

THE CROSS STREET REJUVENATION PROJECT

THE FUTURE OF GALWAY STREETS

Galway City Council intends to enhance Cross Street, Middle Street, Buttermilk Lane, Buttermilk Walk and Abbeygate Street Lower as part of the Cross Street Rejuvenation Project.

This project seeks to enhance Cross Street, Middle Street, Buttermilk Lane, Buttermilk Walk and Abbeygate Street Lower in line with the vision of the Galway Public Realm Strategy. This Strategy, first published in 2019, sets out a vision for improvement of Galway's unique streetscape and network of public and green spaces. The Strategy will also guide investment and development into the future. In enhancing these specific streets, the reach of the city centre core is extended beyond the Pedestrianised Core of Shop Street. To extend this reach, the Public Realm Strategy identifies a series of Principal Streets to support this objective and these are highlighted within the project area below.

BDP have been appointed by Galway City Council to develop the proposals for the Cross Street Rejuvenation Project in line with the Galway Public Realm Strategy. The project is in the first stage and will progress through planning, detailed design, tender and delivery.

HAVE YOUR SAY!



You can email any thoughts to: Urbanism@galwaycity.ie



Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

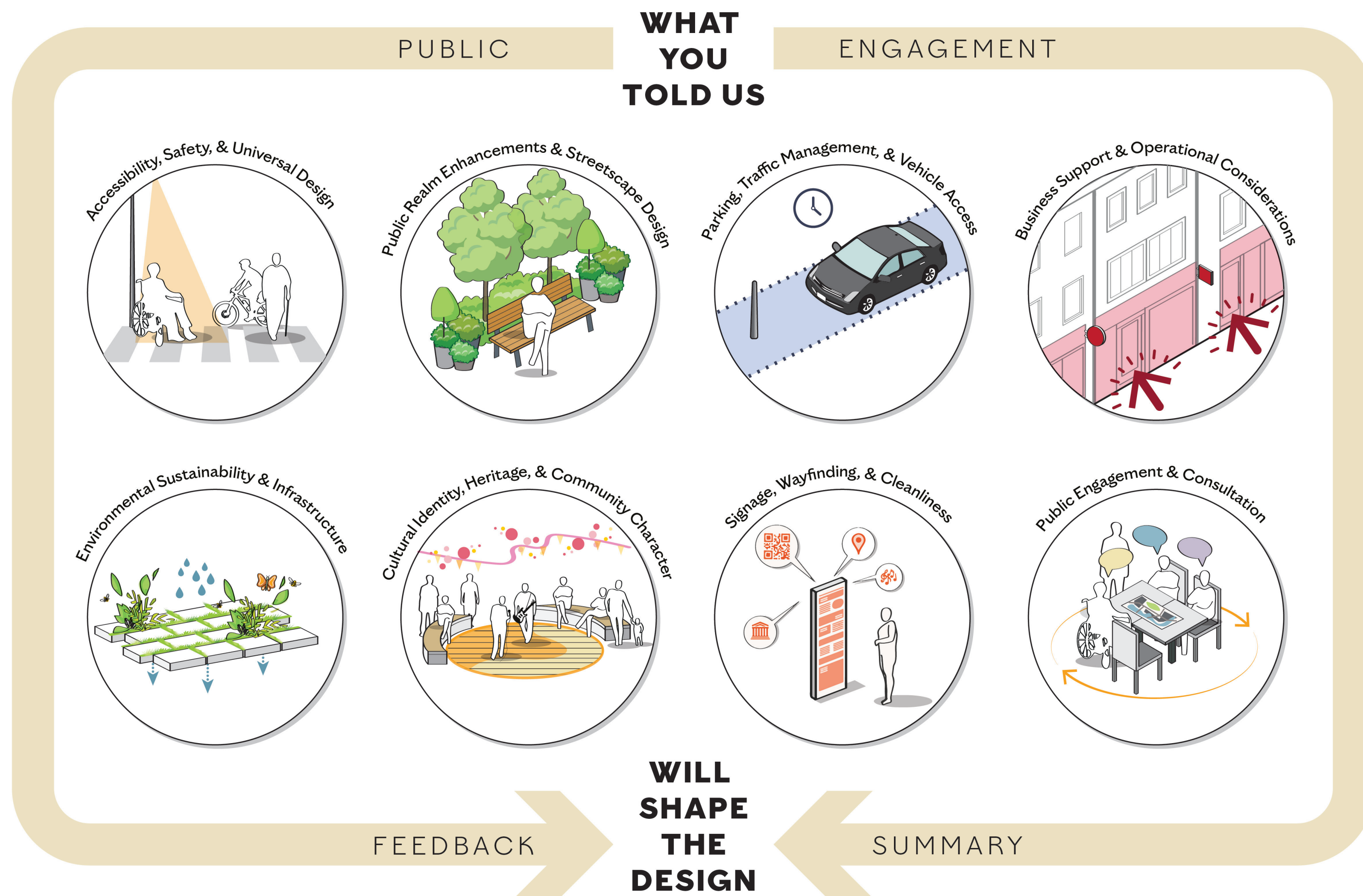


Comhairle Cathrach
na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council

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THE CROSS STREET REJUVENATION PROJECT

RECAP OF ENGAGEMENT EVENT



The Cross Street Rejuvenation feedback will form the basis of the initial design in the next chapter and provide a reference point to the current challenges and opportunities of the project. An in-person Public Engagement Event was held across two days at the An Taibhdhearc in August 2024, as well as the two online workshops prior to this event. 206 individual comments received from the Public Engagement Event have been summarised into the below three categories:

45% Cross Street Rejuvenation Specific Feedback (91 Comments Identified)

