



# Reconstruction of Canton Street

## *Design Public Hearing*

Downey Elementary School | 250 Downey Street | Westwood, MA  
September 28, 2023 | 7:00pm

Project No. 608158



# Public meeting 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 meeting.

## Important note

- The hearing will be open to questions and answers at the end of the formal presentation.

**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 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 attending our meeting. We appreciate your participation!**

# Introductions – Hearing Panel

- **MassDOT Project Management, Boston Office:**
  - Jon Freeman & Lawrence Cash
- **MassDOT District 6 Representative:**
  - Joe Doucette
- **MassDOT ROW Agent:**
  - Craig Sheehan
- **MassDOT Complete Streets Engineer:**
  - Francisco Lovera
- **MassDOT Landscape Section:**
  - Andrew Schlenker
- **TEC, Inc. (Town's Design Consultant)**
  - Jonathan Rockwell
  - Kevin Dandrade
  - Tom Quinlan
- **Town of Westwood (Project Proponent)**
  - Todd Korchin, Director of Public Works
  - Brendan Ryan, Assistant Director of Public Works

- **Transcriptionist/Stenographer**
  - Advanced Court Reporters, LLC



# Notice of Hearing

Design Public Hearing Notice was advertised in:

**Westwood Hometown Weekly**  
September 14, 2023  
September 21, 2023

**Westwood Press**  
September 14, 2023  
September 21, 2023

Public Involvement Management Application (PIMA) Page Developed by HNTB to facilitate questions and answers

## Notice of Hearing

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION  
**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING**  
Project File No. 608158

A Design Public Hearing will be held to present the design for the proposed Reconstruction of Canton Street Project in Westwood, MA.

WHERE:     Downey Elementary School  
                  250 Downey Street  
                  Westwood, MA 02090

WHEN:       Thursday, September 28, 2023 @ 7:00pm

PURPOSE:    The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Reconstruction of Canton Street Project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL:   The proposed project extends along Canton Street from the East Street Rotary to the intersection with University Avenue (1.9 miles) and consists of constructing a shared-use path along the east side of the roadway and a sidewalk along the west side of the roadway, with high-visibility crossing opportunities, -in accordance with applicable design guides. Bicyclists are intended to use the shared-use path for travel and pedestrians may walk along either side. The facilities will drop to the roadway grade over the existing bridge over the railroad tracks. These facilities will provide connections to the Downey Elementary School, the Route 128/University Park MBTA/Amtrak Station, nearby retail and restaurants, and the adjacent Currier Reservation conservation area. The Project will also incorporate traffic calming measures in an effort to reduce vehicular speeds along Canton Street, a new stormwater system, water main replacement, and relocated overhead utilities.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Town of Westwood is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT’s policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to [MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us) or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 608158. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted on the MassDOT website listed below.

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g. interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT’s Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email ([MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us)). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the hearing, 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 hearing.

In case of inclement weather, a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

JONATHAN GULLIVER  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.  
CHIEF ENGINEER

## Flyer



### Design Public Hearing

## Canton Street Improvements, Westwood

**What is happening?**

A Design Public Hearing for the proposed Canton Street Improvements Project in Westwood, MA will be held at the location below. A shared-use path for pedestrian and bicyclist use will be constructed along the east side of Canton Street between the East Street Rotary and the University Avenue intersection (approximately 1.9 miles). A sidewalk will be constructed along the west side of Canton Street for pedestrian use. The bicyclist facility will lower to the roadway grade over the existing bridge over the railroad tracks. This Project will provide safer accommodations, with high-visibility crossing opportunities for pedestrians and bicyclists.

**How will this affect you?**

These facilities will provide connections to the Downey Elementary School, the Route 128/University Park MBTA/Amtrak Station, nearby retail and restaurants, and the Currier Reservation Conservation Area. The Project will also incorporate traffic calming measures in an effort to reduce vehicular speeds along Canton Street.

When	Where
Thursday, September 28, 2023 7:00pm	Downey Elementary School 250 Downey Street Westwood, MA 02090

Visit [www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events](https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events) for more information.



To ensure its meetings are accessible, MassDOT reasonably provides: translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, alternative formats, and auxiliary aids and services. To request such services, please contact MassDOT’s Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer at 857-368-8580 or [MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). For adequate time to process such request, please make them as early as possible, ideally 10-15 days prior to the event.

Project inquiries may also be emailed to [MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us). Please submit any written statements regarding the proposed undertaking to: Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: PROJECT MANAGEMENT, PROJECT FILE NO. 608158.





## 25% Design Stage & Project Funding

- Total estimated construction cost: \$20.4 Million

**Cost does not include any right-of-way acquisition costs.**

- Project programmed in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) in the appropriate Federal Fiscal Year (Anticipated FFY 2028)

### Funding Sources:

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

## Construction Duration

- Anticipated advertising FFY 2028
- Three (3) construction seasons



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**







**How will your  
property be  
impacted?**



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

- The Town of Westwood or the Town of Norwood is responsible for acquiring all necessary rights in public land for design, construction, and implementation of this project.
  - Fee takings, permanent easements and/or temporary construction easements may be required.
- Affected property owners will be contacted by personnel from the Town of Westwood/Town of Norwood or consultants representing the responsible agency.
  - Property owners are protected under Massachusetts General Laws, primarily Chapter 79.
- Preliminary ROW drawings are available for public review and comment at:  
<https://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/departments/public-works/projects/canton-street-sidewalk>

or use the QR Code:



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



# Agenda

- 01** Project Area
- 02** Existing Conditions
- 03** Project Goals
- 04** Design Progression
- 05** Design Alternatives
- 06** Proposed Improvements
- 07** Multi-Modal Benefits
- 08** Design Progression
- 09** Permitting
- 10** Construction/Traffic Impacts
- 11** Next Steps
- 12** Questions & Answers
- 13** Contact Information





**Project Area** Canton Street, Westwood – Norwood- north is to the left







**Why was this  
project  
initiated?**



# Pedestrian Safety, Connectivity & Accessibility

Missing Sidewalk



# Bicycle Safety, Connectivity & Accessibility

Shared Lanes





Traffic & Safety Issues

Non-Compliant Yield



Non-Compliant Roadside Barriers

Guardrail & End Treatments





Aging Infrastructure

~100 Year Old Water Main



Aging Infrastructure

Poor Drainage Conditions







**What do we  
want to  
accomplish?**



## Project Goals

- Calm Traffic & Enhance Safety
- Create Pedestrian Accessibility & Connectivity to Existing Facilities
- Minimize & Mitigate Impacts to Scenic Character & Aesthetics
- Introduce Separated Bicycle Accommodations
- Ensure Infrastructure Asset Longevity







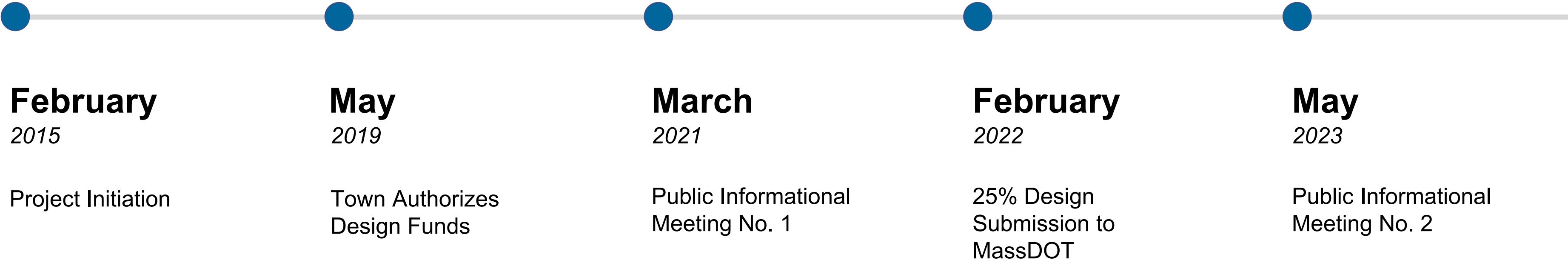
SPEED  
LIMIT  
35



How has our  
design  
progressed?



