

One Green Mile:

An Inclusive Streetscape and Public Space
Mumbai, India

Project Statement

One Green Mile is a benchmark streetscape upgradation project demonstrating the development of an “Equal Street” in the heart of Mumbai’s dense urban fabric. It creates a street that is safe for everyone, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation in a sustainable and liveable urban environment.

The newly designed street articulates an innovative way of streamlining the vehicular traffic and reclaiming road area for pedestrians, cyclists and comfortable landscapes. The 2.3 acres public realm has one-third of the area covered in landscape, richly planted with local species of trees and shrubs in the busy commercial street. This further helps to reduce the urban heat island effect and improve air quality. The increased porous area also helps as a cost-effective green infrastructure for storm water management. The once neglected underflyover space is now a well-programmed community park for people of all ages. Planting extends throughout this space, providing much needed greenery on both sides that helps in reducing the air pollution and also provides an audio-visual buffer, while cooling the surrounding spaces. One Green Mile showcases an inclusive complete street transformed into a truly public space in the city promoting social cohesion and community well-being.

Project Narrative

In cities like Mumbai, finding synergies between mobility, infrastructure, and open spaces is required to create liveable urban environments. One Green Mile provides an opportunity for developing a “Complete Street” in the busy financial hub of Mumbai that has a safe, active, and vibrant public realm while ensuring the efficient movement of vehicles. It demonstrates how encroached and underutilized spaces can be converted into a safe public realm and create a positive, safe, and enjoyable environment for all users of this neighbourhood.

This 1.8km stretch of Senapati Bapat Marg (SBM) passes through the Lower Parel district and is amongst the busiest sections as it connects to the existing suburban railway stations. To facilitate movement of commuters, bus stops and taxi stands are located along it. The road experiences extremely heavy traffic volumes especially during the peak hours; to address this a flyover was built in early 2000s, which bypasses a few of the junctions. One Green Mile aims to transform this vehicle dominated corridor to a Complete Street that addresses the needs for all users.

Detailed existing conditions analysis, stakeholder engagement and approval process between different authorities was initiated to kick start the project. The master plan proposed three main strategies (i) streamline traffic movements & street geometry (ii) equitably allocate space for all users and create a high-quality public realm (iii) develop the space under the flyover as a public space.

A traffic survey was conducted based on which an analysis was done to tabulate the requirements for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles. Considering the high volumes, an innovative solution involving reclaiming road space used for parking for the creation of a wider public realm was developed. This along with adjustment of the road geometries resulted in streamlining of traffic movement as well as creating a

public realm that reduces conflicts. The public realm was richly planted with local species of trees and shrubs and street furniture was introduced. This transformed the footpath from a narrow footpath hidden behind parked vehicles to an exciting and well programmed public realm including a cycle track.

The area under the flyover was neglected; an analysis of the context identified a severe lack of open space in the area. Following a series of brainstorming sessions with stakeholders the underflyover space was envisioned to be a thriving public place that includes play areas, seating, amphitheatre and a 'Vachanalaya'.

The masterplan identified multiple micro-destinations in the form of pause points of interest along the street, strategically located within the under-utilised areas under the flyover and new plazas nestled within the reclaimed pedestrian areas. The concerted efforts of the team resulted in the dark and dingy space being uplifted to the prime 'bagh' (park) of the area. The vertical elements have been painted with people, plants, and objects that tell the story of Lower Parel which has helped establish a link with the context and given it a local identity.

This street today is constructed and has seamlessly integrated with the lives of the Mumbaikars. Along this 1.8km stretch, the streetscape upgradation has reclaimed almost 2.3 acres of public realm, introduced five new modular and open bus-stops, added 130 new trees and 2,000 sqm of new public spaces under the flyover; making daily commute easier and comfortable for more than 1,50,000 people per day. One Green Mile showcases an inclusive complete street transformed into a truly public space in the city promoting social cohesion and community well-being.

