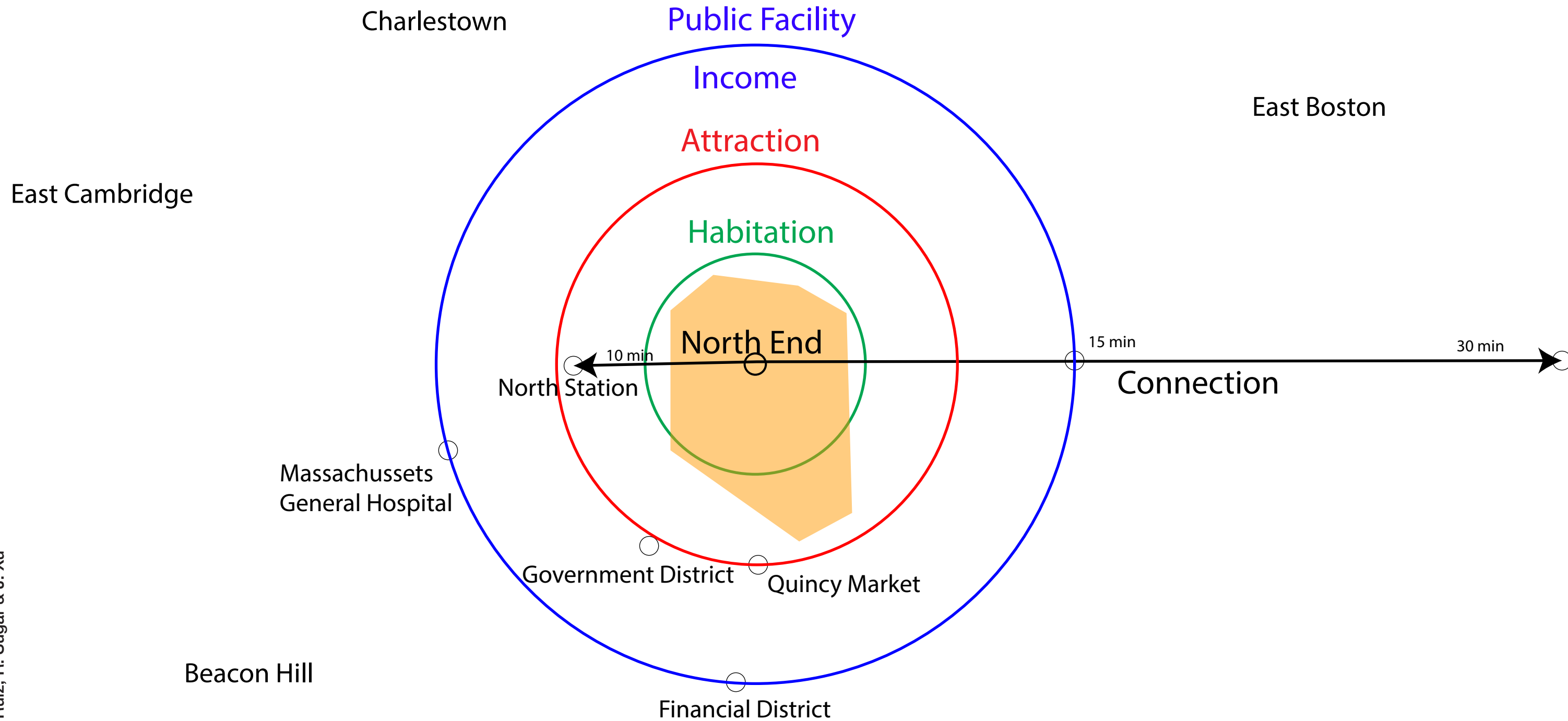
From the perspective of history, Boston's North End is a very organic, alive, vibrant, and ever-changing urban neighborhood. With 100+ Italian restaurants and cafes, internal and adjacent parks, annual religious feasts, the North End is some times called "Boston's Little Italy." Encompassing the heart of the Freedom Trail, the North End has become a major tourist destination point today. This has created a tension yet linkage between the locals and tourists both socially and economically.

