



Intersection Improvements Fellsway / McGrath (Route 28) at Mystic Avenue (Route 38)

Virtual Design Public Hearing

March 1, 2023 - 6:30 PM

Project File Number 608562

Somerville, MA

Zoom Hearing Controls



- Listen in Chinese, Haitian Creole, Spanish, Portuguese



- Ask a question and share comments



- Raise your hand - *9 for users dialing in and Alt + Y to raise your hand



- If you are unable to access the internet or are having technical problems, please call into the meeting at 1 (309) 205-3325, Webinar ID: 814 6786 9594



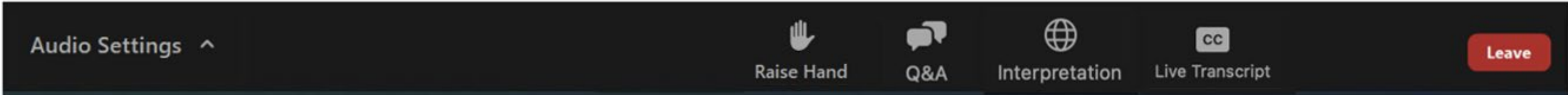
Live Transcript

- Closed captioning automatically generated by Zoom



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

[+1.888.799.9666]



Public Meeting Notes and Procedures

Public record

- While this virtual public hearing is not being recorded, MassDOT may choose to retain and distribute the images, audio and the Q&A transcript from this hearing.
- All parts of this hearing are considered public record.
- If you are not comfortable being recorded, please refrain from using the Q&A feature or you may choose to excuse yourself from the hearing. Information from this hearing will be posted on the Mass.gov website.

Important notes

- Your microphone and webcam are automatically disabled upon entering the hearing.
- This hearing 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.

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.

Thank you for joining our meeting. We appreciate your participation!

Agenda

- Public Outreach
- Project Team / Panelists
- How did we get here?
 - Project Goals / Objectives
 - Project Design Development
- Project Design Overview
- Right of Way / Property Impacts
- Environmental Impacts
- Construction Approach
- Next Steps / Timeline



Public Outreach

Newspaper

- Somerville Journal
- The Somerville News



MassDOT Social Media

- Facebook
- Twitter



Thanks to the following for sending notice of this meeting:

- Boston Center for Independent living
- Community Action Agency of Somerville
- East Somerville Main Streets
- Registry of Motor Vehicles
- Somerville Council on Aging
- Somerville Disability Commission
- The Welcoming Project

City of **Somerville**



Project Team:

- **MassDOT**

- Project Manager: David Shedd
- District 4: Frank Suszynski
- District 4 Traffic: Sara Timoner
- Right of Way: Michael Ruderman
- Producers: Leah Grodstein, Kayla Sousa

- **VHB – Design Consultant**

- Project Manager: Tim McIntosh
- Traffic: Amy Silbovitz
- Roadway: Alex Loncarevic

- **City of Somerville**

- Director of Transportation / Infrastructure: Brad Rawson
- City Transportation Planner: Justin Schreiber

Language Translation Speakers

- **Spanish**

- Marta and Camila

- **Portuguese**

- Rafael and Alisa

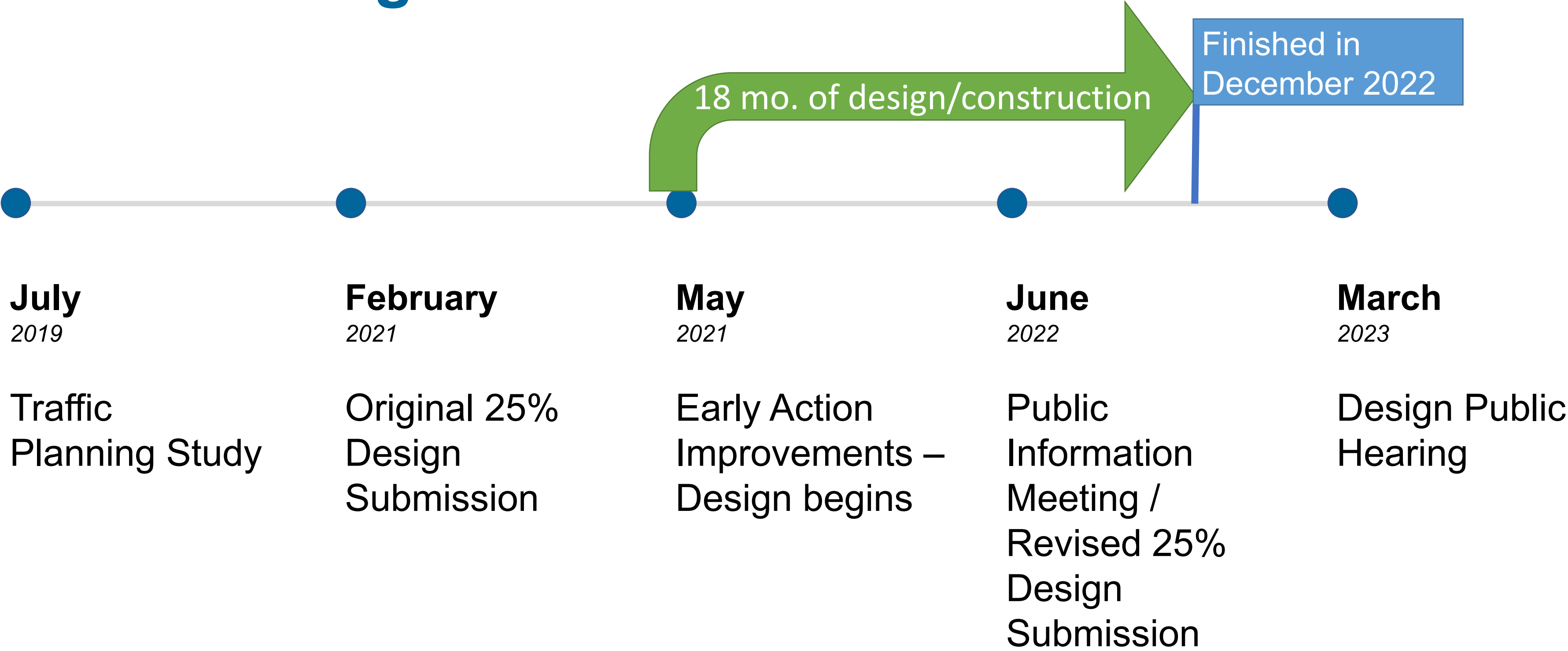
- **Chinese**

- Yan and Qianxue

- **Haitian Creole**

- Joanne and Steeve

How did we get here?



Previous Public Outreach

- Planning Study Phase
 - January 2019: Stakeholder Group Meeting
 - October 2019: Public Meeting
 - December 2019: Stakeholder Group Meeting
 - February 2020: Public Meeting
- 25% Design Phase
 - December 2020: Virtual Public Information Meeting
 - June 2021: Virtual Public Hearing *
 - June 2022: Virtual Public Informational Meeting

* Part of the I-93 Bridge Preservation project





Project Goals and Objectives

What We Heard

- Safety, Safety, Safety
 - Three Fatal Crashes
 - Early Action Improvements
 - Continue to focus design on safety
- Change the Context
 - Fellsway / McGrath Highway Lane Drop
 - Add Greenspace / Wayfinding
 - Raised Crossings
- Multimodal Connections
 - Shared use paths
 - Sidewalk level, separated bike lanes
 - Added Pedestrian Curb Ramps



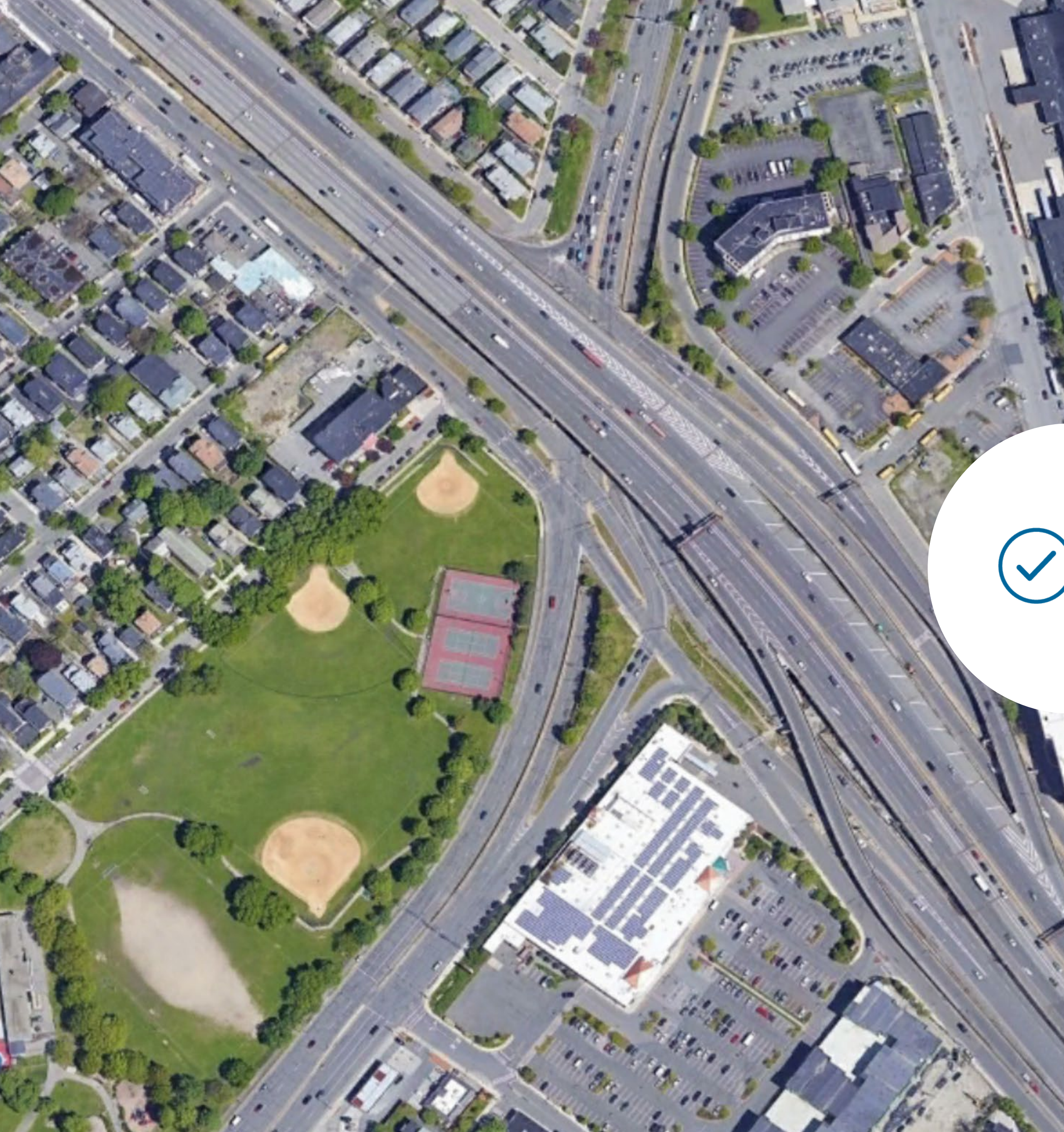


Project Design Development

Project Design Development

- 25% Design Development and Design Public Hearing
- 75% Design Submittal
- 100% Design Submittal
- ***Combined 75%/100% Submittal***
- Final Plans, Spec and Estimate
- Construction Bidding Process
- Contractor Award