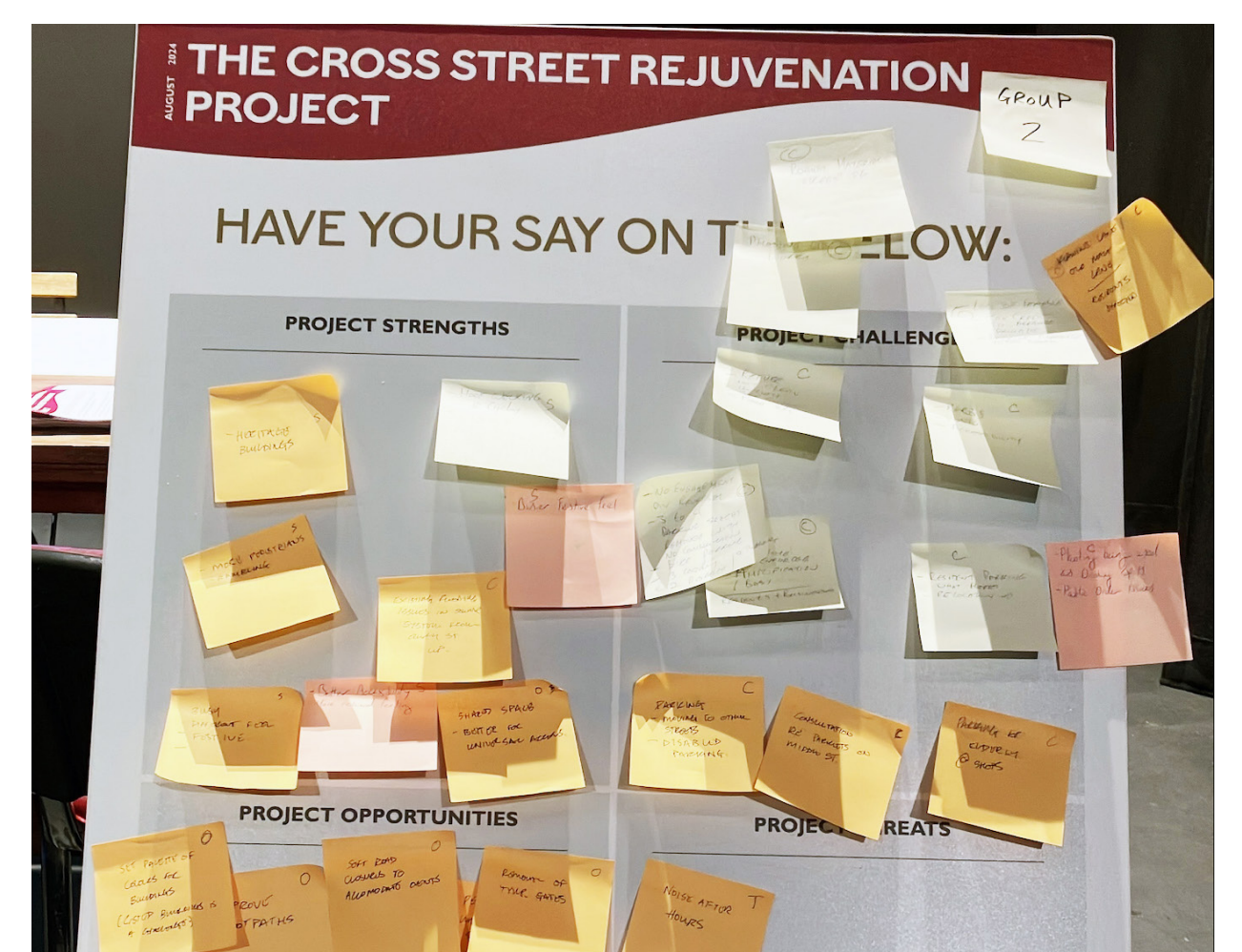
- 1st Accessibility, Safety, and Universal Design
- 2nd Public Realm Enhancements and Streetscape Design
- 3rd Parking, Traffic Management, and Vehicle Access
- 4th Business Support and Operational Considerations
- 4th Environmental Sustainability and Infrastructure
- 6th Cultural Identity, Heritage, and Community Character
- 7th Signage, Wayfinding, and Cleanliness
- 8th Public Engagement and Consultation

32% General Feedback (66 Comments Identified)

- 1st Heritage, Cultural Identity, and Historical Preservation
- 2nd Public Realm Improvements, Accessibility, and Community Atmosphere
- 3rd Infrastructure, Environmental, and Accessibility Concerns
- 4th Tourism, Wayfinding, and Public Space Use
- 5th Safety, Public Order, and Anti-Social Behaviour
- 6th Economic Activity and Business Mix

23% Galway City Wider Considerations (49 Comments Identified)

- 1st Public Amenities, Sanitation, and Cleanliness
- 2nd Street Management, Traffic Control, and Accessibility
- 3rd Safety, Security, and Surveillance
- 4th Noise Management and Public Space Use
- 4th Cultural Identity, Community Spaces, and Building Enhancements
- 4th Infrastructure and Climate Resilience



The photos above were taken at the engagement event.

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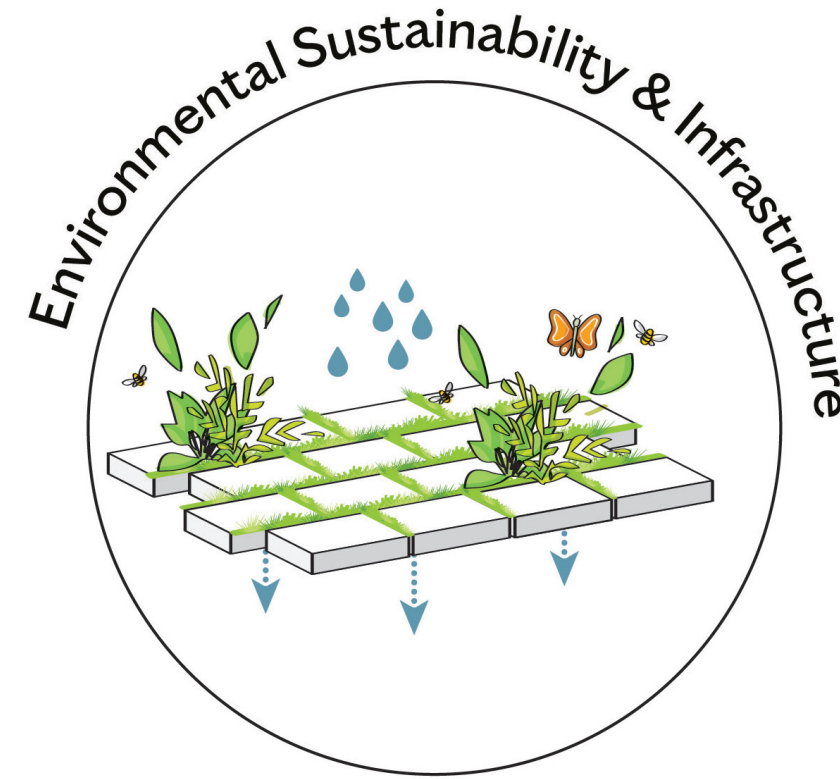
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RECAP OF ENGAGEMENT EVENT

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED FOR CROSS STREET REJUVENATION



- A significant concern for most stakeholders is ensuring that the area is accessible and safe for all users.
- This includes making sure that crossings are flat for wheelchair users and tactile for the visually impaired, improving footpaths to prevent slips and falls, and enhancing street lighting to ensure safety at night.
- Stakeholders also emphasized the need for universal design principles to be applied throughout shared spaces to accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists without compromising safety.



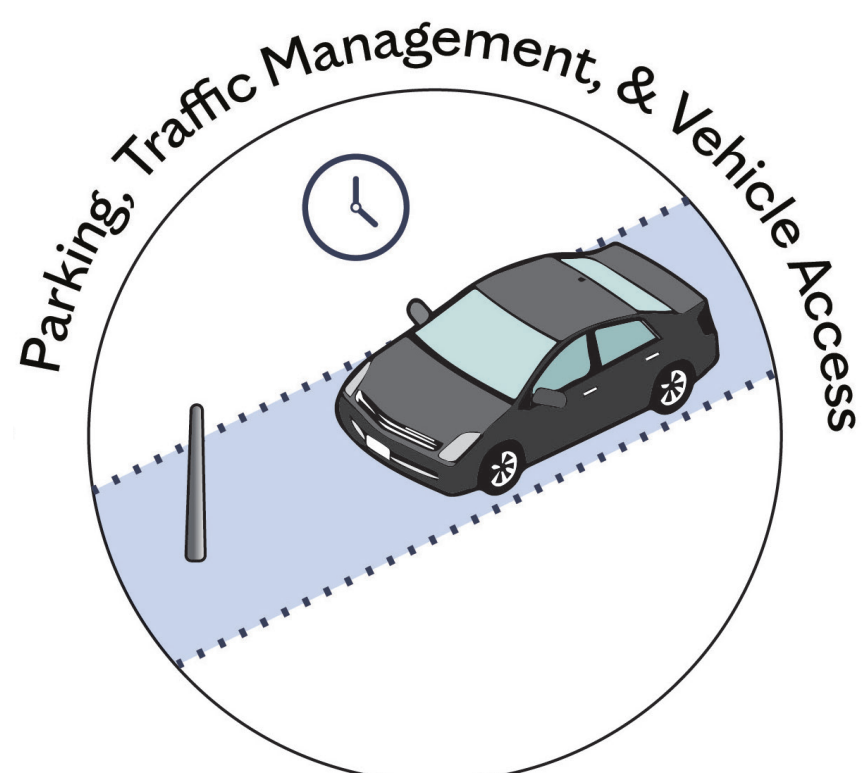
- The stakeholders are keen on integrating sustainable practices into the project, such as using climate-friendly materials, managing urban heat islands, and implementing permeable paving solutions.
- The need for future-proofing utilities, protecting building façades during works, and managing overhead wires by placing them underground were also highlighted.



