



Rockland Main Street

**Open Streets: How to Hangout Again**

08/12/2020



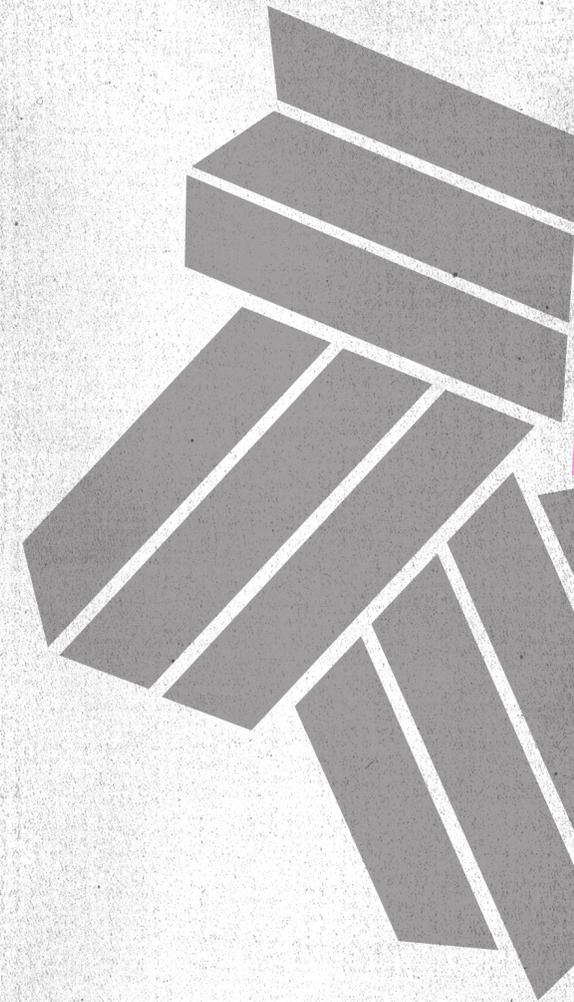
## How we got started

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**An email chain started on a Sat morning.**  
**The future** of our downtown was the topic  
and all ideas were on the table...

“Shut down Main Street to traffic for the summer, create temporary pergolas, fairy lights, outdoor seating, art down the middle of Main Street with side walks for traversing or the reverse, sidewalks used for outdoor seating, art work, music, with Main Street the wide thorough fare. Flowers everywhere. Local musicians, quartets like the DaPonte playing so diners and walkers on our outdoor mall can hear them.”

- Valli Geiger Rockland City Councilor on  
April 25th



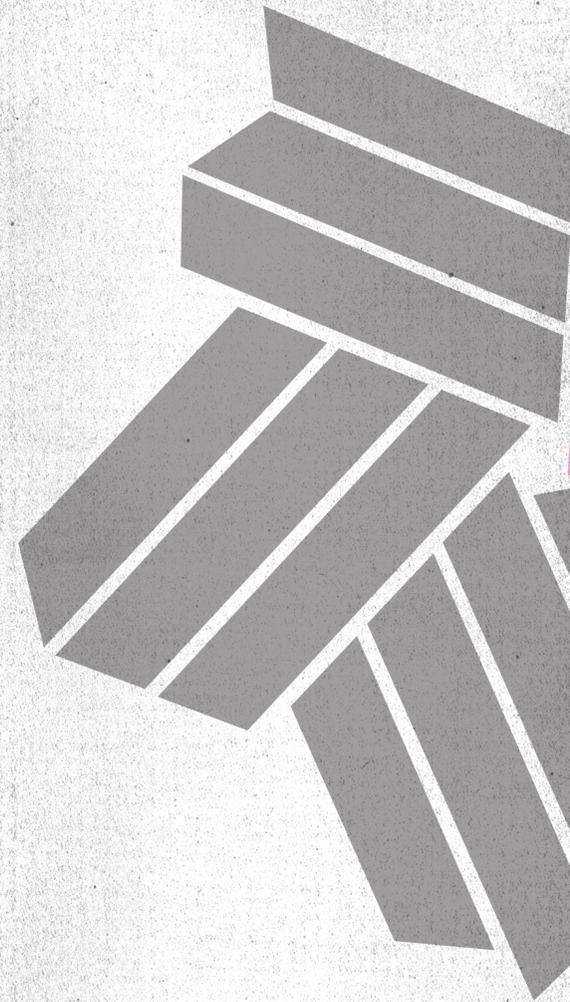
## We created a plan

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We created a task force made up of city staff, police chief, fire chief, and local business owners on both sides of the idea.

