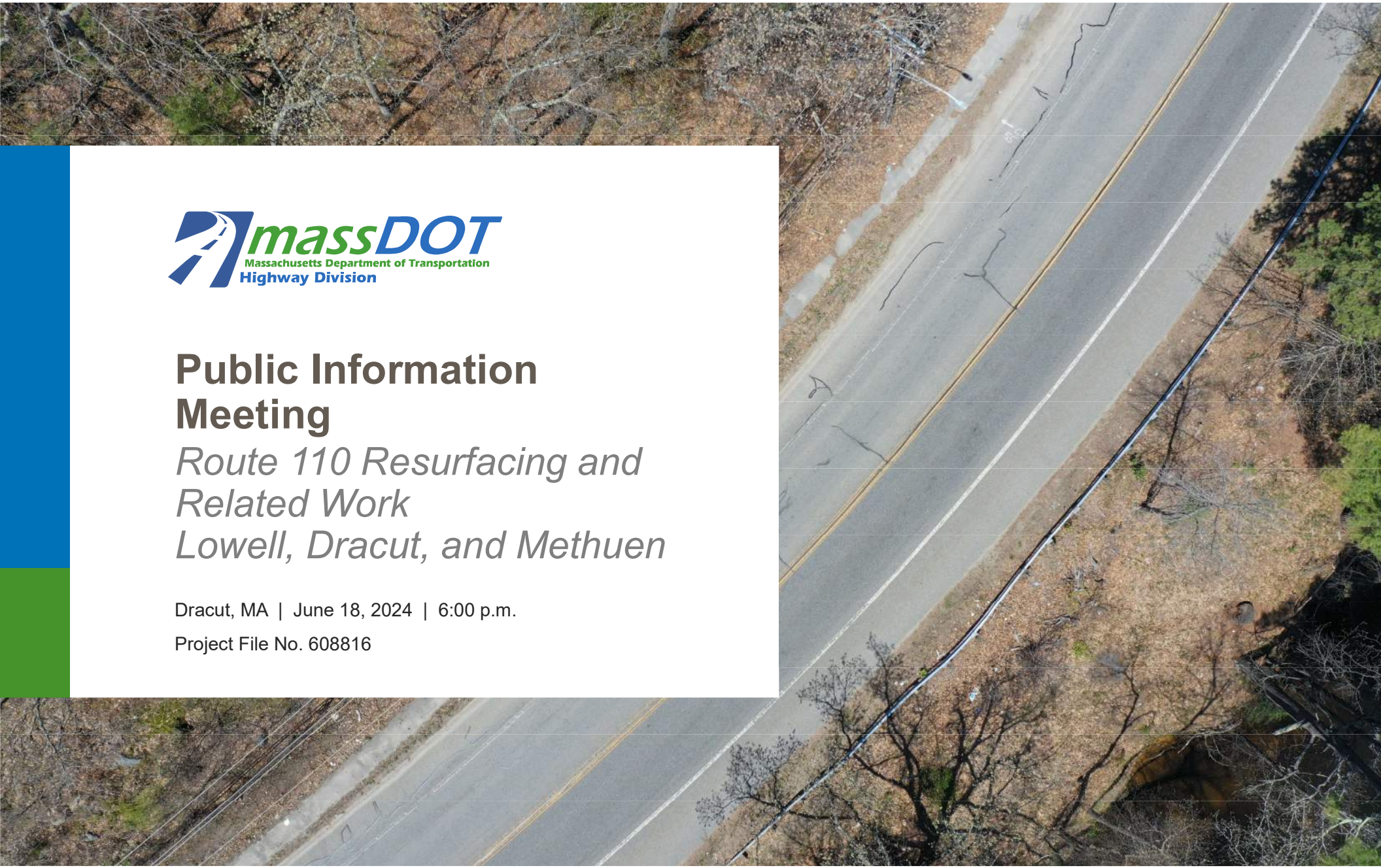


massDOT
Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Highway Division

# Public Information Meeting

## *Route 110 Resurfacing and Related Work*
## *Lowell, Dracut, and Methuen*

Dracut, MA | June 18, 2024 | 6:00 p.m.

Project File No. 608816

# Notice of MassDOT's Policy on Diversity and Civil Rights

- All MassDOT activities, including public meetings, 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.