- Enhancing the public realm through improved streetscape design is a priority for stakeholders.
- Feedback highlights the need for more greenery, better quality finishes, accessible and comfortable seating options, and integrating cultural and historical landmarks into the streetscape.



- Maintaining and enhancing the cultural identity and heritage of the area is seen as essential. Feedback suggests incorporating historical narratives, such as the story of Buttermilk Lane, and creating a unique identity similar to the "Latin Quarter."
- Emphasizing cultural landmarks and heritage features can enhance the area's character and appeal to both locals and visitors.



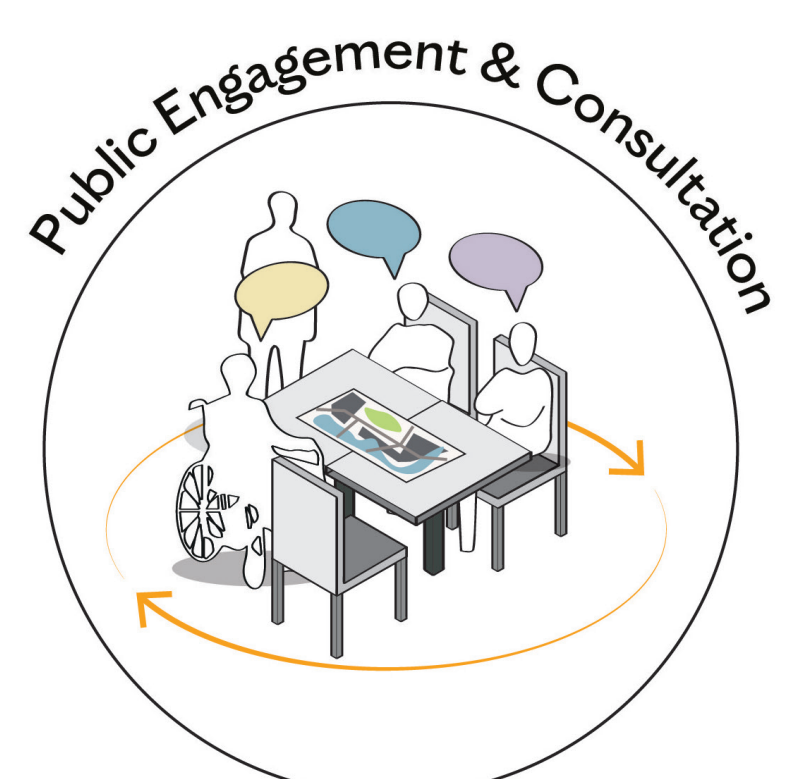
- There is strong feedback around maintaining adequate parking for residents, businesses, and visitors, including age-friendly parking and drop-off points for the elderly.
- Concerns were raised about the impact of removing vehicle drop-offs, particularly for service-oriented businesses like salons and opticians.
- Additionally, managing the dominance of cars in shared spaces and ensuring emergency vehicle access, such as with smart bollards and clear demarcations, are critical considerations.



- Clear signage and wayfinding are essential to guide pedestrians and traffic flow effectively.
- There is also a call for more litter bins and strategies to maintain cleanliness and enhance the pedestrian experience.

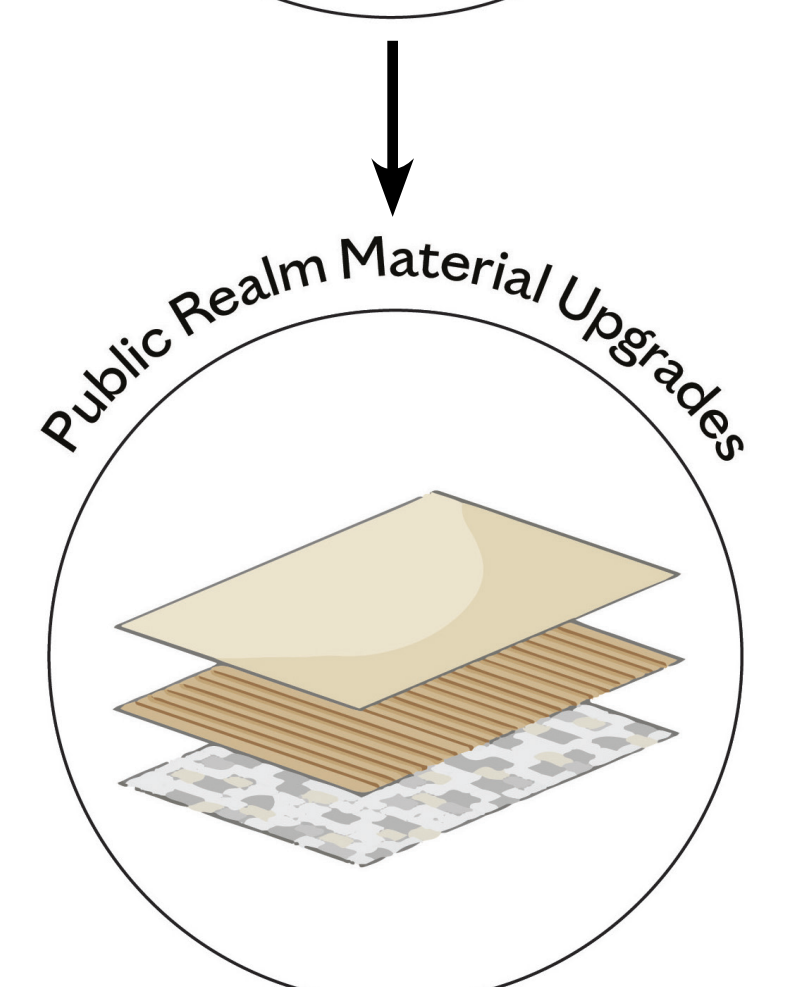


- Many Stakeholders stress the importance of supporting small and independent businesses, maintaining a diverse mix of shop styles, and managing delivery logistics to prevent blockages and disruptions.
- Considerations for waste management, such as accommodating refuse collection for restaurants, and the impact of street furniture and outdoor dining on business operations.



- Effective engagement and consultation with the community are critical to the project's success. Concerns were raised about insufficient engagement regarding specific changes, such as the removal of parking spaces.
- Future consultation efforts should ensure comprehensive stakeholder involvement and transparency.

