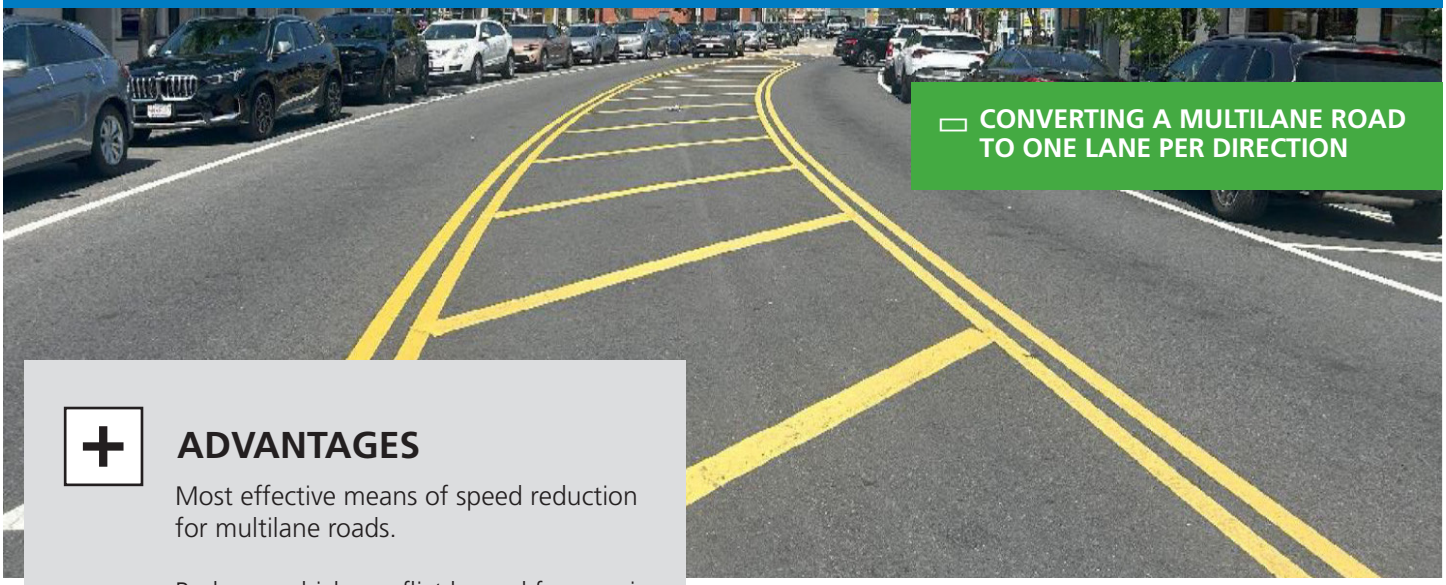
ROAD DIETS

massDOT
Massachusetts Department of Transportation



▭ CONVERTING A MULTILANE ROAD TO ONE LANE PER DIRECTION

+ ADVANTAGES

Most effective means of speed reduction for multilane roads.

Reduces vehicle conflict hazard for crossing pedestrians.

Frees up road space for turning lanes, bike lanes, and other uses.

Improve emergency responses times as vehicles can use centerlane to bypass traffic.

TYPICAL LOCATIONS

Multilane roads, especially those with four lanes and no left turn lanes at intersections

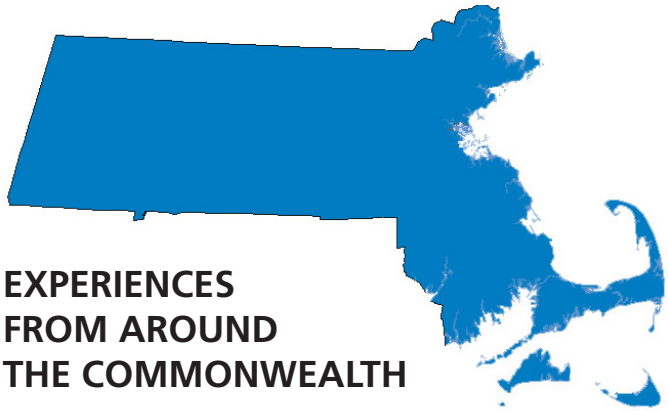
- CONSIDERATIONS

Traffic signals need to be retimed and traffic capacity assessed.

One thru lane plus left turn lanes often provides sufficient capacity at intersections.

A two-way left-turn lane (TWLTL) gives vehicles waiting to turn left into driveways and side streets a place to wait without hindering thru traffic.

Monitor traffic to see whether congestion develops and causes unwanted traffic diversions, and adjust or mitigate as needed.



EXPERIENCES FROM AROUND THE COMMONWEALTH

Centre Street, West Roxbury
Lane reductions eliminated double threat crossings and created space for left turn lanes and protected bike lanes. Vehicles going more than 5 mph above the speed limit fell from violation rate dropped from 44% to 6%. Well-organized opposition delayed implementation for several years. Traffic did not divert to parallel local streets