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

# Thank You for Your Support

- The Lowell Sun
- The Eagle-Tribune
- MassDOT Facebook and Twitter
- City of Lowell and Methuen
- Town of Dracut
- Lowell and Lawrence RMV Service Branch
- Northern Middlesex Council of Governments
- Merrimack Valley Planning Commission
- Joseph Campbell Elementary School
- New England Commission for Water
- Nevins Memorial Library

# Panel Members

**MassDOT**

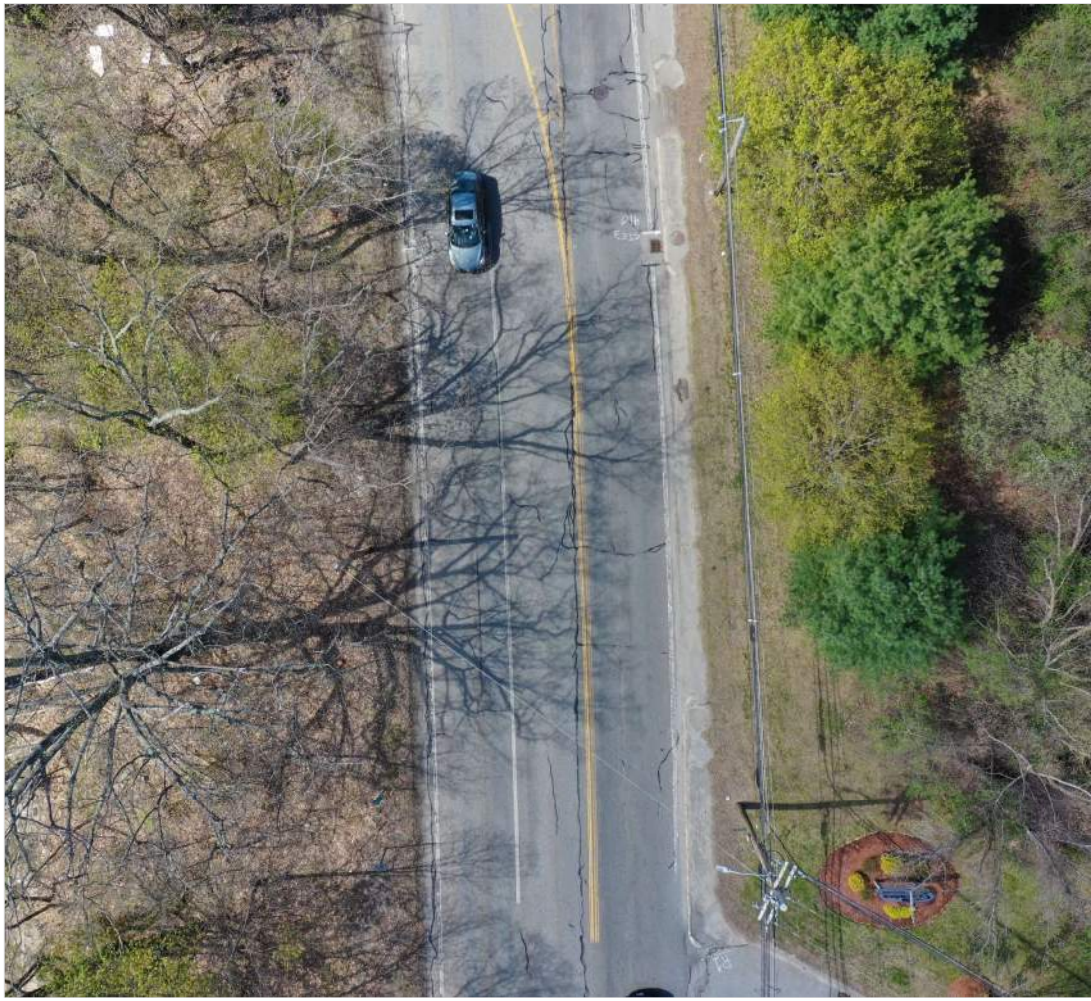
- Greg Frazier – Supervising Project Manager
- Herrio Lamothe – Project Manager
- Brian Fallon, P.E. – District 4 Project Development Engineer
- Francisco Lovera, P.E. – Complete Streets Engineer
- Michael Ruderman – Right of Way
- Leah Grodstein – Producer
- Daniel Fielding – Legislative Affairs