THE THEMES ABOVE
WILL BE USED TO
ASSESS THE DESIGN
OPTIONS



- A long list of design studies has been carried out exploring a range of possibilities and changes.
- To enable a quantifiable assessment, the public engagement theme will be swapped for material upgrades and how it responds to the Galway Public Realm Strategy.
- The public engagement theme and consultation process will continue throughout the project development.

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DESIGN OPTIONS

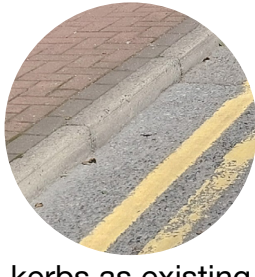
Approach 00

Do Nothing

Surface Materials



footpaths as existing



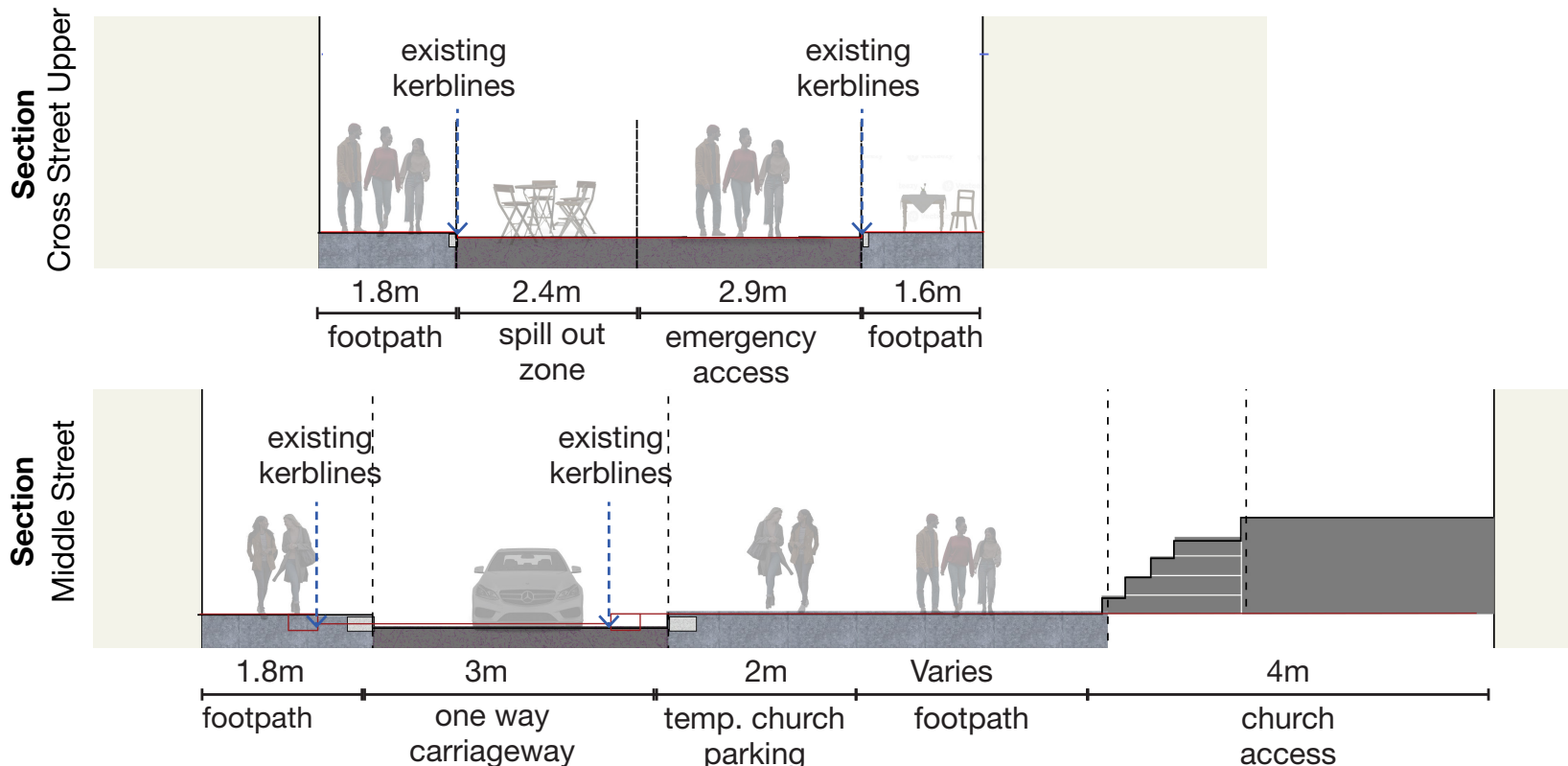
kerbs as existing



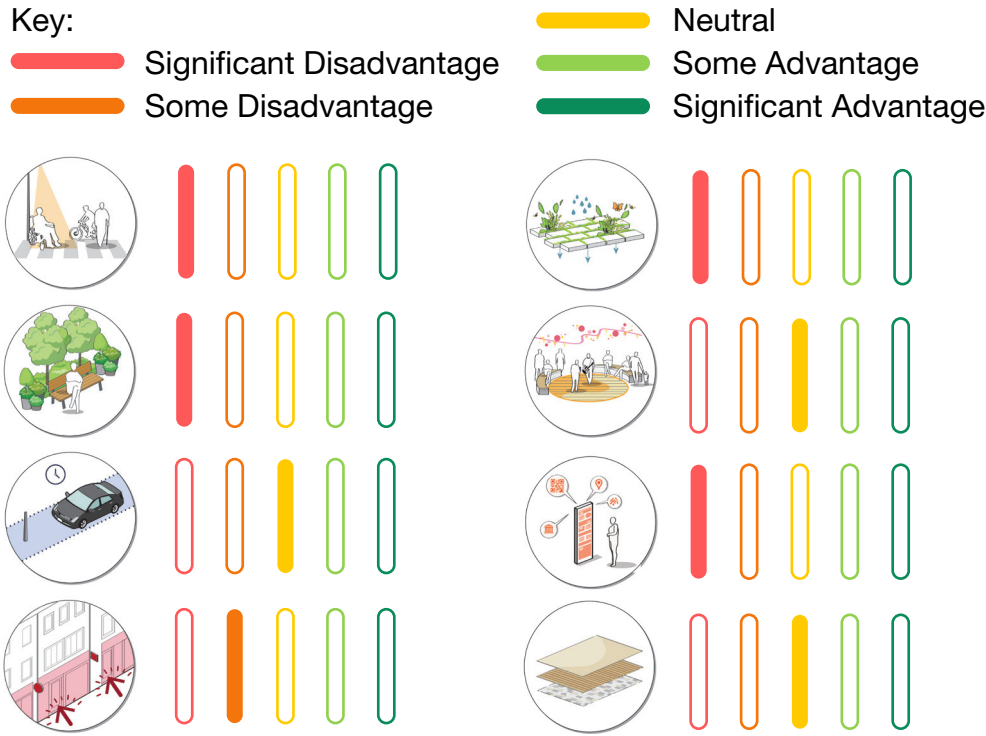
carriageway as existing

Does this meet the Galway Public Realm Strategy for materials?
Yes Partially **No**