A Complete Street

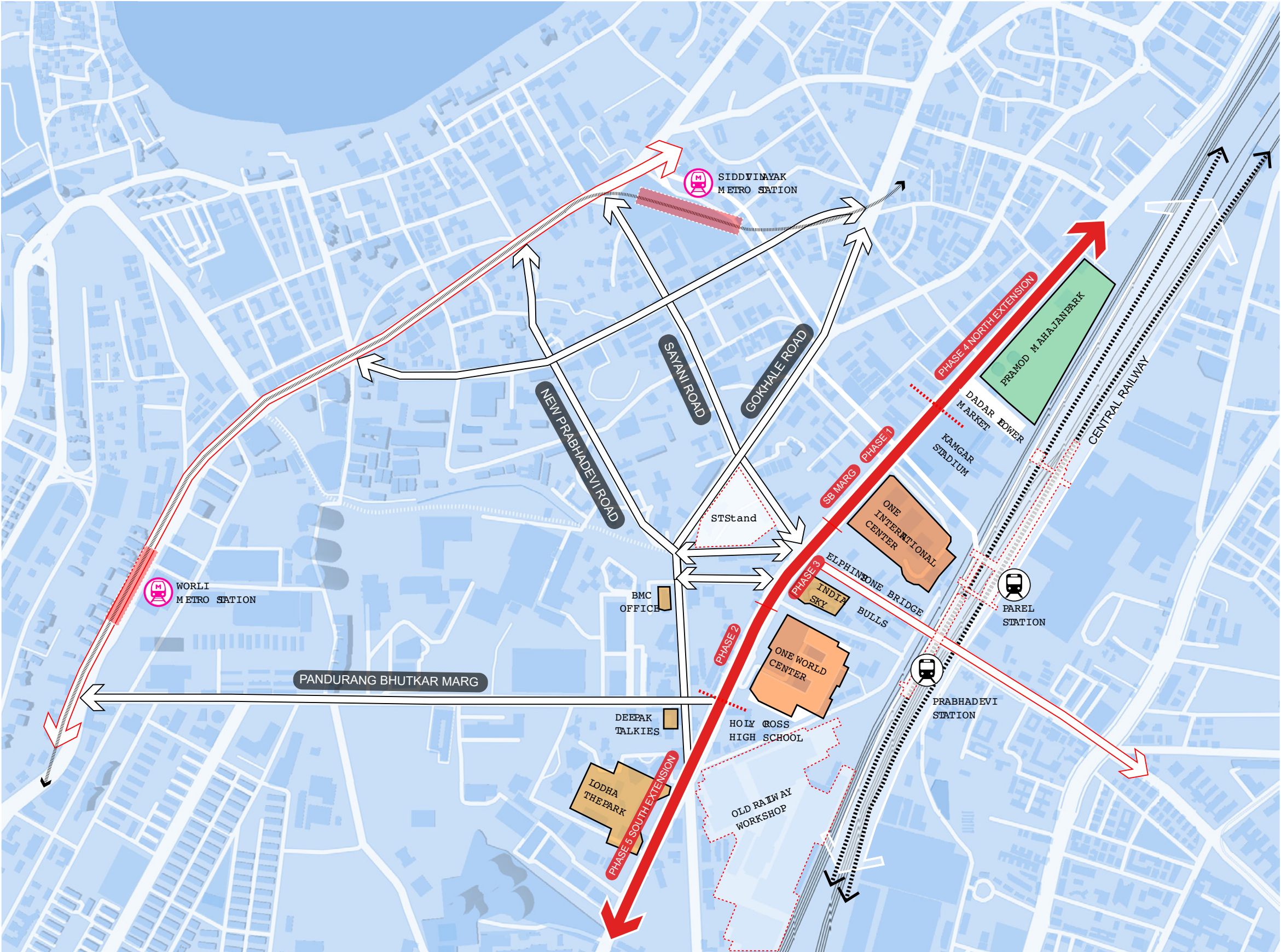
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Street as a Public Space

In cities like Mumbai, finding synergies between mobility, infrastructure, and open spaces is required to create liveable urban environments. The 1.8km stretch of Senapati Bapat Marg (SBM) is a vehicular thoroughfare that passes through the busy financial district of Mumbai


as it connects to multiple existing suburban railway stations catering to more than 150,000 commuters per day. The project “One Green Mile” aims to transform a vehicle dominated corridor to a Complete Street that addresses the needs for all users as a truly public space.



