



# **Boston-Bridge Superstructure Replacement and Widening Bowker Overpass over I-90/ MBTA/ Ipswich Street**







*Virtual Public Information Meeting*

Zoom | Thursday July 11, 2024 | 6:00 p.m.

Project File No. 606496



# Zoom Meeting Controls

-  • Listen in Chinese (Cantonese and Mandarin) and Spanish
-  • Ask a question and share comments
-  • Raise your hand - \*9 for users dialing in and Alt + Y to raise your hand
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-  • Closed captioning automatically generated by Zoom
-  • Use the View button in the upper right-hand corner to adjust the meeting view settings to your preference



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**[+1.888.799.9666]**



# Public Meeting Notes and Procedures

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- By continuing attendance with this virtual public meeting, you consent to participate in a recorded event.
- If you are not comfortable being recorded, please excuse yourself from the meeting.
- Other Important Notes
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- The meeting will be open to questions and answers at the end of the formal presentation.

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Department**

## 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.**



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# Thank You for Your Support

- Federal Highway Administration
- Emerald Necklace Conservancy
- Charlesgate Alliance
- Esplanade Association
- Department of Conservation & Recreation (MA DCR)
- Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA)
- Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP)
- Boston Landmarks Commission
- The Longwood Collective
- Registry of Motor Vehicles
- City of Cambridge
- City of Boston
- Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization
- The Solomon Foundation
- Boston Red Sox Organization
- Boston University
- *Boston Globe*
- *Boston Sun*
- *Fenway News*

## Project Team

- MassDOT Highway Division
  - Project Manager: Alwin Ramirez
  - District 6: Acting Project Development Engineer: Joseph Doucette
  - State ROW Agent: Lisa Szamreta
  - Producer/ Facilitator: Hung Pham and Patrick Snyder
- Design Team
  - Gill Engineering: Scott Carpenter and Preston Huckabee
  - Landing Studio: Daniel Adams
  - Howard Stein Hudson: Matthew Jasmin, Jessica Lizza, and Taylor O'Neill

# Agenda

- 01 Project Context
- 02 How Will Your Property be Impacted?
- 03 How Did we Get Here?
- 04 Purpose and Scope
- 05 Project Overview
- 06 Existing and Proposed Designs
- 07 Anticipated Construction Staging
- 08 Next Steps
- 09 Public Comment Period





# **Boston-Bridge Superstructure Replacement and Widening Bowker Overpass over I-90/ MBTA/ Ipswich Street**

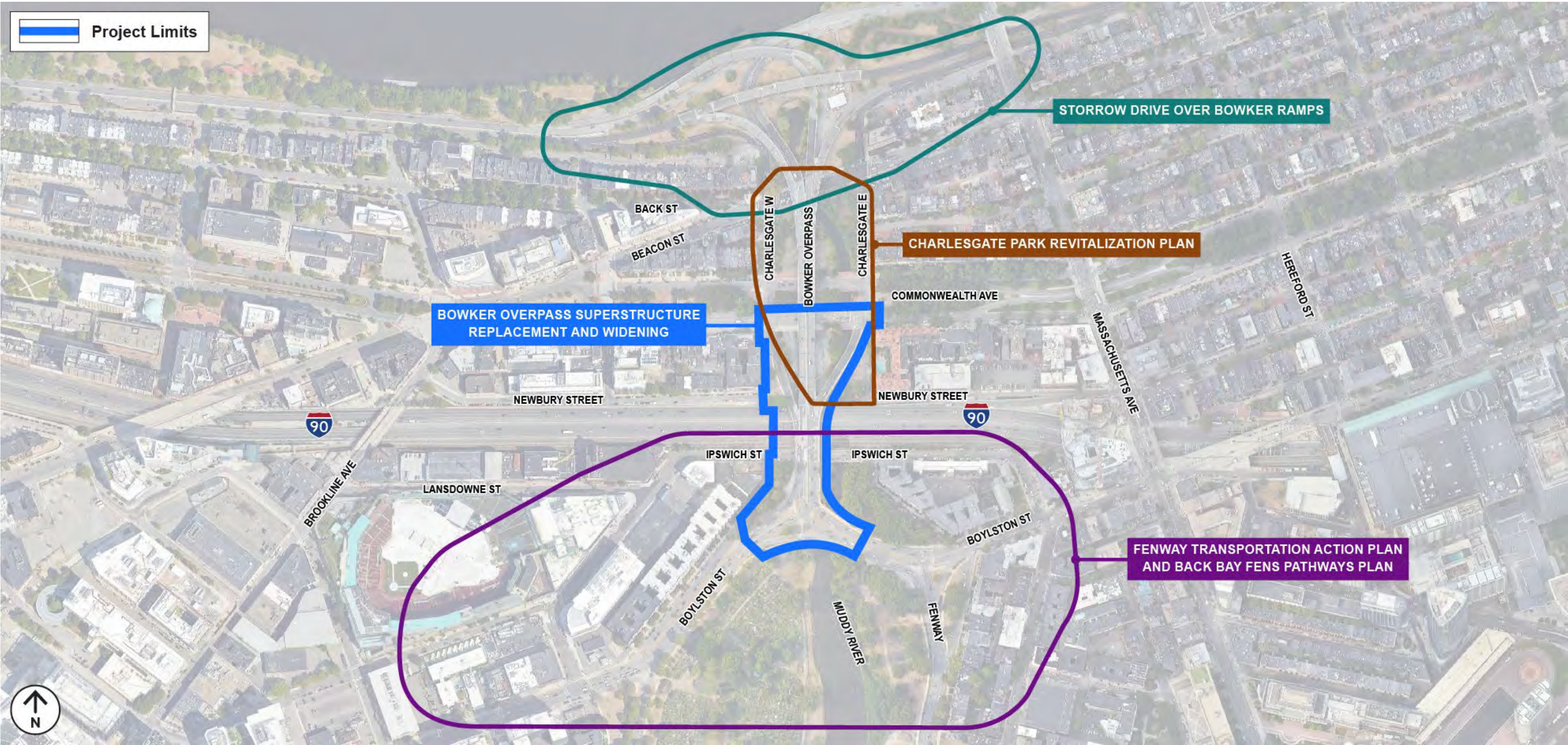
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# Project Context



