



Public Facilities Committee Report

City of Newton

In City Council

Wednesday, March 20, 2019

Present: Councilors Leary (Acting Chair), Kelley, Danberg, Laredo, Lappin

Absent: Councilors Crossley, Norton, Gentile

City Staff Present: Commissioner of Public Works Jim McGonagle, City Engineer Lou Taverna, Transportation Engineer Isaac Prizant

#94-19 National Grid petition for grant of location in College Road

NATIONAL GRID petition for a grant of location to install and maintain 115'+/- of 8" main in College Road from the existing 8" gas main in front of #66 College Road in a northerly direction to house #72. The proposed service is part of an MWRA 36" water main replacement project. (Ward 7)

Action: Public Facilities Approved 5-0

Note: City Engineer Lou Taverna explained that the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA) is undergoing a major water main rehabilitation project from Beacon Street in Boston to Manet Road, Ward Street, Waverley Avenue, and College Road. Mr. Taverna explained that National Grid's existing gas main is in the way of the MWRA's replacement pipe and must be relocated more than 2', requiring a grant of location. Mr. Taverna noted that National Grid is coordinating work to align with the City's road paving schedule as well as the MWRA water main replacement. He stated that the MWRA's water main replacement program should take approximately two years to complete and will begin in late spring or summer 2019. The public hearing was opened and closed with no member of the public who wished to speak. Committee members expressed no concerns relative to the request and voted unanimously in favor of approval.

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#119-19 Appropriation to fund a sewer connection at Rumford Avenue transfer station

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend one hundred twenty-nine thousand dollars (\$129,000) from the Sewer Reserve Fund to install a sewer connection to the Rumford Avenue transfer station for an office trailer at the site.

Action: Public Facilities Approved 5-0

Note: City Engineer Lou Taverna explained presented the request for \$129,000 from sewer reserve for the purpose of installing a sewer connection to the Rumford Ave transfer station. Mr. Taverna explained that the sewer connection is necessary for the installation of an office trailer to support staff operations at Rumford. It was noted that the Director of Environmental Affairs Waneta Trabert and her

assistants are currently operating out of the Crafts Street DPW yard. Mr. Taverna explained that the topography of the site will require a grinder pump and forced main, pumping the flow to an existing manhole near Riverview Avenue. Mr. Taverna noted that the City has an arrangement with Waltham for managing sewage flows in this neighborhood due to the topography of the neighborhood. Commissioner of Public Works Jim McGonagle stated that there are currently three employees at Rumford. When the Director of Environmental Affairs and her staff relocate to the site, there will be six employees as well as a number of volunteers. He noted that there are currently no permanent facilities and no hand washing or eye rinse station, which is a safety concern.

A Committee member questioned why only the sewer portion of the project is being requested at this time. Mr. Taverna noted that it is the City's intent to combine the bidding of this work with the sewer construction for another sewer project on Staniford Street. Mr. Taverna noted that there is an economy of scale by combining the two projects. A Committee member asked whether the City has plans to construct a permanent structure at Rumford. The Commissioner noted that there are no long-term plans for a permanent structure at this time, but stated that the trailer will include an office, conference room, bathroom facilities and a break room. He confirmed that if the City decides to construct a building at Rumford, the sewer line will be on-site and adjustments can be made by the City's in-house engineers, if necessary. Commissioner McGonagle stated that the estimated cost of the trailer is \$35,000 and IT equipment and cameras will cost an additional \$20,000, noting that the total cost of the project is anticipated to be less than \$200,000.

Committee members were supportive of the installation of an office trailer at Rumford and expressed no concerns relative to the request for a sewer connection at Rumford. It was confirmed that the sewer construction will begin in early summer or late spring. Councilor Kelley motioned to approve the item and Committee members voted unanimously in favor of approval.

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#120-19 Approve appropriation of \$500,000 for snow and ice removal
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) from Free Cash to the following accounts:

Rental - Vehicles	
(0140110-5273)	\$250,000
Regular Overtime	
(0140110-513001)	\$250,000

Action: **Public Facilities Approved as Amended 5-0**

Note: Commissioner of Public Works Jim McGonagle presented the request for \$750 thousand dollars, as amended, for snow and ice removal. He stated that the City has appropriated \$4.25 million dollars for snow and ice removal this winter. The Commissioner noted that there were 24 events, with 47" of snow and noted that the City has spent \$4.79 million dollars for snow and ice removal this year. Commissioner McGonagle confirmed that last year's snow total was \$7.3 million dollars.