We held a town hall meeting via Zoom and set up one on one interviews with the leadership teams of our downtown institutions and property owners.

We created a communications plan and got the word out.



and got lots of press



KNOX.VILLAGESOUP.COM

**Rockland plan to close downtown Main Street to vehicle traffic gains support - By Stephen Betts**

bangordailynews.com › 2020/06/23 › news › midcoast ▼

**Rockland was the first Maine city to close a downtown street to ...**

Jun 23, 2020 - The state's first municipality to close a section of its downtown to vehicular traffic to help businesses there survive the pandemic had a rocky ...

www.pressherald.com › 2020/04/30 › rockland-consider... ▼

**Rockland considers closing Main Street to allow merchants**

bangordailynews.com › 2020/05/11 › news › rockland-... ▼

**Rockland OKs turning Main Street into walking plaza for ...**

May 11, 2020 - City councilors on Monday approved shutting down Main Street to vehicle traffic during the month of June to give restaurants and shops ...

knox.villagesoup.com › details-offered-on-this-weekends-...

**Rockland to close vehicle traffic to Main Street this weekend ..**

Jun 20, 2020 - **Rockland** — **Rockland Main Street Inc.** issued a news release ... times, including **Portland** and **Burlington, Vt.** The **Rockland** closures are not a ...

PENBAYPILOT.COM

**Rockland authorizes June closures of Main Street; logistics to be determined**

   Todd Bross and 176 others 158 Comments

 Like

 Comment

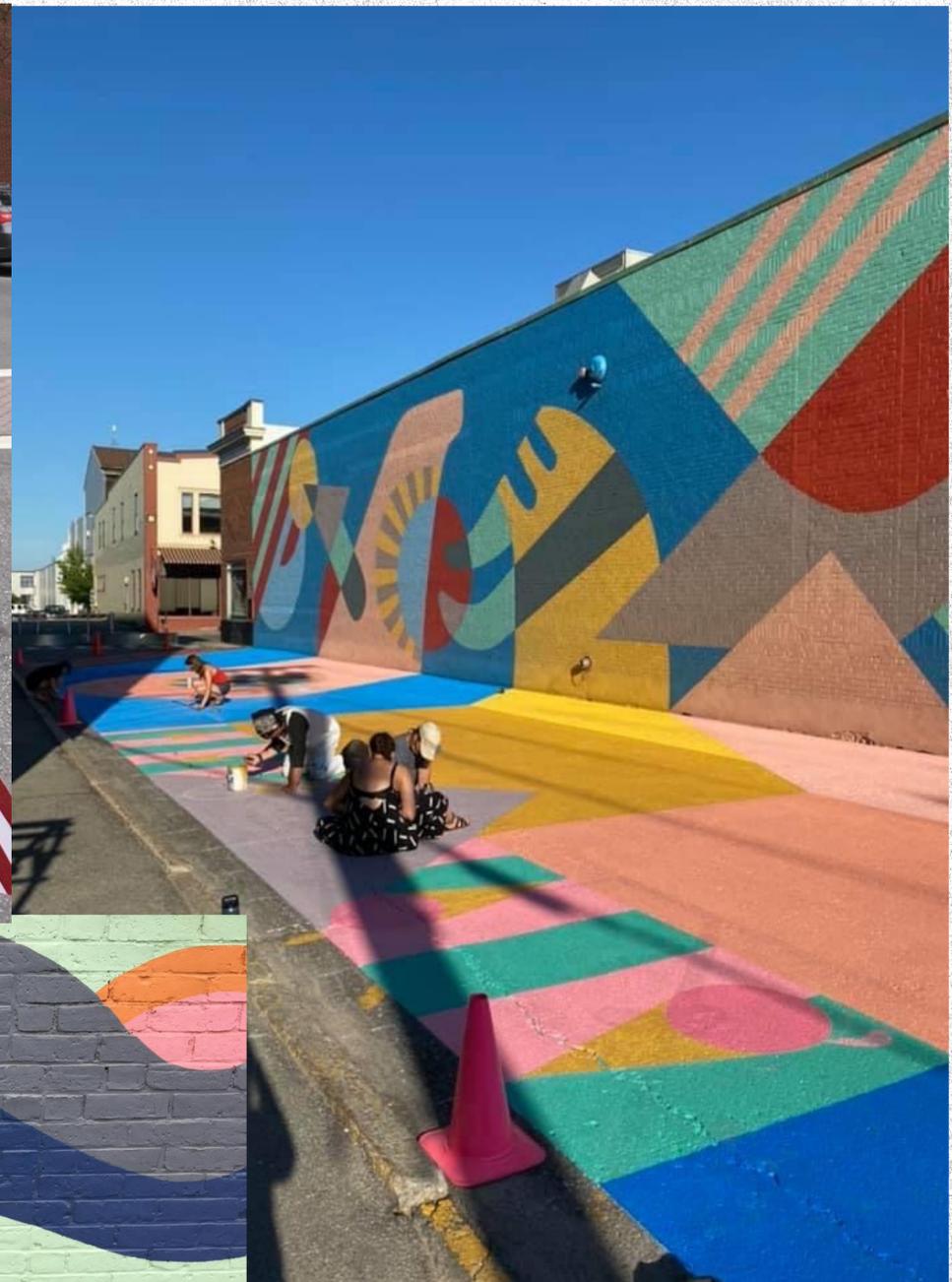
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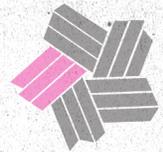
It kind of worked...



