Union Street Corridor Study

Waterfront Commission Special Meeting

June 21, 2012

Project Team

- City of Alexandria
- Toole Design Group
  - Tina Fink, P.E. – Project Manager
  - Dan Goodman, AICP, LEED-AP – Senior Planner
  - Lauren Kaufmann – Staff Engineer
- Quality Counts

Agenda

- Project Overview
  - Goals and challenges
  - Scope elements
  - Project schedule
- Previous plans and studies
- Status of ongoing work
- Discussion questions

Project Goals and Challenges

- Build upon previous studies
- Facilitate a vibrant waterfront
- Address parking and circulation issues
- Enhance safety for all modes
- Implement Complete Streets
- Balance needs:
  - Of all users
  - On different days and times of the week

Study Area & Key Scope Elements

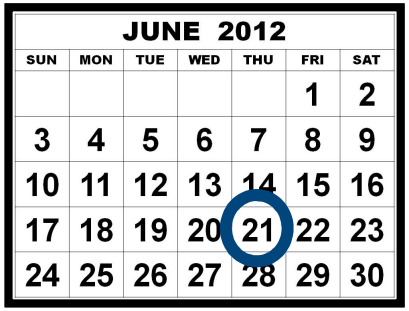
- Existing Transportation Conditions
  - Field Assessments
  - Traffic Counts (all modes!)
  - Parking
  - Overnight Parking
  - Delivery Truck Activity
  - Motorcoach Activity
  - Crash Data
- Public Engagement
- Alternatives and Recommendations

Project Schedule

TASK	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT
Fieldwork/Data Collection						
Analysis and Documentation						
Develop & Refine Recommendations						
Waterfront Commission Meetings		X		X	X	
Public Meeting						
Final Report						
Planning Commission Meeting						
Transportation Commission Meeting						
City Council Meeting						

Waterfront Commission Input

Meeting #1:
June 21



Provide input on issues and concerns in the study area

Meeting #2:
Aug 28

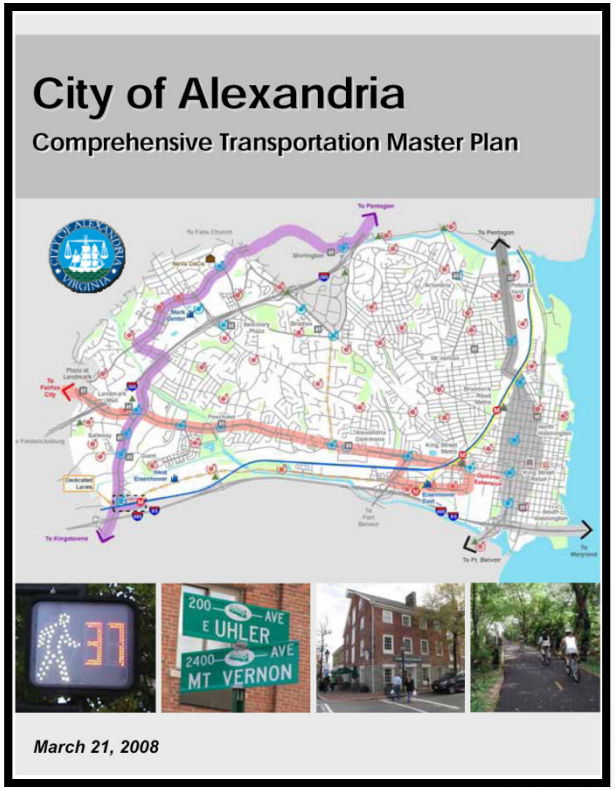
Provide preferences and comments on design alternatives and recommendations

Meeting #3:
Sept 18

Select preferred design alternative

Comprehensive Transportation Master Plan

- March 2008
- Provides the overarching vision and goals for our study
  - Multimodal emphasis
  - Balance between travel efficiency and quality of life
  - Transportation choice
  - Infrastructure recommendations
  - Accessibility and mobility