In response to questions from the Committee, the Commissioner stated that the City is providing annual training for the 95 snow contractors. He confirmed that there are 12 sidewalk machines and the City plows 80 miles of sidewalk. He stated that the sidewalks on school routes and in village centers are typically plowed within 10 hours after a storm. Committee members expressed no concerns relative to the request. Councilor Danberg motioned to approve the item which carried unanimously.

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#121-19 Funding for the South Meadow Brook Culvert at 170 Needham Street

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) from the Stormwater Management Fund Surplus Account for the cleaning, inspection, and assessment for 230 linear feet of 5' x 16' concrete box culvert located adjacent to 170 Needham Street that conveys stormwater from the South Meadow Brook drainage basin.

Action: **Public Facilities Approved 5-0**

Note: City Engineer Lou Taverna presented the request for \$250,000 to clean, inspect and assess 230 linear feet of the South Meadow Brook culvert adjacent to 170 Needham Street. Mr. Taverna explained that choke point for the South Meadow Brook culvert is under Needham Street. He noted that there is an existing trash gate that collects debris. He stated that while the trash gate is cleaned, debris gets through and settles in the culvert, which is now clogged. The City does not know the condition of the culvert or whether it has ever been cleaned in the past. DPW hopes to hire Weston and Sampson to clean the culvert, inspect it and provide an assessment. Mr. Taverna confirmed that flooding is an issue in parking lots around the culvert, when the trash gate is blocked. The Commissioner noted that the City wants to ensure that there are no stormwater issues near Needham Street before the Needham Street construction begins. Mr. Taverna confirmed that this culvert is on the City's list of unmapped stormwater systems. This cleaning and exploration will allow the City to evaluate the culvert and determine if it needs additional work. Committee members expressed no concerns relative to the request and voted unanimously in favor of a motion to approve from Councilor Danberg.

#122-19 Request for changes in traffic flow at five intersections

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting approval of proposed design changes to the below intersections that result in changes to traffic flow to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety in accordance with the complete streets initiative:

- Crafts Street at Walnut Street – bump out and elimination of slip lane
- Walnut Street at Minot Place – bump out
- Walnut Street at Lowell Avenue - bump out and elimination of slip lane
- Waltham Street at Derby and Fairway Drive – bump outs and median island
- Elliot Street at Linden Street – two median islands

Action: **Public Facilities Approved 5-0**

Note: City Engineer Lou Taverna and DPW Transportation Engineer Isaac Prizant presented the request for changes in traffic flow at the locations shown above. The proposed design changes are shown on the attached plans.

Crafts Street at Walnut Street - The proposed design changes include elimination of the right turn slip lane from Crafts Street onto Walnut Street. Walnut Street will be turned into a "T" intersection. Mr. Taverna noted that the existing configuration includes no signalization or ADA ramps and does not allow safe pedestrian passage across Crafts Street and Walnut Street. Mr. Taverna stated that ADA accessible curb cuts will be installed and noted that the elimination of the slip lane is consistent with the Street Design Guide. The redesigned intersection will require drivers on Crafts Street to slow down to make a 90 degree turn onto Walnut Street, encouraging drivers to use turn signals and making it safer for pedestrians. The redesign includes additional crosswalks. Mr. Taverna confirmed that the Engineering Department will meet with residents at the intersection to ensure that the reconfiguration is acceptable. He noted that the proposed design includes additional grassy area and implementation of stormwater mitigation measures. Mr. Taverna confirmed that there will be no signalization at the intersection and that Fire Trucks can safely maneuver the turn. Committee members noted that there is a lot of traffic at this location and questioned whether drivers will be alerted to the new crosswalks. Mr. Prizant confirmed that there will be signs to indicate there is a sidewalk, but no pedestrian activated flashing beacon at this location. Mr. Taverna noted that this construction will be completed as Crafts Street is repaved.

Walnut Street at Minot Place – The proposed changes in traffic flow at Walnut Street/Minot Place include the installation of a bump out. Mr. Prizant noted that during 2018, the City performed a pilot with flex posts. He noted that Chief MacDonald asked DPW to prioritize installation of the bump out at this site. Mr. Prizant explained that the proposed bump out will create a pinch point before the crosswalk, minimizing the perception of multiple lanes on Walnut Street. Drivers will not be able to slip around other cars.