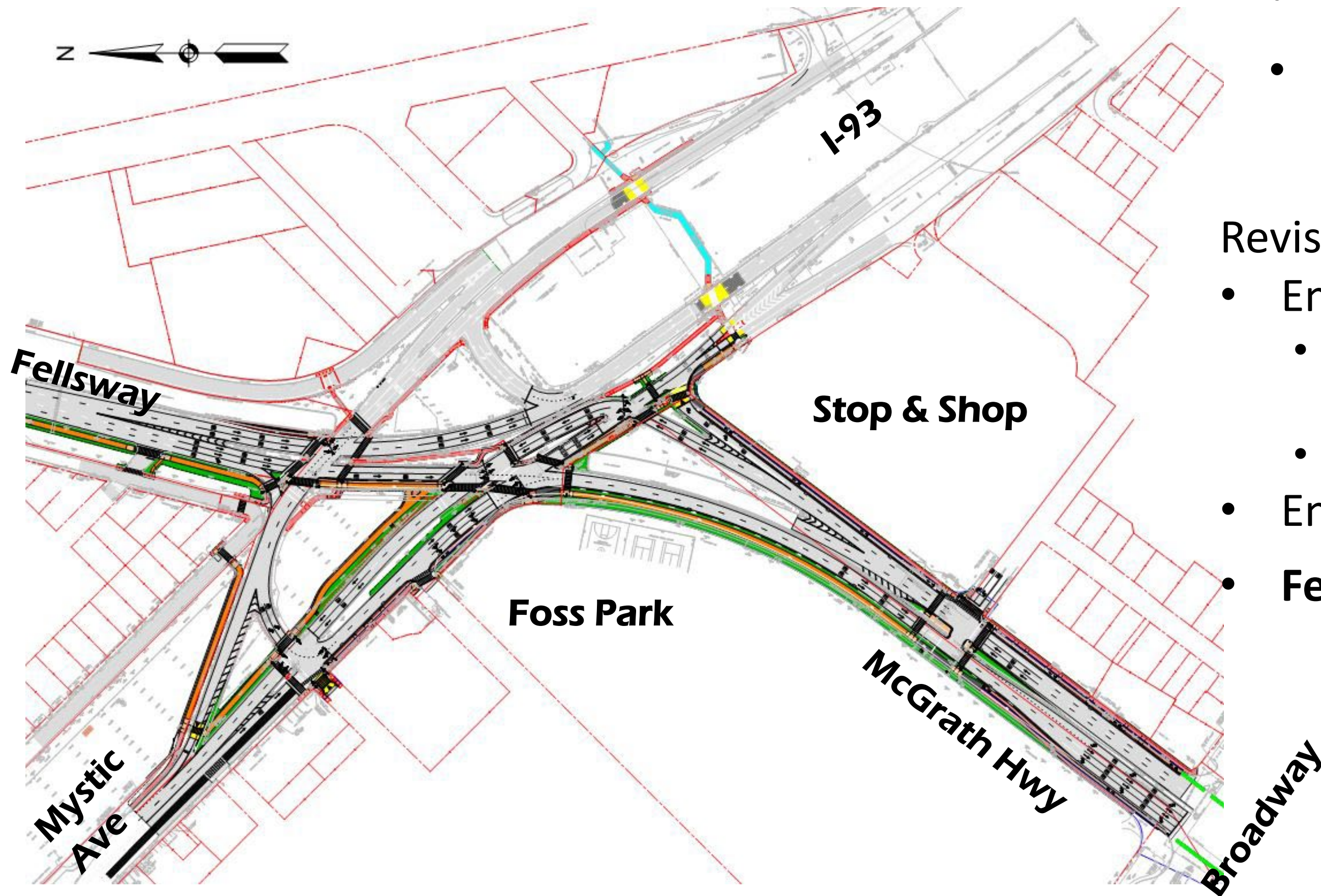
**Project Design
Overview**

**Revised 25%
Design**

Project Location



Project Design Changes



Original 25% Design

- Traffic Signal Upgrades
- Targeted Pedestrian / Bike Improvements

Revised 25% Design

- Enhanced Bicycle Facilities
 - Sidewalk Level, Separated Bike Lanes
 - Shared Use Paths
- Enhanced Mobility
- **Fellsway / McGrath - Lane Drop**

Lane Narrowing and/or Elimination

- Reduced roadway crossing distance and pedestrian exposure
- Reduce vehicle speeds
- Provide space for installing curb extensions and/or widening sidewalks



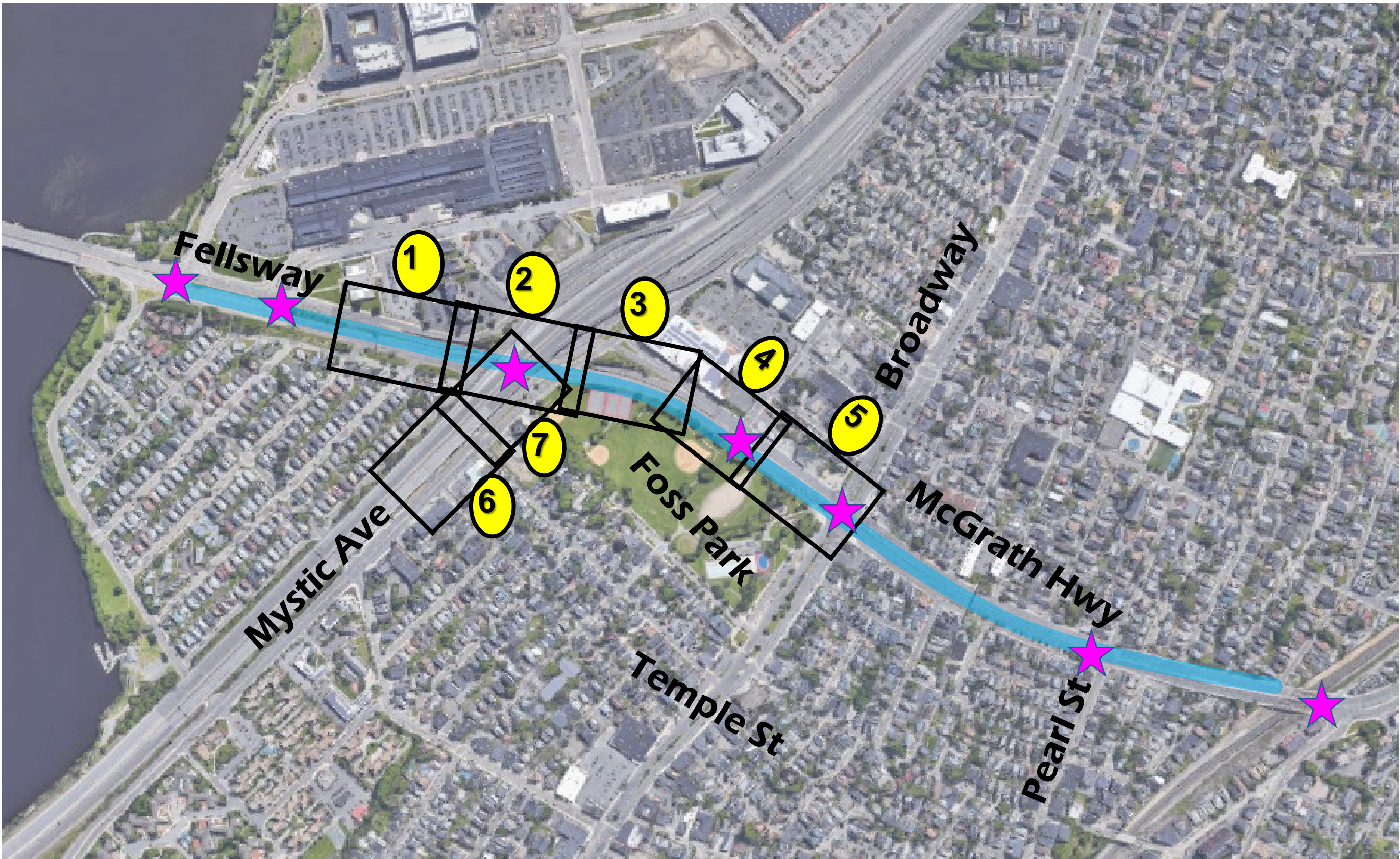
Lane Elimination can reduce
total crashes by