...and we made some art



## Our goals



Create more community space downtown for outdoor dining and social distancing



Better integrate vehicles, pedestrians, and parking



Slow traffic down on Main Street



# Time for a new plan



## A flexible plan

This is a living design that will be edited in real time based on community feedback over the next few months.

“In this case, the second field test was the charm as what we came up with on paper did not work on the ground. The tower truck got caught up in the intersection and then clipped a cone. Plus the first time I put out the cones, the moment I stepped back on to the sidewalk a massive pickup truck plowed right through the cones and dragged them a short ways down the street. The driver WAS TEXTING!” -Mitchell Rasor

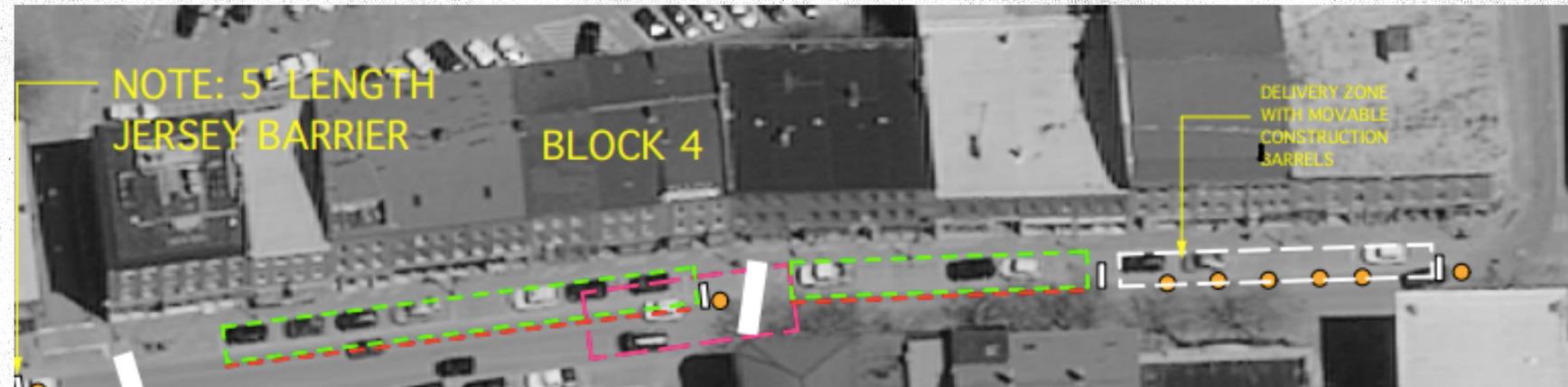


# Delivery Trucks

We had to accommodate multiple businesses who receive large delivery trucks on Main Street. These trucks are 48 ft with an 8ft ramp and can take close to an hour to unload.

We set up calls with the businesses owners and the delivery drivers to understand their concerns and review our options.

Delivery zones with movable construction barrels ended up being the safest and simplest solution.



## Look and feel

Main Street does not have to look or function like a turnpike construction zone to be safe. It has to be simple, uncluttered, and consistent in components and colors to provide a safe environment for all users.