Walnut Street at Lowell Avenue – The proposed changes in traffic flow at Walnut Street/Lowell Avenue include the elimination of the slip lane on Walnut Street heading onto Lowell Avenue. Mr. Taverna noted that cars often take this turn at high speeds. He also noted that there is a bus stop on Walnut Street before the right turn. The bus stop does not currently have a crosswalk. The proposed redesign includes a "T" intersection, installation of ADA accessible ramps and curb cuts. Mr. Taverna noted that DPW is still considering whether a small island (preventing right turns from Lowell Avenue onto Walnut Street) is necessary. Mr. Taverna confirmed that the work at Washington Place will not impact the proposed design changes.

Waltham Street at Derby Street and Fairway Drive – Mr. Prizant noted that this item is a result of the traffic calming process. The proposed changes include the installation of two median islands at the intersection of Waltham/Fairway/Derby as well as one bump outs on either side of the intersection, creating a chicane. Mr. Prizant explained that the median islands will slow traffic and confirmed that it is the intent to install rapid flashing beacons at this location. He confirmed that a pilot was completed, utilizing flex posts. Fog lines will be painted before the bump outs to alert bicyclists of the change in roadway. Mr. Taverna noted that as the design and placement of the medians is finalized, DPW is

considerate of the difficulty of making left turns off of Waltham Street. He confirmed that it is the intent to complete this work during the repaving of Waltham Street during summer.

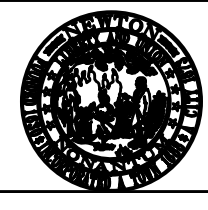
Elliot Street at Linden Street – The proposed reconfiguration at this intersection is the result of a traffic calming measure. Mr. Prizant noted that drivers were taking this turn at high speeds. The proposed work includes the installation of a median island. Mr. Prizant explained that the median island is intended to slow traffic by pinching the travel lanes. The island will create an opportunity for an additional crosswalk and a pedestrian refuge. It was confirmed that the lane widths will be approximately 10', which will allow drivers and Fire trucks to safely maneuver.

The Commissioner confirmed that while it was initially expected that 10 traffic calming measures could be completed each year; it is more likely that 5-6 projects traffic calming projects will be completed. He noted that that costs vary significantly depending on the type of project. The Commissioner confirmed that the City is installing granite curbing whenever possible. Committee members were supportive of the proposed roadway redesign. Councilor Kelley motioned to approve the redesign and Committee members voted unanimously in favor of approval.

The Committee adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alison Leary, Acting Chair



CALIFORNIA ST.

CRAFTS ST.

FLORENCE CT.

WALNUT ST.

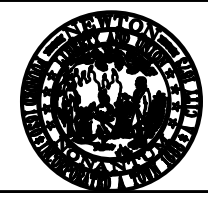
CRAFTS ST.

MINOT PLACE



SCALE: 1" = 20'

CITY OF NEWTON
 MASSACHUSETTS
 CONCEPT PLAN
 FOR THE
 INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS
 AT
 CRAFTS ST AND WALNUT ST