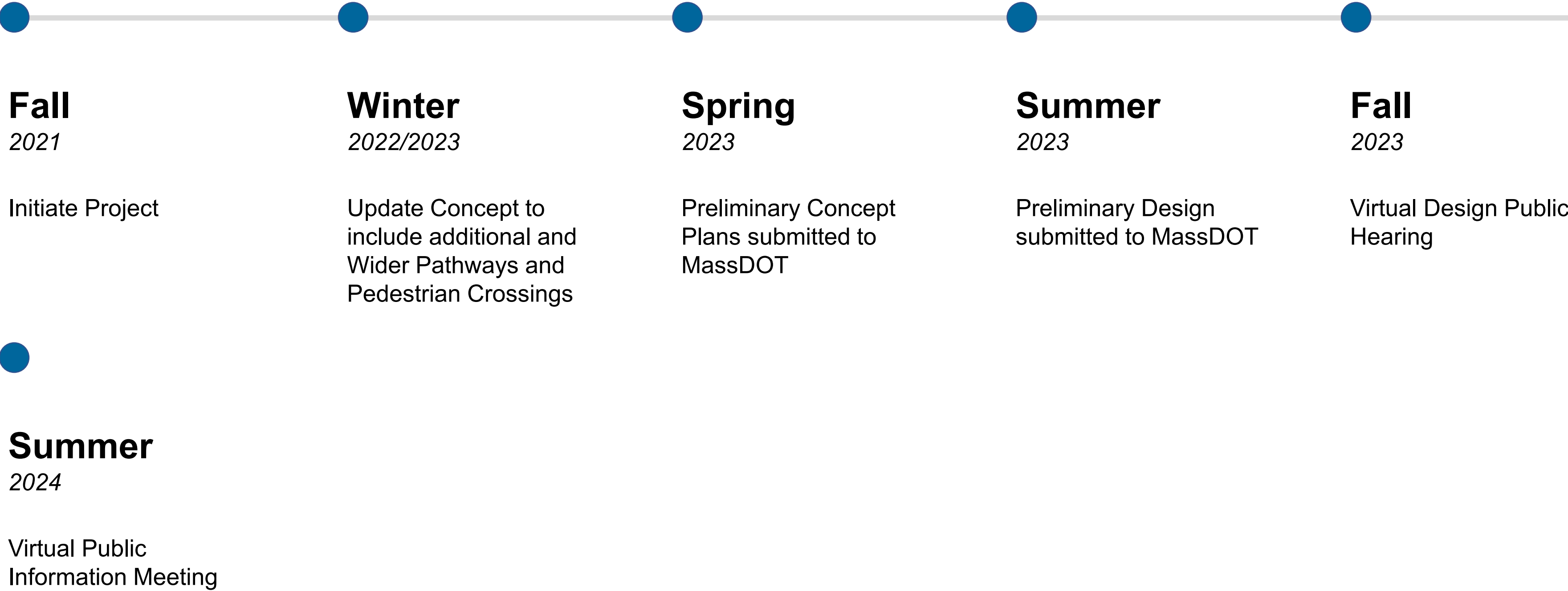


**How will your  
property be  
impacted?**

## Preliminary Right of Way (ROW) discussion

- 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.

# How did we get here?





**Why was this  
project  
initiated?**

## Existing Conditions

- Built in 1964, rehabilitated in 1984
- Structurally deficient bridge requires superstructure replacement
- Lack of good infrastructure to support multimodal movement
- Inaccessible (non-ADA compliant) and uninviting pedestrian accommodation
- Impacts on environmental and cultural resources (Muddy River, Charlesgate Park, Back Bay Fens)

# Existing Conditions

Structurally deficient bridge requires superstructure replacement



# Existing Conditions

Structurally deficient bridge requires superstructure replacement



# Existing Conditions

Structurally deficient bridge requires superstructure replacement



# Existing Conditions

Uninviting and inaccessible (non-ADA Compliant) pedestrian and cyclist accommodations





