

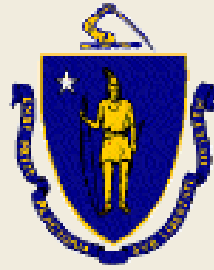


# Mount Auburn Street Corridor Study



January 31, 2016  
Shady Hill School





# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Governor  
**Charles D. Baker**

Lieutenant Governor  
**Karyn E. Polito**

Energy and Environmental Secretary  
**Matthew A. Beaton**

Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner  
**Leo P. Roy**



## **DCR Mission Statement**

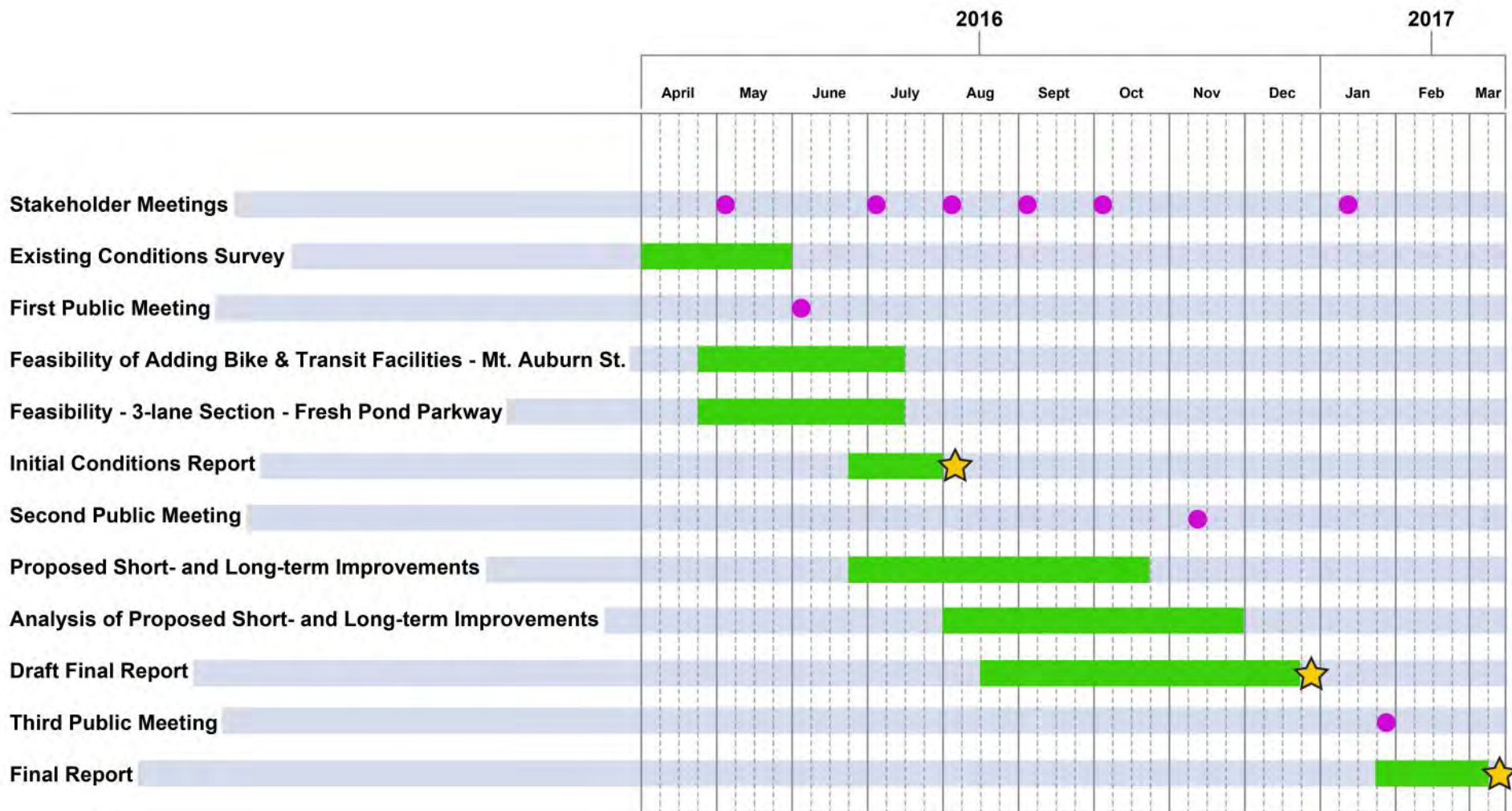
*To protect, promote and enhance our  
common wealth of natural, cultural  
and recreational resources  
for the well-being of all.*



# Project Area



# Schedule



# Agenda

- Welcome
- Community Engagement
- Feedback to Comments
- Analysis Changes
- Did We Achieve Goals?
- Next Steps
- Discussion



# Community Engagement



# Community Engagement Overview:

- Public Meetings: allow the public at large an opportunity to voice their ideas and concerns as the study progresses
- Stakeholder Group: meeting monthly to advise DCR on neighborhood's goals and desires.
- Wikimap: a means for feedback from folks that can't attend meetings
- DCR balances your input with:
  - Environmental Review
  - Historic status
  - Funding Requirements
  - Regional Needs





# Community Engagement Overview:

April 14, 2016	Site Walk
May 5, 2016	Stakeholder Group
June 1, 2016	Public
June 23, 2016	Stakeholder Group
July 21, 2016	Stakeholder Group
August 18, 2016	Stakeholder Group
September 15, 2016	Stakeholder Group
November 1, 2016	Stakeholder Group
November 14, 2016	Public
January 10, 2017	Stakeholder Group
January 18, 2017	Site Walk Reunion
January 31, 2017	Public

- Public Meetings Advertised 2 weeks prior to each public meeting:
  - Watertown TAB
  - Belmont Citizen-Herald
  - Cambridge Chronicle
- Emails and Flyers went to stakeholders to let their communities know about the public meetings.

# April: Review of Previous Planning Work

DCR Parkway Study (Now)	DCR Charles River Connectivity Study (2014)	DCR Lowell Memorial Park Cultural Landscape Report (2014)	MBTA Focus 40 (Now)	MBTA Key Bus Route Improvement Program (2013)
Envision Cambridge (Now)	Cambridge Transit Strategic Plan (Interim 2014 & Now)	Cambridge Bicycle Plan (2015)	Cambridge Riverfront Plan (2011)	Cambridge Pedestrian Plan (2000)
West Cambridge Neighborhood Study (2007)	Strawberry Hill Neighborhood Plan (2007)	Watertown Comprehensive Plan (2013)	Watertown Bicycle Transportation Plan (2003)	



