



Newton Carriageway/ Commonwealth Avenue (Route 30) Reconstruction Project

25% Design Public Hearing

March 3, 2022 | 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Project File No. 610674



Zoom controls



- Drop down menu to check microphone and speakers



- Ask a question and share comments



- Raise your hand



- If you are unable to access the internet or are having technical problems, please call into the meeting at 646-876-9923, Webinar ID: 876 0086 8534



If you have trouble with the meeting technology during the presentation, please call:

1-888-799-9666

Closed captioning automatically generated by Zoom



Public meeting notes and procedures

Notification of Record Retention

- The Massachusetts Department of Transportation may choose to retain and distribute the still images, Q&A, attendees and/or chat transcript.
- By continuing attendance with this virtual public meeting, you are consenting to participate in public record retention
- All chat & Q&A transcript will be considered a public record.

Important notes

- Your microphone and webcam are automatically disabled upon entering the meeting.
- The meeting will be open to questions and answers at the end of the presentation.
- Please take time to respond to our survey at the end of the presentation. Your feedback is important.

All questions and comments are welcome and appreciated, however we do request that you refrain from any disrespectful comments.

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Project Area
3. Existing Issues
4. Project Goals
5. Project Scope
6. Next Steps



Project Team

- **Municipality – City of Newton** – Nicole Freedman, Director of Transportation Planning
- **MassDOT Highway Division** - Responsible for administering the Design Process and providing Resident Engineer Services
- **MassDOT Project Manager** – Stephanie Upson
- **MassDOT Trails Program Manager** – Michael Trepanier
- **MassDOT ROW Bureau** – Zachary Feury & Craig Sheehan
- **MassDOT District 6** – Erin Kinahan
- **MassDOT Producers** – Leah Grodstein & Courtney Sulerud
- **Engineering Design Consultant** – Howard Stein Hudson – Kayla Sousa & Jessica Lizza
- **Stenographer** – David Fraser, Arlington Typing & Mailing

How Did We Get Here?



September 2019
Planning Study Begins



October 18, 2019
Public Information
Session: Concept Design



May 13, 2020
Construction Funded is
Awarded by MassDOT



November 20, 2020
25% Design
Submitted



April 20, 2021
25% Comment
Resolution Meeting



May 24, 2021
Newton Historical
Commission Letter of
Support for Project



September 19, 2021
Public Information
Session 2: Updated
Concept Design

Previous Public Outreach

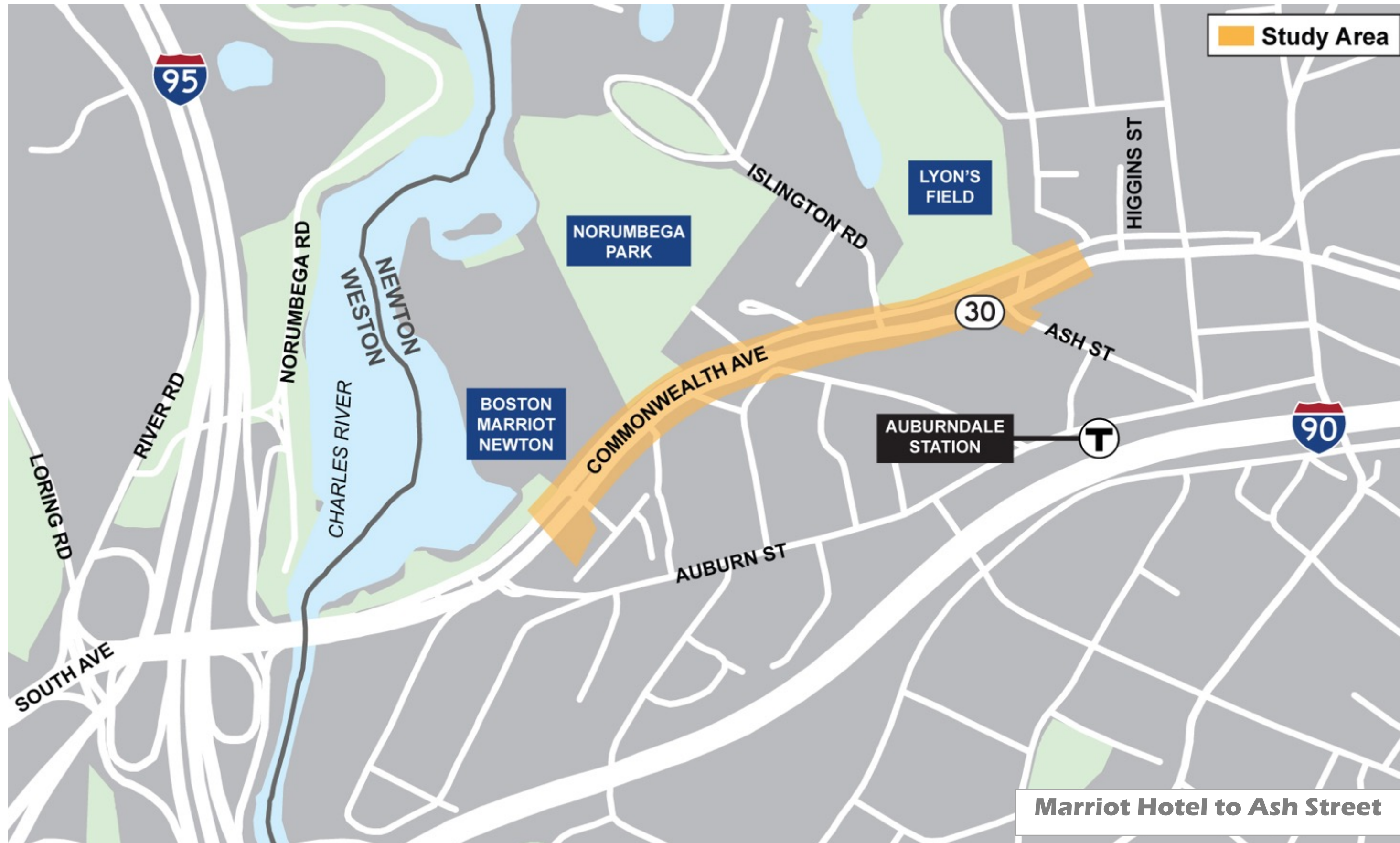
- Planning Study Outreach hosted by City of Newton
 - 9/5/2019: Met with Riverside Greenway Working Group, Solomon Foundation, Bike Newton
 - 10/18/2019: Public Meeting

- 25% Design Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement hosted by City of Newton
 - 8/5/2020: Met with Newton Police and Fire
 - 5/24/2021: Met with Newton Historic Commission
 - 7/22/2021: Met with MBTA
 - 8/19/2021: Met with Newton City Council
 - 9/9/2021: Ash Street Public Information Meeting

