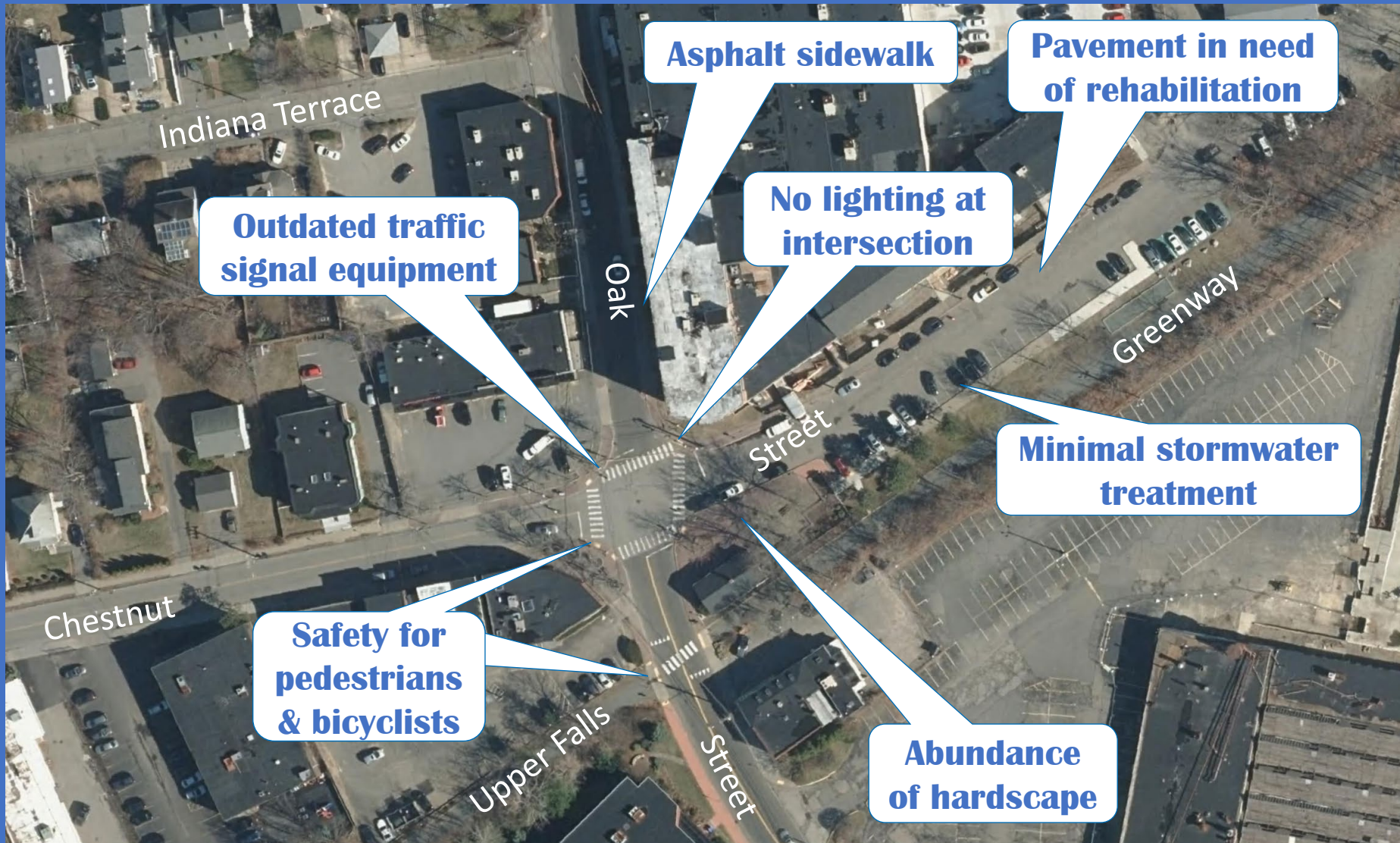




**Newton Upper Falls Area Council  
Pettee Square Improvement Project Update  
February 15, 2024**

# Existing Conditions



# Project Goals

- Introduce streetscape and beautification opportunities
- Maintain historic character of area
- Create an attractive, functional space for residents, local businesses, and Greenway users
- Improve safety and accessibility for all users
- Enhance traffic operations
- Implement traffic calming measures
- Install stormwater improvements where feasible