**What do we  
want to  
accomplish?**

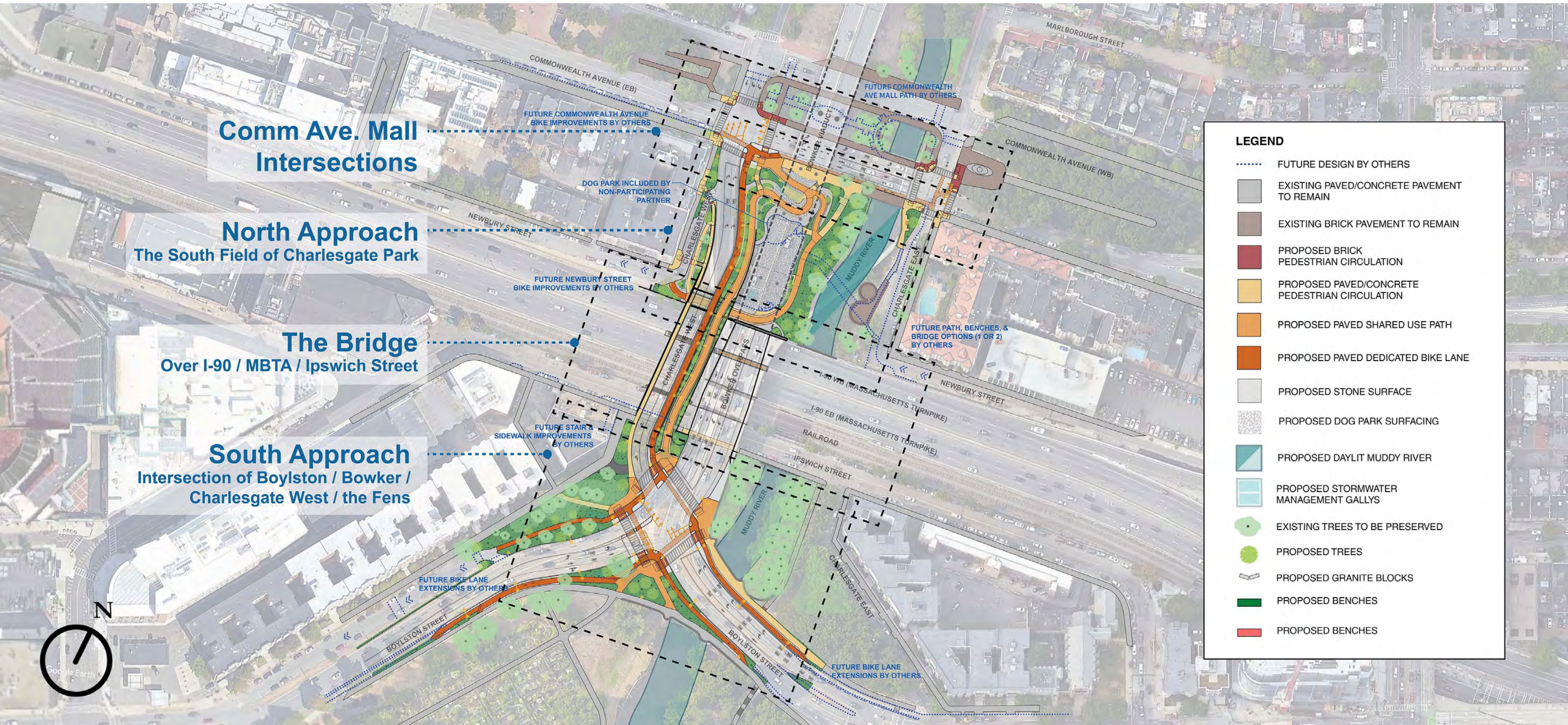
## Purpose and Scope

- The purpose of this project is to restore the existing Bowker Overpass over I-90/ MBTA & CSX/ Ipswich Street
- Scope of Work
  - Replace the superstructure of the Bowker Overpass over I-90/ MBTA & CSX/ Ipswich Street
  - Reconstruct the Bowker Overpass and Boylston Street intersection
  - Remove the existing deficient off ramp structure over Muddy River
  - Widen the bridge structure to provide pathways along Charlesgate West

## Project Goals

- Eliminate and rebuild deficient bridge infrastructure
- Significantly improve (safety/comfort/ease) pedestrian and bicyclist connectivity
- Enhance safety
- Additional Benefits
  - Enhance ADA compliance for all pedestrian accommodations
  - Reconnect surrounding greenway/park systems (Emerald Necklace, Commonwealth Avenue Mall)
  - Reduce environmental impacts on the Muddy River and cultural resources (Charlesgate park, Back Bay Fens)
  - Strengthen multimodal connections for people through and across roadway infrastructure to surrounding parkland
  - Improve Traffic Patterns
  - Prepare the site to receive further park space improvements, by others.