19–47%*

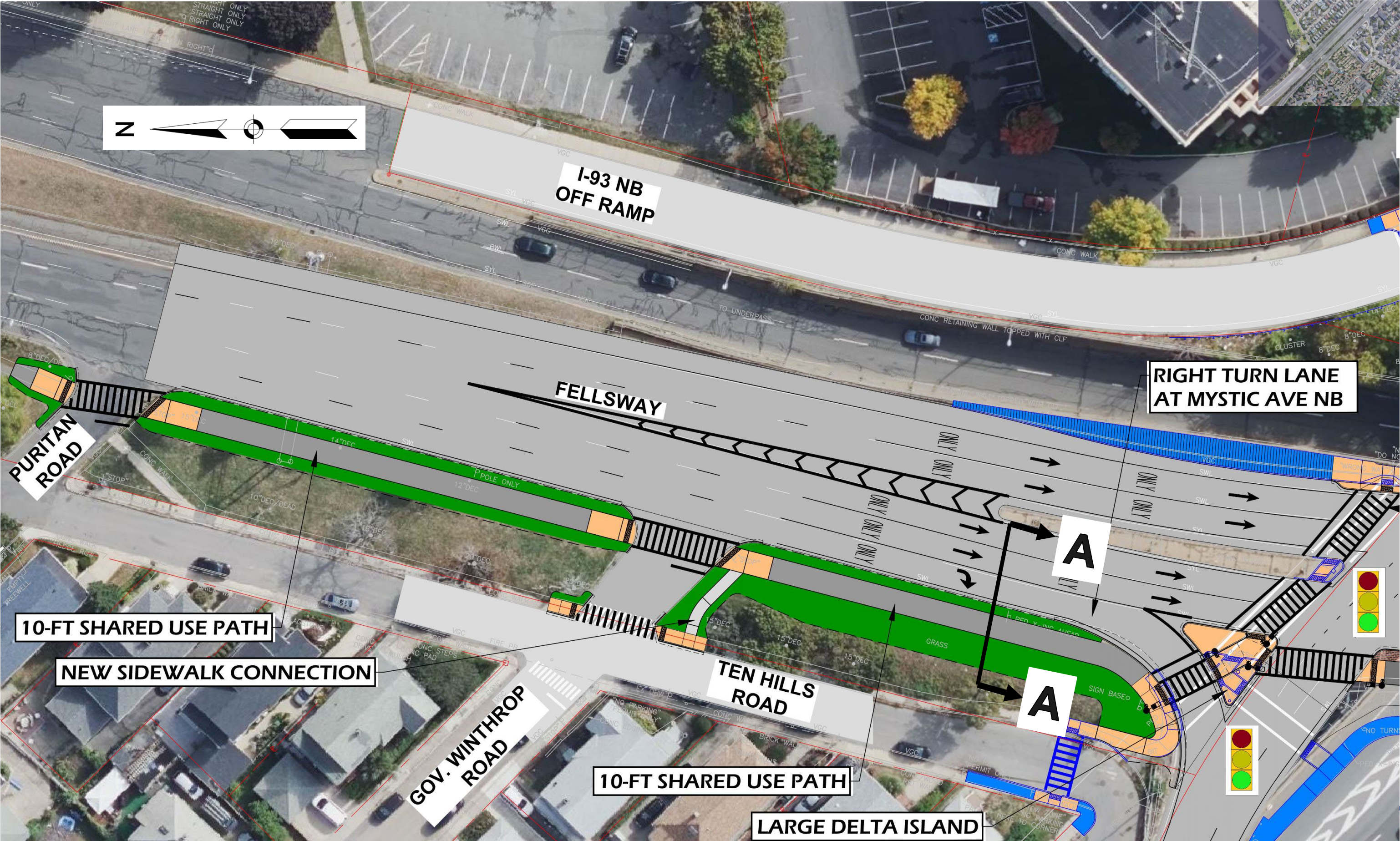
*19% in urban areas, 47% in suburban areas.

★ Adaptive Traffic Signal System

← Project Area – Design Project Locus



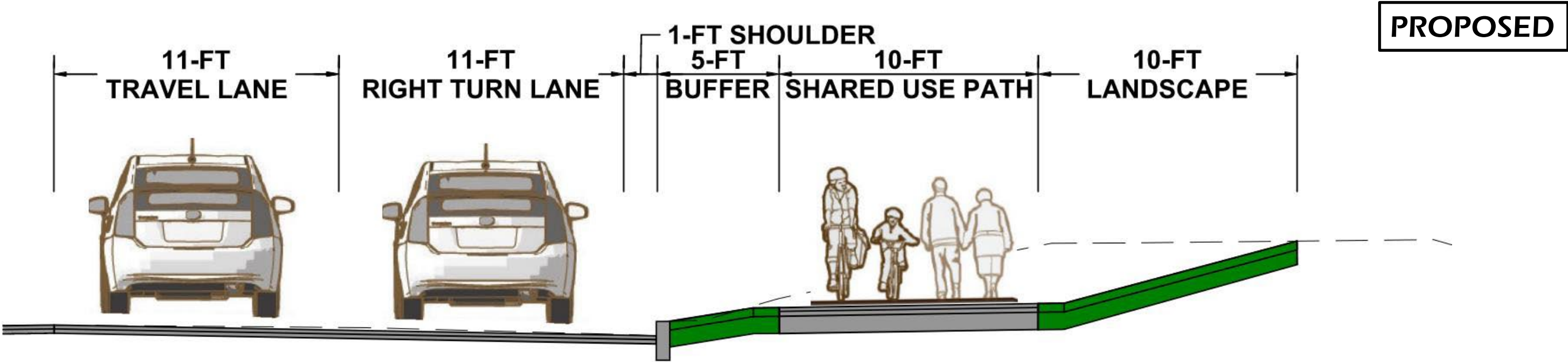
1 - Fellsway SB



1 - Fellsway SB - Section

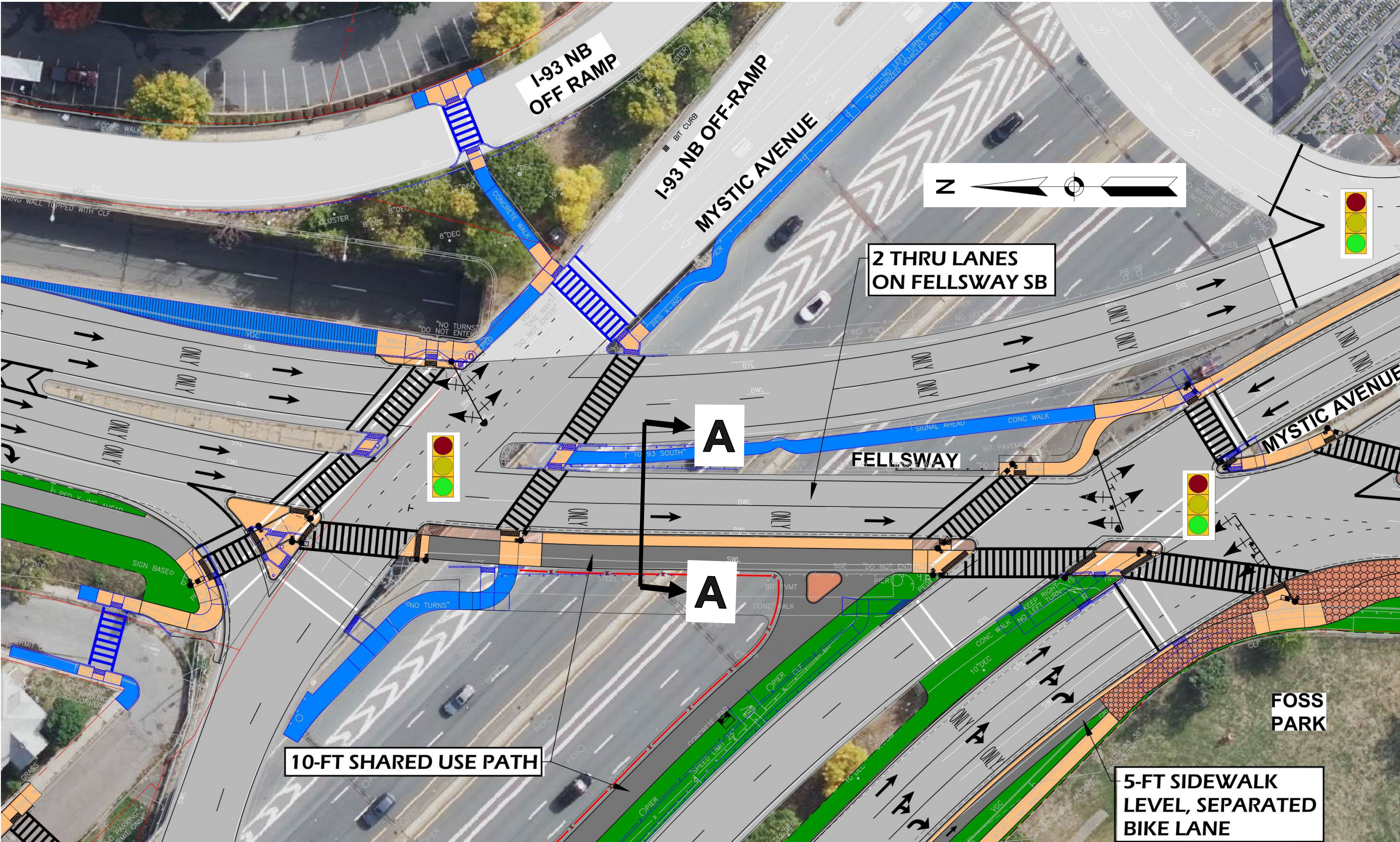


EXISTING



PROPOSED

2 - Fellsway SB under I-93

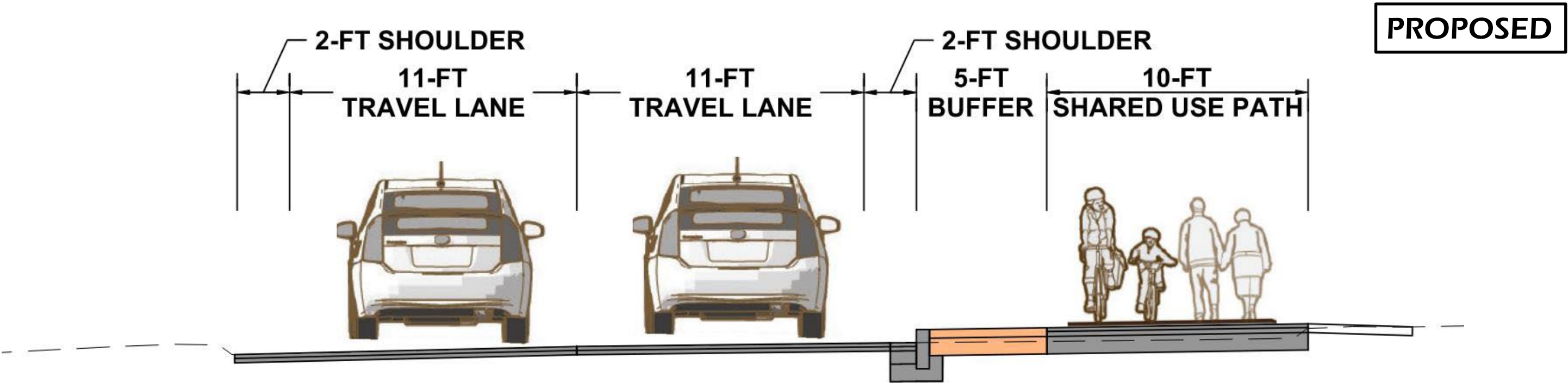


- KEY**
- EXISTING PAVEMENT
 - PROPOSED PAVEMENT
 - SHARED USE PATH, SIDEWALK LEVEL SEPERATED BIKE LANE
 - CONCRETE CURB RAMPS/WALK
 - MIXING ZONES
 - GREENSPACE
 - COMPLETED EARLY ACTION SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

