

CITY of BOSTON



David A. Ellis Elementary School Safe Routes to School Traffic Calming & Safety Improvement Project

Design Public Hearing

Zoom | September 27, 2023 | 7:00 PM

Project No. 610537

Zoom Hearing Controls



- Translated into American Sign Language, Escuchar en español, and Tande an Kreyol



- Ask a question and share comments



- Raise your hand - *9 for users dialing in and Alt + Y to raise your hand

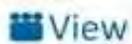


- If you are unable to access the internet or are having technical problems, please call into the meeting at 309-205-3325, Webinar ID: 820-0018-7656



Live Transcript

- 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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Audio Settings ^



Raise Hand



Q&A



Interpretation



Live Transcript

Leave

Public Hearing Notes and Procedures

Public record

- While this virtual public hearing is not being recorded by zoom, MassDOT may choose to retain and distribute the images, audio and the Q&A transcript from this hearing.
- All parts of this hearing are considered public record.
- If you are not comfortable being part of the official record, please refrain from using the Q&A feature or you may choose to excuse yourself from the hearing. Information from this hearing will be posted on the Mass.gov website.

Important notes

- Your microphone and webcam are automatically disabled upon entering the hearing.
- This hearing 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.

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.

Presentation Speakers & Project Representatives:

- **MassDOT**
 - Jonathan Freeman, Project Manager
 - Craig Sheehan, Right of Way Bureau, Liaison
 - Joseph Doucette, District 6 Project Development
- **City of Boston (Municipality)**
 - Charlotte Fleetwood, Senior Planner
- **TEC, Inc. (Design Consultant)**
 - Kevin Dandrade, Principal
 - Dylan Skinner, Design Engineer



Thank You for Your Support

Public Notice Published:

The Boston Globe – September 20, 2023

The Bay State Banner – September 21, 2023

The Boston Globe



MassDOT Facebook and Twitter:



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MassDOT

Municipal Organizations:

City of Boston

Age Strong Commission



Community Organizations and Others:

Boston Regional Metro Planning Commission

BMA TENPOINT



Thank You for Your Support Cont.

Community Organizations and Others:

Freedom House Inc

Roxbury Multi-Service Center Inc

Registry of Motor Vehicles



ROXBURY MULTI-SERVICE CENTER, INC.



25% Design Stage & Project Funding

- Total estimated construction cost: \$2.5 Million

Cost does not include any right-of-way acquisition costs.

- Project programmed in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) in the appropriate Federal Fiscal Year (Anticipated FFY 2026)

Funding Sources:

- Federal Aid (80%)
- State Funds (20%)

Construction Duration

- Anticipated advertising FFY 2026
- One (1) to Two (2) construction seasons



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**





How will your property be impacted?

Preliminary Right of Way (ROW) discussion

- The City of Boston is responsible for acquiring all necessary rights in public land for design, construction, and implementation of this project.
 - Fee takings, permanent easements and/or temporary construction easements may be required.
- Affected property owners will be contacted by Boston municipal officials.
 - Property owners are protected under Massachusetts General Laws, primarily Chapter 79.
- Preliminary design and right-of-way drawings are available on The City of Boston / Boston Transportation Department (BTD) website for public review and comment at:
<https://www.boston.gov/departments/transportation/roxbury-safe-routes-school-project>
- Summary of project-related property needs:
 - 16 properties that require temporary easements (only impacted during construction)
 - 8 properties that require permanent easements or fee takings (varies 3 to 68 square feet)



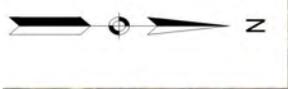
At this stage of design, the Right of Way process has not been finalized. This meeting is an opportunity for the public to comment on any impacts to properties.