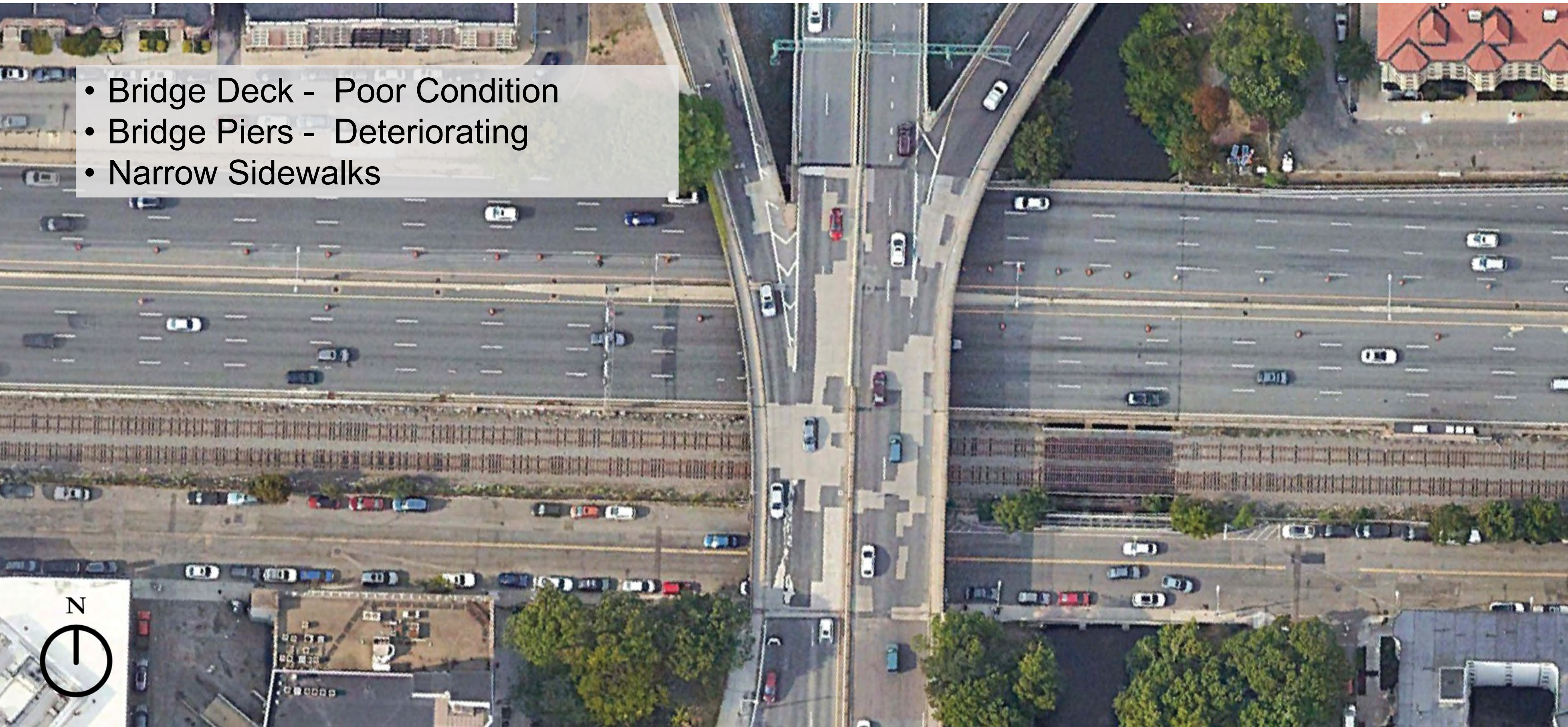
# 2024 Project Overview



# Bowker Bridge Existing

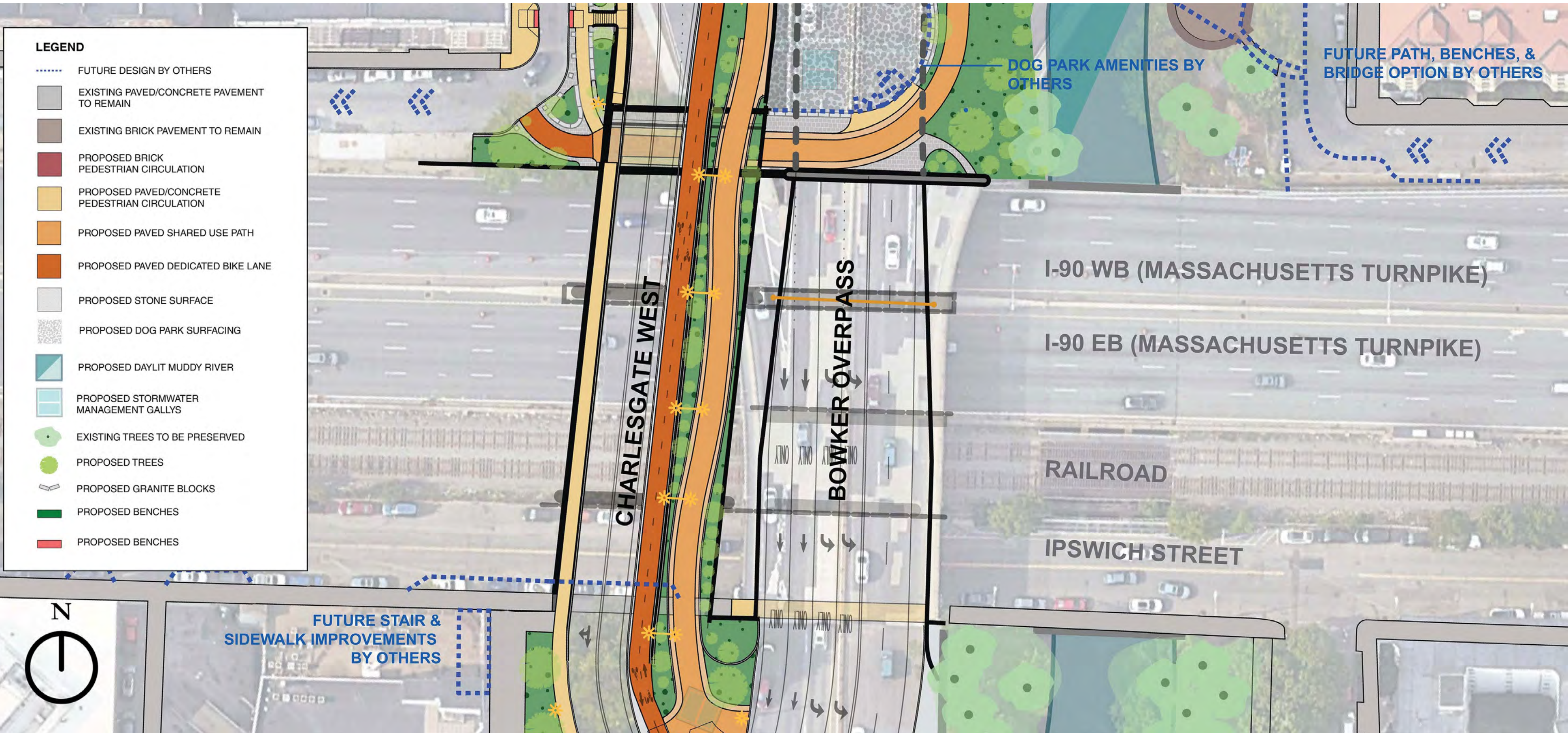
Over I-90/ MBTA/ Ipswich Street

- Bridge Deck - Poor Condition
- Bridge Piers - Deteriorating
- Narrow Sidewalks



# Bowker Bridge Proposed

Over I-90/ MBTA/ Ipswich Street



