



City of **Somerville**

McGrath Boulevard Construction

Thank you for joining us.

This meeting will begin shortly.





City of **Somerville**

McGrath Boulevard Construction

Public Information Meeting

Zoom | February 13, 2024 | 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Project File No. 607981



Zoom Webinar Controls for Meeting



- Ask a question and share comments



- Drop down menu to check microphone and speakers



- 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 (301)715-8592, Webinar ID: 876 6284 0706



Live Transcript

- Closed captioning automatically generated by Zoom



View

- Use the View button in the upper right-hand corner to adjust the meeting view settings to your preference

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

[1.888.799.9666]



Audio Settings ^



Raise Hand



Q&A



Live Transcript

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Public Meeting Notes and Procedures

Notification of Recording

This virtual public meeting will be recorded. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation may choose to retain and distribute the video, still images, audio, and/or transcript. All parts of this hearing are considered public record.

- By continuing attendance with this virtual public meeting, you consent to participate in a recorded event.
- If you are not comfortable being recorded, please turn off your camera, and keep your microphone muted, or excuse yourself from the hearing.
- **Other Important Notes**
- Your microphone and webcam are automatically disabled upon entering this hearing.
- The meeting will be open to questions and answers at the end of the formal presentation.
- Please take time to respond to our survey! Your feedback is important.

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Communications
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.

Advertisements/Public Outreach

MassDOT Website

- Flyer posted on January 9th, 2024
- English, Spanish, Portuguese, & Haitian-Creole

Local Newspapers

- Charlestown Patriot Bridge
- Somerville Medford Transcript Journal
- Somerville Times

Somerville Council on Aging & Disabilities Commission

Neighborhood organizations and community groups

Legislative briefing



Public Information Meeting – Somerville – McGrath Boulevard

What is happening?

This is an informational meeting to introduce the current design for this important transportation project and to allow an opportunity for public input. The proposed project consists of the reconstruction of McGrath Highway (Route 28) between Broadway in Somerville and Rufo Rd & 3rd St in Cambridge. The current design proposes to remove the McCarthy Overpass and replace it with a tree-lined boulevard with at-grade signalized intersections. The project includes provision, expansion, and enhancement of pedestrian, bicycle, and transit facilities.

How will this affect you?

The project focuses on improving community connectivity between different neighborhoods and providing accommodation for all roadway users. The project also includes safety improvements, green space, physical separation of bicycles and pedestrians from motor vehicles, and the removal of a physical and visual barrier (the overpass) within the project area. This is an early opportunity for the public to learn about the proposed improvements and provide comments as the project advances through 25% design later this year.

When

February 13th, 2024
6:30-8pm

Attend

www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/



To ensure its meetings are accessible, MassDOT reasonably provides: translation, modifications, accommodations, alternative formats, and auxiliary aids and services. For adequate time to process such requests, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer at 857-MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us. For adequate time to process such requests, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer at 857-MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us. For adequate time to process such requests, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer at 857-MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us.

Project inquiries may also be emailed to massdotmajorprojects@dot.state.ma.us. For statements regarding the proposed undertaking to: **Carrie A. Lavallee, P.E., Chief of Staff, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: MAJOR PROJECTS, PROJECT FILE**



Reunión informativa pública Somerville - Bulevar McGrath

¿Qué se está haciendo?

Se trata de una reunión informativa para presentar el diseño actual de este importante proyecto de transporte y dar la oportunidad al público de hacer sus aportes. El proyecto propuesto consiste en la reconstrucción de la carretera McGrath (Ruta 28) entre Broadway, en Somerville, y Rufo Rd y 3rd St, en Cambridge. El diseño actual propone eliminar el paso sobre nivel McCarthy y sustituirlo por un bulevar arbolado con intersecciones a nivel señalizadas. El proyecto incluye la creación, ampliación y mejora de instalaciones para peatones, ciclistas y transporte público.

¿Cuáles serán los efectos?

El proyecto se centra en mejorar la conectividad de la comunidad entre los distintos barrios y la disposición de todos los usuarios de la calzada. El proyecto también incluye mejoras de seguridad, expansión de las zonas verdes, separación física de ciclistas y peatones de los vehículos motorizados, siempre que sea factible, y la eliminación de una barrera física y visual (el paso sobre nivel) dentro de la comunidad.

Cuándo

13 de febrero de 2024
18:30 h

Asistencia

www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events



Para garantizar que sus reuniones sean accesibles, MassDOT proporciona razonablemente: traducción, interpretación, modificaciones, adaptaciones, formatos alternativos y asistencia y servicios auxiliares. Para solicitar estos servicios, póngase en contacto con el Jefe de Diversidad y Derechos Civiles de MassDOT al 857-368-8580 o a MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us. Para tramitar dichas solicitudes con suficiente tiempo, hágalo antes posible, idealmente entre 10 y 15 días antes del evento.

Las consultas sobre proyectos también pueden enviarse por correo electrónico a massdotmajorprojects@dot.state.ma.us. Por favor, envíe cualquier declaración escrita relativa al compromiso propuesto a: **Carrie A. Lavallee, P.E., Ingeniera Jefe, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Atención: PROYECTOS PRINCIPALES, N° DE EXPEDIENTE DEL PROYECTO 607981**

Presentation Participants

- **MassDOT**

- Christopher Cameron, Project Manager
- Brian Fallon, District 4 Project Development
- Dan Fielding, Legislative Affairs
- Leah Grodstein, Producer
- Kayla Sousa, Producer

- **City of Somerville**

- Brad Rawson, Director of Mobility

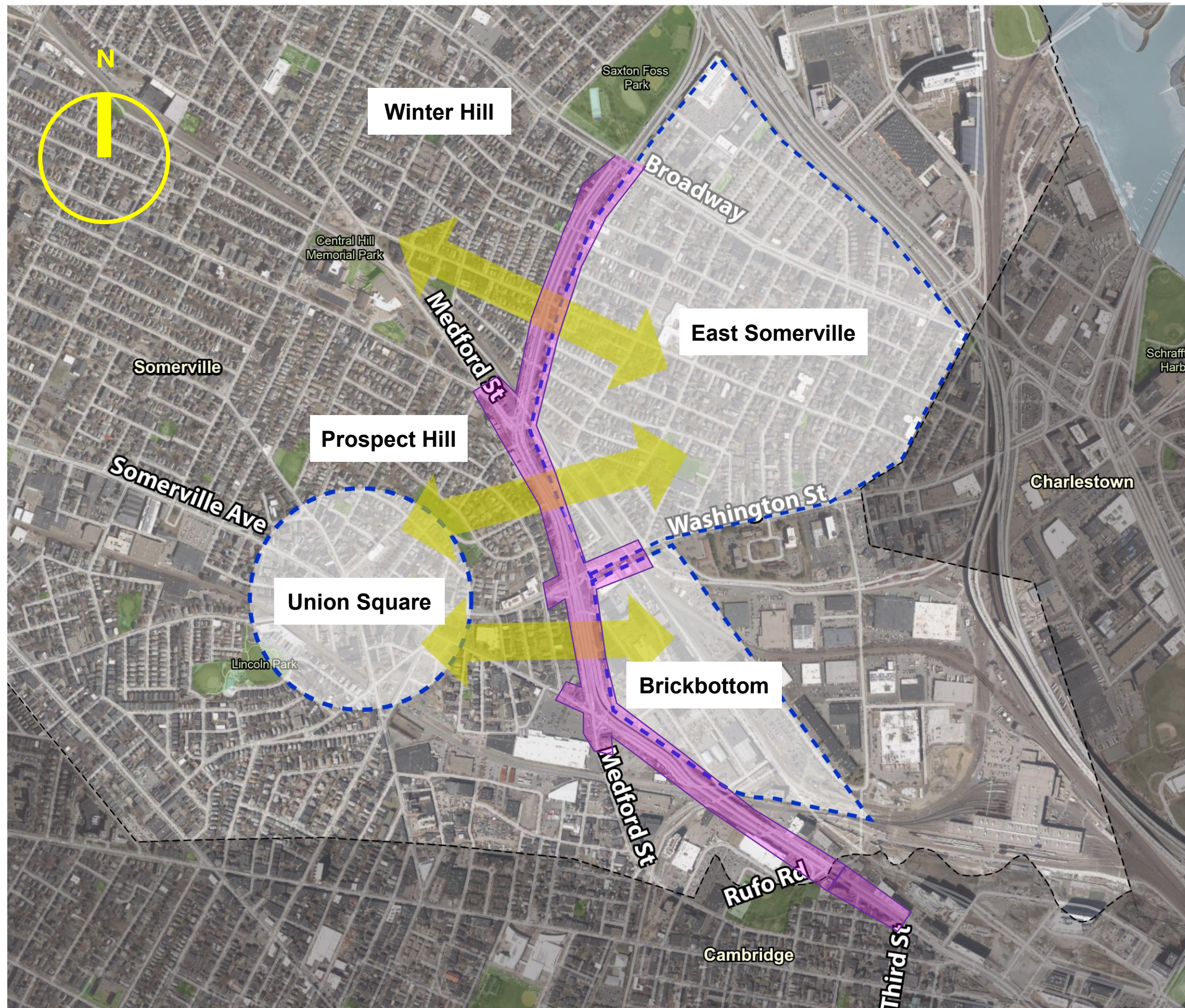
- **Design Consultant Team**

- Gary McNaughton, P.E., PTOE, Bowman
- Maureen Chlebek, P.E., PTOE, Bowman
- William Van Duzer, P.E., PTOE, Bowman
- John Tamburrini, P.E., GPI
- Sean McIntyre, P.E., GPI

Agenda

- 01 Introduction
- 02 Project History
- 03 Project Goals
- 04 Multimodal Analysis
- 05 Concept Design
- 06 Next Steps
- 07 Question & Answer



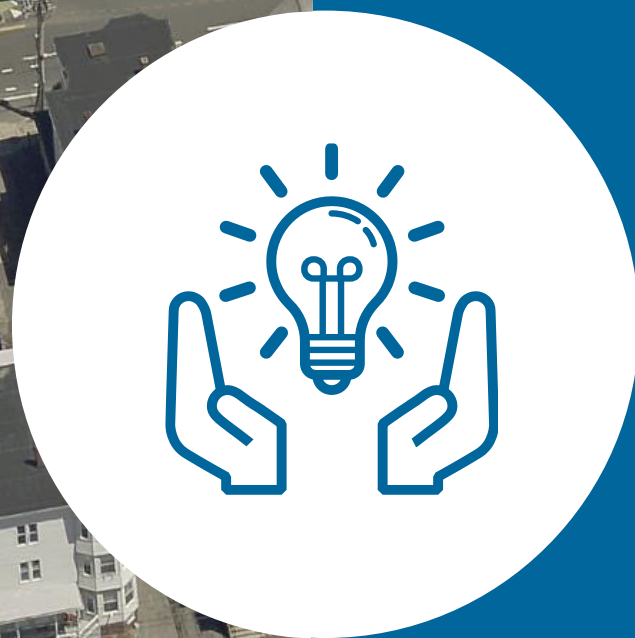


Project Area

This McGrath Boulevard project extends along **McGrath Highway** from the southern extent, just over the city line, at **Third Street** in Cambridge to the northern extent at **Broadway** in Somerville.

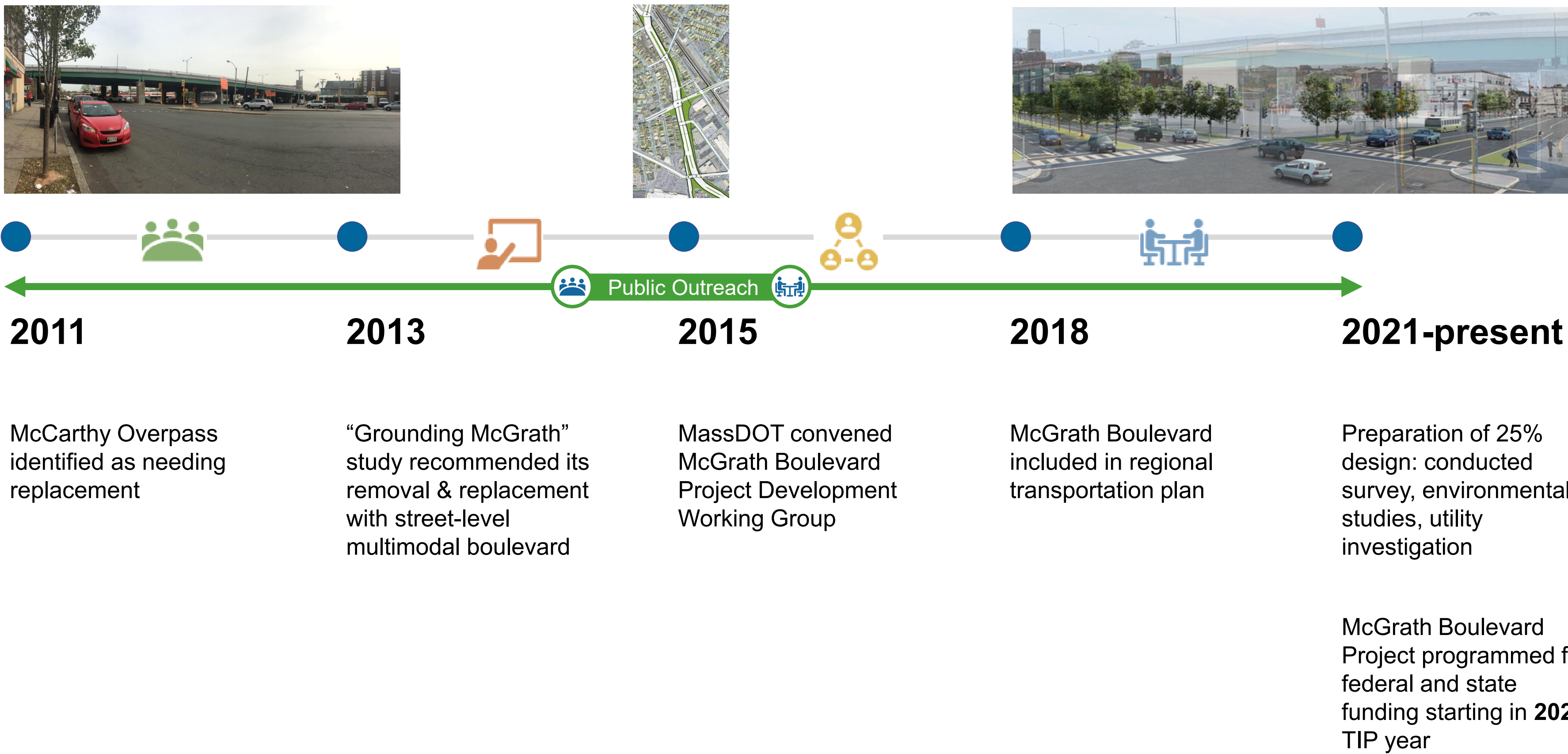
This McGrath Boulevard project is adjacent to the following Somerville neighborhoods:

- East Somerville
- Union Square
- Brickbottom
- Winter Hill
- Prospect Hill



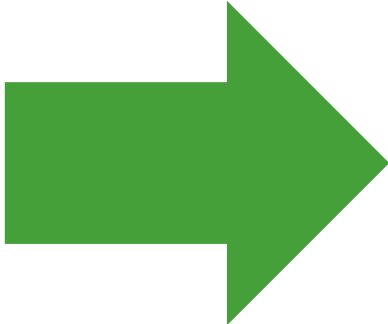
Why was this
project
initiated?