Agenda

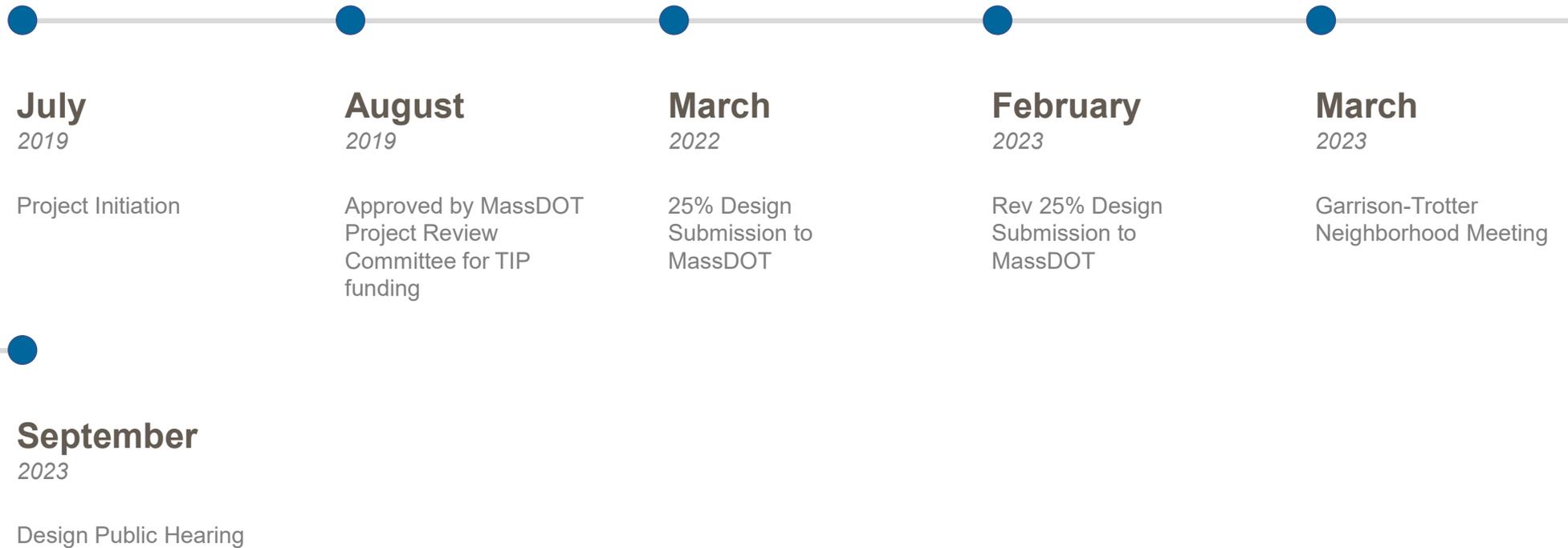
- 01 Project Area
- 02 Project History
- 03 Existing Conditions
- 04 Project Goals
- 05 Design Alternatives
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- 07 Right of Way Impacts
- 08 Environmental Permitting
- 09 Construction/Traffic Impacts
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Project Area David A. Ellis Elementary School Project Area - Roxbury



How did we get here?





Why was this project initiated?

Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

- Federally funded program focuses on new or improved pedestrian and bicycle facilities near schools
- Benefits safety, health with active transportation, and quality of life
- The project cannot have a focus on traditional car-related needs
- SRTS utilizes the six E's to implement its program- **E**ducation, **E**ncouragement, **E**ngagement, **E**valuation, **E**ngineering, and **E**quity
- The infrastructure program addresses the Engineering factors



