



Stratton Elementary School, Arlington

Safe Routes to School Project

Design Public Hearing

January 12, 2023 | 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Project File No. 609531



Introduction

- **Municipality** – Town of Arlington, Claire V. Ricker
- **MassDOT's Highway Division** – Responsible for administering the Design Process and providing Resident Engineer Services
- **MassDOT Project Manager** – Jon Freeman, EIT
- **MassDOT District 4** – Brian Fallon, P.E.
- **MassDOT ROW** – Angela Schofield
- **Design Consultant** – Pare Corporation. Responsible for Design, Amy Archer, P.E.



Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Project Area
3. Existing Issues/
Project Goals
4. Project Details
5. Right-of-Way (ROW)
6. Environmental
Permitting
7. Traffic Impacts
8. Next Steps
9. Questions/Comments

Zoom Hearing Controls



- 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 305-224-1968, Webinar ID: 835 4392 2023



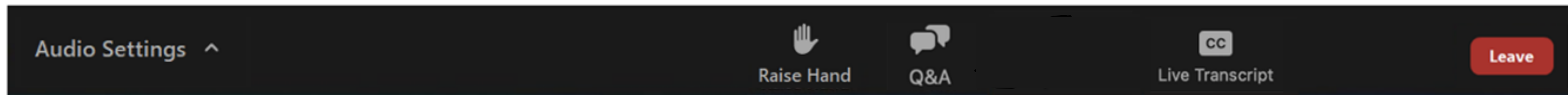
Live Transcript

- Closed captioning automatically generated by Zoom



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

888-799-9666



Public Meeting Notes and Procedures

Public record

- While this virtual public hearing is not being recorded, 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 recorded, 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 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.

Thank you for joining our meeting. We appreciate your participation!

Design Public Hearing - Advertisement

Newspaper Advertisement

- The Arlington Advocate



Social Media

- Twitter
- Facebook



MPO (Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization)



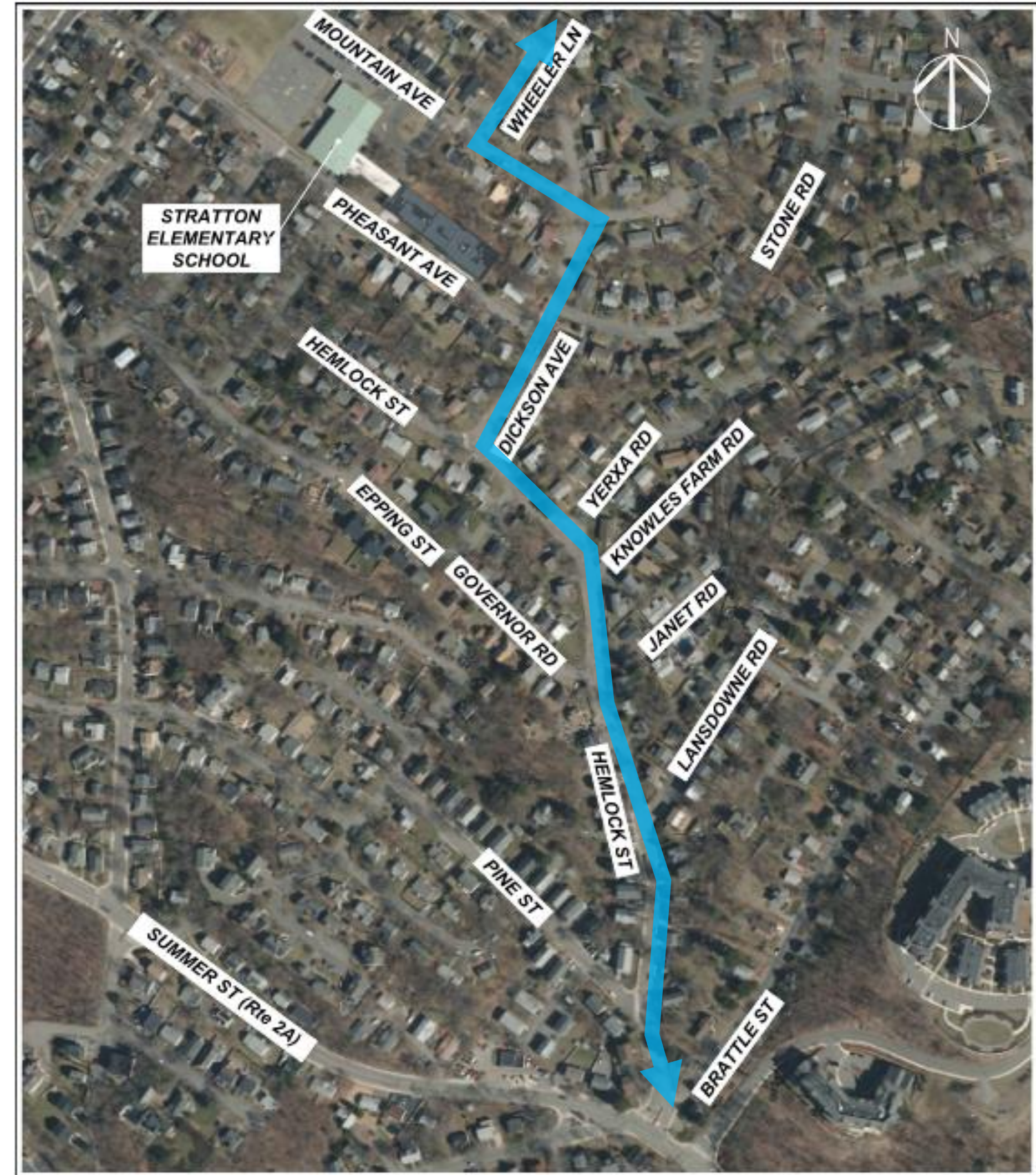
Other Outreach (from OPEO Staff Calls)