Project Timeline



Public Outreach Overview

-  **8** working group meetings
-  **2** public information meetings:
-  **9** targeted briefings:
 - Cities of Somerville and Cambridge
 - Abutters
 - Somerville Bicycle Coalition
 - Portuguese Sportsman’s Club
-  Coordination with:
 - Livable Streets Alliance
 - MassDOT District offices
-  Appearances by project team members
 - Tufts University
 - Somerville ArtBeat festival



Public Outreach Success

- Consensus for preferred alternative among stakeholders and public
- Successfully programmed construction funding (FY 2027)



Reasons for the Project

- McCarthy Viaduct overpass is structurally deficient
- McGrath Highway is overbuilt for the number of vehicles that need to use it
- Accessibility standards not met along the corridor

At the Neighborhood Scale – McCarthy Viaduct is seen as dividing the community





**What do we
want to
accomplish?**

Project Goals



- **Safety improvements** to support Vision Zero objectives
- Improve **neighborhood connections** to nearby amenities
- Improve facilities supporting **sustainable transportation**
- **Resilient infrastructure** to face our changing climate
- **Accessible design** that removes barriers



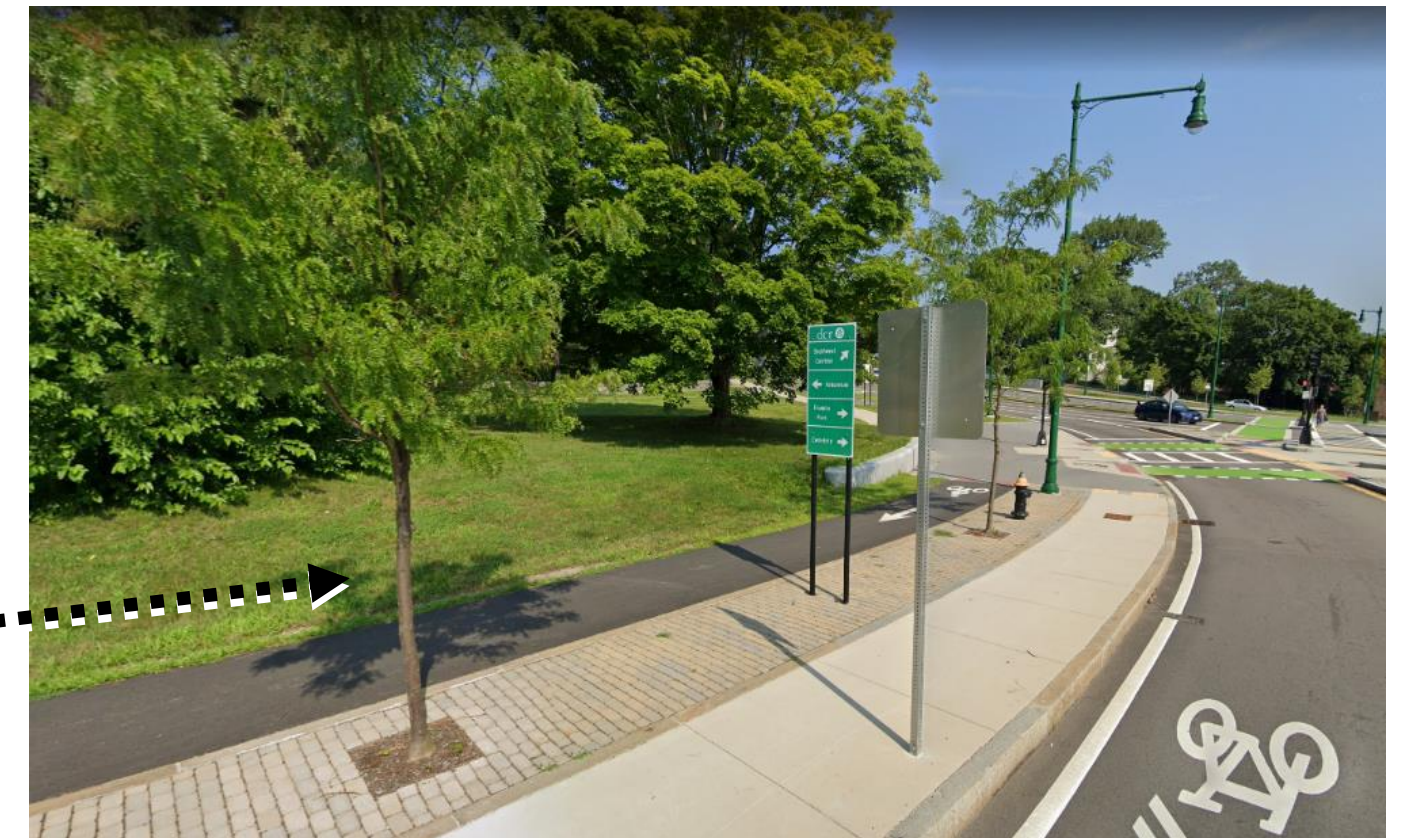
What it can look like A look at the before and after of the Casey Overpass in Boston



Project Vision: A Landscaped Boulevard

- Safety and comfort for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Defined bicycle lanes separated from pedestrian walkways
- Landscape shade and buffering
- Tree-lined boulevard and Community Spaces
- Sustainability opportunities

Rows and groupings of canopy trees provide shade and plant communities.



Example of landscaping provided on Casey Arborway, Boston

Center median with opportunity for canopy trees

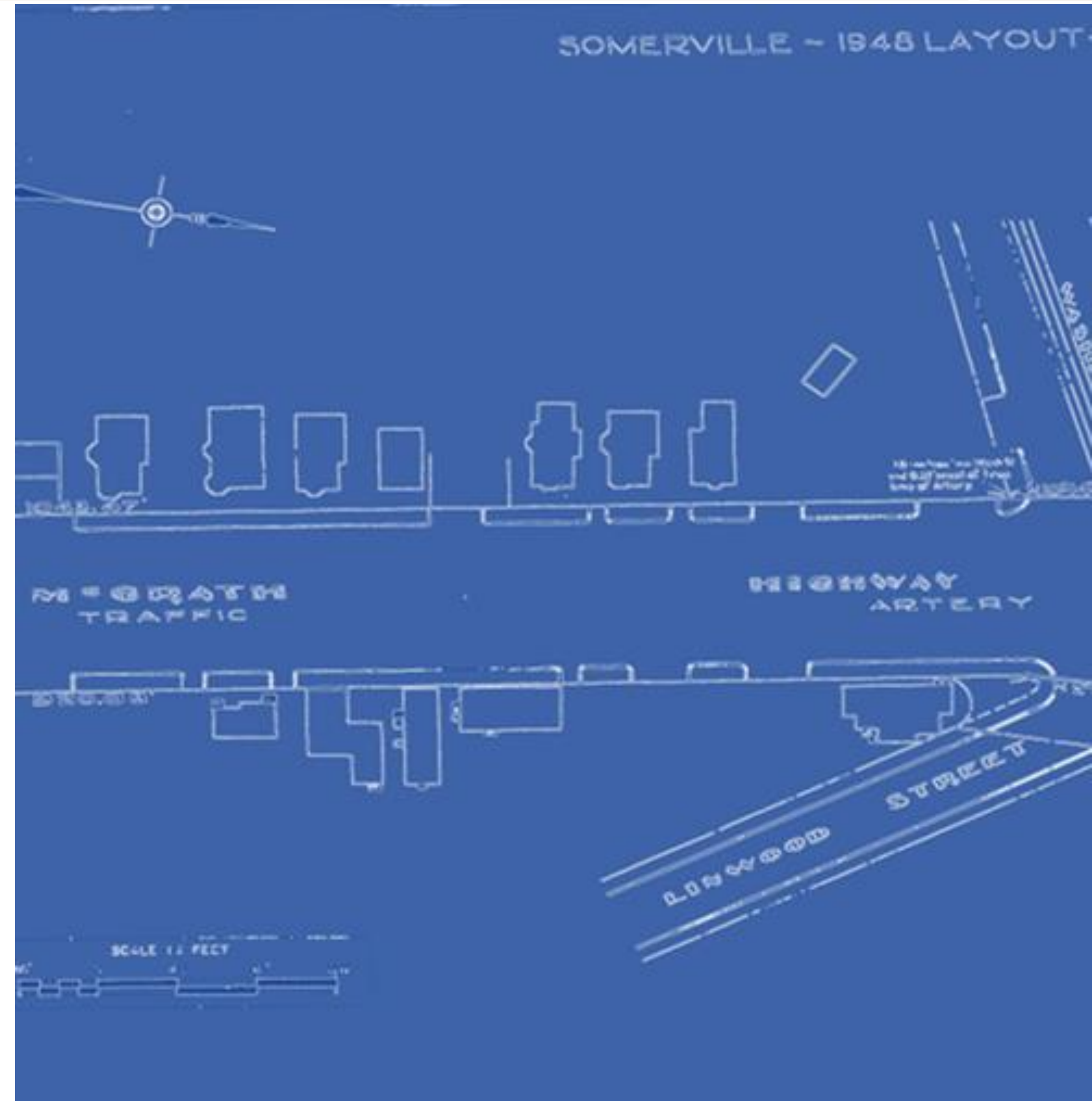


Key Design Elements



Right-of-Way (ROW)

- Project will take advantage of the wide State Highway Layout
- Removing McCarthy overpass frees space for other travel modes with minimal property impacts
- Public will be informed of property impacts as the design advances





Relevant Projects

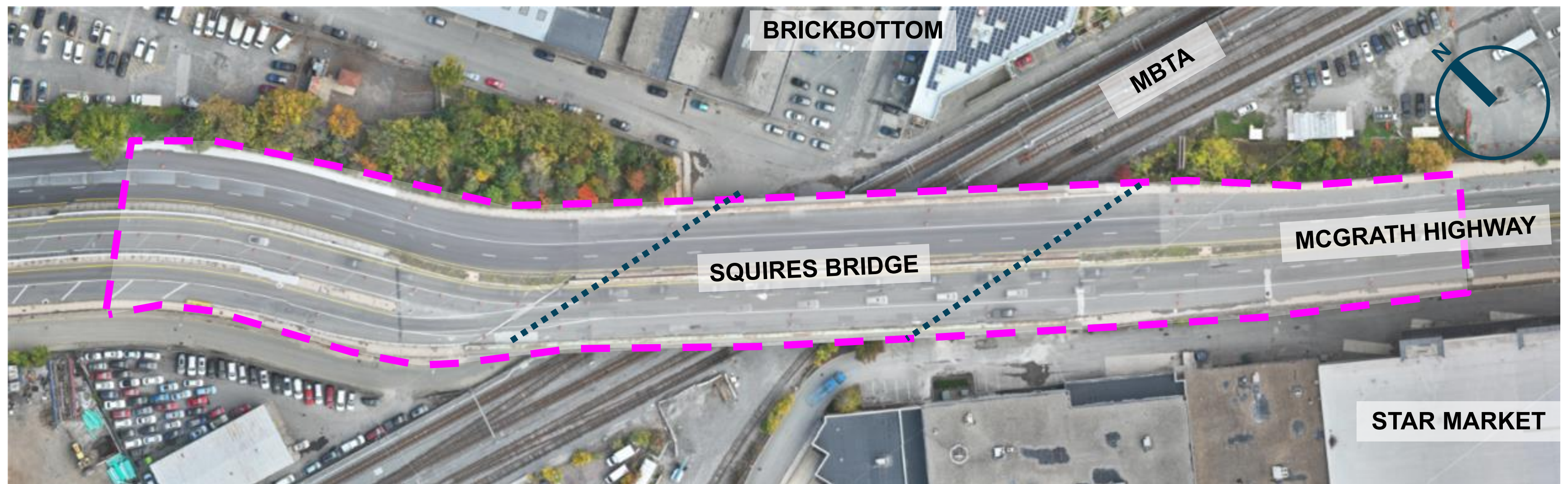
Coordination with Relevant Projects

- Rutherford Avenue (#606226)
- Silver Line Extension Alternatives Analysis
- Redevelopment of 200 McGrath Highway
- MBTA Bus Network Redesign
- Brickbottom development
- Intersection improvements at Mystic, McGrath, Fellsway & I-93 Ramps (#608562)
- Broadway Bus lane Project
- Poplar Street Pump Station
- Squires Bridge Replacement (#612634)



MassDOT Initiated a Separate Project for the Squires Bridge

- Currently at the Project Scoping phase
- Will be coordinated with McGrath Boulevard project



Resurfacing Improvements (On-going)

- Balances the vehicle operations with improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- Reallocates street space along McGrath Highway by reducing one through travel lane in each direction and adding bike lanes and pedestrian features
- Improvements shown have become base year condition for McGrath Boulevard Project