First SRTS Ribboncutting
Northampton MA
September 2010

Existing Condition

Aged Pedestrian Infrastructure with Degraded Ramp & Sidewalk Conditions



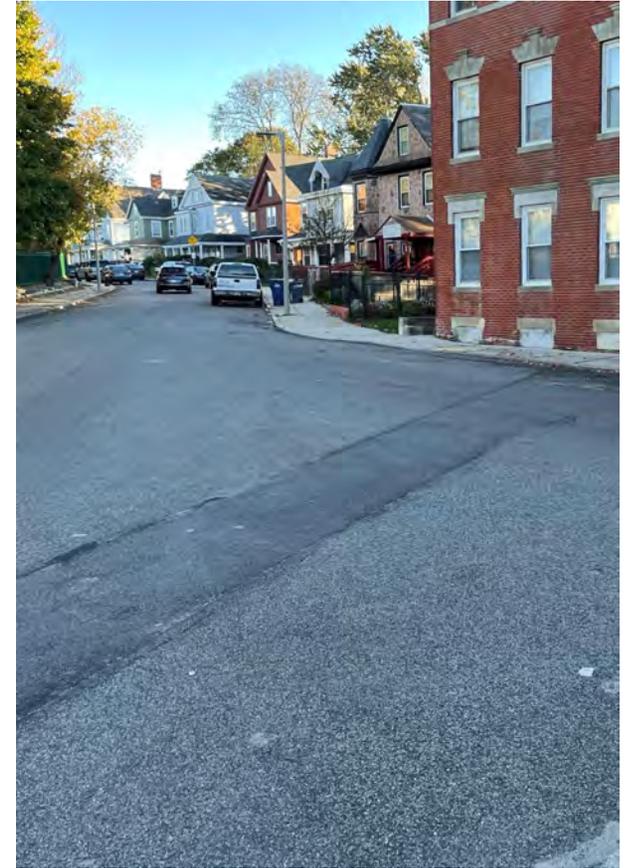
Existing Condition

Long Pedestrian Crossing Distances



Existing Condition

Open pavement space with no markings





**What do we
want to
accomplish?**

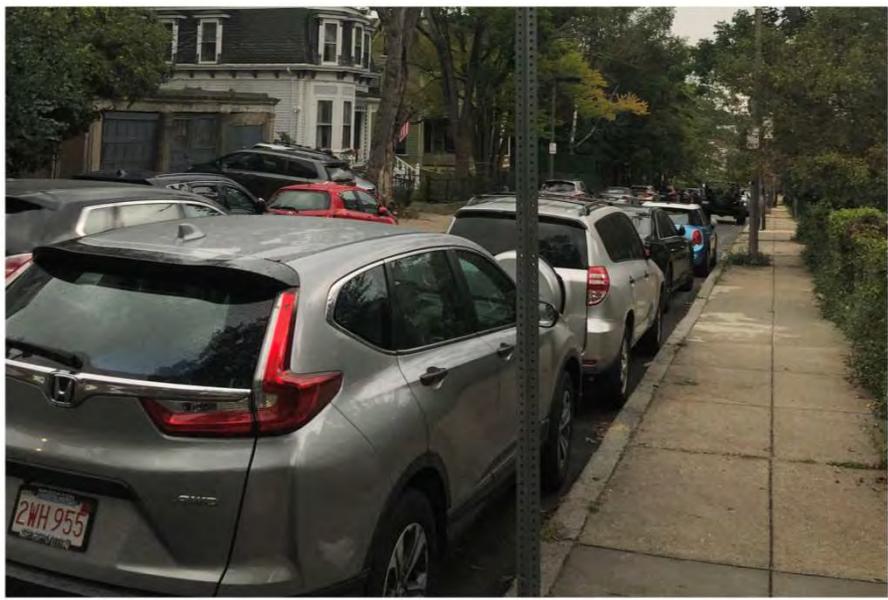


Project Goals

- Encourage Children to walk or bike to school
- Improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Calm traffic
- Improve accessibility (ADA/AAB) compliance



**What
alternatives
were
considered?**



Cross Sectional Alternatives

Alternative analysis focused on pedestrian and bicycle accommodations vs existing parking lanes

Alternative 1

- Bicycle lanes along entirety of Walnut Avenue corridor, eliminating parking

Alternative 2

- Six isolated intersection improvements
- Maintain roadway features between intersections
- Maintain existing parking lanes