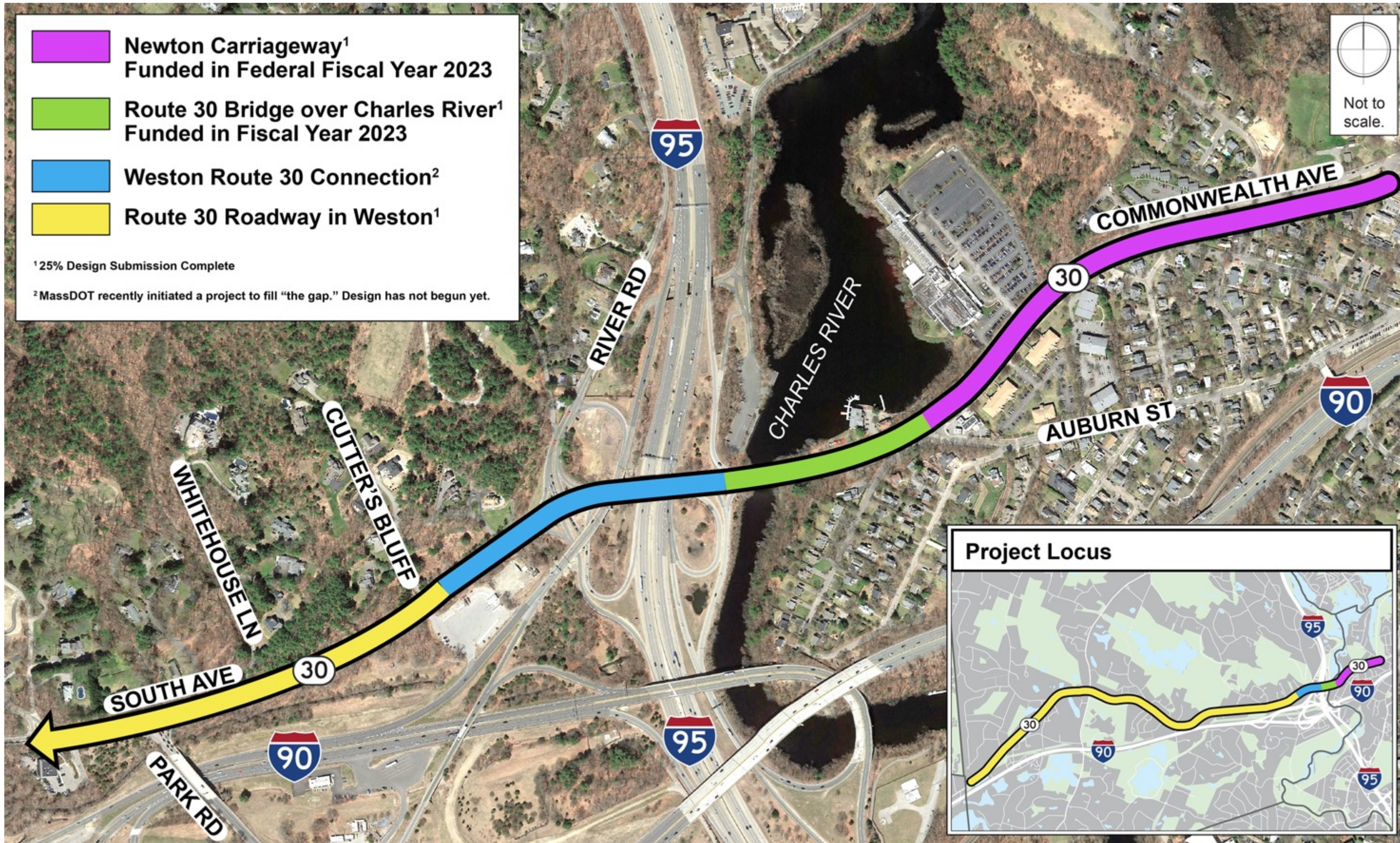
- Design Public Hearing hosted by MassDOT
 - Tonight – March 3, 2022