 **> 3,000 PCU**
extremely high traffic

 **limited NMT and public transport**

 **multi-modal street with high pedestrian volume**

 **> 65%**
high public transport users



Challenges -Pedestrian and Vehicular Movement

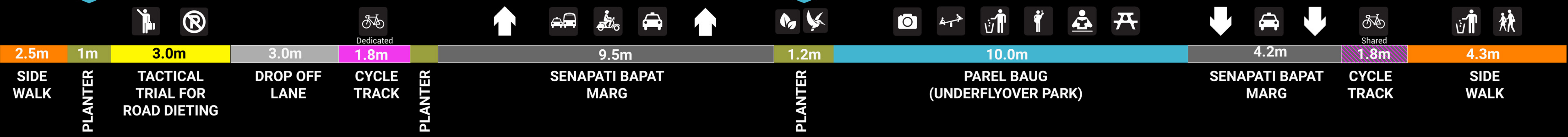
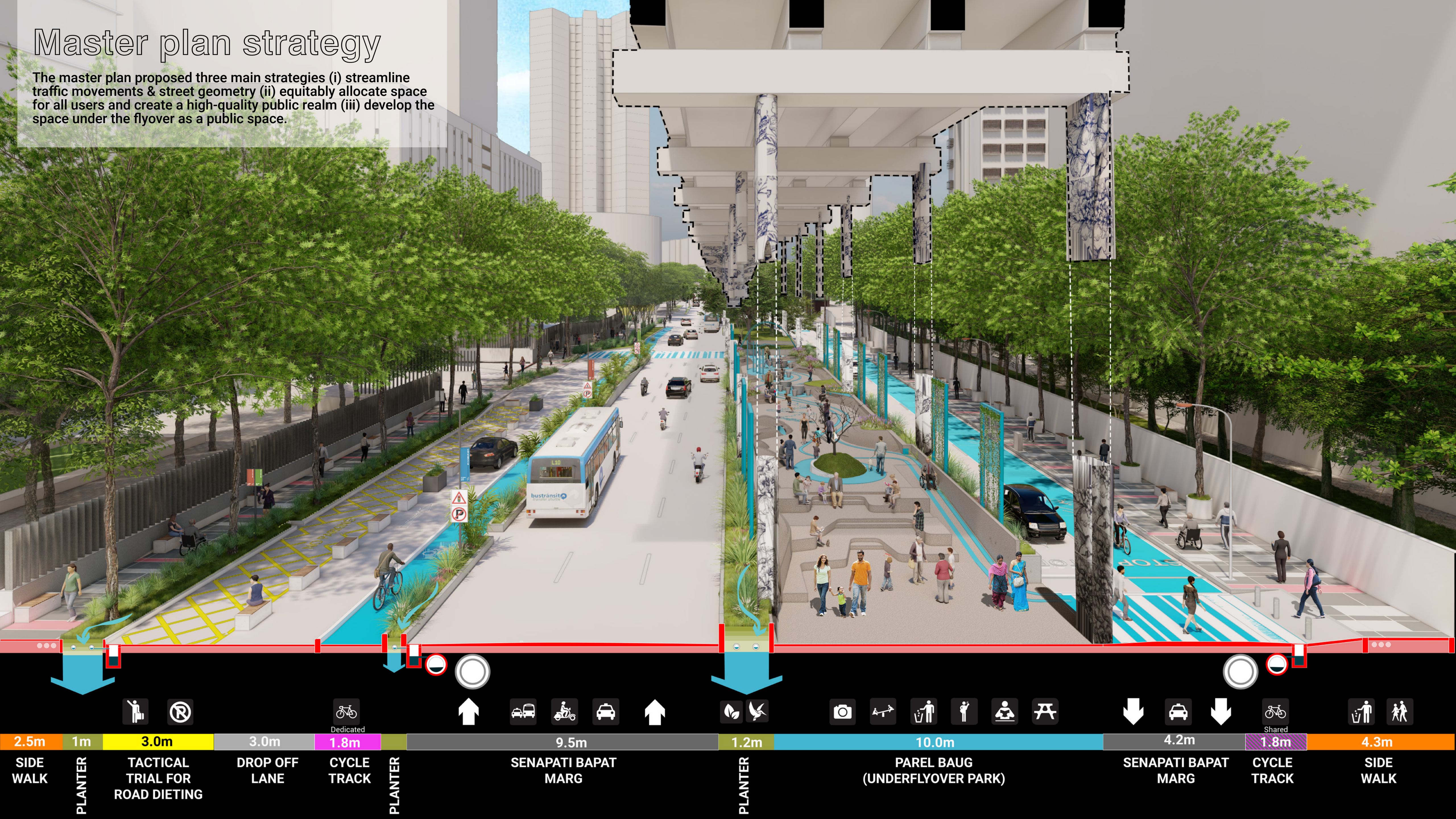
Pre-Implementation

The road experiences extremely heavy traffic volumes during the peak hours, inducing traffic conflicts making a very horrid pedestrian experience.