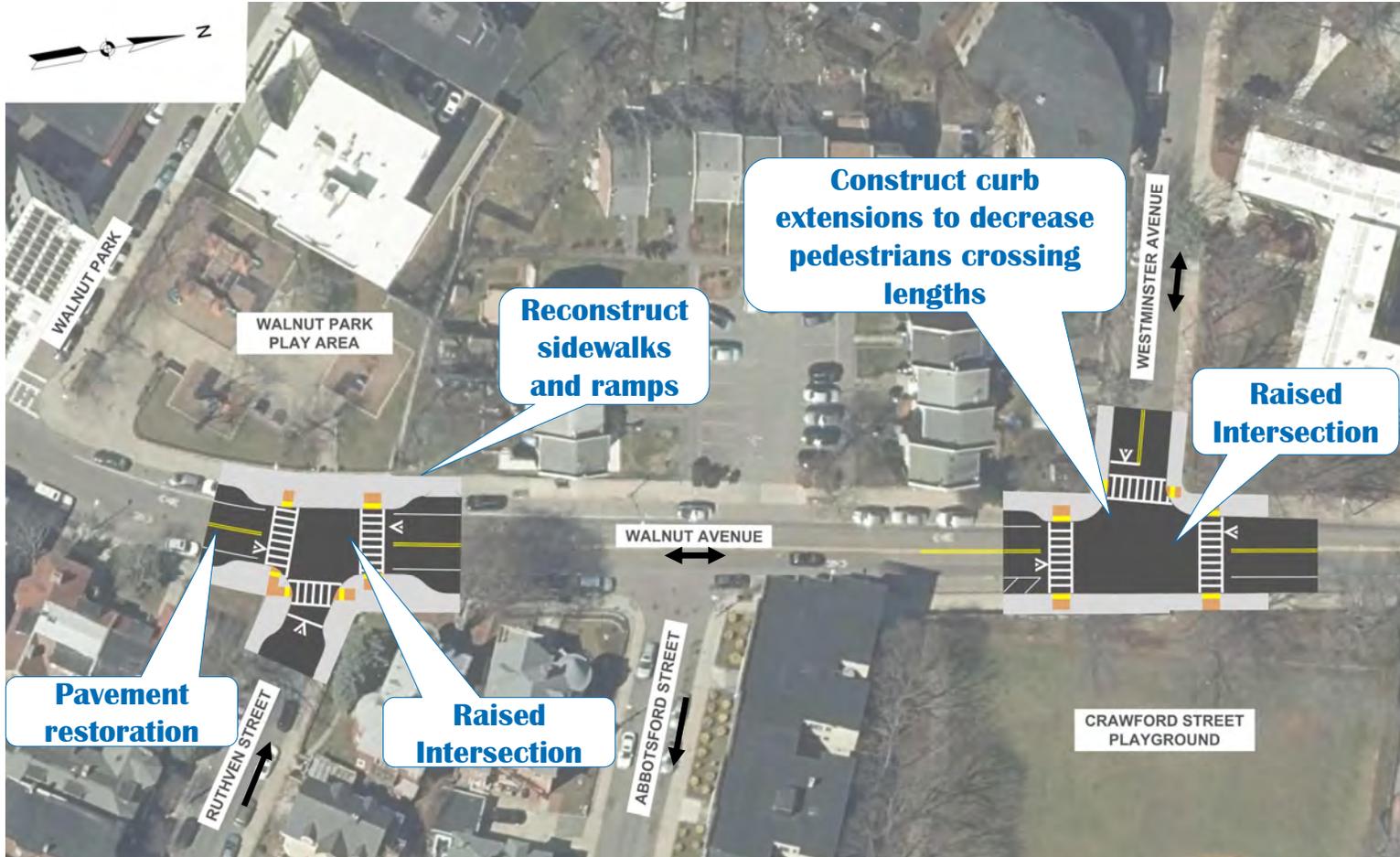
What is the preferred alternative?

Proposed Improvements

- Isolated Intersection Improvements
- Improve pedestrian accommodations
- Construct raised intersections and curb extensions to calm traffic
- Install new pavement markings & traffic signs
- Maintain existing parking lanes with limited impacts near intersections



