



# Chelsea Downtown Lower Broadway Project

## *Design Public Hearing*

Williams Middle School in Chelsea, MA  
Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 6:30PM EST  
Project File No. 609532



# Public hearing notes and procedures:

## Notification of video recording

- This public hearing will be recorded. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation may choose to retain and distribute the video, images, audio, and/or transcript.
- All parts of this hearing are considered public record.
- By continuing attendance with this public hearing, you are consenting to participate in a recorded event.
- If you are not comfortable being recorded, you may choose to excuse yourself from the hearing.
- The hearing will be open to questions and answers at the end of the formal presentation. You may also submit a question online at [tiny.cc/ChelseaComments](https://tiny.cc/ChelseaComments)

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

## Notice of MassDOT's policy on diversity and civil rights:

- All MassDOT activities, including public hearings, are free of discrimination.
- MassDOT complies with all federal and state civil rights requirements preventing discrimination based on sex, race, color, ancestry, national origin (limited English proficiency), religion, creed, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or veteran's status.
- We welcome the diversity from across our entire service area. If you have any questions or concerns, please visit <https://www.mass.gov/nondiscrimination-in-transportation-program> to reach the Office of Diversity and Civil Rights.

**Thank you for joining our hearing. We appreciate your participation!**

## Introductions

- **MassDOT**
  - Lawrence Cash, Project Manager
  - Joe Doucette, District 6
  - Angela Schofield, ROW Agent
- **The City of Chelsea**
  - Alex Train, Project Manager
  - Jorman Mota, Assistant City Engineer
- **HNTB**
  - Jonathan Kapust, Project Manager
  - Patrick Marvin, Public Involvement

## Partnerships:

- The City of Chelsea
- MassDOT
- MBTA

### Language Translation Speakers

- **Spanish**
  - Ursula Alarcon



# Recent Public Outreach

- Story Map
- Flyers
- Comment Form
- Social Media
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Elected Official Briefing
- Media Engagement
- Chelsea Chamber of Commerce
- Chelsea Record – 2/23 and 3/2 Ads
- El Planeta – 2/23 and 3/2 Ads





### Design Public Hearing

#### Chelsea - Downtown Broadway Project

**What is happening?**  
The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Downtown Broadway Project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

**How will this affect you?**  
The proposed project consists of adding MassDOT and Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) improvements along the Broadway Corridor from City Hall to Williams Street, including the permanent addition of the Downtown Broadway Bus/Bike Lane Pilot, intersection safety improvements, and the reconfiguration of the Beilingham Square signalized intersection. The completion of these improvements advances key goals of the 2018 City of Chelsea Re-Imagining Broadway Plan, which rethinks the traffic and circulation of the Downtown Chelsea area.

**When**  
Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
6:30 PM EST

**Where**  
The Williams Middle School  
180 Walnut Street  
Chelsea, MA 02150

Please note this meeting will be transcribed by a stenographer.  
Visit [www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings](https://www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings) for more information.

This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities and those with limited English proficiency. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request, as appropriate. To request accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857) 369-6690, fax (857) 369-0602, relay 7-1-1, or by email to [MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the meeting.

Project inquiries may also be emailed to [ChelseaDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:ChelseaDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us).  
Please submit any written statements regarding the proposed undertaking to: Carrie A. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, PROJECT FILE NO. 809602.





## Re-imaginando Broadway



# Chelsea, ¡queremos saber de ti!

La ciudad de Chelsea está mejorando Broadway desde el City Hall hasta Williams Street de acuerdo a tu visión y esperanzas para nuestra ciudad.



### ¡Queremos escuchar tus ideas!

Escanea el código QR o visita: <https://tinyurl.com/362spnhp>  
compartir con nosotros lo que te imaginas para Broadway.





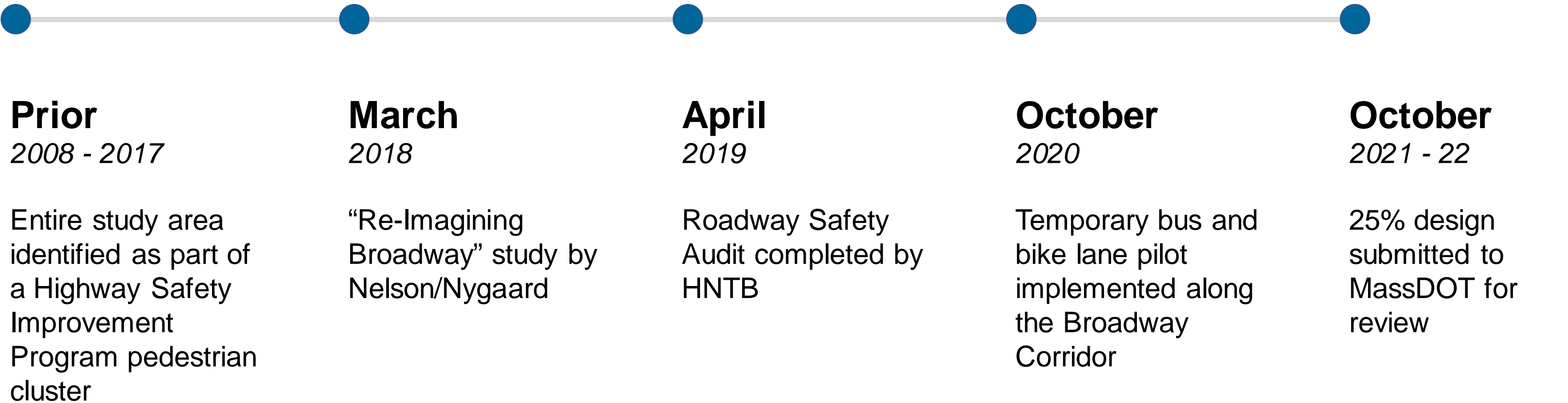
# Agenda

- Project initiation
- Project purpose
- Alternatives considered
- Preferred Alternative
- Bicyclists and pedestrian impacts
- Environmental, cultural resource, and community impacts
- Construction approach
- Staying informed
- Questions and answers





# How did we get here?



## Cost and Funding

### Project Cost:

- \$7.4 million (does not include ROW)

### Funding Sources:

- Federal Aid (80%)
- State Funds (20%)



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

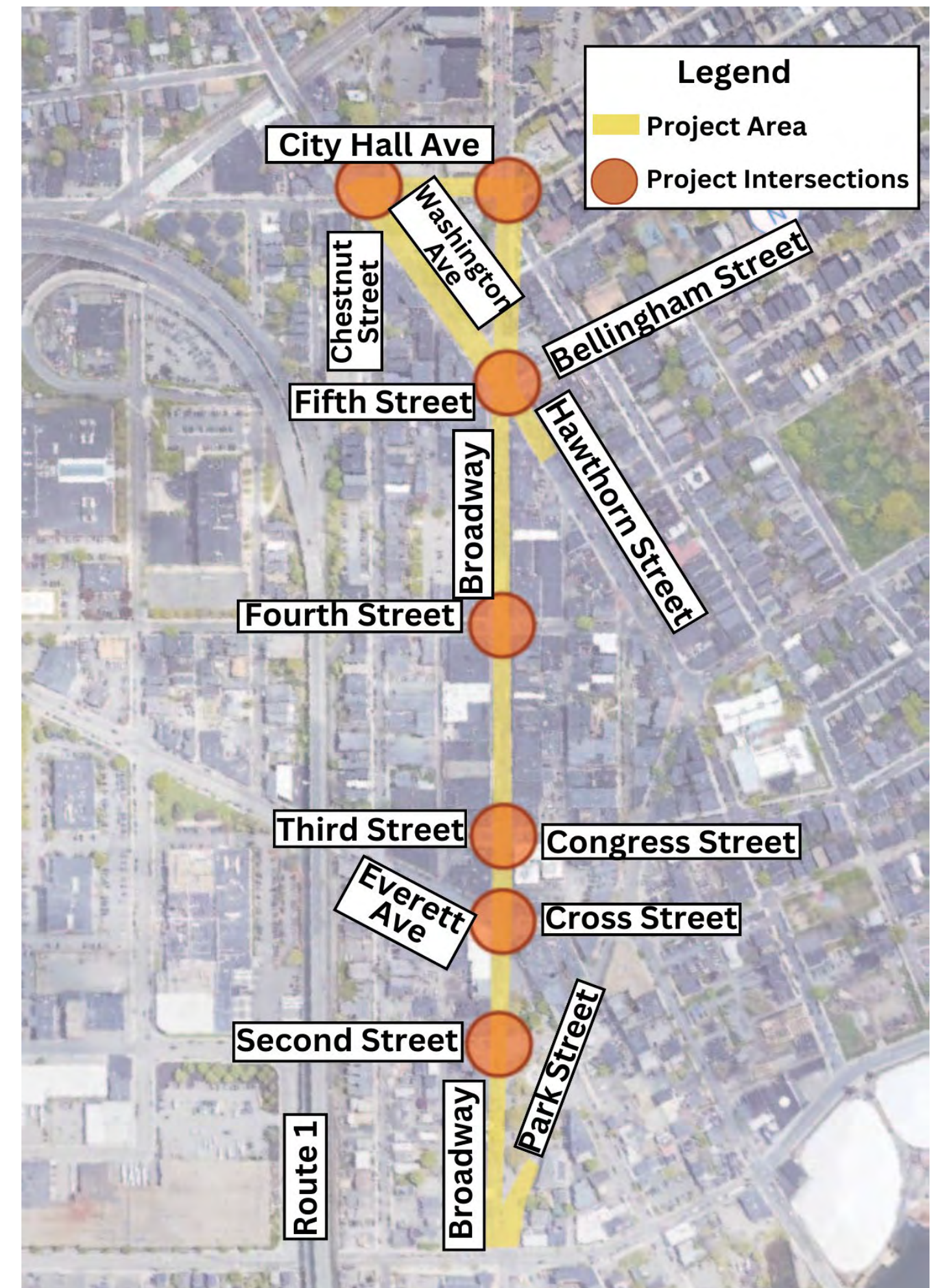
**Federal Highway  
Administration**





# Project Area

- ½ Mile Broadway Corridor –  
From Williams Street to City Hall Avenue
- 7 Intersection Improvements
  - Second Street
  - Everett Ave/Cross Street
  - Third Street/Congress Avenue
  - Fourth Street
  - Washington Ave/Bellingham and Fifth Street
  - Washington Ave at City Hall Ave
  - City Hall Ave/Marlborough Street