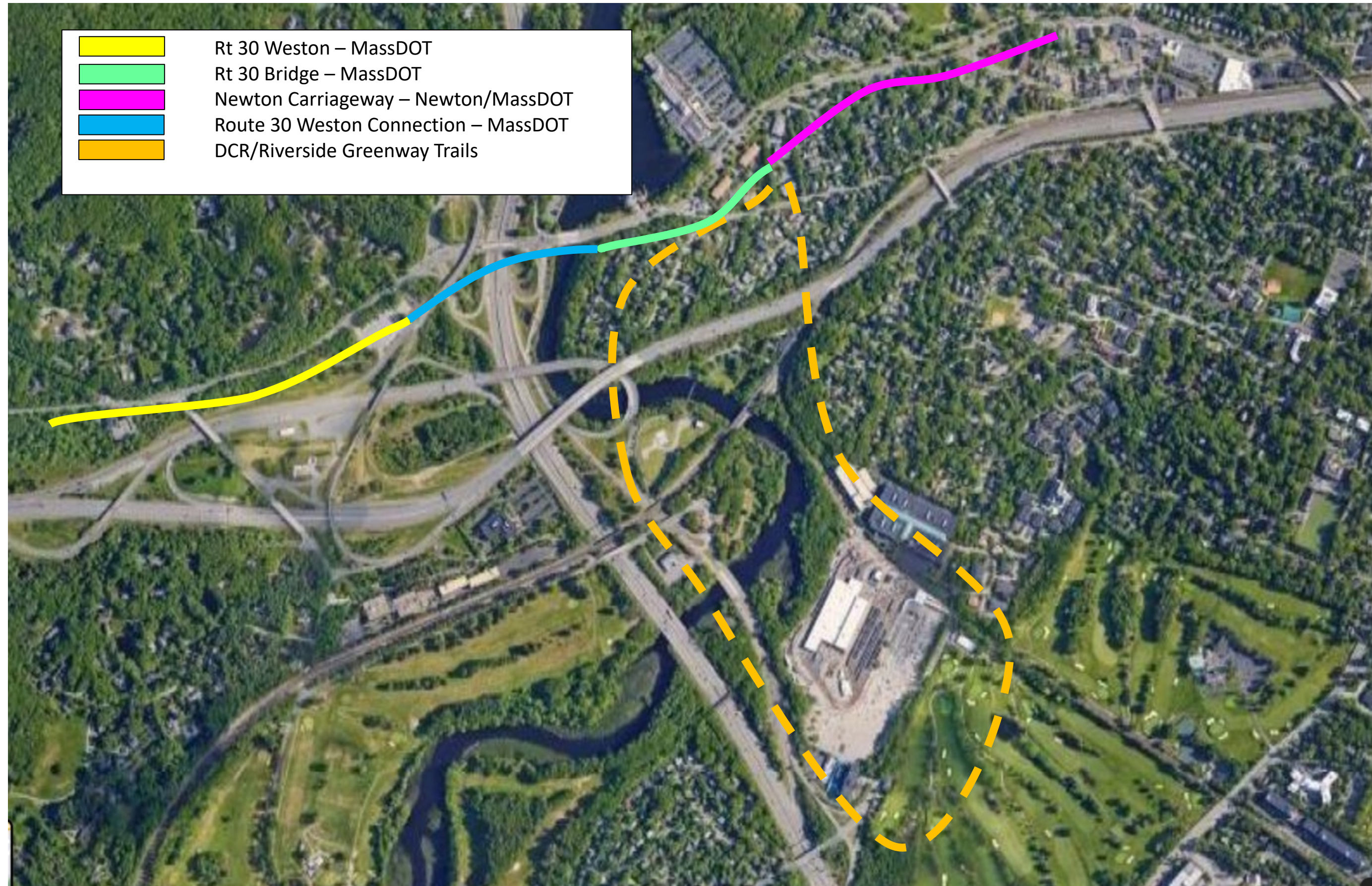
Project Location



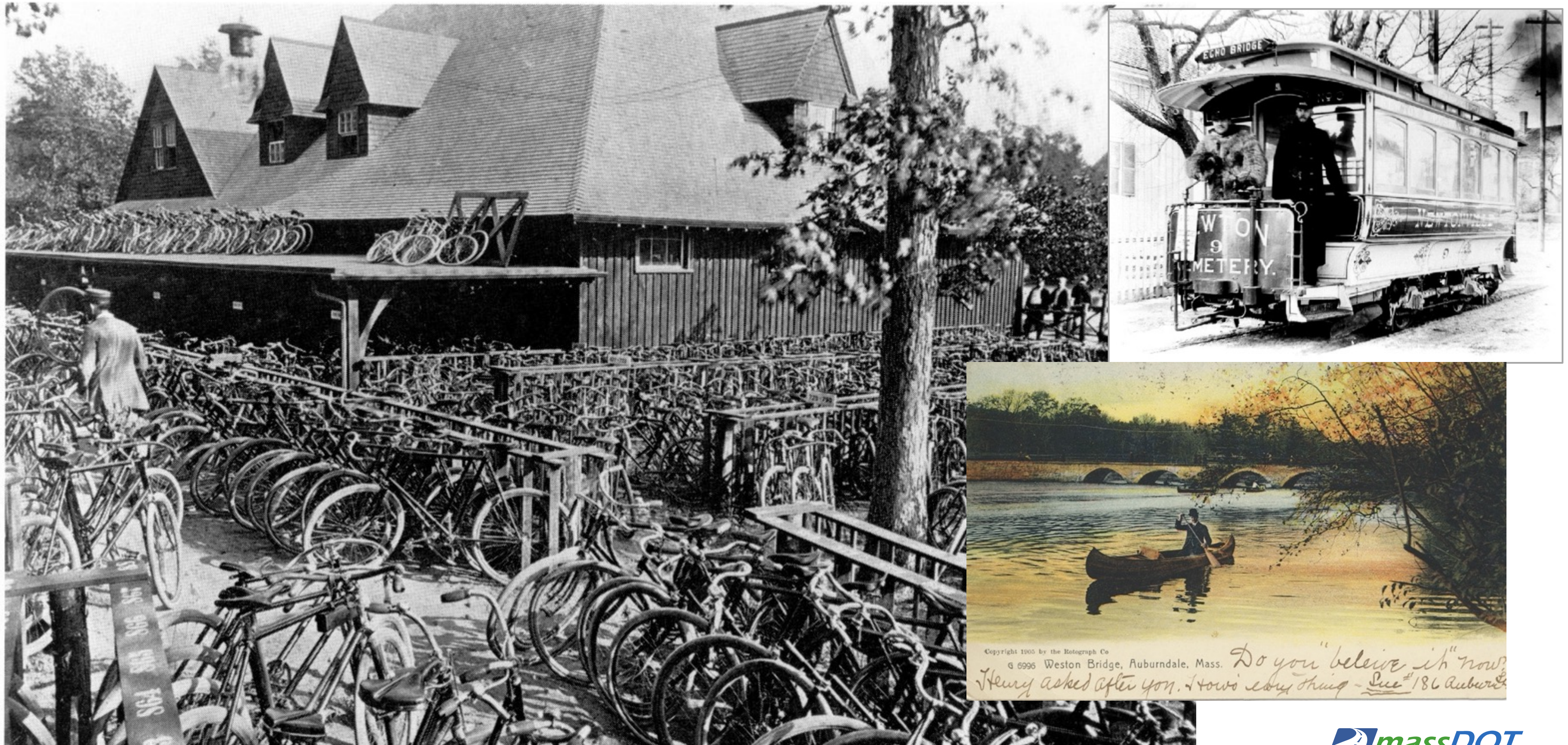
Project Area Context – Other Planned Projects



Project Area Context – Other Planned Projects



Project Area Context – History of Commonwealth Avenue





**Why was this
project
initiated?**

Existing Issues – Corridor-wide



Existing Issues – Lyons Field and the Carriageway



Route 30 westbound, looking west

Existing Issues – Ash Street



Existing Issues – Ash Street





**What do we
want to
accomplish?**

Project Goals

- **Complete Streets Accommodations** | Improve bicycle and pedestrian safety and connectivity, and ADA compliance
- **Safety** | Improve Ash Street Intersection and all crossings
- **Environmental** | Increase green space and access to Charles River



What is the proposed design?

Project Elements – Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacons



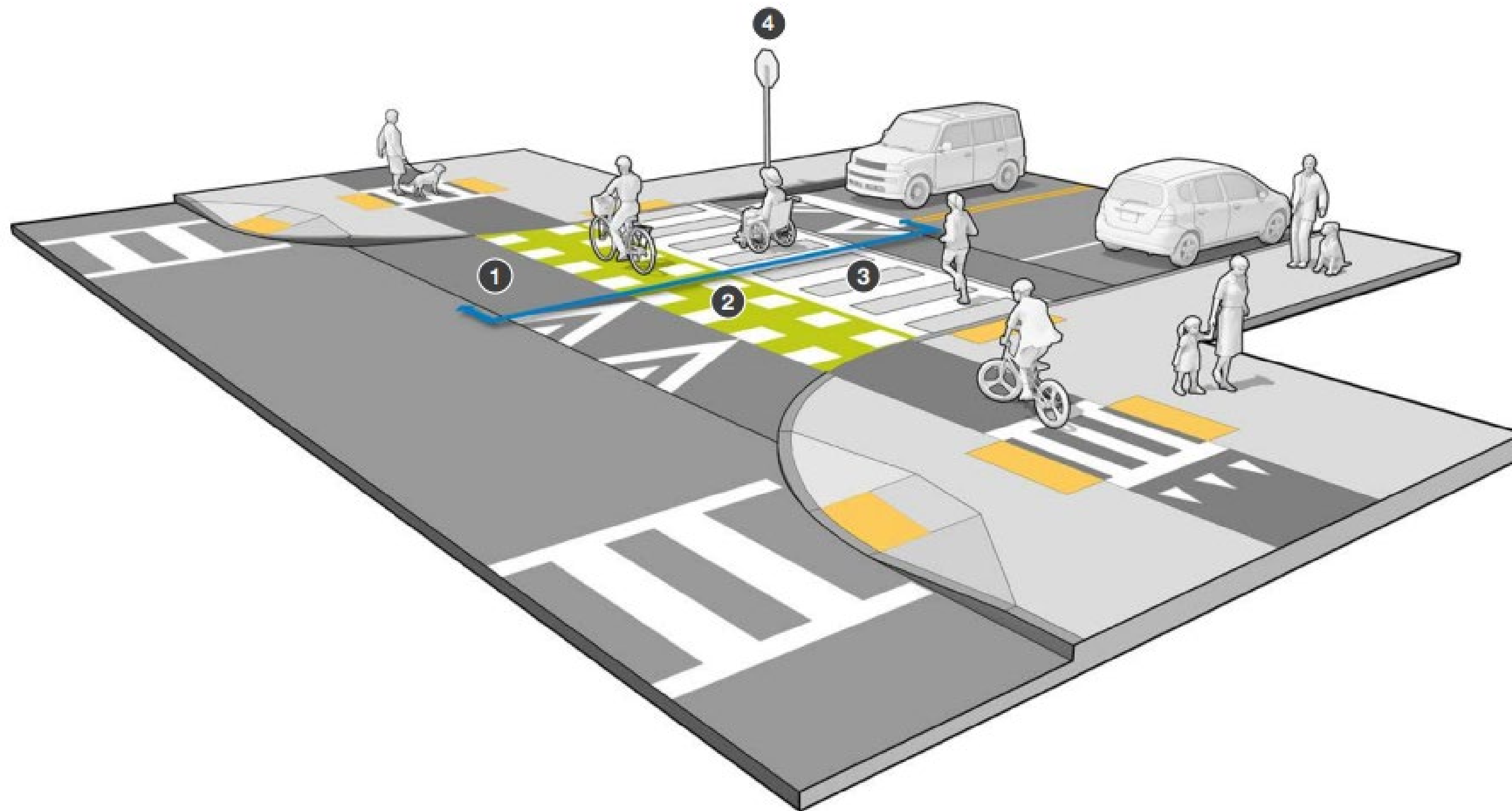
WHAT IS AN RRFB?

- Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacons are pedestrian-actuated flashing lights that are installed at some crosswalks to help pedestrians cross more safely.

WHERE WILL THEY BE INSTALLED?

1. Marriot Crossing (Bus Stop)
2. Woodbine Street
3. Islington Road (Bus Stop)
4. Ash Street

Project Elements – Raised Crossings



Raised crossings are proposed across all side streets to:

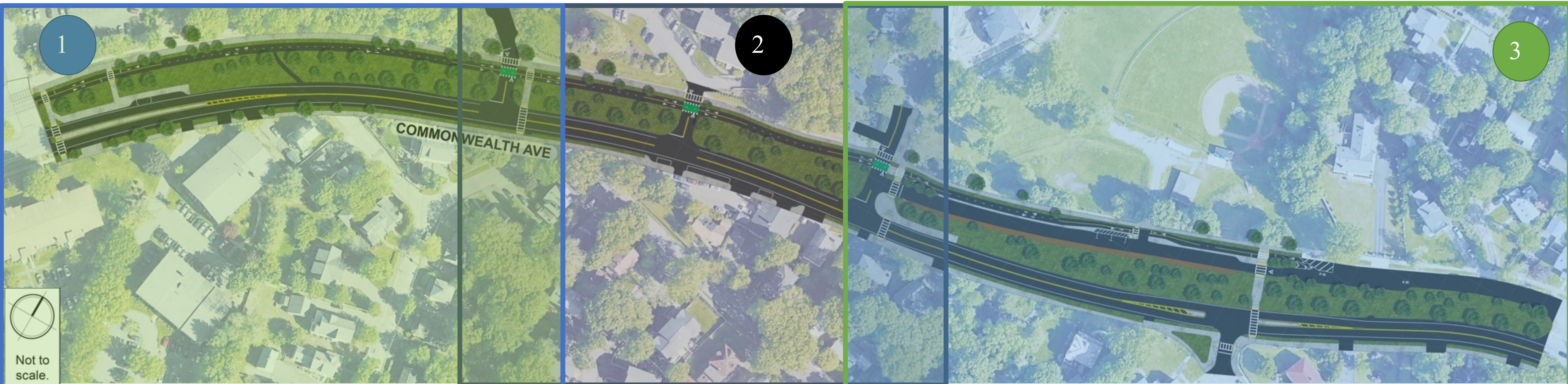
- Slow vehicles down
- Increase visibility of pedestrians and bicyclists
- Increase yielding behavior

Proposed Design – Full Project



Project Goals	Design Features
Complete Streets Accommodations	Convert carriage road to pedestrian and bicycle facilities Improve sidewalk on the south side, reconstruct sidewalks
Safety	New pavement, markings and signage; RRFB crossings; raised crossings at side streets; Reconstruct Ash Street intersection (to be discussed)
Environmental	Increase green space [2,900' square feet of new green space]

Proposed Design – Project Scope

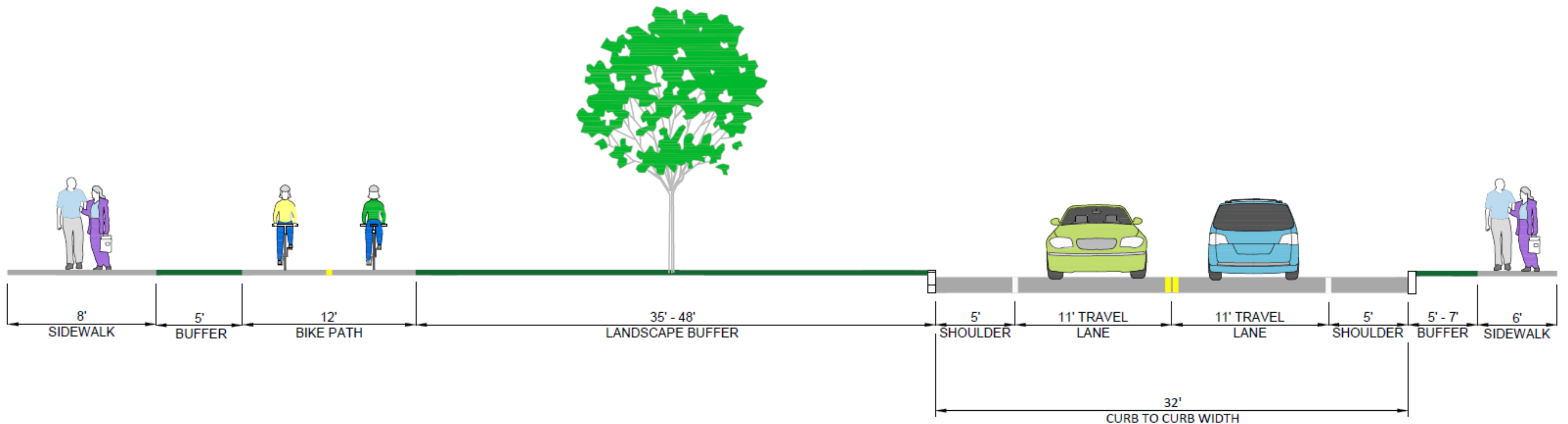


- Commonwealth Avenue WB relocated south of median
- MBTA Bus Stop Improvements at the Marriot

- Conversion of carriage road to pedestrian and bicycle facilities
- Side Streets and Driveways Extended

- Ash Street Intersection Reconstruction
- Lyon’s Field Improvements
- Carriageway Open

Proposed Design – Cross Sections for Segments 1 & 2

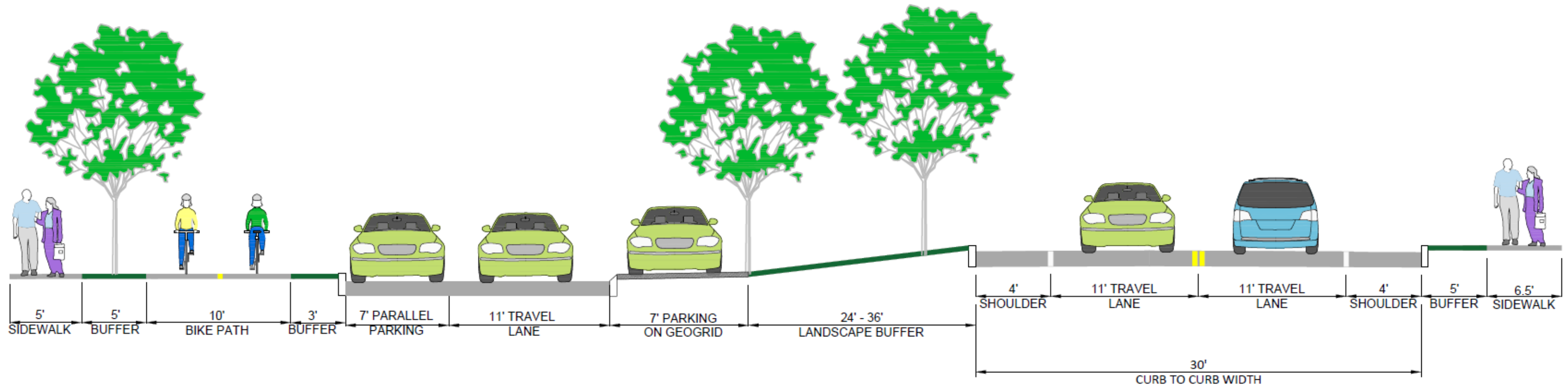


Typical Cross Section – Looking East

Segment 1: Commonwealth Avenue EB is converted into pedestrian and bicycle facilities