- Blue paint for 3 caution zones
- Apple green for 14 jersey barriers
- Apple green for 80 mountable bollard



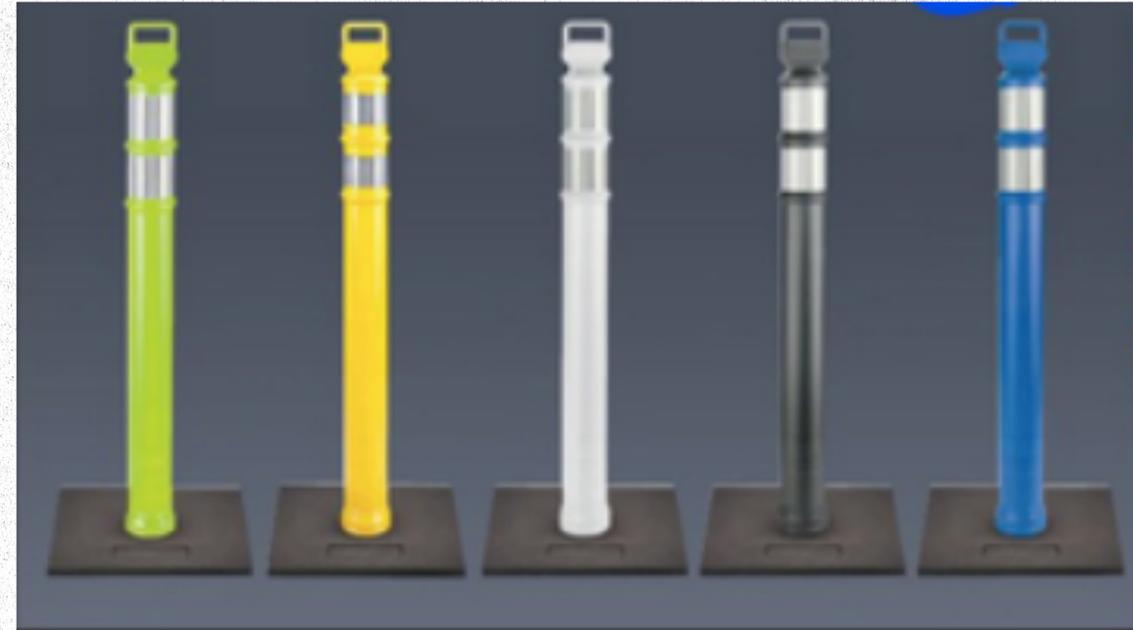
## Safety and ADA

We were able to get the speed on Main Street lowered to 20 MPH. We expect avg speed will be closure to 10 MPH.

The 12' offset mountable bollards will slow traffic and keep people in their lane.

Per the request of the Fire Department, the mountable bollards shall remain flat against the pavement.

If bollards are used that automatically return to vertical, there is a concern these could catch fire on a hot surface under a vehicle.