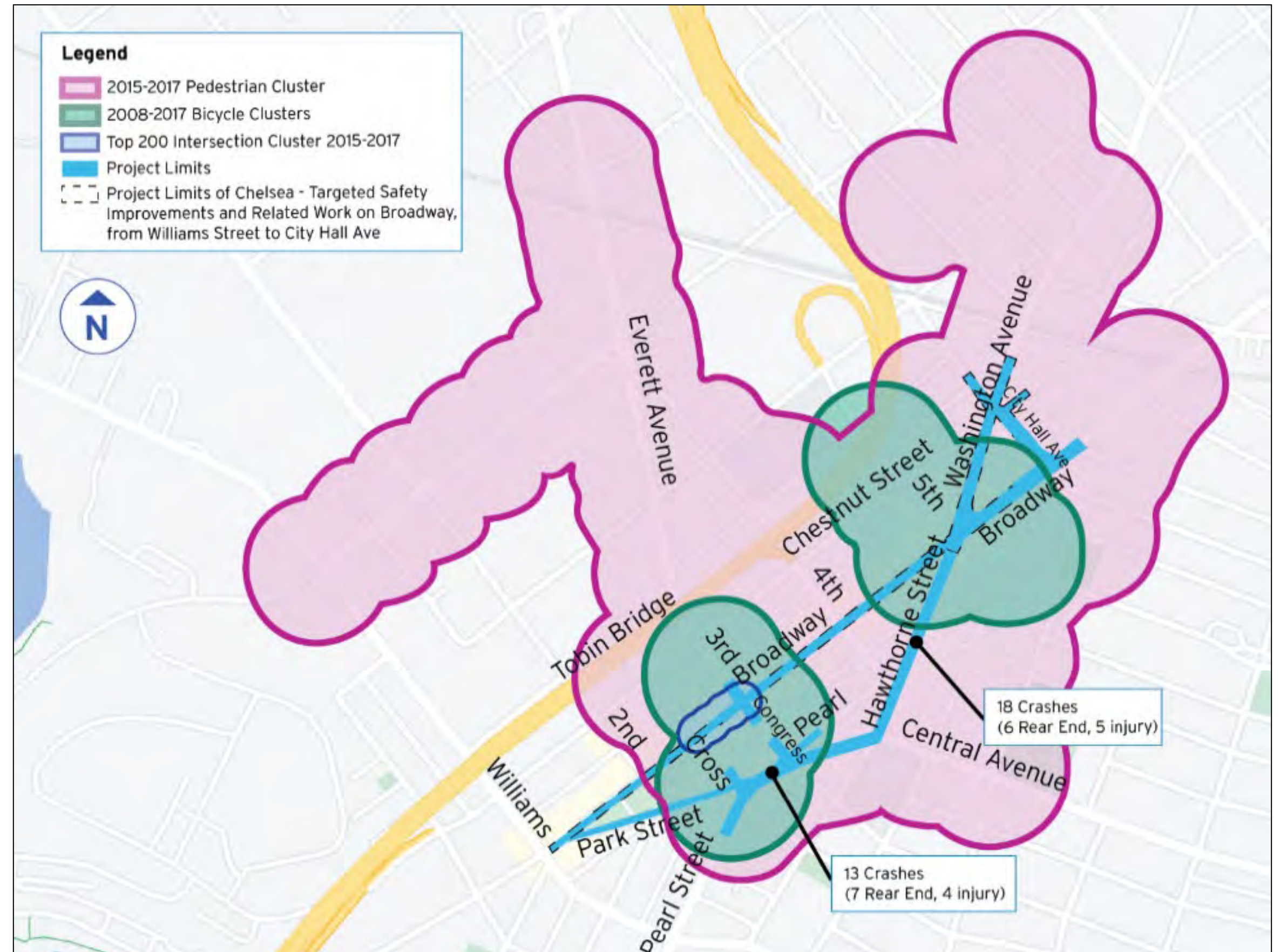


**Why was this  
project  
initiated?**



## High Crashes

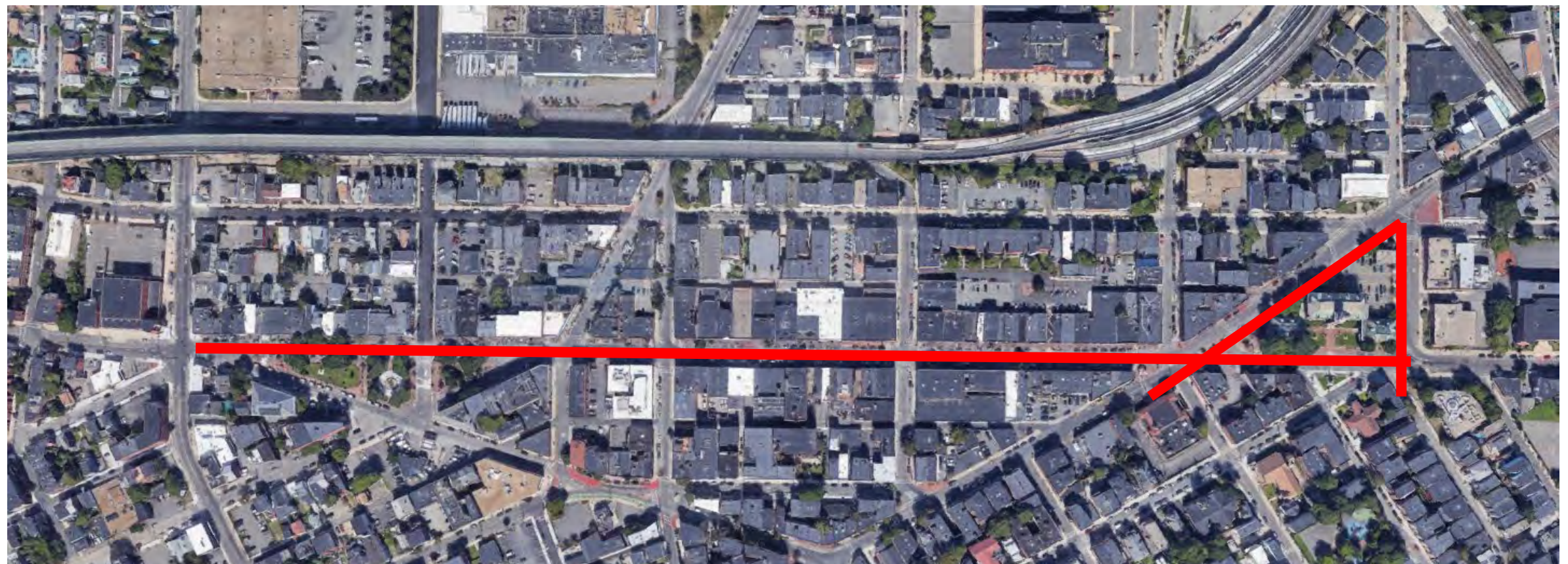
- The project area has some of the state's most dangerous vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian crash clusters. (Via: Highway Safety Improvement Program, or HSIP).
- HSIP clusters are areas in the state of Massachusetts with high numbers of crashes.
- Over 2,800 people walk through the intersections every day.





## Roadway Safety Audit (RSA)

- A Roadway Safety Audit (RSA) for the project area was held in April 2019 to:
  - Review the crashes
  - Discuss issues and observations
  - Determine potential short- and long-term safety improvements
- Large amount of rear end and angle crashes at intersections and double parked vehicles.





# Transit

- Five MBTA bus routes have stops on Hawthorn Street at Bellingham Square
- Three of these routes (111, 116 and 117) carry over 24,000 riders per day.
- Buses often stop away from curbline.
- Sidewalks are blocked by transit users waiting to board







**What do we  
want to  
accomplish?**



## Targeted Safety Improvements

- Project goal is to improve roadway safety for all road users:
  - Shorter crosswalks for pedestrians at intersections
  - Accessibility improvements at intersections and sidewalk
  - Larger bus stops
  - Bicycle connections to/from Chelsea Greenway
  - Simplified, safer roadway network at City Hall
- Advances key goals of the 2018 City of Chelsea Re-imagining Broadway Plan



80% of Chelsea's workforce are considered "essential employees"



59% of people who live in Chelsea drive to work



29% of people who live in Chelsea take public transportation to work



30% of households in Chelsea do not own cars

## Progress to Date

- Bus Pilot Improvements
  - Installation of a dedicated bus/bike lane on Broadway
  - Wider waiting areas at bus stops







**What  
alternatives  
were  
considered?**

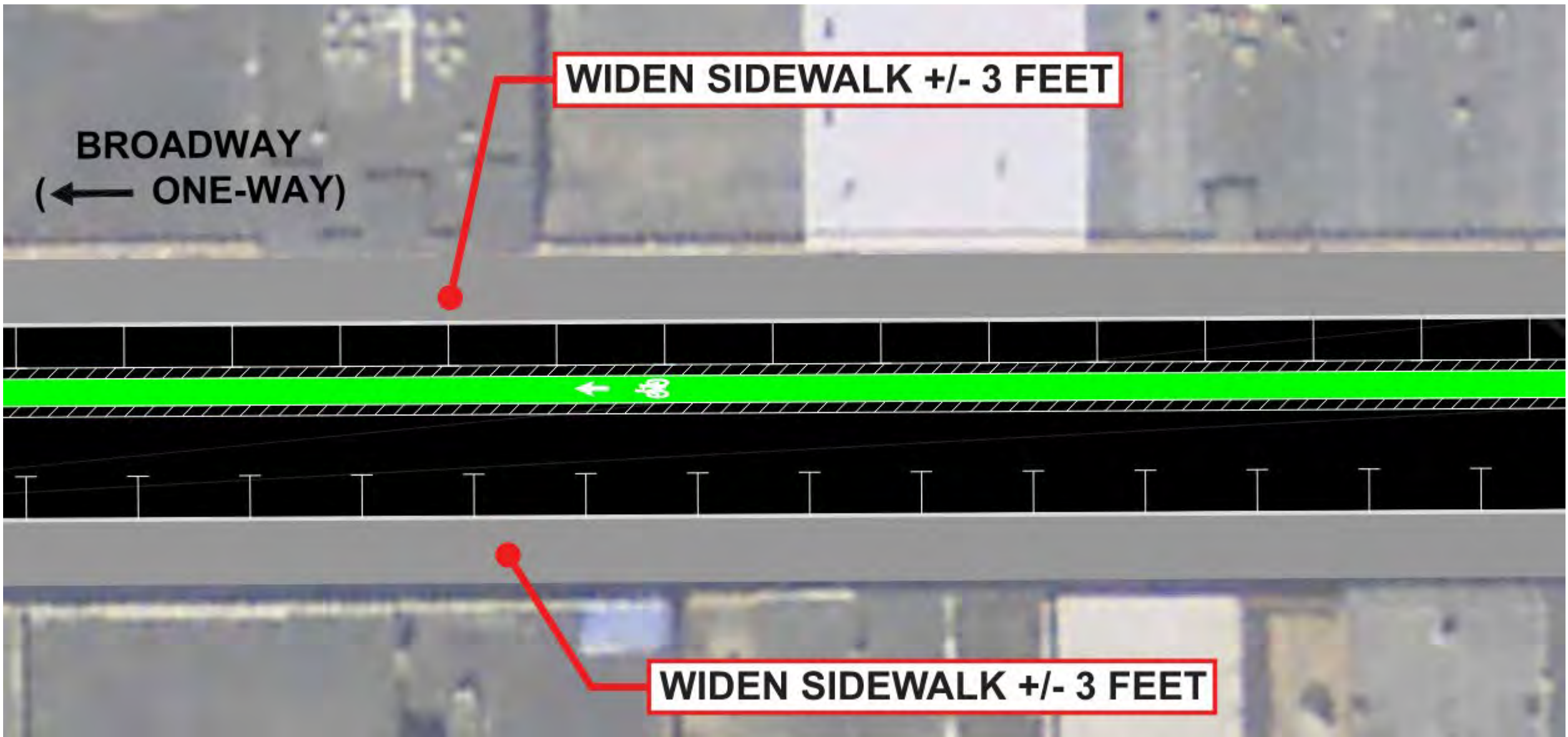


## “Re-Imagining Broadway” Study Alternatives

- The Nelson Nygaard study “Re-Imagining Broadway” from March 2018 proposed four alternatives:
  - Alternative 1 – Bike Lane with Striped Buffers
  - Alternative 2 – Shared Bus-Bike Lane
  - Alternative 3 – Protected Bike Lane with Striped Buffers
  - Alternative 4 – Protected Bike Lane with Two Travel Lanes

