



# Route 30 over the Charles River






*25% Design Public Hearing*

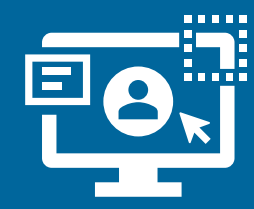
August 11, 2021 | 6:00 PM

Project File No. 110980



# Zoom controls

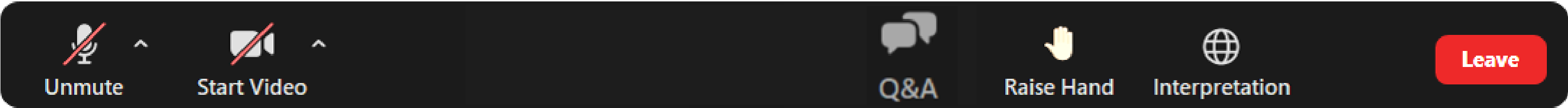
-  • Listen in English
-  • Drop down menu to check microphone and speakers
-  • Ask a question and share comments
-  • Raise your hand
-  • If you are unable to access the internet or are having technical problems, please call into the meeting at 646-876-9923, Webinar ID: 822 9543 4870



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

(857) 202 - 1244

Closed captioning automatically generated by Zoom



# 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 chat transcript.
- By continuing attendance with this virtual public meeting, you are consenting to participate in a recorded event.
- All recordings and chat transcript will be considered a public record.
- If you are not comfortable being recorded, please turn off your camera, keep your microphone muted, and refrain from chatting in the transcript box. Otherwise, you may choose to excuse yourself from the meeting.

## Important notes

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

**All questions and comments are welcome and appreciated, however we do request that you refrain from any disrespectful comments.**

# Public Hearing Notification Process

Newton	Weston
<div>Brennan Public Library</div> <div>Mart’s Fine Wine</div> <div>Newton Boathouse</div> <div>Newton City Hall</div> <div>Newton Free Library</div> <div>Newton Public Library – Auburndale</div> <div>Newton Wine &amp; Spirits</div> <div>Post Office</div> <div>Post Office – Auburndale</div> <div>Shaw’s Star Market – Auburndale</div> <div>Starbuck’s – Auburndale</div> <div>Woodland Golf Course</div> <div><i>Newton Tab</i></div> <div>NewTV</div>	<div>Leo J Martin Memorial Golf Course</div> <div>Weston Town Hall</div> <div>Weston Public Library</div> <div><i>Weston Town Cryer</i></div> <div>Weston Media Center</div>



# Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Project Area
3. Existing Issues
4. Project Goals
5. Project Scope
6. Next Steps





# Project Team

## MassDOT

- Project proponent

## Hardesty & Hanover

- Structural design

## Howard Stein Hudson

- Civil design

## Halvorson Design Partners

- Landscaping design

## MassDOT Highway & Bridge Division

- Design process administration
- Resident engineer services

## Federal Highway Administration

- Oversight

## MassDOT/ City of Newton

- Roadway owners



# How Did We Get Here?



**November 18  
2020**

City of Newton  
Public Facilities  
and Public  
Safety and  
Transportation  
Councils



**January 11  
2021**

City of Newton  
Commission on  
Disabilities



**January 14 & 20  
2021**

City of Newton  
Public Meeting

City of Newton  
Public Facilities  
and Public Safety  
and Transportation  
Councils