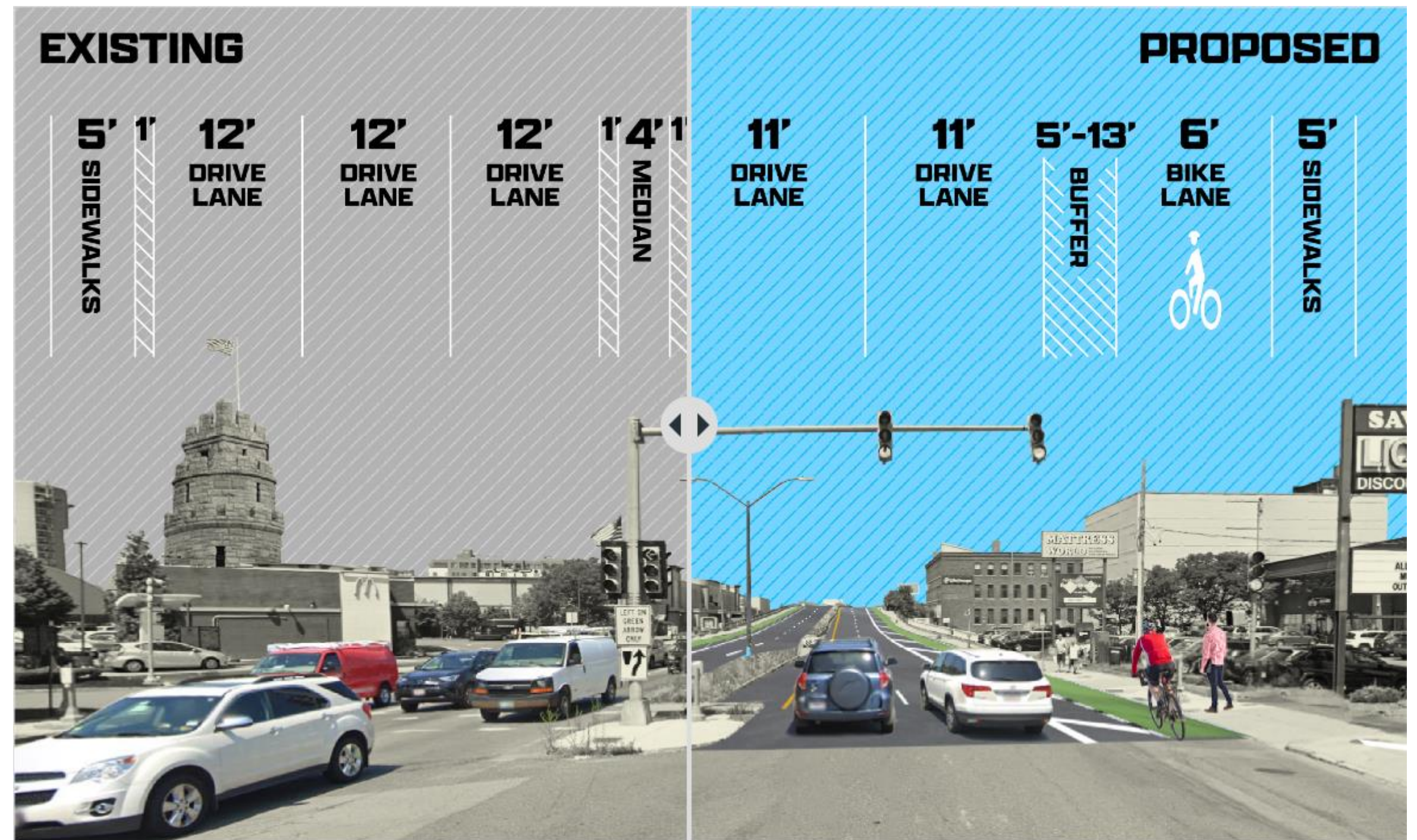
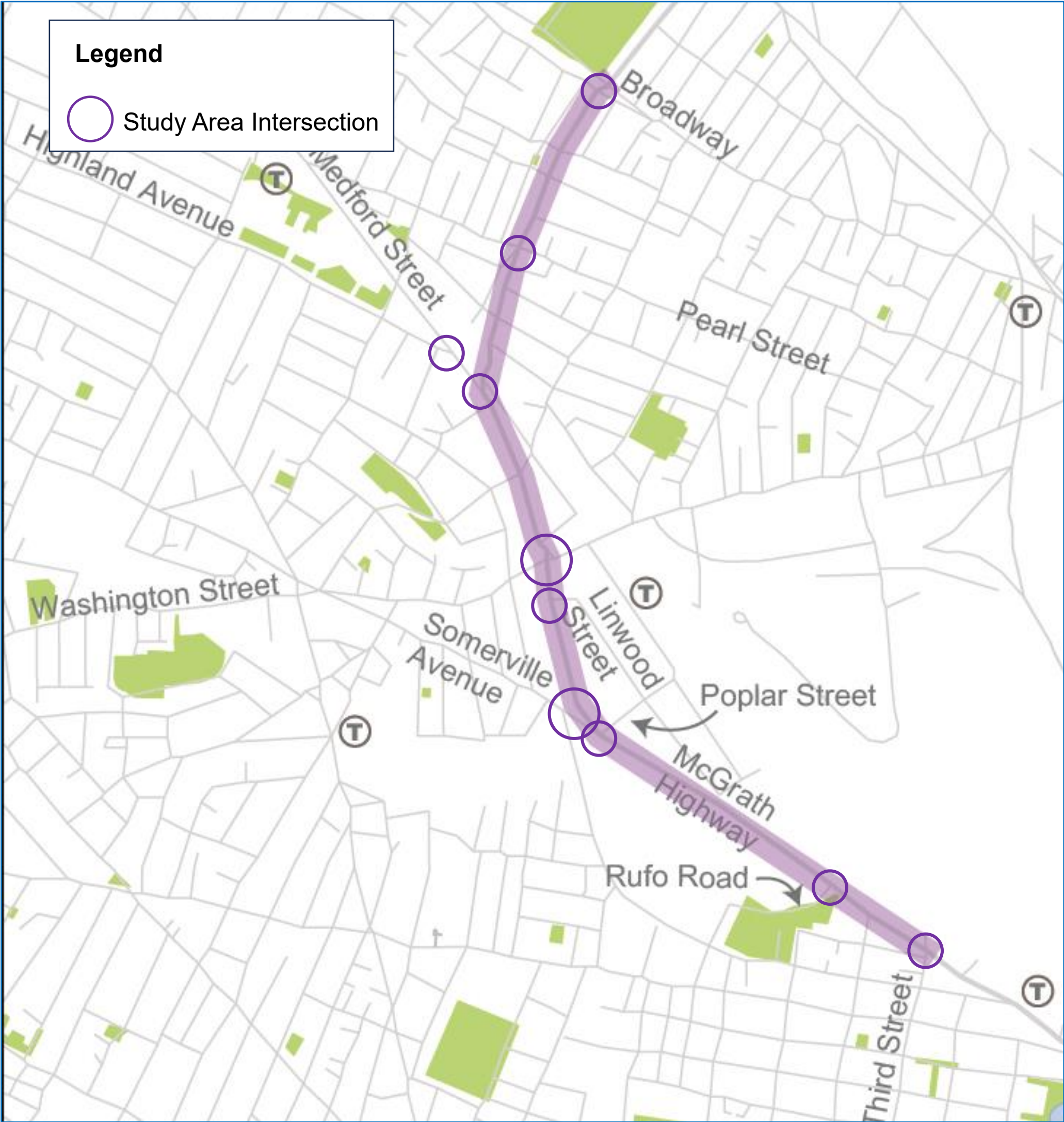


Image source: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/0d292dbd1932495fae4be15c124229c6>



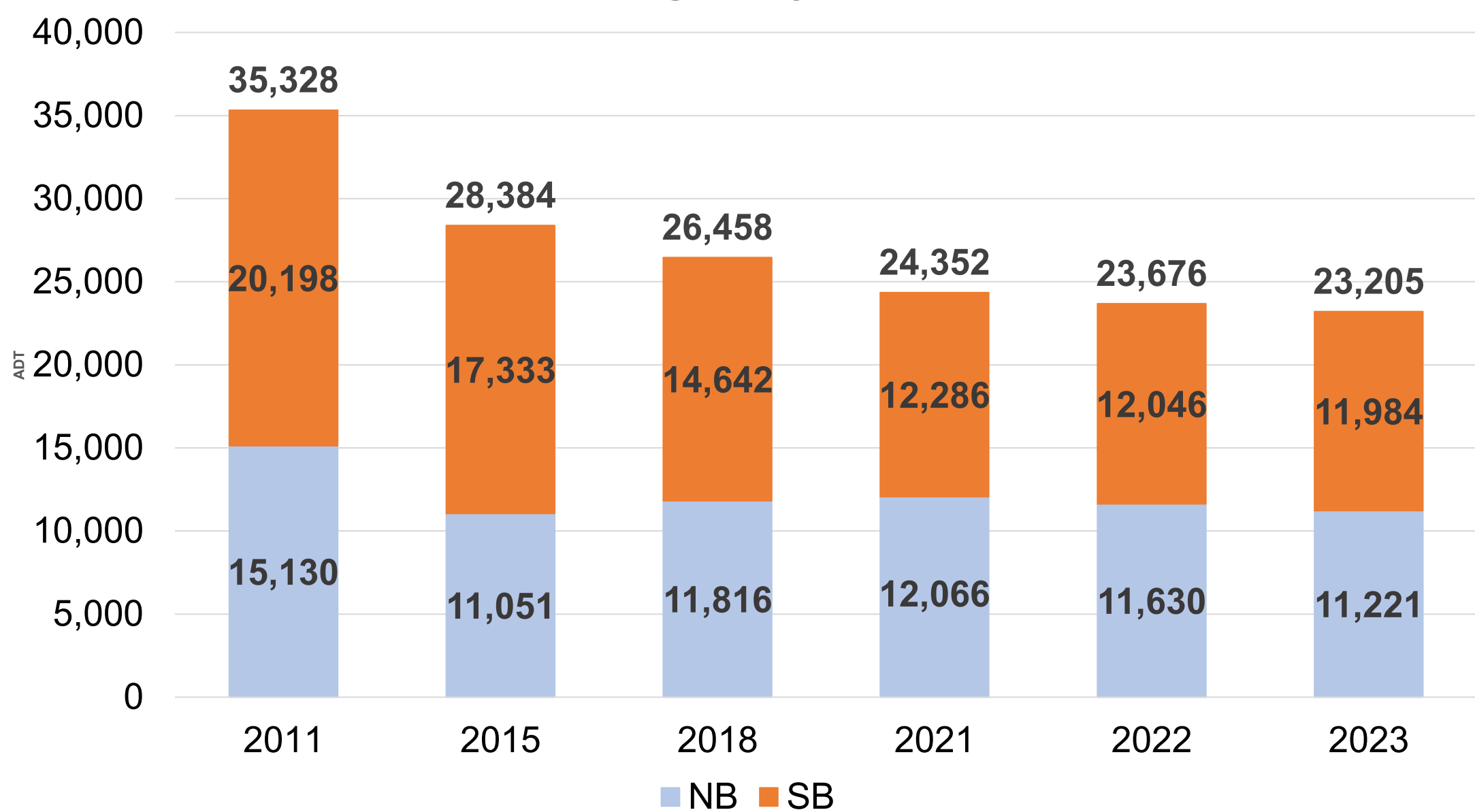
**What analysis
has been
completed?**

Traffic Study Intersections



Traffic Study Vehicle Volumes (ADT)

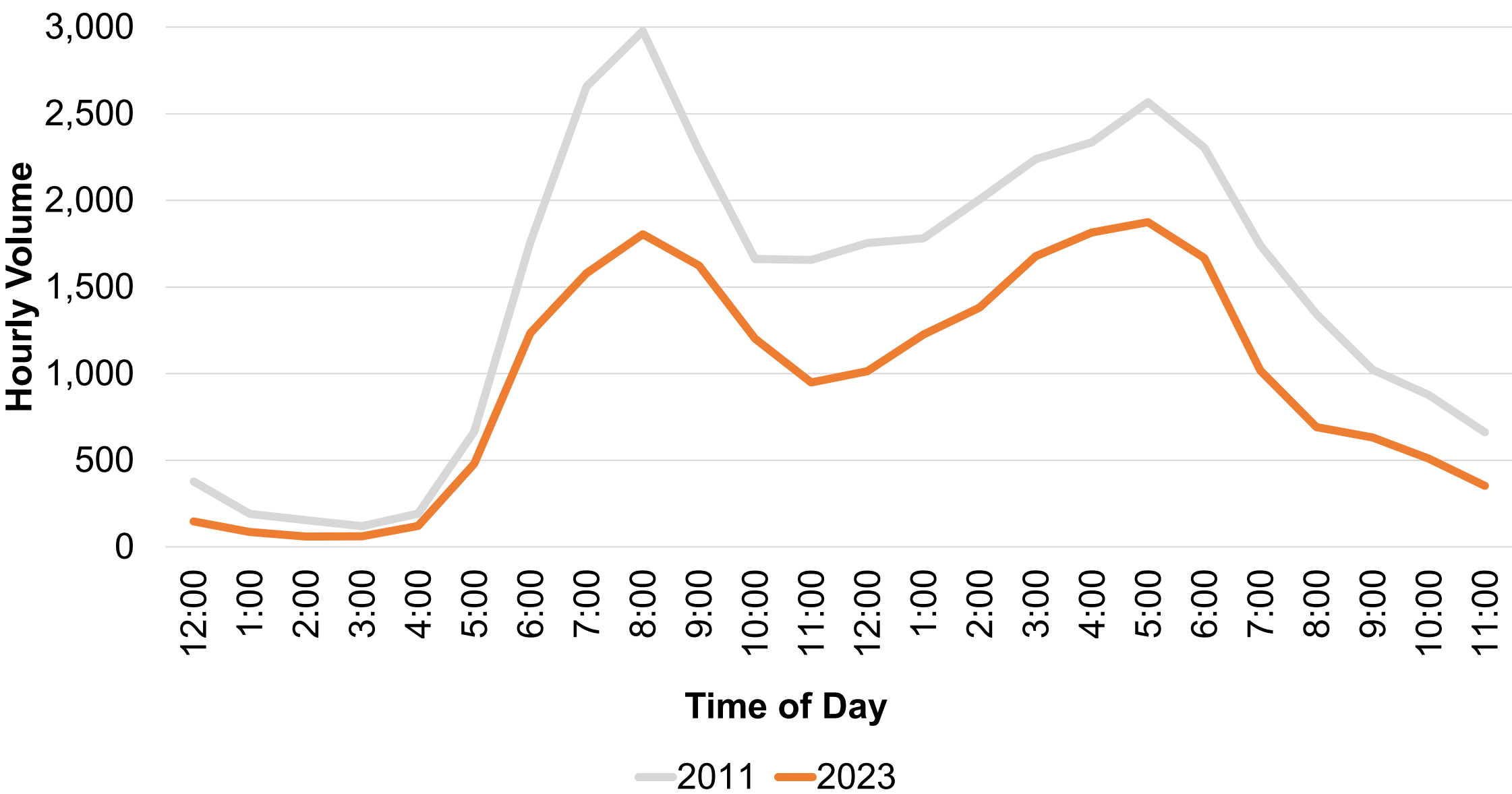
ADT Comparison
McGrath Highway - Overpass



McGrath Highway southbound volumes decreased 40%+ since 2011. This trend reveals McGrath Highway is overbuilt.

Traffic Study Vehicle Volumes (Hourly)

Hourly Volumes
McGrath Highway - Overpass



Significant reduction in peak hour volume reinforces the need to support additional travel modes.