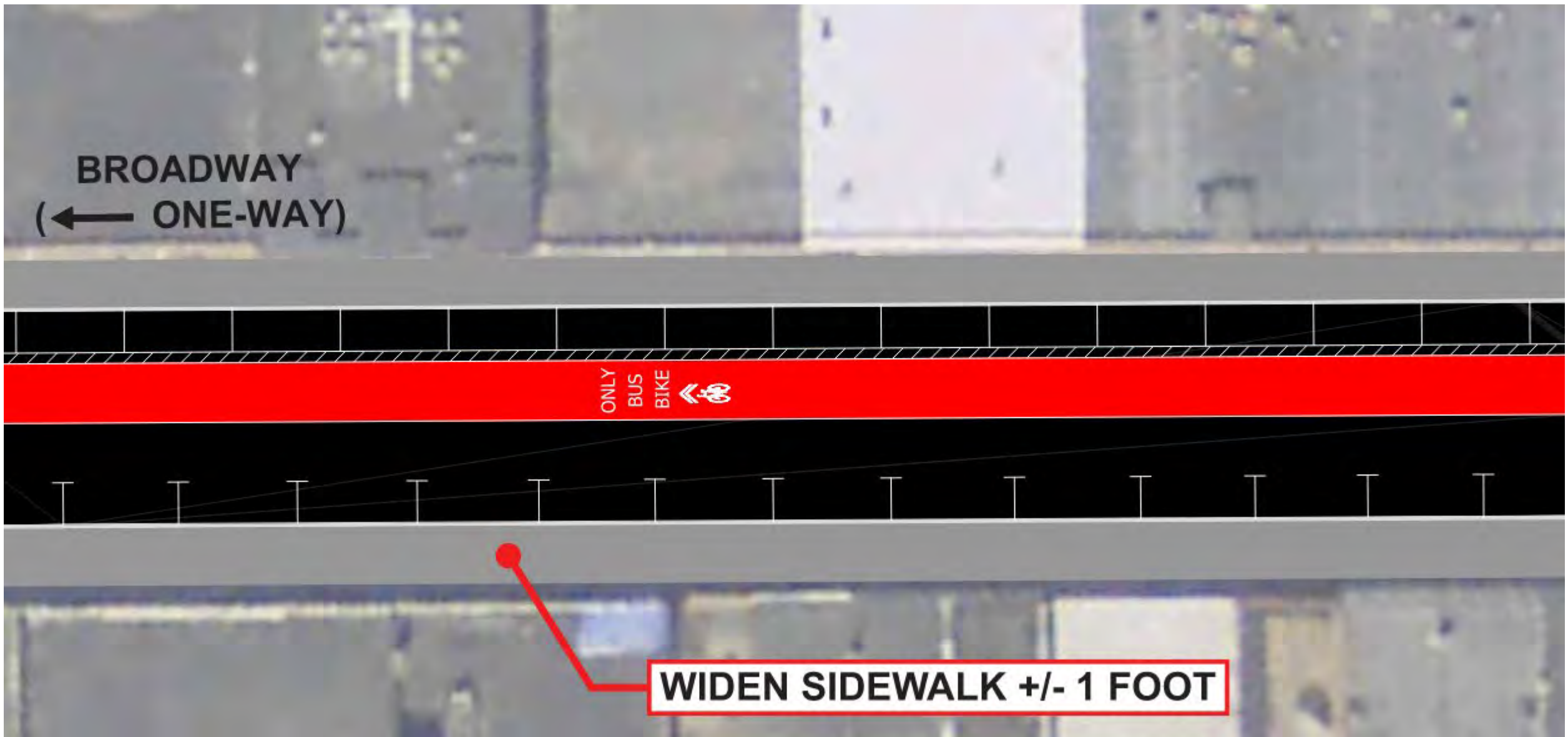


# Alternative 1 – Bike Lane with Striped Buffers



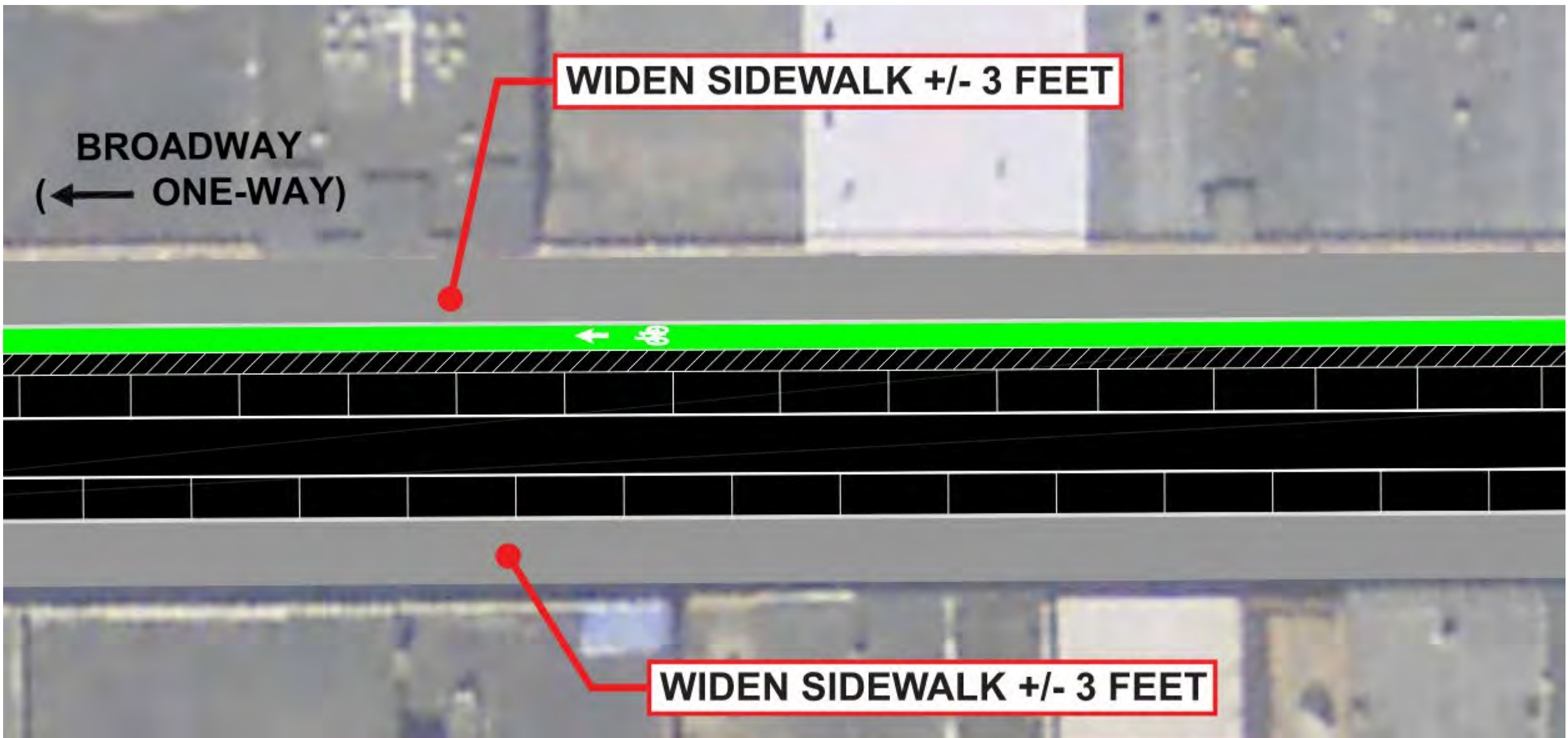


# Alternative 2 – Shared Bus-Bike Lane



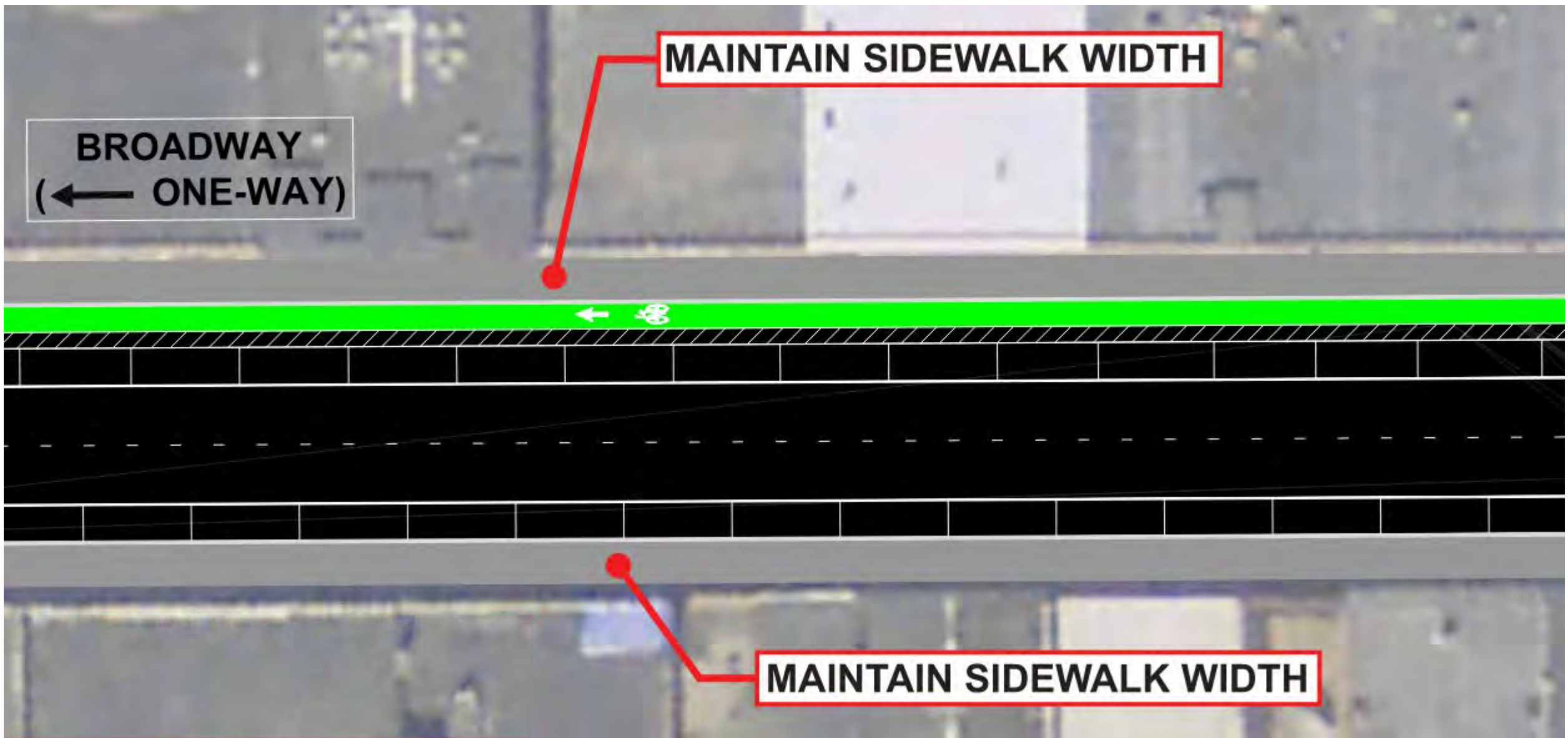


# Alternative 3 – Protected Bike Lane with Striped Buffers





# Alternative 4 – Protected Bike Lane with Two Travel Lanes



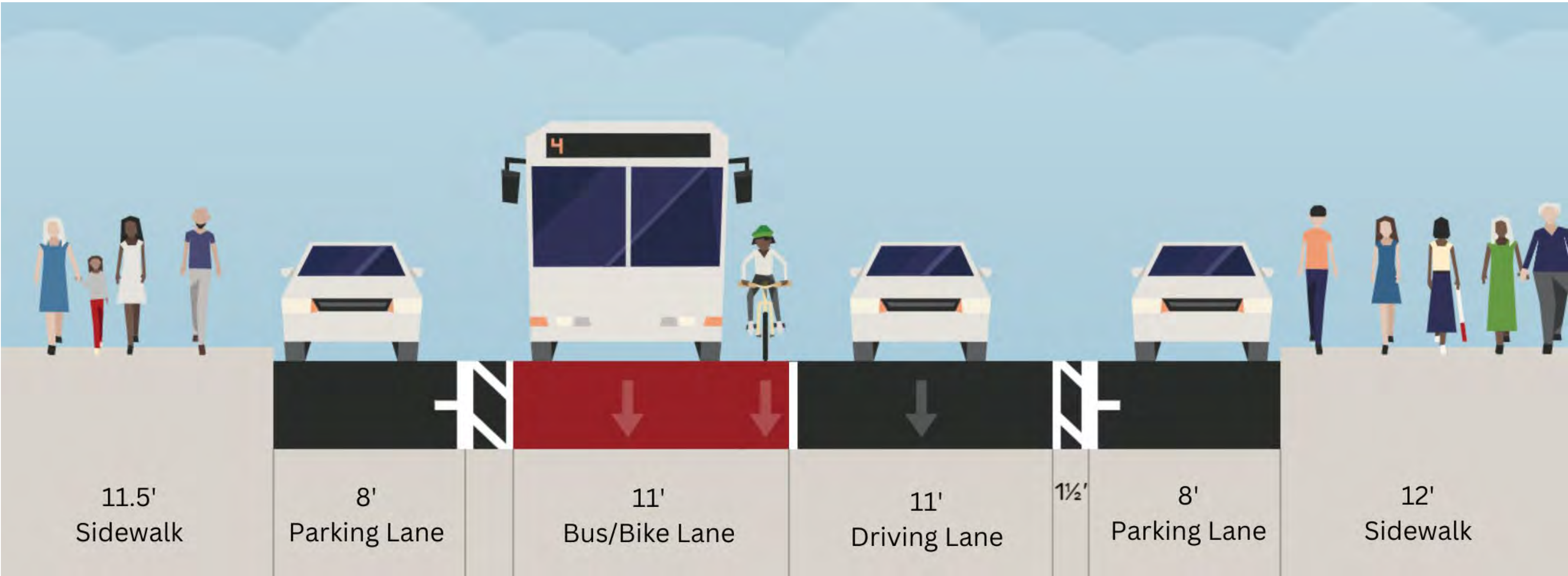