Design Street Sections

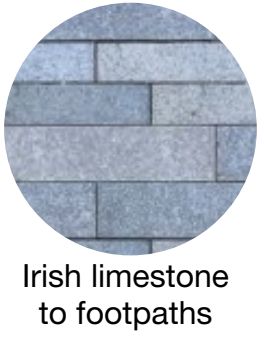


Scoring of Options based on Early Engagement

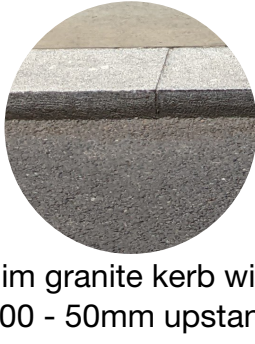


Approach 01

Minimal Change



Irish limestone to footpaths



slim granite kerb with 100 - 50mm upstand

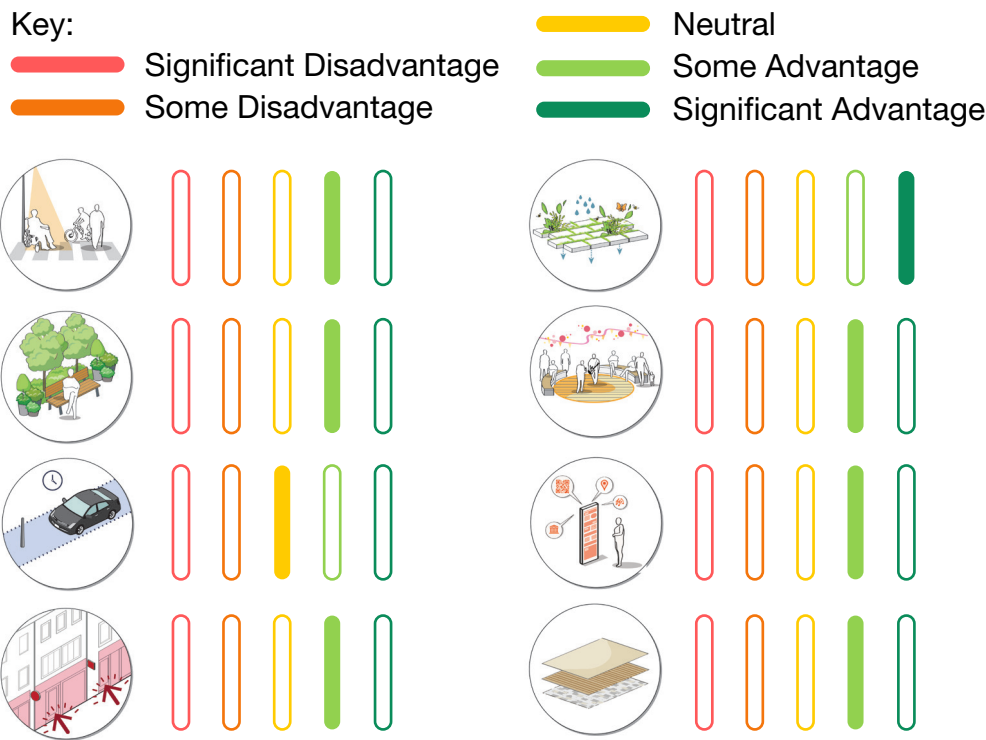
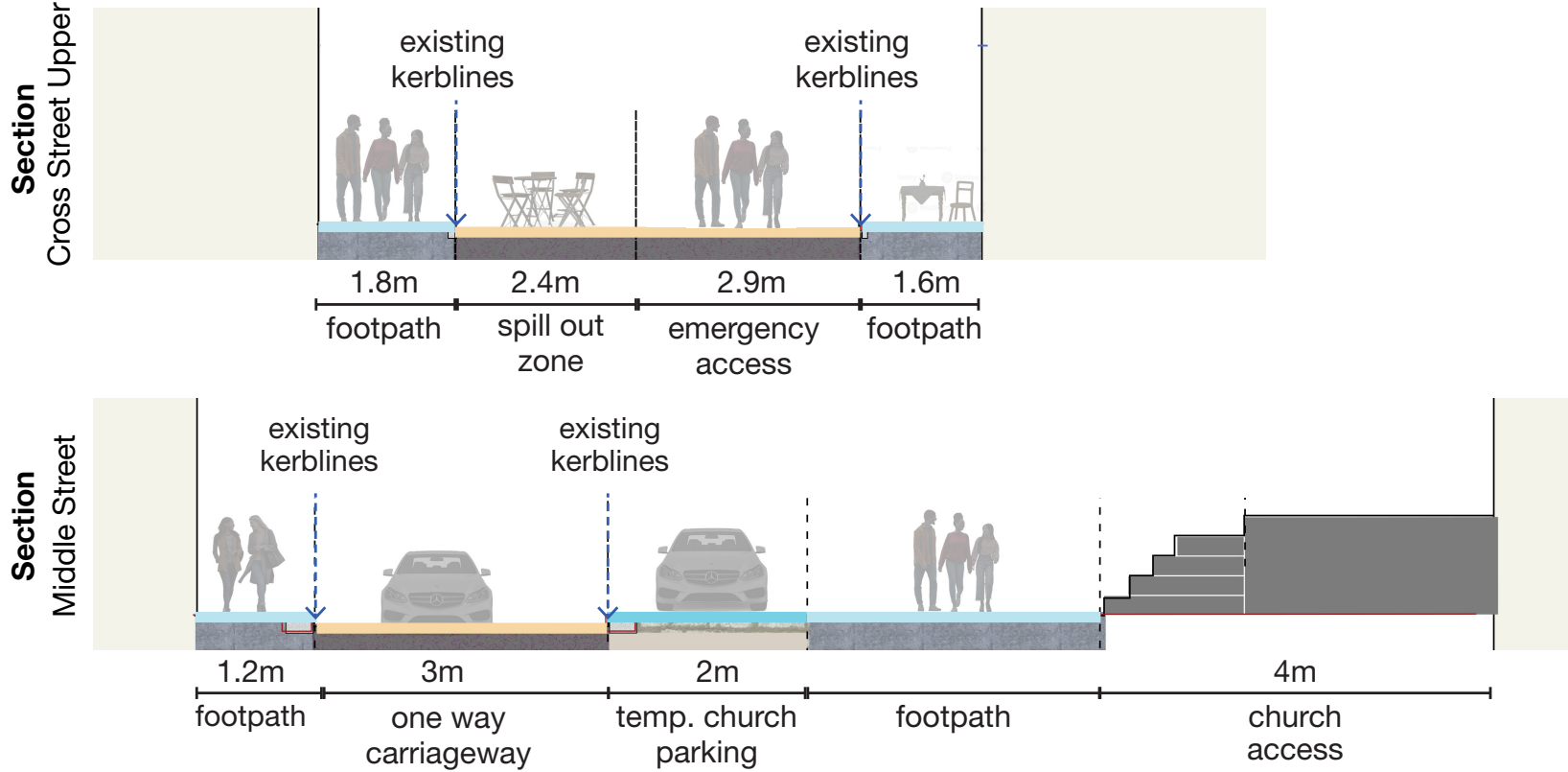


resurfaced asphalt to carriageway



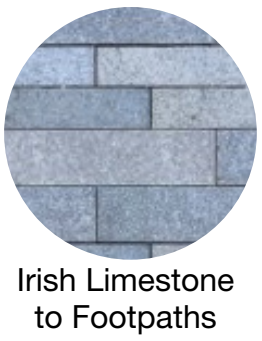
granite setts to parking

Does this meet the Galway Public Realm Strategy for materials?
Yes **Partially** No