2 - Fellsway SB under I-93 - Section

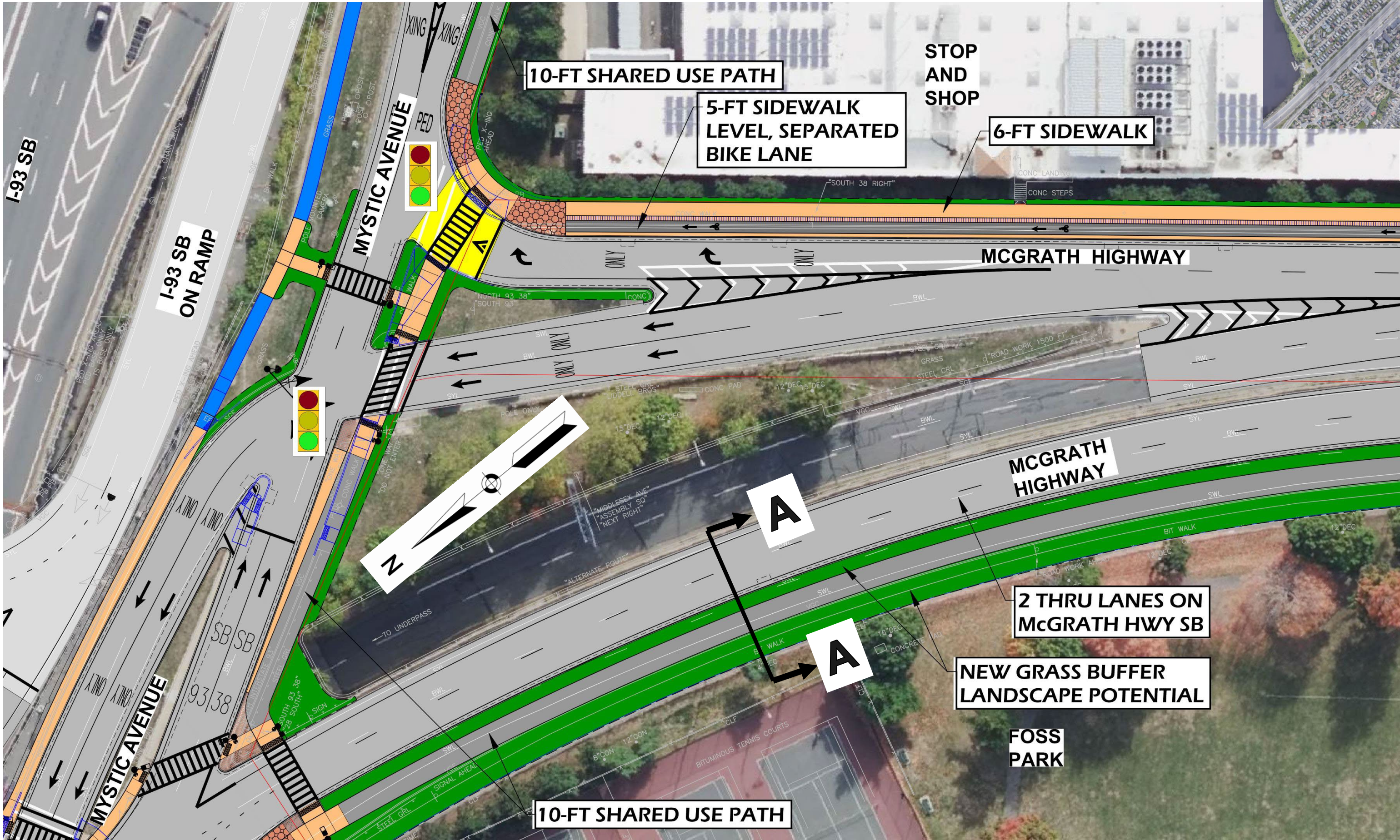


EXISTING



PROPOSED

3 - McGrath Hwy near Mystic Avenue

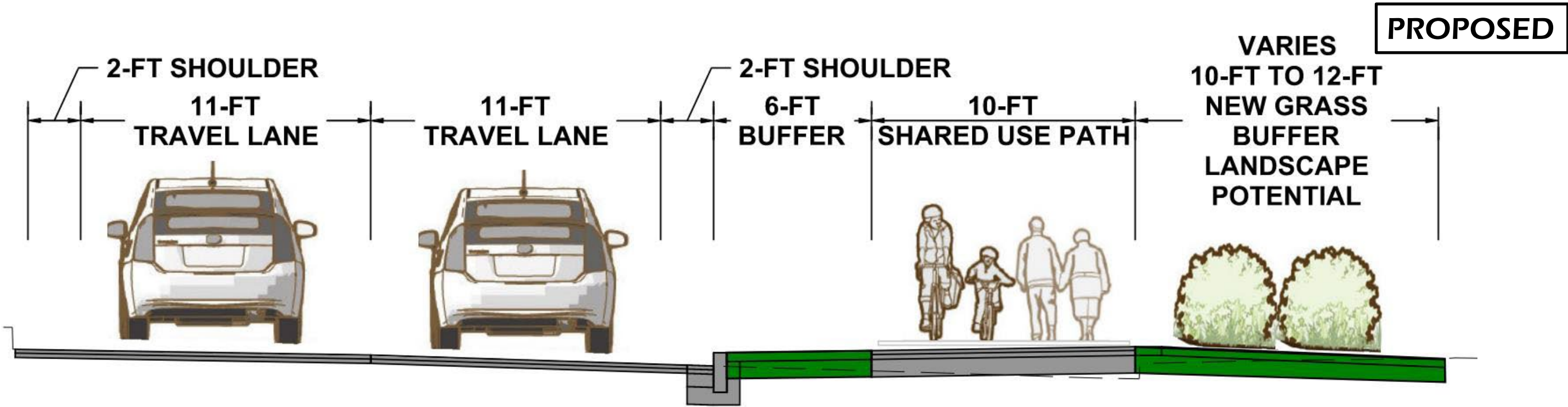


- KEY**
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3 - McGrath Hwy near Mystic Avenue - Section

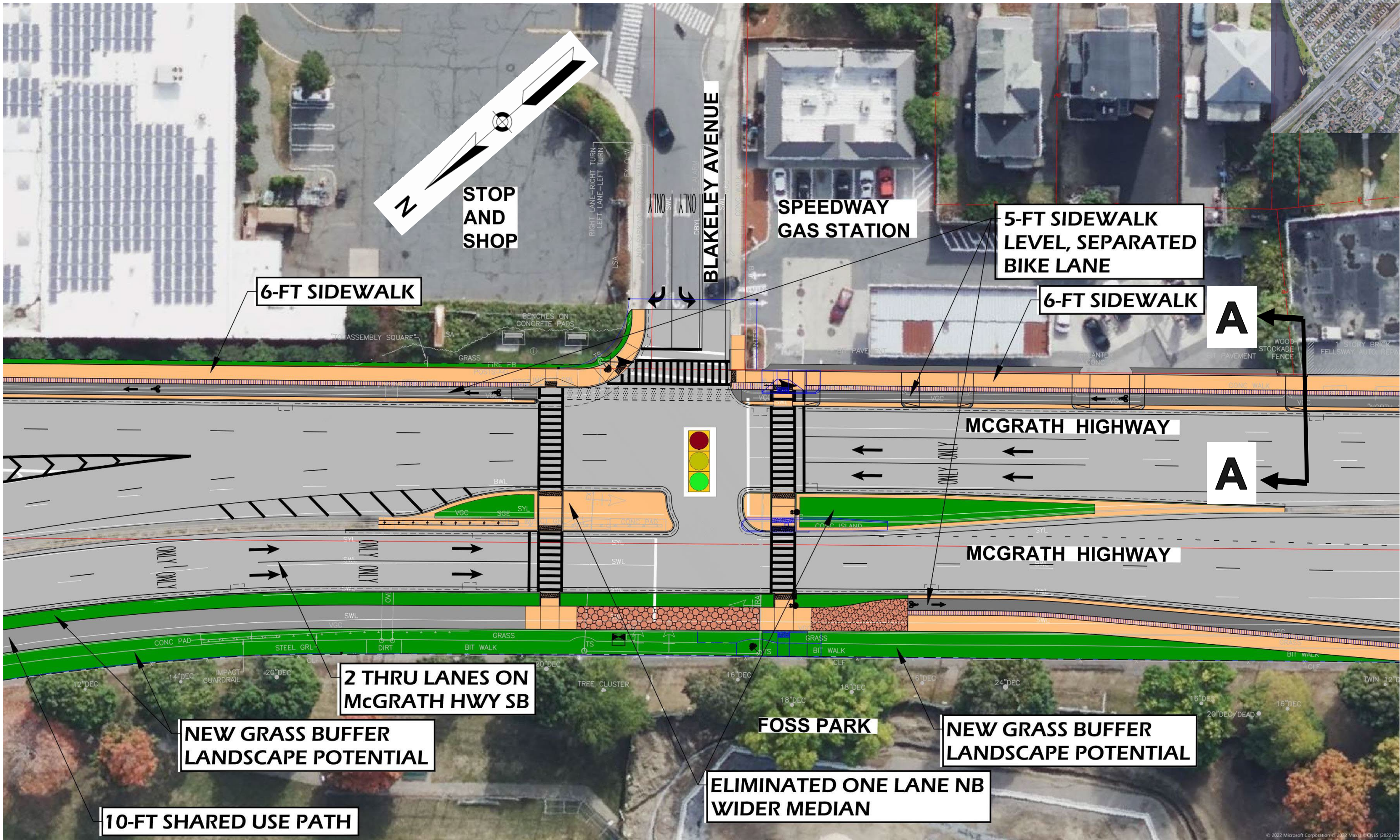


EXISTING



PROPOSED

4 - McGrath Hwy at Blakeley Avenue



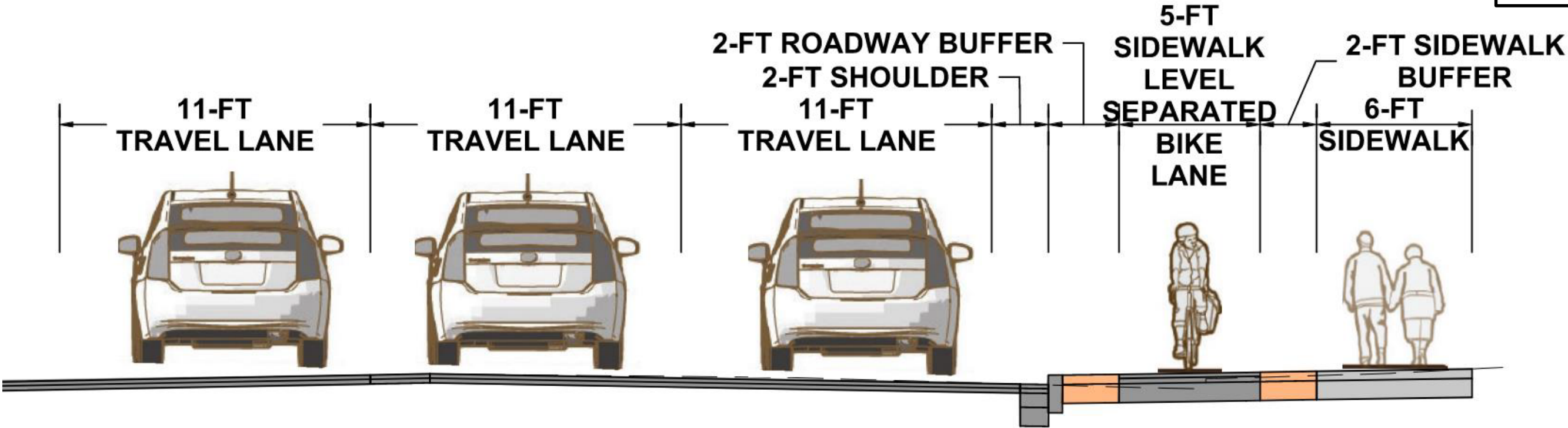
- KEY**
- EXISTING PAVEMENT
 - PROPOSED PAVEMENT
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 - MIXING ZONES
 - GREENSPACE
 - COMPLETED EARLY ACTION SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