**Howard Stein Hudson**

- Bridget Myers, P.E. – Project Manager
- Emma Enteado, P.E.  – Traffic Engineer

# Agenda

- Project Overview
- Project Area
- Project Goals
- **Feedback from and after 75% Public Information Meeting**
- **Changes Since 75% Design**
- Construction Approach
- Next Steps
- Questions & Feedback



# How did we get here?

**September**
*2021*

Alternatives Analysis Completed – Submitted to MassDOT

**October**
*2022*

25% Highway Design submitted to MassDOT

**September**
*2023*

Virtual Design Public Hearing

**December**
*2023*

75%/100% Highway Design submitted to MassDOT

**January**
*2024*

75% Virtual Public Information Meeting

**February - April**
*2024*

Meetings with Municipalities

**June**
*2024*

Public Information Meeting

massDOT Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division

# Project Area





# Why was this project initiated?

# Project Needs

1. Pavement Maintenance
2. Safety Improvements
3. Fill the Gap in the Bike Network
4. Enhance Pedestrian Infrastructure
5. Speed Management





# What do we want to accomplish?

# Project Goals

- Improve Pavement Conditions
  - Resurfacing
- Improve Safety for All Users
  - Vehicle safety countermeasures
  - Improved pedestrian infrastructure
  - Add bicycle infrastructure
- Stay Close to a Resurfacing Project Scope
  - Limited to State ROW
    - No easements
  - Limit Impacts
  - Limit Utility Relocations



# Modify Roadway Characteristics

- Wide Existing Roadway
- Wide lanes and shoulders = higher speeds
- Allows for high speeds and passing
- Goal to reduce speeds by making physical roadway changes



# Comply with MassDOT Policies and Guidelines

**Healthy Transportation Policy**

- Started in 2013 – All transportation projects must consider safe modes of transportation for all users

**Engineering Directive E-20-001 – Released January 2020**

- Supersedes original Healthy Transportation Policy guidelines
- Enhances bike facility requirements based on roadway characteristics
- Higher speeds and volumes = more separation between vehicles and bikes

# Pedestrian Infrastructure

**Improve Sidewalk Conditions and Connectivity**

- Ensure sidewalk is 5 feet wide at minimum
- Fill in missing sidewalk gaps



# Bicycle Infrastructure

**Add Bicycle Facilities on Route 110**

- No existing bicycle infrastructure
- Merrimack River Bike Path starts near western project limit
- Existing bike lanes connect to eastern project limit at Riverside Drive





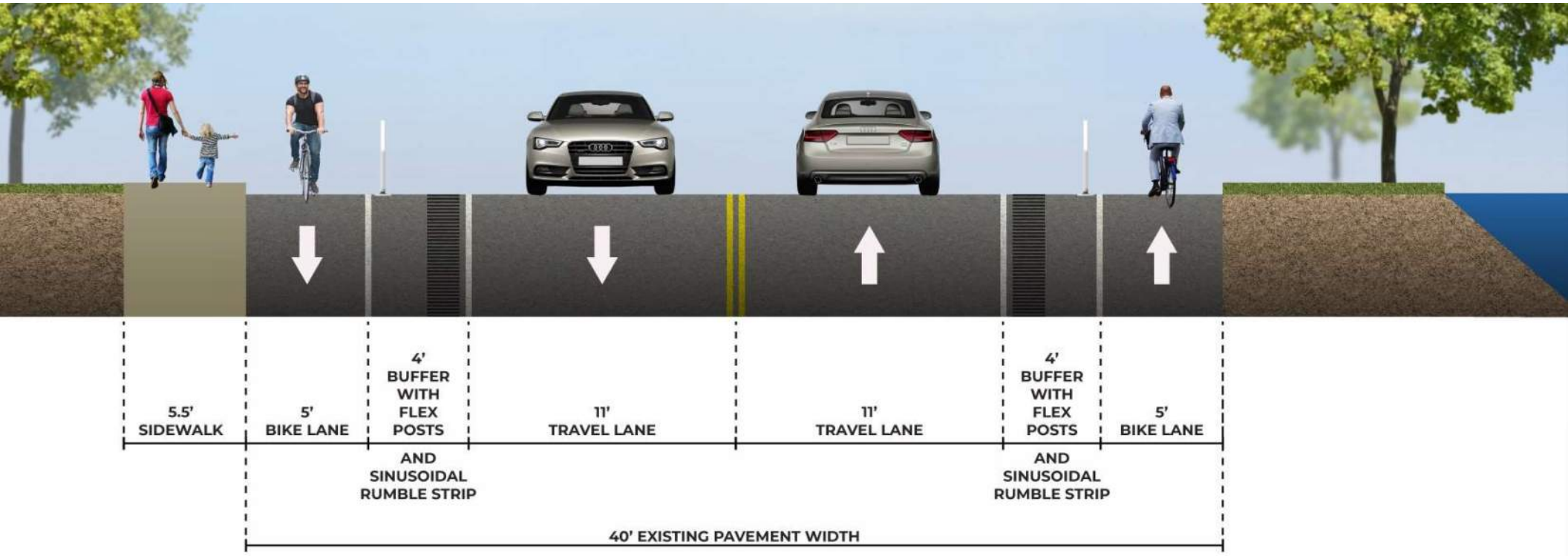
# What has changed since 75% Design?