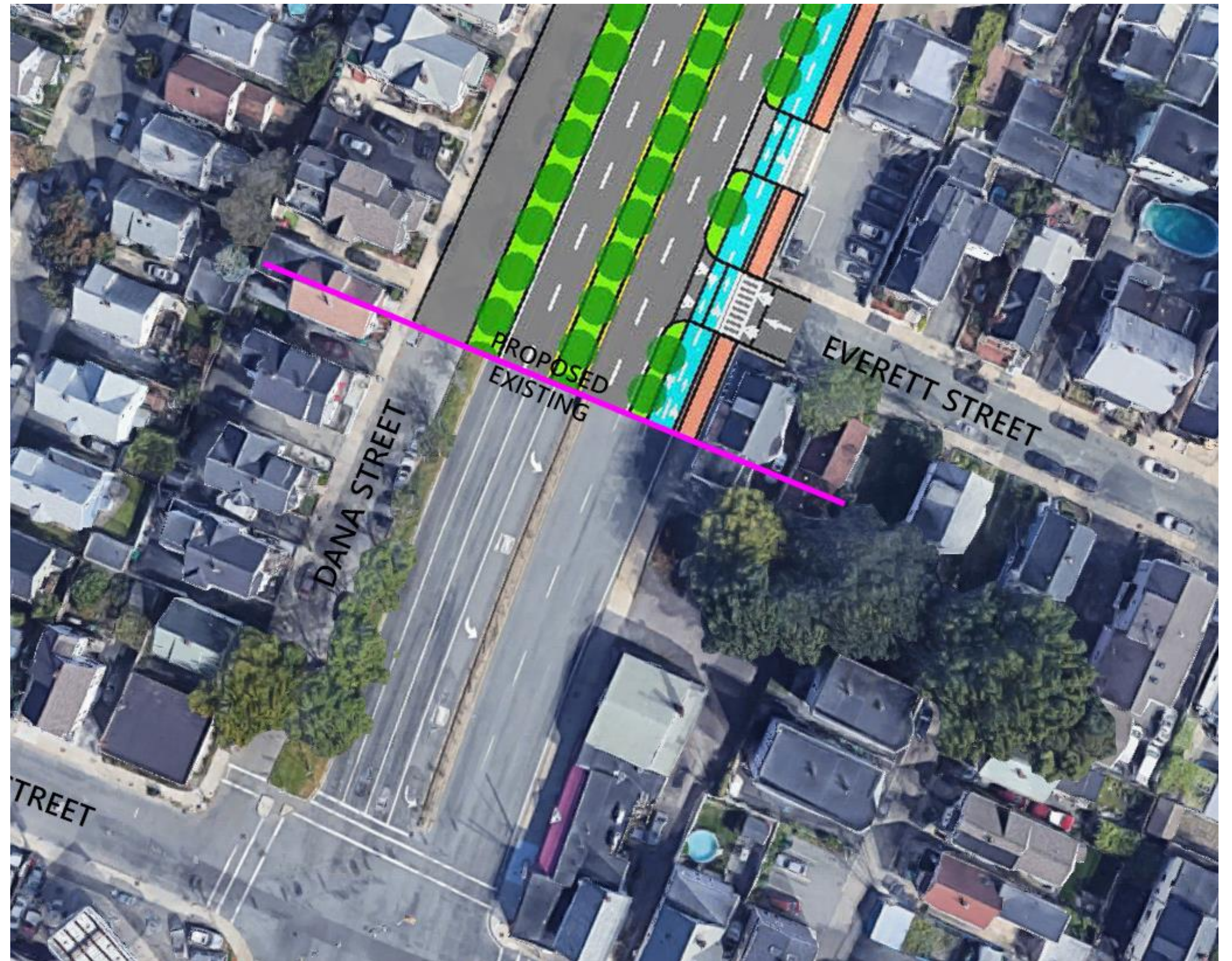
**What is the
preferred
alternative?**

Preferred Alternative



Roadway Reallocation

- One travel lane removed from each direction → two lanes of general-purpose traffic in each direction
- Separated bike lanes in each direction
- Removal of overpass



Roadway Reallocation

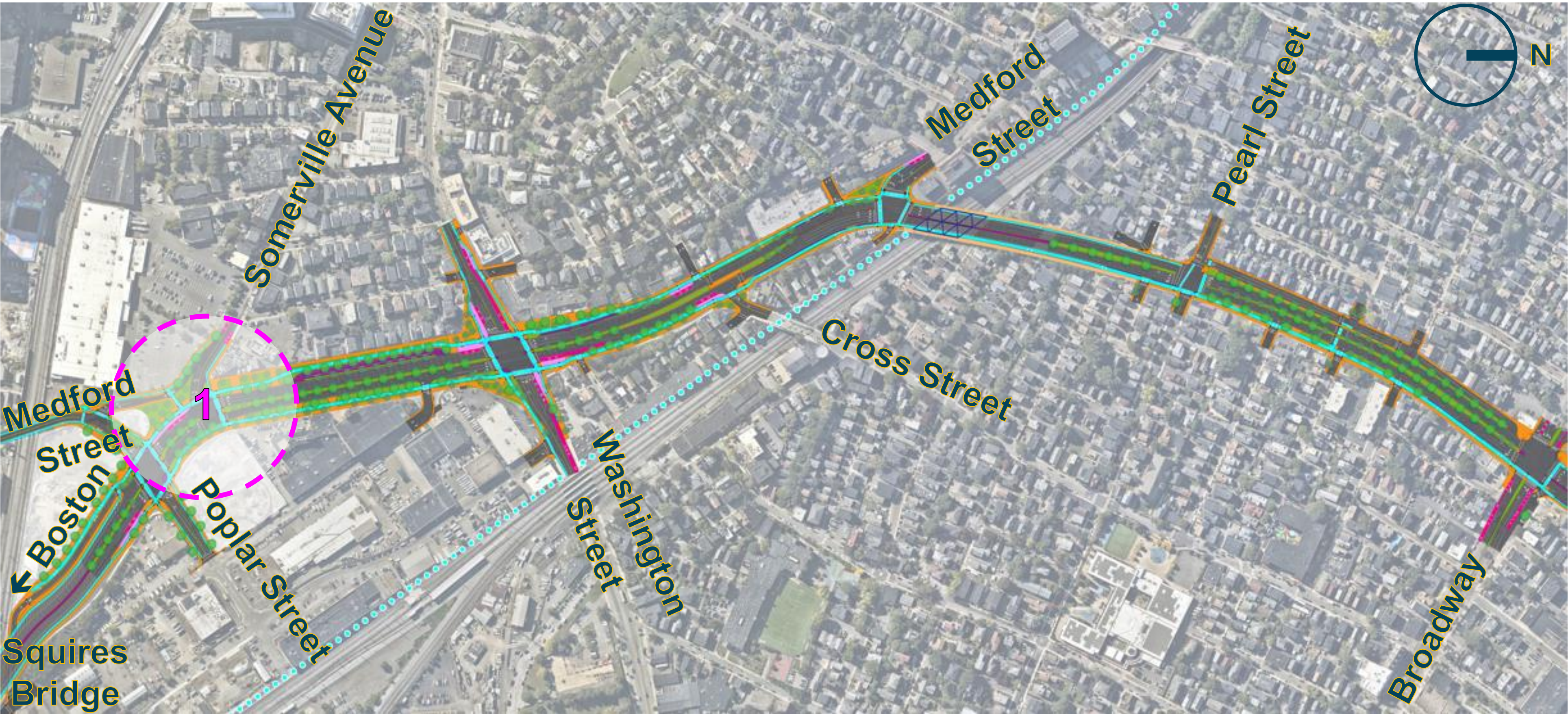


Representative location south of the pedestrian overpass bridge near Otis Street

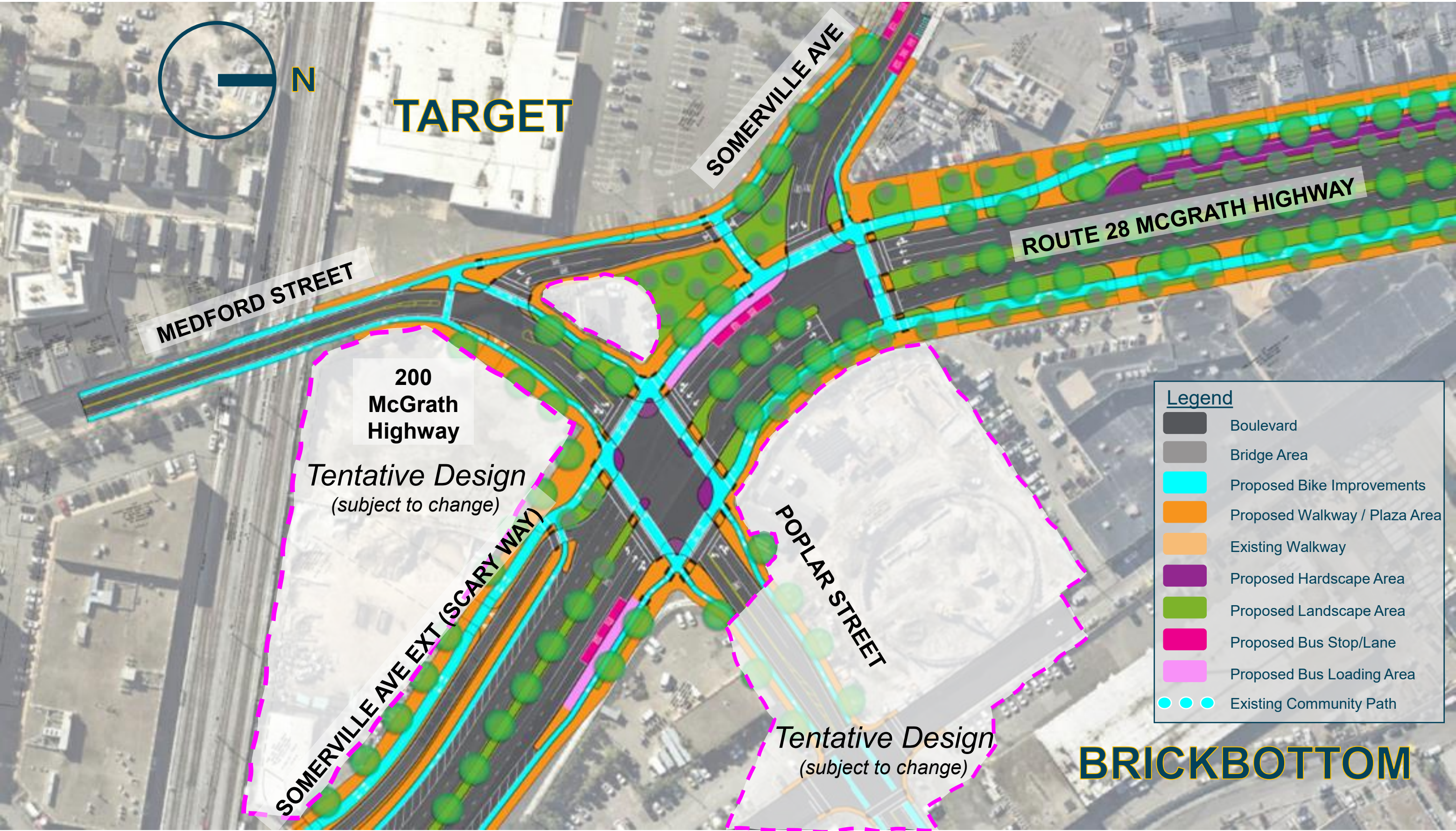


How has the
design
progressed?

Concept Design: Location 1



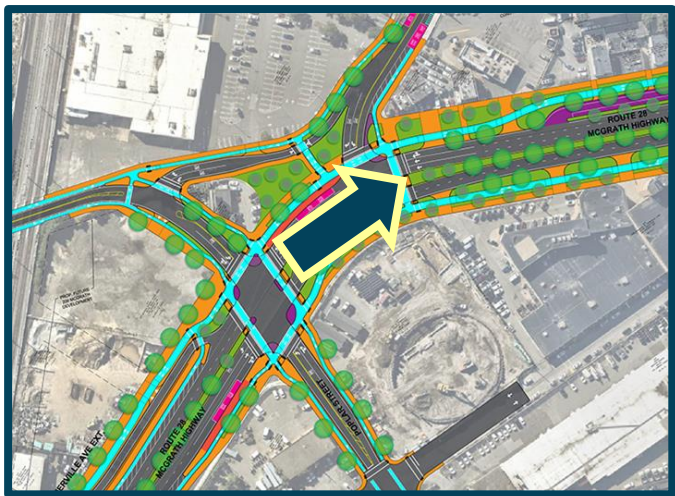
Location 1



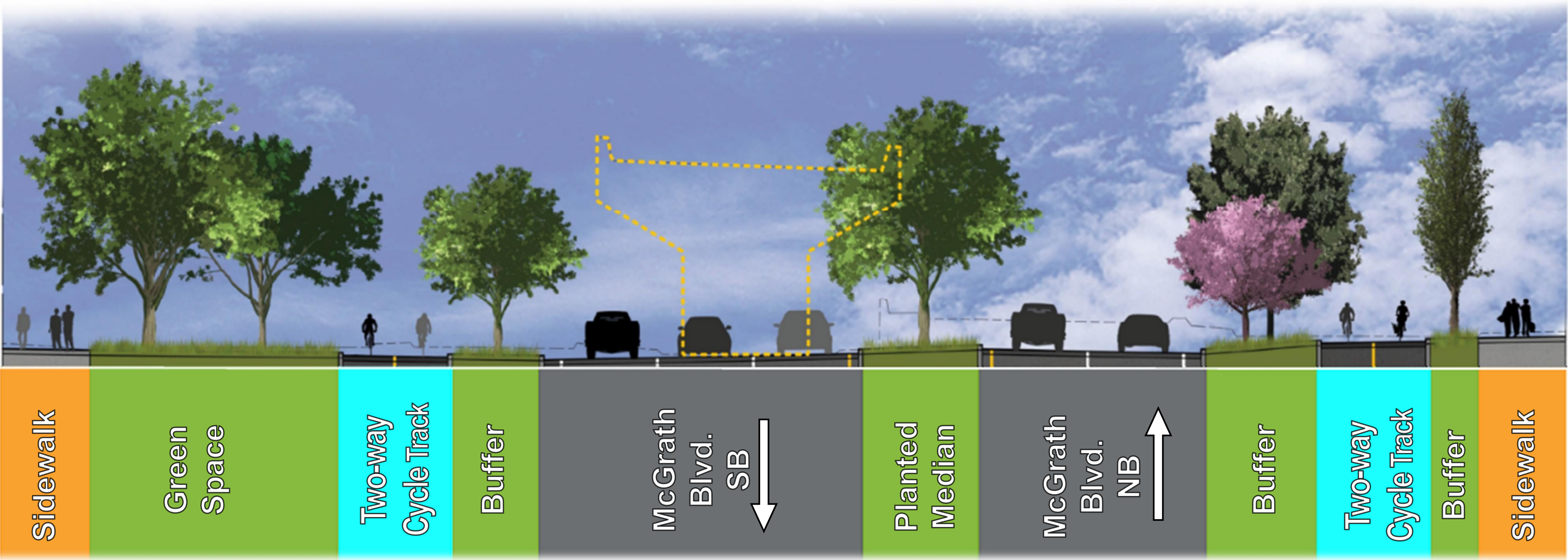
McGrath Boulevard Cross Section north of Somerville Avenue