4 - McGrath Hwy at Blakeley Avenue - Section

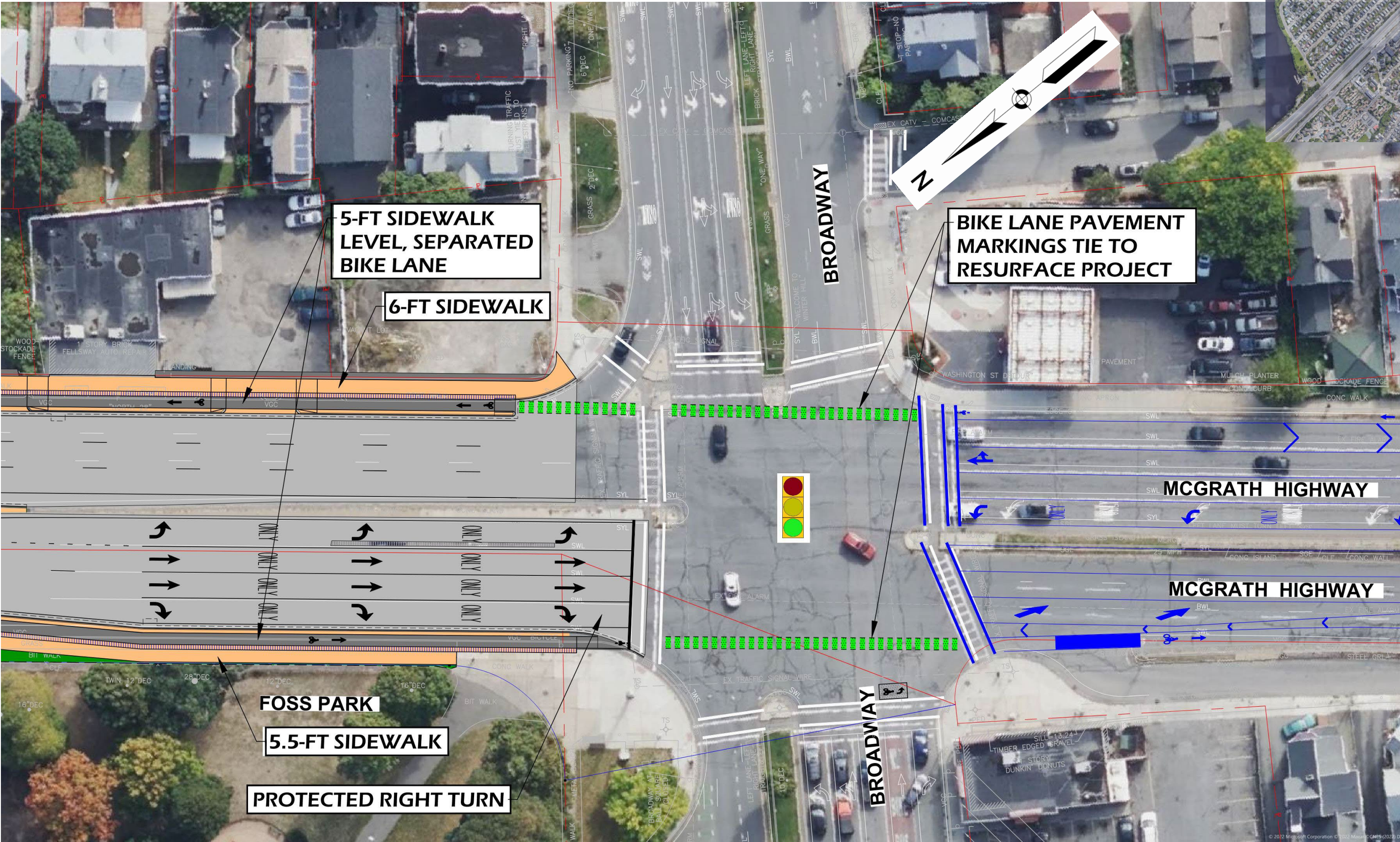
EXISTING



PROPOSED



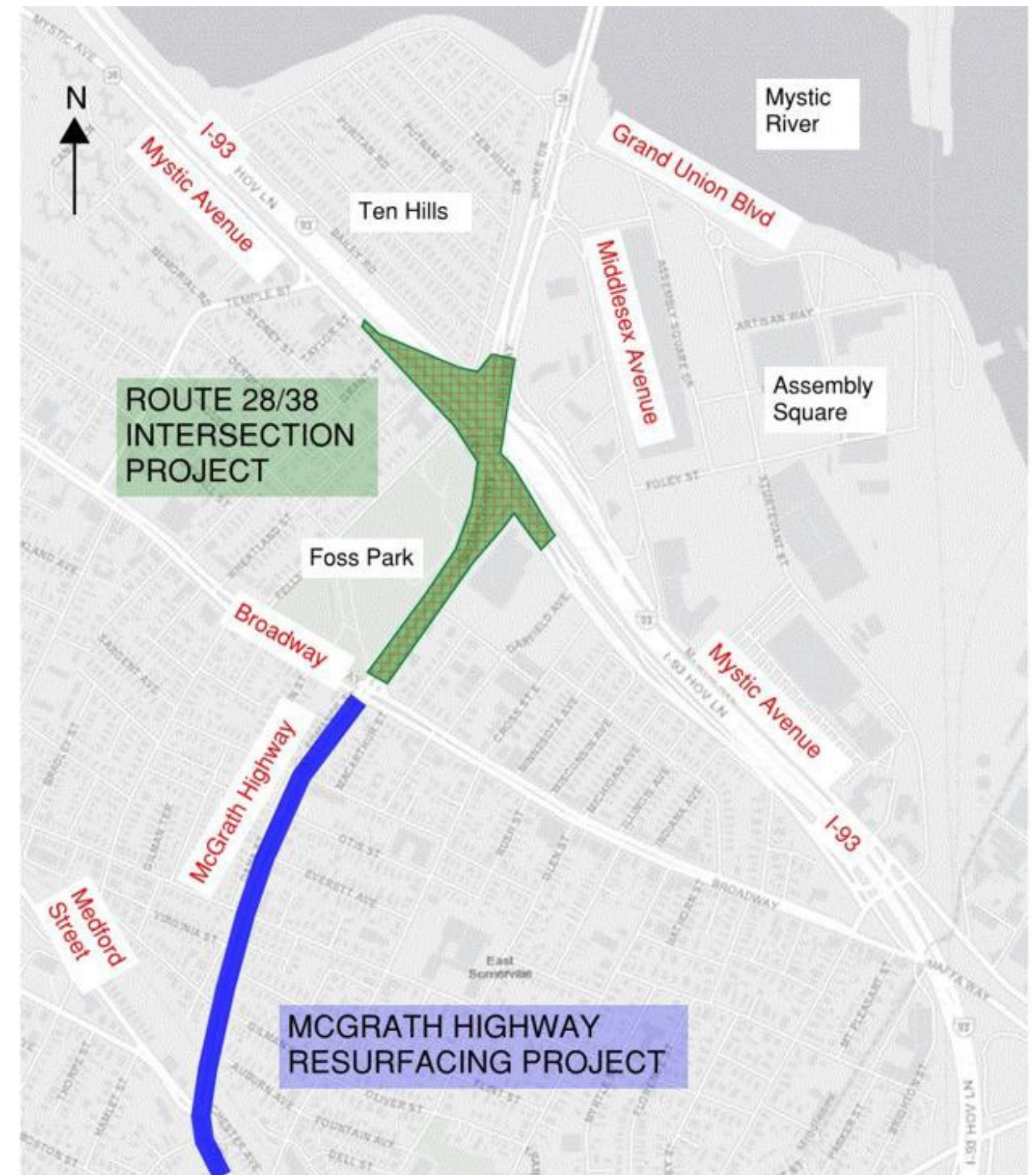
5 - McGrath Hwy near Broadway



- KEY**
- EXISTING PAVEMENT
 - PROPOSED PAVEMENT
 - SHARED USE PATH, SIDEWALK LEVEL SEPERATED BIKE LANE
 - CONCRETE CURB RAMPS/WALK
 - MIXING ZONES
 - GREENSPACE
 - COMPLETED EARLY ACTION SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

Traffic Impacts

- **No-Build Condition**
 - Current traffic conditions plus
 - McGrath Highway Resurfacing Project (under construction)
 - 10-year traffic volume projection
- **Build Condition**
 - Both McGrath Highway Resurfacing & Route 28/38 Intersection Projects
 - 10-year traffic volume projection



Traffic Queues – McGrath Highway / Broadway

- PM Condition has higher queues (as compared to AM)
- Traffic queues for NB remain the same
- Traffic queues decreased by approximately 10% for SB