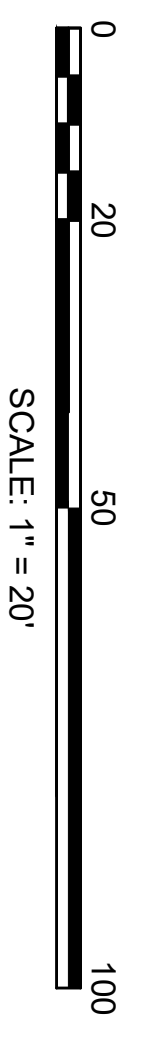
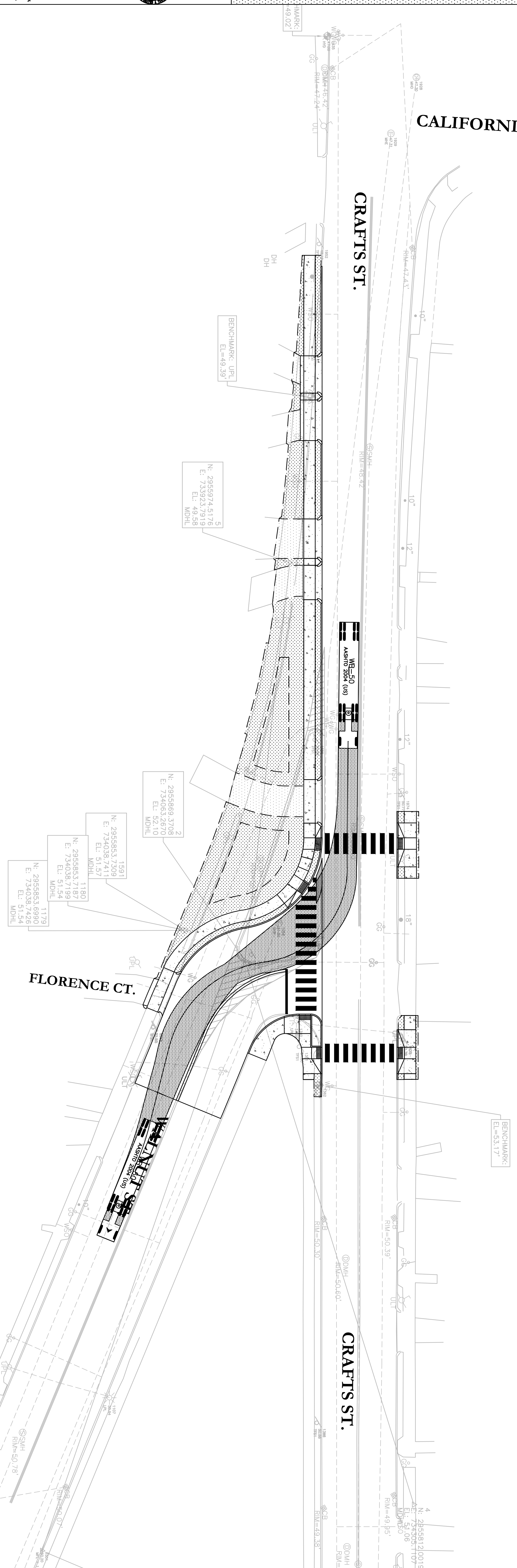
CALIFORNIA ST.

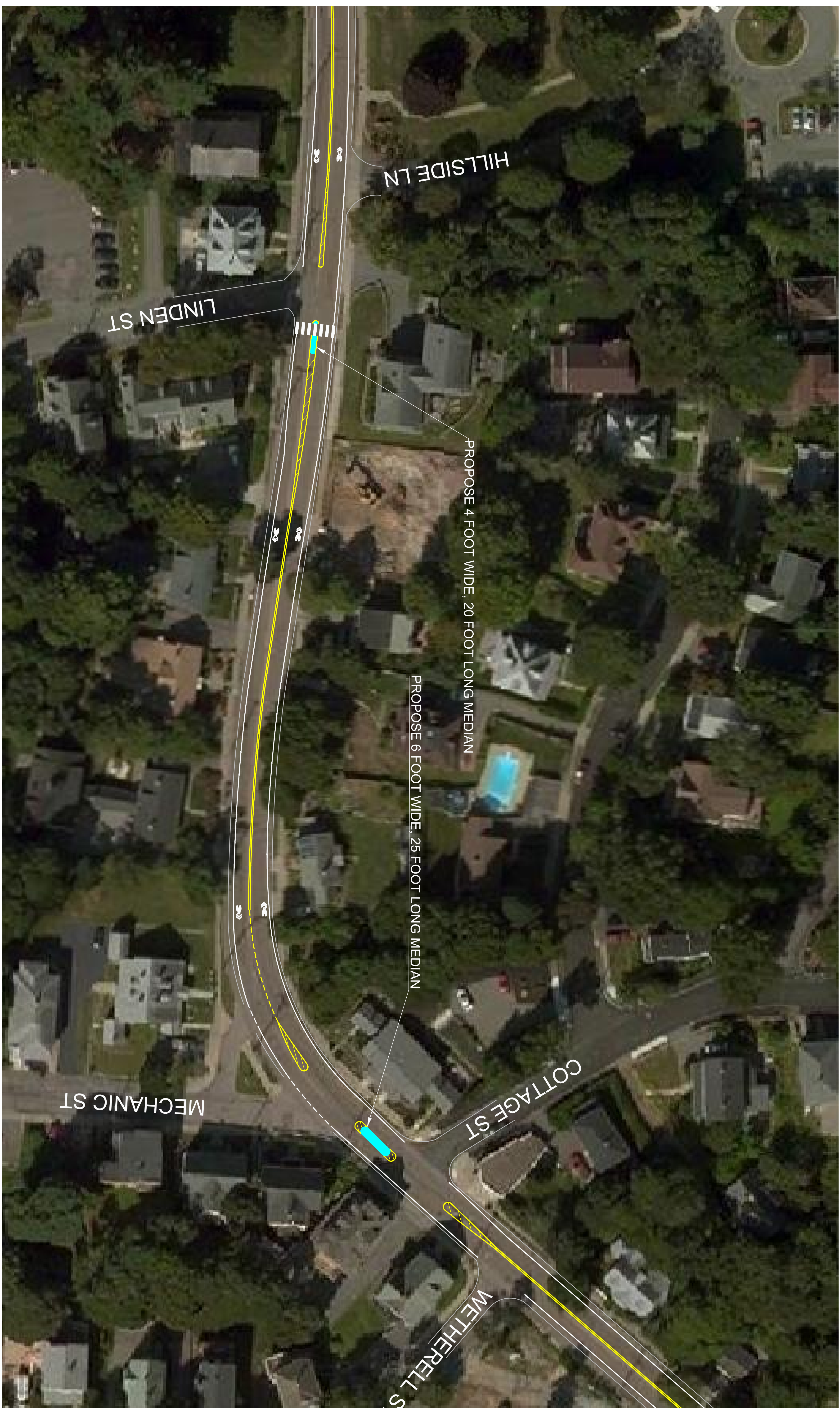
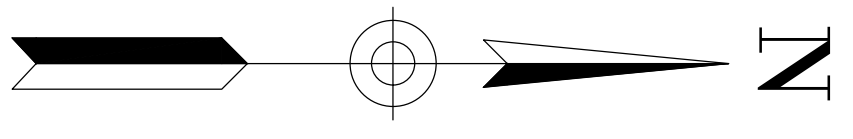
CRAFTS ST.

