



Reconstruction of Chandler Street at May Street in Worcester

Design Public Hearing

Zoom | June 15, 2022 | 6:30 PM

Project No. 608961



Zoom Hearing Webinar Controls



- Spanish



- Drop down menu to check microphone and speakers



- Ask a question and share comments



- Raise your hand - *9 for users dialing in



- If you are unable to access the internet or are having technical problems, please call into the meeting at 312-626-6799, Webinar ID: 875 1703 1024



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Q&A


Interpretation

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Public Hearing Notes and Procedures

Public record

- The Massachusetts Department of Transportation may choose to retain and distribute the transcripts or written record of this hearing.
- All written recordings and transcripts will be considered public records.
- Please use the Q&A feature for project-related business only.

Important notes

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

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

Notice Of MassDOT/MBTA Policy Diversity and Civil Rights

All MassDOT/MBTA activities, including public meetings, are free of discrimination. MassDOT/MBTA complies with all federal and state civil rights requirements preventing discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, limited English proficiency, and additional protected characteristics. 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> / www.mbta.com/titlevi 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.

Introduction

- **MassDOT**
 - Hung Pham, Acting Project Manager
 - Pam Marquis, Right of Way Bureau, Liaison
 - Ann Sullivan, District 3
- **City of Worcester (Municipality)**
 - Stephen Rolle, Assistant Chief Development Officer
- **VHB (Design Consultant)**
 - Sam Greelis, P.E., Project Engineer
 - Christine Champeau, P.E., Assistant Chief Engineer
- **ATM (Stenographer)**
 - Greg Tarbox

Advertisements

Local Papers


Appeared in the following:

- Worcester Telegram & Gazette
 - June 1, 2022
 - June 8, 2022

MassDOT Website

- Notice posted on the MassDOT Website on May 23, 2022

MassDOT and Worcester social media



Intersection Improvements on Chandler Street and May Street Virtual Design Public Hearing

What is happening?

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Intersection Improvements on Chandler Street and May Street project in Worcester, MA.

How will this affect you?


The project is intended to improve the current roadway design and traffic control for Chandler Street. The proposed work includes the construction of two modern roundabouts at the northern and southern intersections of May Street and Chandler Street with the addition of median islands, curbing, and landscaping/hardscaping. The project will also include upgraded pedestrian, transit, and cycling facilities.

When


Wednesday, June 15, 2022
6:30 PM

Attend

www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings



Please note this meeting will be transcribed by a stenographer.
Visit 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) 368-8580, fax (857) 368-0602, relay 7-1-1, or by email to 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 MassDOTProjectManagement@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: Chandler Street and May Street project in Worcester, MA, PROJECT FILE NO. 608961**

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
Project File No. 608961

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Intersection Improvements on Chandler Street and May Street project in **Worcester, MA**.

WHEN: 6:30 PM, Wednesday June 15, 2022

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Intersection Improvements on Chandler Street and May Street project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The project is intended to improve the current roadway design and traffic control for Chandler Street. The proposed work includes the construction of two modern roundabouts at the northern and southern intersections of May Street and Chandler Street with the addition of median islands, curbing, and landscaping/hardscaping. The project will also include upgraded pedestrian, transit, and cycling facilities.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The **City of Worcester is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands**. The City'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 or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Project Management, Project File No. 608961**. 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). 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.

This Live Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be hosted on the internet at www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER

Project Handout for Chandler Street at May Street, Worcester MA

<https://www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings>

Construction Funding

- Total estimated construction cost:
\$6 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

Funding Sources:

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



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

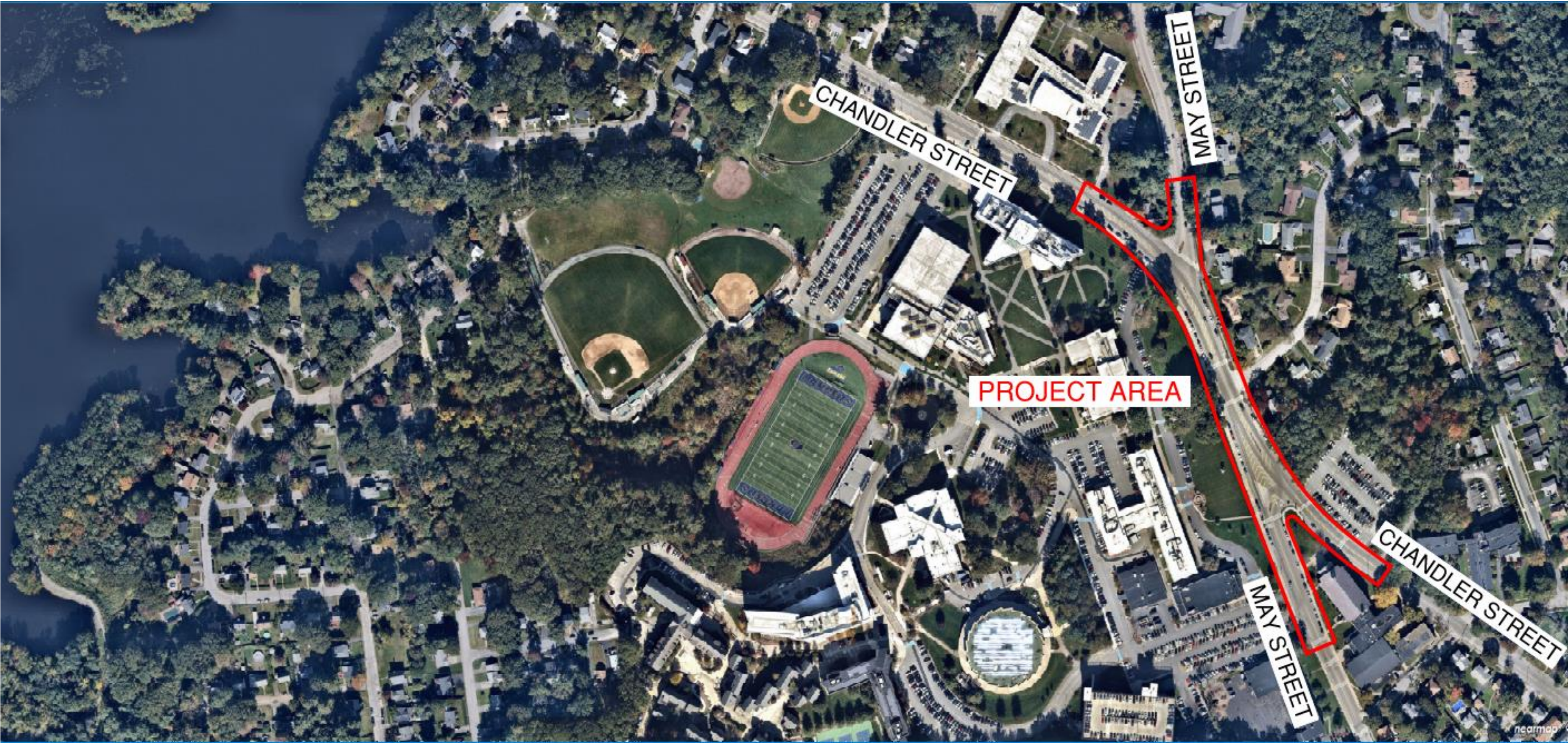


Agenda

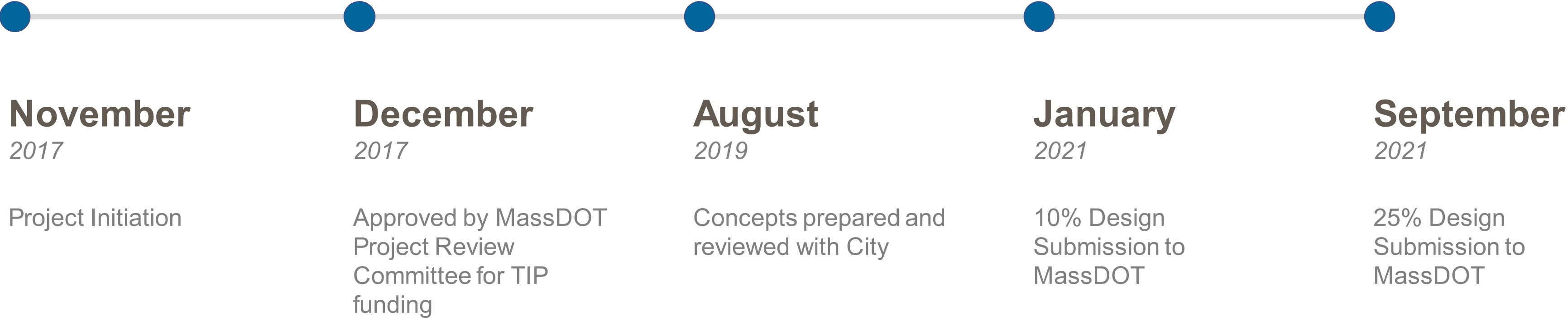
- 01 Project Area
- 02 Project History
- 03 Existing Conditions
- 04 Project Goals
- 05 Design Alternatives
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- 07 Right of Way Impacts
- 08 Environmental Permitting
- 09 Construction/Traffic Impacts
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Project Area Chandler Street at May Street