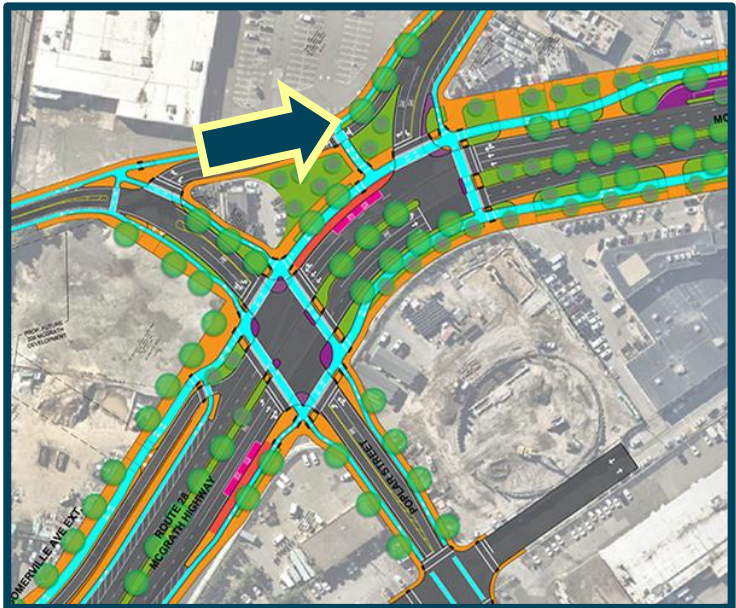
Existing McGrath Highway



Section Location



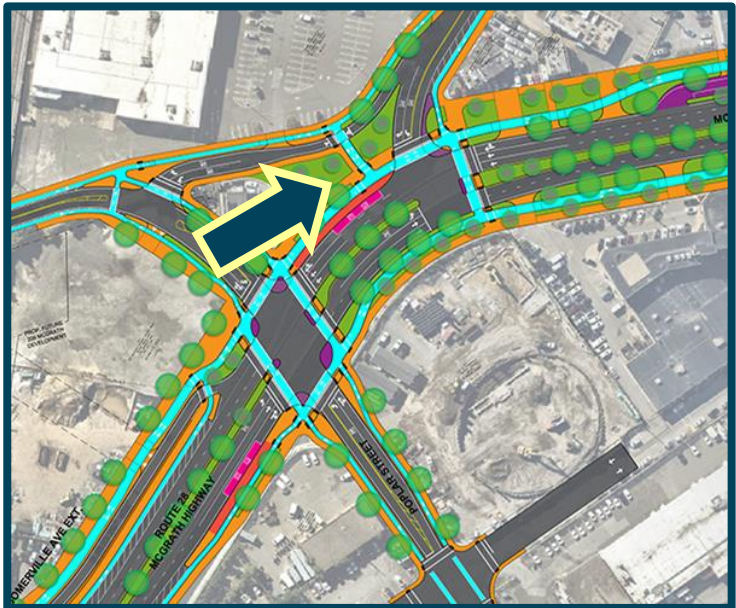
Somerville Avenue – Existing Condition



View Location

Existing condition, as seen looking north at the Somerville Avenue intersection

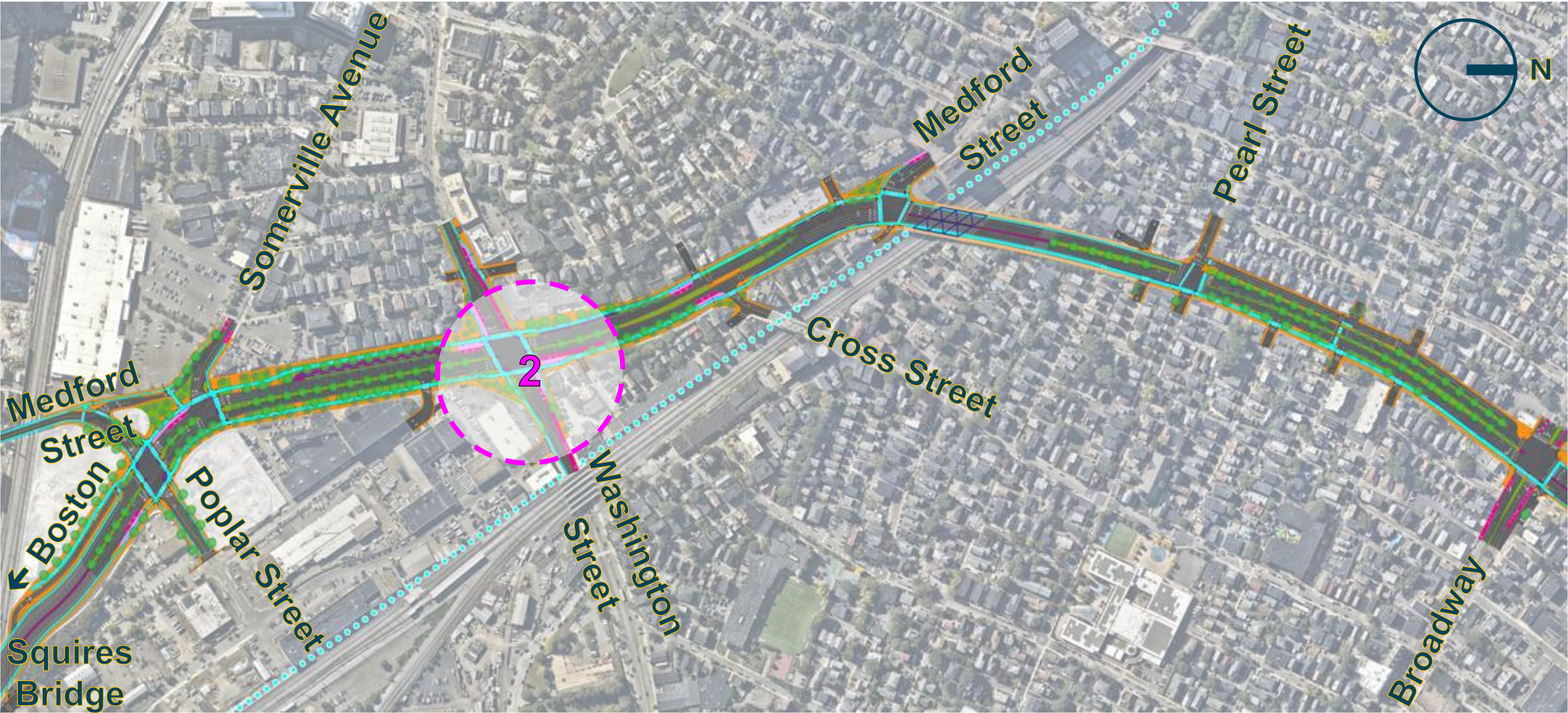
Somerville Avenue – Concept Rendering



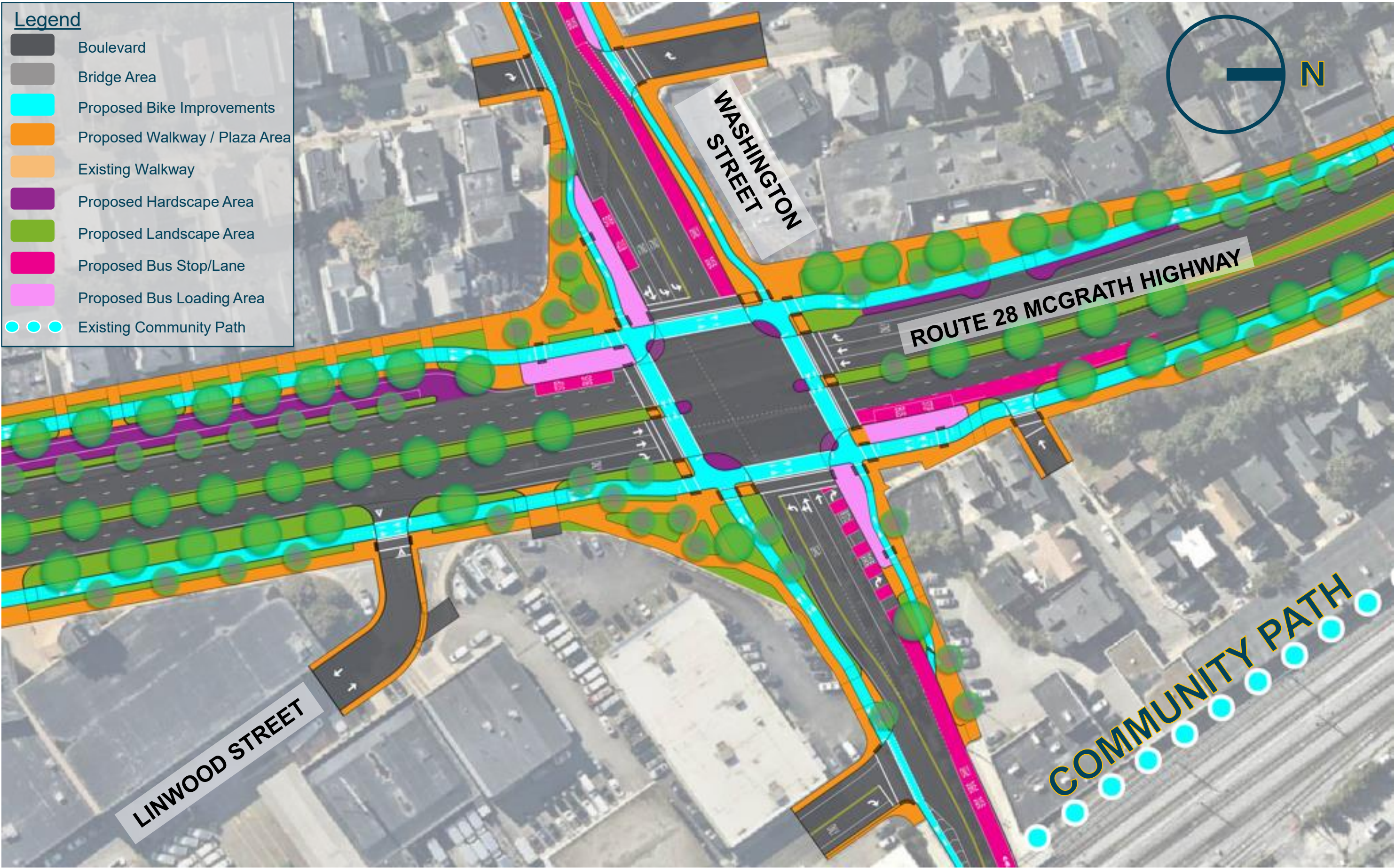
View Location

Conceptual design, as seen looking north at the Somerville Avenue intersection

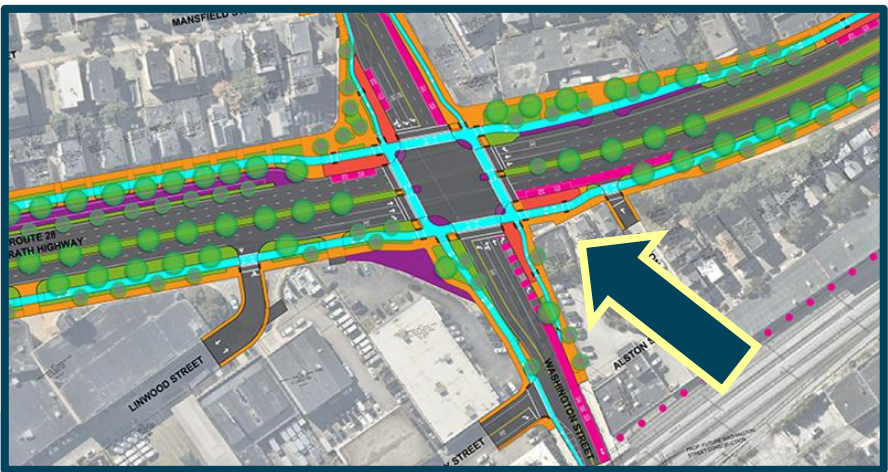
Concept Design: Location 2



Location 2



Washington Street – Existing Condition



View Location



Existing condition, as seen looking south from Washington Street