## Safety and ADA

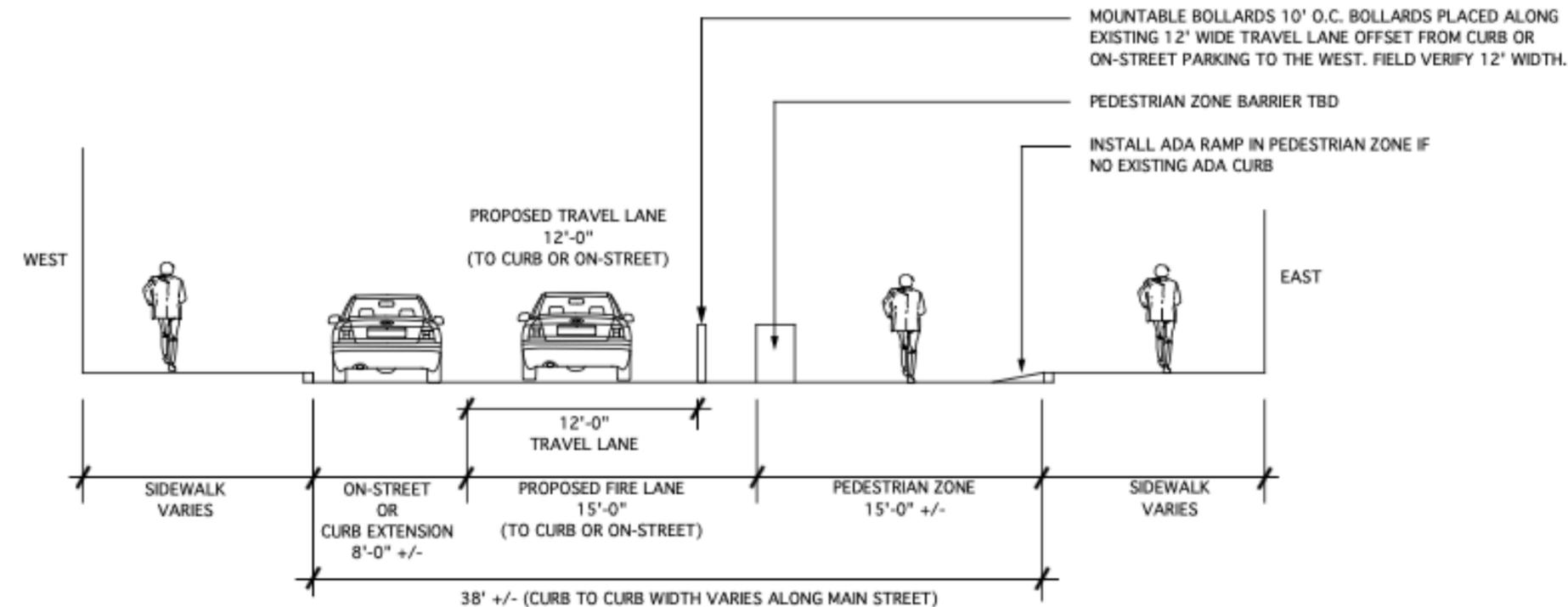
Maintain all existing ADA crosswalks and ADA sidewalks

Install ADA ramp in pedestrian zones

The primary “crash” zone locations have DOT approved “tapered” jersey barriers upstream of all pedestrian zones.

This is more protection now than people are afforded walking on a sidewalk.