# Project Process

- Spring 2020 – MassWorks grant for design funding
- September 2020 – Held Public Information & comment meeting
- January 2021 – Upper Falls Area Council
- November 2020, June & July 2021 – Upper Falls Historic District Commission
- July 2021 – Public Facilities Committee
- 2021 – 2023 – Project design process
- Fall 2023 – Construction start

Collaborative effort, including:

- DPW
- Planning
- Parks & Rec
- Newton ADA/504 Coordinator
- Newton Fire Dept
- Engineering design consultant, TEC

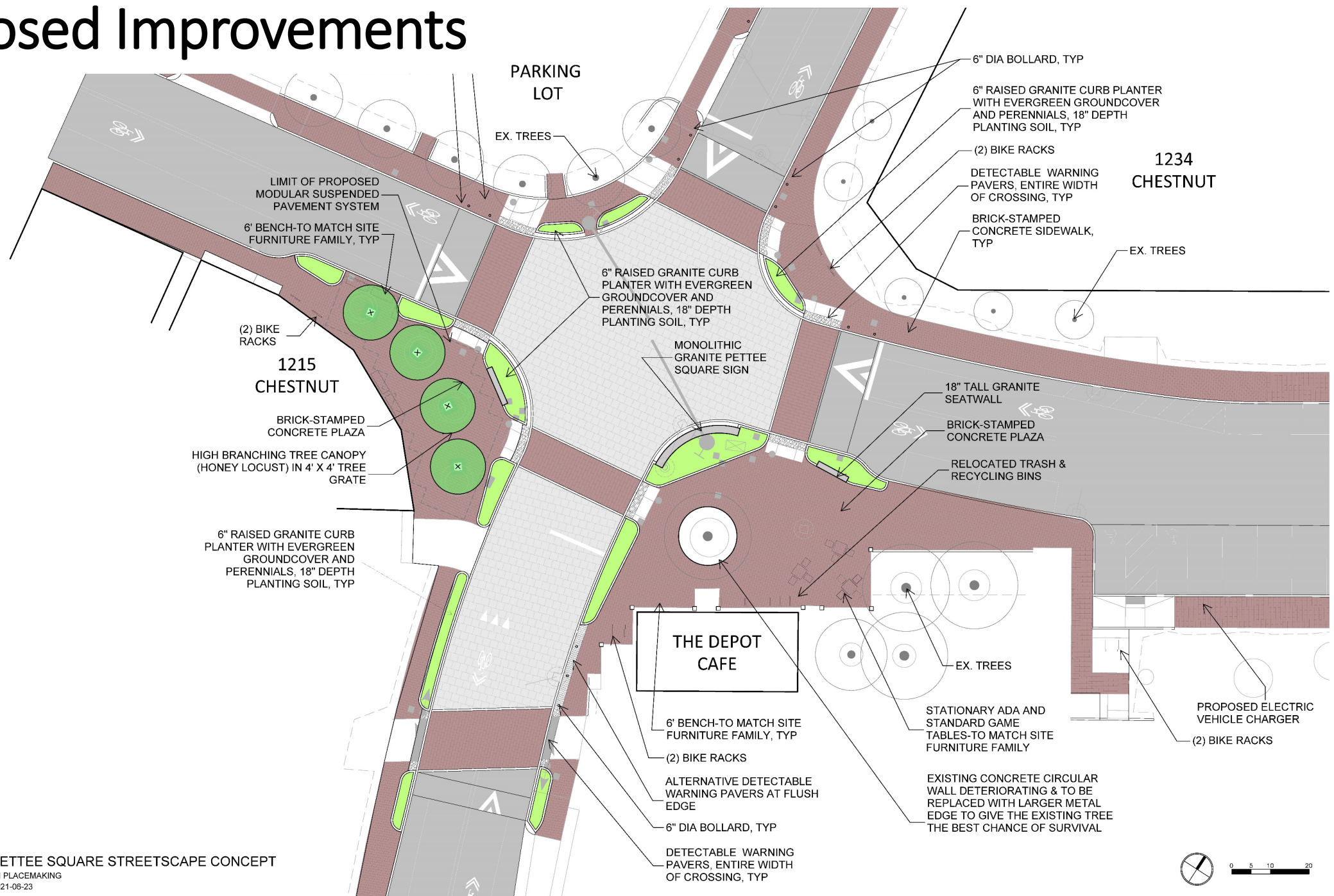
# Pettee Square Traffic Data

- 9 vehicle crashes in the past 5 years
- 2017 pedestrian volume count peak hours:
  - 18 in the morning (7am-9am), 22 in the evening (4pm-6pm)
- With Northland pedestrian projection
  - 66 in the morning (7am-9am), 121 in the evening (4pm-6pm) without shuttle service
- 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed along Oak Street westbound toward Chestnut Street recorded as 34 mph
- Speed limit is 25 mph on all intersection approaches

# Raised Intersection Benefits

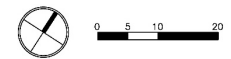