# How did we get here?







**What  
alternatives  
were  
considered?**



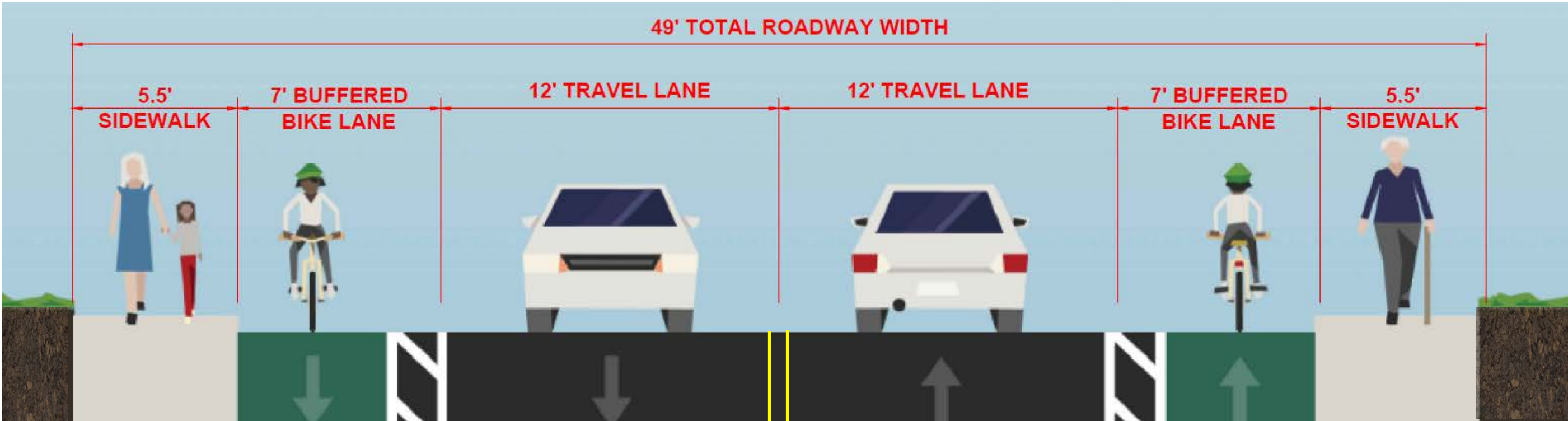


## Cross Section Alternatives Analysis

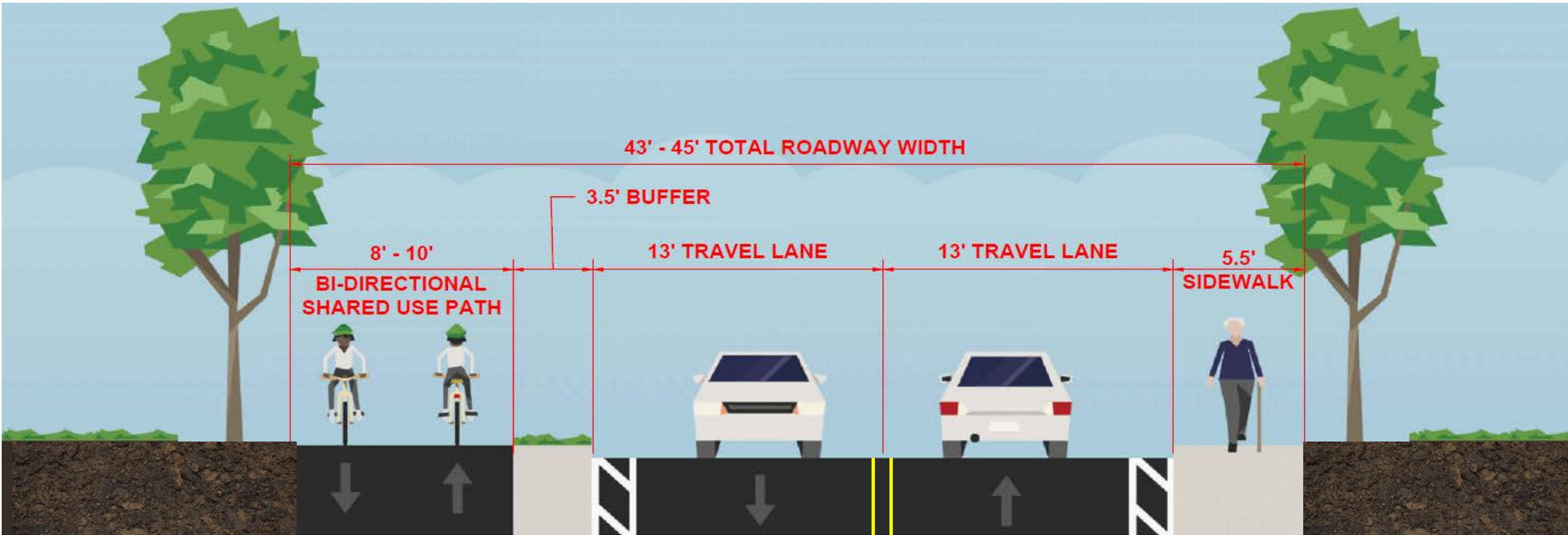
Alternatives analysis focused on providing pedestrian and bicycle accommodations while meeting the project goals, balancing impacts to private property, minimizing historical and environmental impacts and considering utilities above and below ground.