# Municipal Coordination & Design Changes

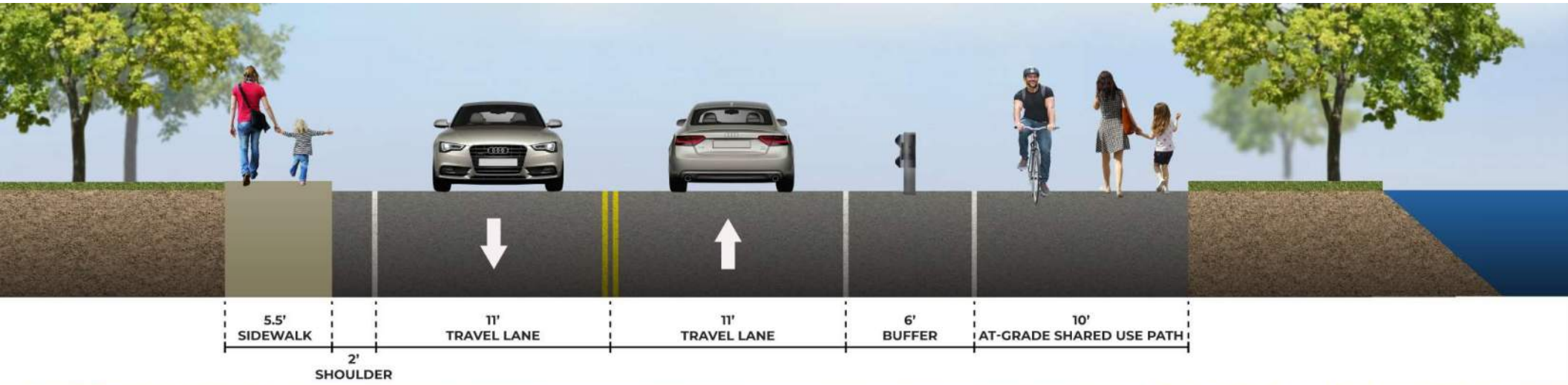
- **February 16, 2024 –** Meeting with Town of Dracut officials (Virtual)
- **March 6, 2024 –** Meeting with City of Methuen officials and State Representative at Mayor's Office
- **March 11, 2024 –** Meeting with MassDOT and Consultant to discuss alternatives to guardrail. HSH to evaluate raised medians.
- **April 3, 2024 –** Meeting with MassDOT and Consultant to discuss drainage issues related to raised medians
- Determination made to change cross section to buffered bike lanes
- **April 11, 2024 –** Legislative Briefing – Presentation to Lowell, Dracut, Methuen and state officials regarding design changes.