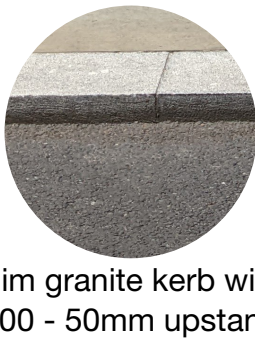


Approach 02

Improve Key Areas



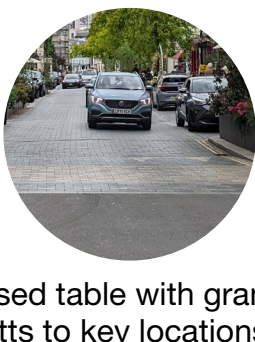
Irish Limestone to Footpaths



slim granite kerb with 100 - 50mm upstand

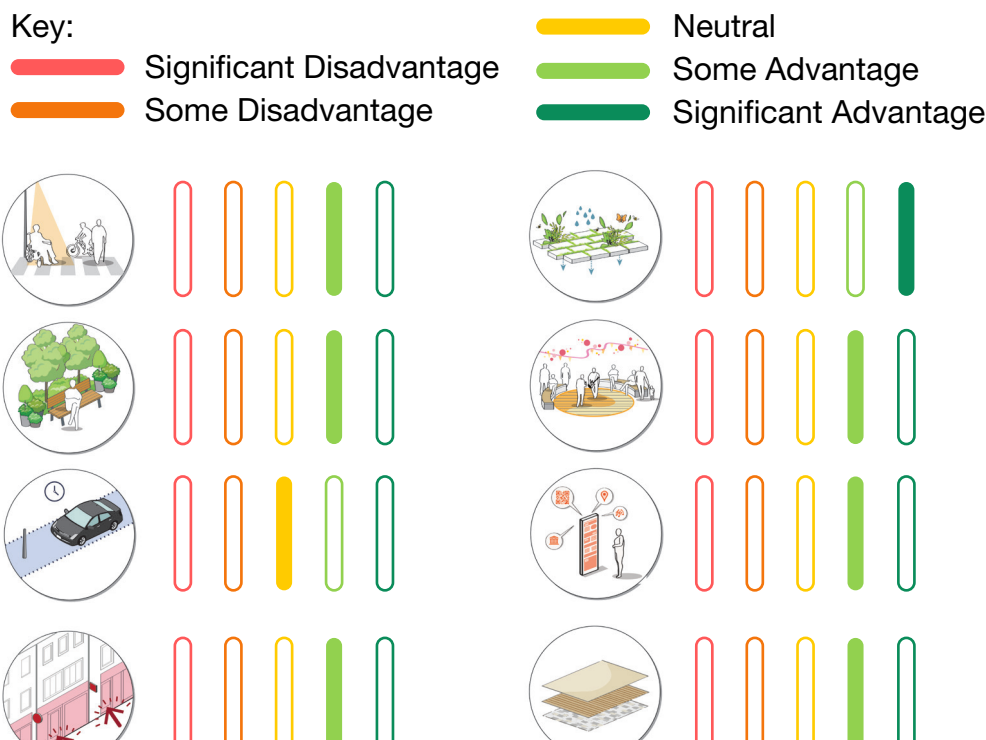
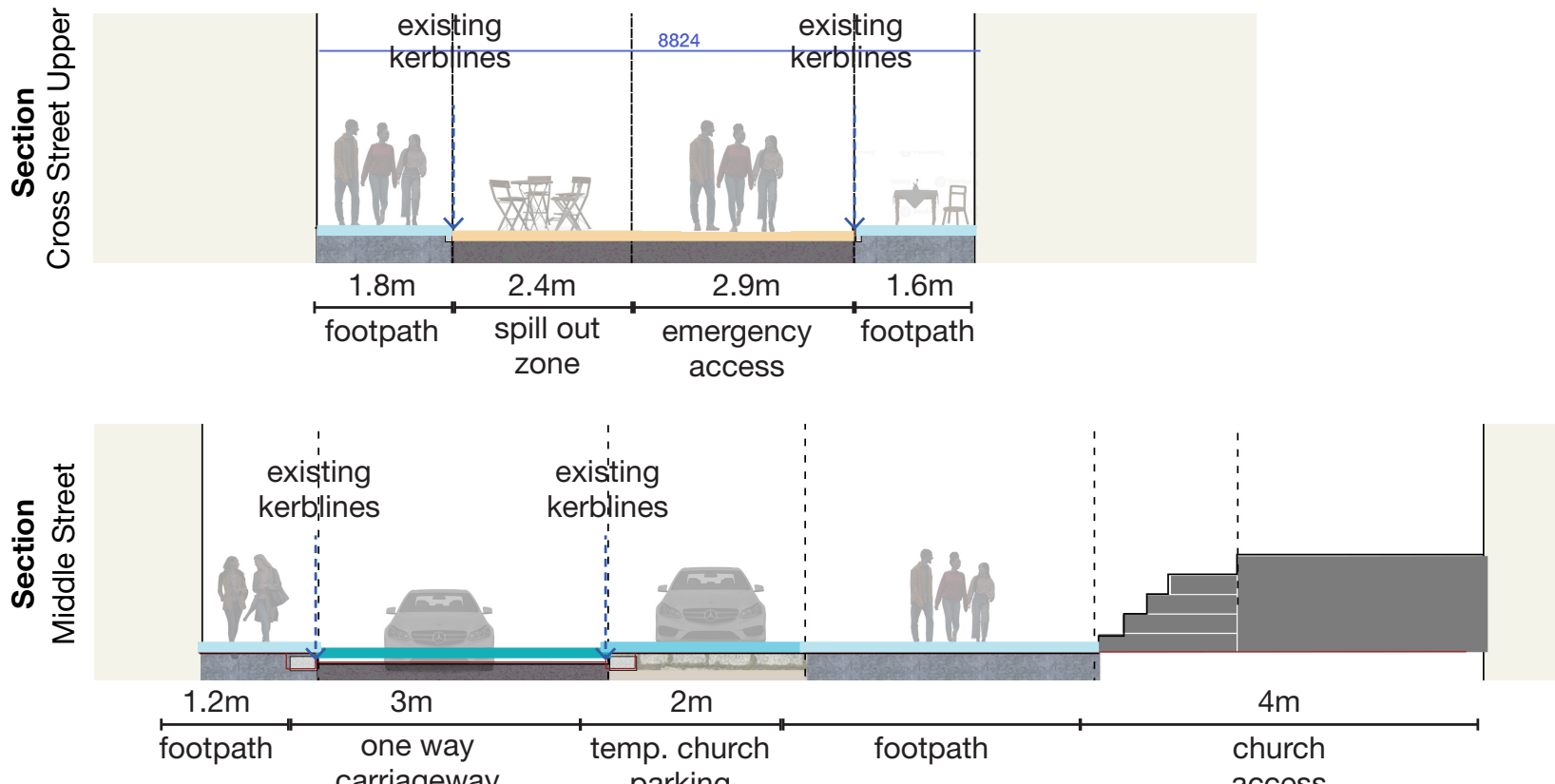


resurfaced asphalt to carriageway



raised table with granite setts to key locations & loading/parking bays

Does this meet the Galway Public Realm Strategy for materials?
Yes **Partially** No