- Senior Center
- Disability Commission
- Boston Center for Independent Living



Project Area

- 225' along Wheeler Lane from Dickson Ave to Mountain Ave
- 300' along Mountain Ave from Wheeler Lane to Dickson Ave
- 575' along Dickson Ave from Mountain Ave to Hemlock St
- 1,600' along Hemlock St from Dickson Ave to Brattle St





Why was this project initiated?

Project Needs and Goals- Improve Sidewalks/Paths

- Various narrow sections
- Missing detectable warning panels
- Sections with steep grades

Upgrade to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance – including width, cross slope and ped ramps

- Incomplete sidewalk network to school's entrances

Extend sidewalk network



Narrow sidewalk on Hemlock Street



No sidewalk on Dickson Avenue

Project Needs and Goals – Safer Pedestrian Crossings

- Missing crosswalks along desire lines
- Lack of high visibility/consistent striping
- Sight line issues

Restripe Crosswalks and enhance signage

Consider Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon (RRFB) or other traffic calming measures as appropriate



Missing crosswalks across side streets.



Horizontal/vertical alignment and on-street parking limit visibility.

Project Needs and Goals – Safer Intersections

- Pedestrian crossings are long
- Excessive pavement allows higher vehicular speeds at intersections
- Excessive pavement presents ambiguity in right-of-way