Washington Street – Concept Rendering

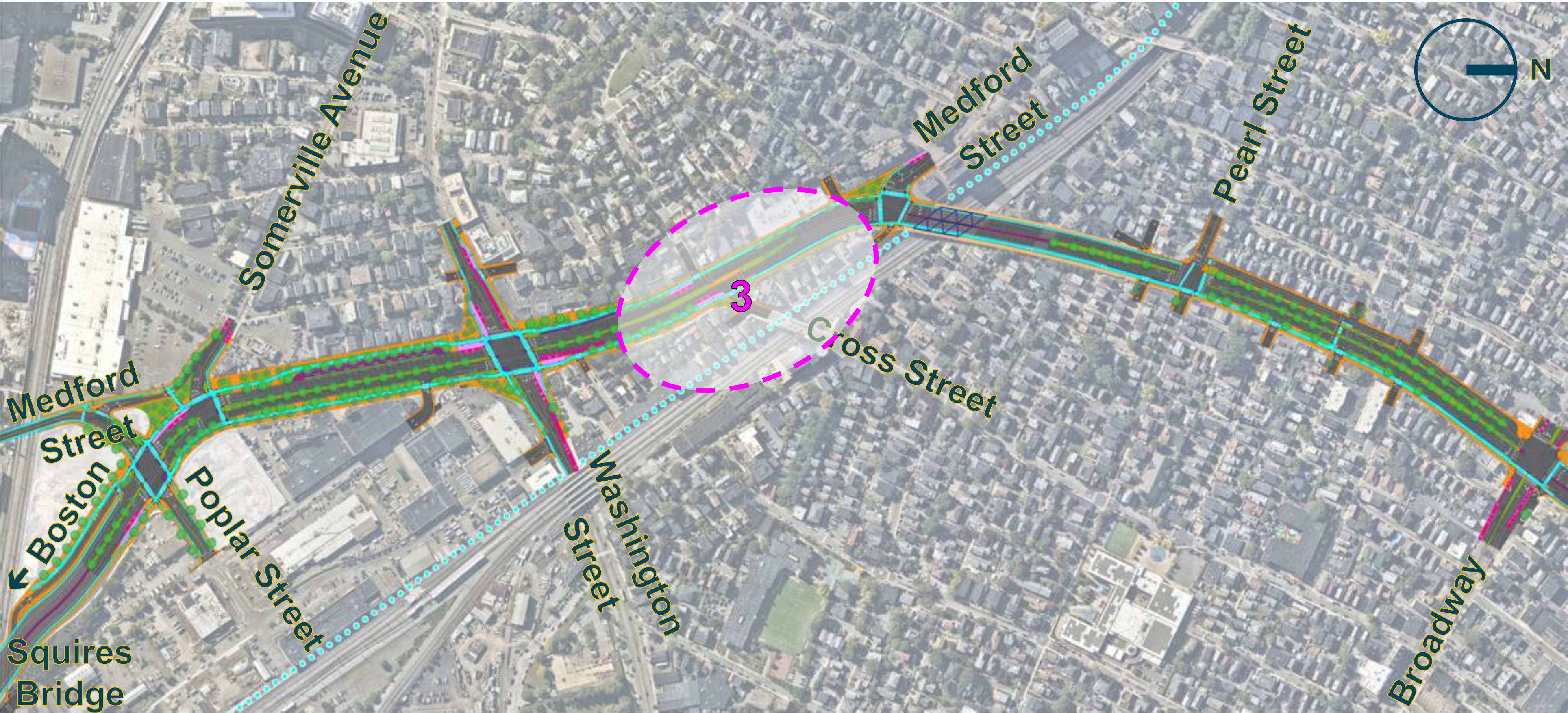


View Location

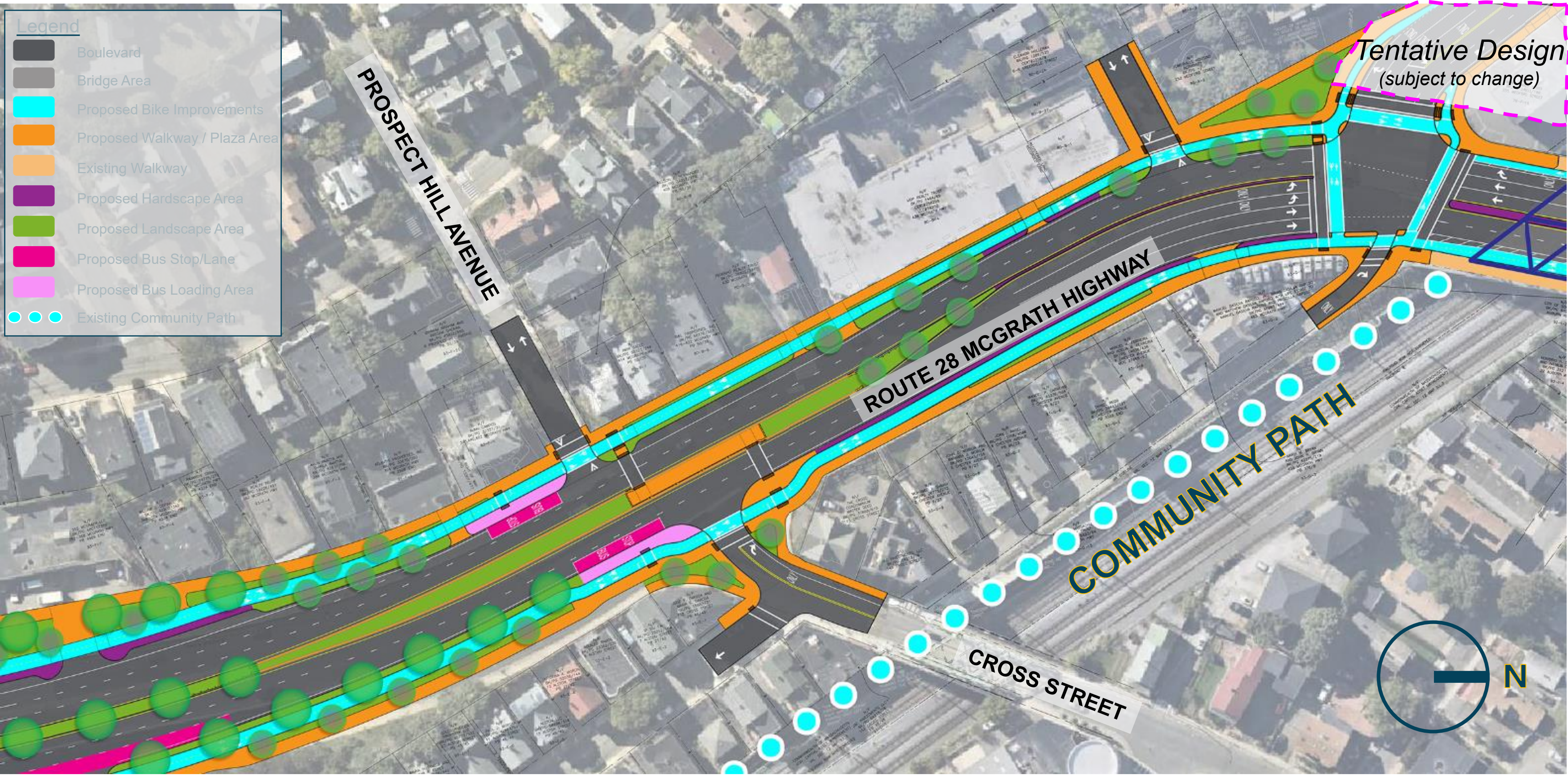


Conceptual design, as seen looking south from Washington Street

Concept Design: Location 3



Location 3



McGrath Boulevard Cross Section at Cross St. & Prospect Hill Ave.



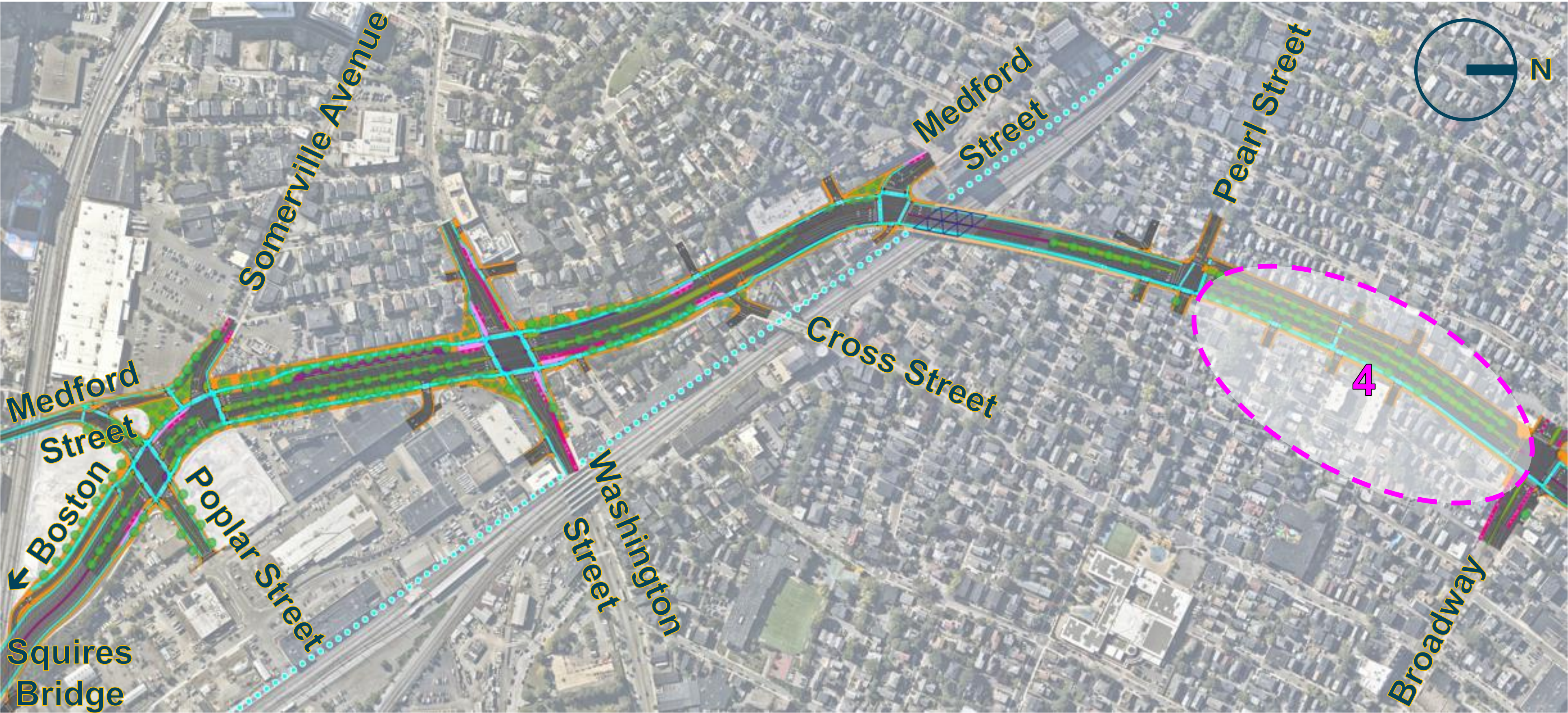
Existing McGrath Highway



Section Location



Concept Design: Location 4



Location 4



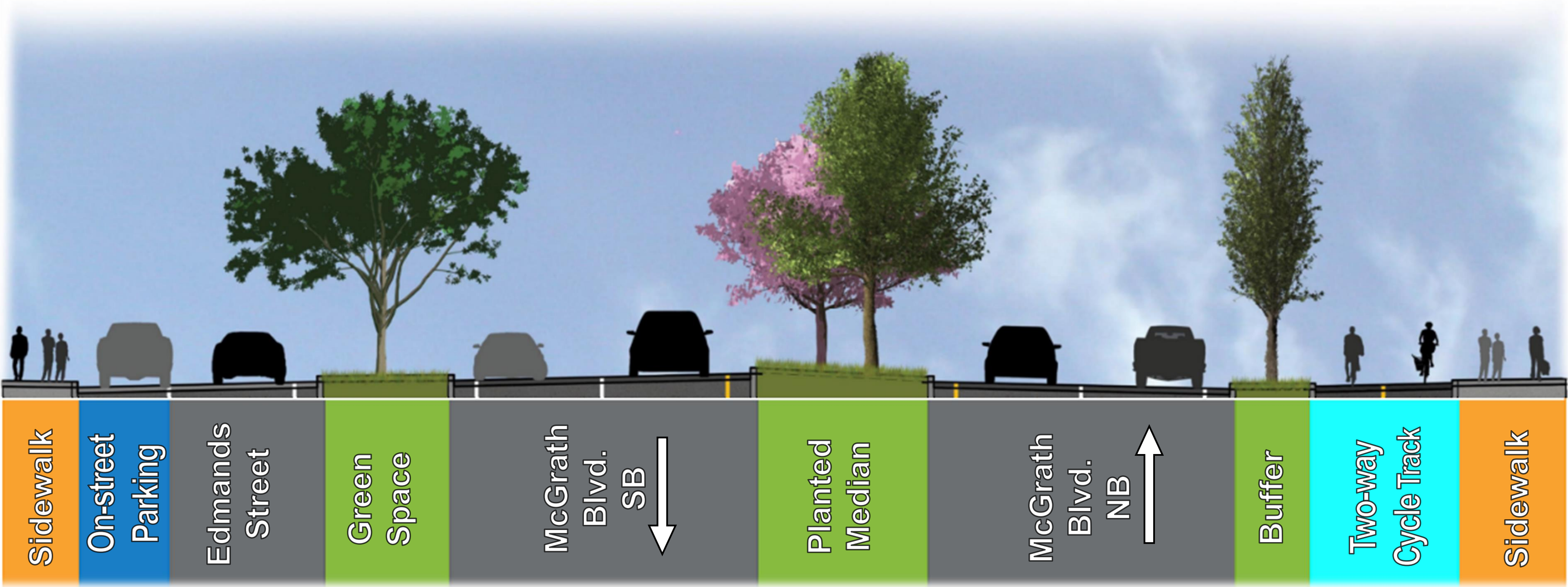
McGrath Boulevard Cross Section north of Bonair Street



Existing McGrath Highway



Section Location

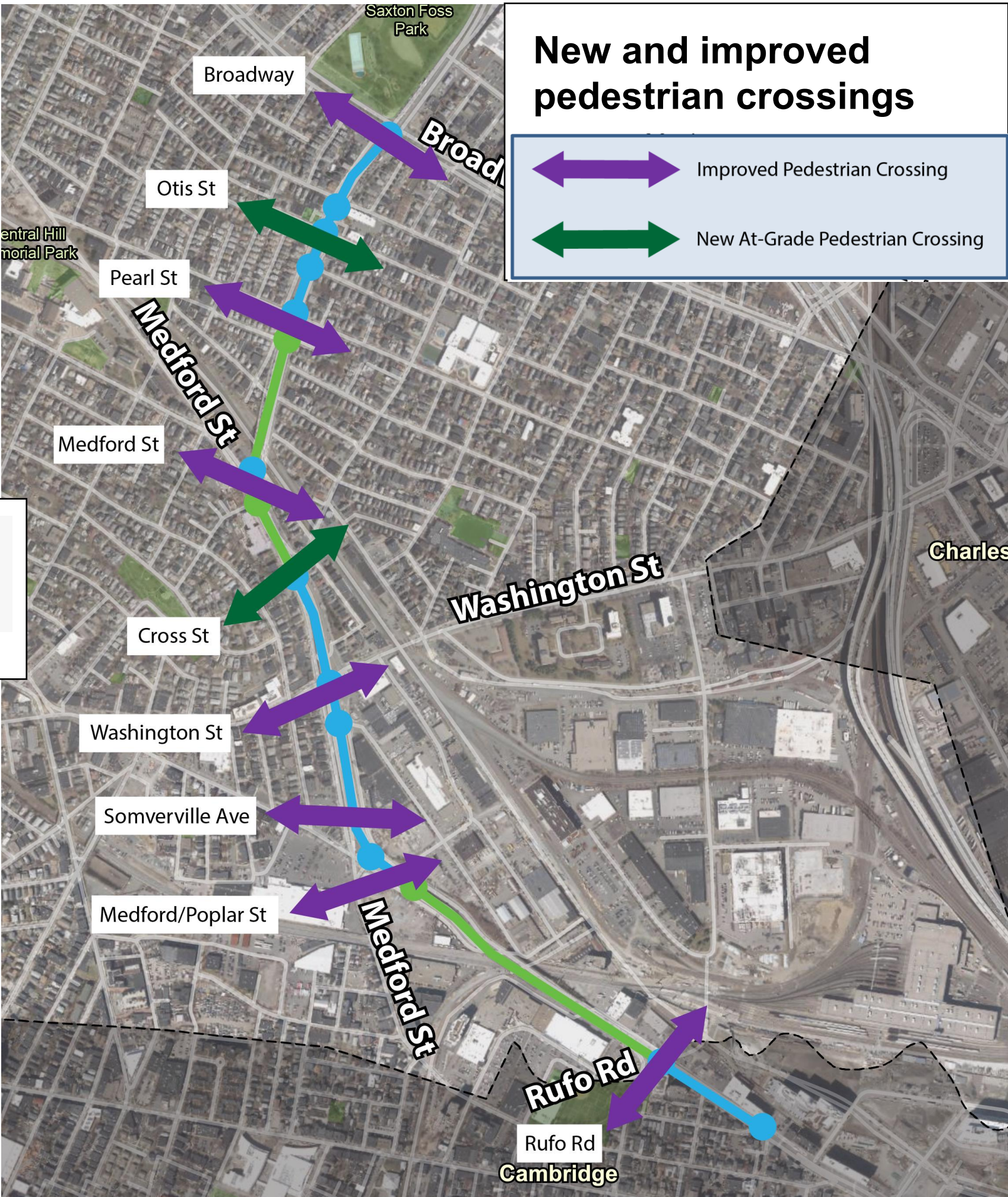
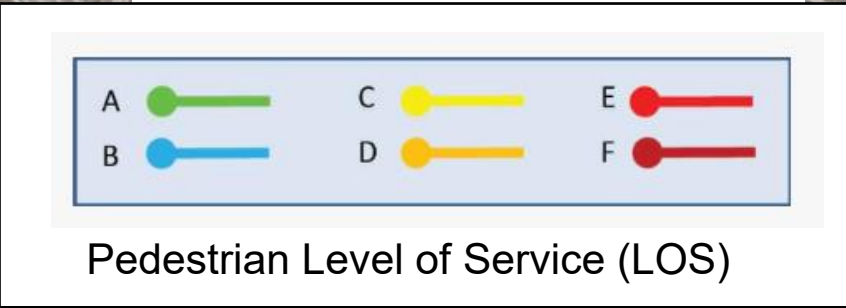
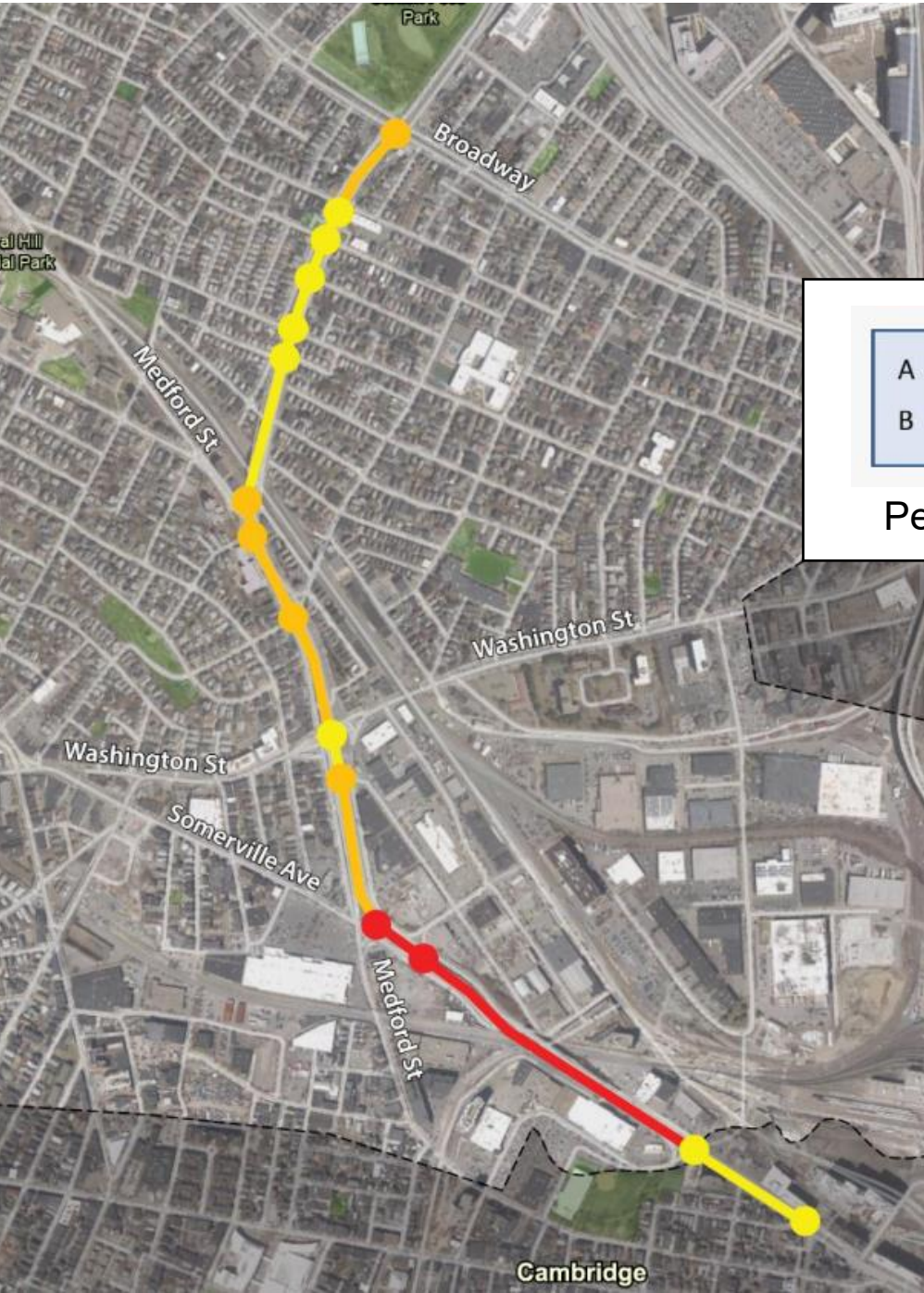