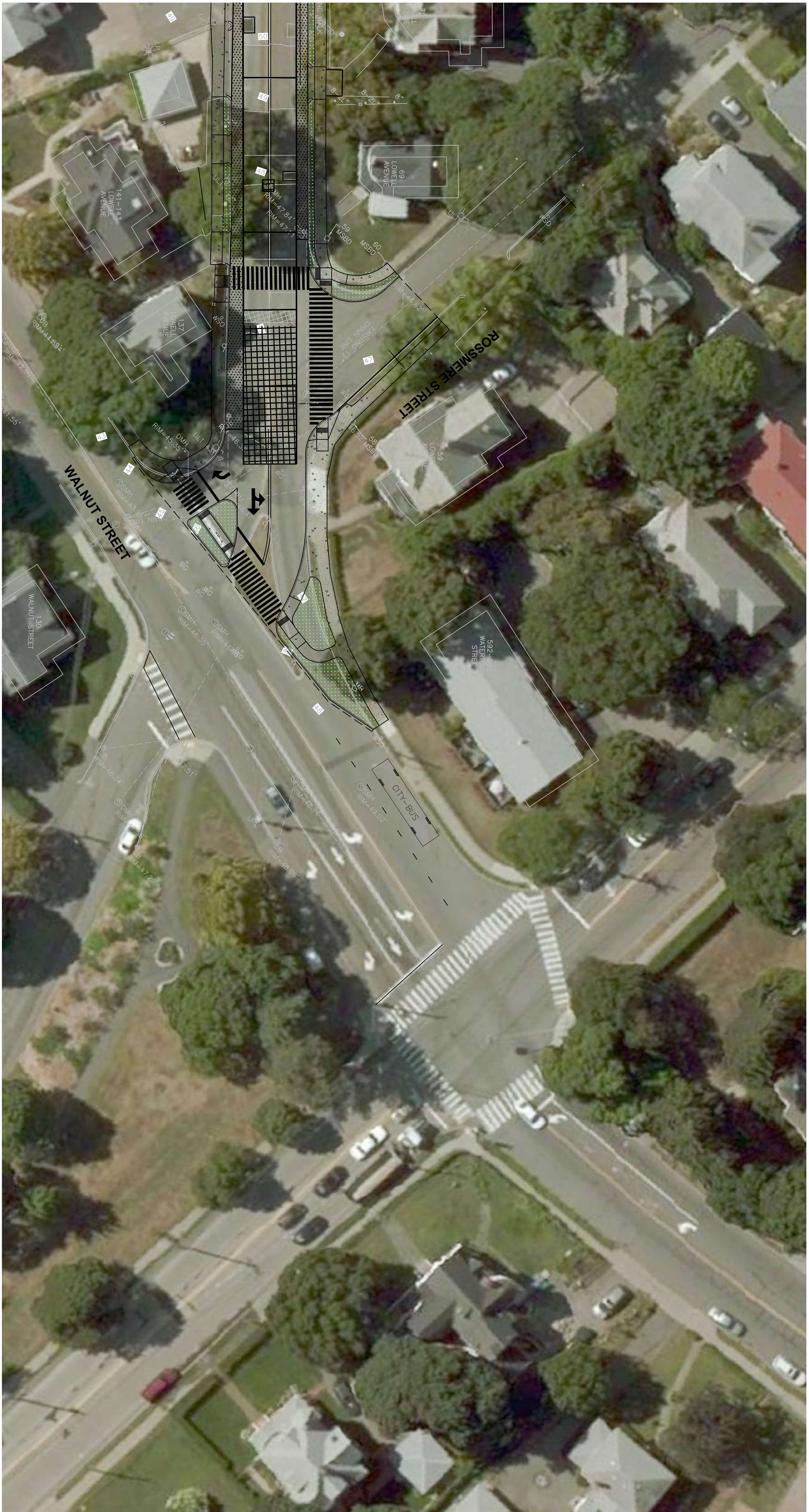
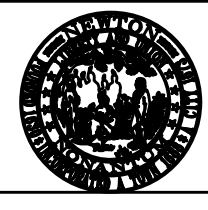
FLORENCE CT.