# Cross Section Alternatives



**Alternative 1  
(On-Road  
Bicycle Facility)**



**Alternative 2  
(Off-Road  
Bicycle Facility)**



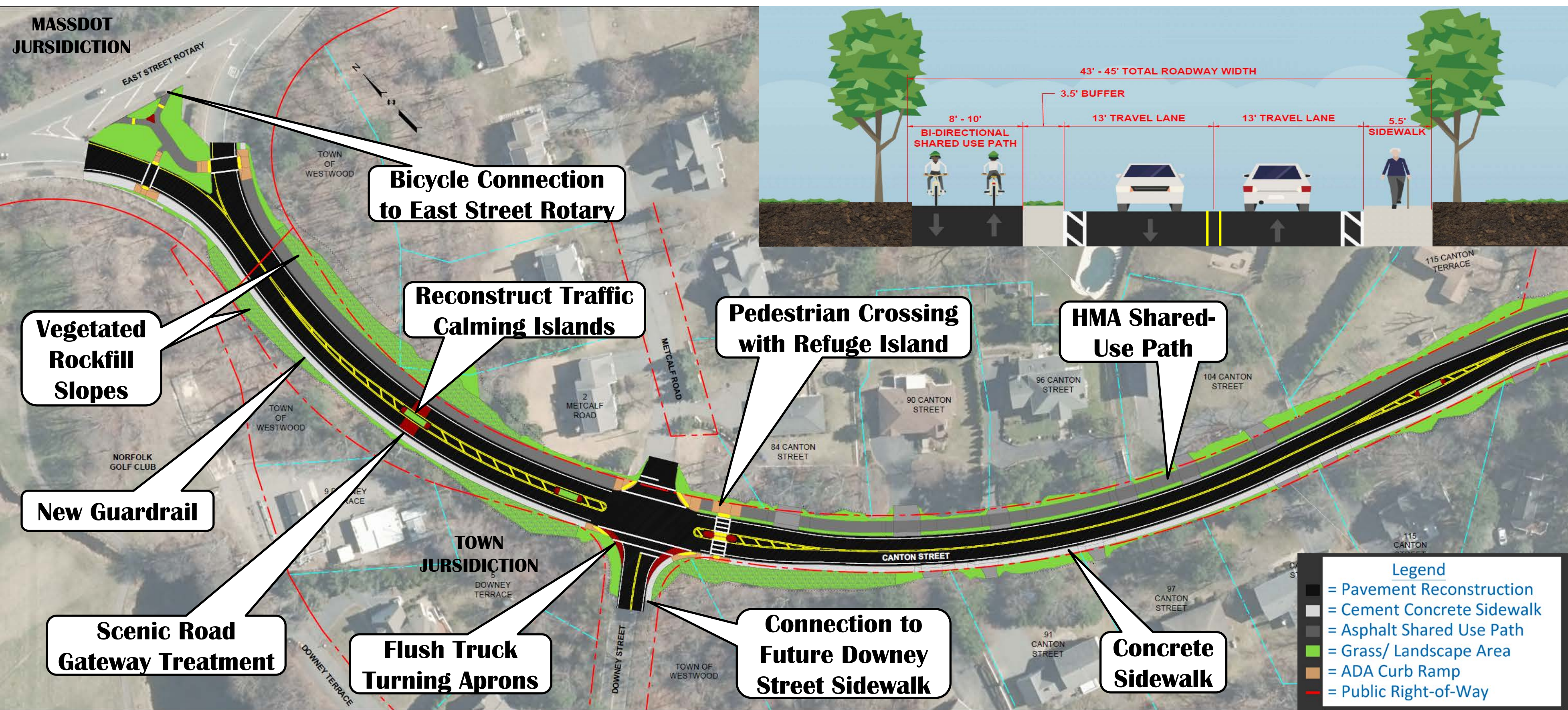


**What is the  
preferred  
alternative?**



# Preferred Alternative

## East Street Rotary to Canton Terrace