# Strawberry Hill Neighborhood Plan (2007 Update)

Strawberry Hill Neighborhood Study

▪ ▪ U P D A T E ▪ ▪

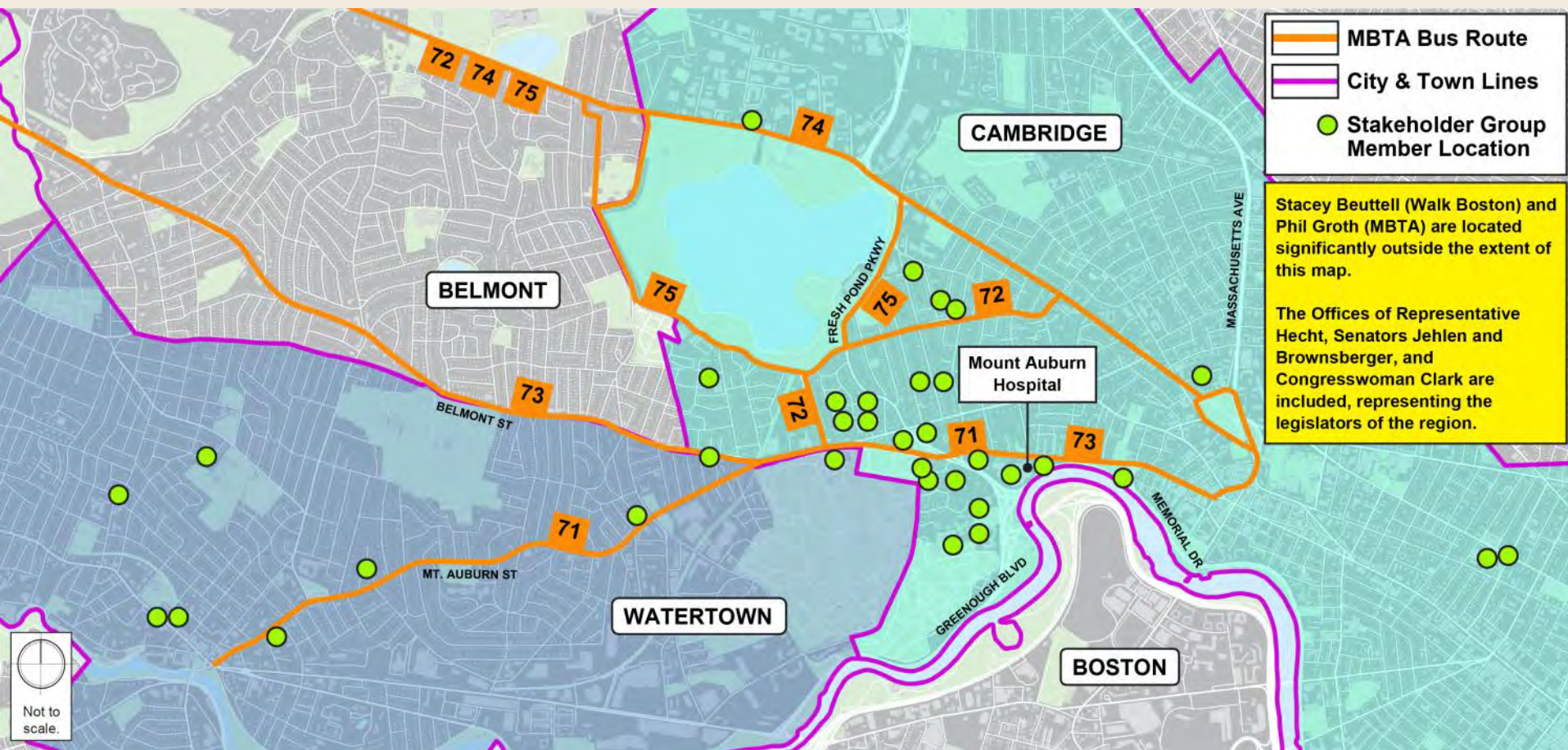
*Summary, Recommendations and Action Plan*



- Identifies Belmont and Holworthy intersection as a “gateway” that needs to be made “more attractive.”
- Requests improved signal timing for pedestrians at Belmont and Mount Auburn intersection
- “Examine the safety of the Star Market parking lot exit, which seems to pose traffic dangers”



# April- May: Stakeholder Group Forms



*"To ensure that our Stakeholder Group is truly representative of the community, we would be pleased if you would share with us one group or individual that you believe it would be wise to include in this body" – Stakeholder Group Invitation (April 4, 2016)*

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Joe Barr	City of Cambridge	Patricia Jehlen	Senator
Joanne Bauer	Coolidge Hill	Angeline Kounelis	Watertown Town Council
Stacey Beuttell	Walk Boston	Joe Levendusky	Watertown Public Transit Taskforce
Alexis Belakovskiy	457 Mount Auburn Resident	Melissa McGaughey	Larchwood
Elizabeth Bierer	Cambridge Plant and Garden Club	Maureen Nunez	Shady Hill School
Wade Blackman	Office of Congresswoman Clark	Kelsey Perkins	Office of Congresswoman Clark
Doug Brown	Watertown Greenway Project, Fresh Pond Residents Alliance	Mark Peterson	Watertown Public Transit Taskforce
William Brownsberger	Senator	Helene Quinn	The Cambridge Homes
Jane Carroll	Mount Auburn Cemetery	Katherine Rafferty	Mt. Auburn Hospital
Nina Coslov	Larchwood	Megan Ramey	Livable Streets Alliance, Cambridge Bicycle Committee
Ethan Davis	Watertown Bike & Ped Committee	Ron Reppucci	Tufts Health Plan
Bill Deignan	City of Cambridge	Gabriella Romanow	Charles River Conservancy
Jan Devereux	Cambridge City Council	Ann Roosevelt	Larchwood
Aaron Dushku	Watertown Town Council	Amory Rowe Salem	Shady Hill Parents' Council
Xander Dyer	Coolidge Hill	Gideon Schreiber	Town of Watertown
Jill Forney	Coolidge Hill	Matthew Shuman	Town of Watertown
Arcady Goldmints-Orlov	Transit Matters	Martha Stearns	Cambridge Plant and Garden Club
Janice Gould	BB&N Parents Committee	William Stone	The Cambridge Homes
Phil Groth	MBTA	Arthur Strang	Cambridge Transit Committee
Matthew Hartman	Office of Sen. Jehlen	Bill Warner	Larchwood
Jonathan Hecht	Representative	Tim Whyte	Shady Hill School





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Strawberry Hill  
Resident

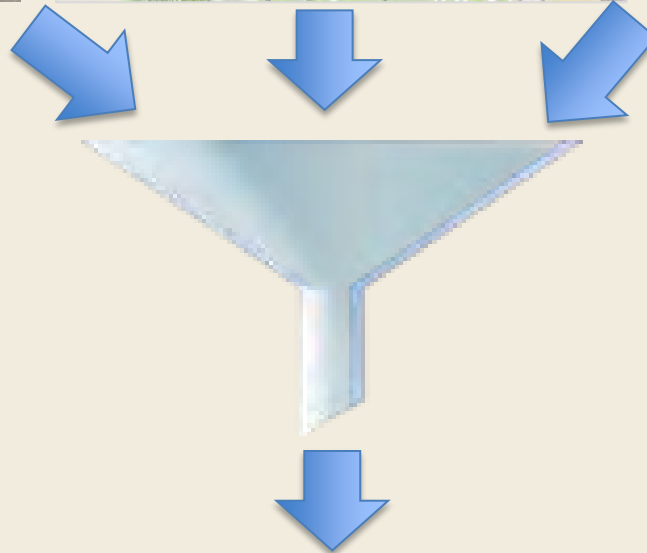
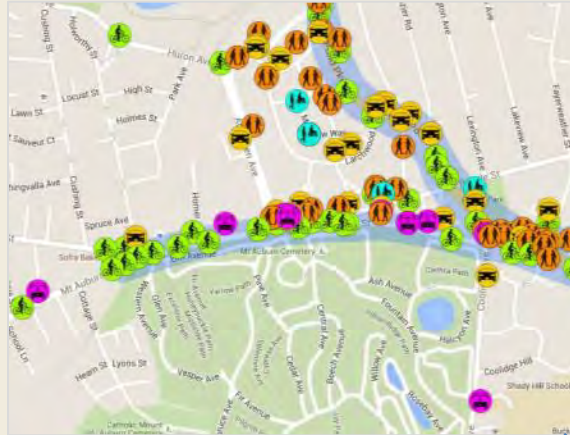
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		Watertown x 2	