**What is the  
preferred  
alternative?**

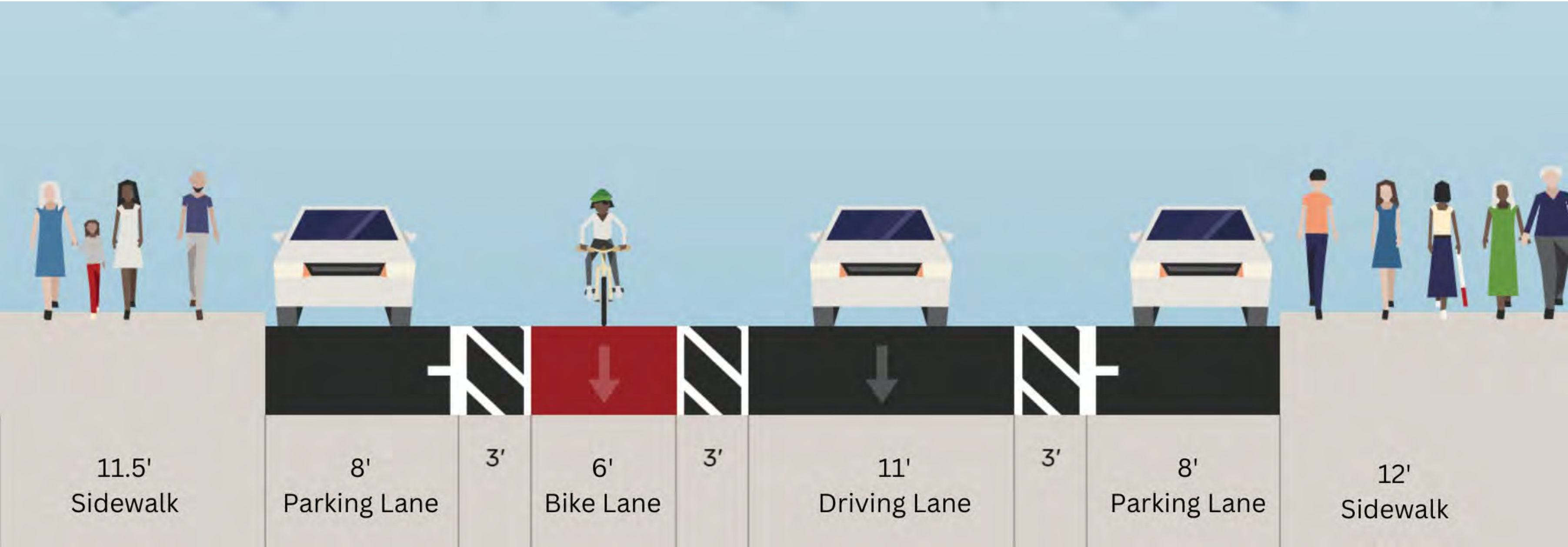


# Preferred Alternative Typical Section: Dedicated Bus/Bike Lane (City Hall Ave to 3<sup>rd</sup> Street)





# Preferred Alternative Typical Section: Buffered Bike Lane (Williams to 3<sup>rd</sup> Street)



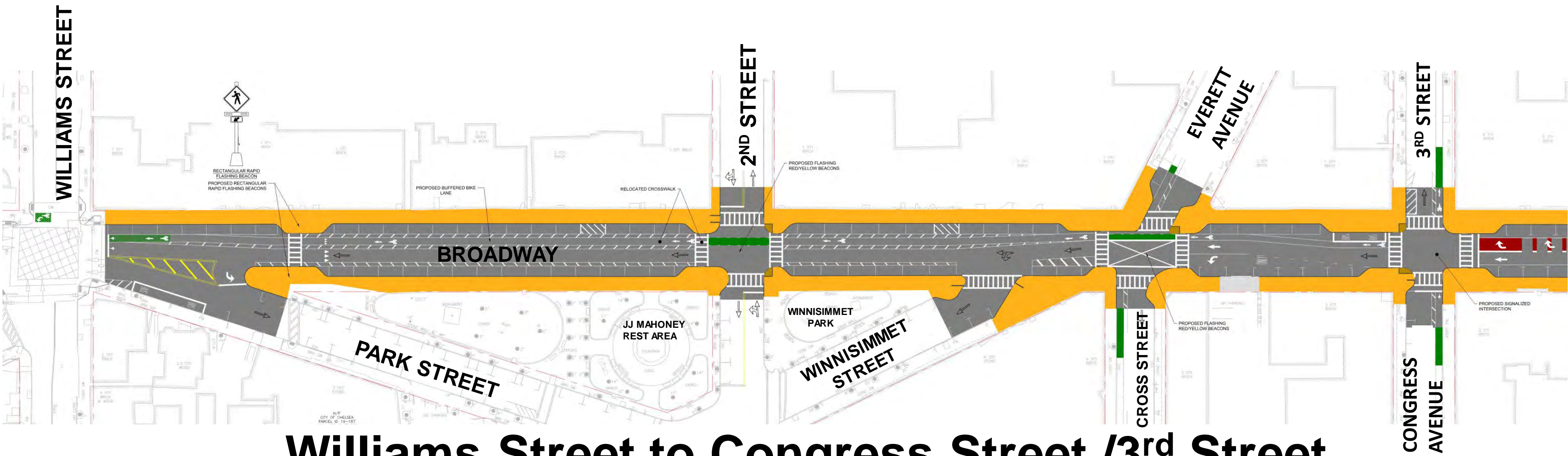




How has our  
design  
progressed?