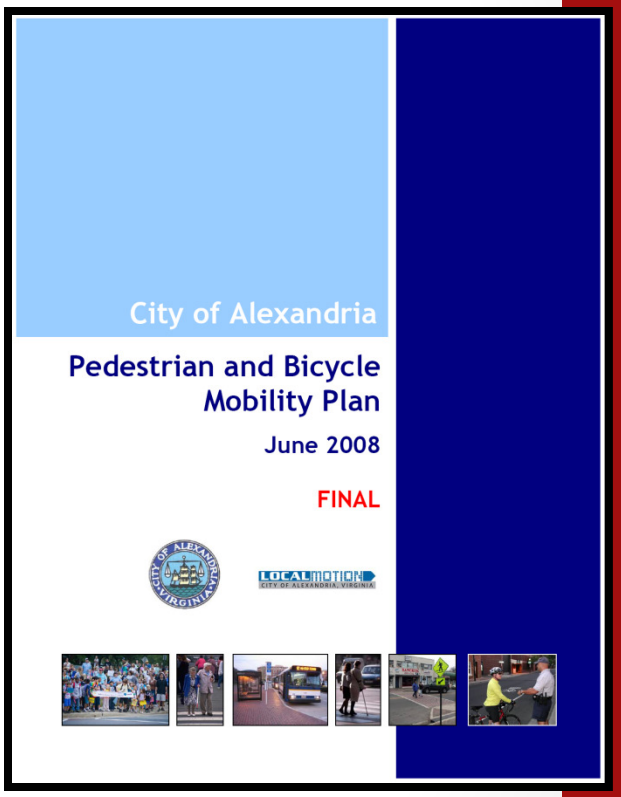
Alexandria Waterfront Small Area Plan

- July 2011
- Informs our understanding of future land use and development changes in the study area
- Goals
  - Connected
  - Dynamic
  - Manageable
- Public space
- Parking

- Transportation
  - Signal timing and new signals
  - Pedestrian congestion
  - Wayfinding
  - Safety retrofits
  - Accessibility
  - Bike share
  - Enforcement
  - Transit

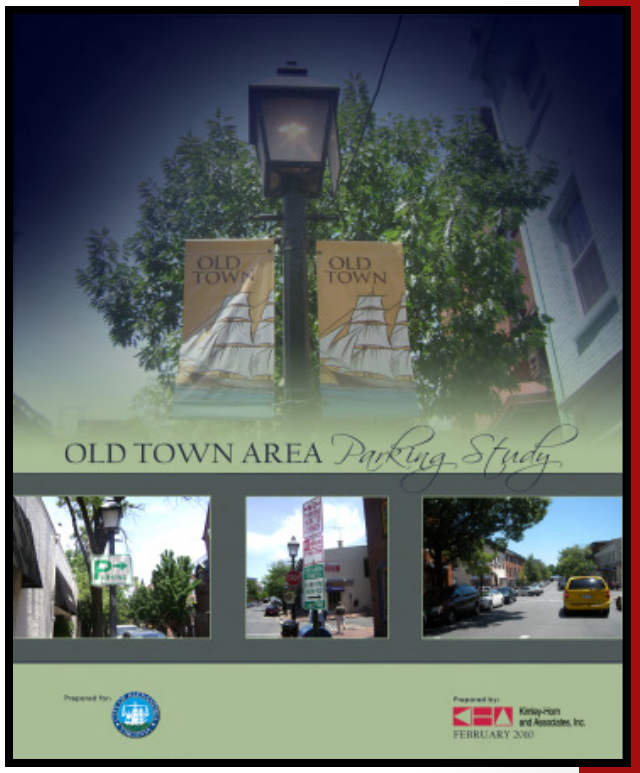
Pedestrian and Bicycle Mobility Plan

- June 2008
- Provides starting point for recommended bike and pedestrian improvements and how they might be prioritized
  - Citywide pedestrian and bike data collection and recommendations
  - Prioritization
  - Bicycle and Pedestrian Priority Streets



