

A GRAHAM PROJECTS CASE STUDY

CURBSIDE COMMONS



THE SITUATION

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Curbside Commons Design for Distancing project converted a parking lane into a public space for community, shopping, services, and culinary encounters along Hamilton-Lauraville's main street, Harford Road. Design for Distancing is a tactical urban design initiative of the Baltimore Development Corporation and Neighborhood Design Center intended to help small businesses in Baltimore reopen without compromising public health.

OUR SOLUTION

For the Curbside Commons we created safe pedestrian space using traffic bump outs, line striping, flex-posts, bike racks, and a first-of-its-kind midblock crosswalk with traffic island. Artful, high-contrast asphalt coating visually unify the Curbside Commons while demarking the former parking lane as a premiere safe space for pedestrian conviviality and commerce.



HOW WE GOT THERE

We collaborated with Hamilton-Lauraville Main Street and adjacent small businesses to understand their needs to stay open while maintaining physical distancing and other COVID-19 precautions. Through facilitated discussions facilitated, merchants asked for outdoor seating, distancing markers, event space, pedestrian and wheelchair accessibility, public art, signage, bicycle parking, and artful wayfinding.



OUR DESIGN IN ACTION

Since installing the space local businesses have reported an increase in foot traffic and sales. During the warm months merchants and shoppers filled the pedestrian spaces with activity, especially during the locally organized First Fridays evening event series. The Curbside Commons has proven so popular that Hamilton-Lauraville Main Street, participating merchants, and countless residents have already expressed enthusiasm to keep the public space intact beyond the necessity of COVID-19 precautions.

THIS PROJECT...

ENGAGED

21

small businesses
and community
groups

HOSTED

3

pop-up
community design
events

INCREASED

80

foot traffic along
Harford Rd

ADDED

7,500^{sf}

of outdoor
pedestrian space

ADDED



ADA and bicycle
access