How did we get here?





**Why was this
project
initiated?**

Deficient Pedestrian & Bicycle Accommodations

Add sidewalks/shared use paths and create shorter crossings.



Intersection Safety

MassDOT Top Crash Location

2015-2017 HSIP Cluster





**What do we
want to
accomplish?**

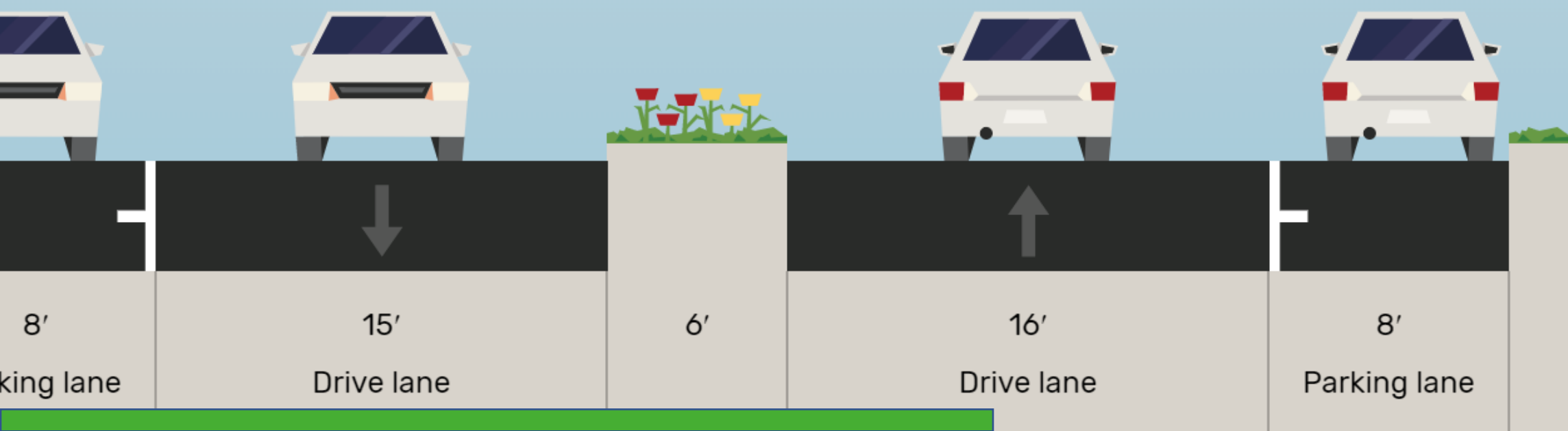


Project Goals

- Traffic calming
- Improve Intersection safety and geometry
- Improve pedestrian & bicycle accommodations
- Improve safety for all users

Chandler Street

What
alternatives
were
considered?



Alternatives

Alternative analysis focused on intersection improvement alternatives at Chandler Street and May Street .