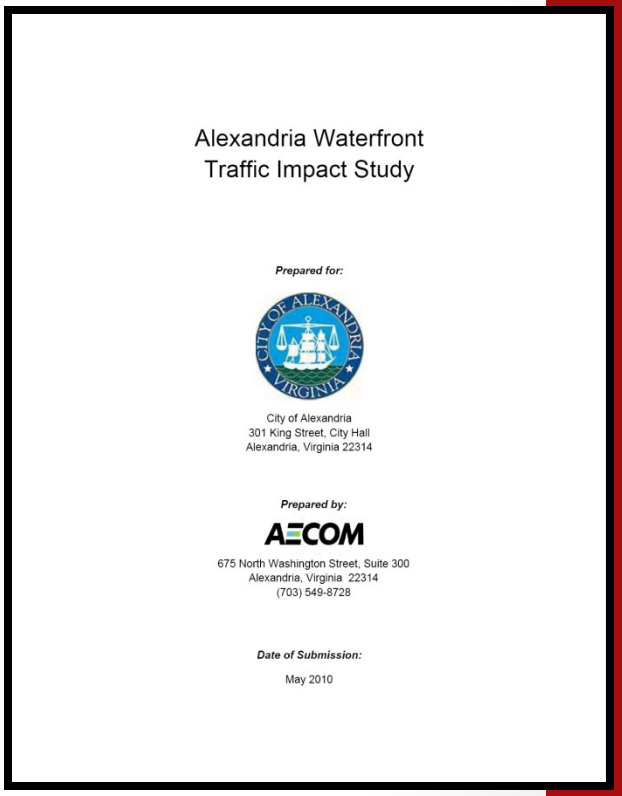
Old Town Parking Study and Implementation Plan

- February 2010
- Provides baseline understanding of broader parking issues and opportunities in Old Town, which we'll:
  - Apply to study area
  - Test based on current data collection
  - Expand upon as needed
- Garage and wayfinding strategies



Alexandria Waterfront Traffic Impact Study

- May 2010
- Provides baseline traffic analysis, which we'll use to evaluate what we're observing today
  - Key intersections focus on access to/from Washington Street
  - Provides recommendations for all modes and evaluates impact of potential improvements



Alexandria Waterfront
Traffic Impact Study

Prepared for:

City of Alexandria
301 King Street, City Hall
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Prepared by:

AECOM

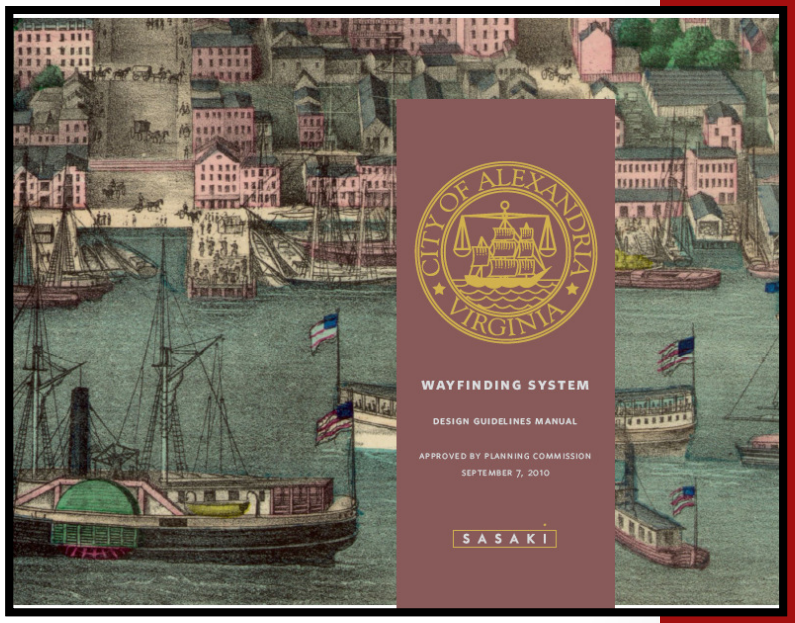
675 North Washington Street, Suite 300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 549-8728

Date of Submission:

May 2010

Other Plans and Studies

- Wayfinding System Design Guidelines Manual (September 2010)
- Motorcoach Task Force (2008-2010)
- Windmill Hill Park Consensus Plan Development (January 2002)
- Other



Status of Ongoing Work

- Safety Analysis
- Union Street & King Street Behavior Analysis
- Delivery Truck Activity
- Daily Traffic Counts
- Turning Movement Counts
- Stakeholder Interviews