Narrow roadway intersections, add signing and markings to identify ROW



Dickson/Hemlock – no stop lines/stop signs

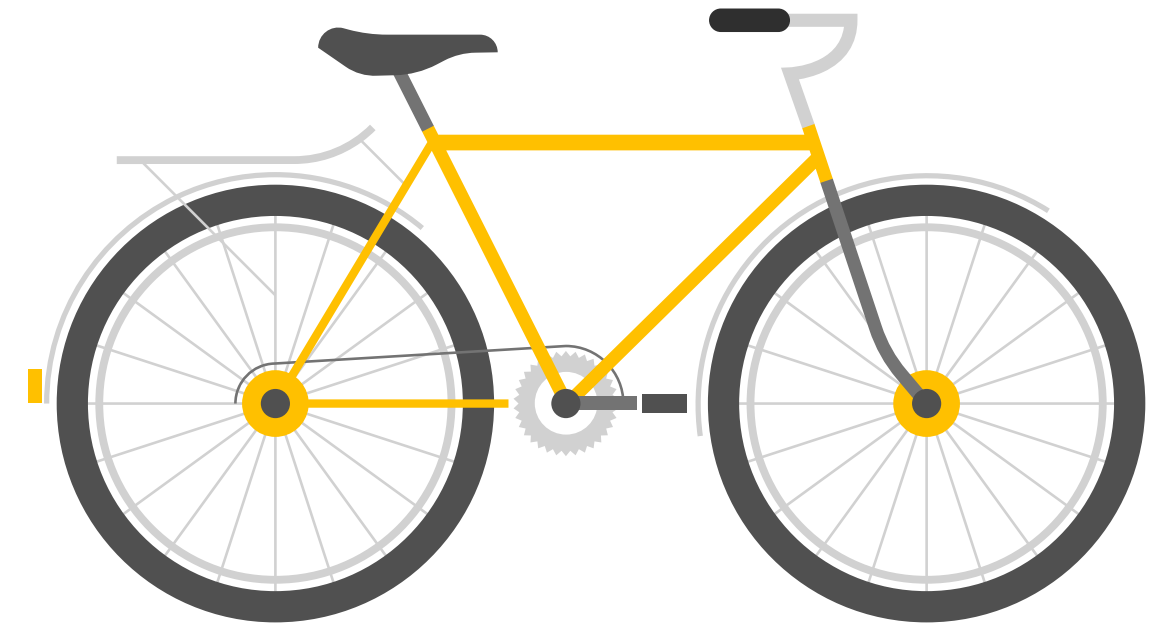


Hemlock/Yerxa - flat radius = high speed turn