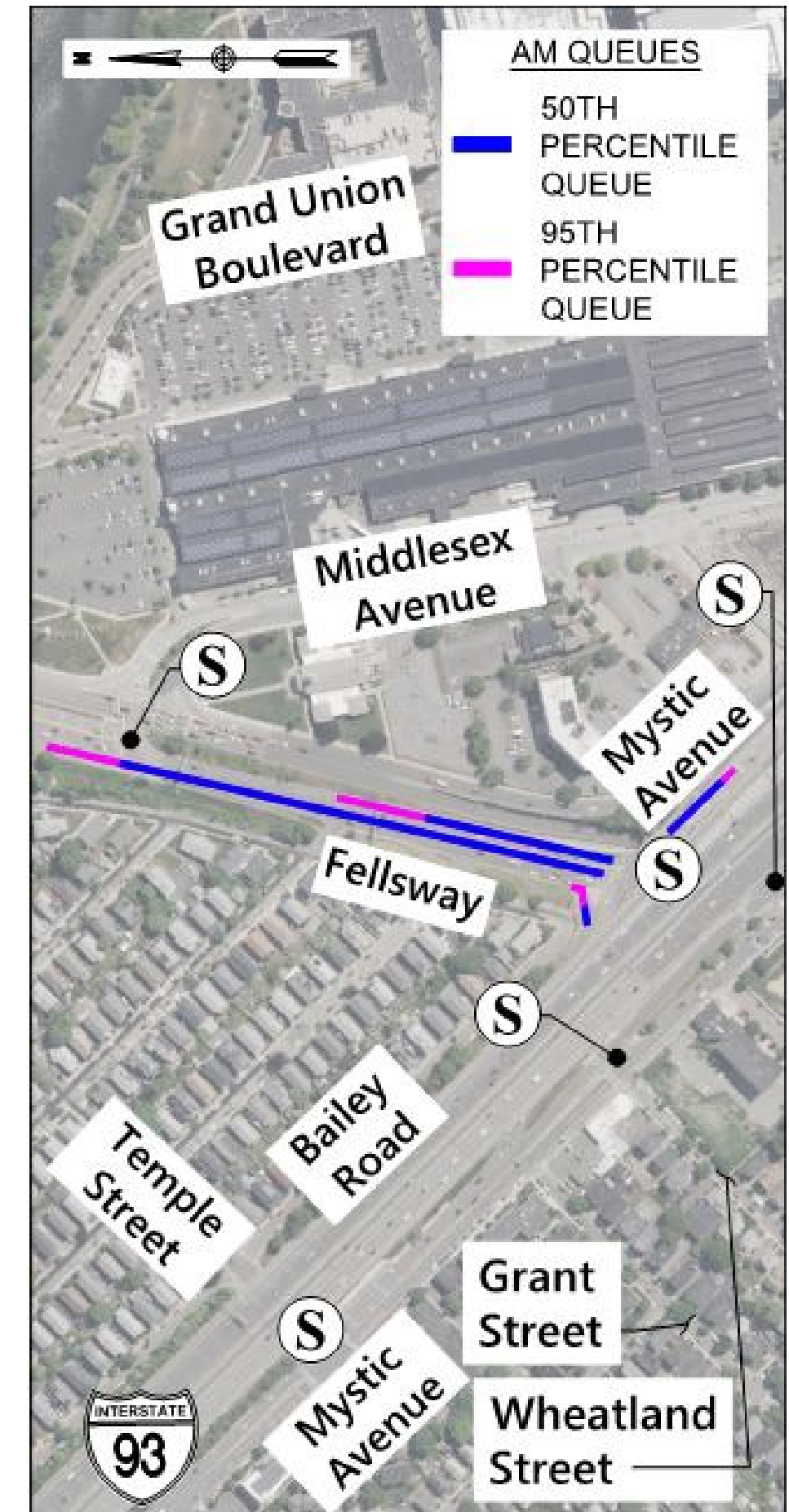


Traffic Queues – Fellsway / McGrath Highway (Route 28)

- AM Condition has higher queues (as compared to PM)
- Third lane converted to right turn only lane at Mystic Ave
- Traffic queues increased by approximately 25%

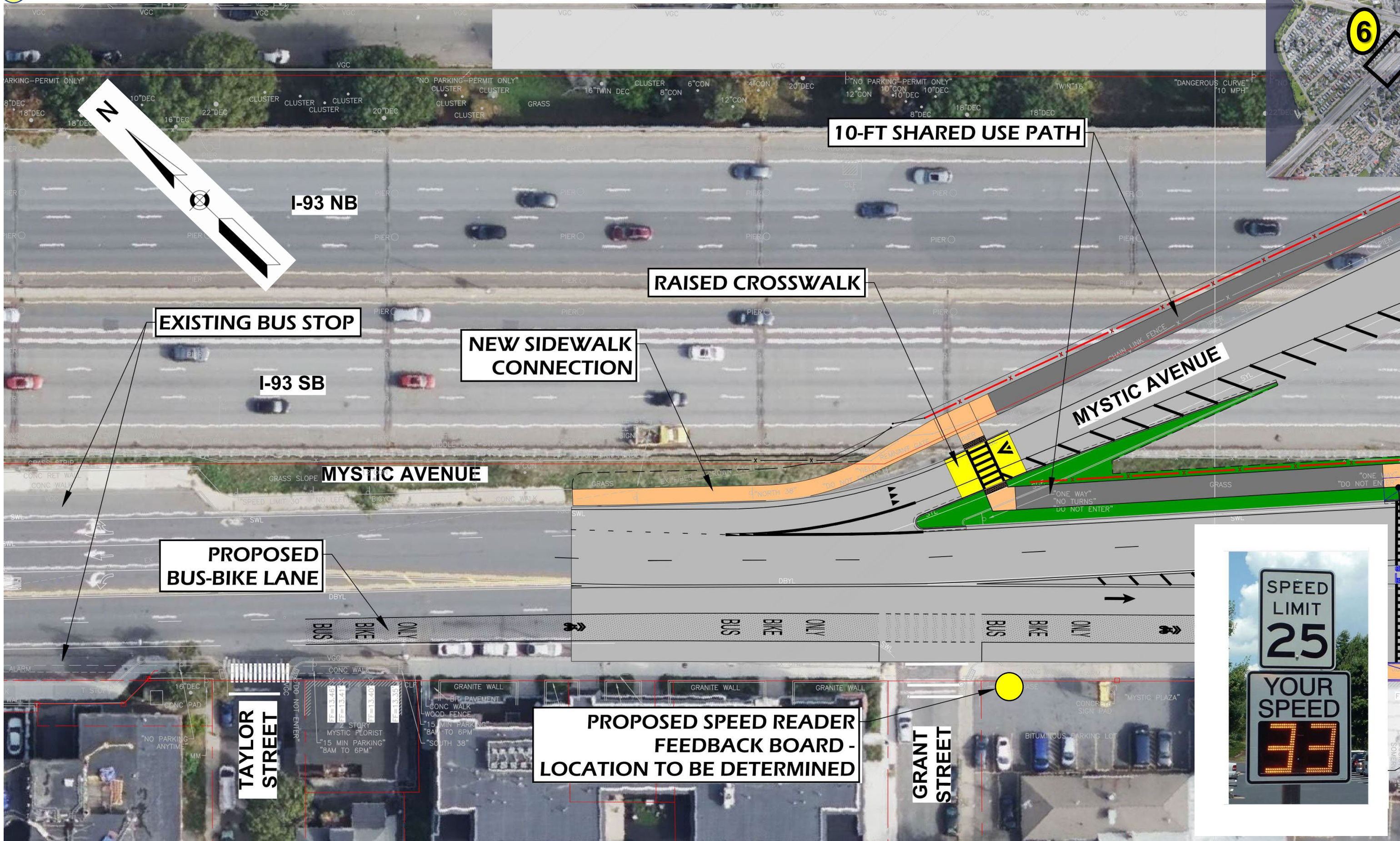


NO BUILD CONDITION
(NO IMPROVEMENTS)



BUILD CONDITION
(WITH IMPROVEMENTS)

6 - Mystic Avenue near Grant Street



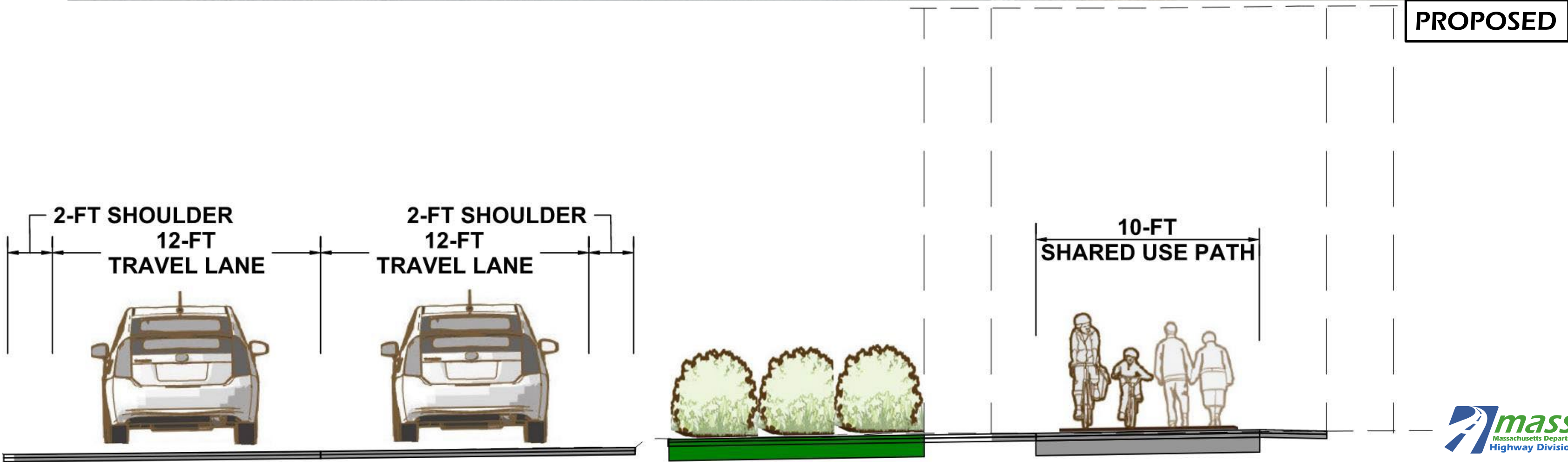
- KEY**
- EXISTING PAVEMENT
 - PROPOSED PAVEMENT
 - SHARED USE PATH, SIDEWALK LEVEL SEPERATED BIKE LANE
 - CEMENT CONCRETE PEDESTRIAN CURB RAMPS / SIDEWALK
 - GREENSPACE
 - COMPLETED EARLY ACTION SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS
 - RAISED X-WALK