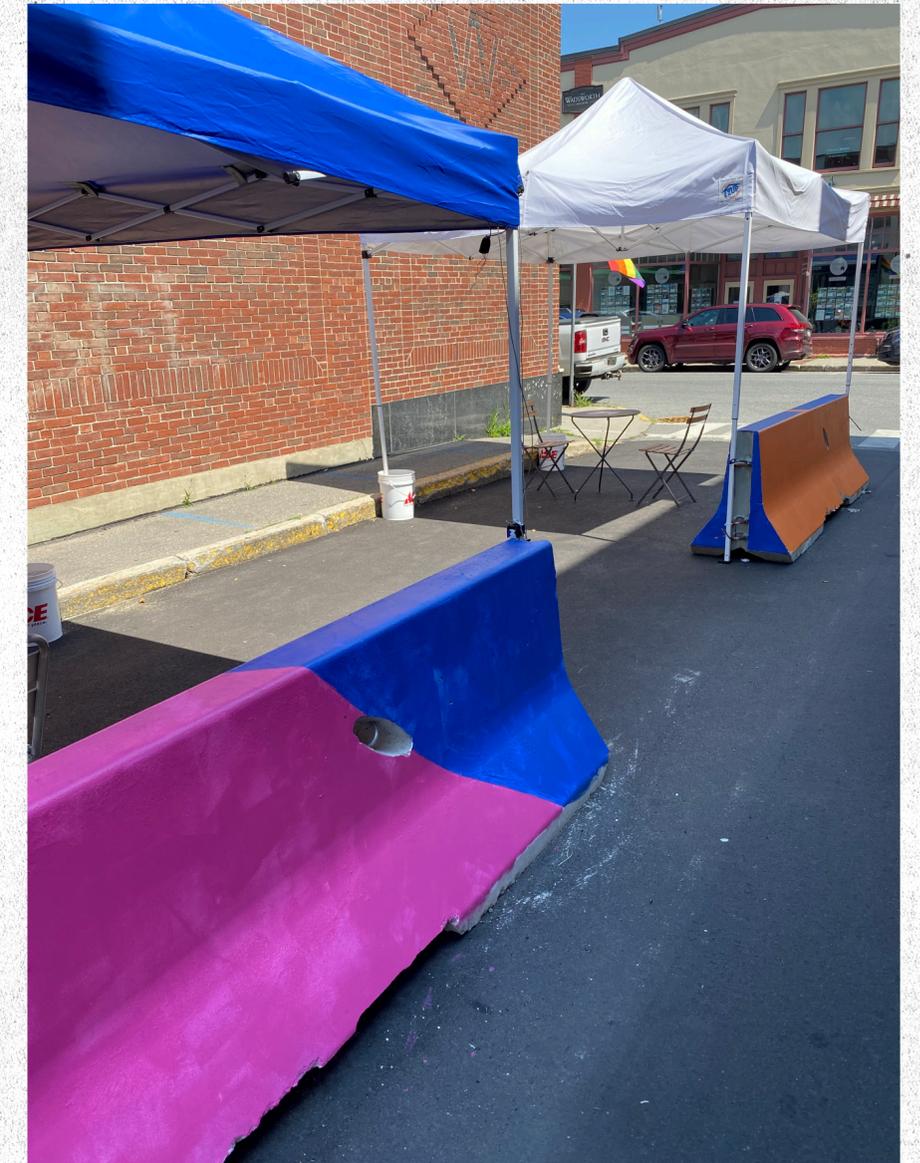
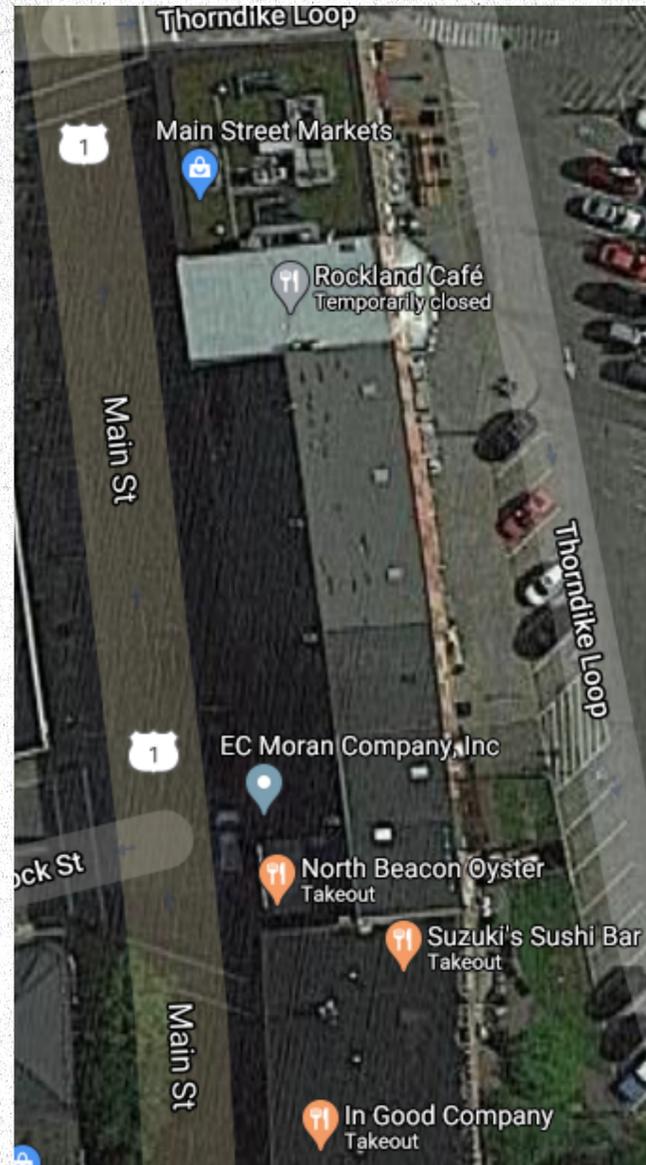
This is planned as safe or safer than existing conditions because it is one lane of slow traffic, with stops at lights and crosswalks, and maintaining almost all of the on-street parking on the west side. All of these elements combined create a safe environment for all users.



SECTION AA LOOKING NORTH  
TYPICAL DIMENSIONS FOR ROCKLAND RETROFIT STREET / PEDESTRIAN ZONES  
NTS



# Curb side pick up



## **A Community Conversation**

What does a downtown that's for everyone look and feel like?

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**MDF grant to provide facilitator training for public engagement conversation.**

**Working with members of city council, youth organizations, service organizations, and businesses stakeholders to make sure everyone is included.**

**Identified Public Library as host partner for Zoom conversation on 8/8.**