Master plan strategy

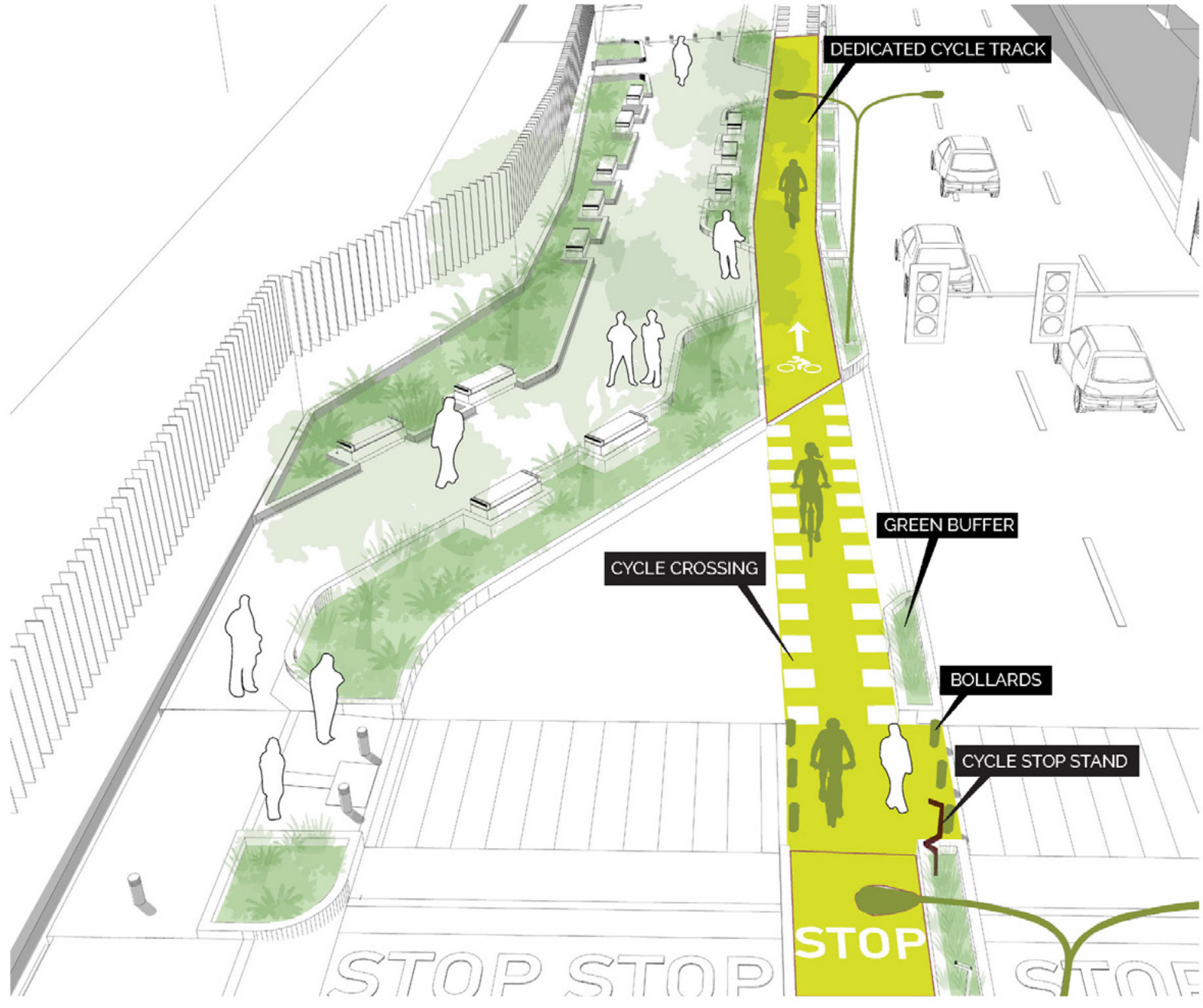
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