**April 28  
2021**

Department of  
Conservation and  
Recreation (DCR)  
Engagement



**August 11  
2021**

25% Design  
Public Hearing



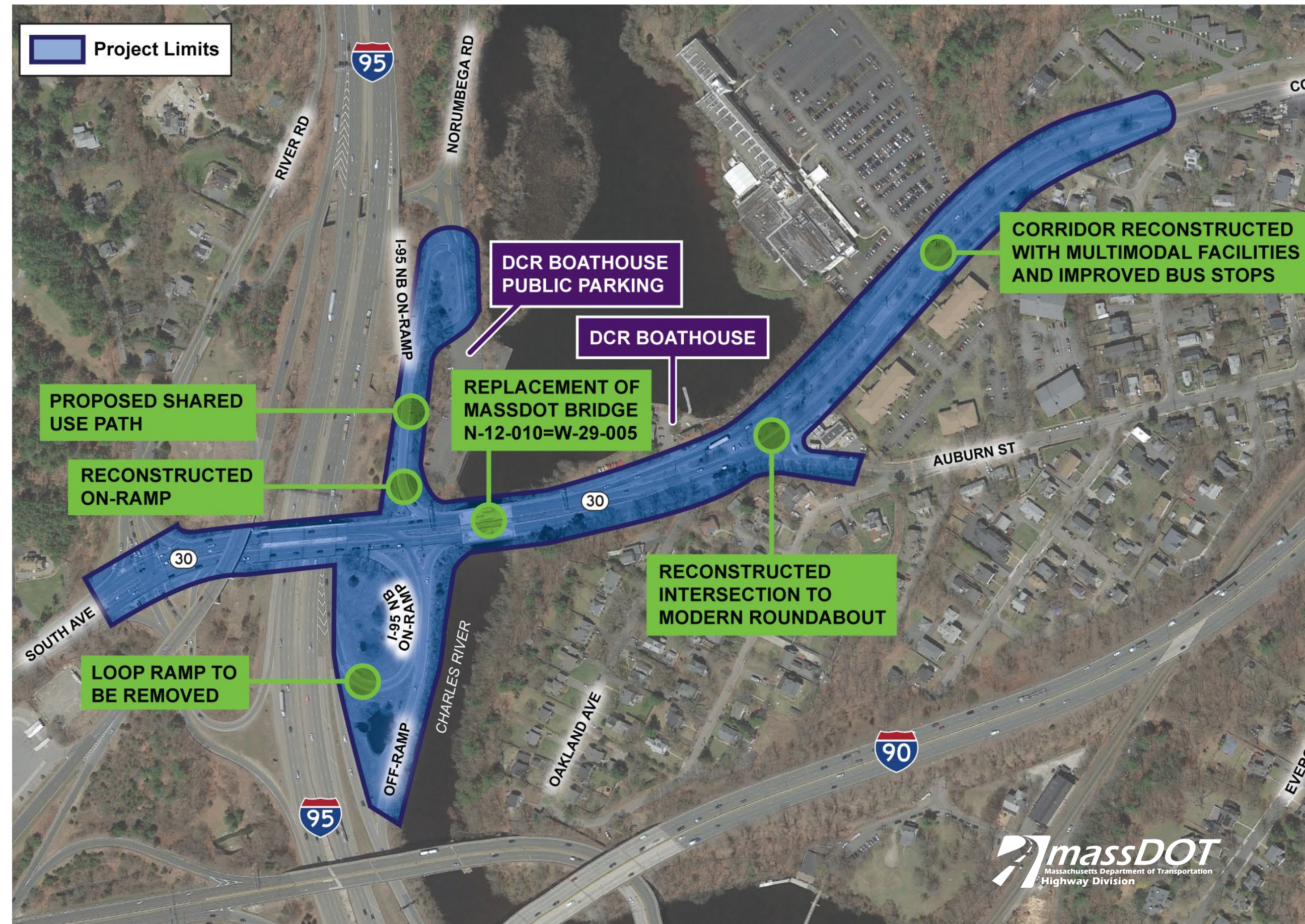


**Why was this  
project  
initiated?**



# Project Area

- Weston / Newton Town Line extending into the Auburndale neighborhood of Newton
- Includes work on:
  - Route 30 (Commonwealth Avenue)
  - Auburn Street
  - I-95 NB Ramps
- Approximately 0.8 miles





# Existing Issues – Structural Issues on Bridge





## Existing Issues – Structural Issues on Bridge





# Safety Analysis

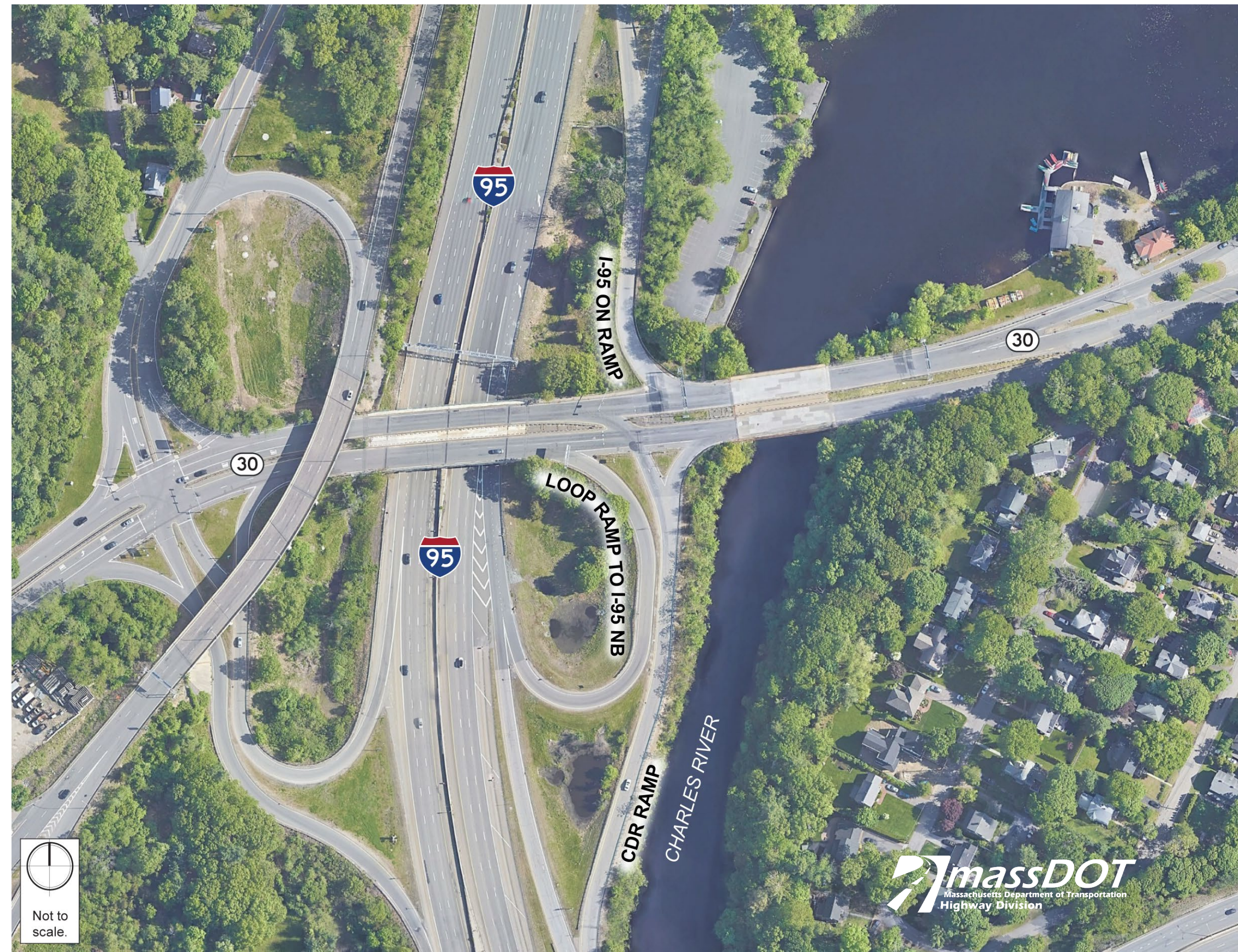
- Five years of police crash reports (2014-2018) for the study area intersections, ramps, and freeways/roadways were provided by MassDOT
- A Road Safety Audit (RSA) for Route 30 at River Road/I-95 Southbound Ramps was completed in August 2019