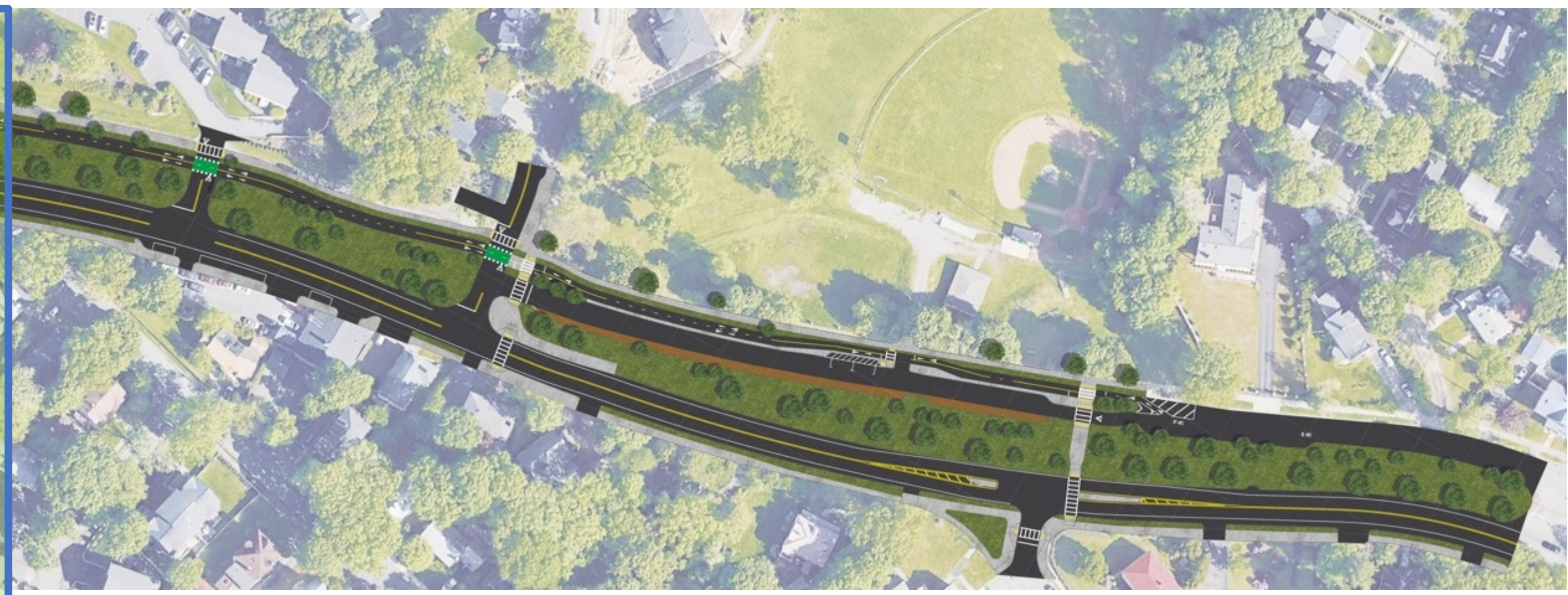
Segment 2: Carriageway is converted into pedestrian and bicycle facilities

Proposed Design – Cross Sections for Segment 3

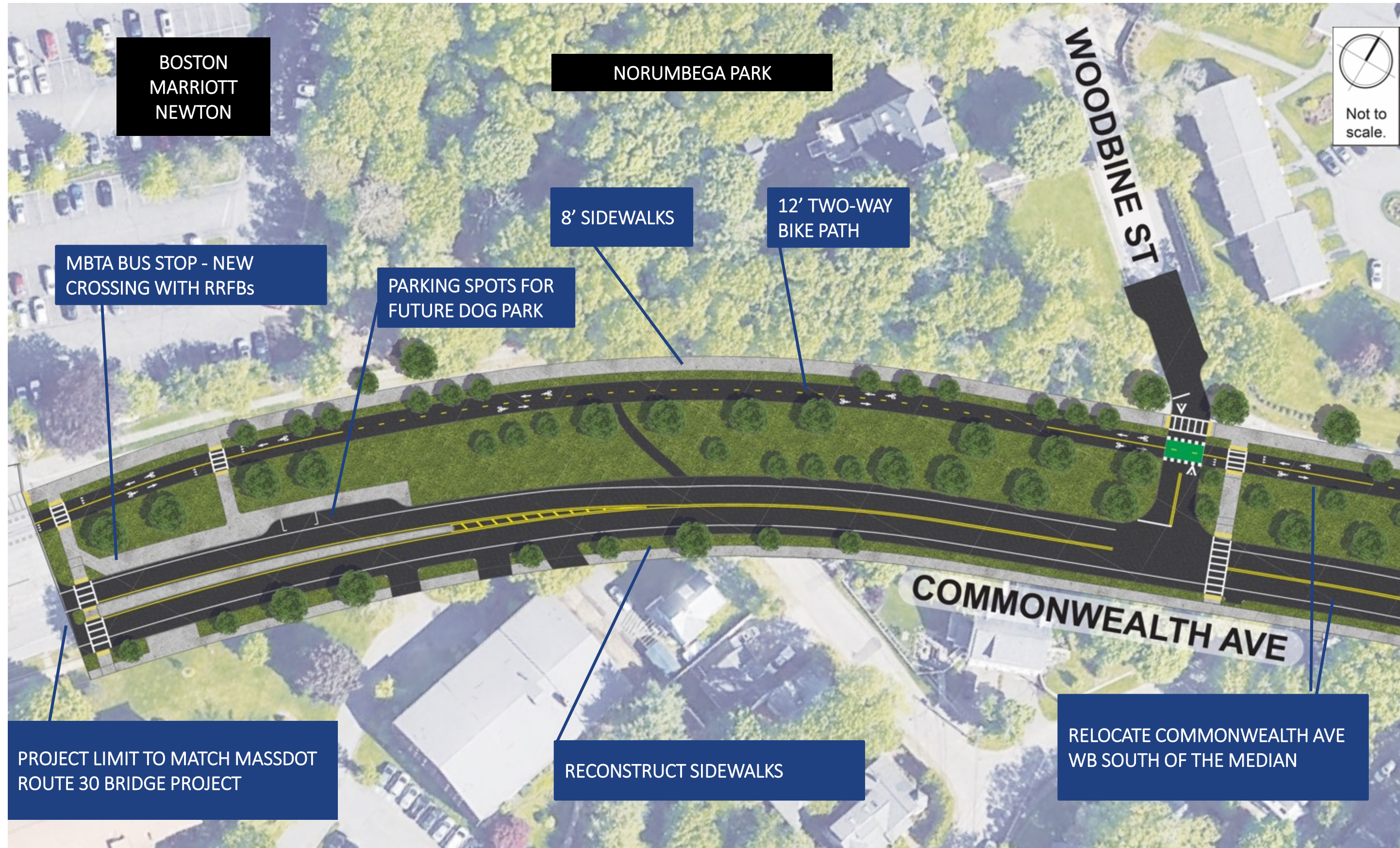


Typical Cross Section – Looking East
 Carriageway is retained for parking at Lyon's Field