**Preferred Alternative**     East Street Rotary to Canton Terrace



**10' Shared  
Use Path**

**3.5'  
Buffer**

**14' NB  
Roadway**

**6'  
Landscaped  
Median**

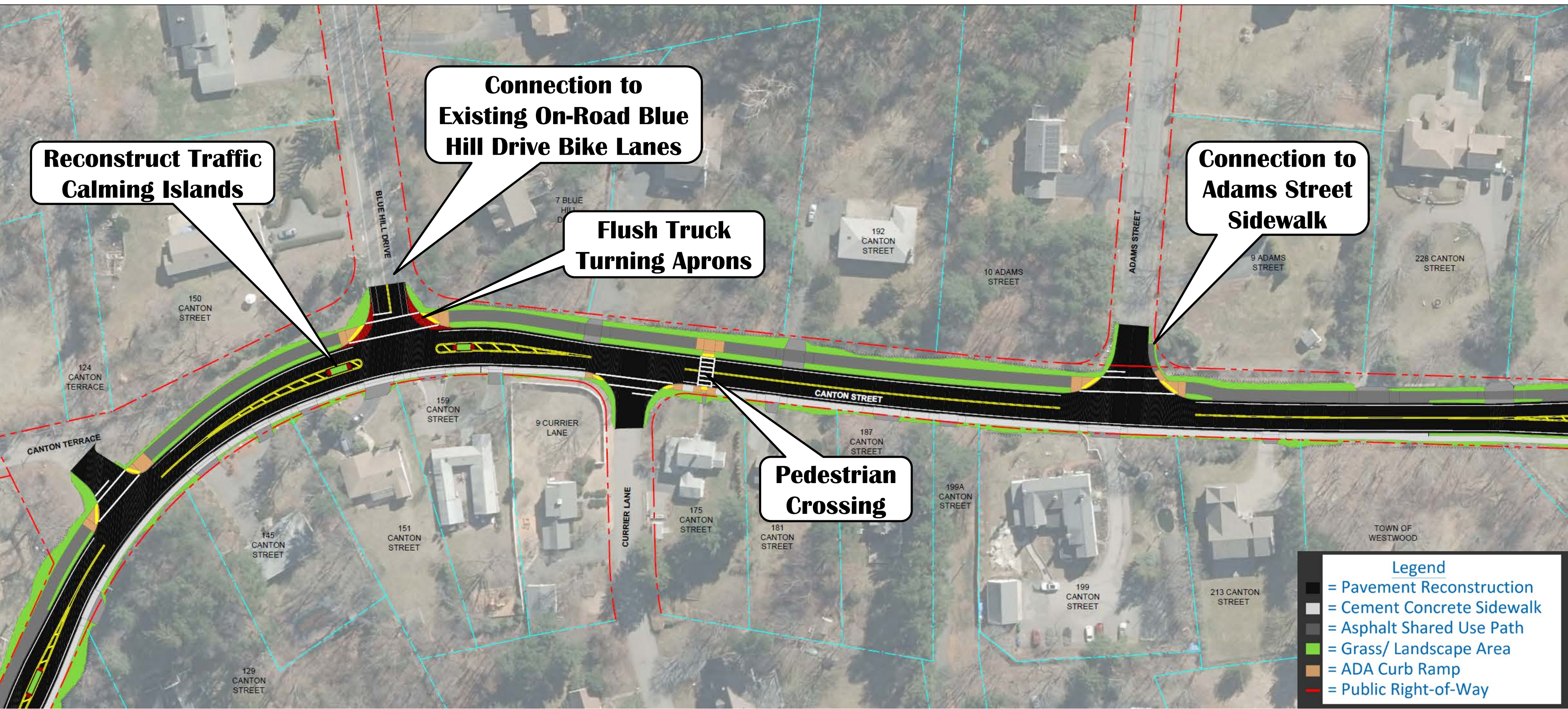
**14' SB  
Roadway**

**5.5'  
Sidewalk**



# Preferred Alternative

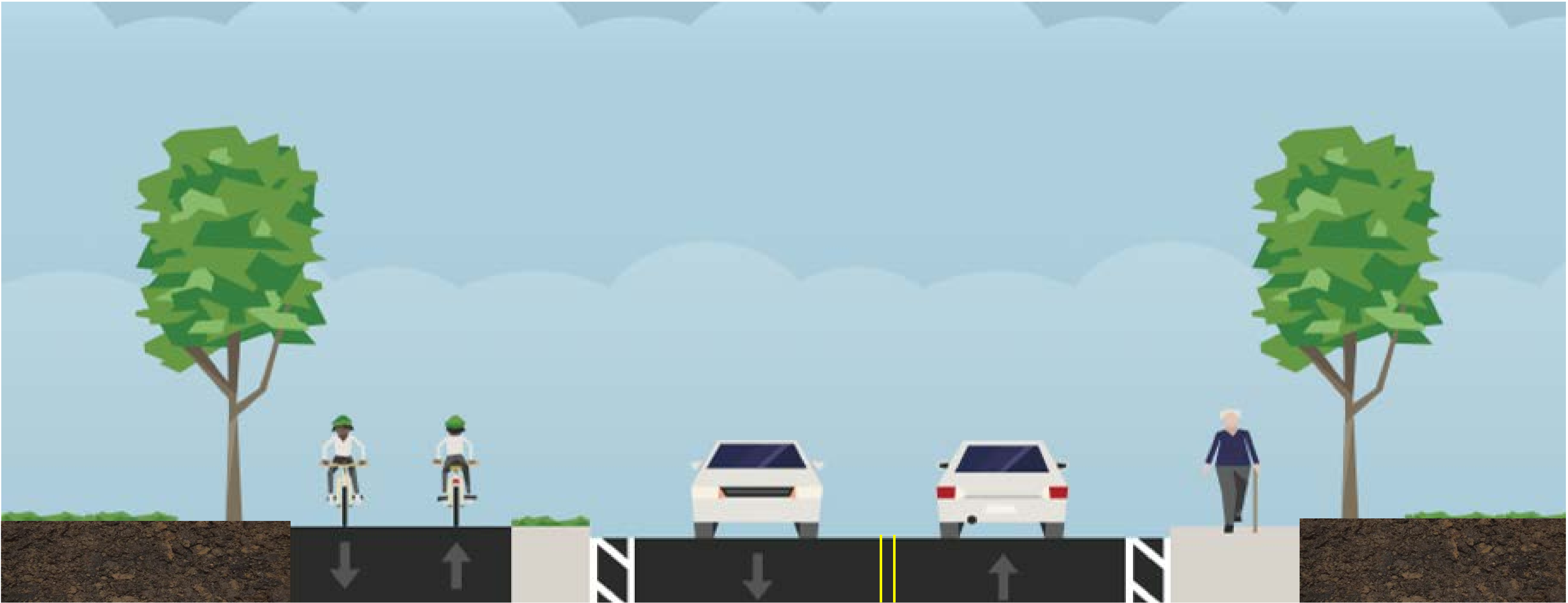