Safety Analysis

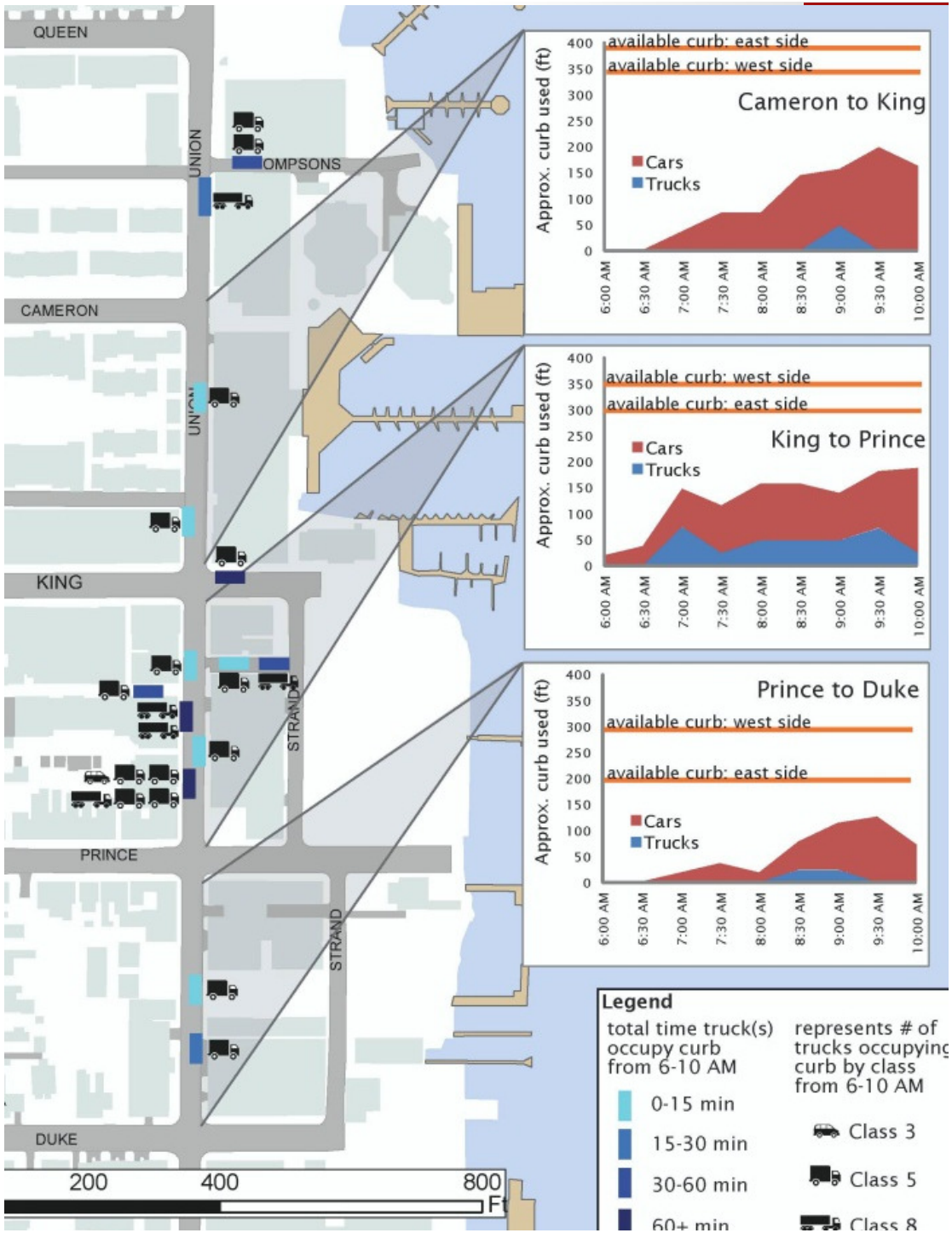
- Only a few reported crashes
- "Near misses" aren't reported
- User comfort not captured

Union Street & King Street

What are the major complaints and concerns at this intersection?