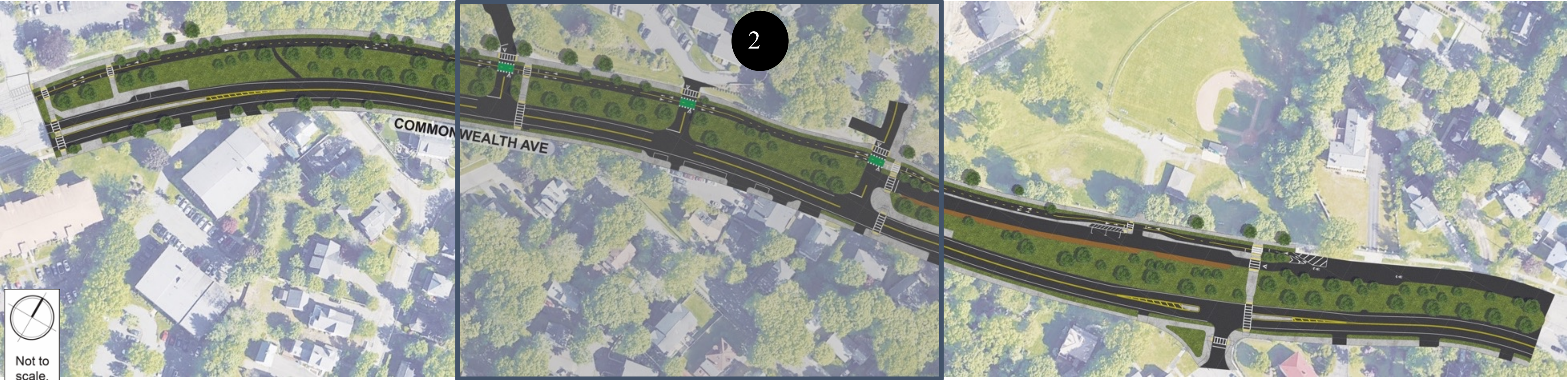
Marriott to Woodbine Street – Proposed Design



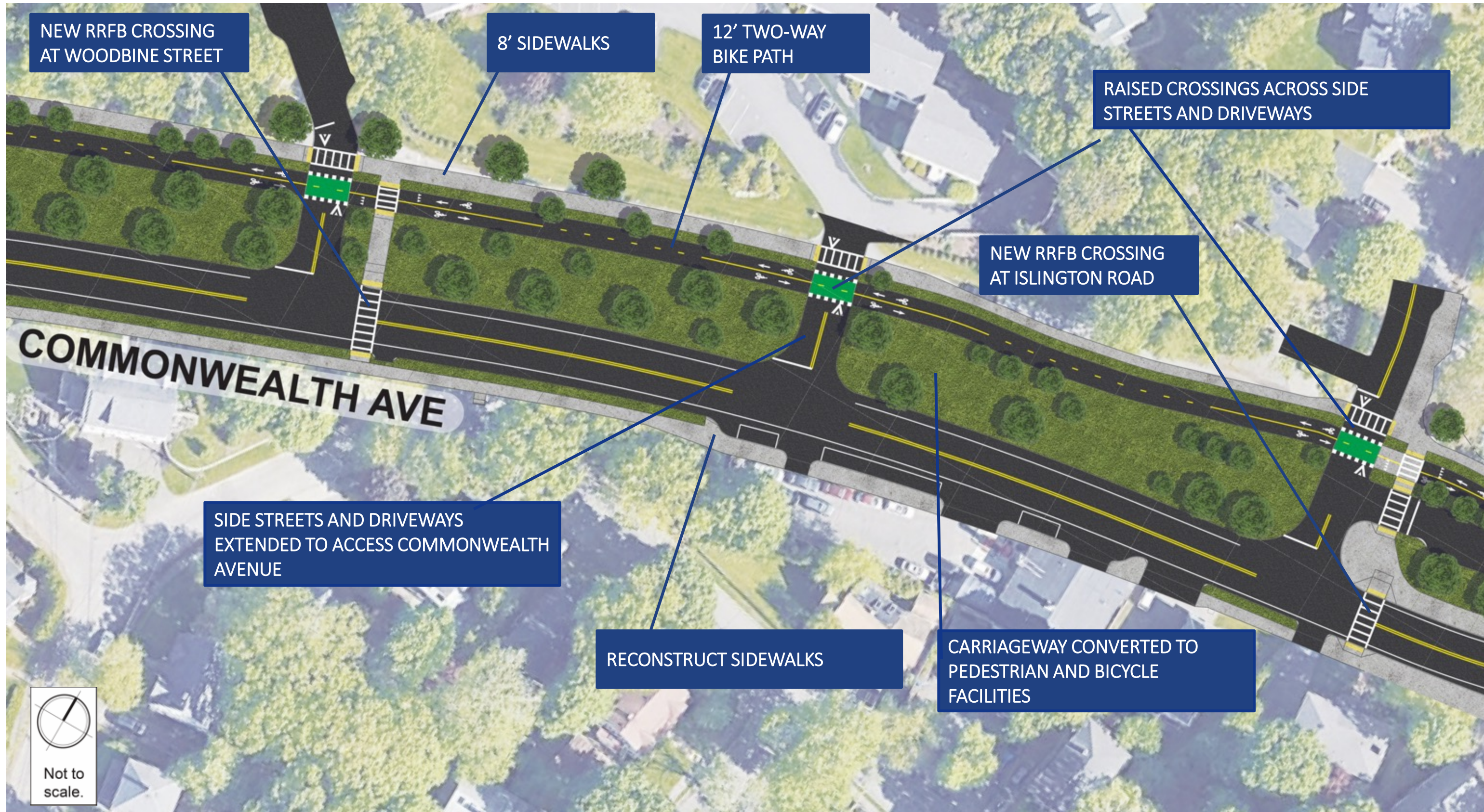
Marriot to Woodbine Street – Proposed Design