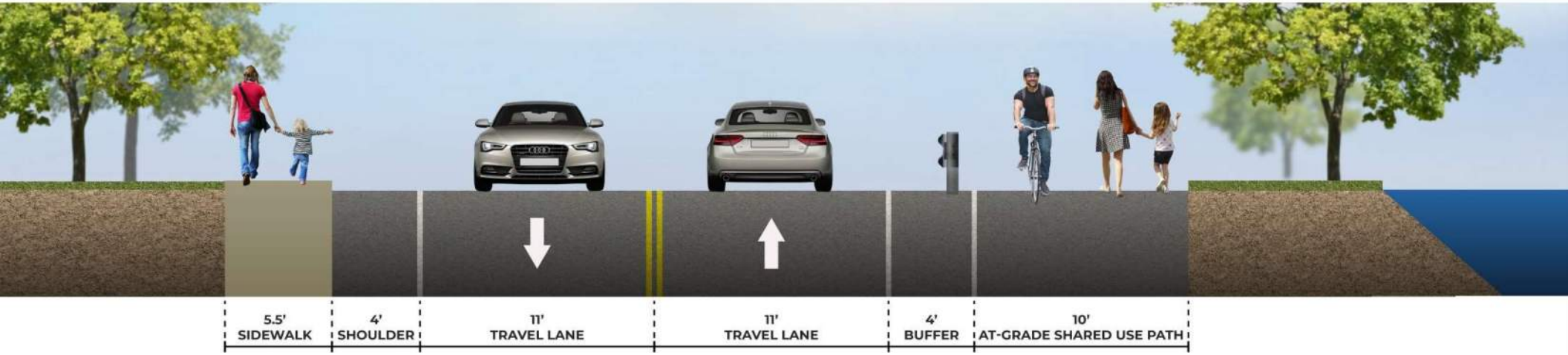
# New Cross Section – Buffered Bike Lanes

- Guardrail Removed
- Flex Posts within Buffer at Critical Areas
- Sinusoidal Rumble Strips in Buffer
- Flex Posts Removed in Winter