# First Goals: Defining the Problem and Shared Goals



Shared Goals









# May - June: Wikimap Open (*May 5 through June 23*)

**MOUNT AUBURN STREET  
TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

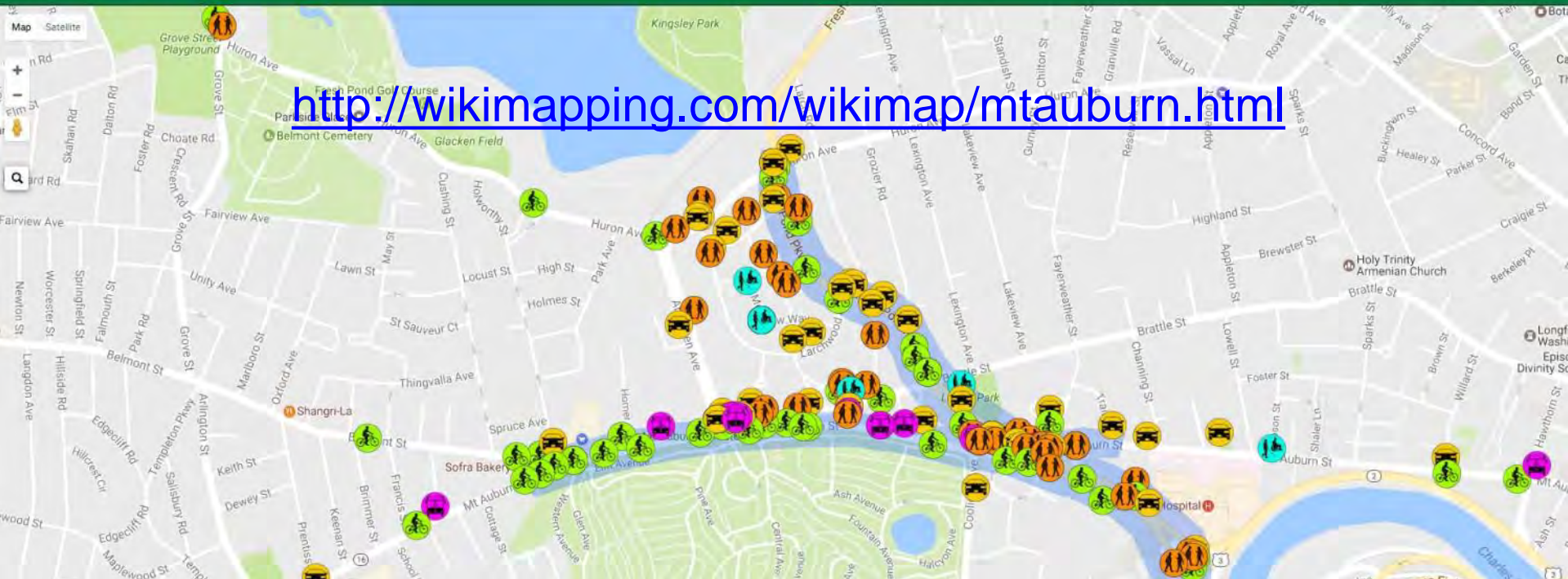
Click **ADD POINTS** to add to the map.

Where would you improve transportation on Mount Auburn Street?

ADD AS MANY POINTS AS YOU WOULD LIKE

 ADA  Bicyclist  Driver  Local Business Owner  Pedestrian  Transit Rider

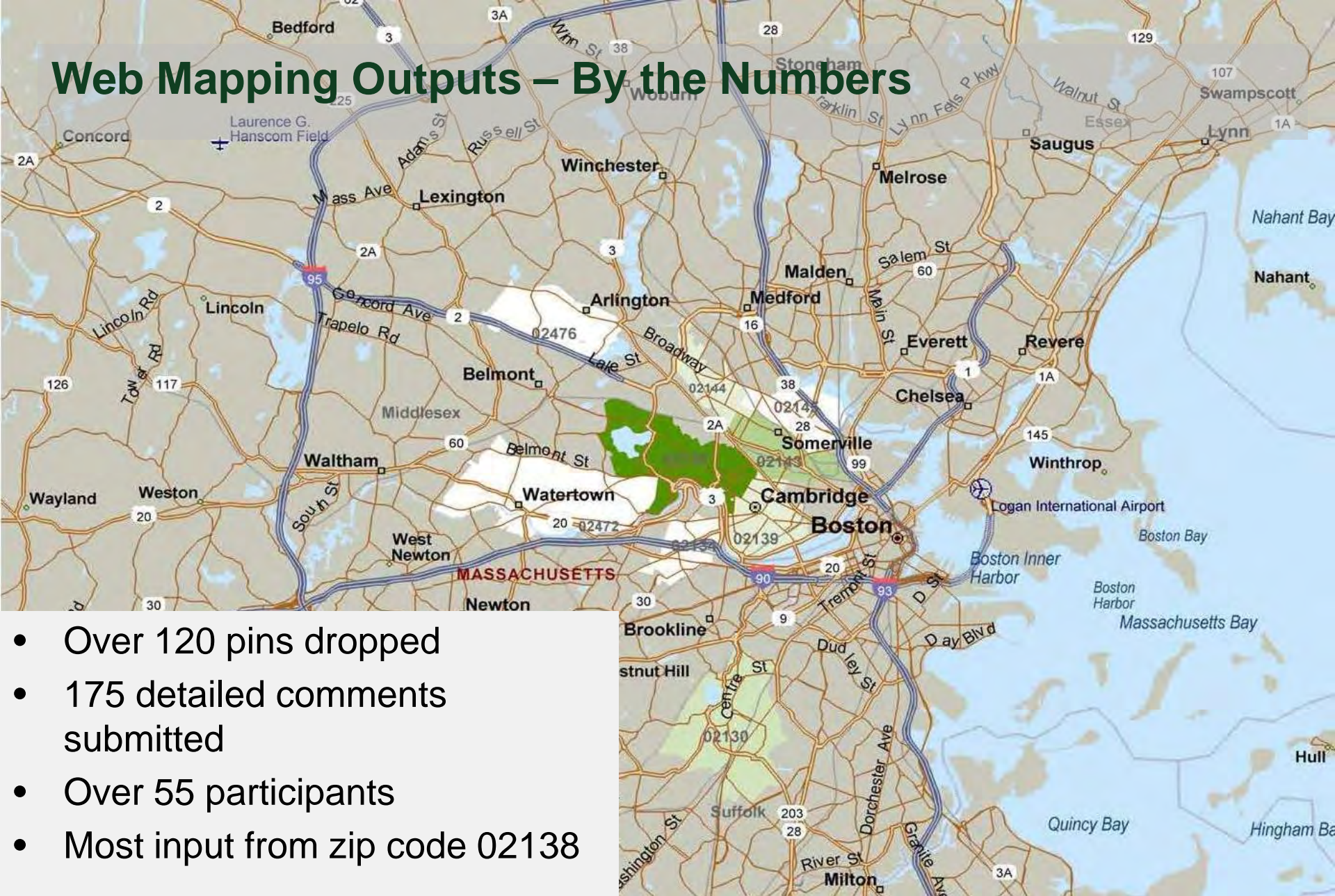
About & Help **ADD POINTS** Anonymous



<http://wikimapping.com/wikimap/mtauburn.html>



# Web Mapping Outputs – By the Numbers



- Over 120 pins dropped
- 175 detailed comments submitted
- Over 55 participants
- Most input from zip code 02138