## Canton Terrace to Forbes Road





# Preferred Alternative

Typical Cross Section



**10' Shared  
Use Path**

**3.5'  
Buffer**

**13' NB  
Roadway**

**13' SB  
Roadway**

**5.5'  
Sidewalk**



Preferred Alternative

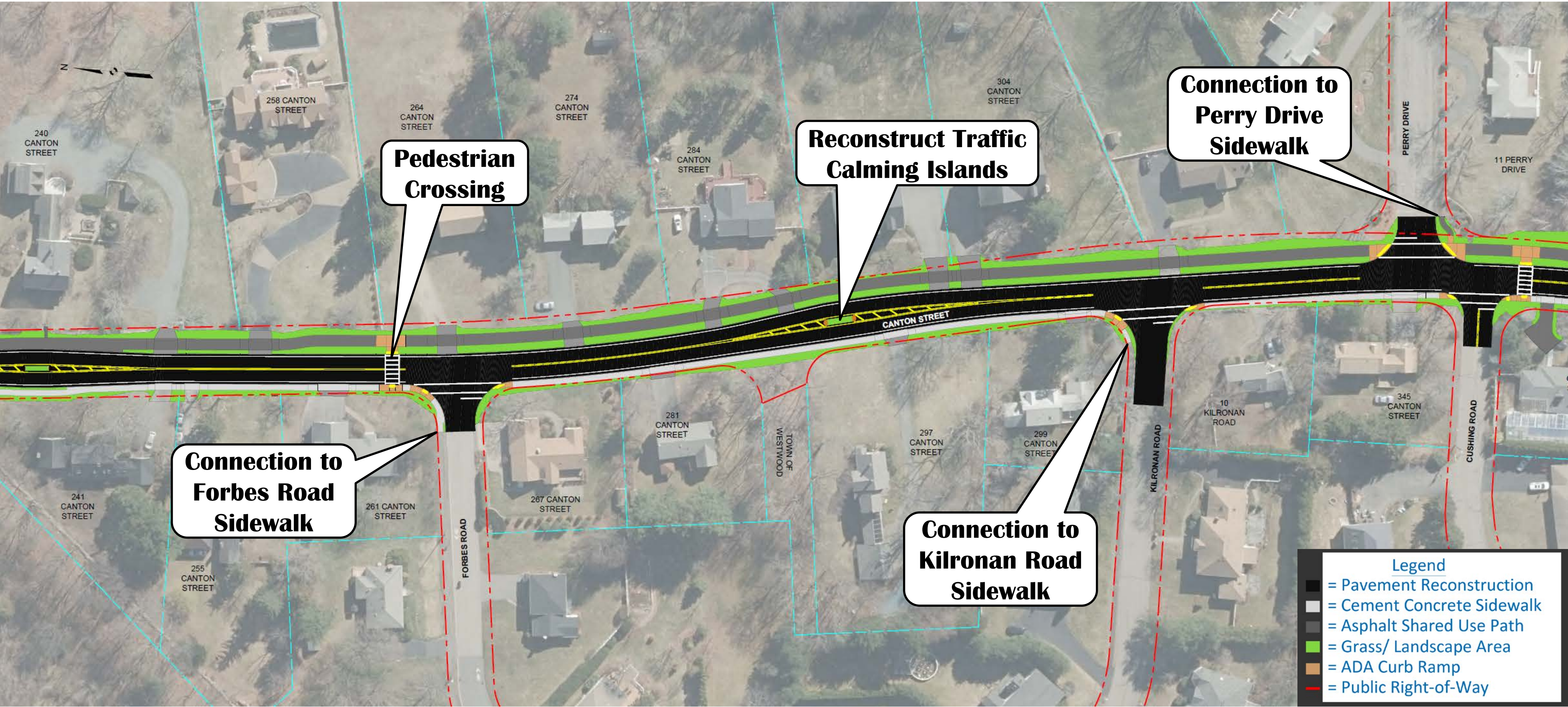
Typical Section