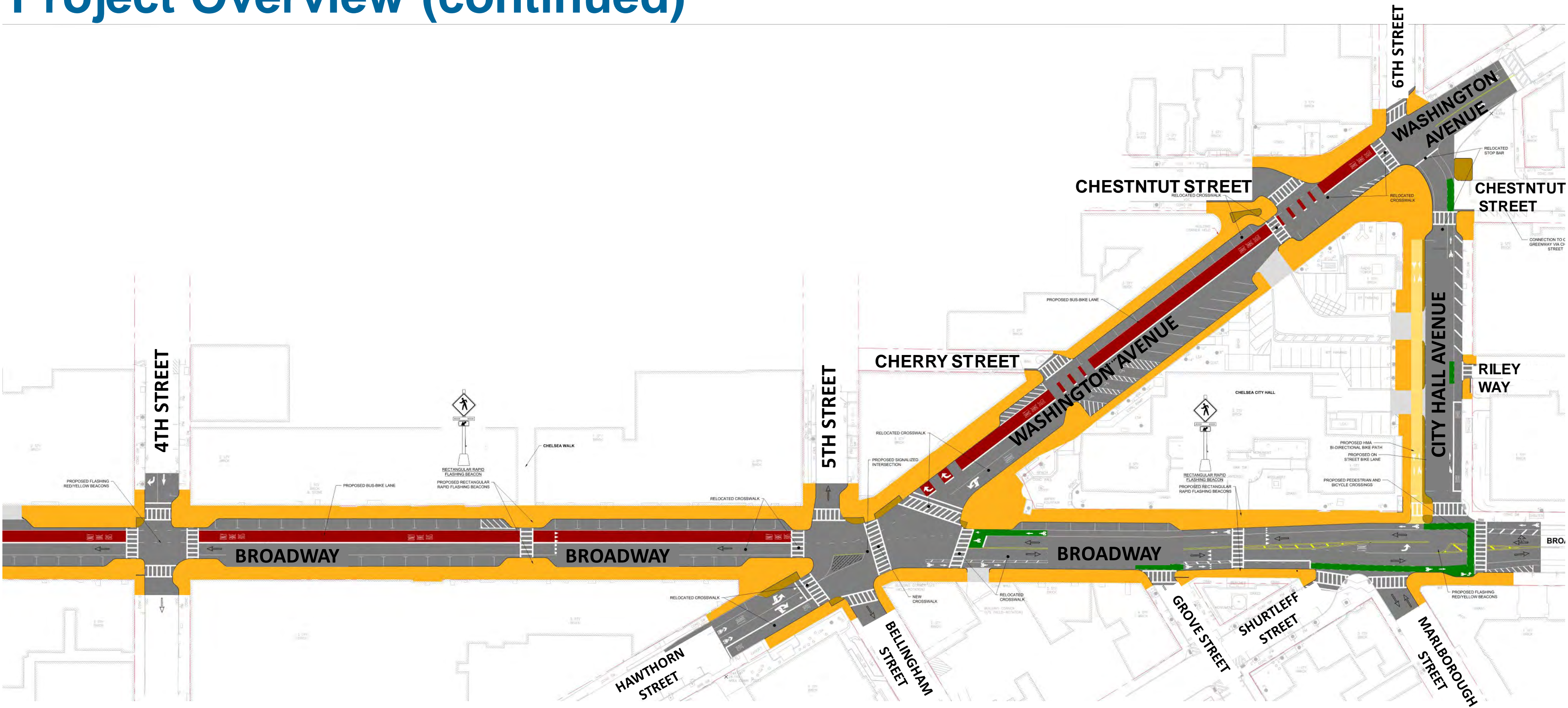
# Project Overview



Williams Street to Congress Street /3<sup>rd</sup> Street



# Project Overview (continued)

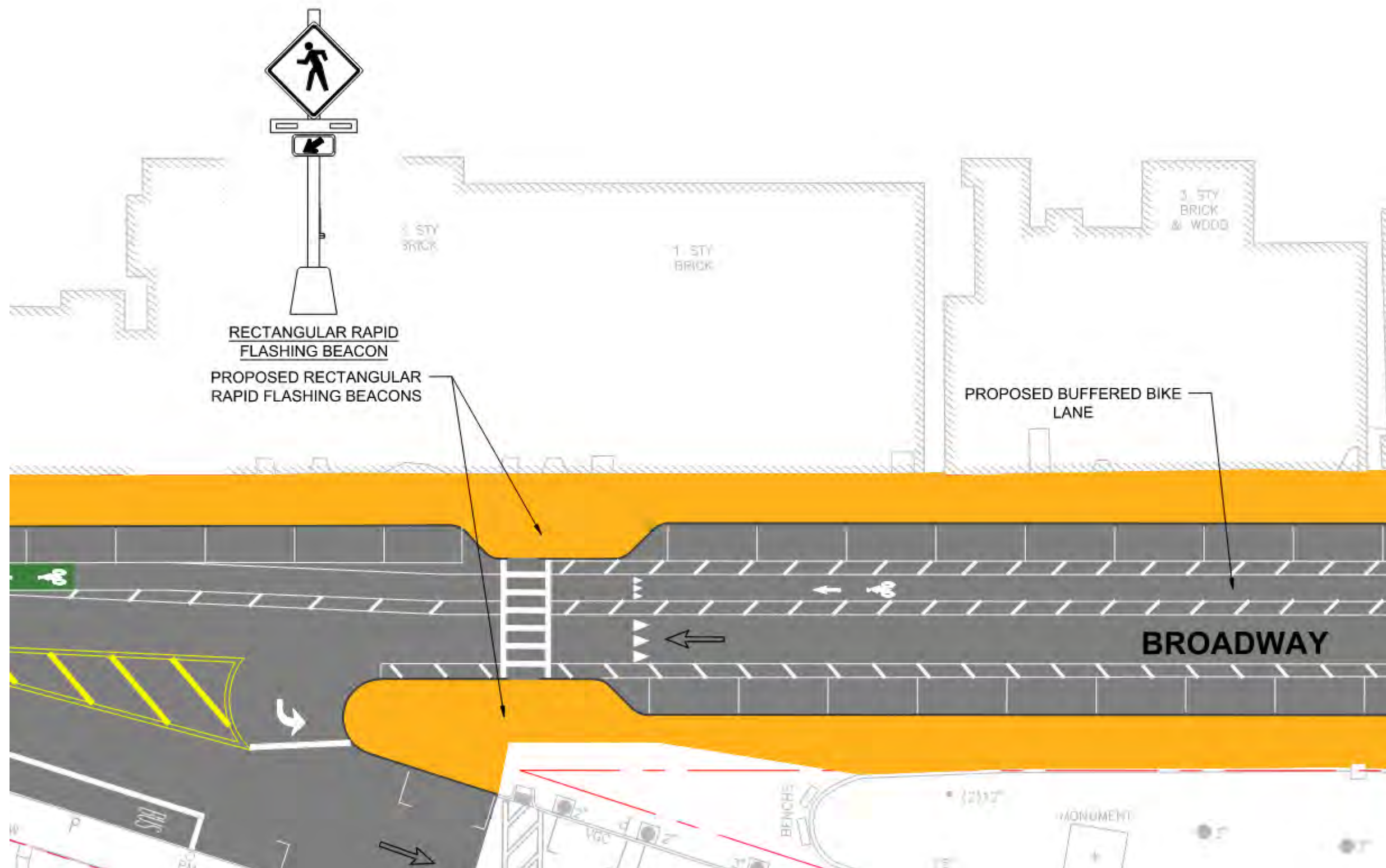


4<sup>th</sup> Street to City Hall Ave

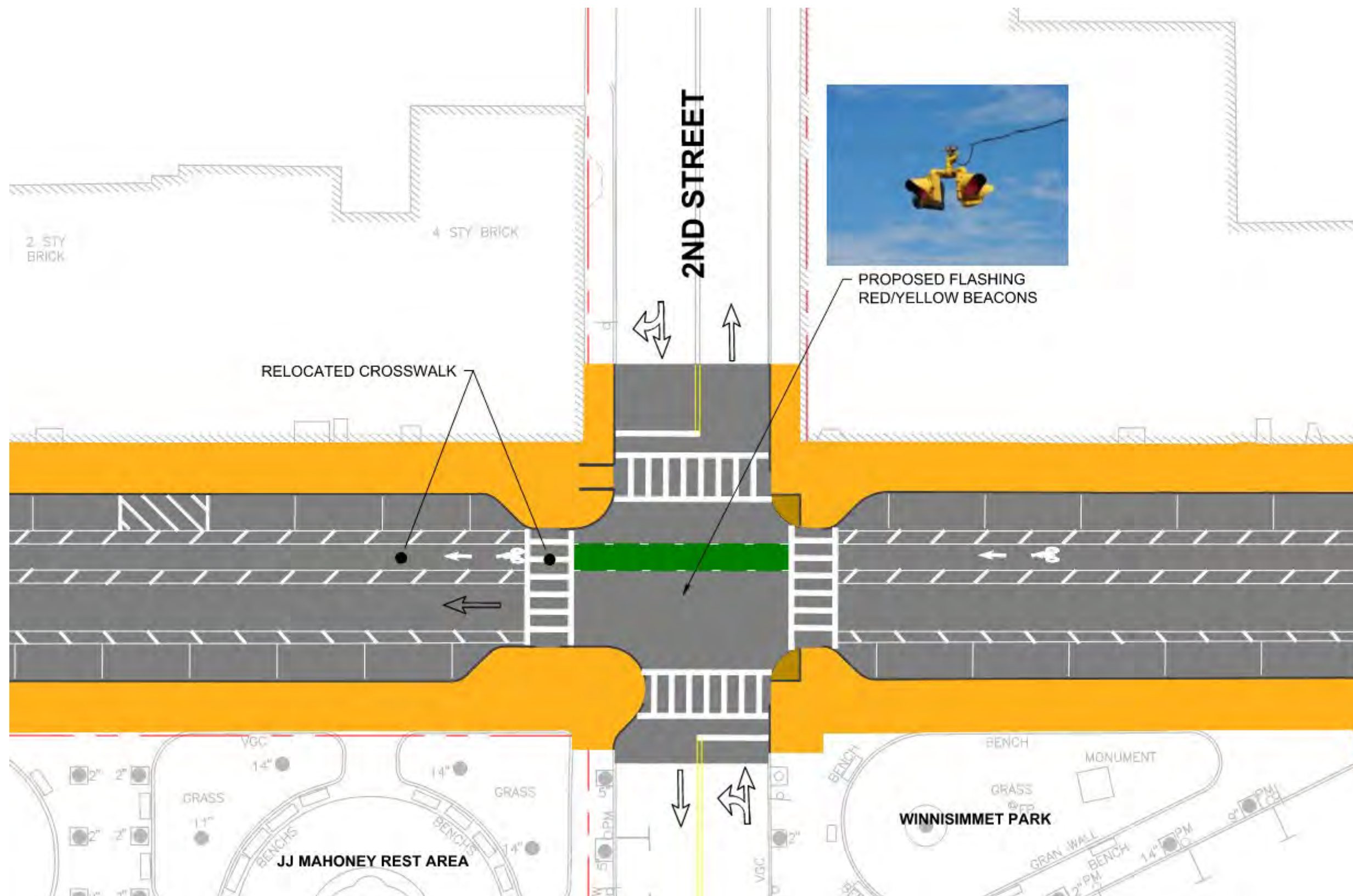


## Install flashing pedestrian beacons & buffered bike lane

- Increase safety and visibility for those walking across the street
- Buffered bike lane on Broadway increases rider safety