## Existing Issues - Substandard highway ramp weave and geometry

- Closely spaced merging areas onto I-95 northbound
- Substandard weaving length on the collector-distributor road





## Existing Issues - Intersection Safety – Route 30 at Auburn Street

- Confusing Intersection geometry at Auburn Street
- High speeds through the intersection
- Missing accessible facilities to cross Commonwealth Ave and access to Oakland Ave





## Existing Issues - Intersection safety (cont.)

- High speed access across sidewalks at Speedway driveway
- Poor sight lines / limited visibility of conflicting traffic
- Existing crossing missing audible pedestrian signal, markings, and warning signs
- Undefined/controlled tractor trailer parking



*Auburn Street, looking North*



# Existing Issues - Lack of pedestrian and bicycle facilities



*Route 30 westbound, looking west*





**What do we  
want to  
accomplish?**



# Project Goals

- **Structurally Obsolete Bridge** | Replace Bridge
- **Intersection Safety** | Improve Route 30 Corridor & Auburn Street Intersection
- **Interchange Safety** | Decrease Weaving, Consolidate Ramps and Improve Access
- **Complete Streets Accommodations** | Improve Safety and Connectivity for Cyclists and Pedestrians, and Provide ADA-Compliant Facilities
- **Environmental** | Treat Stormwater, Increase Green Space, and Provide Access to River
- **Vehicular Access and Operations** | Provide safe access and mobility





**What is the  
proposed  
design?**



# Proposed Design Overview

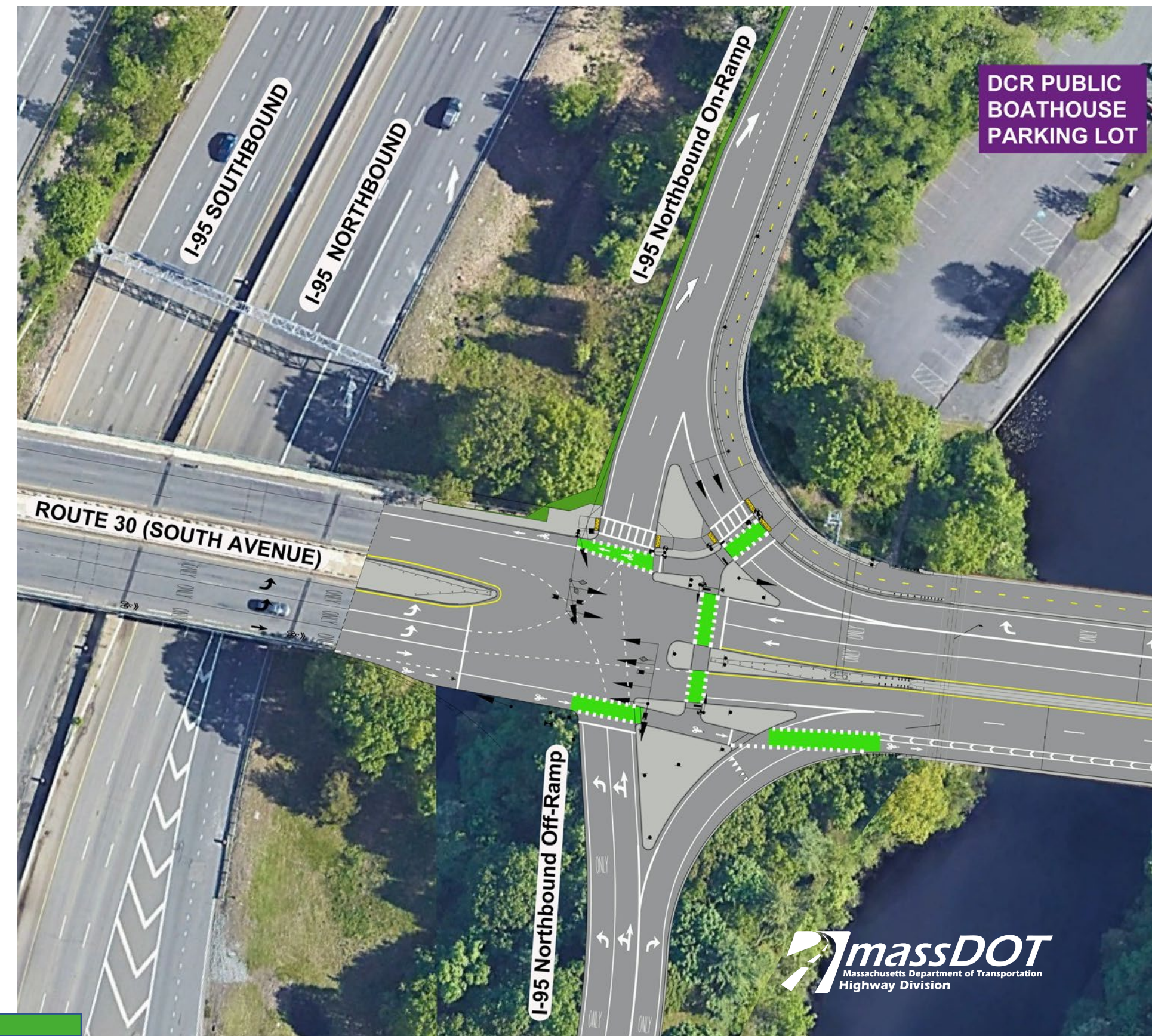
- Replace the Bridge over the Charles River
- Modification to Route 30 at I-95 Intersection / Interchange
- Auburn Street intersection reconstruction
- Bi-directional shared use path and bicycle lanes
- Repaving or reconstructing all pavement
- Reallocate greenspace and provide landscaping