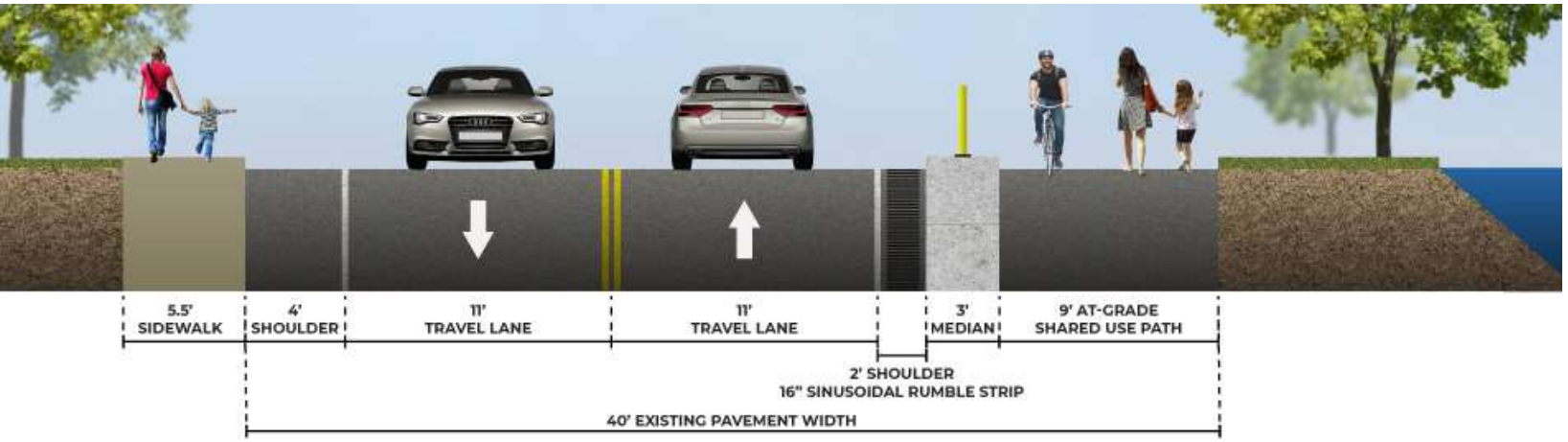


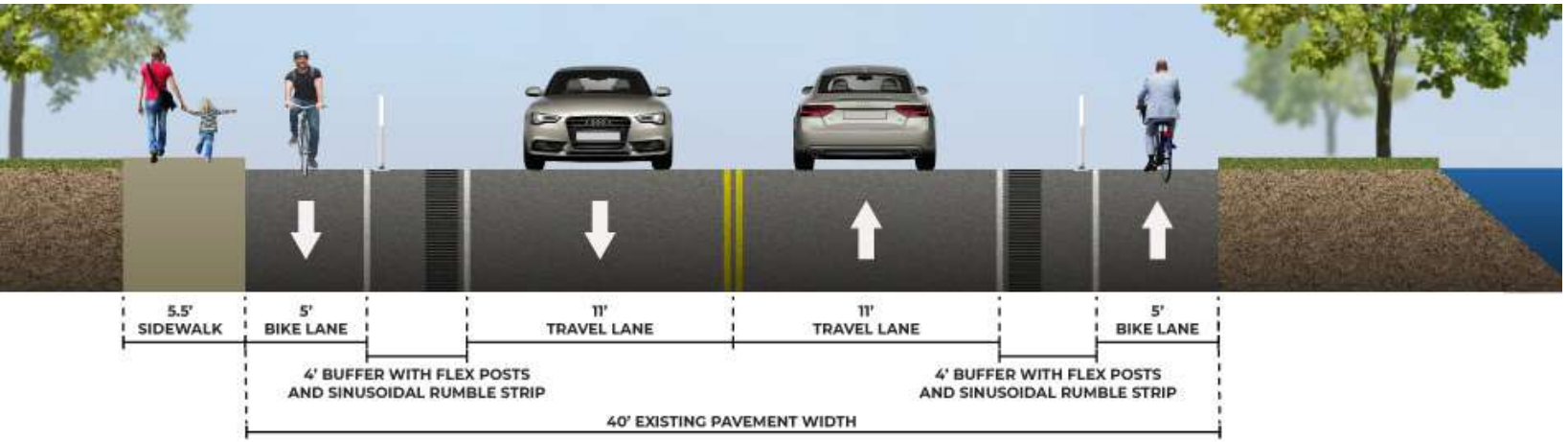
# Cross Section Progression – Versions 1 and 2