CRAFTS ST.


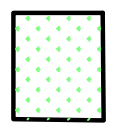
MINOT PLACE





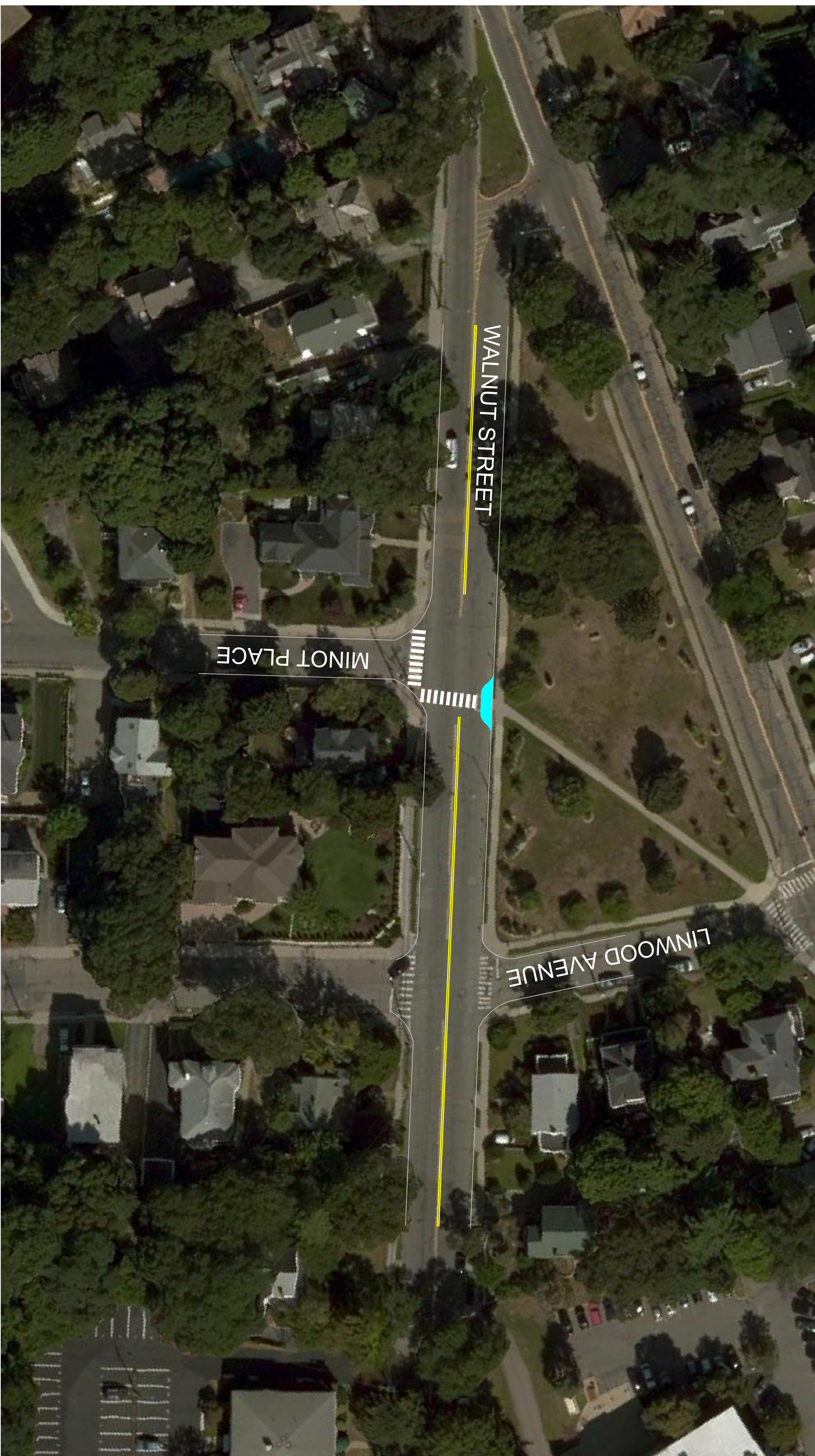
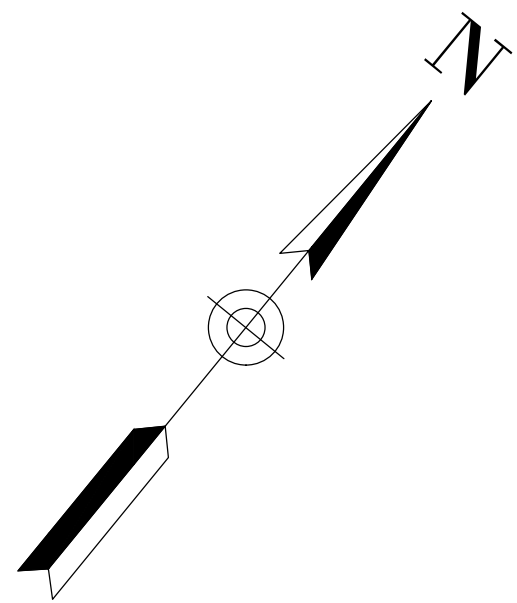