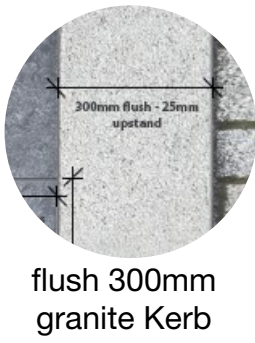


Approach 03

Rebalance Streets



Irish limestone to footpaths



flush 300mm granite Kerb

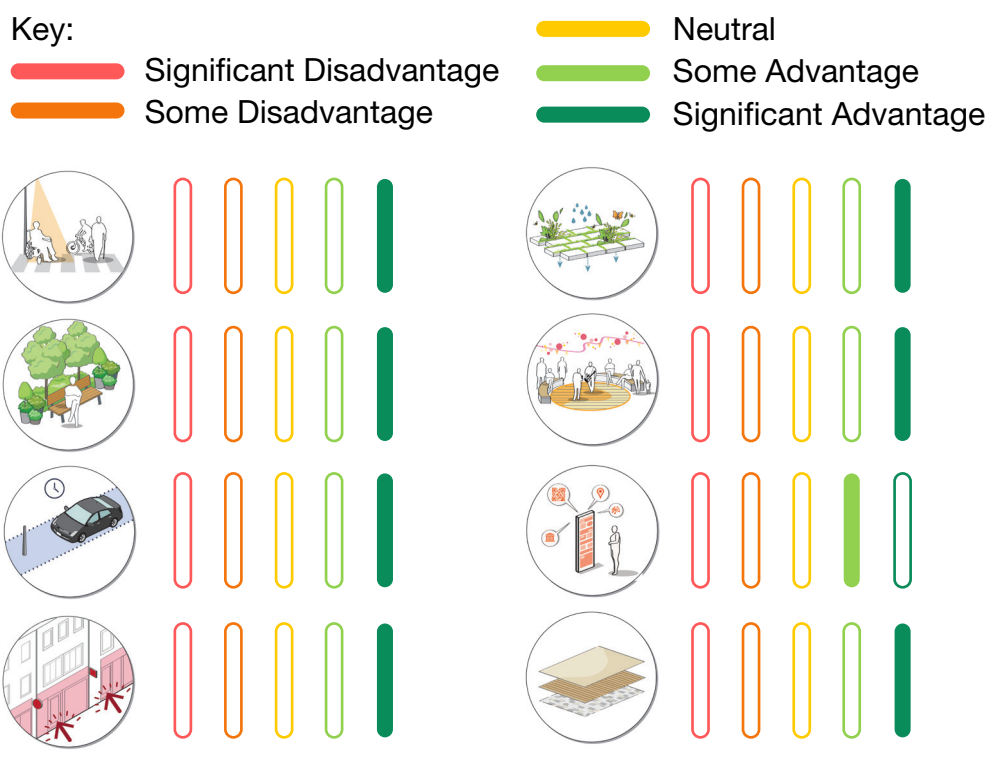
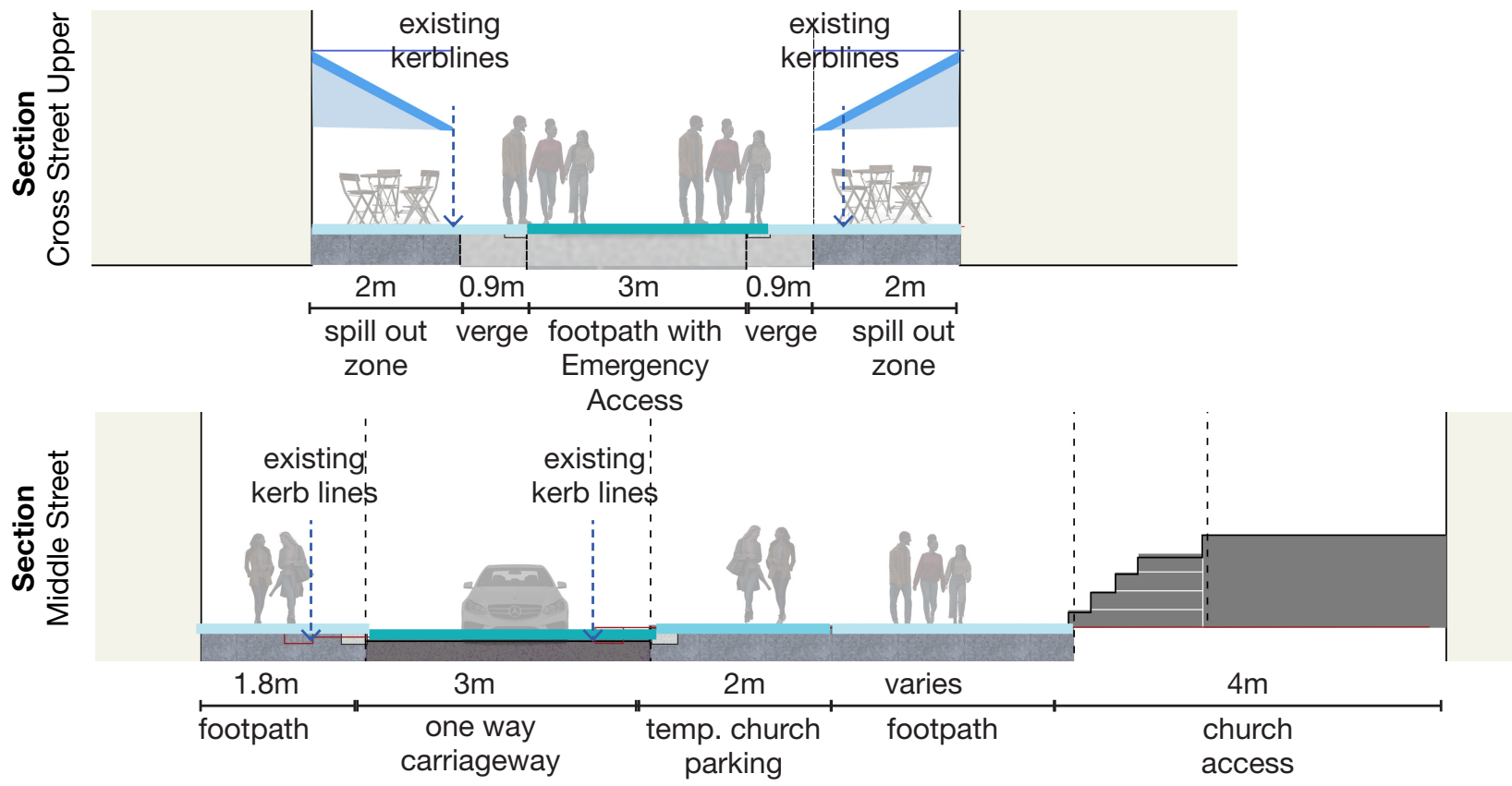