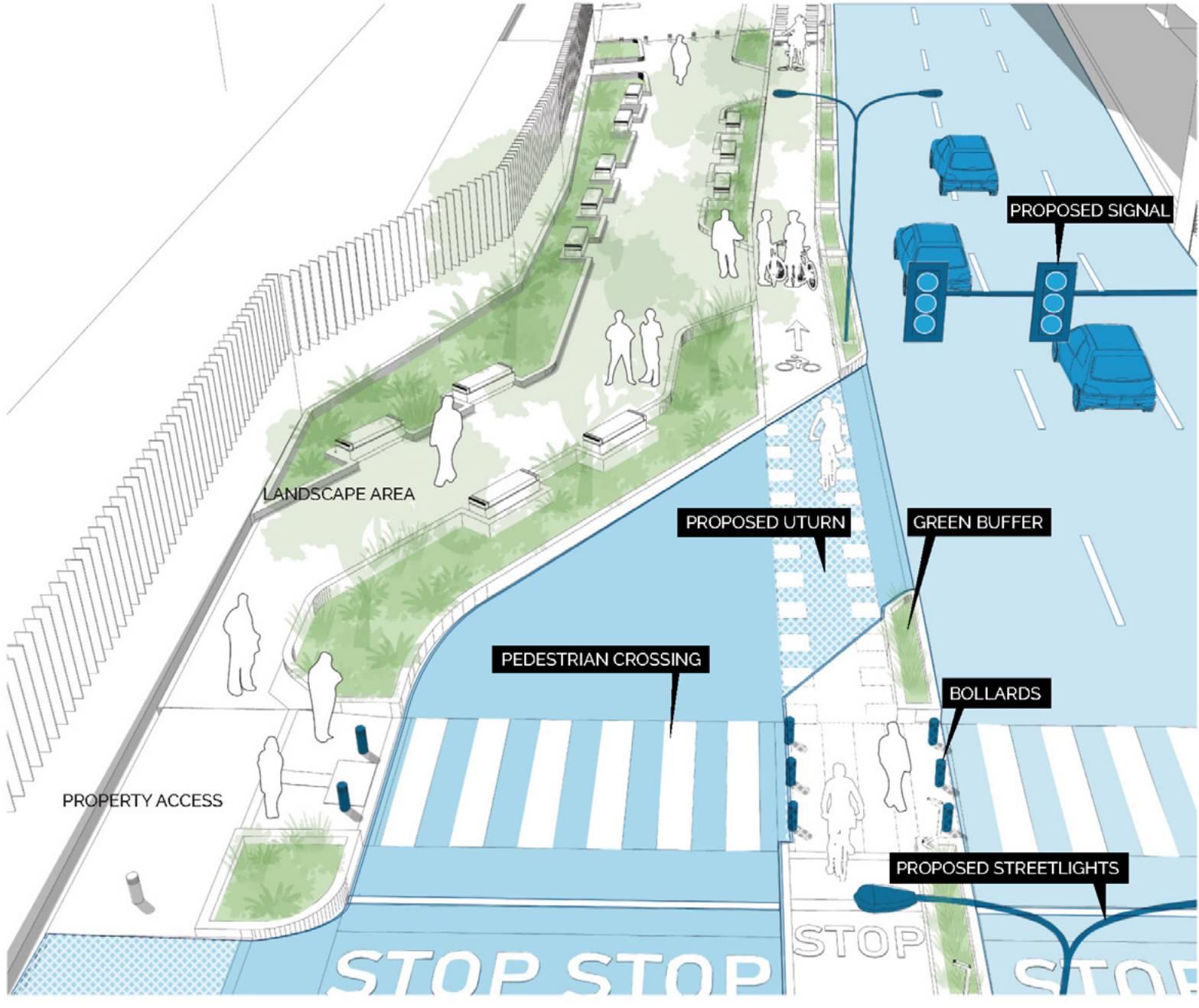
Streamlining traffic movement and reclaiming public realm