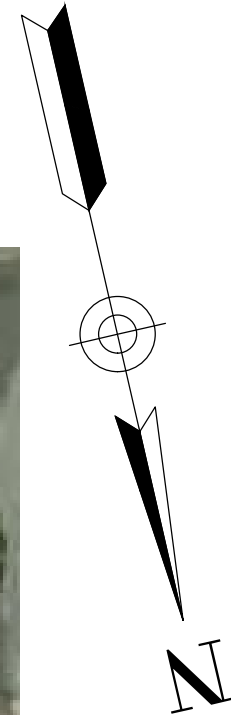
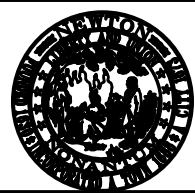
LEGEND

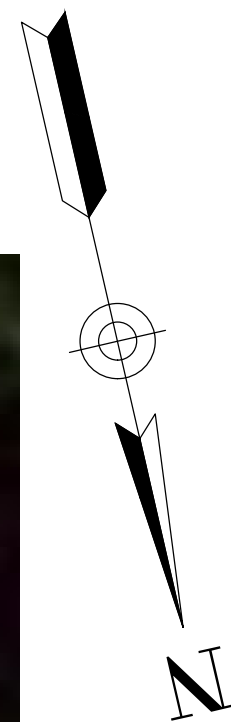
-  PROPOSED GEM, CONC. DRIVEWAY/SIDEWALK
-  PROPOSED GRASS OR LOW GROWING / MAINTENANCE PLANTINGS



SCALE: 1" = 20'