# Proposed Design – I-95 Ramps

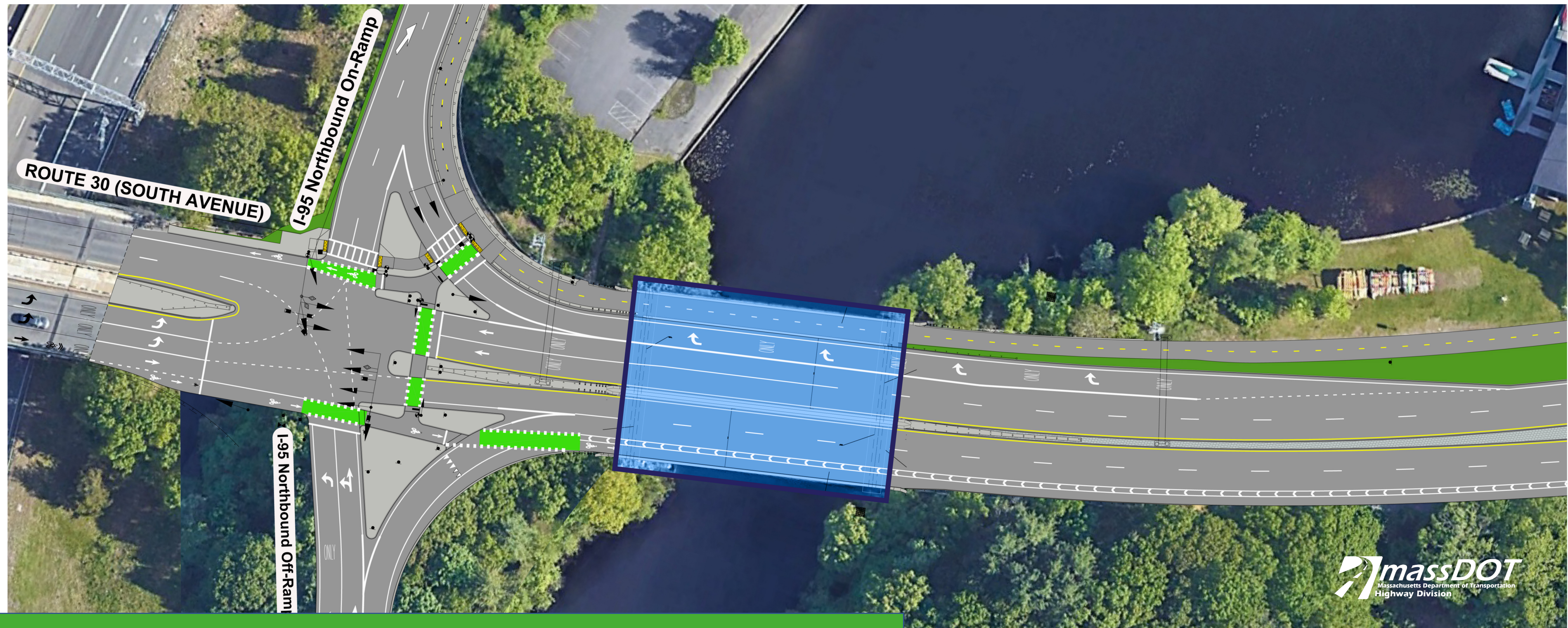
- Reconstructed I-95 northbound ramp
- Eliminated Route 30 to I-95 northbound loop ramp – pavement restored to green space
- Shared-use path from Route 30 to DCR boathouse parking lot and Nurembega Road
- Eastbound buffered bike lane
- New signal equipment and accessible pedestrian and bike signals





# Proposed Design – Route 30 (Commonwealth Avenue)

- Full bridge replacement
- Shared-use path
- Eastbound buffered bike lane
- Narrowed median with extended turning lane