2024 Bowker Bridge Proposed Over I-90/ MBTA/ Ipswich Street



2024 Bowker Bridge Proposed Over I-90/ MBTA/ Ipswich Street



# South Approach Existing

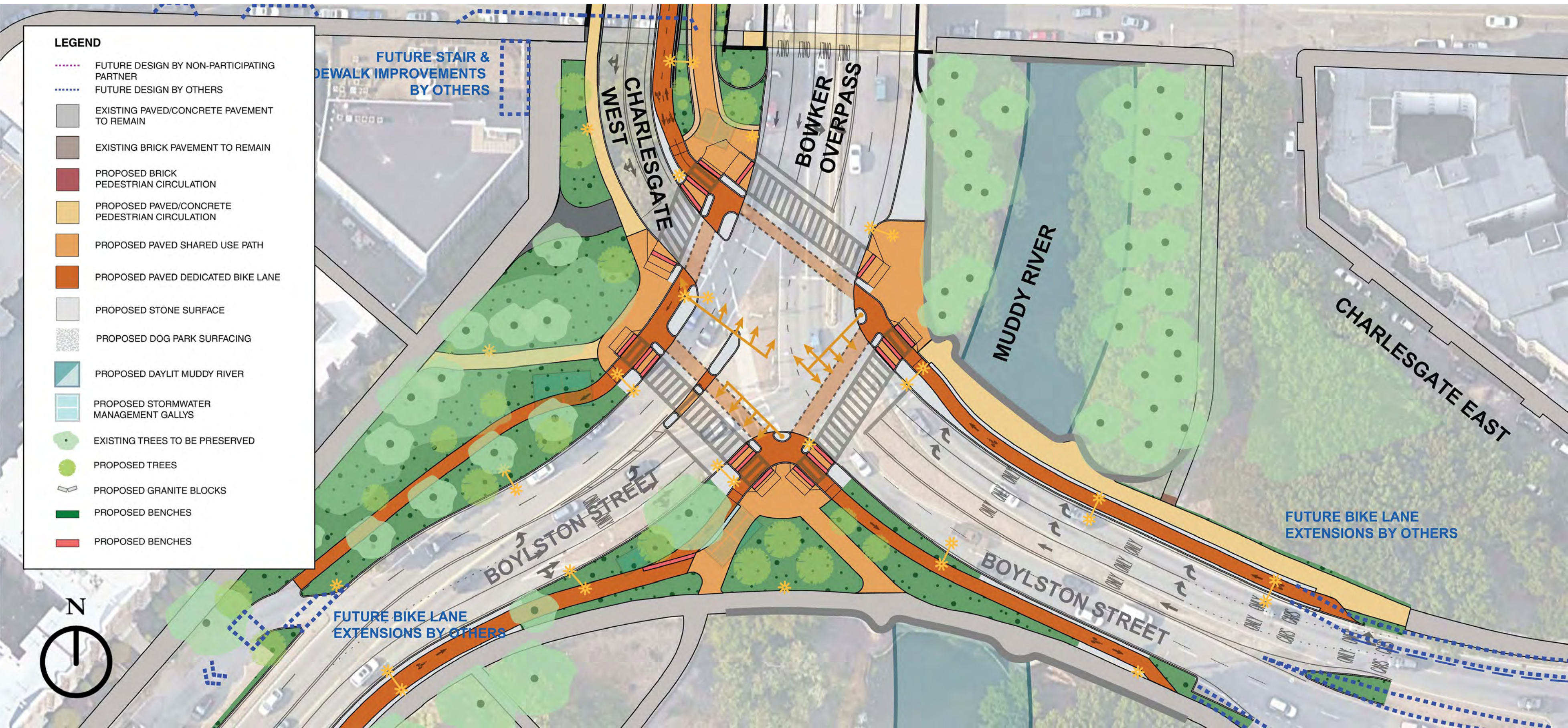
Intersection of Boylston/ Bowker/ Charlesgate West/ the Fens