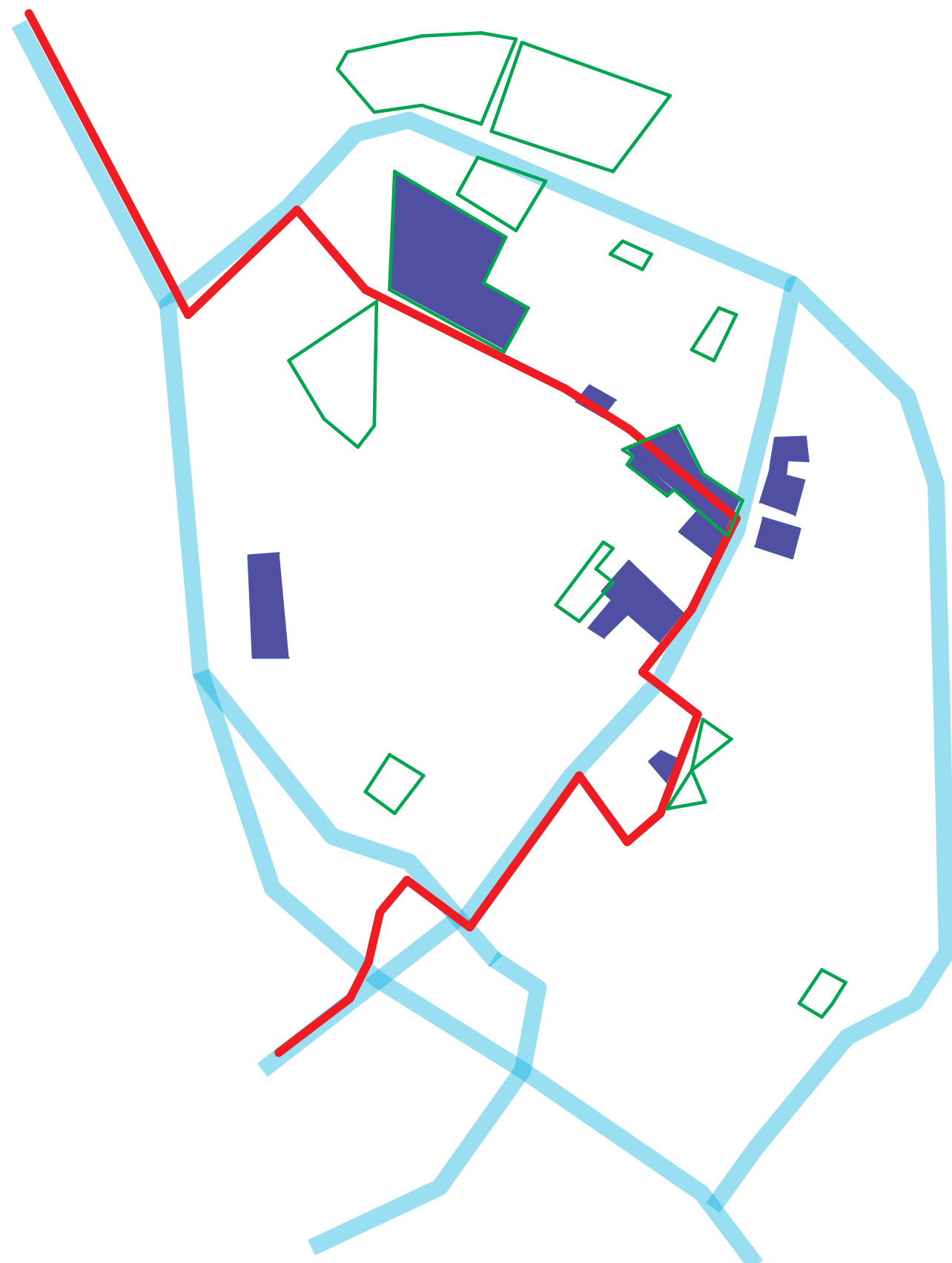






# *SOCIAL DRIVERS*

# THE CITY & THE TRAIL

*How the freedom trail affects Boston and the N.E.*

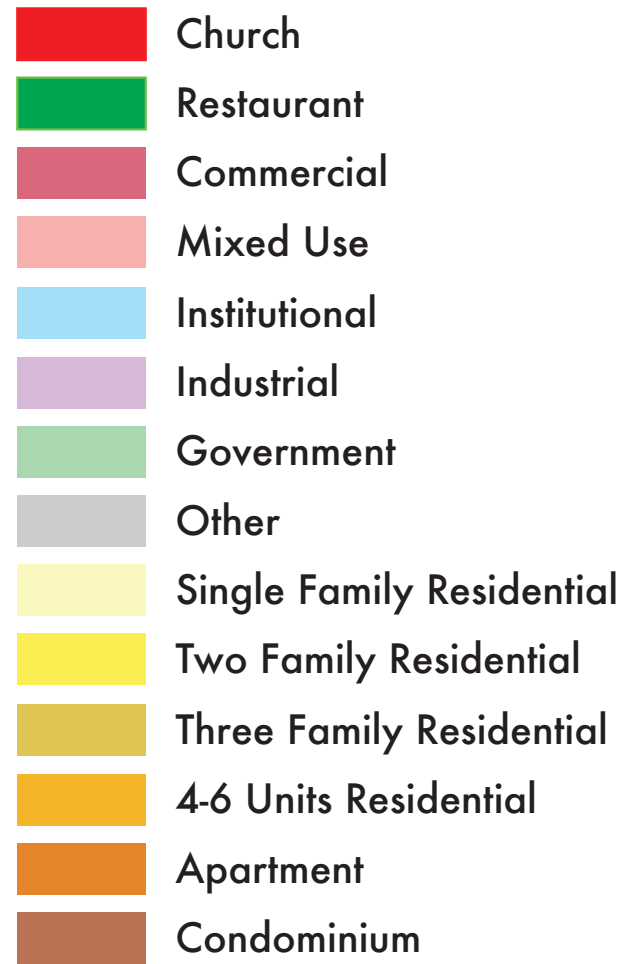


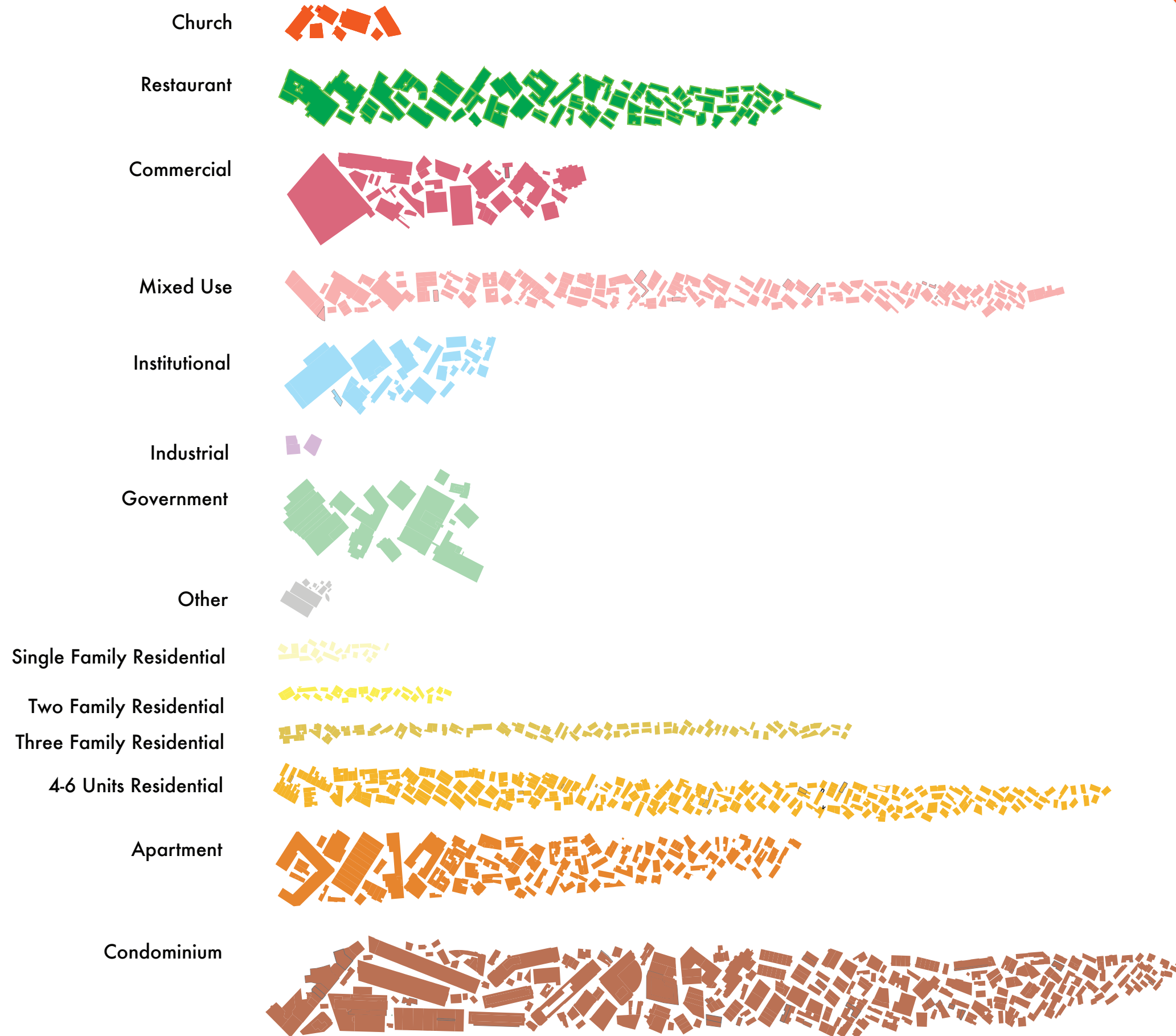


-  Freedom Trail
-  Historic Place
-  Green Space
-  Horse Road

# DEMOGRAPHICS

*Use of each buildings and their occurrence*





# EVENTS & RESIDENTS

*Neighborhood activities in relation to residents*



Crime Activity Level



Annual Summer Feast



Cost of Housing



- Freedom Tr
- Tourist Green Spac
- Green Spac
- Major Stree
- Education
- Hospital
- Bank/Groce
- Transportat