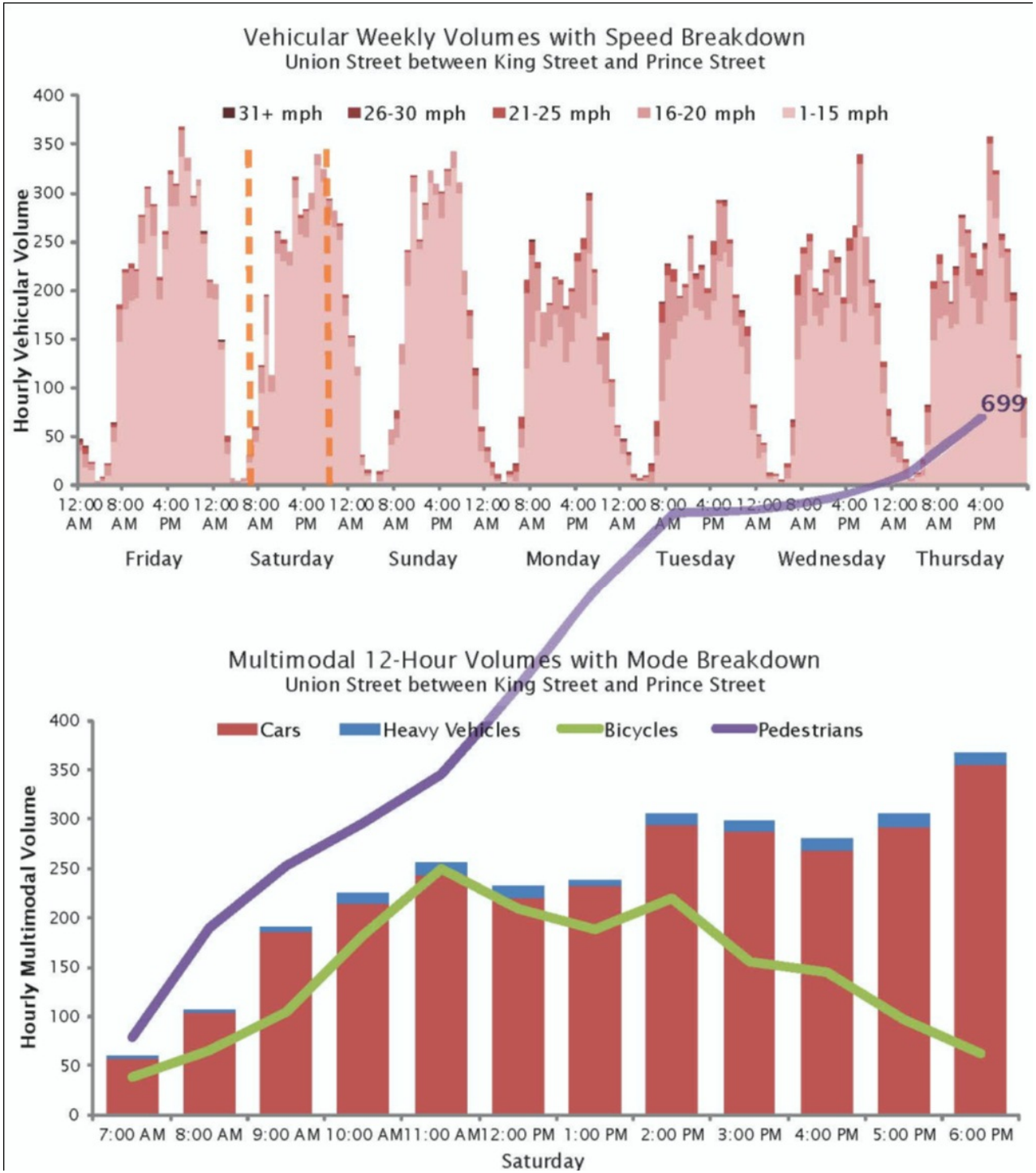
Delivery Truck Activity

- Deliveries started at 7 AM
- Busiest between King and Prince
- More activity on the weekday