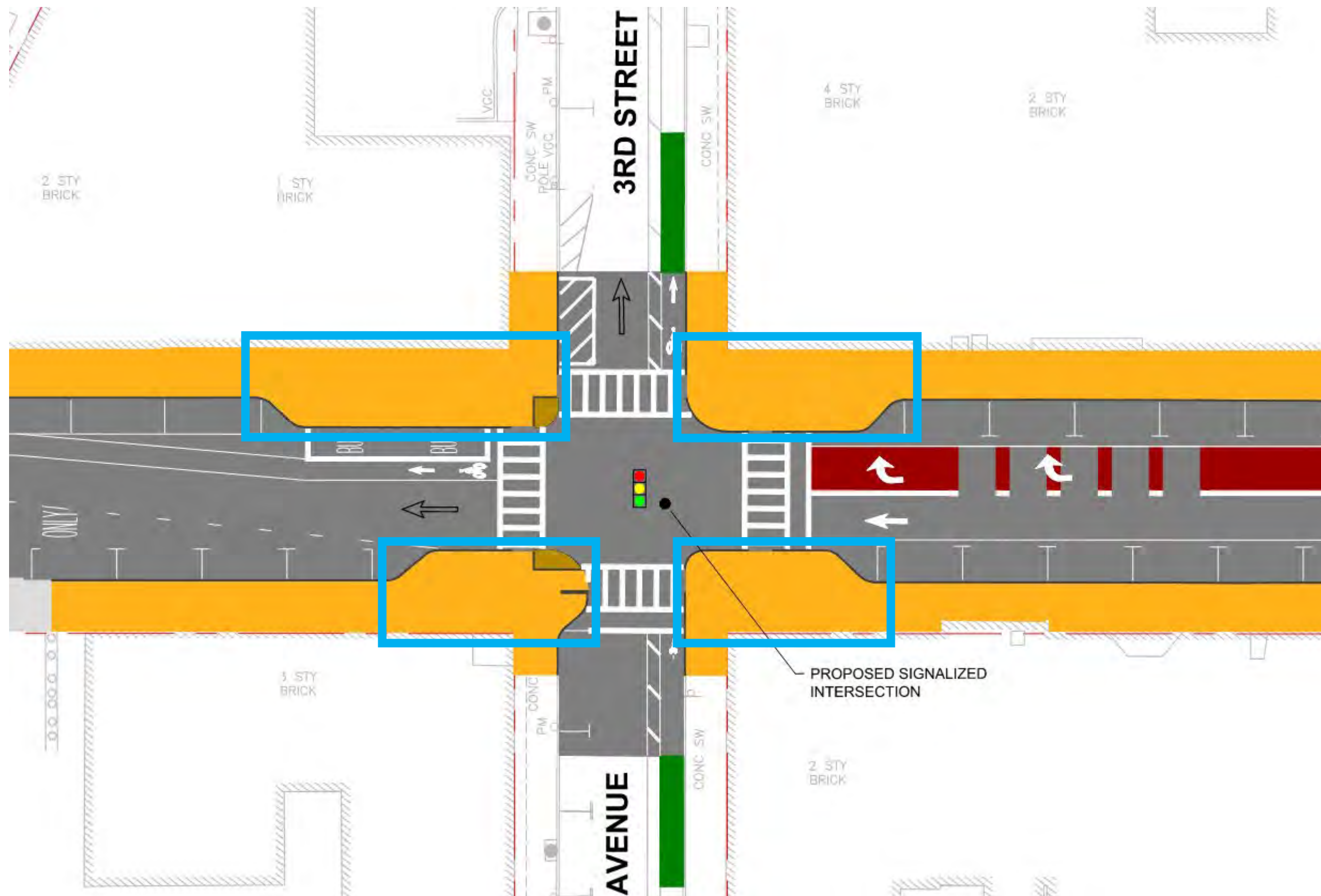




## Install overhead flashing beacons at intersections with no traffic signal

- Flashing beacons are proposed in addition to stop signs to provide additional visual warning to drivers

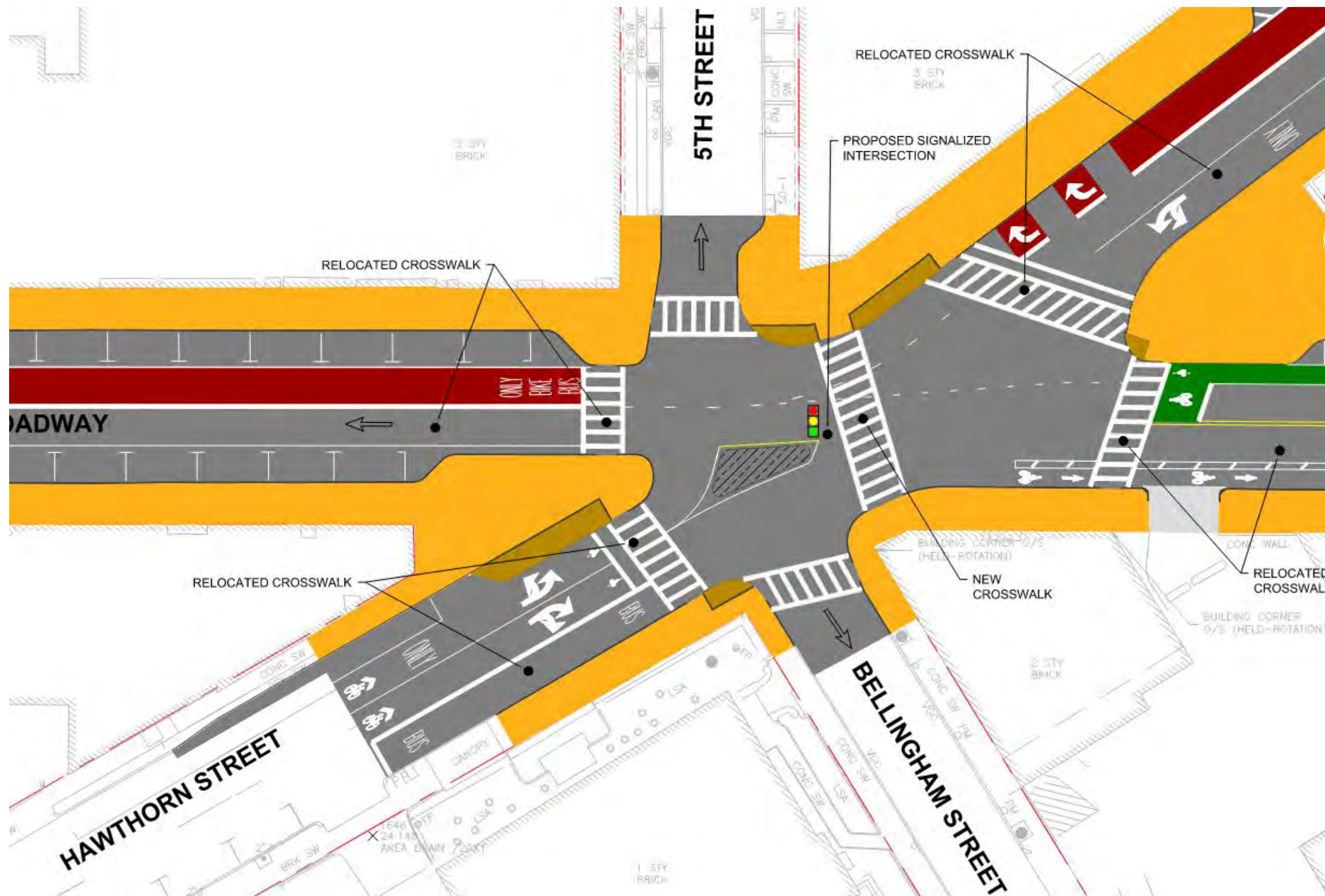




## Widen sidewalks at intersections

- Make crossing distances shorter and make pedestrians more visible to drivers
- Crosswalks are relocated closer to the intersection to make pedestrians more visible to drivers

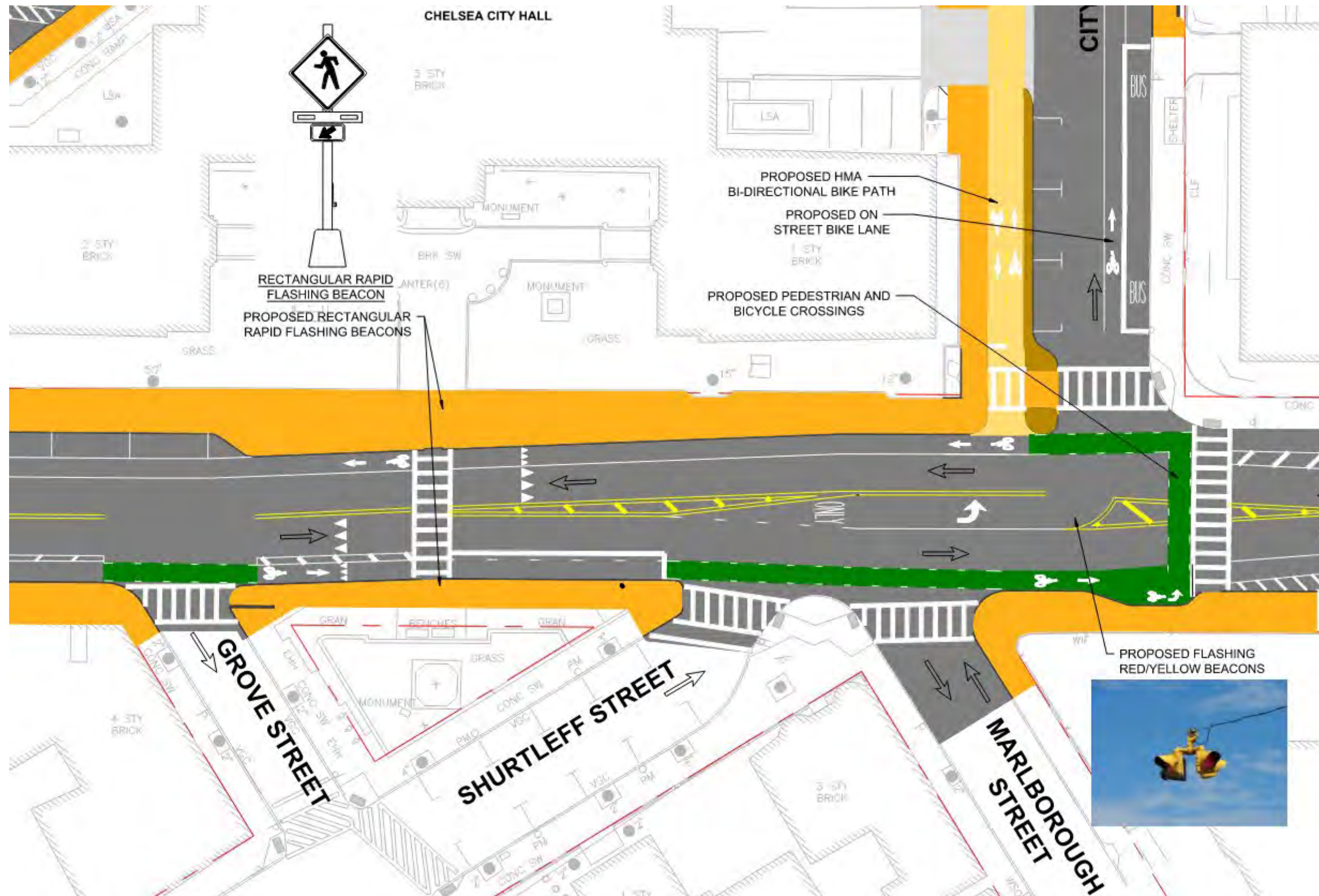




## Redesigned Bellingham Square

- Allow left turns from Washington, Broadway and Hawthorn Street
- Signal control for all movements
- Additional crosswalks including mid intersection