- Outdated Traffic Signal Equipment
- Awkward Pedestrian Crossings



# South Approach Proposed

Intersection of Boylston/ Bowker/ Charlesgate West/ the Fens



# North Approach Existing

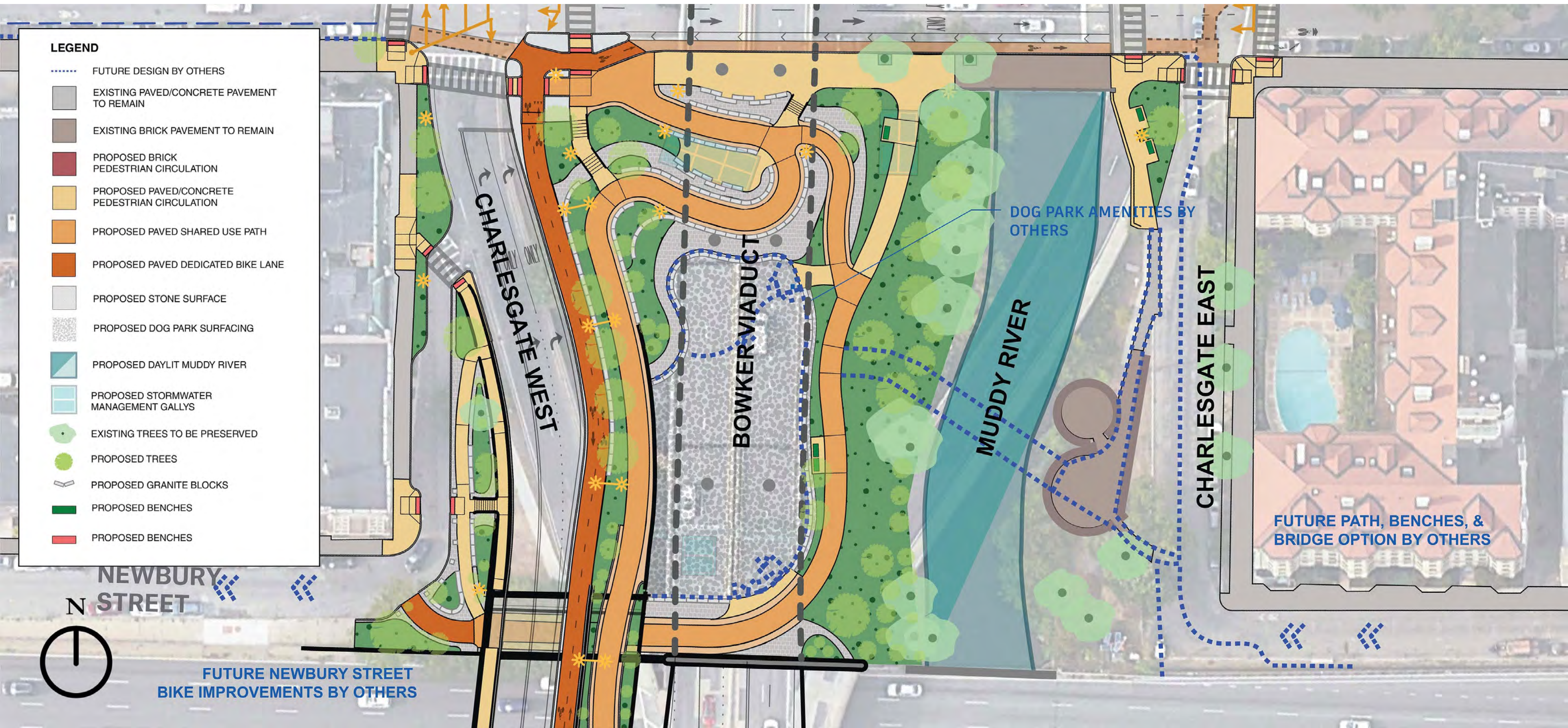
The South Field of Charlesgate Park

- Structurally Deficient Off-Ramp
- Parkland and River Disturbance
- Disconnected Park Access