**How will
bicyclists and
pedestrians
benefit?**

Improved Pedestrian Conditions and Connectivity

Existing pedestrian conditions



Improved Bicycle Conditions and Connectivity

Existing bicycle conditions



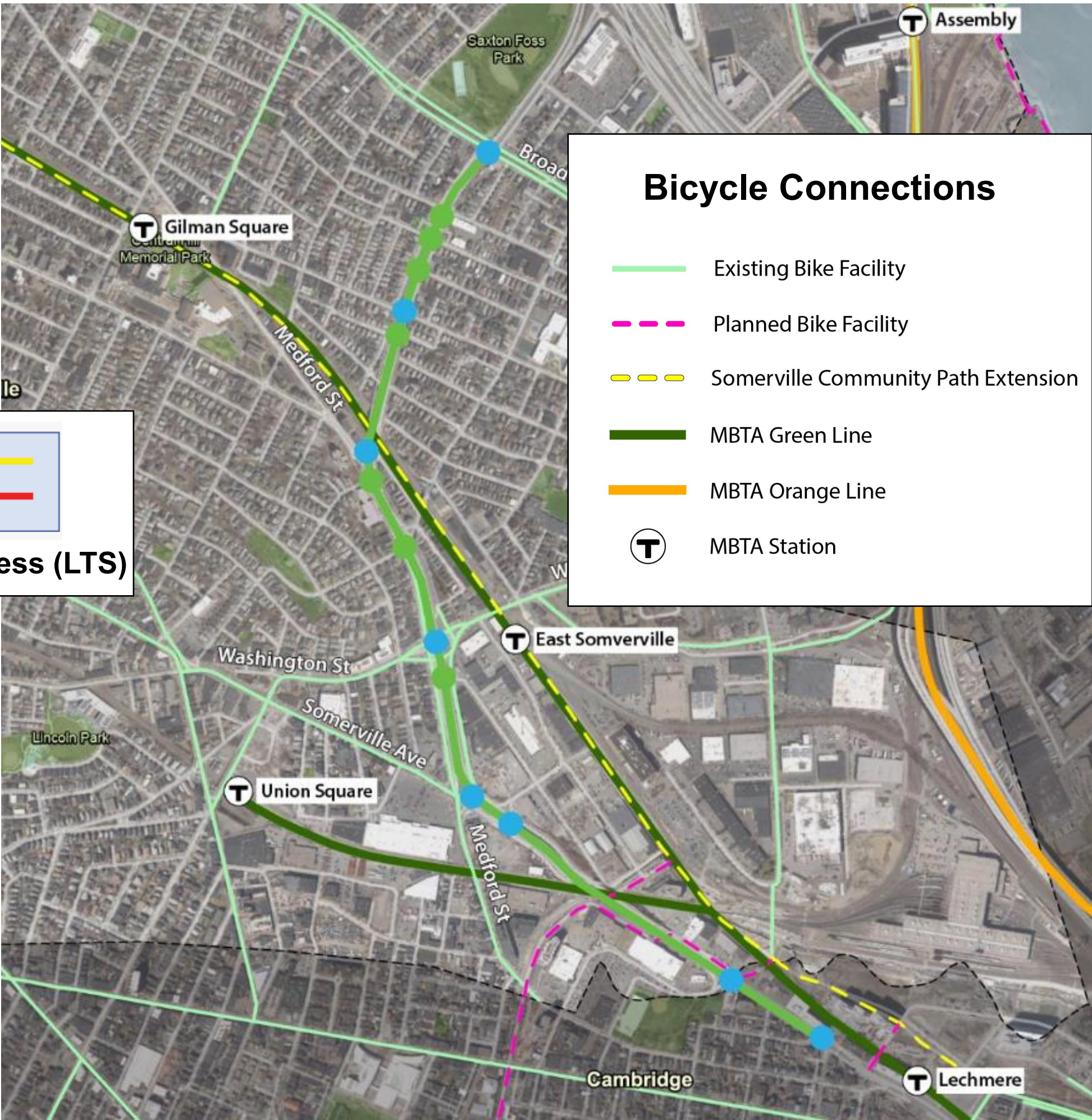
LTS 1

LTS 2

LTS 3

LTS 4

Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress (LTS)



Our next steps



Continue Outreach

- Stakeholders
- EJ neighborhoods
- Somerville
- Cambridge

Ongoing



25% Design

- Project coordination
- Traffic analysis
- RSAs
- Plan development
- Environmental Review
- Preliminary ROW

Summer 2024



Design Public Hearing

- Present full 25% level design

Winter 2024 – 2025



Final Design

- Complete Environmental Review
- 75% Design
- 100% Design
- Complete ROW
- Prepare Bid Package

2025 – 2028



Construction

- Advertisement
- Bid Review
- Select Contractor
- Notice to Proceed

Begins 2028



**How to Stay
Involved?**

How to reach us

- Visit the project website at:
[Roadway Reconstruction on McGrath Highway \(Route 28\)](#)
- Submit email comments to:
massdotmajorprojects@dot.state.ma.us
- For project information visit the MassDOT Upcoming Events for Highway Division web site at
<http://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events> or used the QR Code:
- Submit written comments to:
Carrie Lavalley, P.E., Chief Engineer
MassDOT Highway Division
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116
Attention: **MAJOR PROJECTS**, PROJECT FILE NO. [607981]





Questions and answers

Questions



- “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



- 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.



City of **Somerville**

Thank You

McGrath Boulevard Construction

Zoom | February 13, 2024 | 6:30 PM

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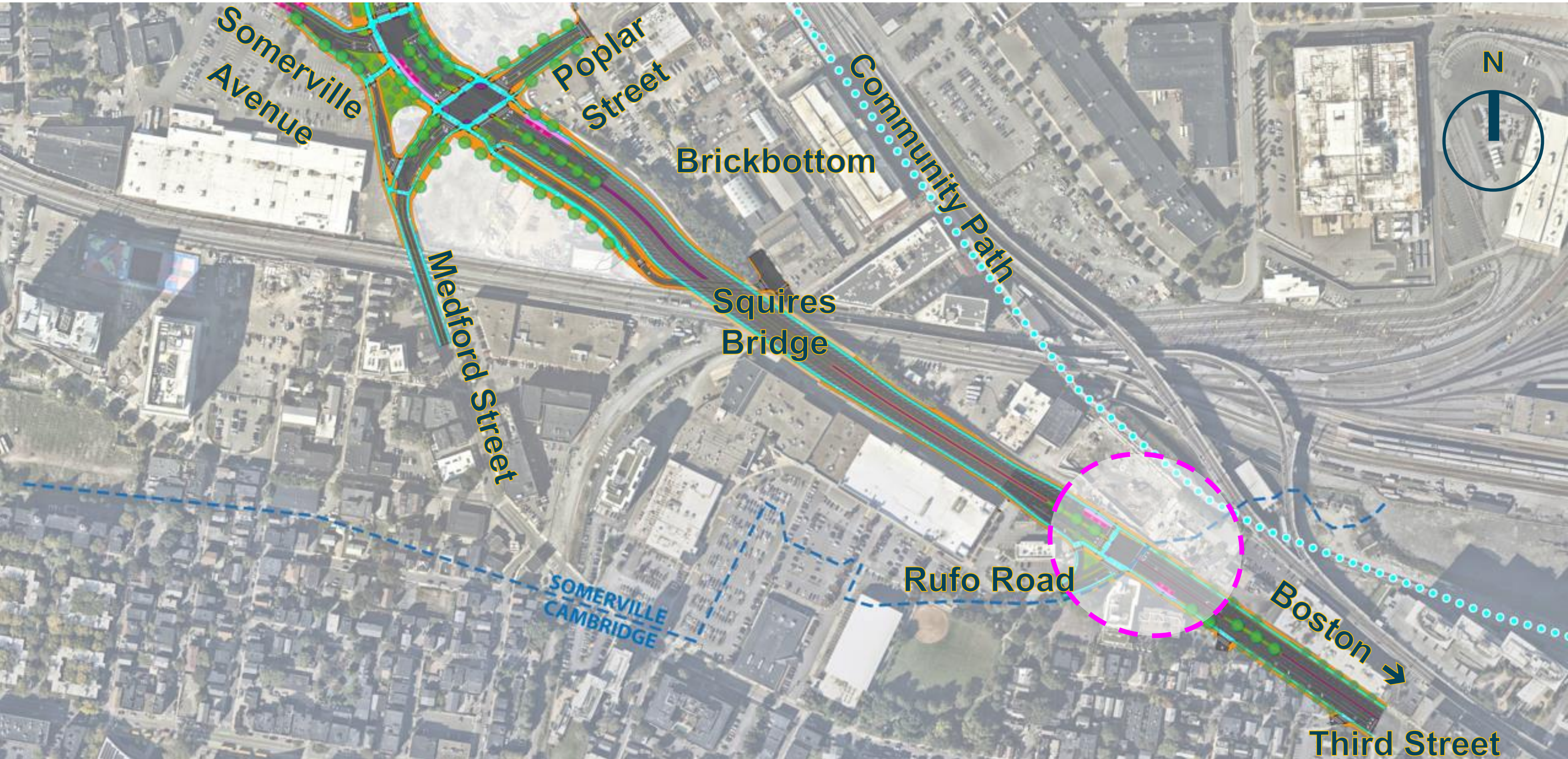
Project Manager – Christopher Cameron