# June 1: First Public Meeting



# Shared Goals (Approved by Stakeholders June 23)

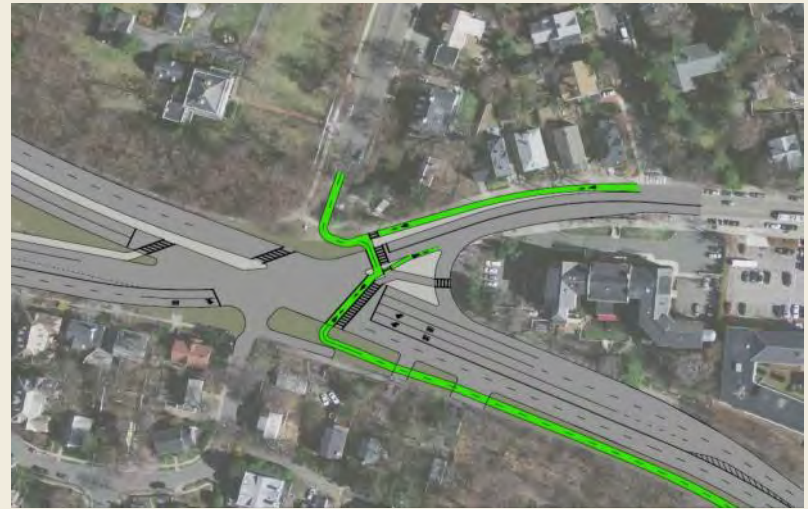
1. Calm traffic, provide clarity, reduce crashes and severity of crashes
2. Improve connectivity, air quality and expand mobility choices by:
  - a. Measuring people, not cars
  - b. Reducing transit delays
  - c. Improving safety, access, parking and comfort for bicycles.
  - d. Maintaining mobility for motor vehicles
  - e. Improving safety, attractiveness, noise, and comfort for pedestrians and residents
3. Address cut-through traffic in the Larchwood, Huron Village, and Coolidge Hill Neighborhoods
4. Offer short-term and long-term solutions
5. Acknowledge enforcement and special uses by BB&N, Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Mt. Auburn, Shady Hill, and Tufts Health Plan

# Shared Values (Approved by Stakeholders June 23)

- **Equity**
  - Design for everyone's needs, including the disadvantaged
- **Flexibility**
  - Designs responsive to:
    - Peak and off-peak
    - School pick up and drop off
    - Funeral processions
    - Emergency vehicle access
- **Balance**
  - Try to balance goals that may conflict

# July – November: Designing to Meet the Goals

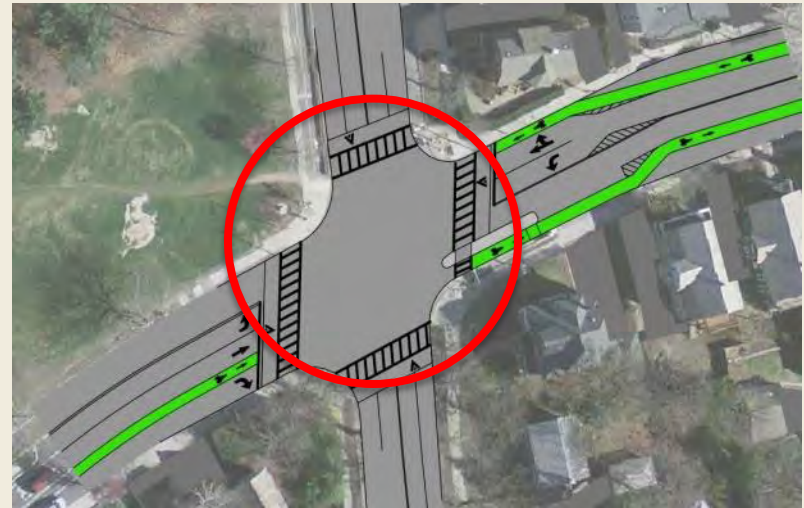
- July 21 – Major intersections
  - Mt. Auburn at Fresh Pond
  - Mt. Auburn at Brattle
- August 18 – Major intersections
  - Gerry's Landing Interchanges
  - Fresh Pond at Huron and Brattle
  - Explored Alternative Approaches
    - Fresh Pond at Mt. Auburn  
Underpass, Roundabout, or Rotary





# July – November: Designing to Meet the Goals

- September 15
  - Introduction to transit priority
  - Mt. Auburn at Belmont
  - Refinements to:
    - Gerry's Landing 2-T
    - Fresh Pond at Huron and Brattle
  - Plaza Charrette
  - Short-term Improvements
- November 11
  - Parkway Road Diet Feasibility
  - Transit Priority in Depth
  - Landscape Improvements
  - Project-wide Design Concepts:
    - Option A and Option B
  - VISSIM Proof of Concepts
  - Road Safety Audit (RSA) Results