7 - Mystic Avenue at Wheatland St / Fellsway W - Section



EXISTING

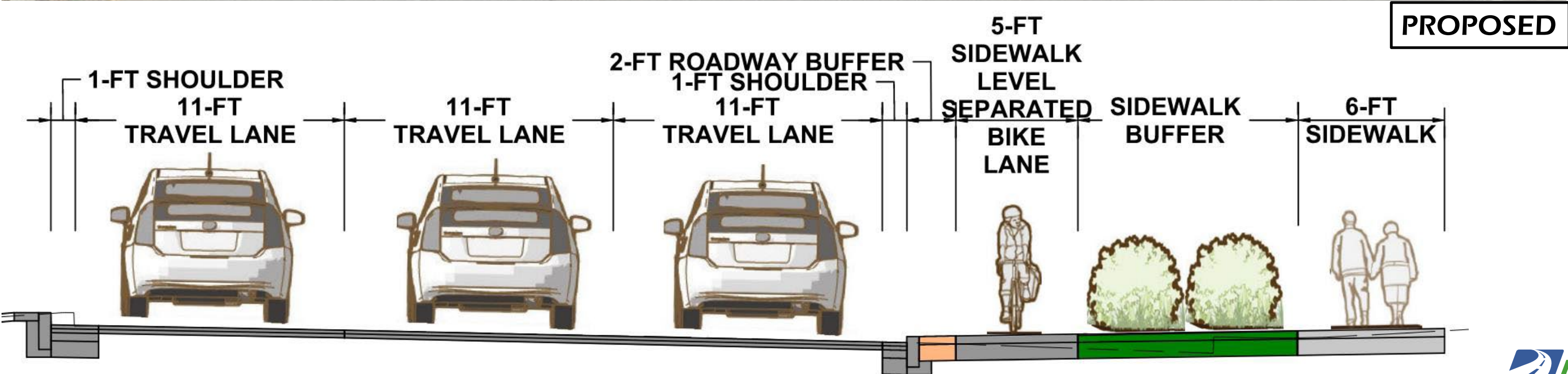


PROPOSED

7 - Mystic Avenue at Wheatland St / Fellsway W - Section



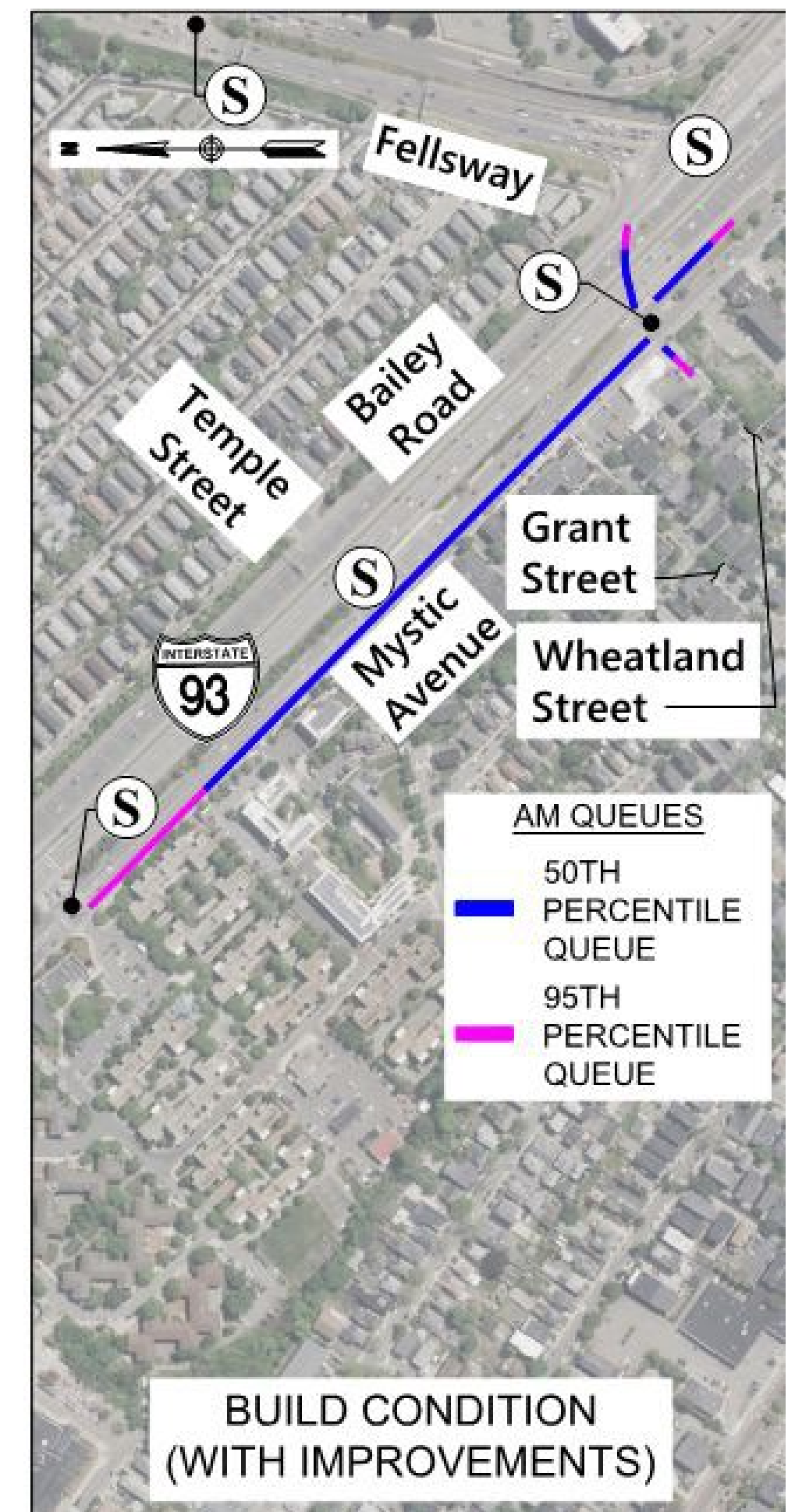
EXISTING



PROPOSED

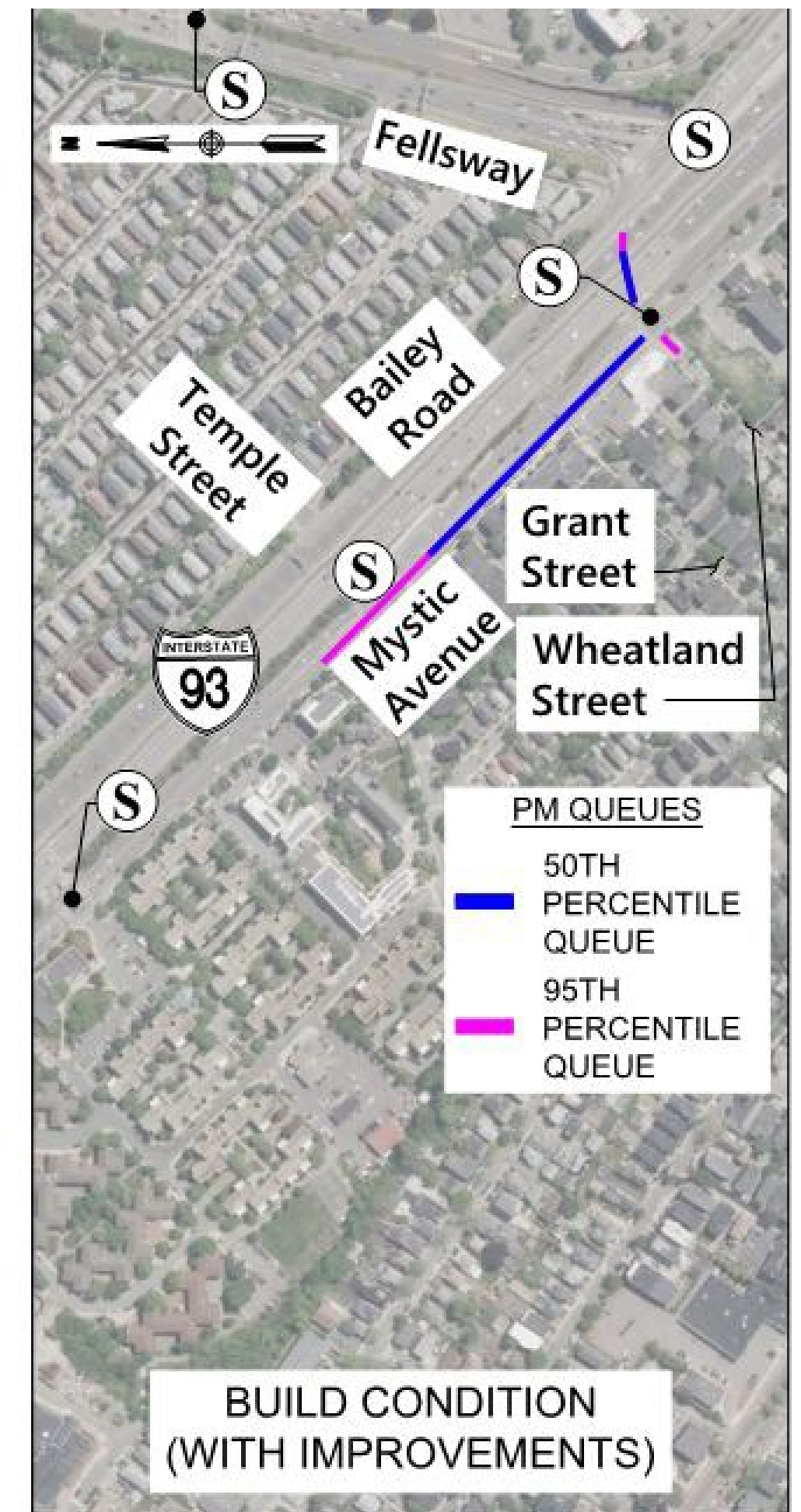
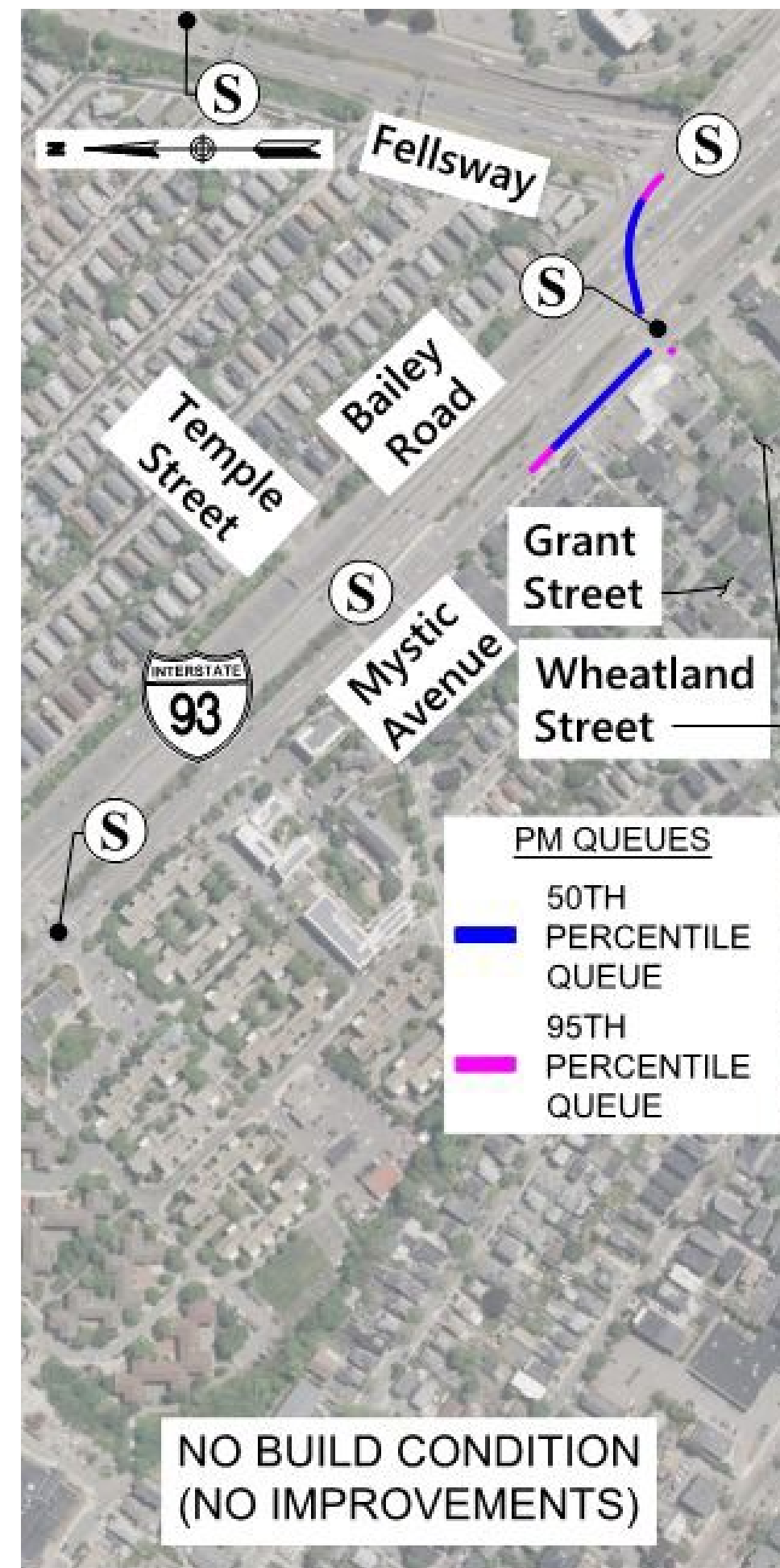
Traffic Queues – Mystic Avenue - AM