# Preferred Alternative

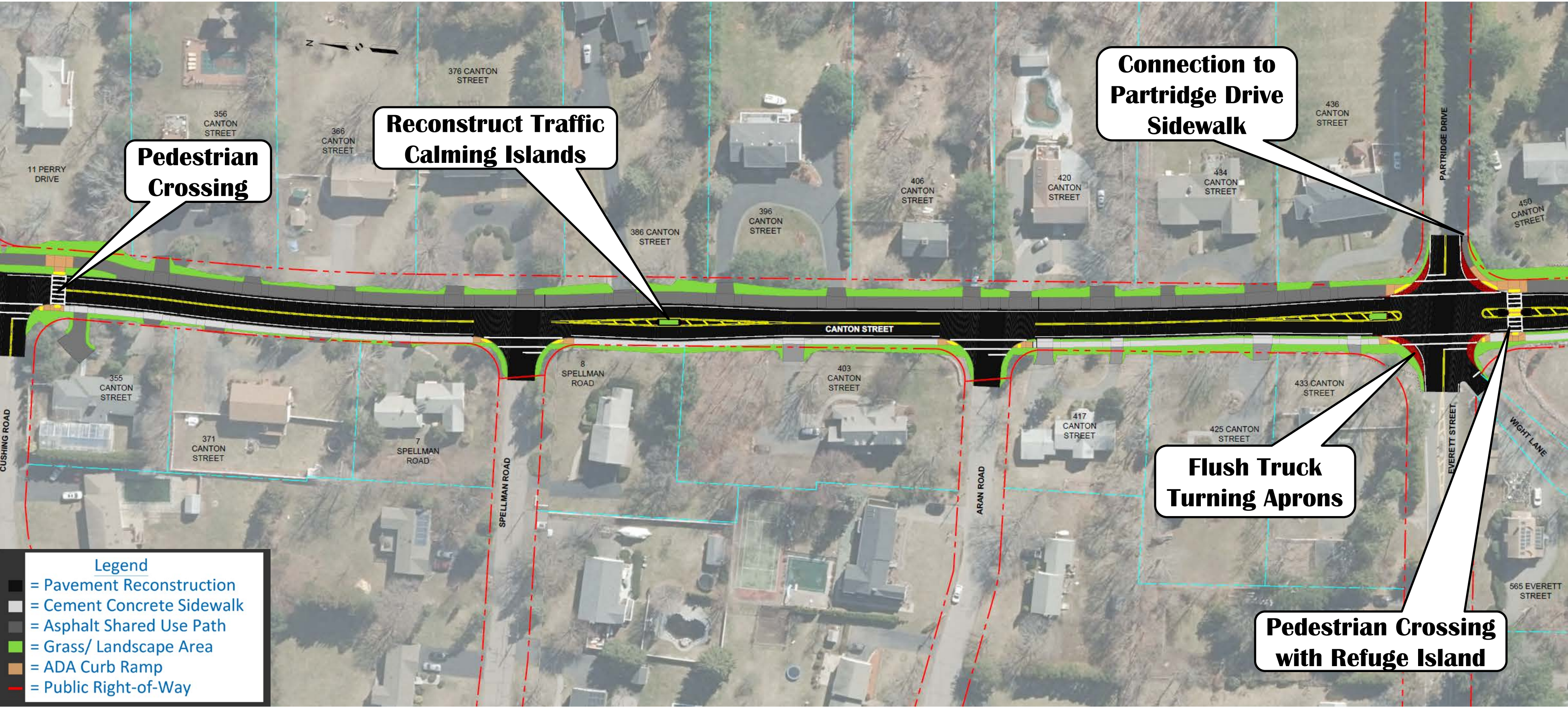
## Forbes Road to Cushing Road





# Preferred Alternative

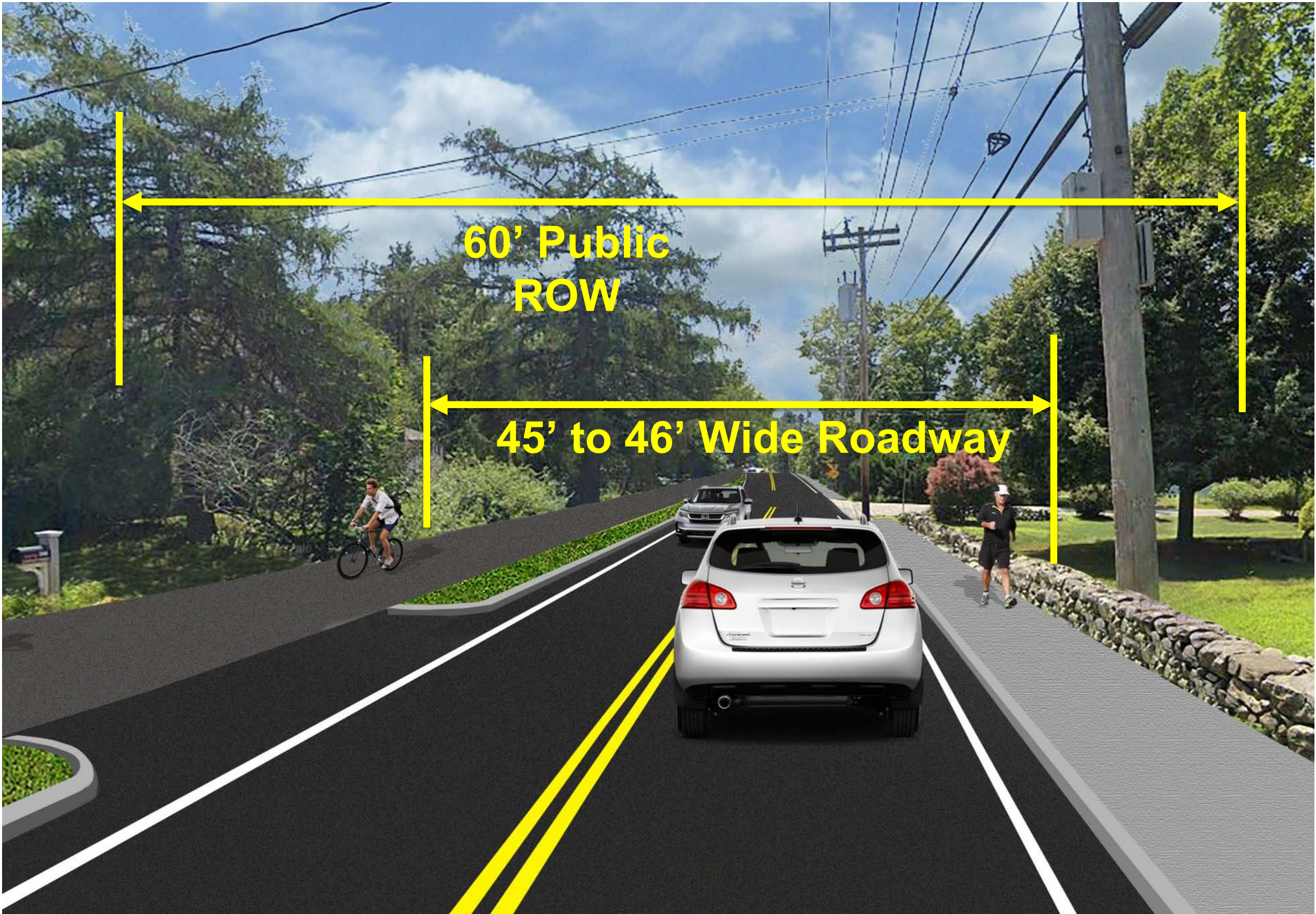
Cushing Road to Everett Street





Preferred Alternative

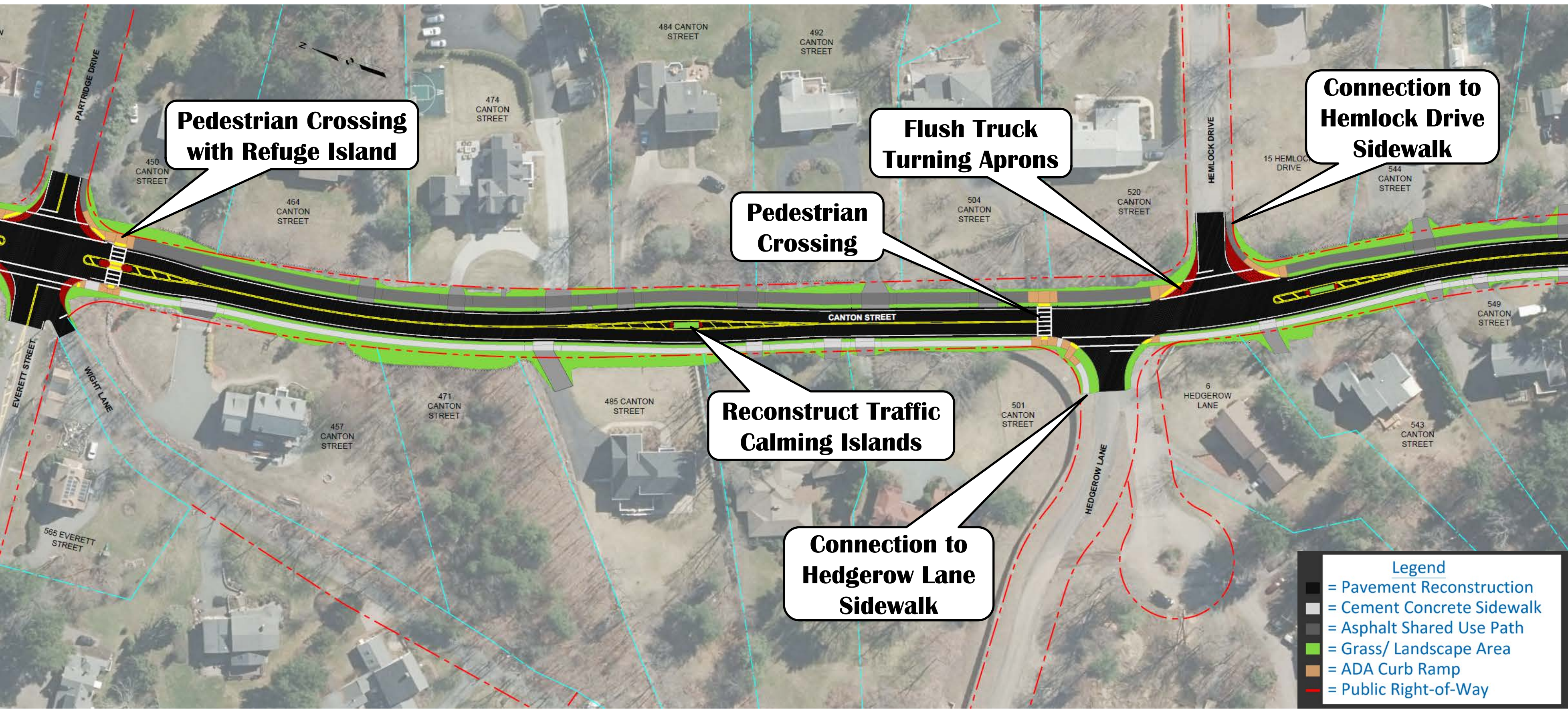
Typical Section