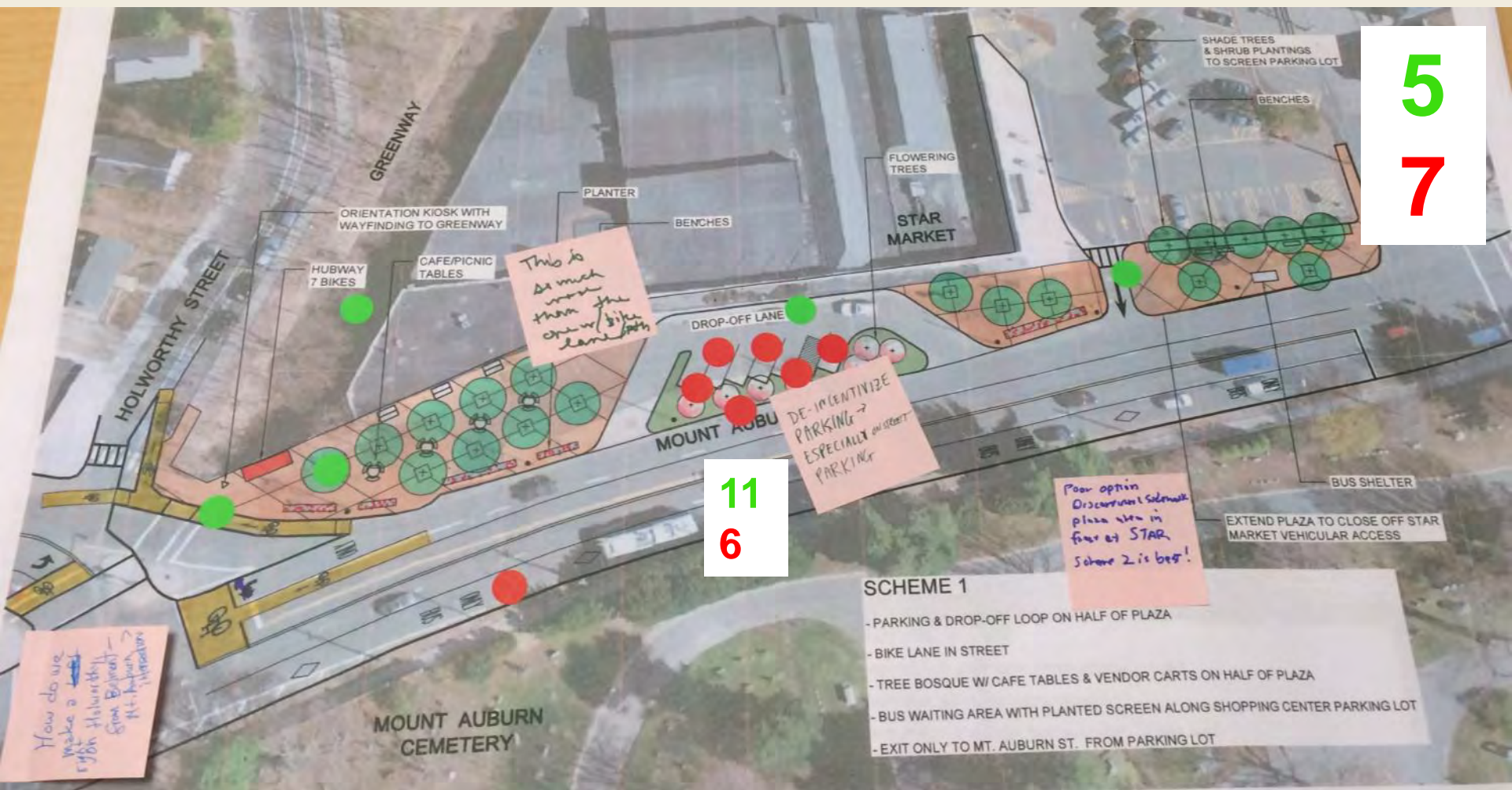




# November 14 Public Meeting – Concept Feedback



# Scheme 1 – Star Market Plaza





# Scheme 2 – Star Market Plaza



11  
6

# Scheme 2 – Star Market Plaza



11

6





# Scheme 1 – Brattle Plaza

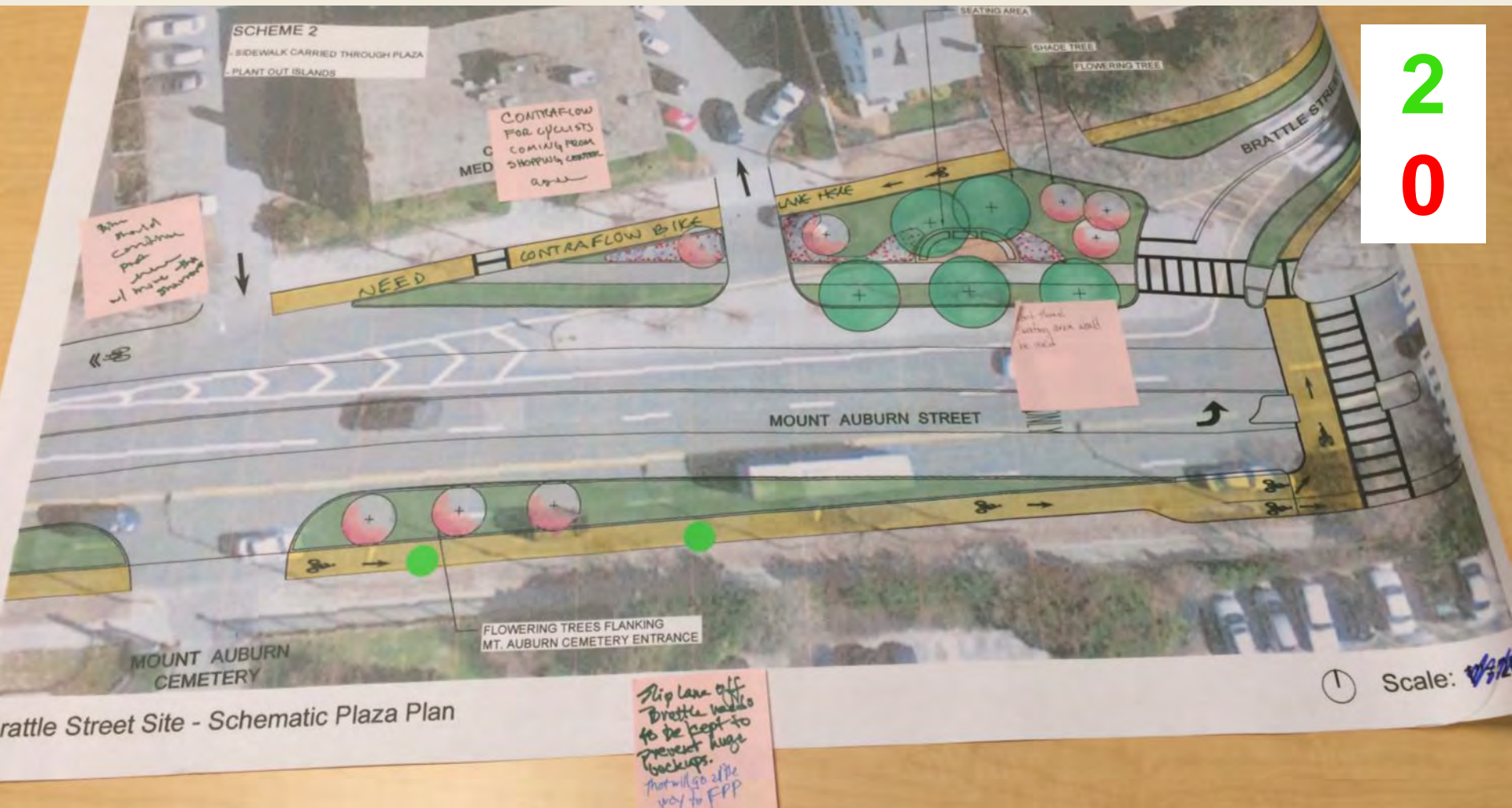


6

0



# Scheme 2 – Brattle Plaza



2  
0

# Scheme 1 – Brattle Plaza



6

0



# Option A (Stamped) – Fresh Pond Parkway



0

1

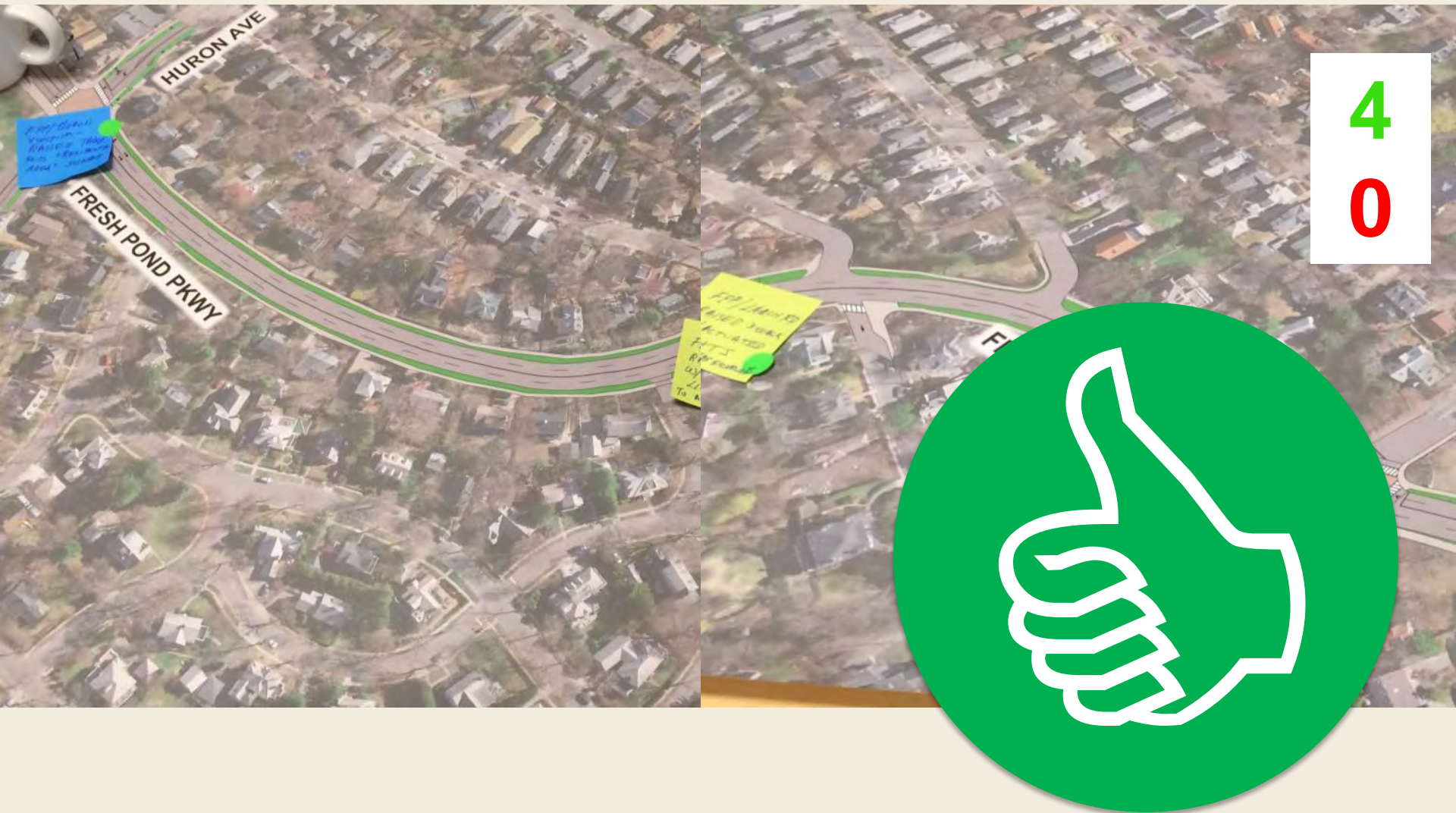


# Option B (Raised) – Fresh Pond Parkway





## Option B (Raised) – Fresh Pond Parkway



# Option A – Gerry's Landing - Greenough Blvd Feedback



5

0



# Option B – Gerry's Landing - Greenough Blvd



9

4

# Option A – Gerry's Landing - Greenough Blvd



5

0





# Option A – Mount Auburn Corridor (West Side)





## Option A – Mount Auburn Corridor (East Side)



33  
11



[illegible]

25  
13



# Option B – Mount Auburn Corridor (East Side)



25  
13



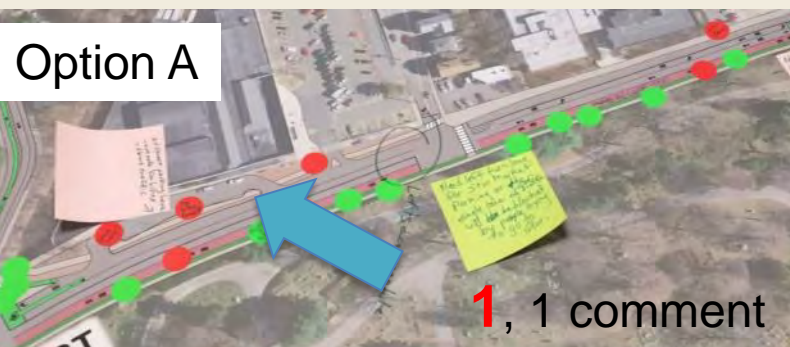
# Option A – Mount Auburn Corridor



33  
11



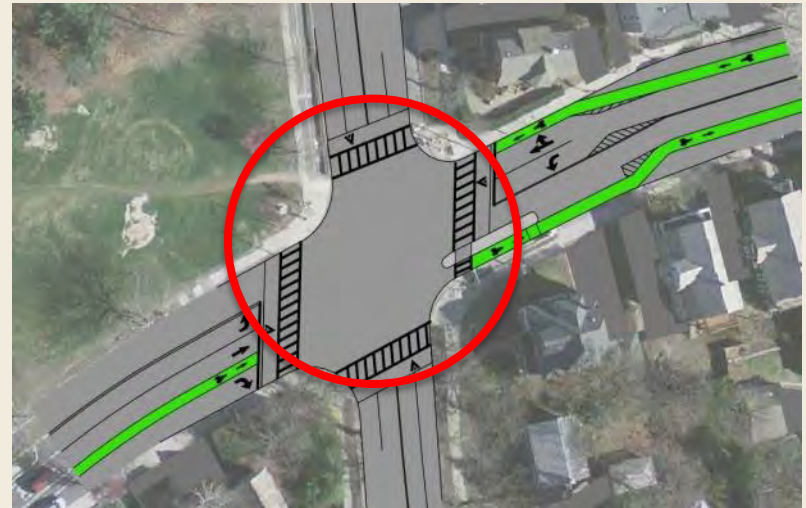
# Most Comments: Westbound Bike Lane Needed



*“protected connections to protected facilities – Watertown Greenway”*

# January – February: Concept Stage Completion

- January 10
  - Preview of this presentation & feedback
- January 31 PUBLIC
  - TODAY!





# PLEASE NOTE:

The following concepts are drafts;  
works in progress shown only for the purpose  
of collecting public feedback for their improvement



# **Response to Comments (Better Bike Infrastructure, and more)**

# Key Points We Heard in November - January

- Strong support for separated bike lanes on entire Mt. Auburn Corridor.
- Strong support for transit lanes on Mt. Auburn.
- Support for keeping motorist delay at a minimum.
- Strong support for removing the Brattle merge.
- Suggestion for a pedestrian actuated crossing signal at Larch Road.
- Support and Non-support of use of raised tables at signalized intersections.
- Concern about safe access to the U-Turn off Greenough Blvd.
- Concern about pedestrian crossing of Fresh Pond Parkway
- Support for bike lanes on Eliot Bridge



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# Mount Auburn Street – The People Mover