# Cross Section Evolution – Versions 3 and 4

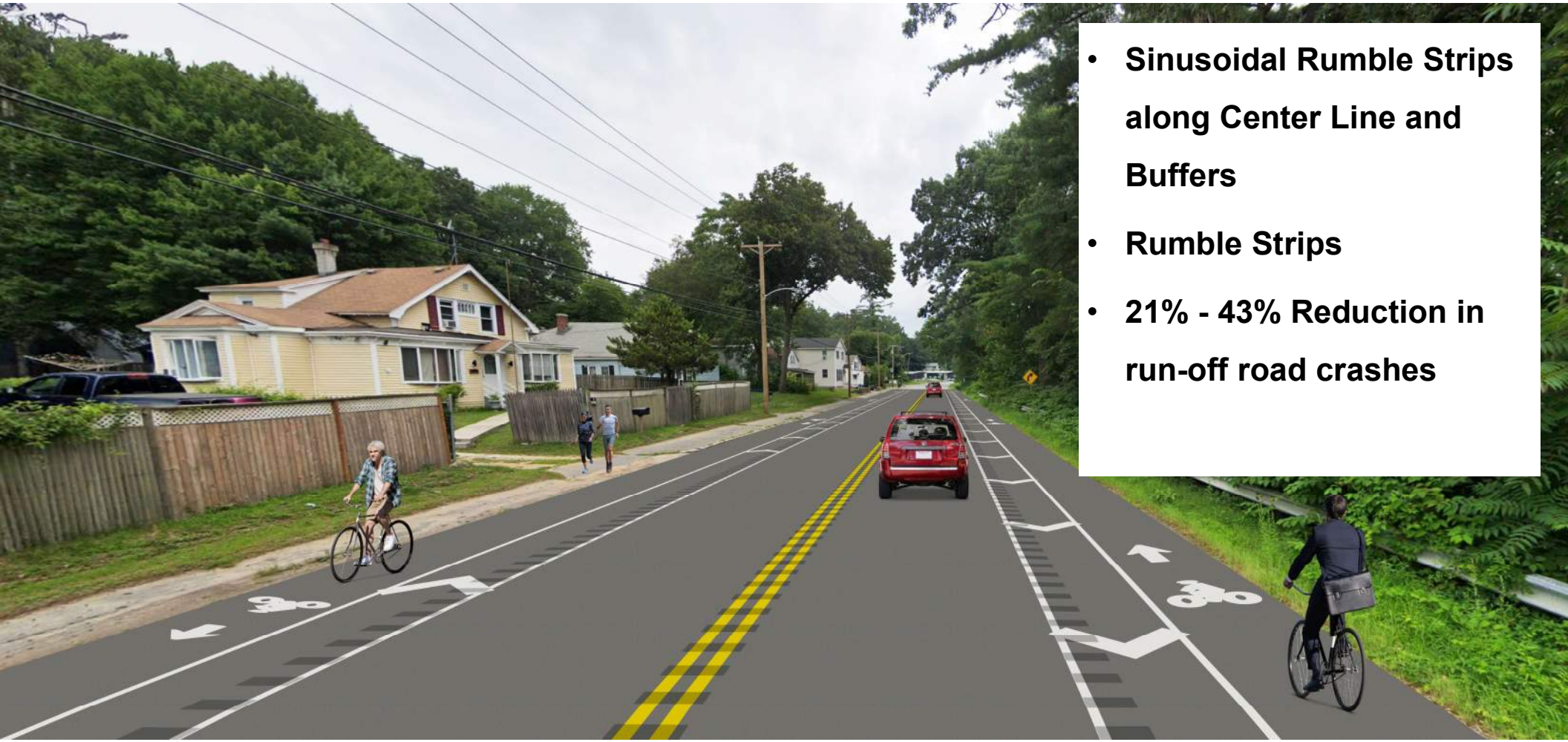



**Median Option Evaluated Rejected Due to Drainage**

massDOT Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division

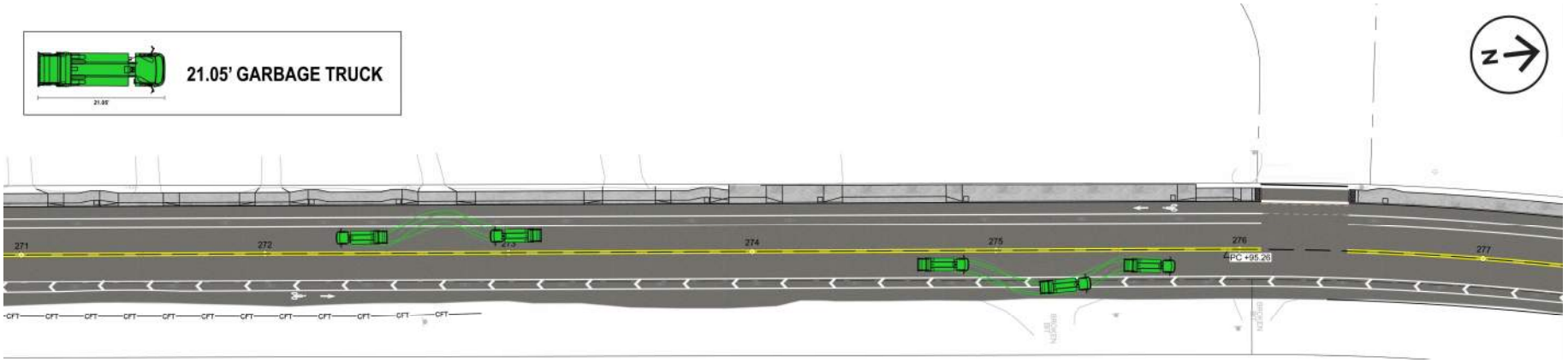
# Buffered Bike Lanes



- **Sinusoidal Rumble Strips along Center Line and Buffers**
- **Rumble Strips**
- **21% - 43% Reduction in run-off road crashes**