Project Needs and Goals – Bicycle Infrastructure

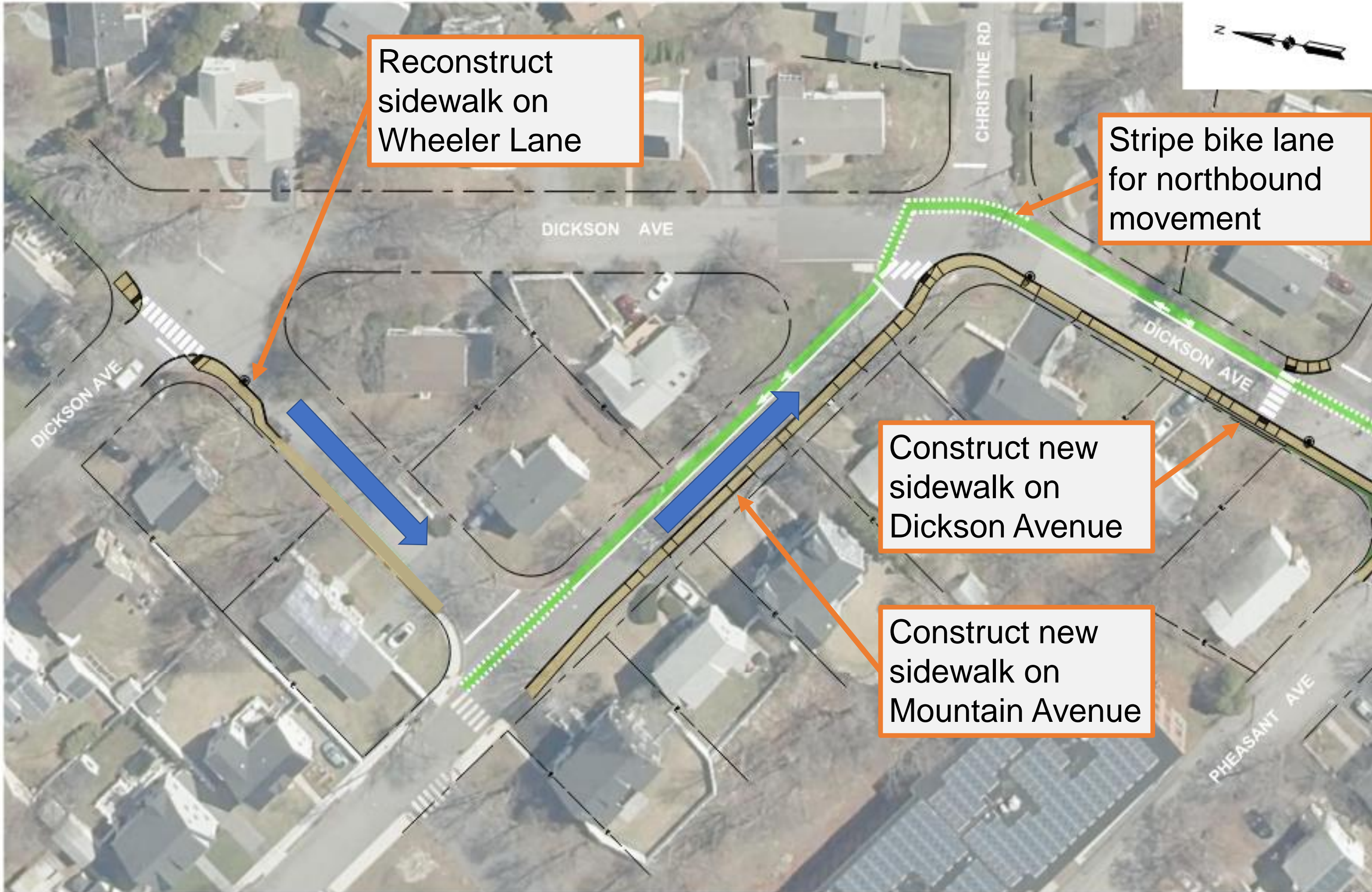
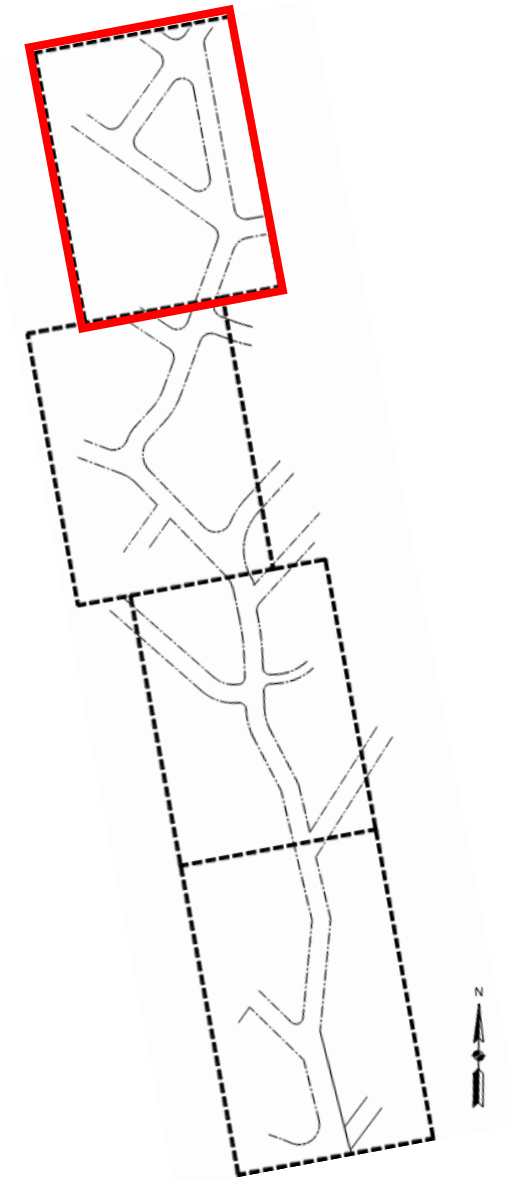
- No existing facilities within project limits for students bicycling