# Mount Auburn Street – The People Mover





# Mount Auburn Street – The People Mover





# Cambridge Bicycle Plan 2015





## Added: Protected Bike Lanes Belmont St. to Homer St.





# Kept: Cambridge - Watertown Greenway Connection





## Added: Bike Lanes – Homer St. to Aberdeen Ave





# Remaining Pinch Point at Aberdeen Ave. (Sharrows)





# Removed: Dangerous Merge at Brattle Street





# Road Safety Audit Results



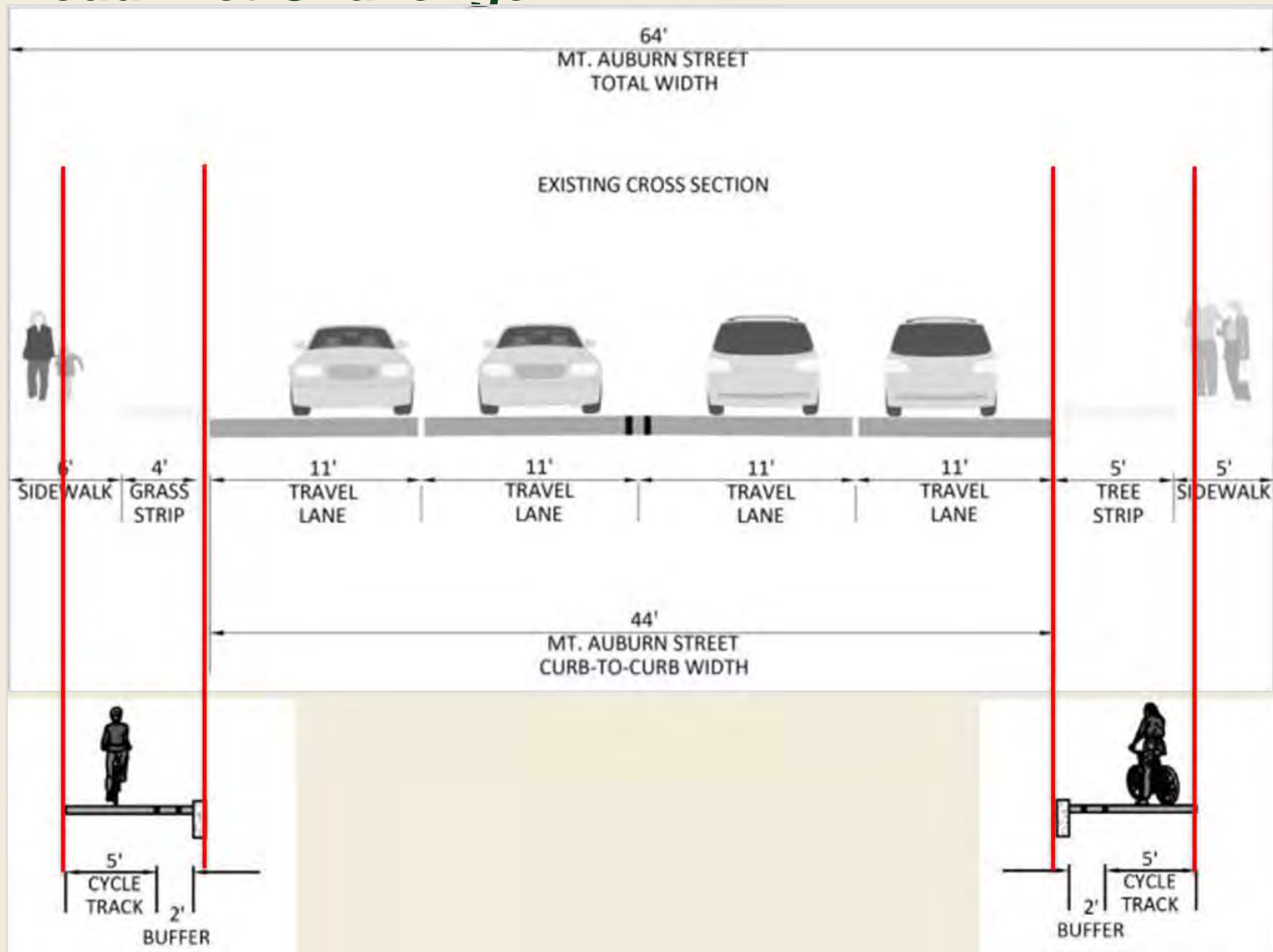


# Bike Lane/Road Diet Attempt – Coolidge Ave to Brattle St

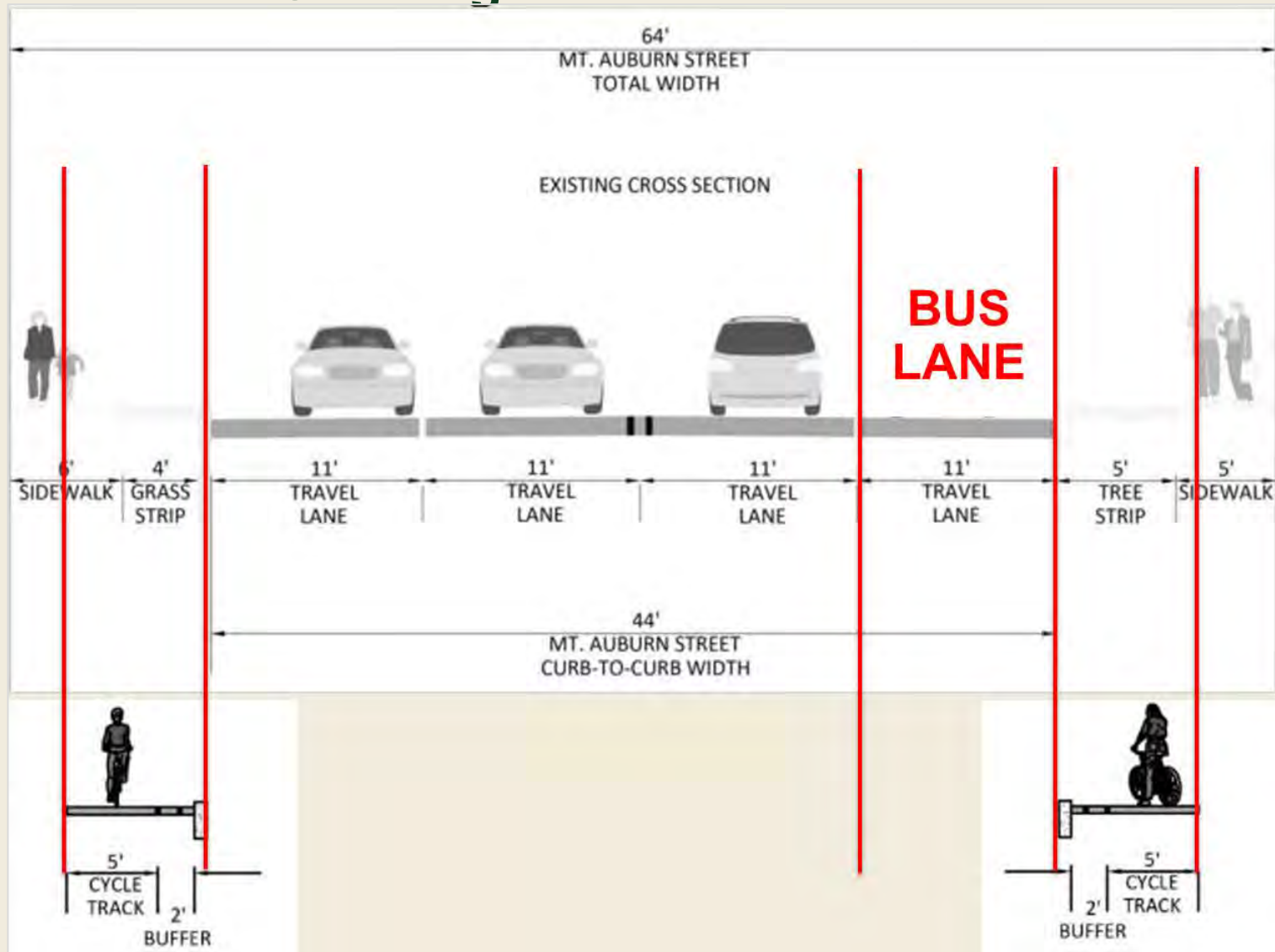




# The Road Diet Challenge

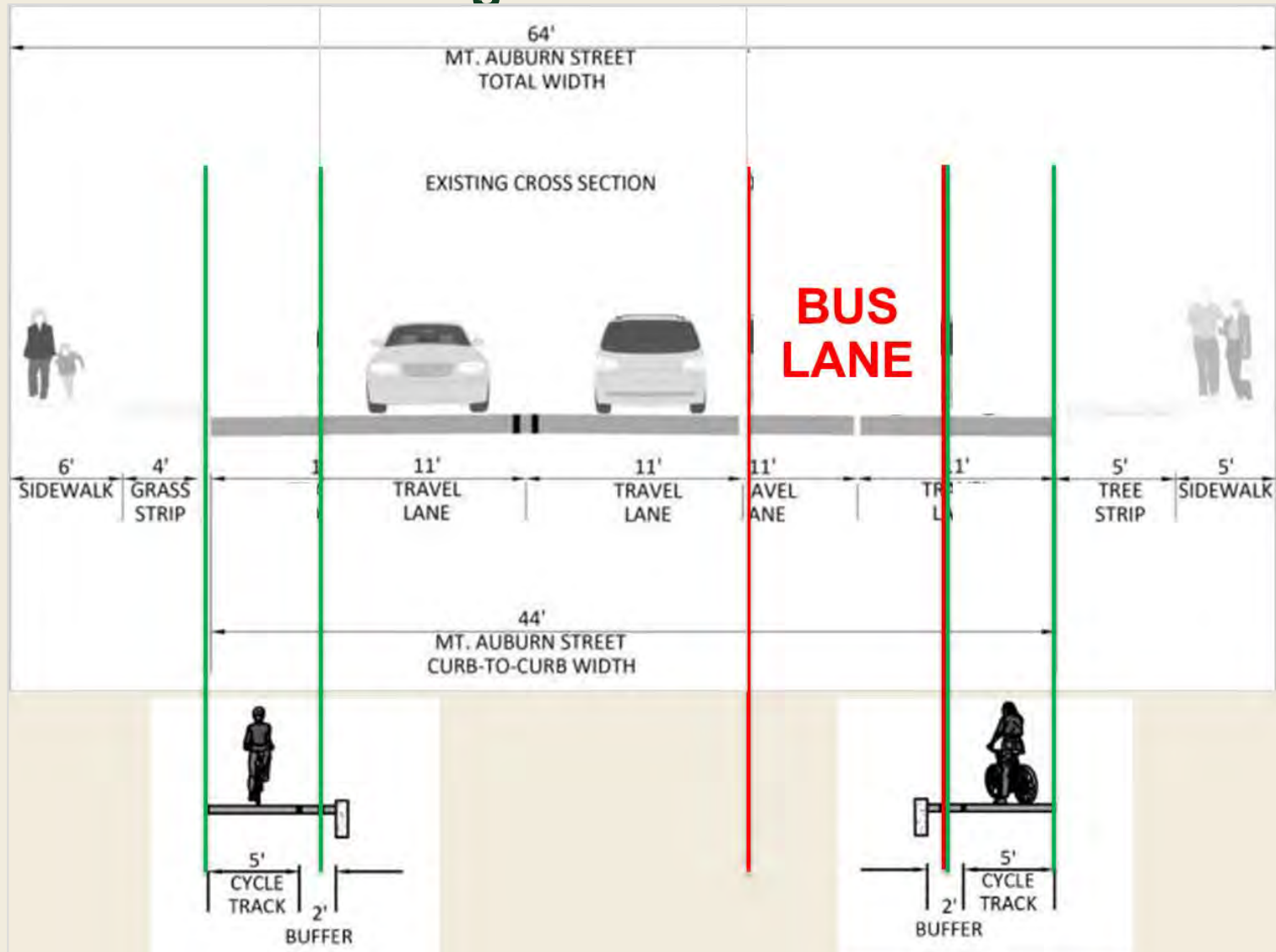