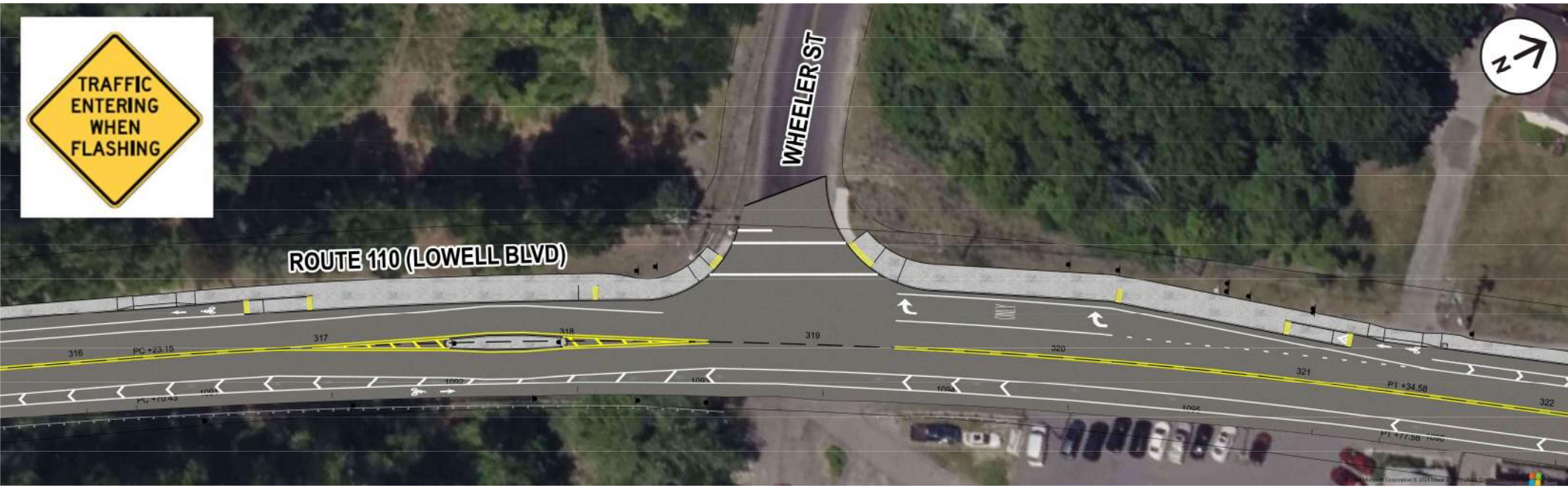
# Driveways and Access Management

- Full Access remains in most areas
- If flex posts present: wide openings within buffer – trucks can pull in and out
- Helps address mail and delivery concern
- Wider driveway aprons provide space for delivery trucks as well as home-owners
- Communication with Dracut and Methuen about trash pick-up routes



# Wheeler Street

- Right-turn lane corner radius enlarged
- Required Stopping Sight Distance (SSD) for 45mph = 360 FT
- SSD Provided: Eastbound = 800 FT, Westbound = over 1000 FT
- Advanced warning signage



# How will the road user be affected?

# Safety Enhancements

- Resurfacing
  - Pavement resurfacing is a proven safety countermeasure
  - Reduces crashes of all severity levels by 21.3%
- Advanced warning signage of horizontal curves
- Chevron signage within horizontal curves
  - Proven to reduce night-time crashes at curves by 25% and reduce non-intersection fatal and injury crashes by 16%
- Center-lane & Shoulder rumble strips
  - Proven to reduce head-on and single-vehicle run off collisions
- Speed feedback signs








# Speed Management & Traffic Calming

## Countermeasures Proposed

- Road and Lane Diets – narrowing or reducing travel lanes
- Median islands
- Speed feedback signs

## Speed

- Work zone Speed Limit to be proposed
- MassDOT to perform Speed Zoning Study at the end of Construction
- Goal to permanently reduce speeds







massDOT
Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Highway Division

# How will your property be impacted?

# Right of Way (ROW) – No Easements Anticipated

The proposed design is proposed to be contained within the existing State Highway Layout and there are no anticipated easements as part of this project.



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

# Environmental Permitting

- Draft Notice of Intents Submitted
- To be Filed with:
  - City of Lowell Conservation Commission
  - Town of Dracut Conservation Commission
  - City of Methuen Conservation Commission
  - Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection





# What is the construction approach?

# Construction Impacts

- Phased construction over 2 years
- No detour routes are anticipated; short-term closures only
- Travel lane impacts – one lane in each direction
- Safe and accessible pedestrian routes will be maintained throughout
- Abutter access will be maintained throughout construction



# Our Next Steps

1. Environmental Permitting Spring/Summer 2024
2. PS&E Design Submission Summer 2024
3. Project Advertised for Construction Late Summer 2024
4. Anticipated Construction Starts Late 2024



# How will we keep you informed?

# How to reach us

- Submit Written Comments to:

  **Carrie Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer**
  MassDOT Highway Division
  10 Park Plaza
  Boston, MA 02116
  Attention: Project Management, PROJECT FILE NO. 608816

- Project Email:
  - massdotprojectmanagement@dot.state.ma.us

- For Project Information Visit the MassDOT Events Website at:
  - www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-transportation/events

  **or** use the QR Code at the right to send questions or comments

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

# Questions and discussion



massDOT
Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Highway Division

# Thank You

Dracut, MA | June 18, 2024 | 6:00 p.m.

Project File No. 608816