# North Approach Proposed

The South Field of Charlesgate Park



2024 North Approach Proposed Pedestrian Underpass



# Commonwealth Avenue Existing

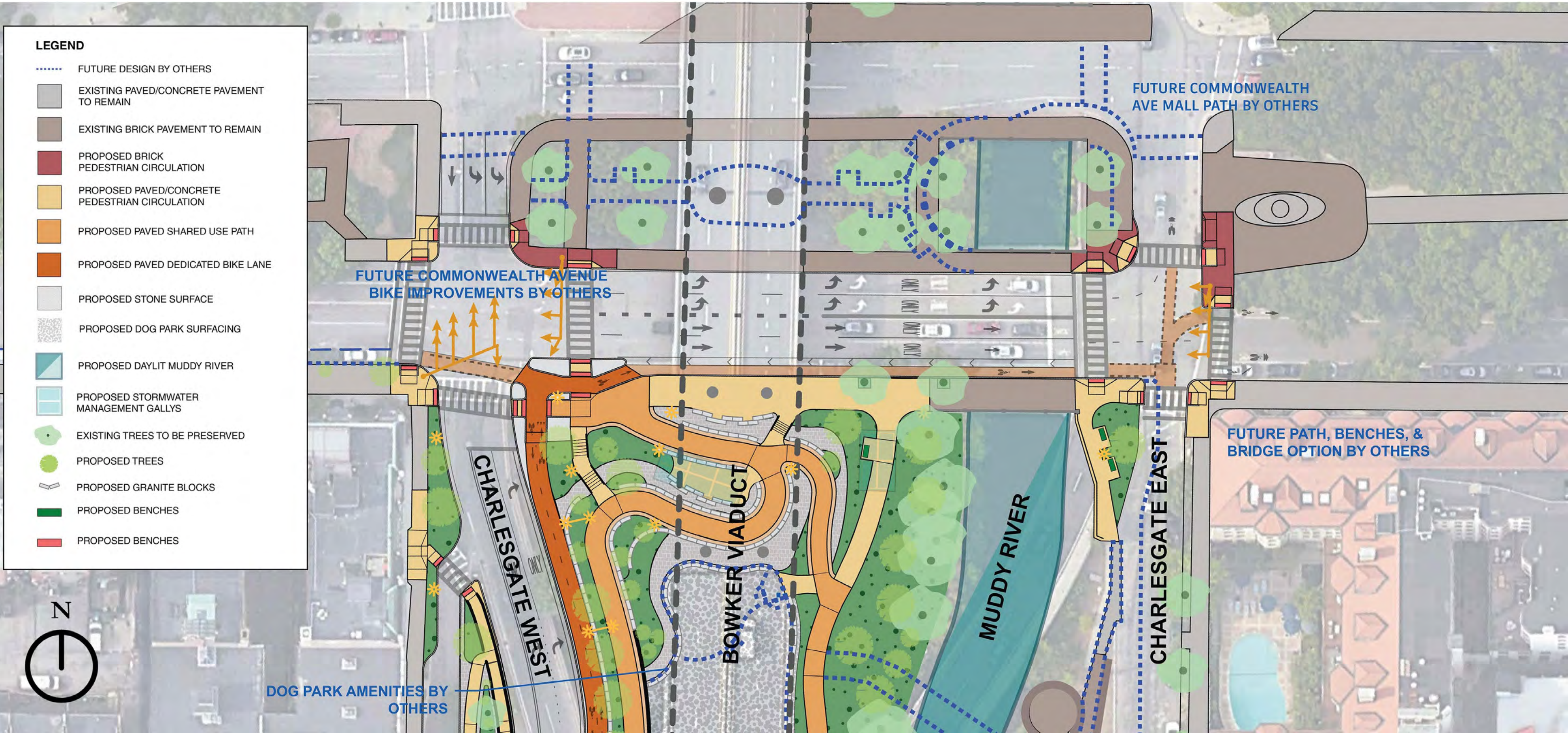
## Commonwealth Avenue Mall Intersections

- No Park Access - Commonwealth Avenue Mall
- Narrow Sidewalks
- Missing crosswalks