- AM Condition has higher traffic volumes
- Existing Mystic Avenue Bus-Only Lane
- Traffic queues decreased by approximately 6% with improvements



Traffic Queues – Mystic Avenue - PM

- Propose Mystic Avenue Bus-Bike Only Lane
- Traffic queues increased by approximately 35% with intersection modifications





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 ROW Bureau or consultants representing MassDOT.
- 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.



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

Environmental, cultural resource, and community impacts

- No Environmental or Cultural Resource Impacts at this time
- Positive community impacts include:
 - Adding approximately 15,300 square feet of new green space
 - Addition of approximately 2,700' of Shared Use Paths
 - Addition of approximately 1,800' of Separated Bike Lanes
 - Creation of Multi-modal connections
 - Traffic calming measures implemented (Early Action)
 - Additional traffic calming proposed



**What is the
construction
approach?**

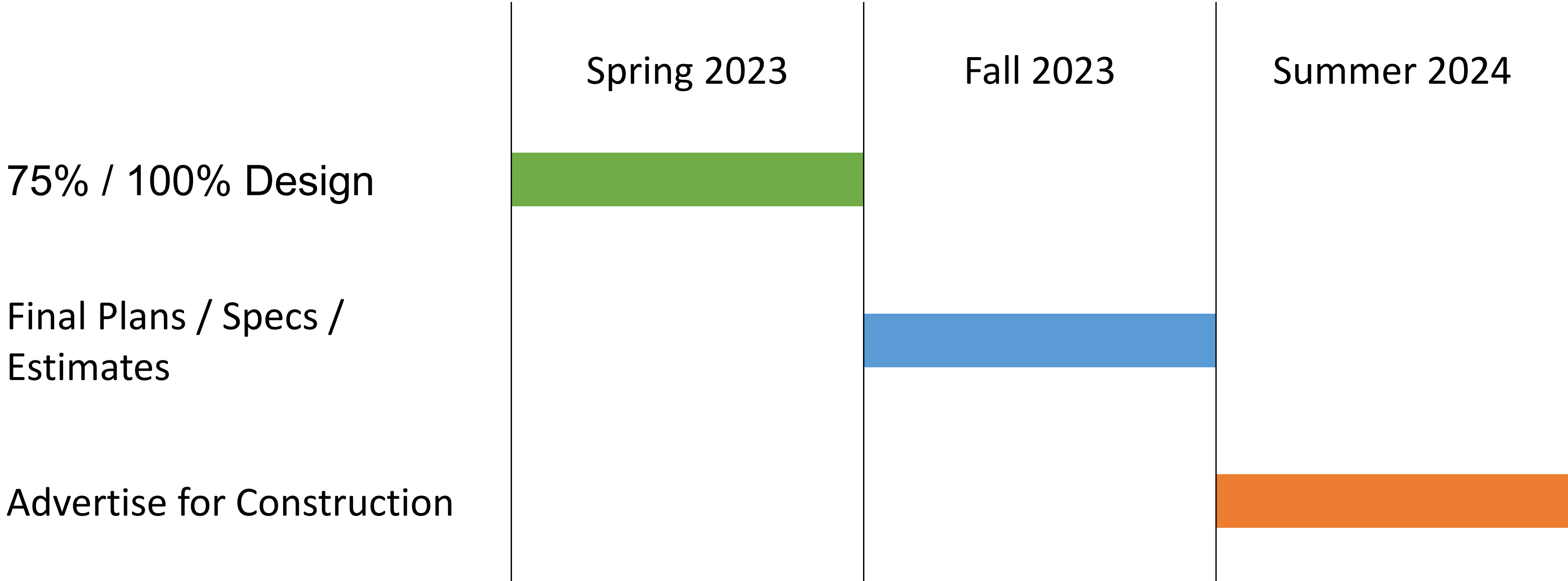
Proposed construction approach

- Anticipate a construction duration of 18 to 24 months
- Traffic maintained during construction
 - Lane closures during off-peak times
- Maintain access to residential properties and business at all times
- Pedestrian access generally maintained
 - Pedestrian detours around work zones
- Potential for night work for certain elements
 - Coordination with the City in advance for allowable work hours
- Construction Oversight by MassDOT
 - Regular coordination meetings with Contractor, City and MassDOT



Anticipated Next Steps/ Timeline

Next Steps & Anticipated Timeline



Anticipated Construction Start – End of 2024 / Spring 2025



**How will we
keep you
informed?**

How to reach us?

- Submit written comments to:
Carrie Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer
MassDOT
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116
Attention: Project Management Section Project File No. 608562
- Submit email comments to:
MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us
- For project information visit the MassDOT Design Public Hearing web site at:
<https://www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings> or used the QR Code:





Questions and
discussion

Questions and Answers



- “Raise your hand” to be unmuted for verbal questions (Alt + Y if using a phone)



- 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

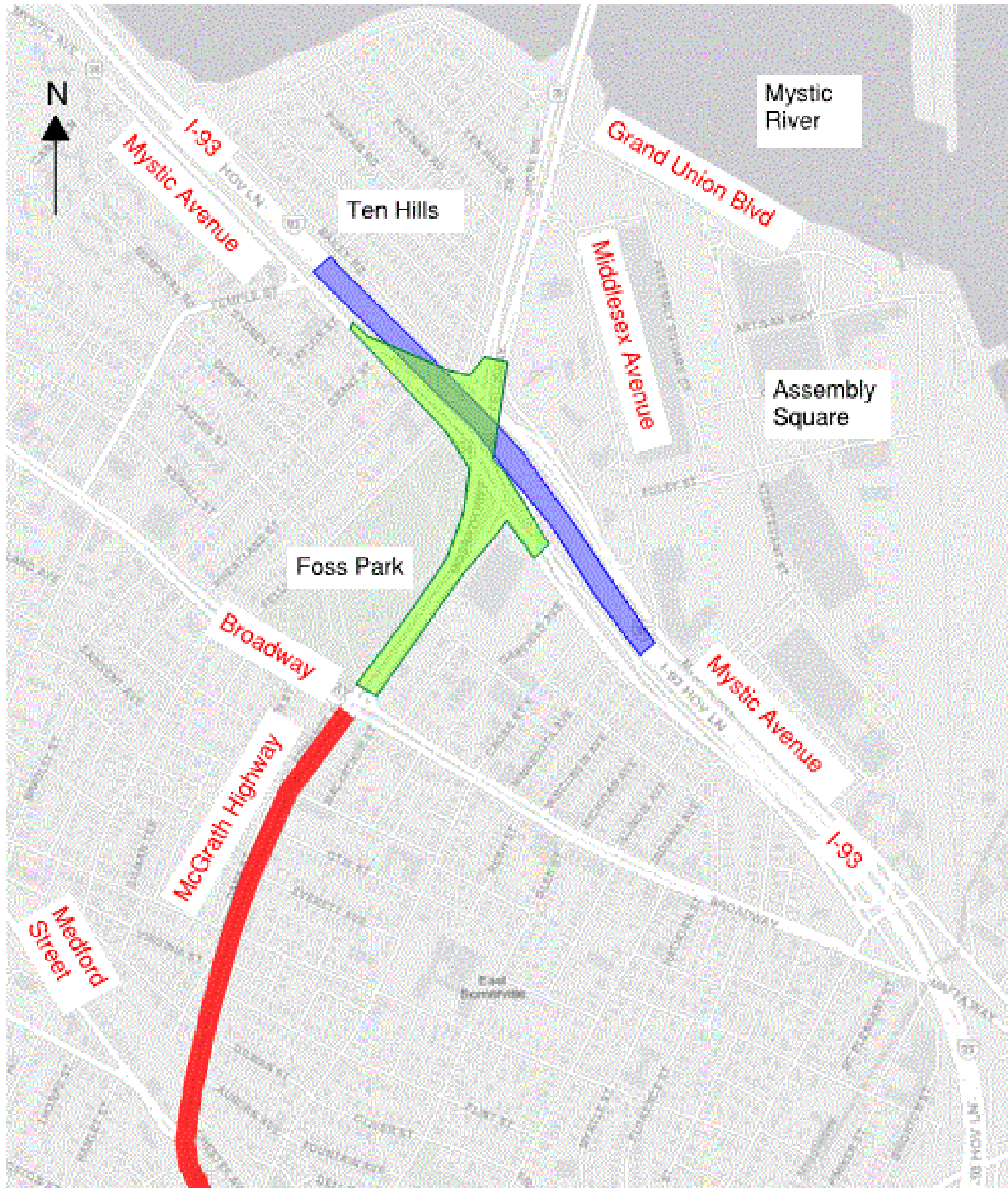
Intersection Improvements

*Fellsway/McGrath (Route 28)
at Mystic Avenue (Route 38)*

Project No. 608562 | March 1, 2023 | 6:30 PM

MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us

David Shedd, Project Manager



MassDOT Projects in the Area

Bridge Substructure Repairs (# 606528)

- Under construction 2022

Route 28 / Route 38 Intersection (# 608562)

- Design in progress

McGrath Highway Resurfacing (# 608482)

- Under construction Spring '22

Preliminary Right of Way (ROW) Location Plan