Locations 1 and 2 Preliminary Construction Plans



Traffic Calming Design Feature

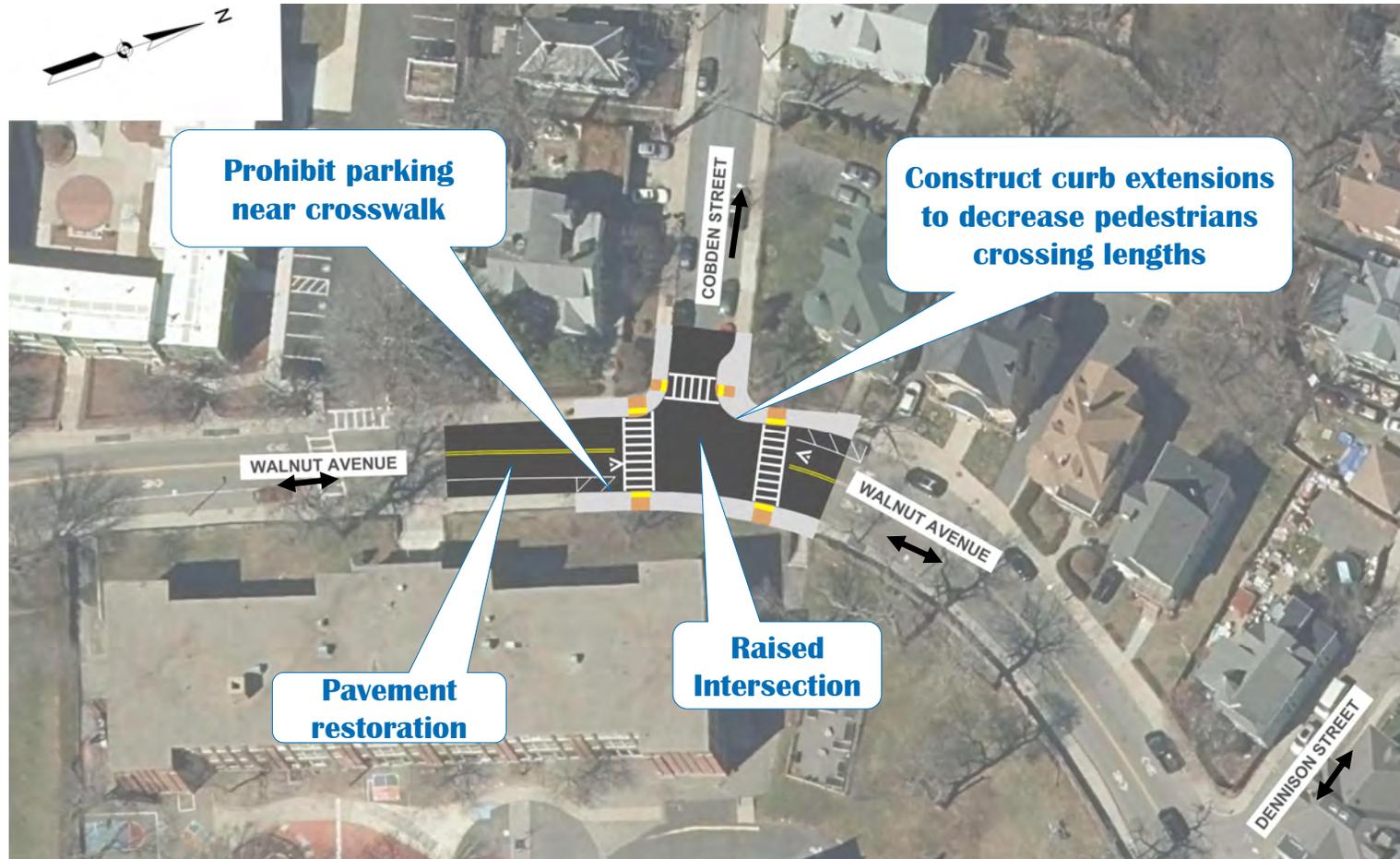
Raised Intersection



Source: National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO); Urban Street Design Guide, Raised Intersections.