# Proposed Design – Bridge Replacement





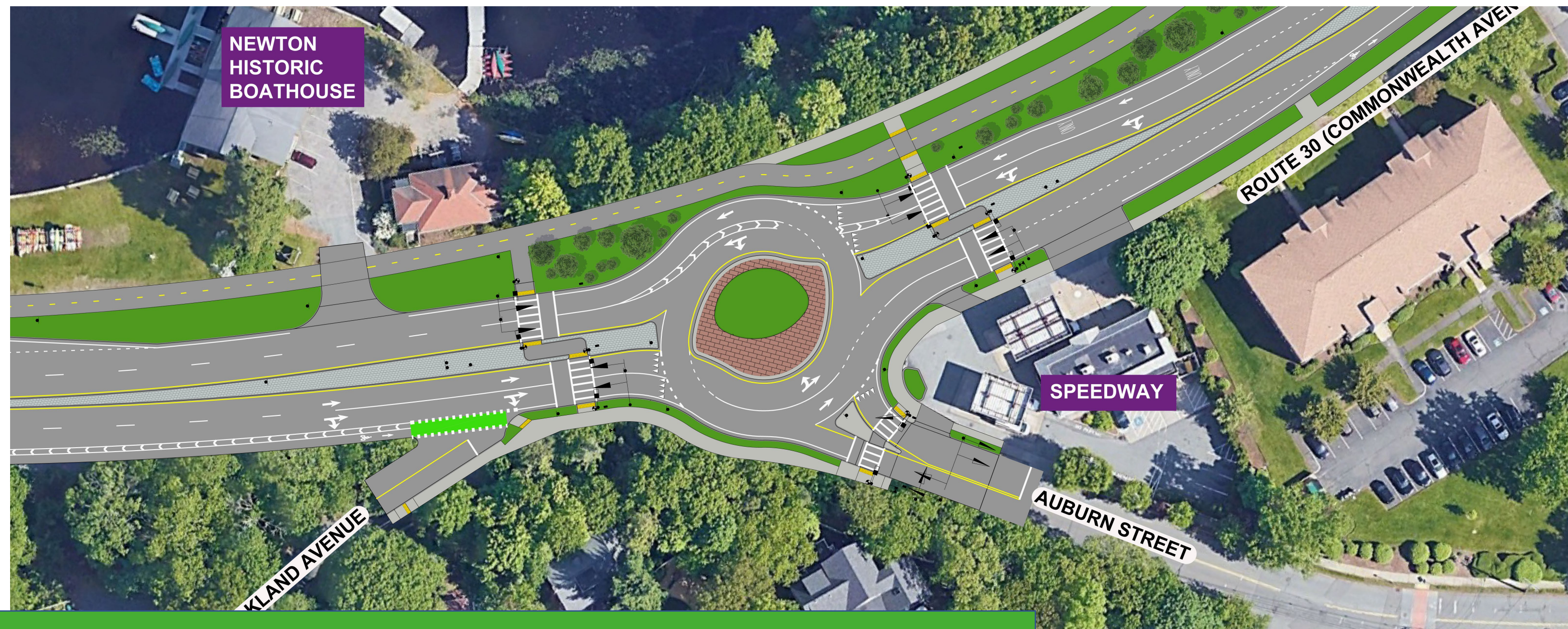
# Proposed Design – Bridge Replacement





# Proposed Design – Auburn Street Intersection

- Reconstructed as a Modern roundabout
- Signalized shared pedestrian and bike crossings
- Accessible pedestrian and bike facilities
- Pickup/Drop-off/Delivery area at Boathouse
- Raised pedestrian crossing on Auburn Street
- Reallocated landscape zone from median to buffer





# Modern Multi-lane Roundabout

## Safety

- Manages vehicular speeds to 20-25mph at the intersection
- High reduction in likelihood of future severe crashes

## Accessibility and multimodal accommodations

- Accessible shared-use paths, sidewalks, and pedestrian ramps
- Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (Hawk) for Route 30

## Traffic operations

- Comparable performance in all alternatives

## Environmental impacts

- Largest amount of greenspace / pervious area buffer for shared-use path and roadway