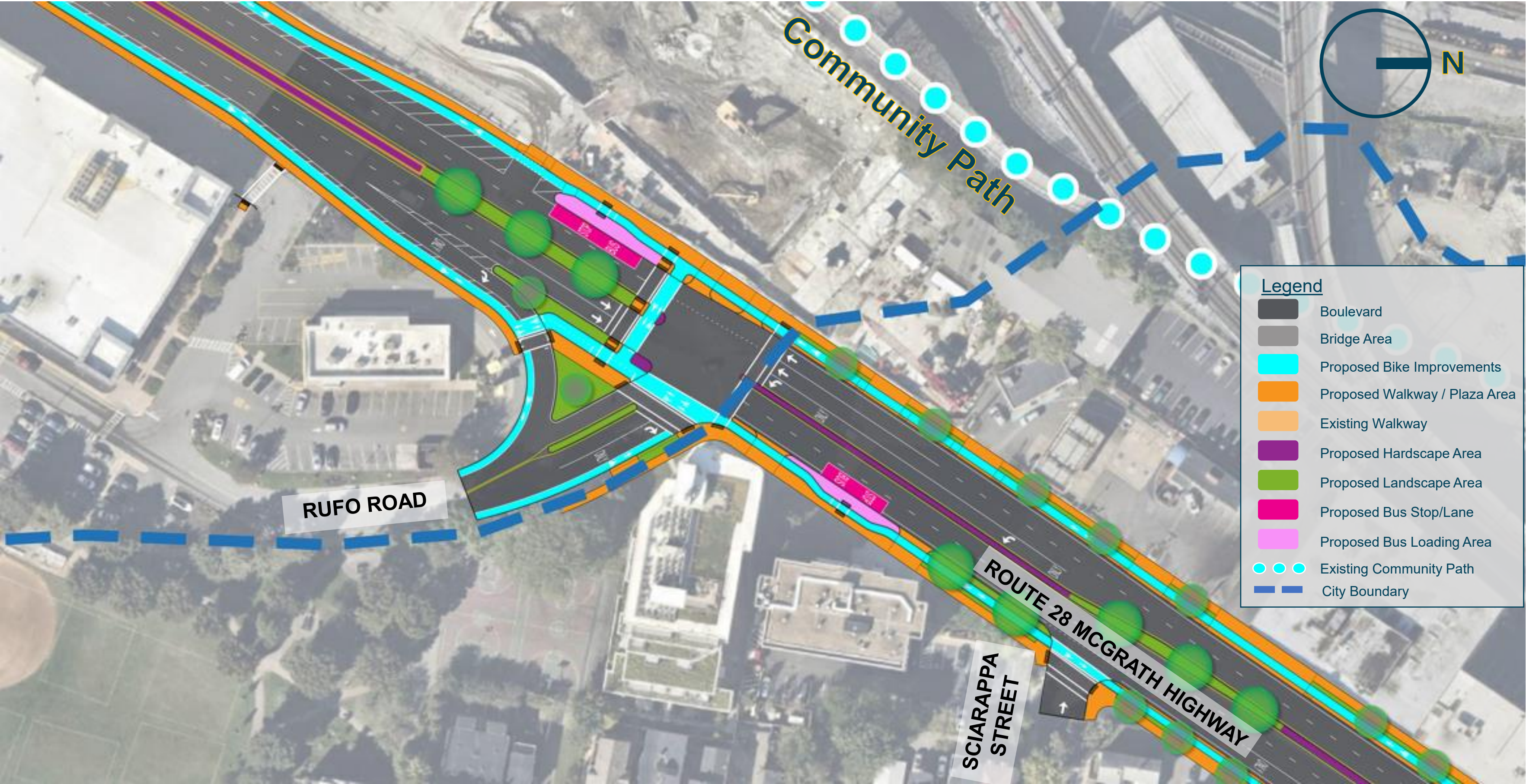


Design Q&A Slides

Concept Design: Southern Section



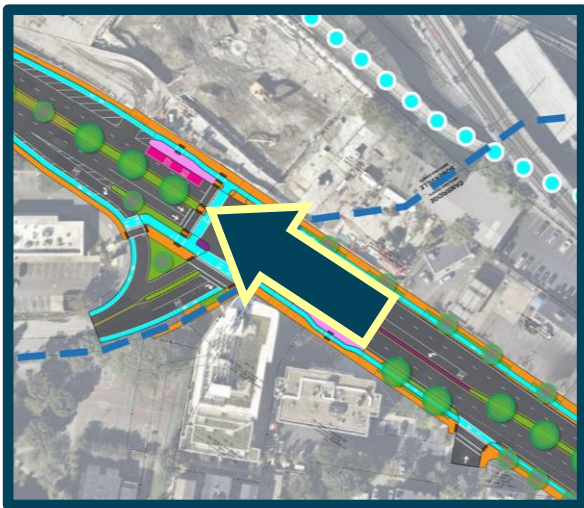
Rufo Road at McGrath Highway



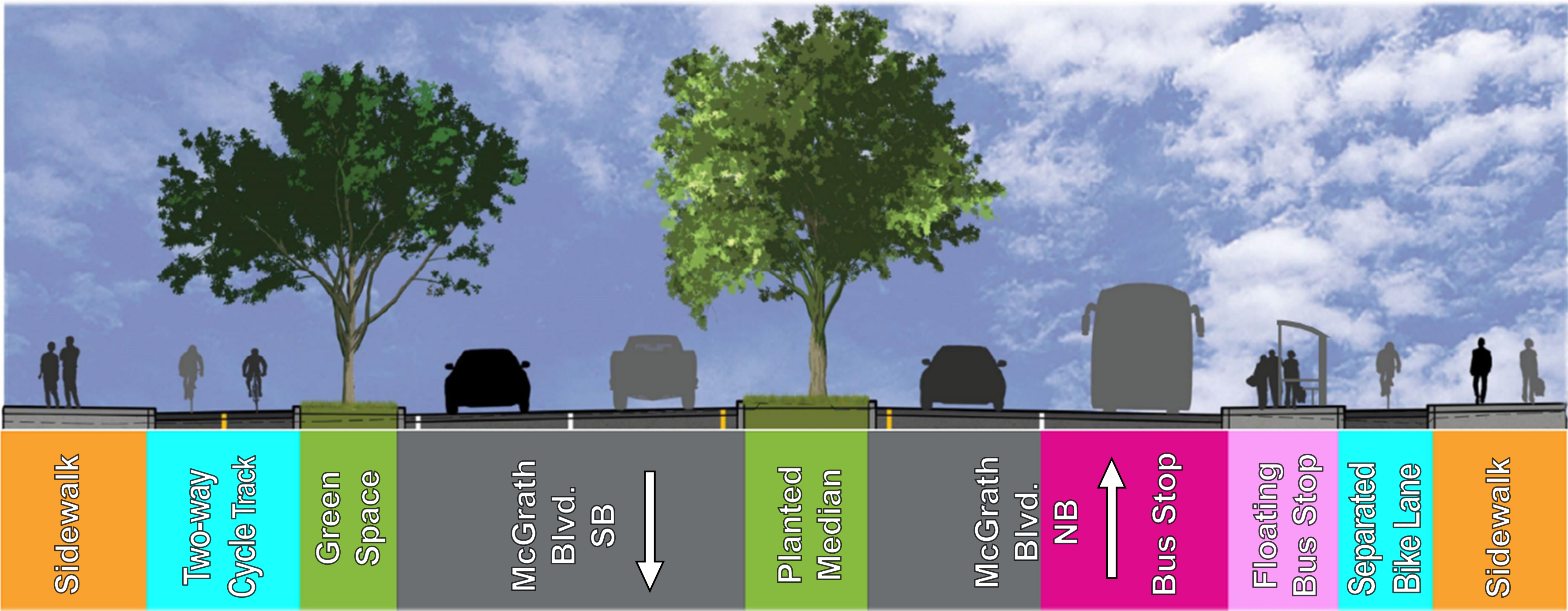
McGrath Boulevard Cross Section north of Rufo Road



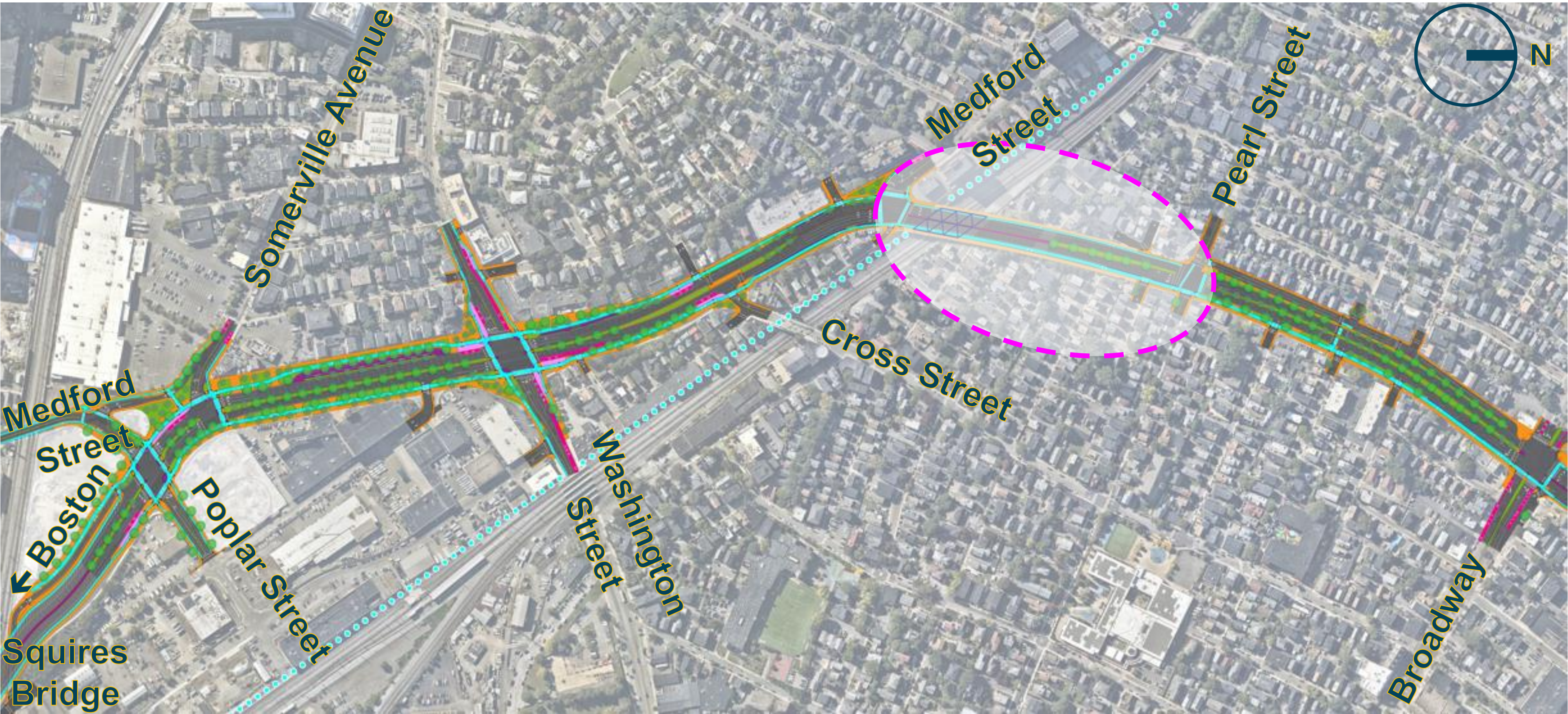
Existing McGrath Highway



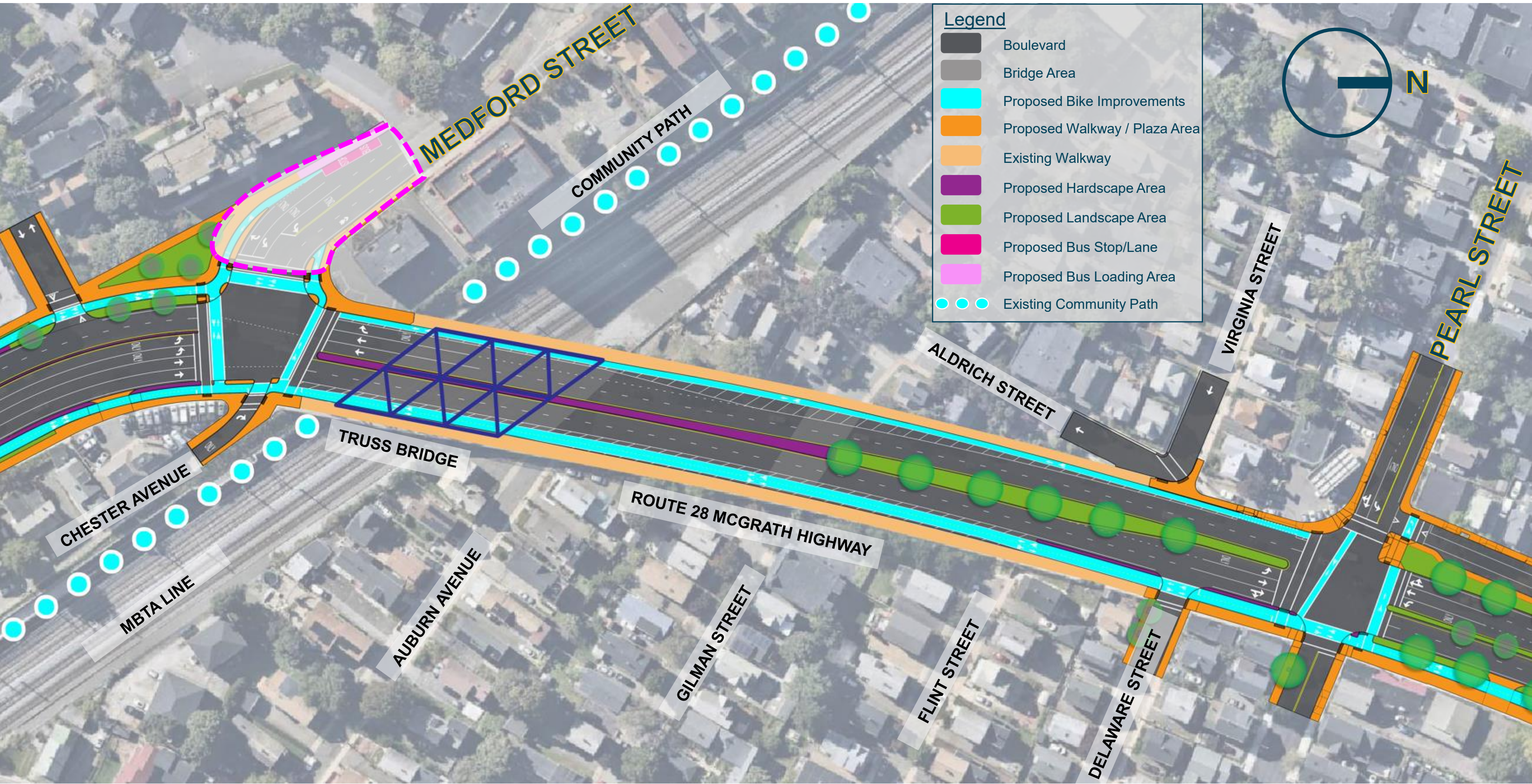
Section Location



Concept Design: Highland Avenue Truss Bridge



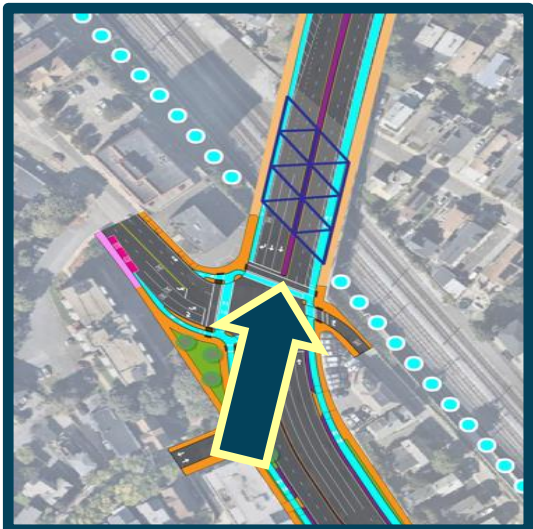
Highland Avenue Truss Bridge



McGrath Boulevard Cross Section Highland Ave Truss Bridge



Existing Truss Bridge



Section Location