Woodbine Street to Islington Road – Proposed Design



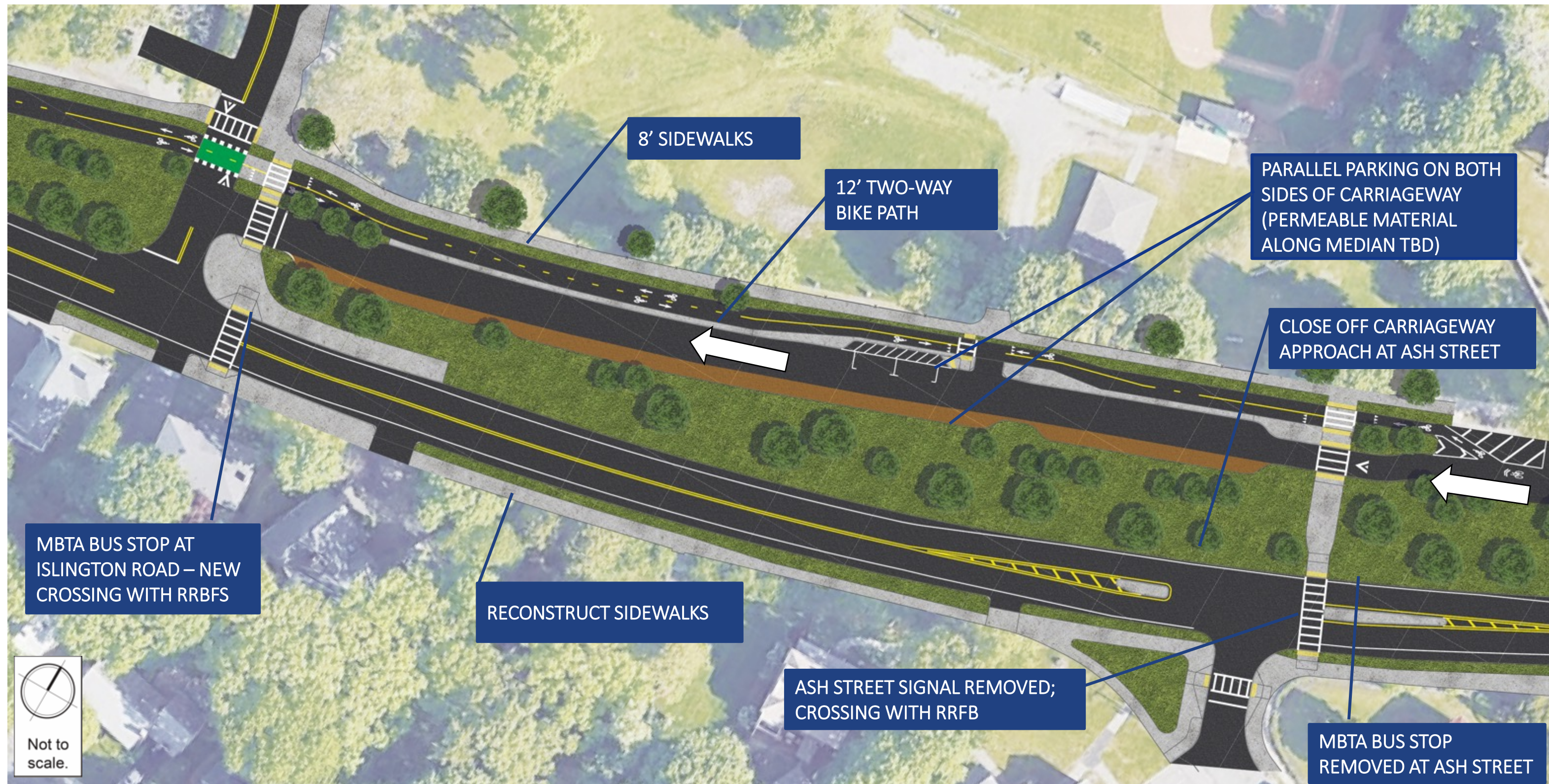
Woodbine Street to Islington Road – Proposed Design



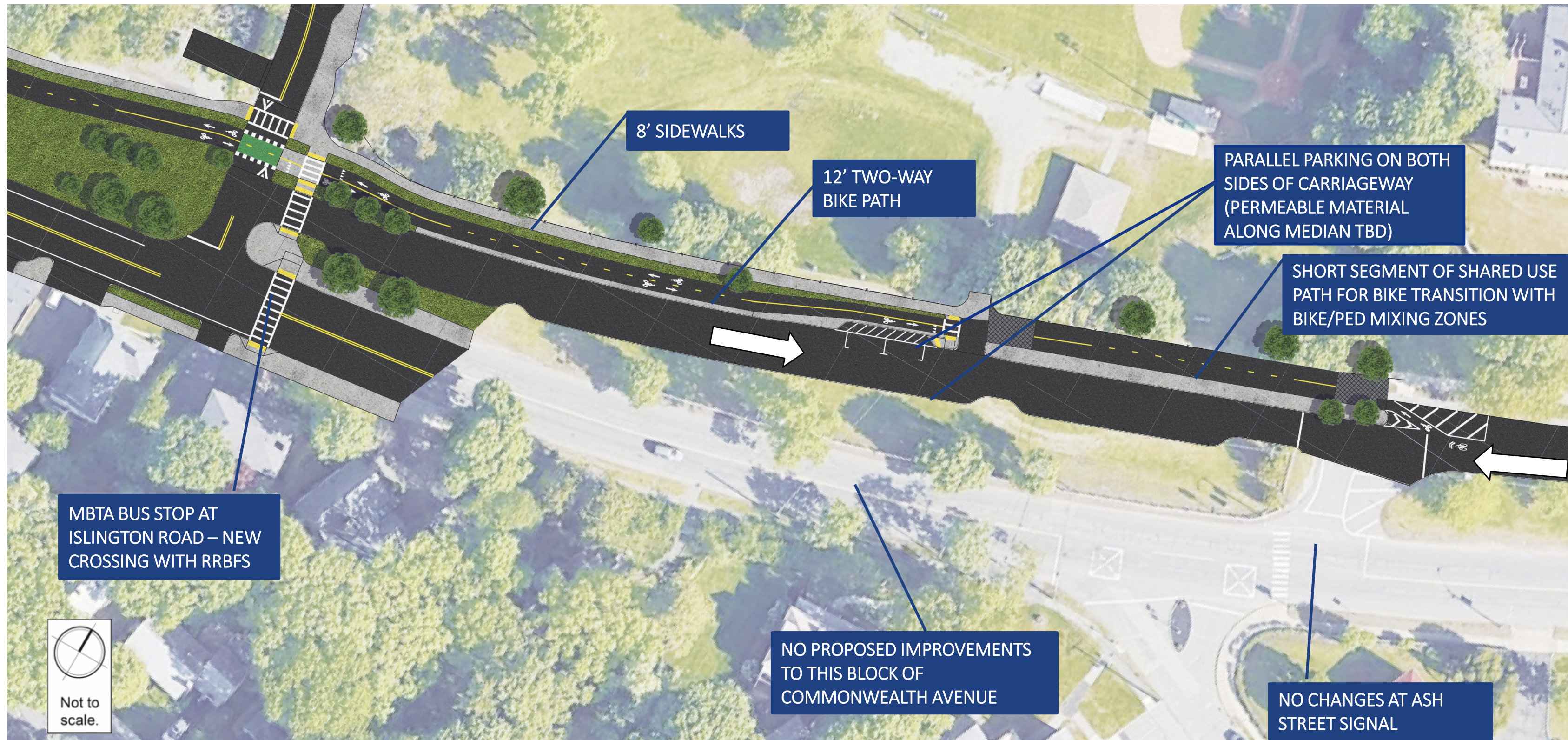
Islington Road to Ash Street – Proposed Design



Islington Road to Ash Street – Preferred Design (with Ash)



Islington Road to Ash Street – Alt Design (without Ash)



Islington Road to Ash Street – Preferred Design (with Ash)



Islington Road to Ash Street – Alt Design (without Ash)





How will your property be impacted?