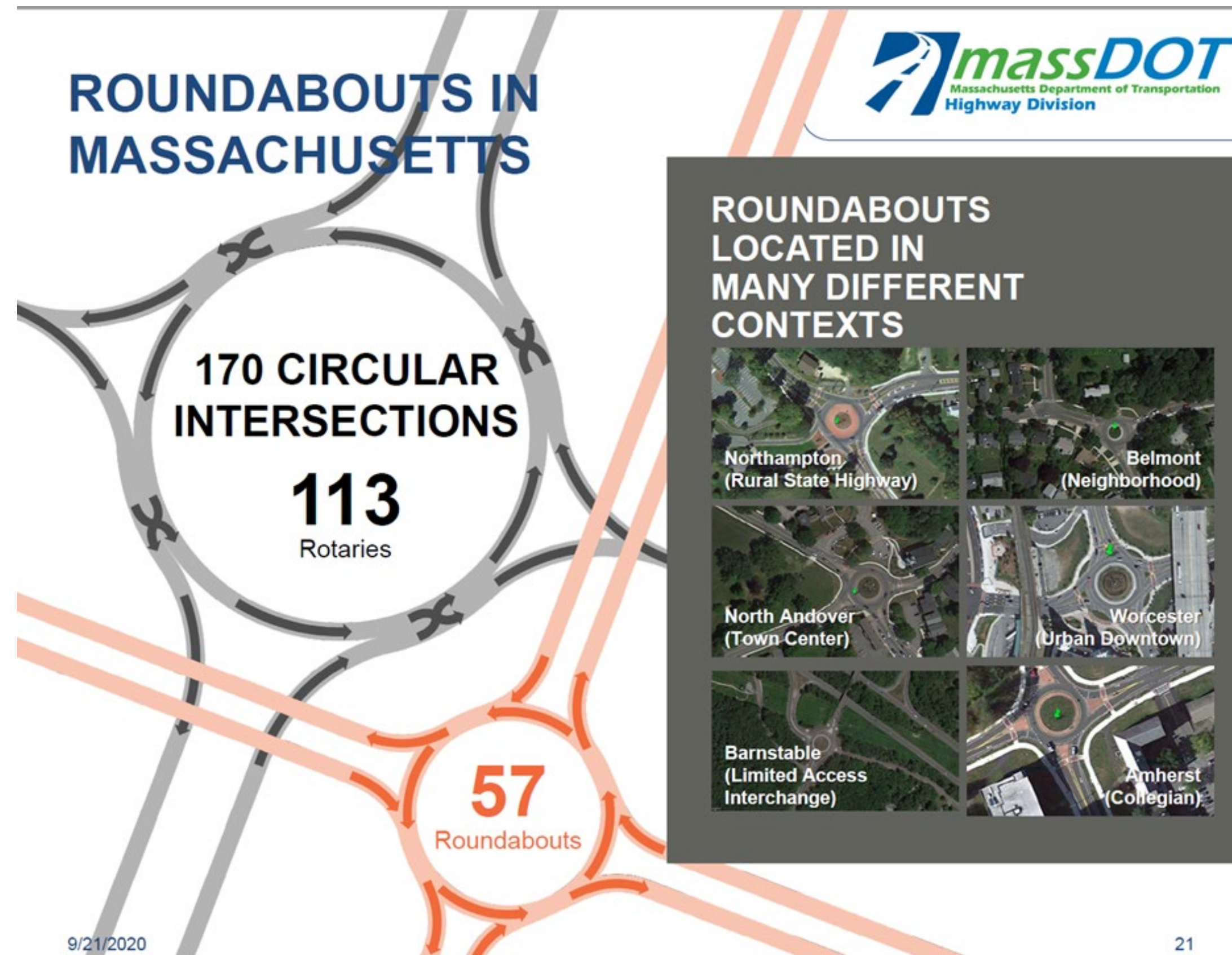
## Vehicular access

- Direct access to Oakdale Avenue and Auburn Street
- Immediate U-turn access to access to DCR Boathouse for eastbound
- Maintains access to the Speedway Gas Station and Marriott



# About Roundabouts

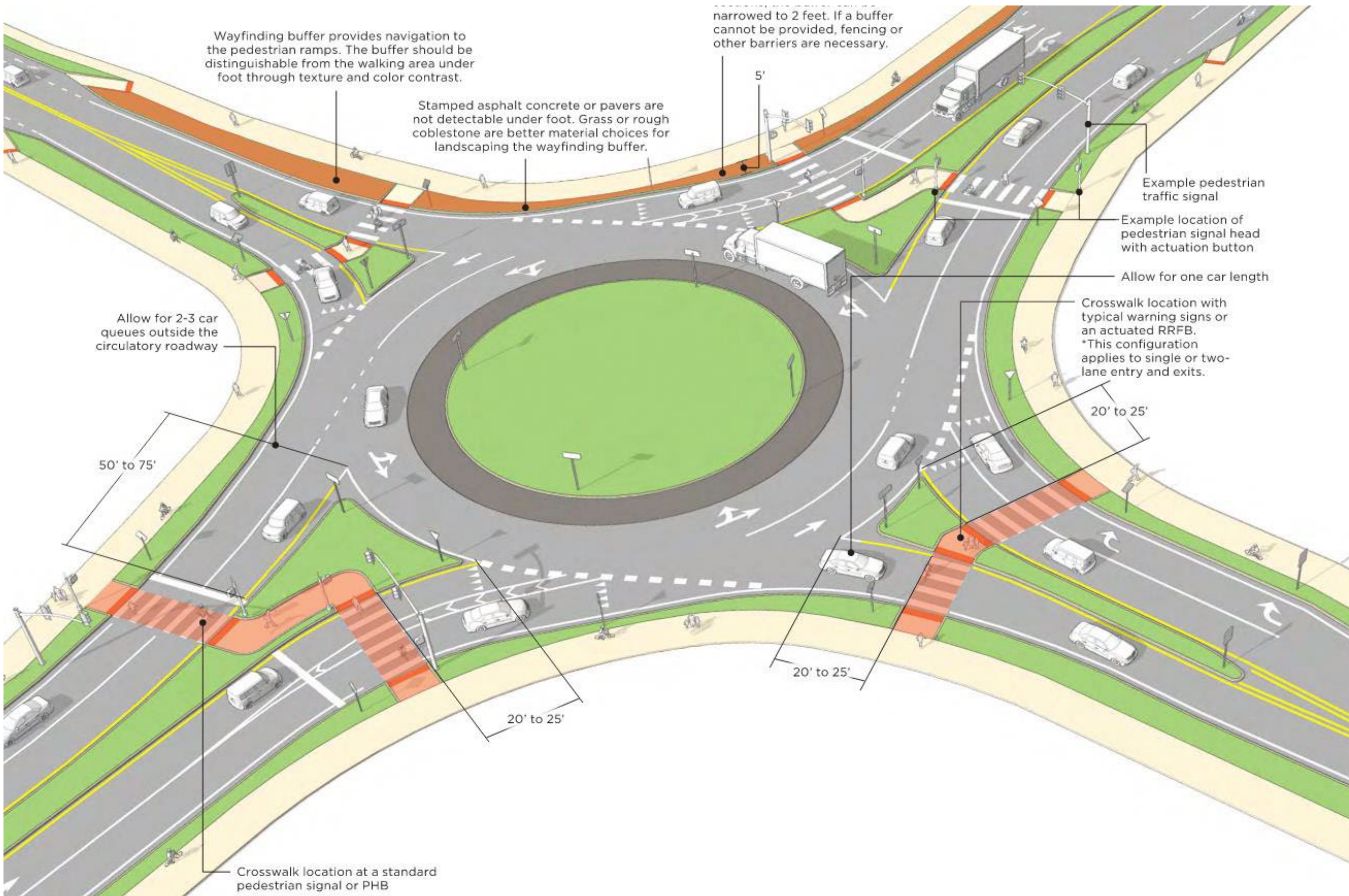
- Newton will not be the first Massachusetts municipality to implement a modern roundabout:
  - Lake Ave / South Ave – Worcester
  - Route 85 / Broad St – Hudson
  - Boylston St / Lincoln St – Worcester
  - Route 28 – Chatham
  - Main Street / Route 146 – Millbury
  - Route 115 – Norfolk
  - Route 116 – South Amherst