# The Road Diet Challenge – Bus Lane Added





# The Road Diet Challenge – Add Bike Lanes Also?



# Westbound Bike Lane – AM Peak Queues





# Westbound Bike Lane – PM Peak Queues



# Double Road Diet: VISSIM Analysis

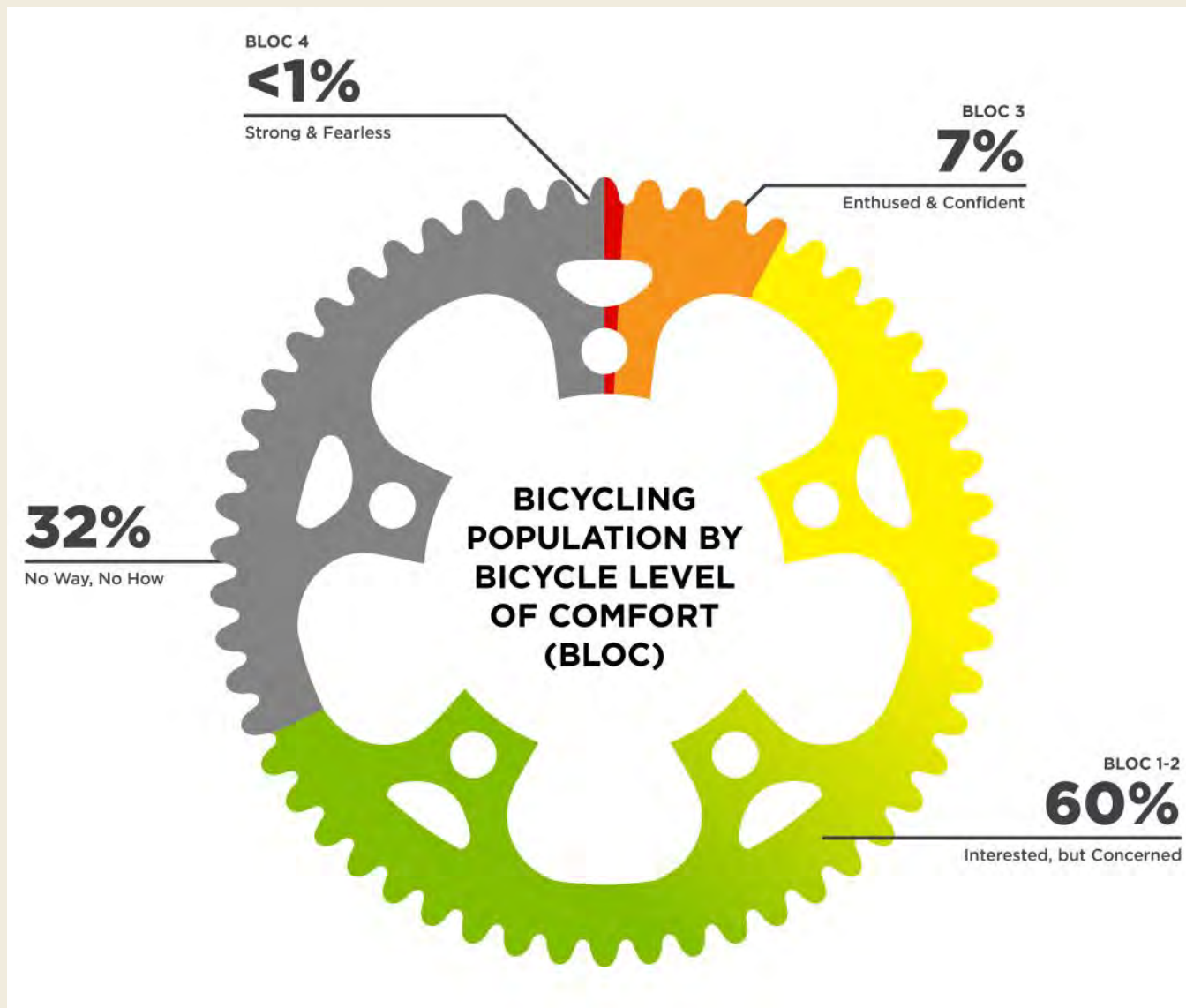
- *video*



## Added: Two-Way Protected Intersection at Fresh Pond Parkway



# What can a bike lane do?





# Cambridge Bicycle Plan 2015



# Cambridge Bicycle Plan 2015 (Post Mt. Auburn Project)





# Key Points We Heard

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- **Strong support for transit lanes on Mt. Auburn.**
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