# Commonwealth Avenue Proposed

## Commonwealth Avenue Mall Intersections



# Existing (looking south)



# Proposed Alternative (looking south)



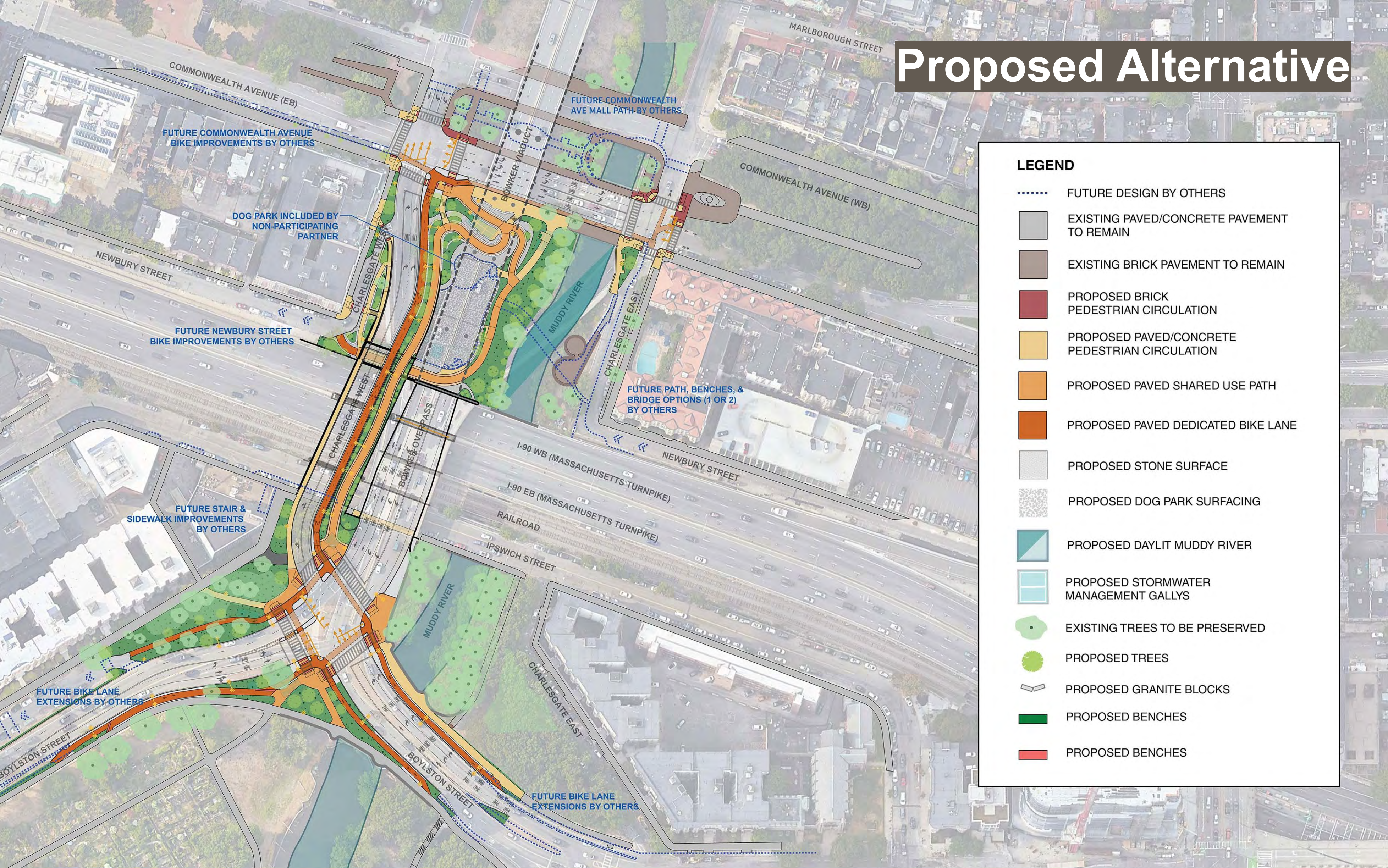
Existing (looking north)



# Proposed Alternative (looking north)



# Proposed Alternative



## LEGEND

- ..... FUTURE DESIGN BY OTHERS
- EXISTING PAVED/CONCRETE PAVEMENT TO REMAIN
- EXISTING BRICK PAVEMENT TO REMAIN
- PROPOSED BRICK PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION
- PROPOSED PAVED/CONCRETE PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION
- PROPOSED PAVED SHARED USE PATH
- PROPOSED PAVED DEDICATED BIKE LANE
- PROPOSED STONE SURFACE
- PROPOSED DOG PARK SURFACING
- PROPOSED DAYLIT MUDDY RIVER
- PROPOSED STORMWATER MANAGEMENT GALLYS
- EXISTING TREES TO BE PRESERVED
- PROPOSED TREES
- PROPOSED GRANITE BLOCKS
- PROPOSED BENCHES
- PROPOSED BENCHES



**How will road users, bicyclists, and pedestrians be impacted?**

# Temporary Construction Impacts

- Road users
  - Traffic over the bridge will be maintained throughout construction
  - Drivers can anticipate temporary lane closures and rolling roadblocks on I-90 (MassPike)
  - Parking restrictions and nighttime roadway closures on Ipswich Street
- Railroad
  - Impacts and foul time to be limited to non-revenue MBTA hours
- Pedestrians
  - During construction, one sidewalk will be kept open to pedestrians. Signage will be installed to help pedestrians navigate the project area
- Cyclists
  - During construction, cyclists will be permitted to travel through the area as they normally would, either riding on the road or walking their bikes on the sidewalk

# Construction Staging

- A video of proposed construction staging will be viewable at: <https://www.youtube.com/@youmovemass>

# Our next steps



Project Advertised &  
Out to Bid  
Late Summer 2024



Project Awarded  
Winter 2024



Notice to Proceed  
Spring 2025



Construction Begins  
Summer 2025



Construction  
Complete  
Target: 2029



**How you can  
reach the  
project team**



## How to reach us?

- Submit written comments to:  
Carrie Lavallee, P.E. Chief Engineer  
MassDOT  
10 Park Plaza  
Boston, MA 02116  
Attention: Major Projects, PROJECT FILE NO. 606496
- Submit email comments to: [MassDOTMajorProjects@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTMajorProjects@dot.state.ma.us)
- For project information visit the MassDOT Highway event web site at:  
<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-transportation/events>  
Or at the QR Code:





# Public Comment Period

## Public Comment Period



“Raise your hand” to be unmuted for verbal questions (Alt + Y)



Submit your questions and comments using the Q&A button (Alt + H)



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

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



# ***Thank You***

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Widening Bowker Overpass over I-90/ MBTA/  
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Project Manager: Alwin Ramirez