# About Roundabouts

- The proposed roundabout follows established best practices





# Guide Signs – Roundabout Approach



D1-5



D1-2d



# Signs and Markings – Roundabout Entry

Examples of signs and markings that guide lane use and driving behaviors through roundabouts





# Signs and Markings – Entry and Departure

Examples of signs and markings that guide lane use and driving behaviors through roundabouts



*Guide signs*



*Guide and Yield signs*



# Traffic Impacts





# Proposed Design - Route 30 east of Auburn Street

- Accessible bus stops
- Separated bi-directional bike lane
- ADA-accessible sidewalks
- Raised pedestrian and bike driveway crossings
- Reallocated landscape zone from median to buffer
- Midblock crossing with pedestrian crossing
- Tie-in to Newton Carriageway project







**How will the  
road user be  
affected?**



# Construction Impacts

Phased construction over 3 years

No detour routes are anticipated

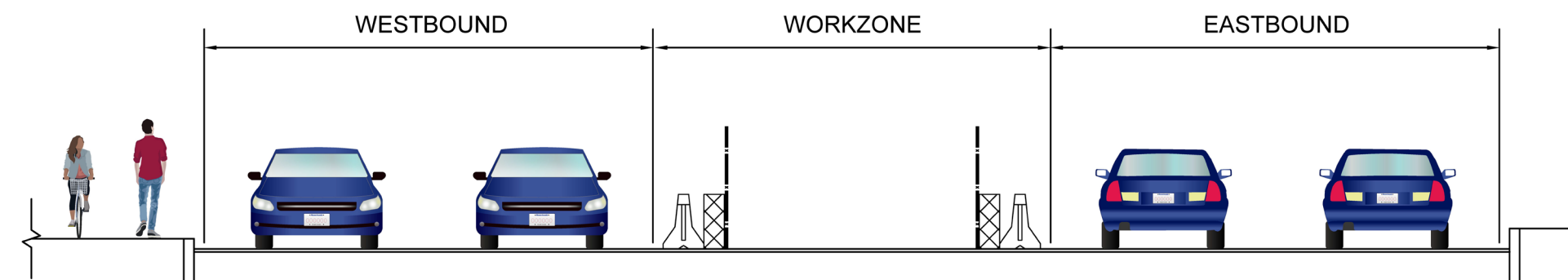
## Travel Lane Impacts

- Travel lanes will be realigned and lane reductions may be necessary during construction

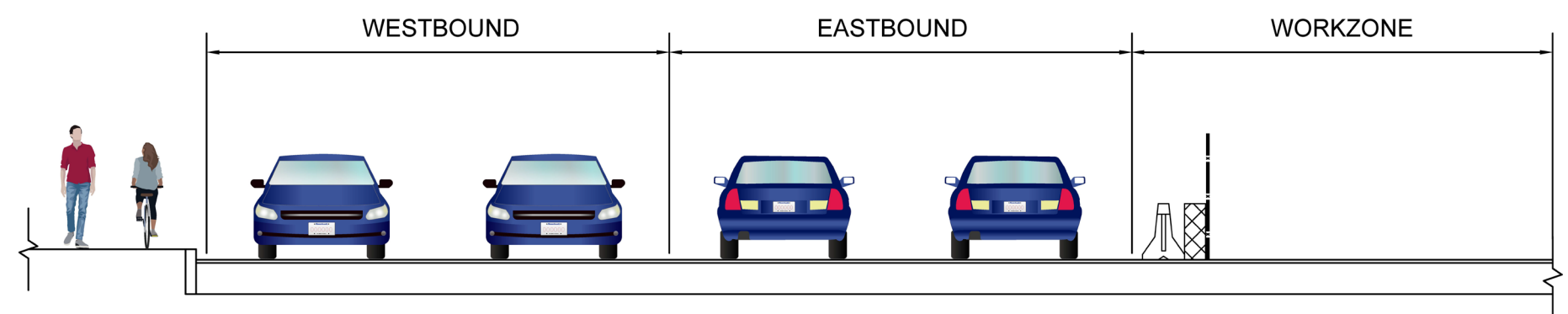
## Ramp Impacts

- I-95 northbound Loop Ramp will be closed after traffic is rerouted to the reconstructed ramp