Daily Traffic Counts

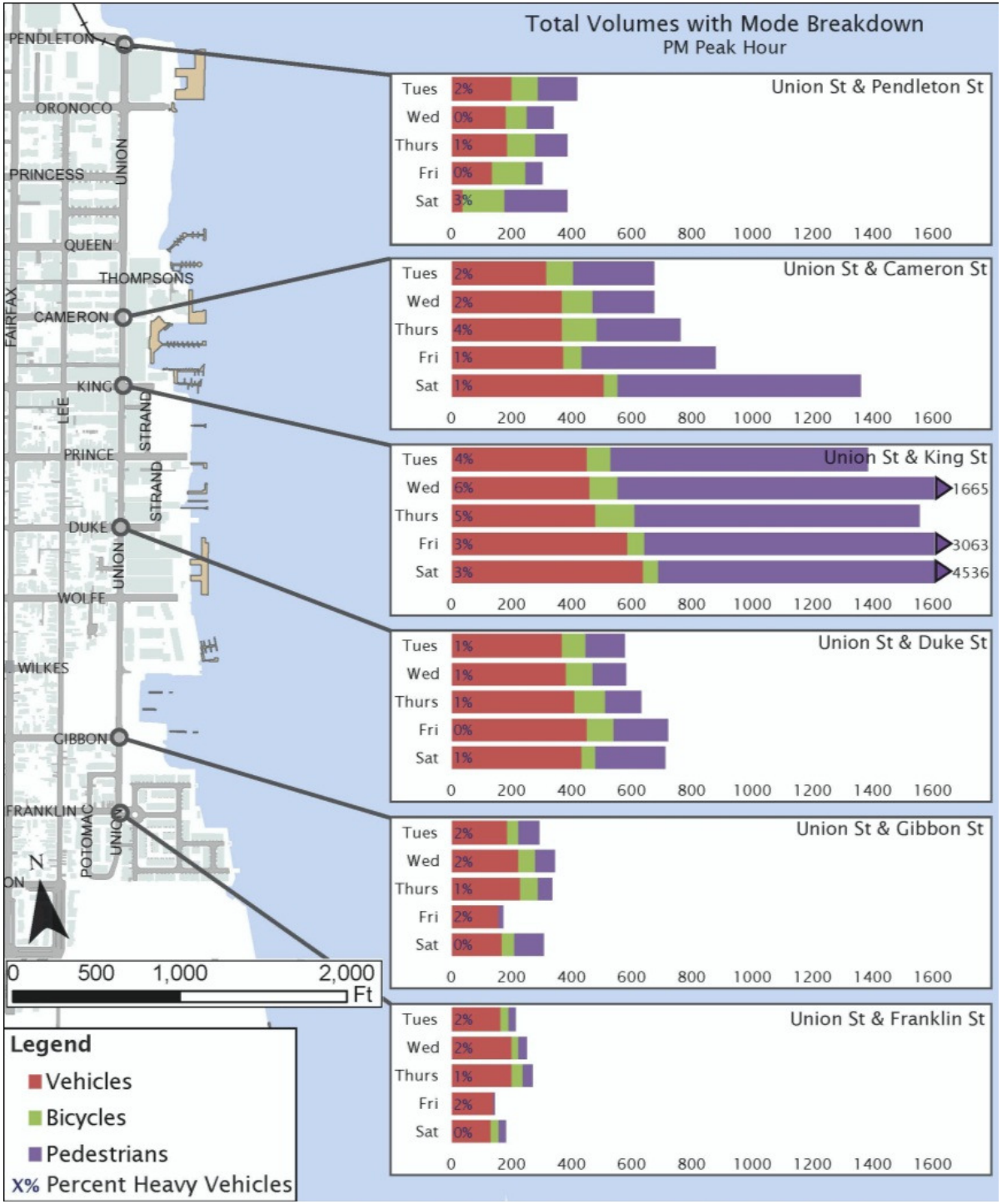
- Traffic volumes highest Friday to Sunday
- Motorist speeds slow
- Bicyclists volume highest mid-day on Saturday
- Pedestrian volume off the charts!



Turning Movement Counts

Thursday Evening

- Union & King
  - 482 cars
  - 950 peds
- Fairfax & King
  - 759 cars
  - 503 peds
- Wash. & King
  - 3,344 cars
  - 603 peds



Discussion Question (1/4)

What is **working well** on Union Street today and what is **not working well**? How has it **changed over the years**?

Discussion Question (2/4)

What are the **most important competing needs** that we will need to balance as part of our effort?

Discussion Questions (3/4)

Which of the issues that exist today can be addressed through **physical and/or operational changes and which have more to do with behavior**?

Discussion Questions (4/4)

At the end of our process, how will we know that we have succeeded?