Right of Way (ROW) discussion – 25% Design

- Responsible for acquiring all necessary rights in public land for design, construction, and implementation of a project.
- Affected property owners will be contacted by personnel from the consultants representing the City of Newton.
- Procedures must comply with state and federal regulations governing the acquisition process.
 - Property owners are protected under Massachusetts General Laws, primarily Chapter 79.
 - If project receives federal funds, property owners are further protected under Title III of the Real Property Act of 1970, as amended.
- Fee takings, permanent easements, and/or temporary construction easements may be required.
- Preliminary Right-of-Way Plans are on file with the City of Newton



**How will the
road user be
affected?**

Construction Impacts

Phased construction over 15 Months

No detour routes are anticipated

Travel Lane Impacts

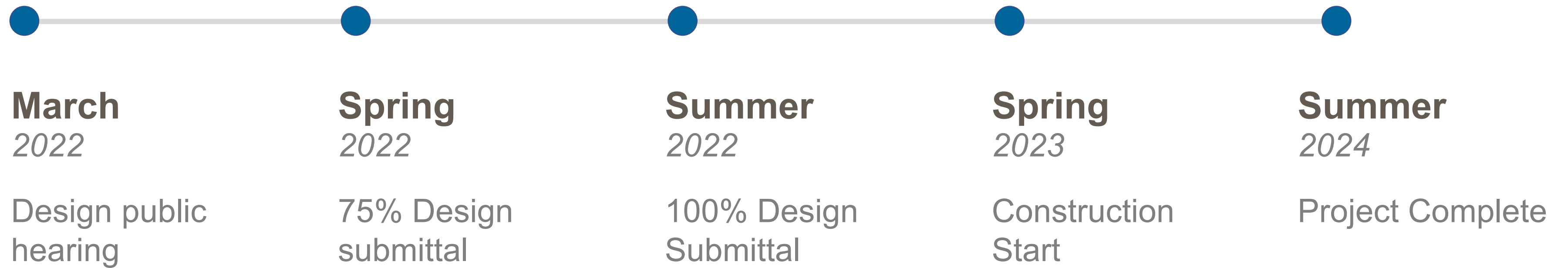
- Travel lanes will be realigned
- Carriage Road will be closed as part of final project design

Safe and accessible pedestrian routes will be maintained throughout construction

Abutter access will be maintained throughout construction



Anticipated Project Schedule





What are the environmental, cultural resource, and community impacts?

Environmental Reviews and Potential Permitting

Charles River

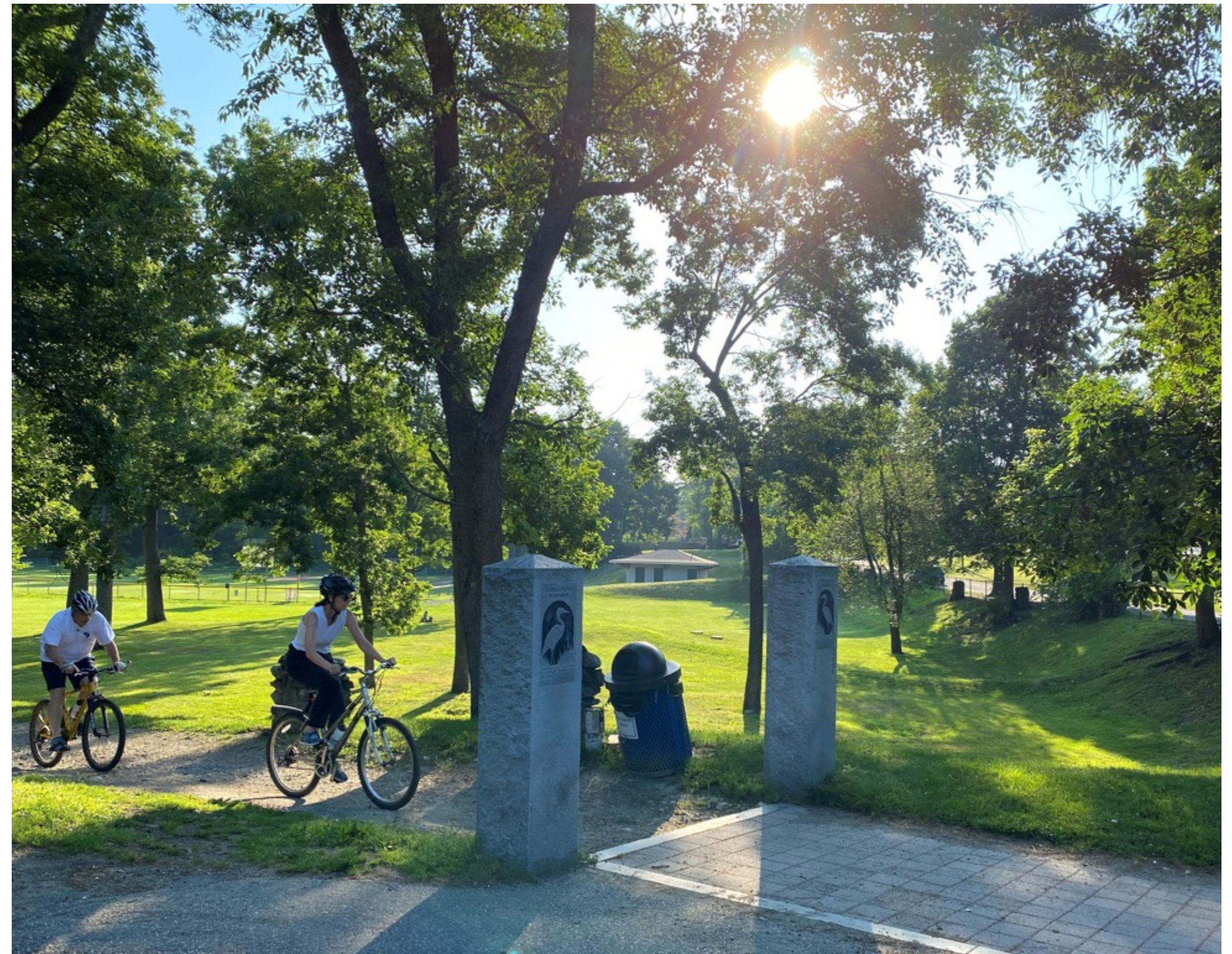
- Section 401 and 404 of Clean Water Act
- Wetlands Protection Act
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

Endangered species

- Northern long-eared bat

Cultural Resources Evaluations

- Section 106 – Historic Preservation
- Section 4(f) – Open Space and Parkland





**How will we
keep you
informed?**

We Want to Hear from You:

Written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to:

Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E.

Chief Engineer

Via email: dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us

Or US Mail: 10 Park Plaza, Suite 6340, Boston, MA 02110

Attention: Stephanie Upson, Project File No. 610674



Note: Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing/meeting transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than March 18, ten (10) business days after the hearing.

Project Website: <https://www.newtonma.gov/government/planning/transportation-planning/projects/commonwealth-avenue-carriageway-redesign>



Questions and discussion

Questions and answers



- “Raise your hand” to be unmuted for verbal questions



- Submit your questions and comments using the Q&A button



- Please state your name before your question



- Please share only 1 question or comment at a time, limited to 2 minutes, to allow others to participate



- To ask a question via phone, dial *9 and the moderator will call out the last 4-digits of your phone number and unmute your audio when it is your turn.



- Please take a few minutes to complete the survey after the meeting to let us know how your experience was with this virtual meeting.

**All questions and comments are subject to disclosure for public records.
Please use these functions for project related business only.**



Thank You

Newton Carriageway

March 3, 2022 | 6:30 PM

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