- Create a safe, slow-speed pedestrian crossing
- Reinforce slow vehicle speeds
  - One of the most predictable traffic calming methods in reducing vehicle speeds
- Encourage motorists to yield to pedestrians
- Create a public space comfortable for pedestrians
  - Strong visual cue to be aware of non-motorized users
  - Proactive measure (not reactive) to accommodate anticipated increase in pedestrians
- Appropriate for emergency vehicle routes
- Consistent with City of Newton and MassDOT best practices including Vision Zero and Complete Street Initiatives

# Proposed Improvements

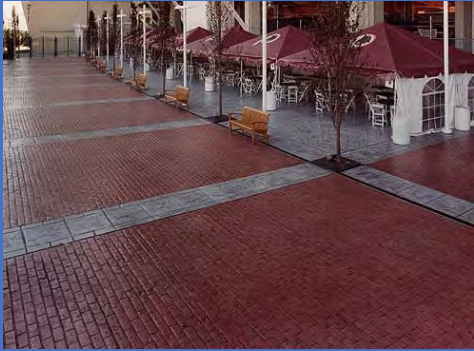


PETTEE SQUARE STREETSCAPE CONCEPT

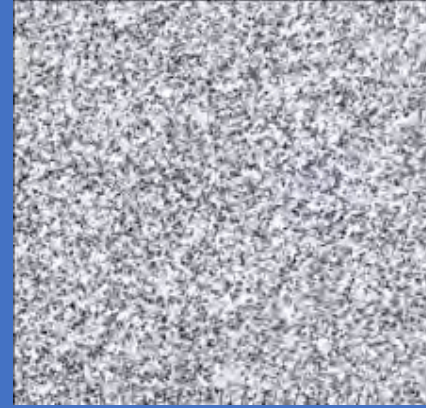
IBI PLACEMAKING  
2021-06-23



# Materials



Stamped Concrete Walkway



Granite Wall



Stamped Asphalt Road



Running Bond Pattern  
Burnt Red Color



Granite Seat Wall



Granite Curb



# Materials



Playing Table  
(Dumor\_448-34GM)



Bike Rack  
(Dero - Black)



Trash and Recycling Receptacles  
(SD42)



Bollards  
(B-1 Bollard Collection)



Bench - Black  
(Dumor\_493m)