Pedestrian Movement



Cyclist Movement



Vehicular Movement

Street for People

From a road for cars to a “Street for People”: Road space that was used for parking was reclaimed for the creation of a wider public realm. This transformed the footpath from a narrow footpath hidden behind parked vehicles to an exciting and well programmed public realm including a cycle track.



Transformed spaces

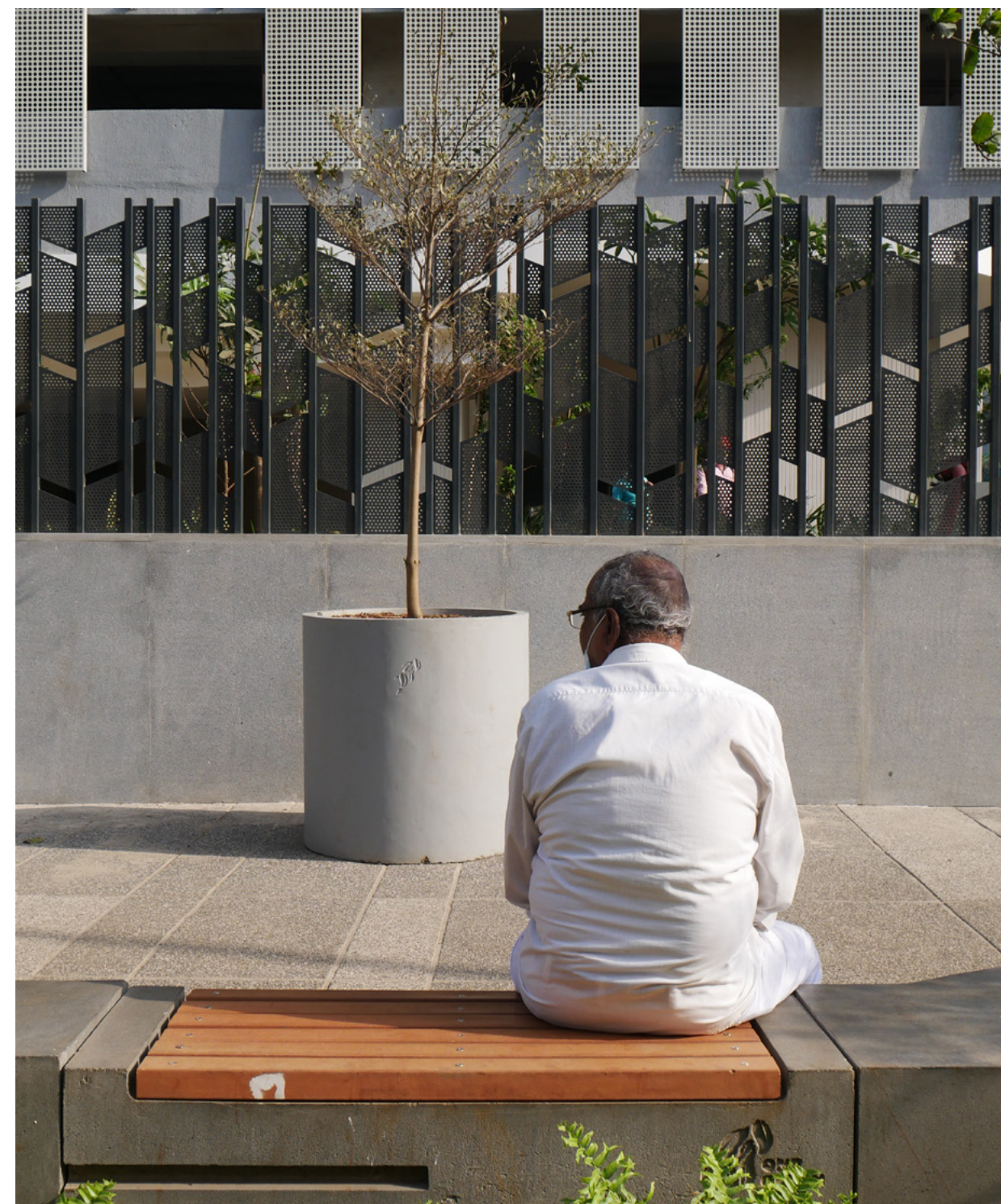
The 2.3 acres public realm has one-third of the area covered in landscape, richly planted with local species of trees and shrubs in the busy commercial street. This further helps to reduce the urban heat island effect and improve air quality. The increased porous area also helps as a cost-effective green infrastructure for storm water management.



Micro-destinations

Multiple micro-destinations in the form of pause points of interest have been created along the street, strategically located within the under-utilised areas under the flyover and new plazas nestled within the reclaimed pedestrian areas.