Alternative 1

- 2 Signalized Intersections

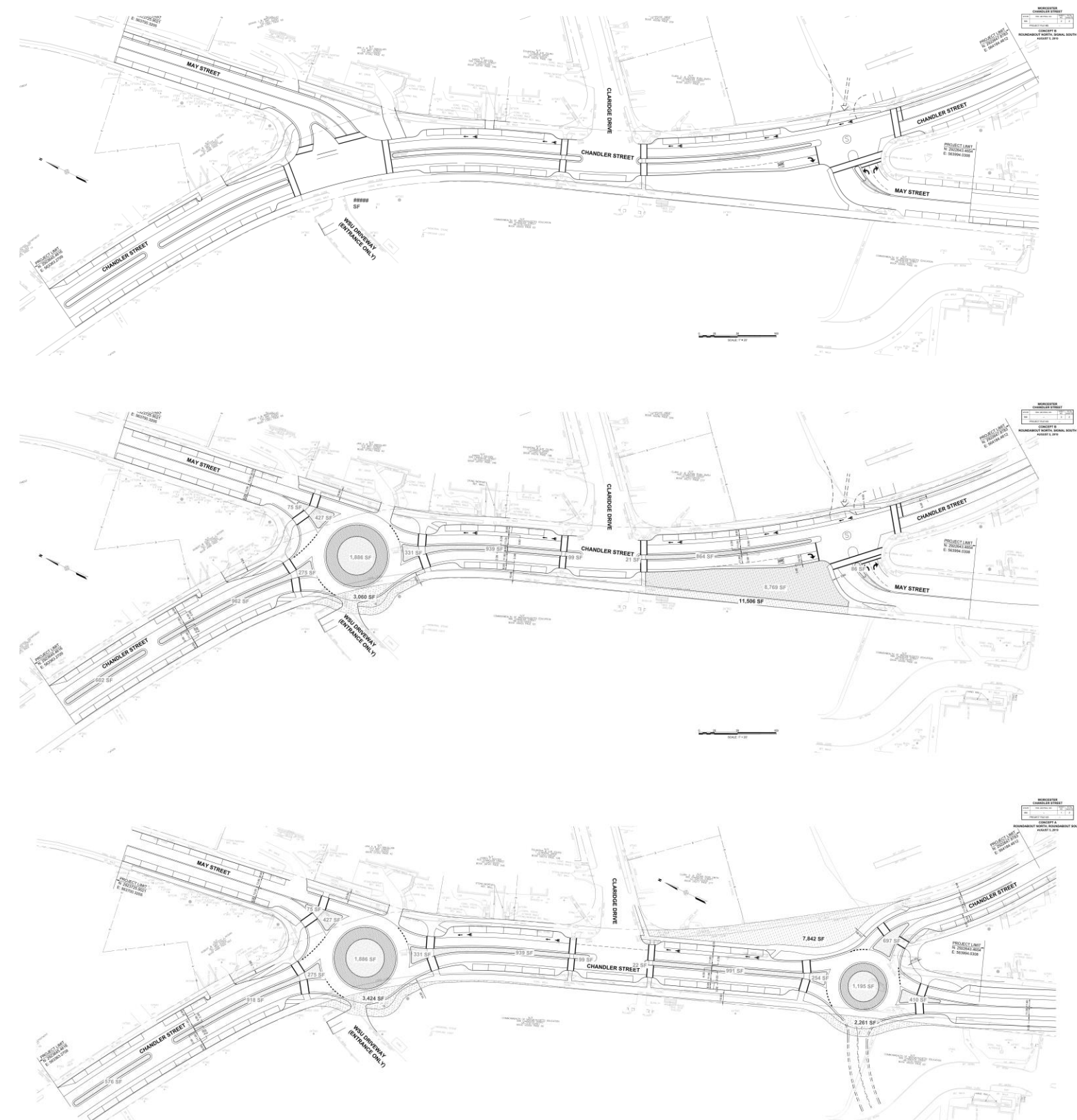
Alternative 2

- 1 Signalized Intersection and 1 Roundabout

Alternative 3

- 2 Roundabouts

Alternative 3 was identified as the preferred alternative due to the safety and operational benefits of roundabouts.



Roundabout Safety

Conflict points are locations in or on the approaches to an intersection where vehicles paths merge, diverge, or cross.