Provide bicycle accommodation



Project Details

- LEGEND:
-  = CEMENT CONCRETE SIDEWALK / DRIVEWAY
 -  = BIKE LANE
 -  = GRASS BUFFER






Reconstruct sidewalk on Wheeler Lane

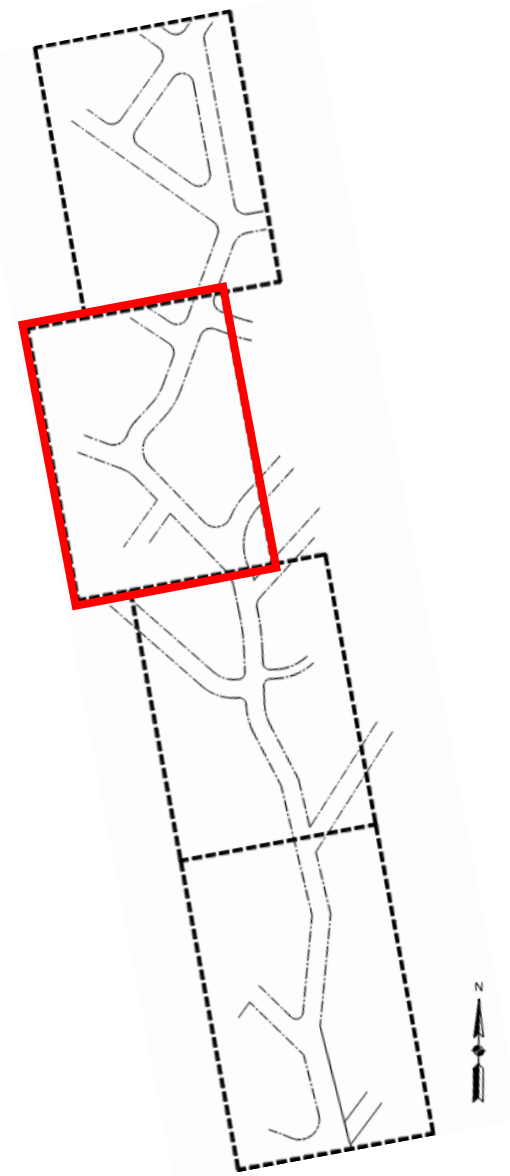
Stripe bike lane for northbound movement