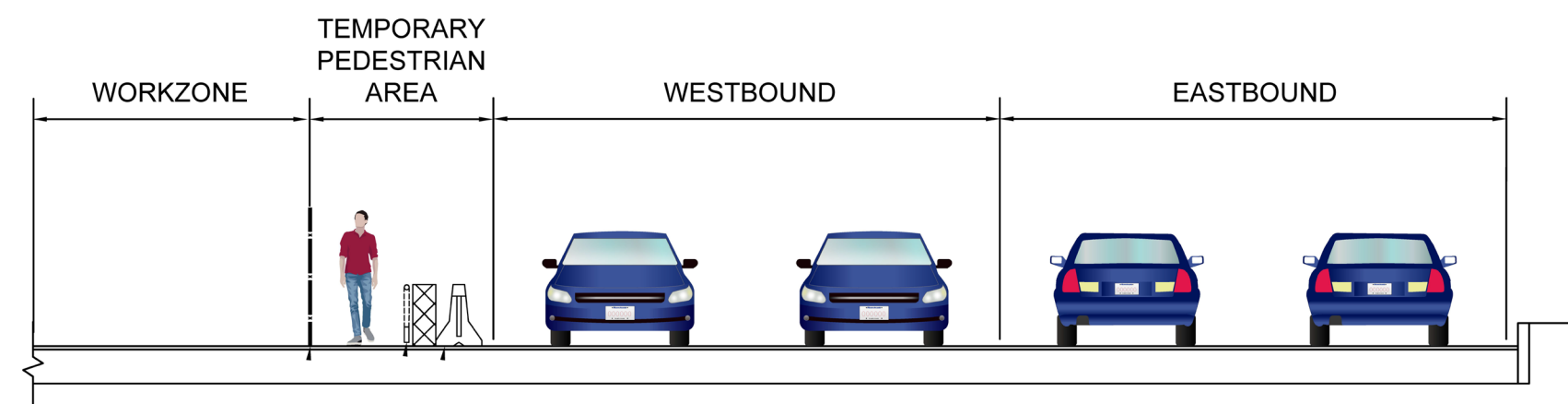
**Safe and accessible pedestrian routes will be maintained throughout construction**



COMMONWEALTH AVENUE (ROUTE 30) | BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION - MIDDLE (STAGE 1) NOT TO SCALE



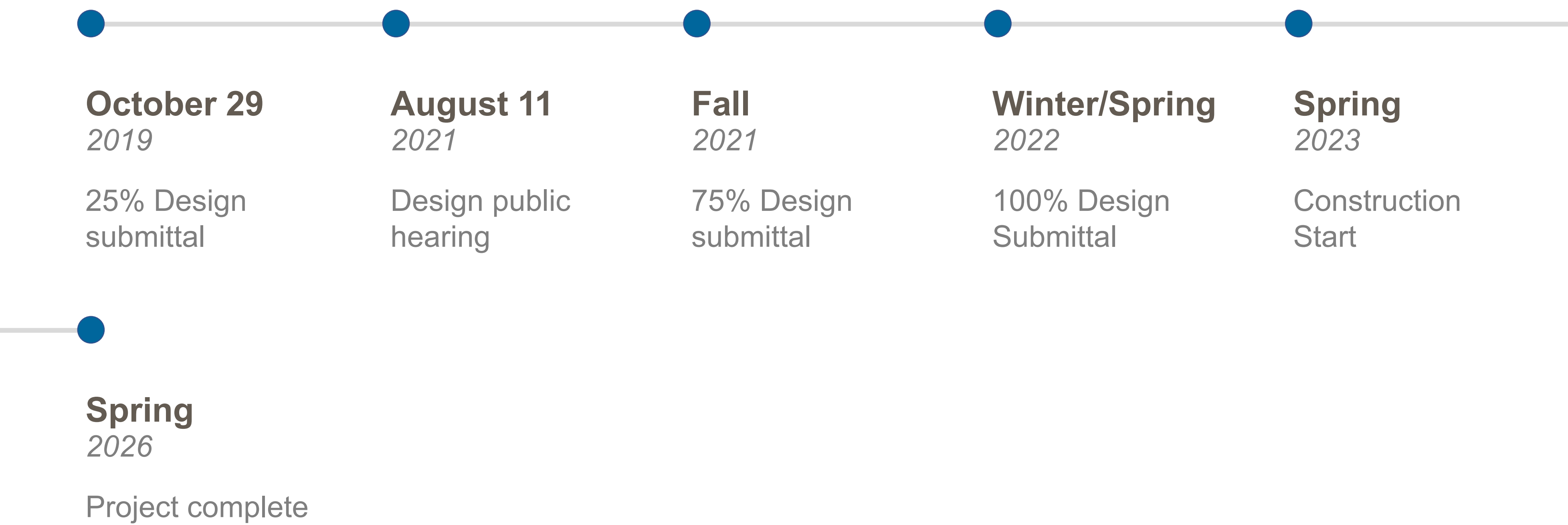
COMMONWEALTH AVENUE (ROUTE 30) | BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION - SOUTH SIDE (STAGE 2) NOT TO SCALE



COMMONWEALTH AVENUE (ROUTE 30) | BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION - NORTH SIDE (STAGE 3) NOT TO SCALE



# Anticipated Project Schedule







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



# Environmental Reviews and Potential Permitting

## Charles River

- Section 401 and 404 of Clean Water Act
- Wetlands Protection Act
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

## Endangered species

- Northern long-eared bat

## Cultural Resources Evaluations

- Section 106 – Historic Preservation
- Article 97 – Land Disposition
- Section 4(f) – Open Space and Parkland







**How will we  
keep you  
informed?**



# We Want to Hear from You:

**Written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to:**

Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E.

Acting Chief Engineer

Via email: [dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us](mailto:dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us)

Or US Mail: 10 Park Plaza, Suite 6340, Boston, MA 02110

Attention: Robert Antico, Project File No. 110980

**Note:** Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing/meeting transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing.





# Questions and discussion



# Questions and answers



- “Raise your hand” to be unmuted for verbal questions



- 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*

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