FEWER CONFLICT POINTS THAN SIGNALIZED INTERSECTIONS

56% fewer vehicle-to-vehicle conflict points

57% fewer vehicle-to-pedestrian conflict points

LIVES SAVED

Up to **90%** reduction in fatalities

76% reduction in injury crashes

30-40% reduction in pedestrian crashes

10% reduction in bicycle crashes

Emergency Vehicles and Trucks in Roundabouts

Benefit of lower vehicle speeds and never having to run through a red traffic signal



Truck apron can be used by larger vehicles or to bypass a disabled vehicle



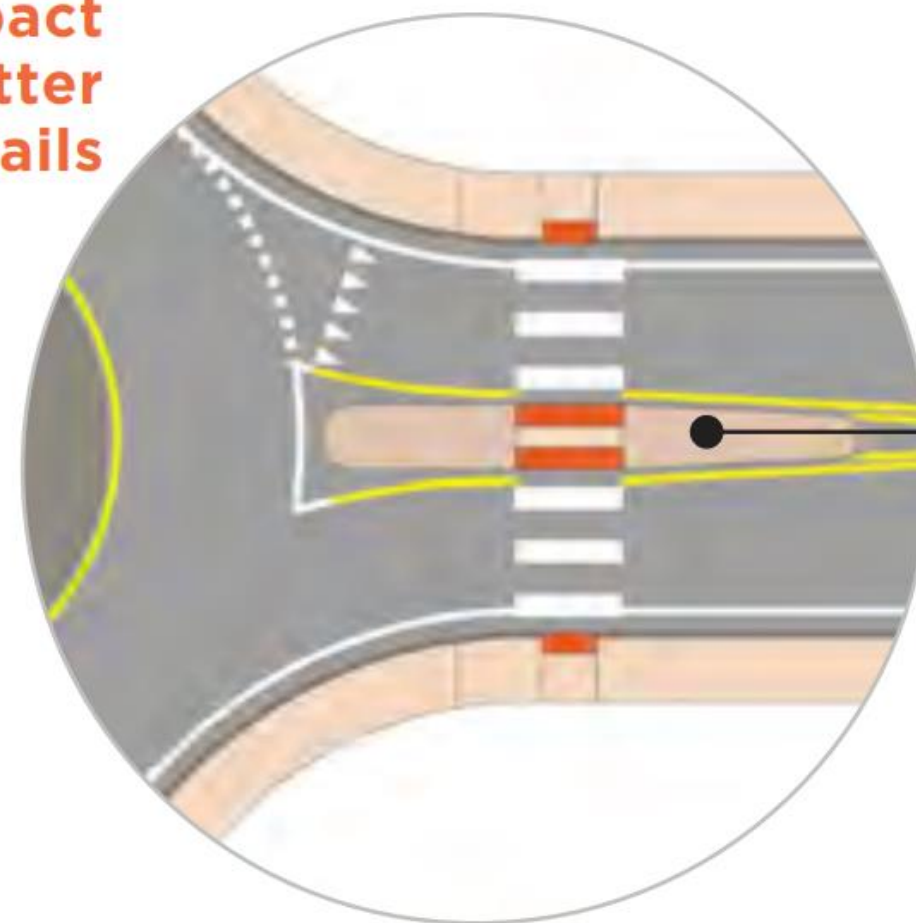
Bicyclists at Roundabouts

- Slower vehicle operating speeds make roundabouts safer and more comfortable for bicyclists.
- Bicyclists can either use the roundabout as a vehicle or use the shared use path and ramps to access the crosswalks.

Pedestrians at Roundabouts

- Reduce the conflict points between people walking and vehicles.
- Shorten crossing distances, pedestrians cross only one direction of travel at a time & can wait in the splitter island.
- Slower vehicle speeds reduce the stopping distance needed which helps drivers avoid crashes.
- Reduced vehicle speeds helps drivers recognize people trying to cross the road.