Construct new sidewalk on Dickson Avenue

Construct new sidewalk on Mountain Avenue

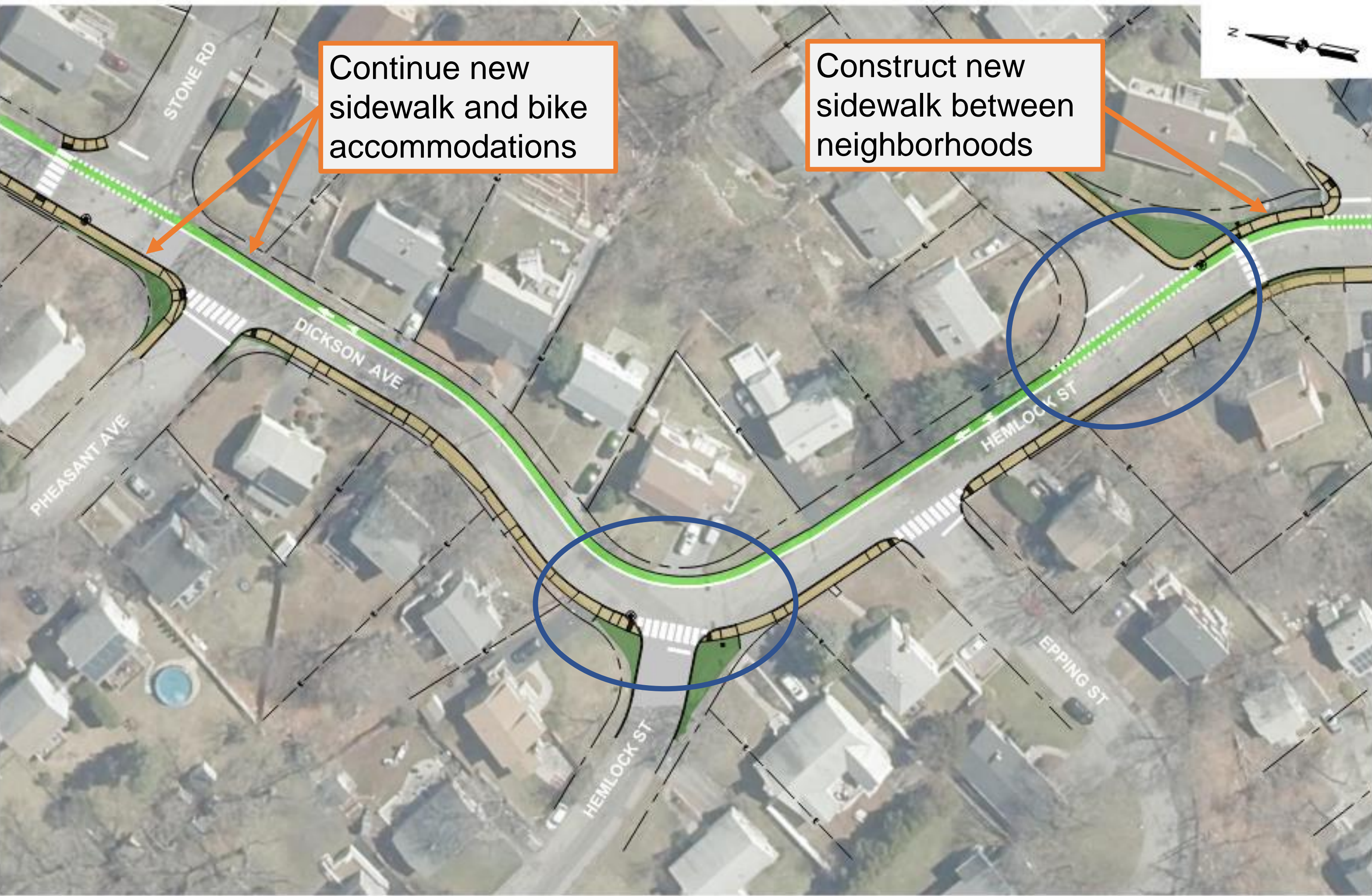
Project Details

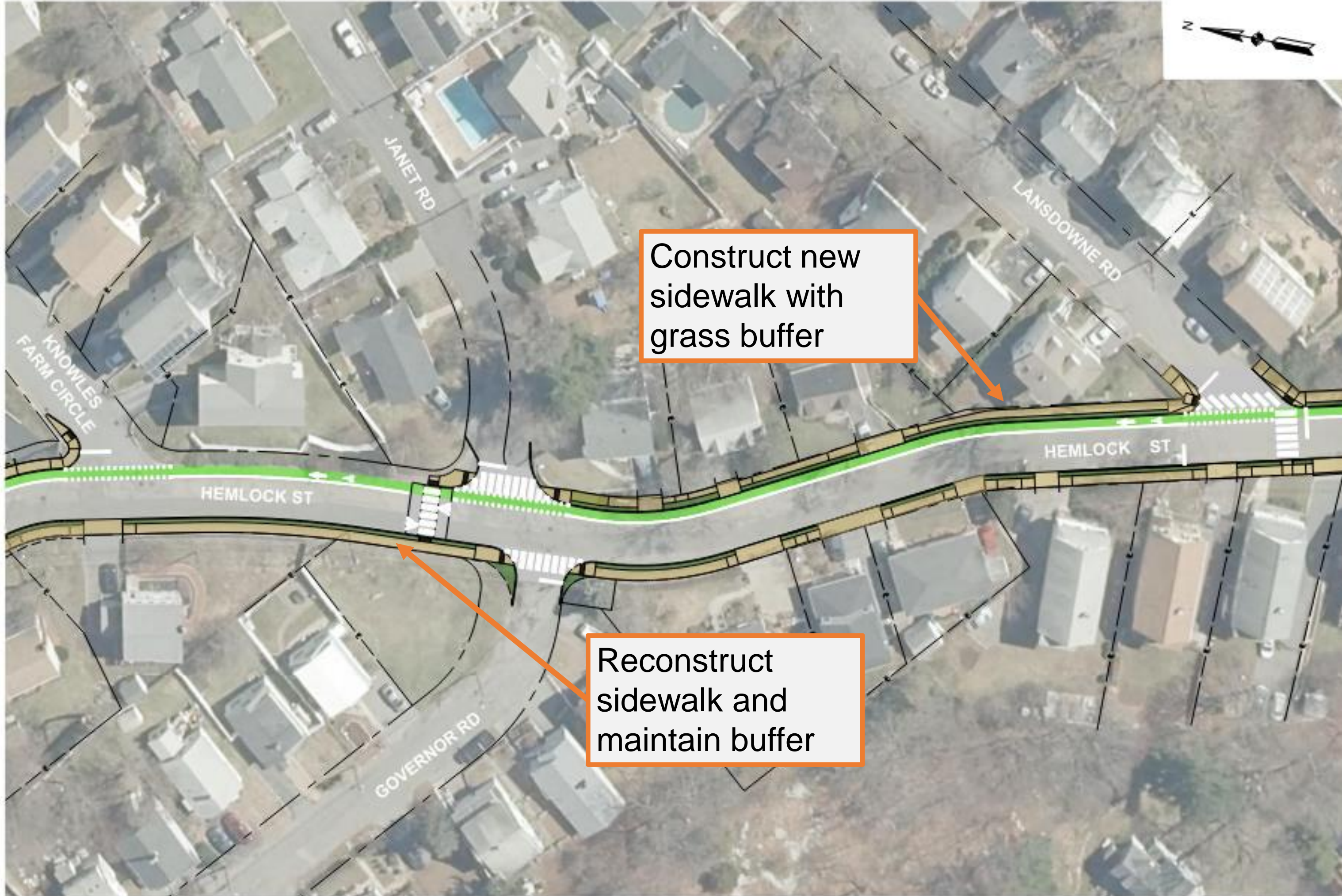
- LEGEND:
-  = CEMENT CONCRETE SIDEWALK / DRIVEWAY
 -  = BIKE LANE
 -  = GRASS BUFFER