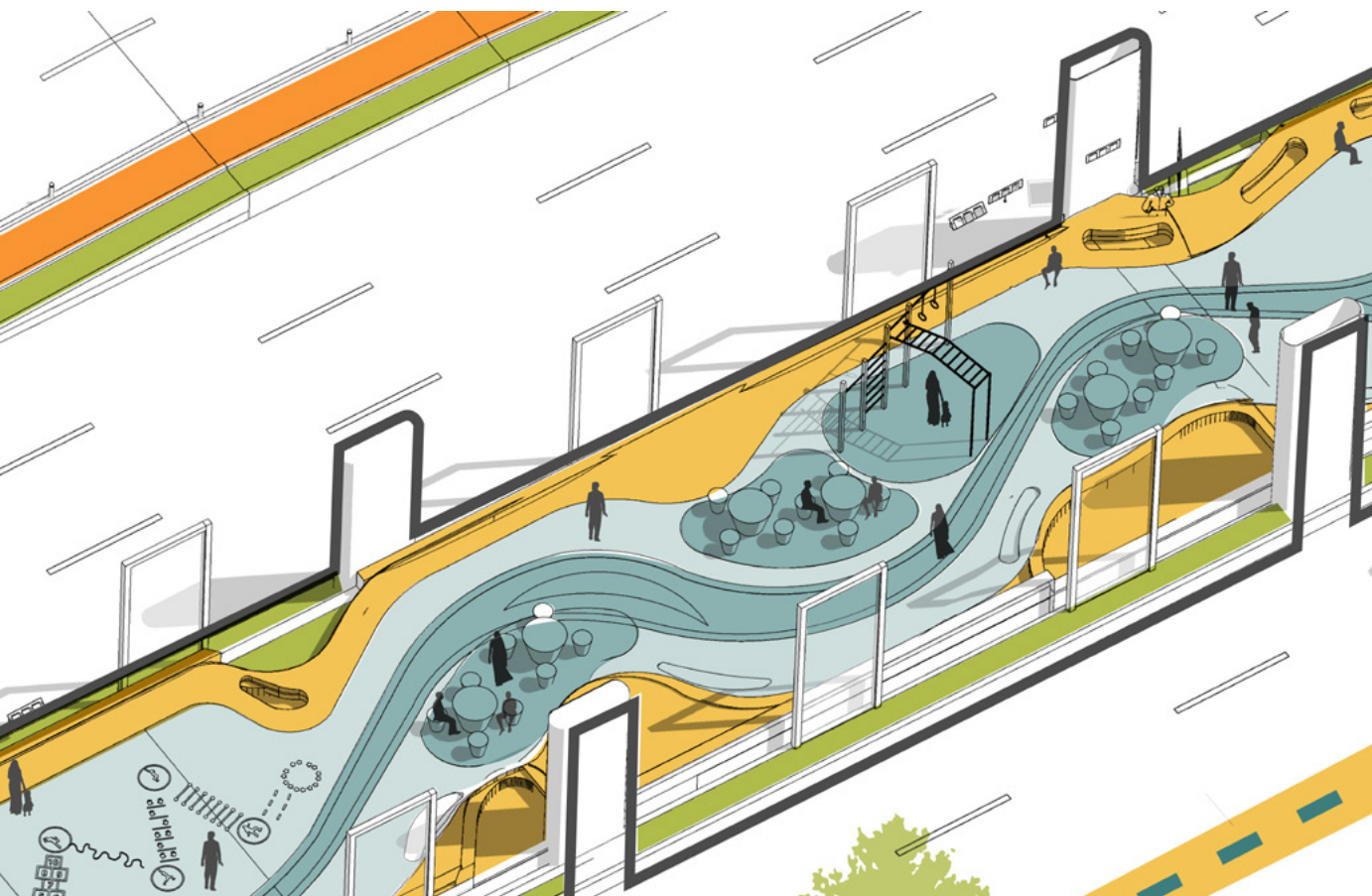






Underflyover Park

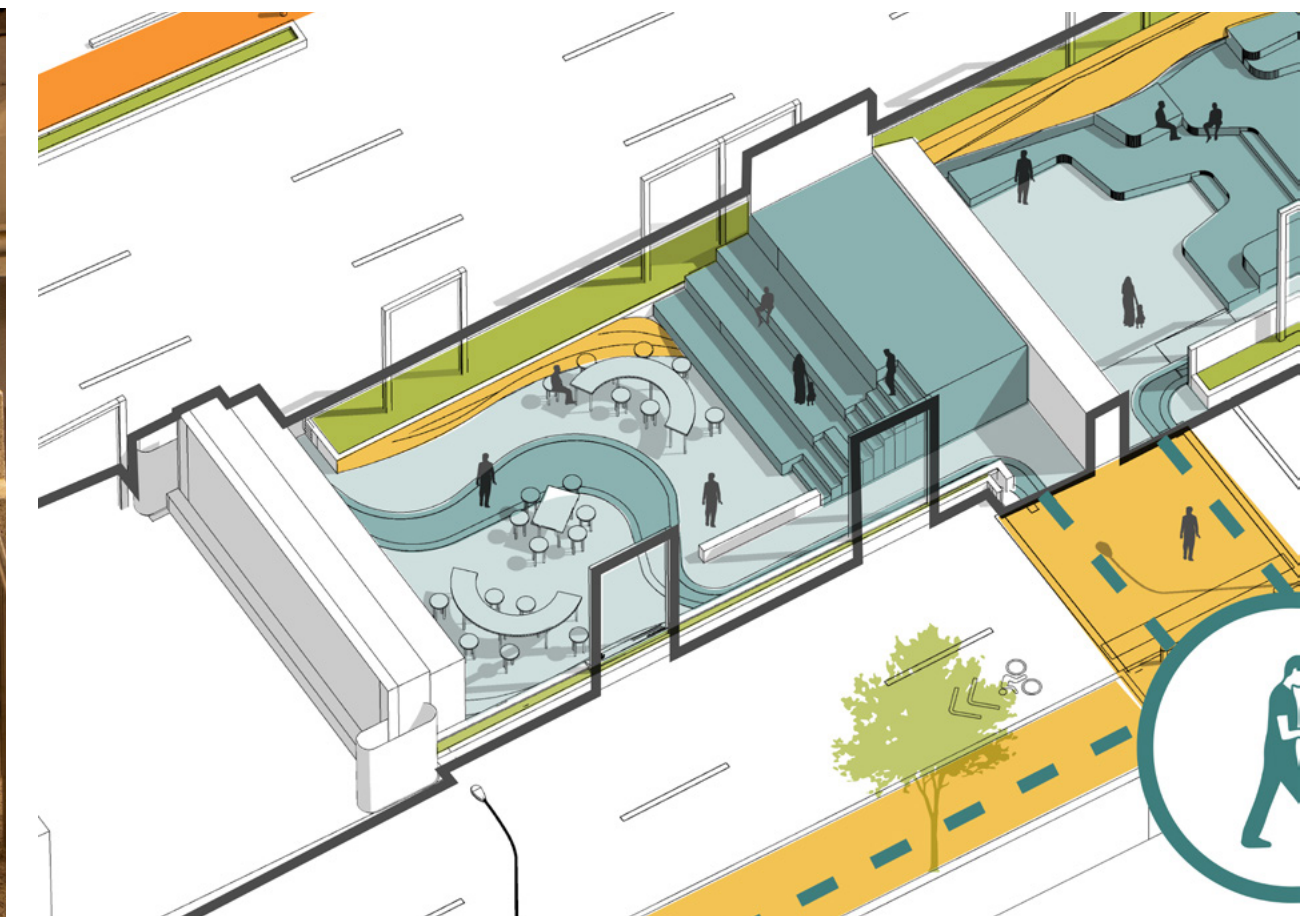
The neglected underflyover space was envisioned to be a thriving public place that includes play areas, seating, amphitheatre, lounge areas, which has now become the urban heart of the street





Vachnalaya

This outdoor study area is thriving with kids coming and studying for their examinations and also playing board games during weekends



New Modular bus stops

The old dilapidated bus stops blocking the sidewalk space have paved way for open, well-lit bus stops providing rest areas and shelters for the commuters and pedestrians



Contextual Public Art

The artwork integrates people, plants, and objects that tell the story of the neighbourhood of Lower Parel which has helped establish a link with the context and given it a local identity



Impact created

This street today is constructed and has seamlessly integrated with the lives of the Mumbaikars, making daily commute easier and comfortable for more than 1,50,000 people per day. One Green Mile showcases a model complete street transformed into a truly public space and is inspiring the re-design of streets across the city.