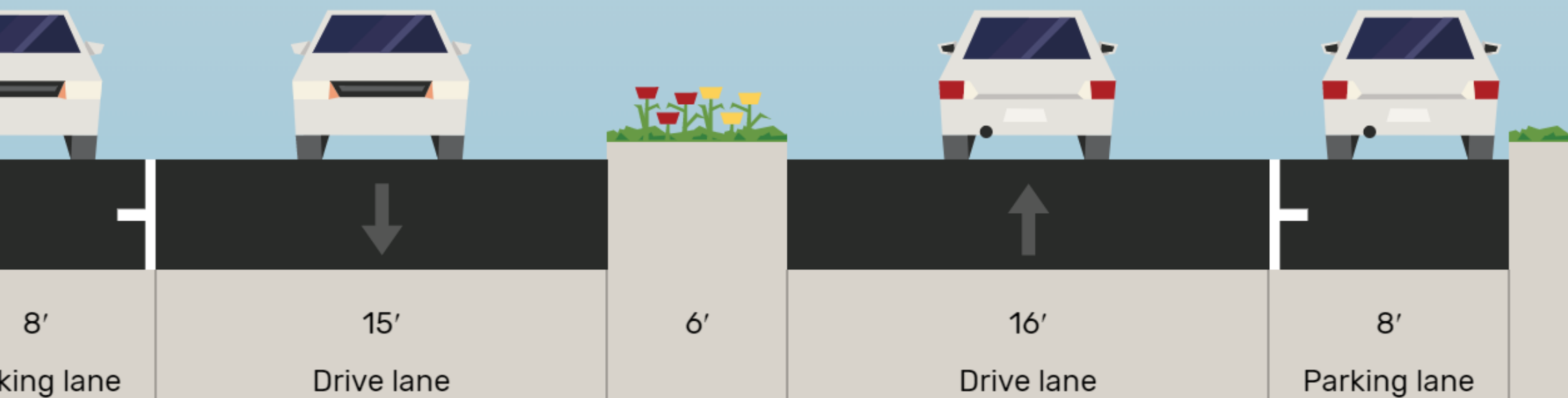
**Urban Compact
Roundabout Splitter
Island Details**



Raised or mountable
splitter island with minimum
pedestrian refuge

Chandler Street

What is the preferred alternative?



Proposed Improvements

- Road diet for traffic calming
- Raised median with plantings
- Roundabouts at both intersections of May St at Chandler St
- 10' shared use path with grass buffer
- Shorten crosswalks with bump outs and median refuge
- Define on-street parking
- Installation of new pavement markings & signage
- Utility modifications
- Pavement rehabilitation



Chandler Street at May Street

Typical Section View



Chandler Street at May Street

Preliminary Construction Plans



Chandler Street at May Street

Preliminary Construction Plans





**How will your
property be
impacted?**

Preliminary Right of Way (ROW) discussion- 25% Design

- The City of Worcester is responsible for acquiring all necessary rights in public land for design, construction, and implementation of this project.
- Affected property owners will be contacted by City of Worcester municipal officials.
- 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.
- Plans will be available at the City of Worcester – <http://www.worcesterma.gov/chandler-street-may-street-improvements>.



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

Environmental Permitting

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- National Historical Preservation Act of 1966 – Section 106
- Worcester Wetland's Protection Ordinance - Notice of Intent





**What is the
construction
approach?**

Proposed construction approach:

- Access to Worcester State University, businesses and residences will be maintained at all times.
- Short-duration temporary road closures and detours are anticipated (paving operations, pavement marking application).
- Minor lane closures during workday non-peak hours.
- Night work is not anticipated and will require advance approval by the City and MassDOT.



Our next steps



Step 1 – 25% Design
Public Hearing



Step 2 – File
Environmental Permits



Step 3 – Complete
75% Design and
Accepted ROW Plans



Step 4 – Finalize
Design and Secure
ROW



Step 5 – Advertise
2025





**How will we
keep you
informed?**

Contact Information

- **Submit Comments via Mail:**

Carrie Lavallee, P.E.

Acting Chief Engineer MassDOT

10 Park Plaza

Boston, MA 02116

Att. Roadway Project Management Project File No. 608961

(Must postmark mailed comments within 10 days of webinar publish date for inclusion in public hearing transcript)



- **Submit Comments or Inquiries via E-Mail:**

dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us

Subject: MassDOT Project File No. 608961 Worcester – Chandler Street at May Street



Questions and discussion

Share Your Questions and Comments



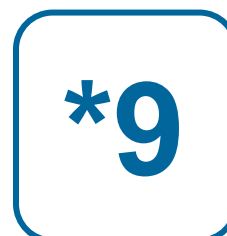
- Submit your questions and comments using the Q&A button
- “Raise your hand” to be unmuted for verbal questions



- Please state your name before your question

1

- 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 be advised that all Q&A and comments are subject to disclosure for public records, therefore use these functions for project-related business only.



Thank You

*Reconstruction of
Chandler Street at May Street
in Worcester*

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