Continue new sidewalk and bike accommodations

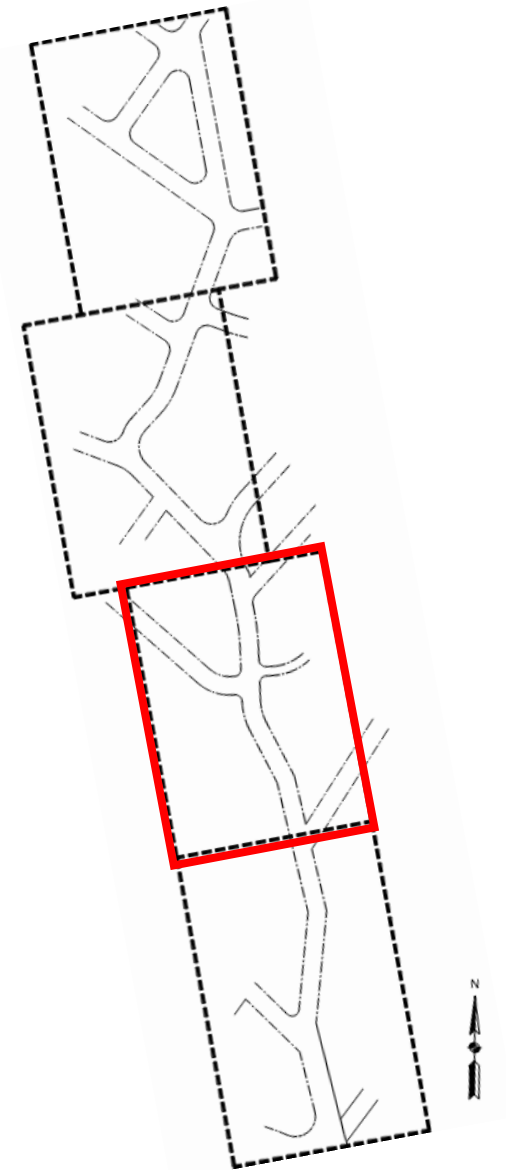
Construct new sidewalk between neighborhoods