# Preferred Alternative

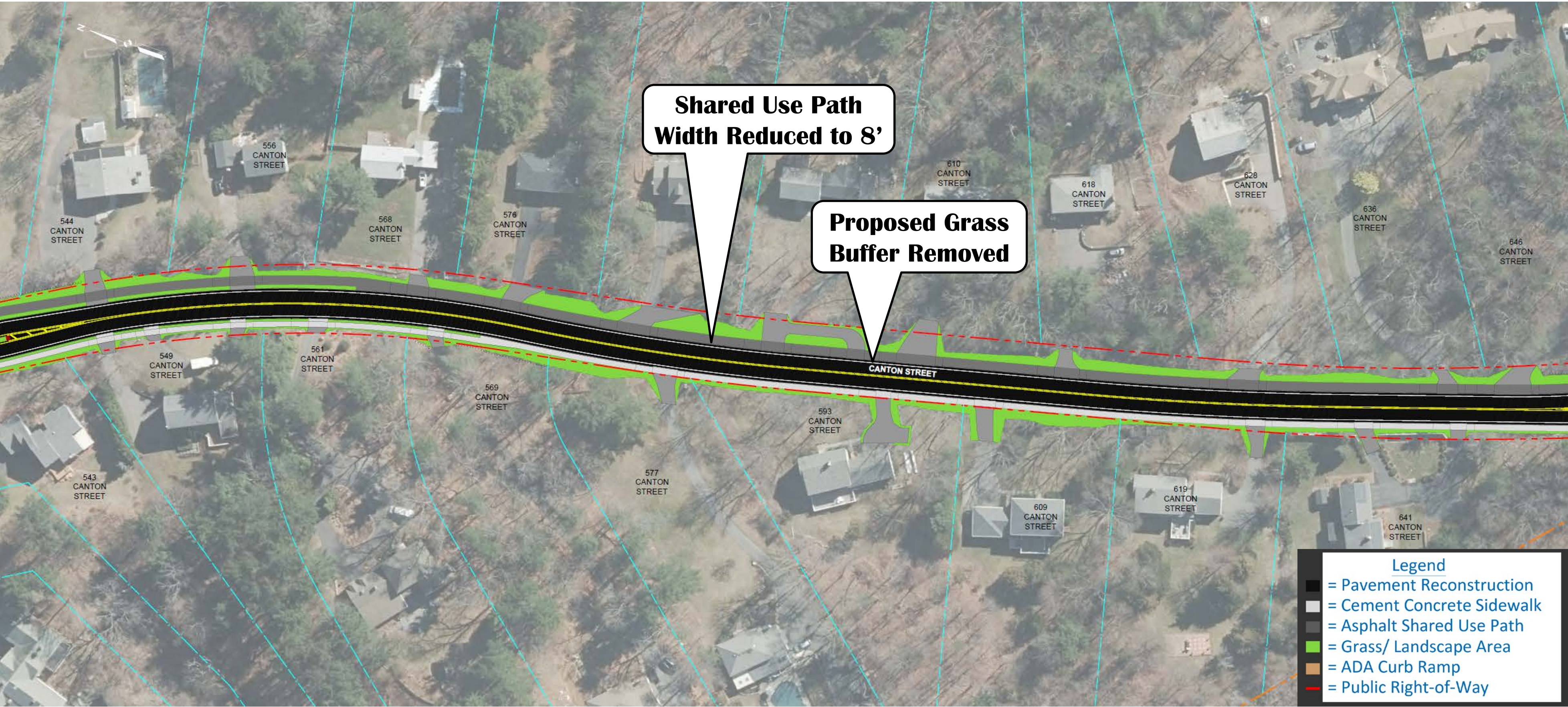
## Everett Street to Hemlock Drive





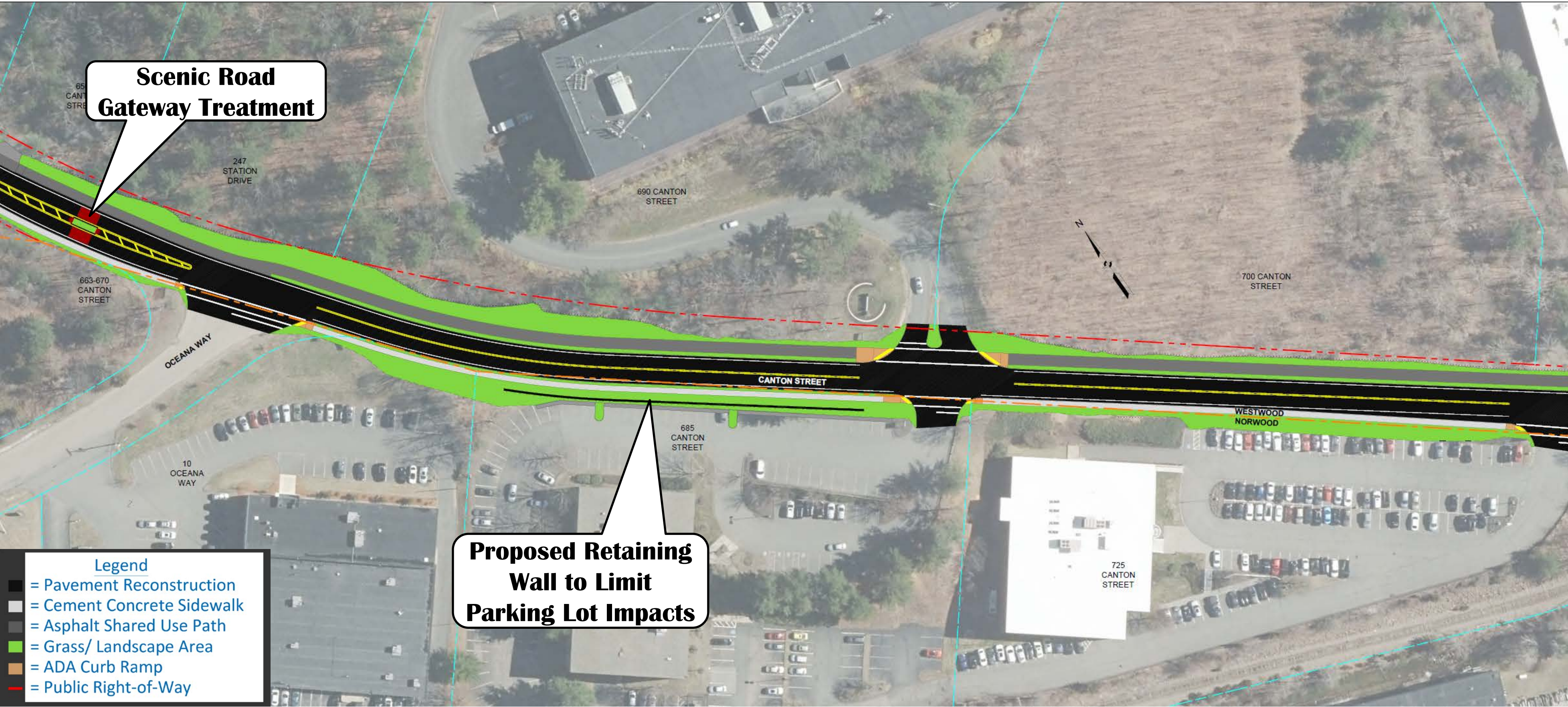
Preferred Alternative

Hemlock Drive to 646 Canton Street





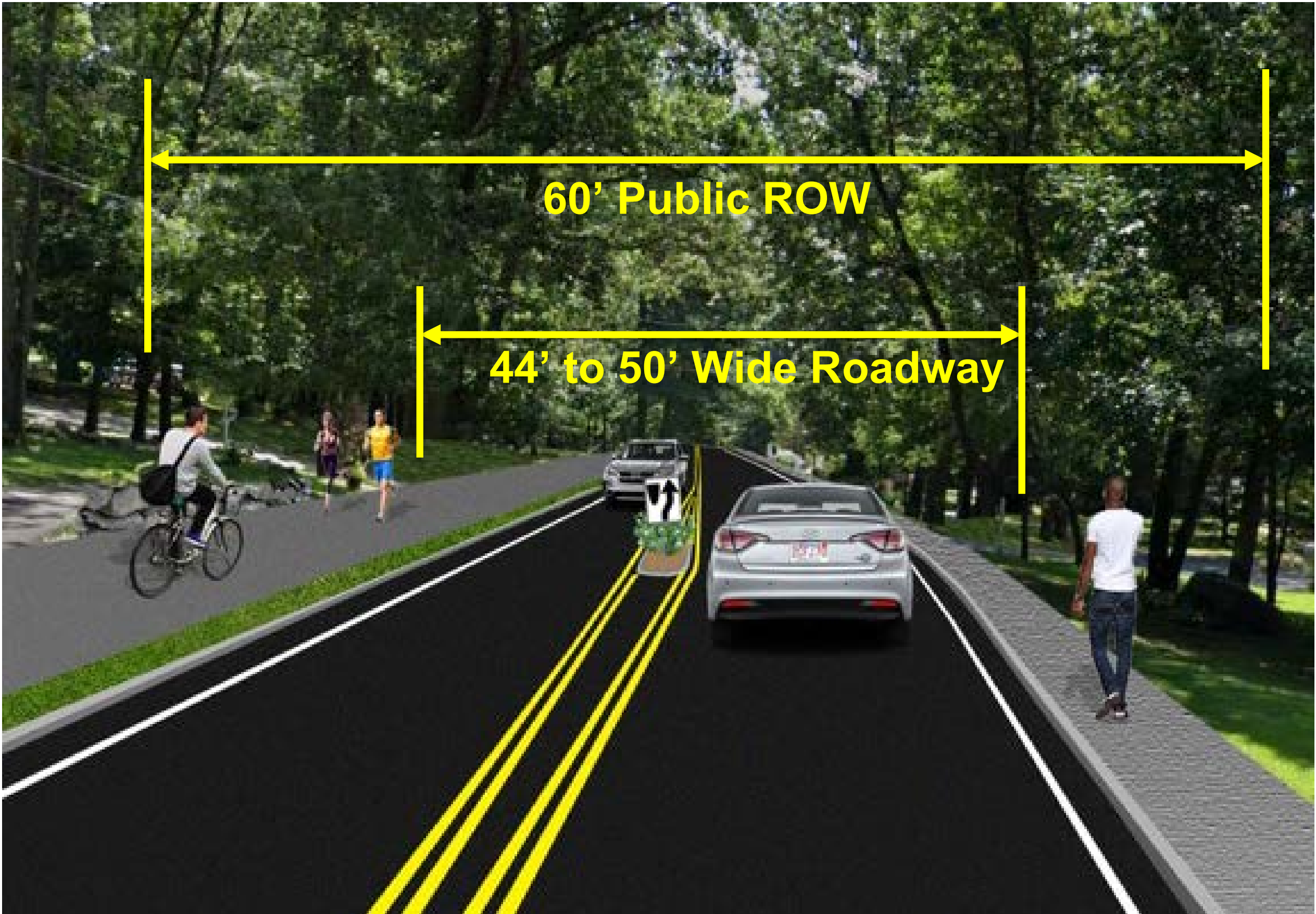
# Preferred Alternative 646 Canton Street to 725 Canton Street