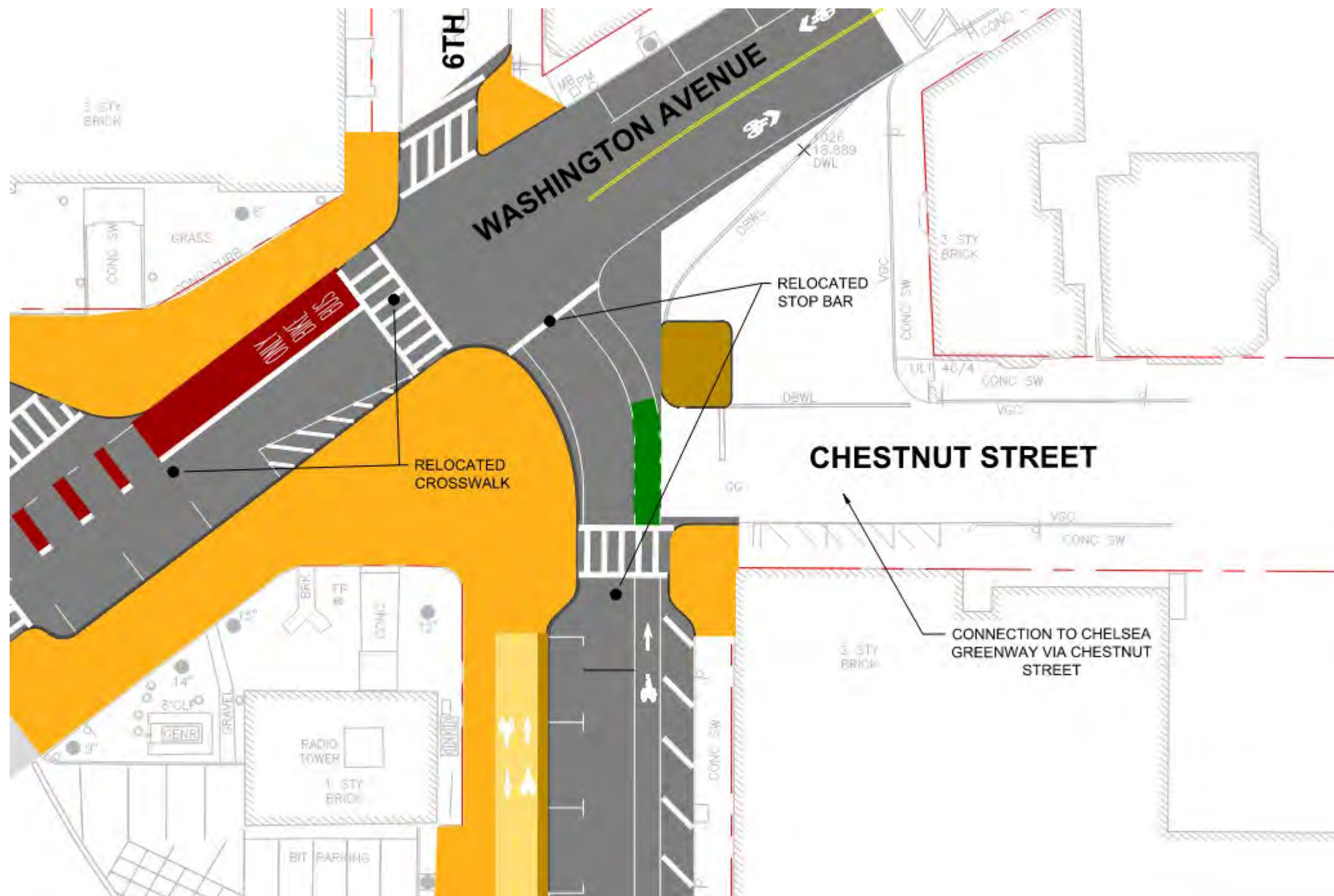
## Two-way traffic on Broadway & bike improvements

- Make Broadway (in front of City Hall) two-way
- Bi-directional bike path is proposed along City Hall Avenue
- Makes connections to the Chelsea Greenway



## Fay Square improvements

- Reduce size of paved area, shorten crosswalks, and define travel lanes for vehicles
- Fire station operations not affected.
- Makes connections to the Chelsea Greenway



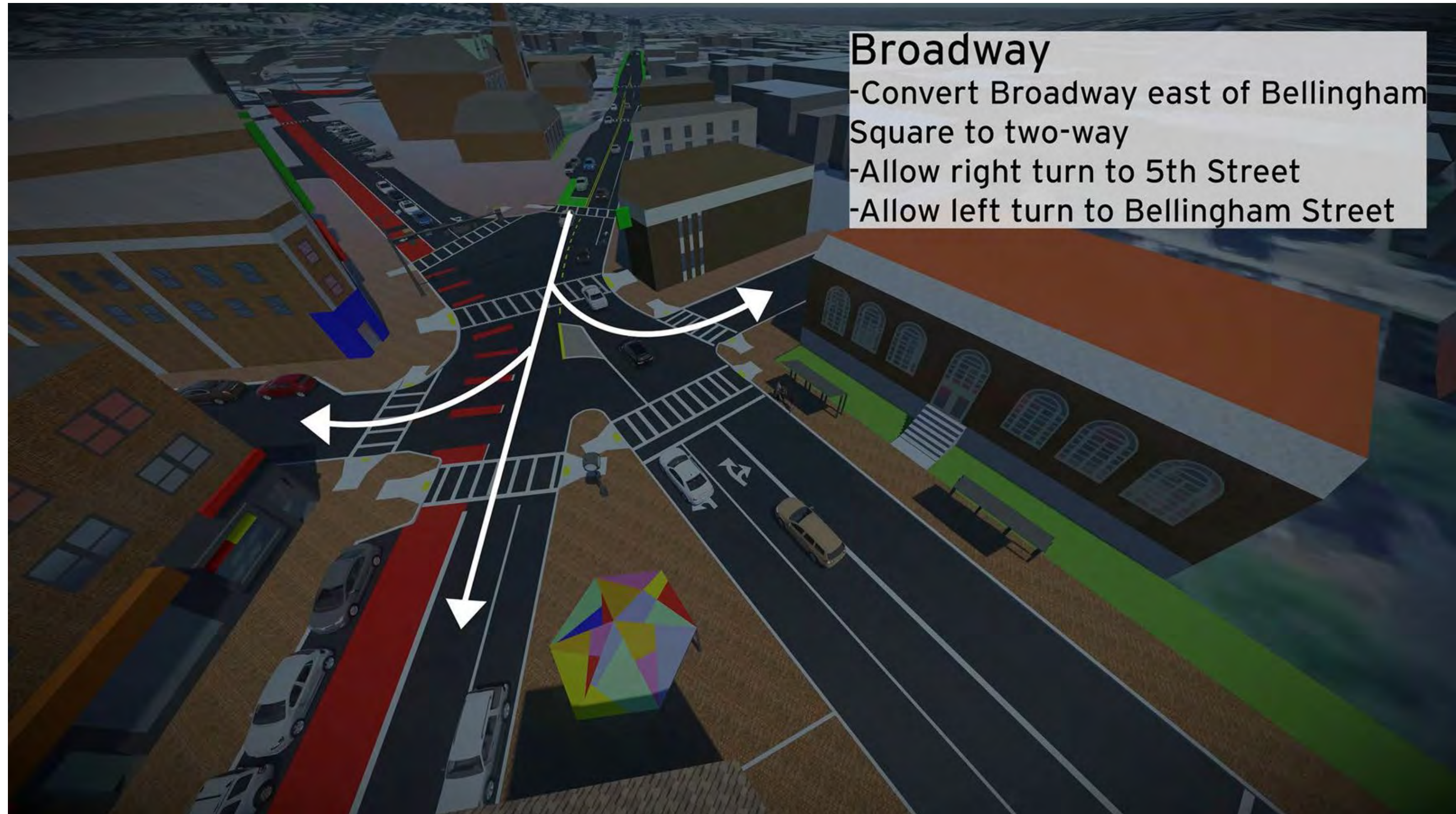


# Bellingham Square





# Bellingham Square





# Bellingham Square





# Bellingham Square



Hawthorn Street  
-Allow U-turn to Broadway  
-Allow left turn to 5th Street





**How will your  
property be  
impacted?**



## Preliminary Right of Way (ROW) discussion 25% Design Public Hearing

- 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 Chelsea.
- 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 Chelsea.

**At this stage of design, the Right of Way process has not been finalized. This hearing is an opportunity for the public to comment on any impacts to properties.**





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



# Environmental Impact Evaluation

- **Protected Open Space**

- Temporary construction impacts at the Chelsea Square Park to upgrade sidewalks

- **Historic Properties/Districts**

- Project will be reviewed by MassDOT, in consultation with the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC), to satisfy requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

- **Community Impacts**

- EJ Communities within project area
- Detailed project analysis will be completed to identify benefits and burdens to low-income, minority and Limited English Proficiency populations
- Implementation of measures to avoid, minimize and mitigate environmental impacts during project construction







**What is the  
construction  
approach?**



## Project Phase One

- Scope: Water, sewer, drainage, and fiber optic improvements
- Funding: Chelsea City Council (\$5m), MassWorks (\$4m), U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development (\$2m), MWRA (\$1.63m)
- Total Cost: \$12.6m
- Design: Completed
- Construction: March 2024 - December 2025



## Utility Reconstruction

- Implementation of the City sewer separation plan
- Installation of two new sewer mains servicing businesses on each side of the corridor
- Continued use of existing combined sewer main on Broadway as a storm drain
- Installation of new fiber optic conduit along Broadway
- Complete replacement of water service lines supplying businesses and residents



## Utility Reconstruction Goals

- Prevent flooding
- Reduce the amount of combined sewage flowing into the Mystic River, resulting in the closure of a combined sewer outfall
- Minimize sewer backups in a high-demand area
- Provide a clean drinking water supply for all businesses and residents