granite setts to central zone for emergency access



raised table with granite setts to key locations

Does this meet the Galway Public Realm Strategy for materials?
Yes Partially No

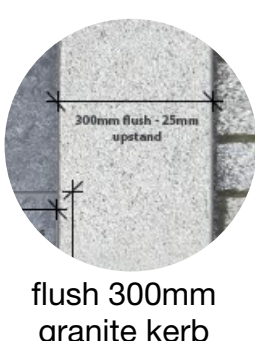


Approach 04

Pedestrianise All Streets



Irish limestone to footpaths



flush 300mm granite kerb

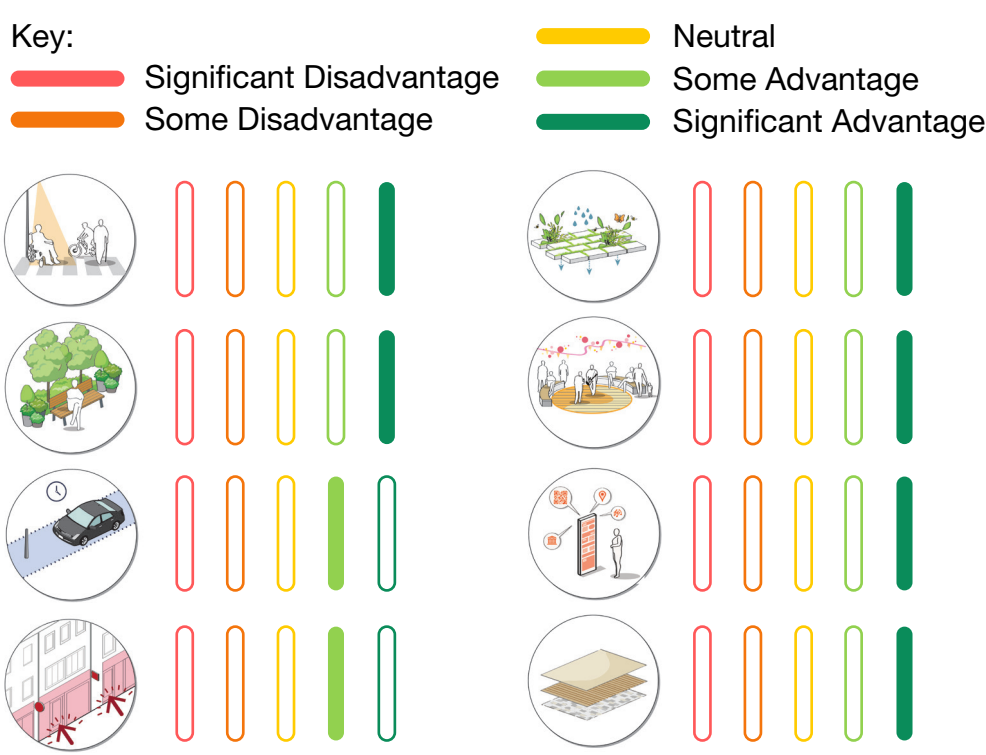
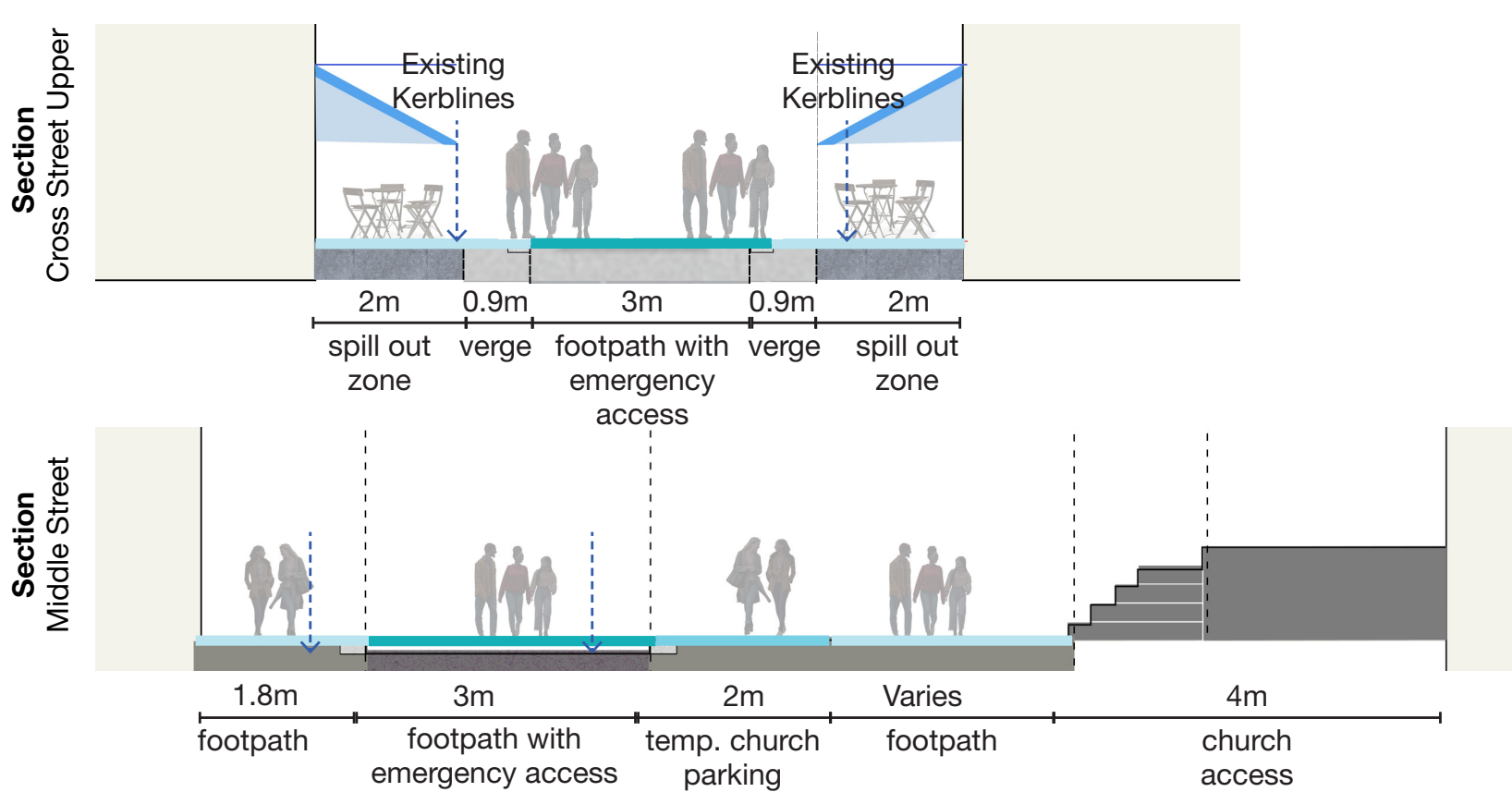


granite setts to central zone for emergency access



raised table with granite setts to key locations

Does this meet the Galway Public Realm Strategy for materials?
Yes Partially No



Approaches that meet most criterion

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CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

Engagement at commencement

A series of workshops to acknowledge the project's start.

The goal is to ask for thoughts on what's most important to the scheme.

1ST
STEP

WE ARE HERE →

2ND
STEP

Engagement at options development

Make a basic design from initial research. Hold workshops to check if it's on track and get feedback to inform design development.

Engagement at prelim design

Show the final draft designs prior to Part VIII proposal to ensure the design developed from Step 1 and Step 2's feedback meets project expectations.

3RD
STEP

4TH
STEP

Statutory Engagement as part of Part 8

Show the final design proposed for Part VIII planning that incorporates feedback and addresses concerns collated along the process.

PLEASE WRITE YOUR FEEDBACK ON THE PROVIDED PAPER.

FOR MORE INFORMATION SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT

<https://www.galwaycity.ie/homepage/urbanism-and-public-realm/cross-street-rejuvenation-project>



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