# Materials



Ornamental Mast Arms

Ornamental Street Lighting

Photographs taken in West Newton

# Ornamental Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon “RRFB”



Photograph taken in Auburndale

# Existing Photo



**TODAY**

# Artistic Rendering



**TOMORROW**

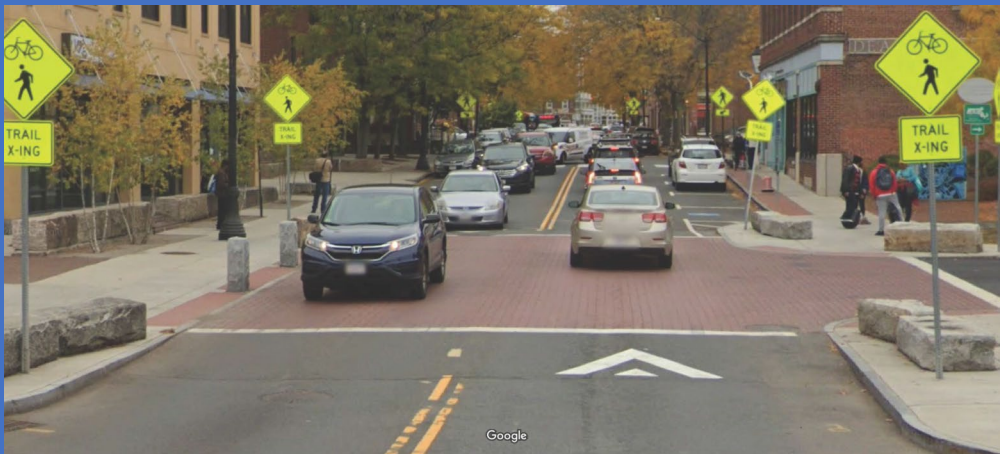
# Example Intersections



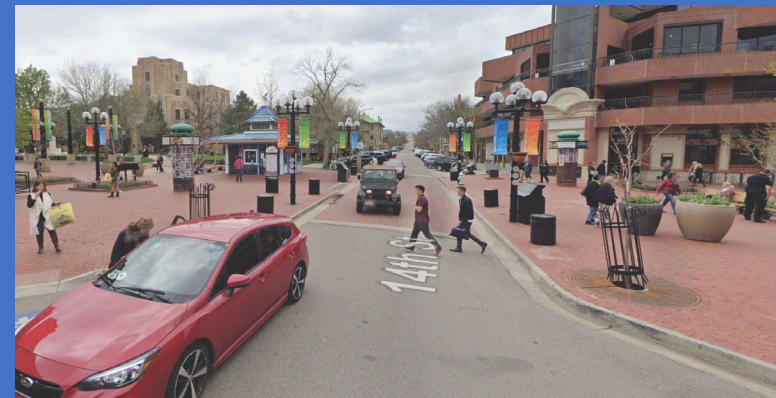
Woodland Road at Lake Avenue,  
Auburndale historic district Newton, MA



Garfield Street at Oxford Street,  
Garfield historic district Cambridge, MA



Pleasant Street (Route 5) at  
Railroad Ave/ Manahan Rail Trail,  
Central Business Architecture District Northampton, MA



14th Street at Pearl Street,  
Downtown historic district Boulder, CO

# Pettee Square Current Status and Next Steps

- Construction started in November 2023
  - Drainage
  - Underground conduit
- Mobilization for full construction project in spring 2024
- DPW has informed contractor about Village Day (fall 2024), will ensure that construction zone is clean
- Substantial completion of project expected by end of 2024

# Elliot Street Traffic Calming

## Project Background

- Elliot Street identified as traffic calming priority several years ago
- Focus of the project area is the curve at the Mechanic Street intersection

## Project Goals

- Improved safety for all users
- Reduced vehicular speed on Elliot Street
- Improved pedestrian accessibility and connectivity
- Maintain and improve space for bicyclists



# Project Area



**Elliot Street**

**Cottage Street**

**Wetherell St**

**Elliot Street**

**Linden Street**

**Mechanic St**

# Recommended Concept Design



# Recommended Concept Design



- Proposes to construct new crosswalk at Linden Street, with Rectangular Rapid-Flashing Beacon (RRFB)

# Recommended Concept Design



- Proposed to realign Mechanic Street to create a more typical intersection.
- Reduce roadway width in immediate vicinity of the intersection to reduce vehicle speeds.
- Creates sidewalk level bike lanes
- Reduces pedestrian/vehicle conflicts, with only one short crosswalk across Mechanic Street, approximately 20-24 ft long. (Pedestrians crossing Mechanic Street today must cross two roadway openings and are in conflict with vehicles for a total of 50 ft)

# Recommended Concept Design



- Proposes to construct a new crosswalk across Elliot Street between Cottage Street and Wetherell Street, with RRFB
- Proposed to construct curb bump-outs to narrow the travel lanes and reduce pedestrian crossing distance
- Creates sidewalk level bicycle infrastructure for safe bicycle travel

# Summary

- Reduce vehicle speeds, improve safety for all travelers
  - Sidewalk level infrastructure for bikes through intersections
  - Improves pedestrian accessibility and connectivity
  - Enhance streetscape/beautification
  - Anticipated stormwater/environmental benefits
- 
- Designer is currently working on 100% Design plans
  - Construction expected to begin in summer/fall 2024