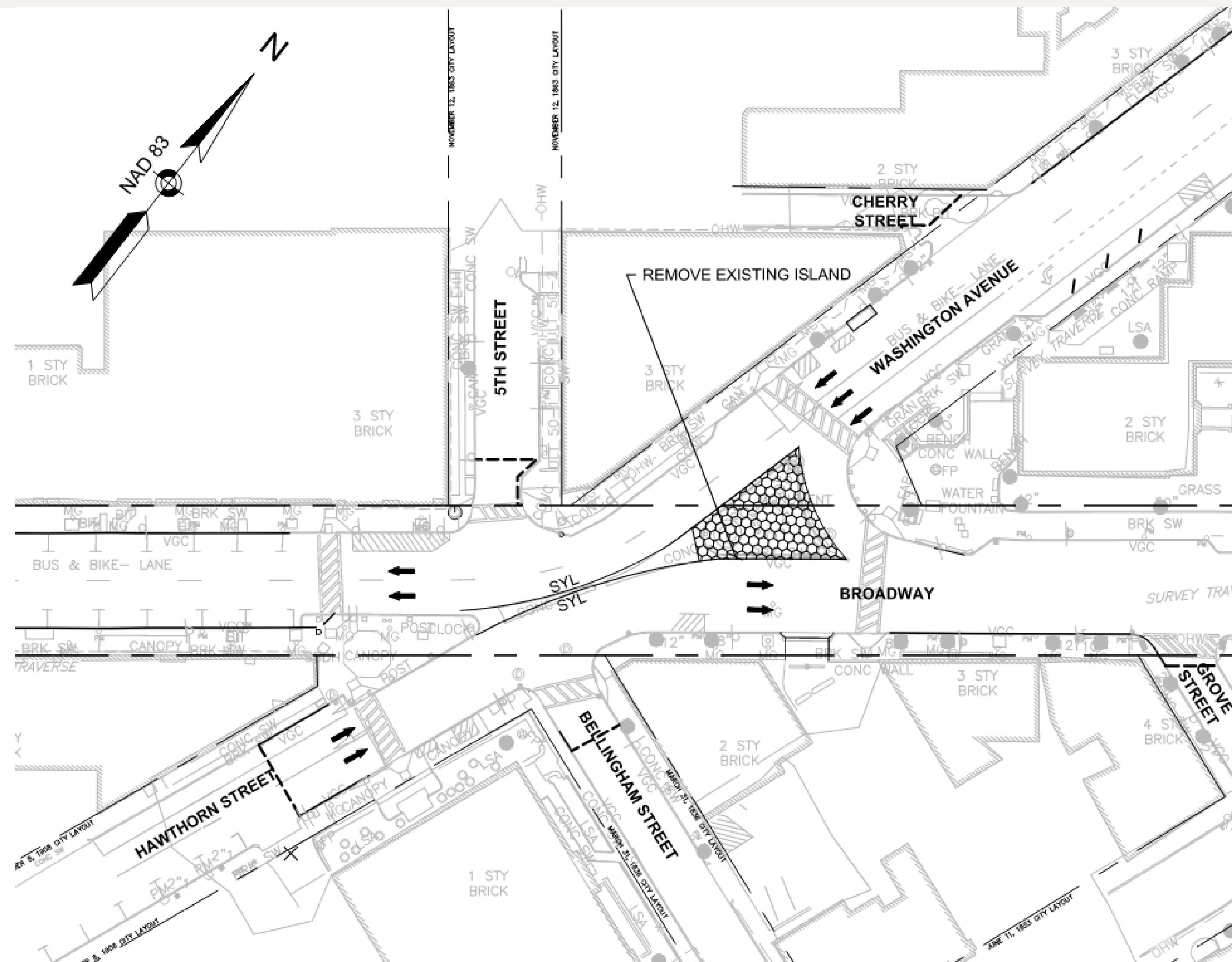


## Construction Approach

- Lane closures will follow Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) standard details
- Temporary pedestrian facilities will be provided during all stages of construction
  - Access will be maintained to all abutters
- Bellingham Square constructed in stages and all other intersections will be constructed individually
  - Parking impacts will be minimized at mostly located at intersections or where the curbline is adjusted.
- **Contractors will not be able to park equipment or stage in parking not under construction**



Stage 1

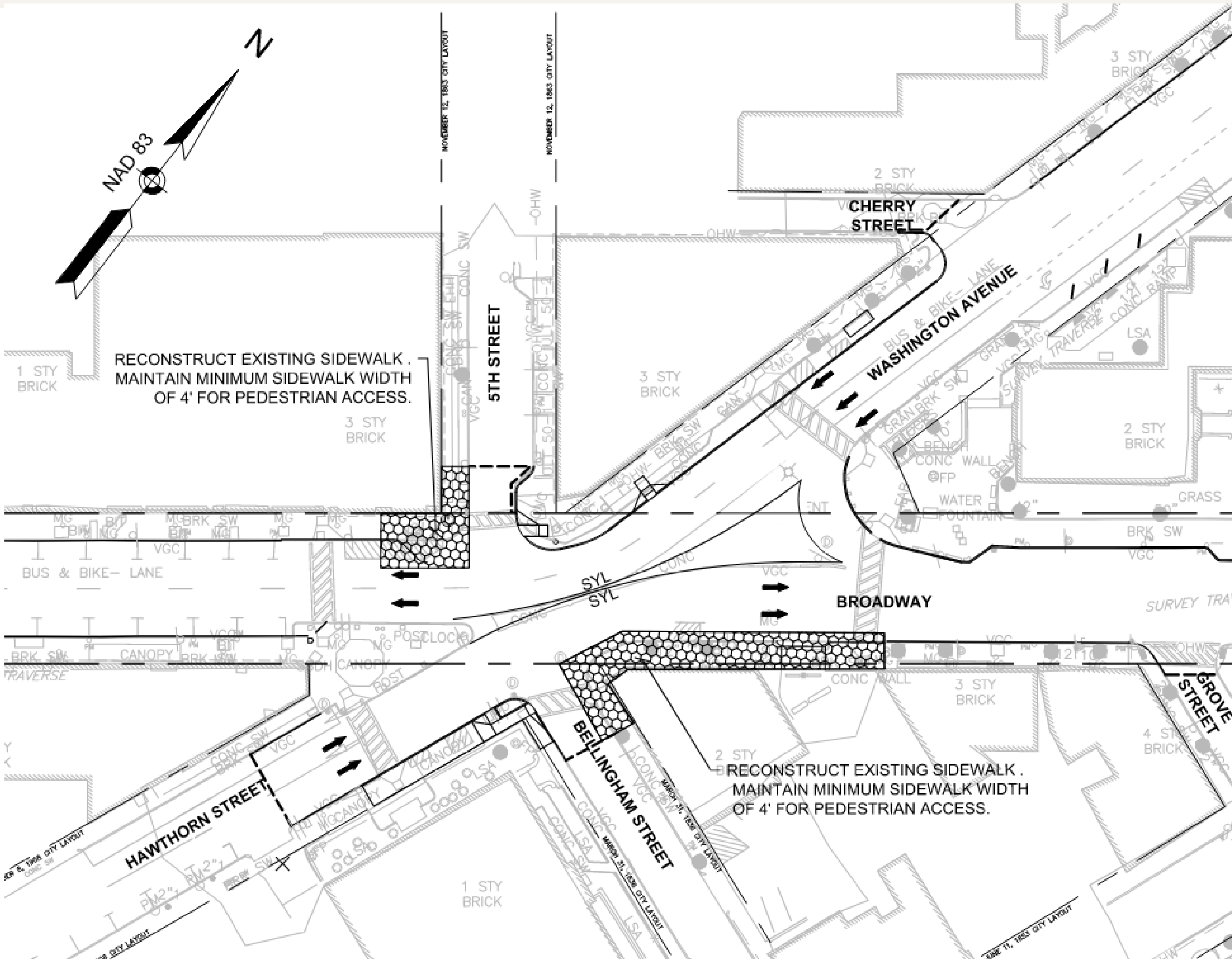






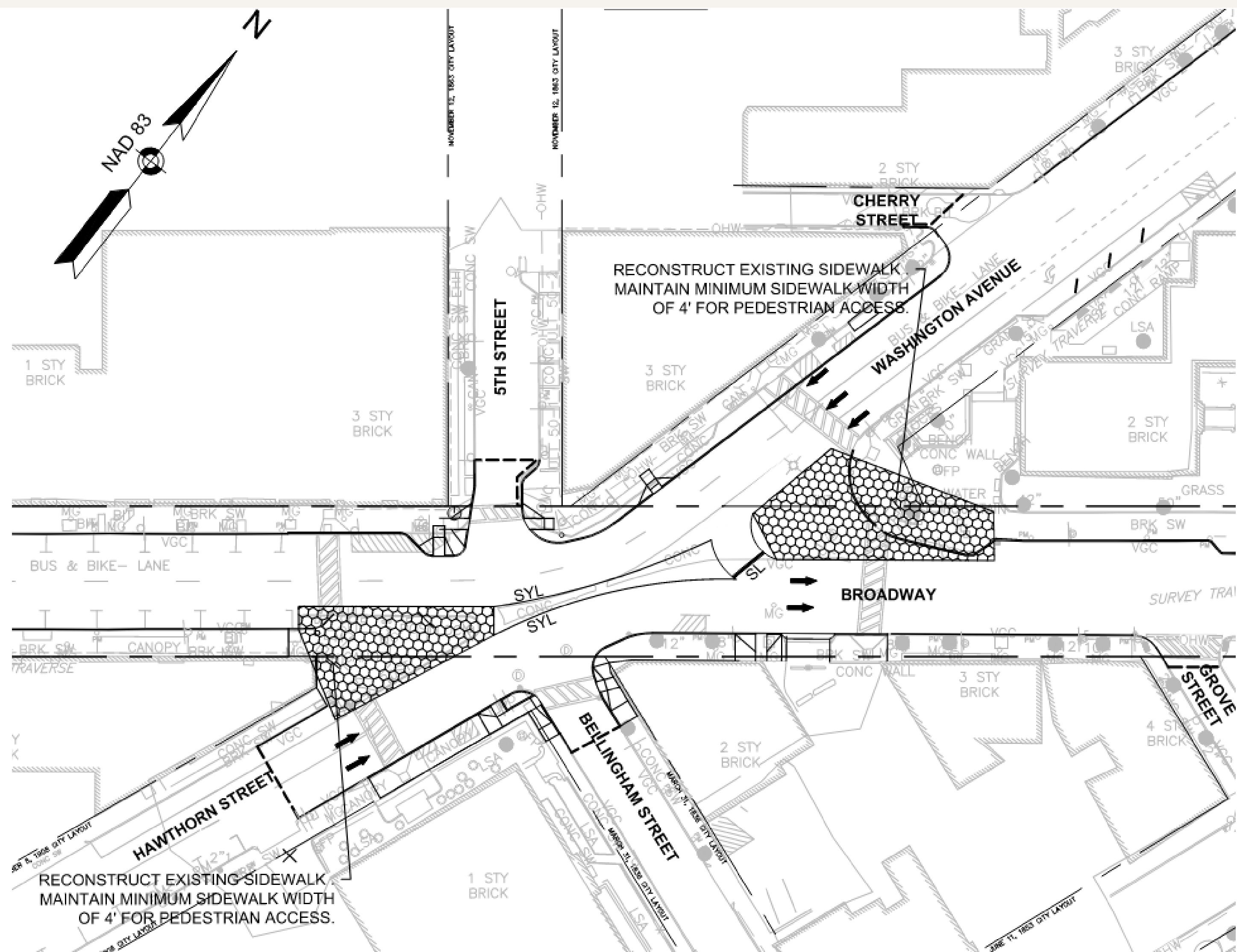


Stage 3





Stage 4





## Next Steps

- Final Design – Finishing in 2024
- Secure the ROW – Summer 2024
- Project Advertise – Fall 2024
- Construction – begins Spring 2025





**Questions and  
answers –  
opening the  
hearing to the  
public**





**How will we  
keep you  
informed?**



## Upcoming public outreach

- Pop-up events this Spring
- Stakeholder coordination and engagement
- Continue to solicit public feedback and comment





# Communications

**For General Information, Visit the Project Website:**

<http://tiny.cc/ChelseaBroadway>

**MassDOT Public Hearing Webpage**

[www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings](http://www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings)

**To Leave a Comment Online, Visit:**

<http://tiny.cc/ChelseaComments>

**To Submit a Comment by Mail, Write to:**

Carrie E. Lavalley, P.E., Chief Engineer  
Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116,  
Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 609532

**or Email:**

[MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us)







# ***Thank You***

## *Chelsea Downtown Lower Broadway Project*

Williams Middle School in Chelsea, MA  
Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 6:30PM EST  
Project File No. 609532  
Project Manager: Lawrence Cash