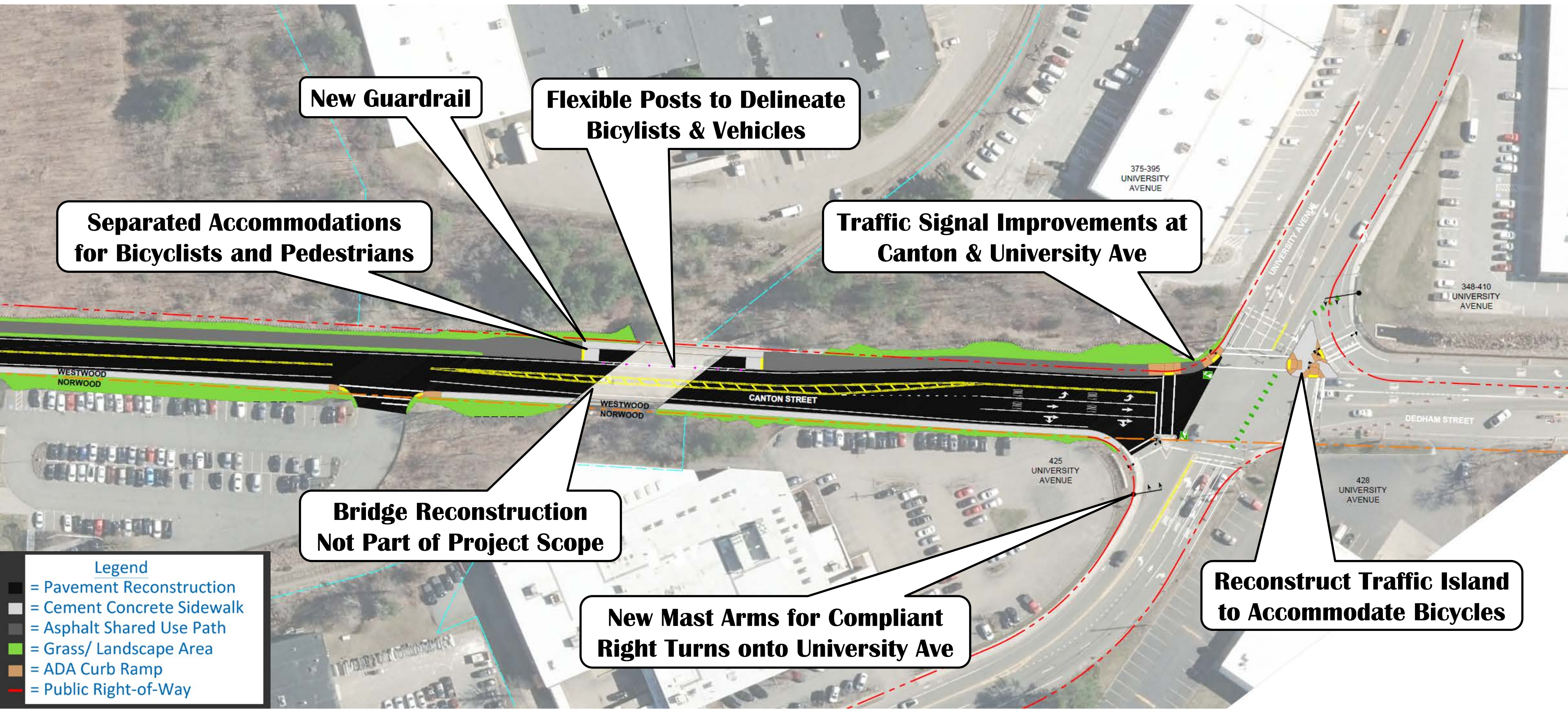
Preferred Alternative

Typical Section





# Preferred Alternative 725 Canton Street to University Avenue/Dedham Street







**What are the  
benefits for  
bicyclists and  
pedestrians?**



# Preferred Alternative

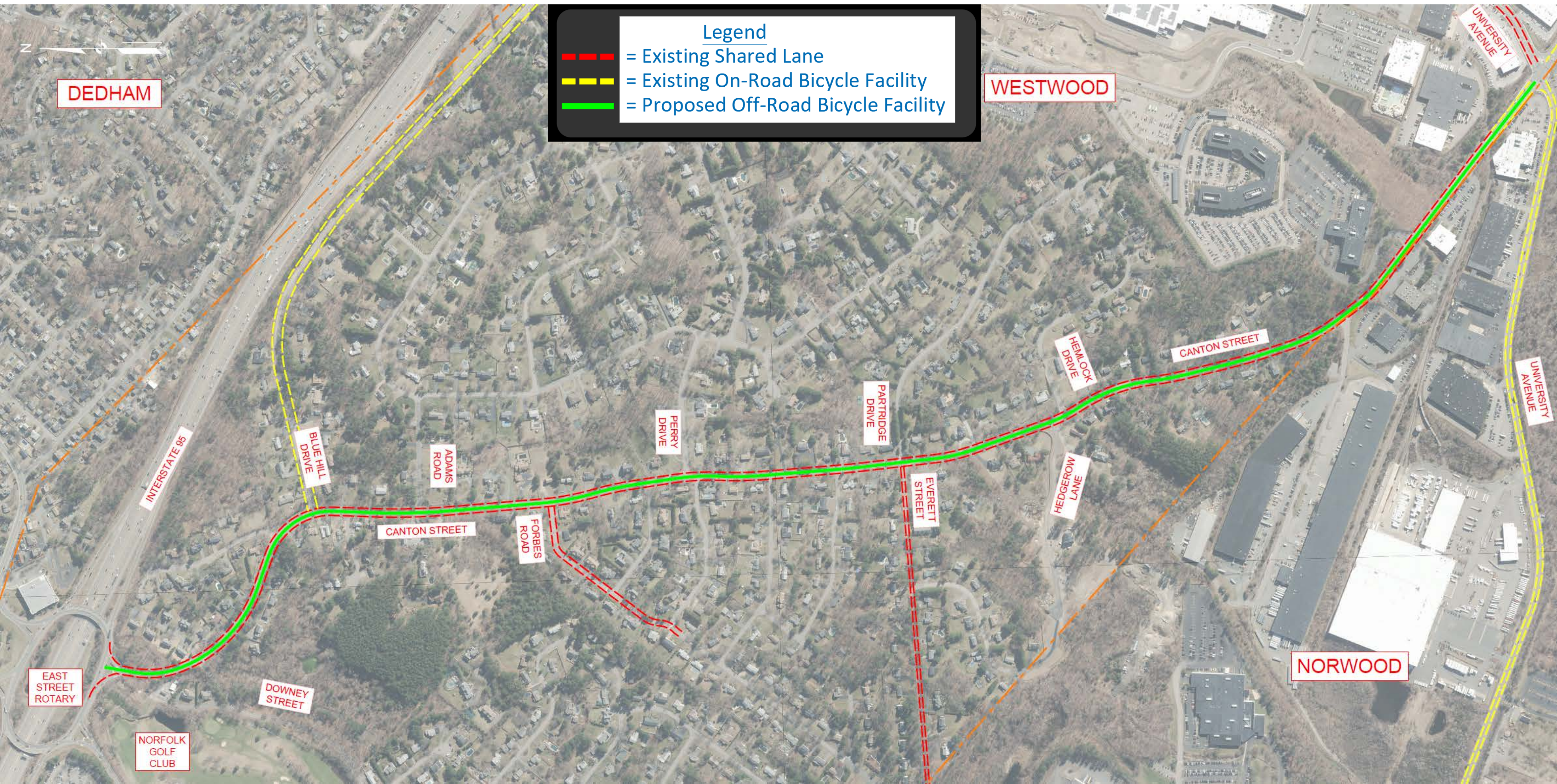
## Pedestrian Connectivity





# Preferred Alternative

## Bicycle Connectivity





# Proposed Bicyclists & Pedestrian Improvements



Shared Use Path Along Northbound Side  
Separated from Vehicular Traffic



Green Colored Conflict Areas at University Avenue



# Proposed Bicyclists & Pedestrian Improvements



High Visibility Crosswalk Markings & Signage



Additional Lighting at Pedestrian Crossings



# Proposed Bicyclists & Pedestrian Improvements



Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons at  
Key Crossings



Cement Concrete Sidewalk on Southbound Side





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



# Permitting

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- National Historical Preservation Act of 1966 – Section 106
- Section 4(f) of the DOT Act
- Wetland Protection Act – Westwood Conservation Commission
- Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA)
- Town of Westwood – Scenic Road Permit
- Town of Westwood – Public Shade Tree Hearing
- Article 97 – Legislative action for impact to public open space







**What is the  
construction  
approach?**



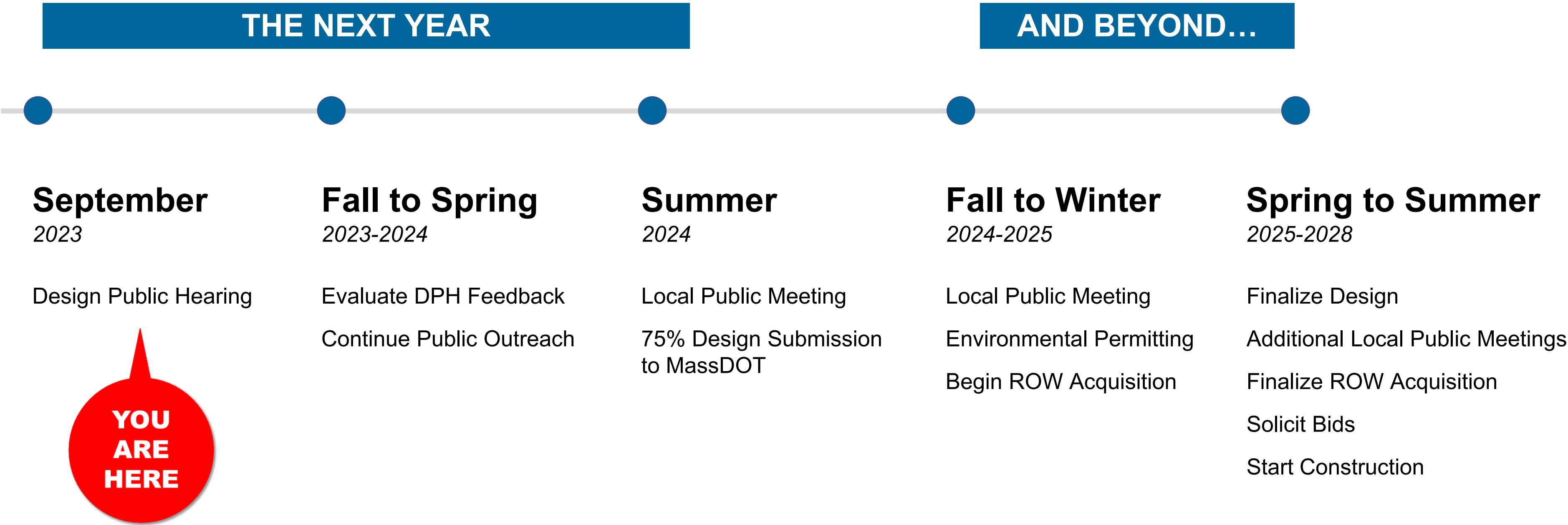
# Phased Construction Approach

- Access to businesses and residences will be maintained at all times with short-duration closures for driveway reconstruction
- Short-duration off-peak temporary lane closures are anticipated
- One-lane alternating traffic under police/flagger direction
- MassDOT full-time Resident Engineer to oversee contractor





# Where do we go from here?







# Questions and discussion



## Questions and answers



- Approach the microphone and wait your turn to ask questions or make comments.



- Please identify yourself by name and affiliation and spell your last name before your question or comment.



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



- Comments may also be submitted to Carrie E. Lavalley, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to [MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us) or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 608158. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing.

**All questions and comments will be included in the hearing transcript, which will become public record. We do ask that you refrain from any disrespectful comments.**





**How will we  
keep you  
informed?**



## How to reach us

- Visit the project website at: <https://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/departments/public-works/projects/canton-street-sidewalk> or use the QR Code: 
- Submit email comments to: [MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us) Use Subject: MassDOT Project File No. 608158
- For project information visit the MassDOT Upcoming Events for Highway Division web site at [http://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway\\_division/events](http://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway_division/events) or use the QR Code: 
- Submit written comments to:  
Carrie Lavalley, P.E., Chief Engineer  
MassDOT  
10 Park Plaza  
Boston, MA 02116  
Attention: PROJECT MANAGEMENT, PROJECT FILE NO. 608158





# ***Thank You***

## ***Reconstruction of Canton Street***

September 28, 2023 | 7:00 PM

Project File No. 608158

MassDOT Project Manager: Jonathan Freeman  
E-Mail | [Jonathan.E.Freeman@state.ma.us](mailto:Jonathan.E.Freeman@state.ma.us)  
Phone | 631-946-3665