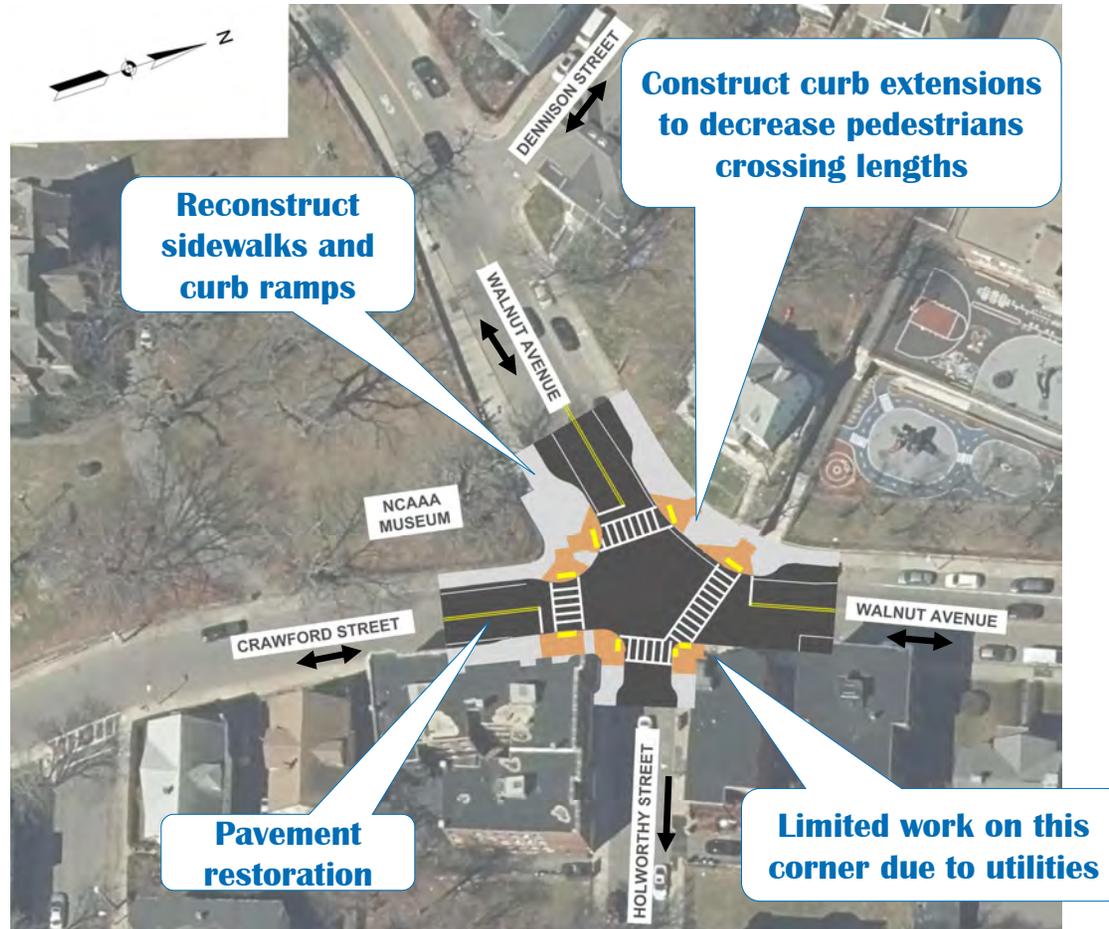
Location 3

Preliminary Construction Plans



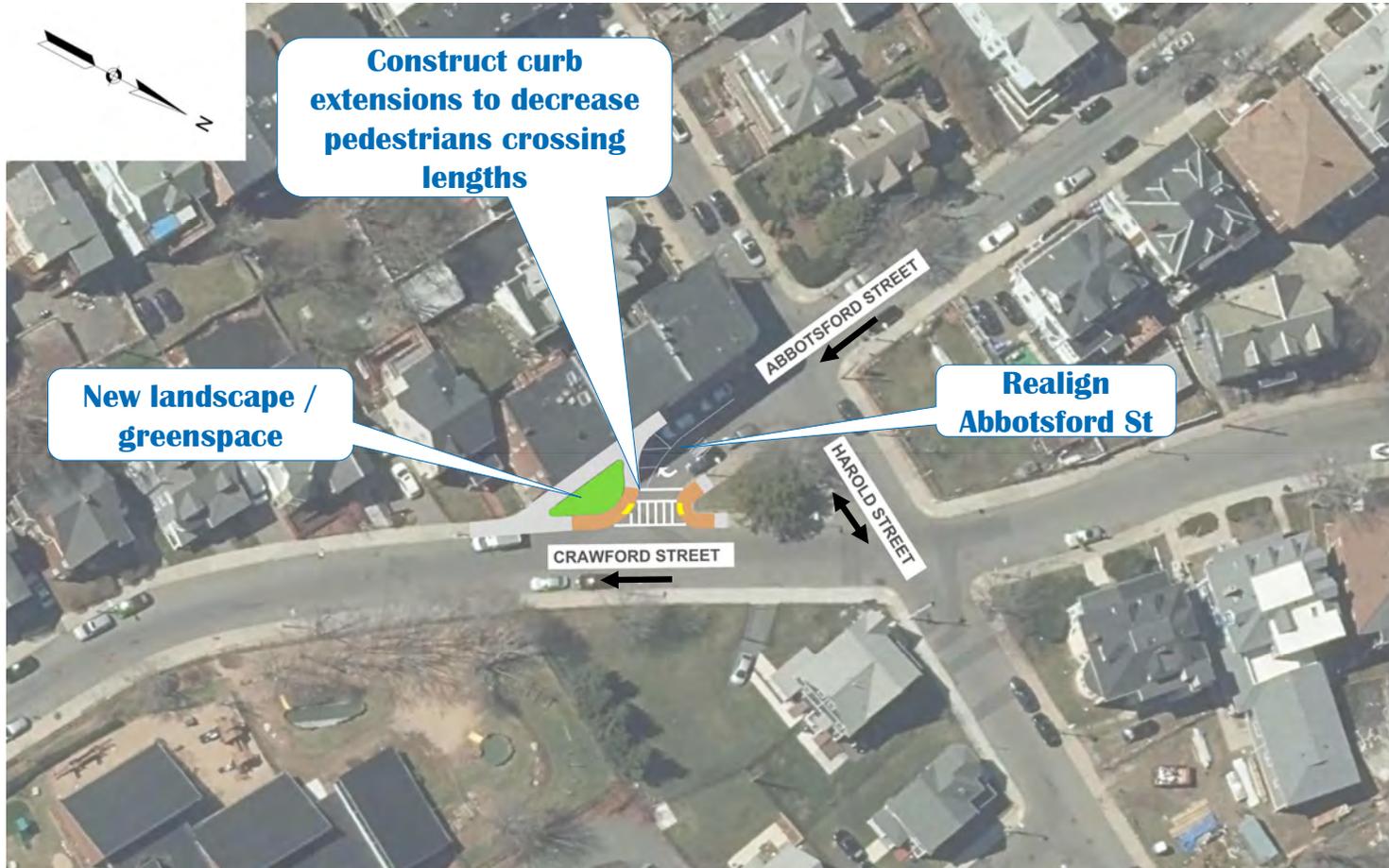
Location 4

Preliminary Construction Plans



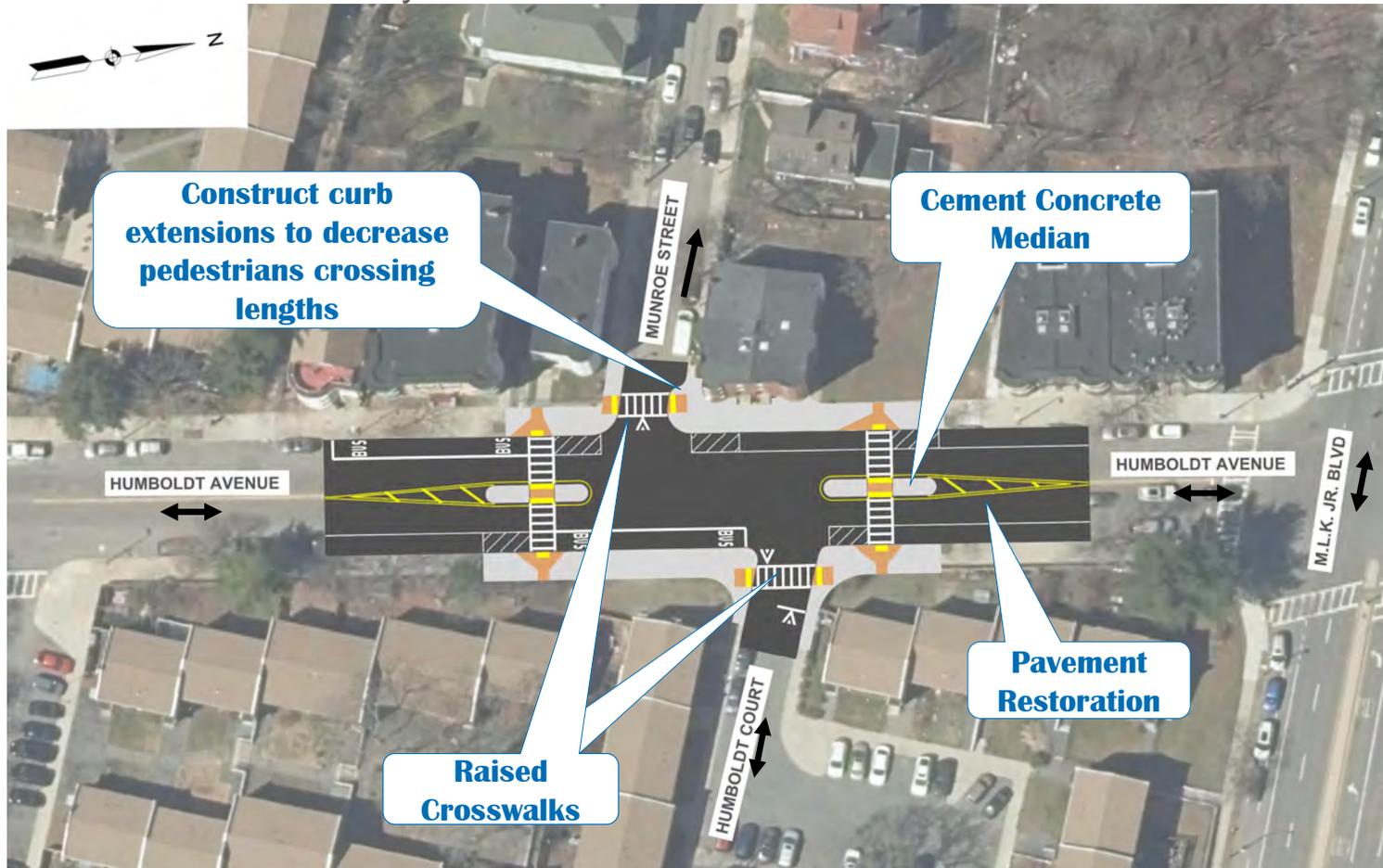
Location 5

Preliminary Construction Plans



Location 6

Preliminary Construction Plans





**How will
bicyclists and
pedestrians
be impacted?**



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

Environmental Permitting

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

National Historical Preservation Act of 1966 – Section 106





**What is the
construction
approach?**

Proposed construction approach:

- Access to businesses and residences will be maintained at all times
- Short-duration temporary lane closures are anticipated
- Night work is not anticipated and will require approval by the City and MassDOT



Our next steps

1

Step 1 – 25% Design
Public Hearing

2

Step 2 – Complete
75%/100% Design
and Determine
Property Needs

3

Step 3 – Finalize
Design and Secure
Right-of-Way
(Property Rights)

4

Step 4 – Advertise for
Construction
(Late 2025 / Early 2026)

**YOU
ARE
HERE**



**How will we
keep you
informed?**

How to reach us?

- Submit written comments to:
Carrie Lavallee, P.E. Chief Engineer
MassDOT
10 Park Plaza
Boston, MA 02116
Attention: Project Management, PROJECT FILE NO. 610537
- Submit email comments to:
MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us
- For project information visit the MassDOT Project Information web site at:
https://hwy.massdot.state.ma.us/ProjectInfo/Main.asp?ACTION=ViewProject&PROJECT_NO=610537#



Questions and discussion

Questions and Answers



- “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.

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Thank You

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