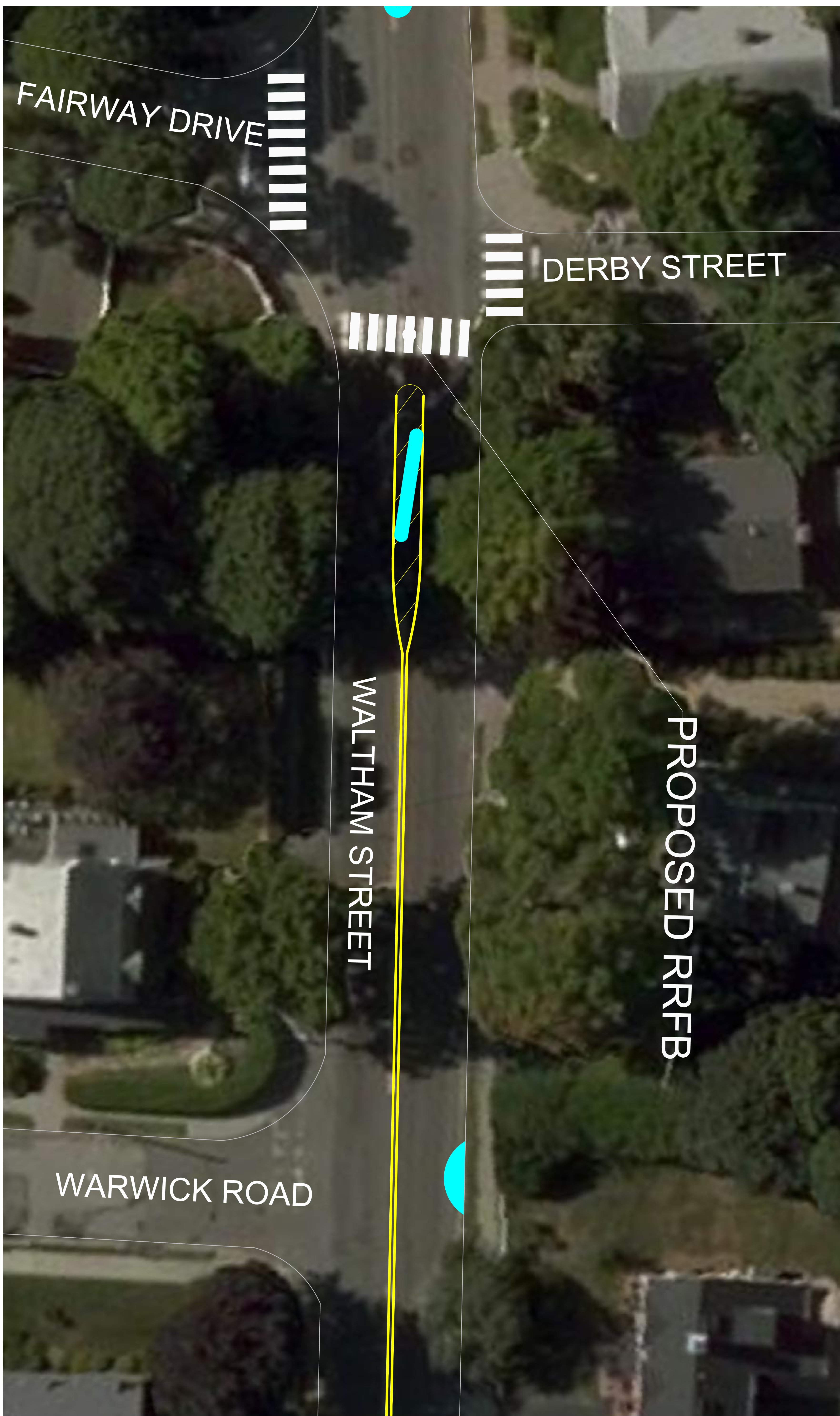
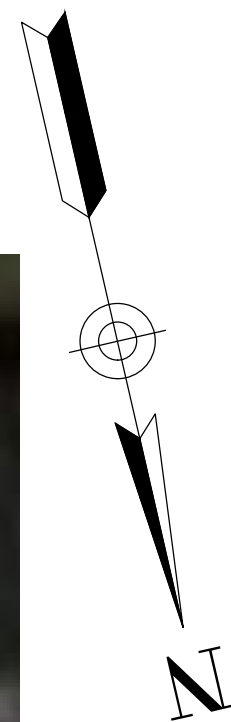
RANDLETT PARK

WALTHAM STREET

FAIRWAY DRIVE

DERBY STREET





FAIRWAY DRIVE

DERBY STREET

WALTHAM STREET

PROPOSED RRFB

WARWICK ROAD