Project Details

- LEGEND:
-  = CEMENT CONCRETE SIDEWALK / DRIVEWAY
 -  = BIKE LANE
 -  = GRASS BUFFER

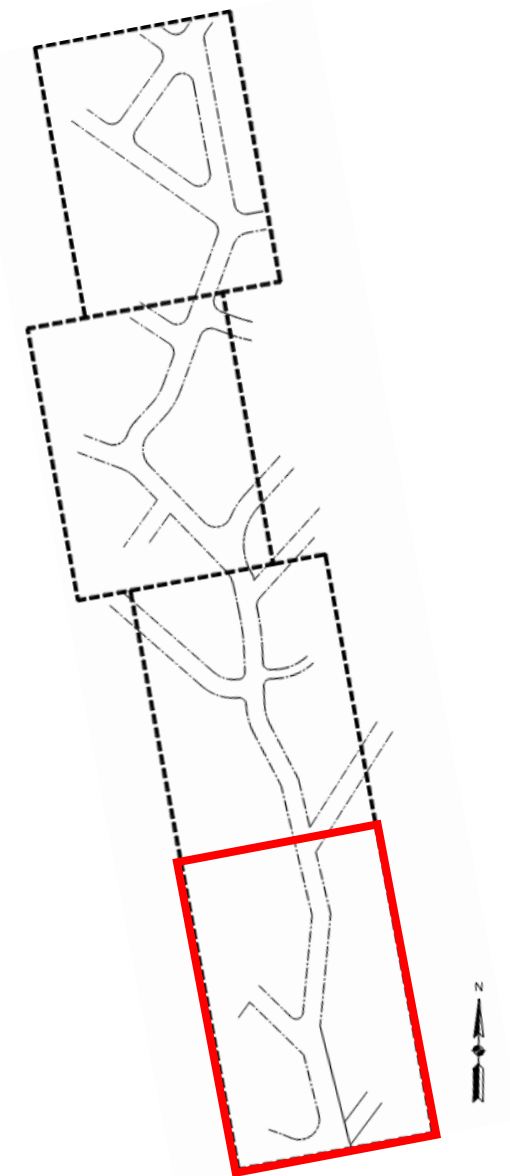


Project Details

- LEGEND:
-  = CEMENT CONCRETE SIDEWALK / DRIVEWAY
 -  = BIKE LANE
 -  = GRASS BUFFER

Reconstruct sidewalk on both sides of Hemlock Street with buffer

Extend bike lane to Brattle Street





**How will your
property be
impacted?**

Right of Way (ROW) discussion – 25% Design

- The Town of Arlington is responsible for acquiring all necessary rights in public land for design, construction, and implementation of the project.
- Affected property owners will be contacted by personnel from the Town.
- Procedures must comply with state and federal regulations governing the acquisition process.
 - Property owners are protected under Massachusetts General Laws, primarily Chapter 79.
 - If project receives federal funds, property owners are further protected under Title III of the Real Property Act of 1970, as amended.
- Fee takings, permanent easements, and/or temporary construction easements may be required.

Right of Way (ROW) impacts – based on 25% Design

- Impacts to private property almost exclusively limited to temporary easements (for grading/work zone)
- A permanent utility easement (PUE) is needed to accommodate an existing utility pole beyond the roadway ROW
- An alteration to the Town layout is needed to accommodate an existing sidewalk beyond the ROW

PROJECT TOTALS			
AFFECTED PROPERTIES	FEE TAKINGS	PERMANENT EASEMENTS	TEMPORARY EASEMENTS
31	1	1	35

* Based on 25% Design



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

Environmental Permitting

- No wetland impacts anticipated
- No Historic and Cultural impacts anticipated
- Conducting final review of healthy trees impacted by project
- Minimal increase in impervious area due to reduction in roadway width and intersection pavement



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

Traffic Impacts

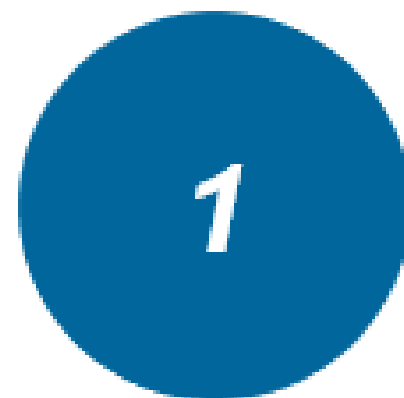
- Work zones in or directly adjacent to roadway
- Lane shifts to be utilized where possible
- Alternating one-way traffic setups needed in more confined areas
- Variable message signs placed two-weeks prior to inform public
- Officers/flaggers on site during construction can provide information

Project Budget

- Total Federal Participating Construction Cost (TFPCC) = \$993,289.00
 - materials (bid items)
 - design and construction contingencies
 - police details
 - utility relocation (as needed)
- TFPCC is 80% Federally Funded and 20% MassDOT Funded
- Does not include ROW acquisition cost

Project Schedule

- Advertisement Date (design / ROW complete): 3/30/24
- Construction commences Summer 2024
- Construction Duration: 15 months



**25% Design
Public Hearing**

January 2023



**Complete Final
Design**

Early 2024



**Start of Construction
(Approximate)**

Summer 2024



**How will we
keep you
informed?**

Contact Information

- EMAIL (preferred): Submit comments to:
MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us
Subject: MassDOT Project File No. 609531
- MAIL: Submit comments to:
Jon Freeman, EIT
Project Manager
MassDOT – Highway Division
10 Park Plaza, Suite 7550
Boston, MA 02116
Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 609531
- Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing is posted to the MassDOT website:
www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings





Questions and discussion

Questions and Answers



- “Raise your hand” to be unmuted for verbal questions (Alt + Y if using a phone)



- 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

*Stratton Elementary School
Arlington SRTS Project*

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