



## July 2021 PTAC Meeting: City Update

# Agenda

- Pearl + 6: Pearl St. and Intersection Safety Improvement Projects
- Resurfacing project updates and Davis Square
- Alewife Brook Parkway @ Powder House Boulevard Intersection
- Other Project Updates

# Pearl + 6

- Background
  - In the past, the City's annual street resurfacing program has focused largely on maintenance – meaning sidewalks, asphalt, and pavement markings would simply be replaced in kind
  - Over the last few years, Mobility and Engineering have worked together to slowly expand the scope of this program. It originally started by adding more pavement markings to accommodate bike lanes or building bumpouts to improve accessibility and slow traffic. In the latest bid package for this program, which includes College Ave and Holland St, the program took another step in the direction of focusing on street improvements by including a large number of traffic safety treatments such as protected bike lanes, speed humps, median refuge islands, and floating bus stops

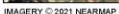
# Pearl + 6

- Latest Street Resurfacing Package
  - Today, Engineering and Mobility are in the process of putting together the contract for the next package of streets to be resurfaced
  - As was first demonstrated with the Holland/College street package, there will continue to be an emphasis on tackling fewer total miles of street each year but ensuring that meaningful safety improvements are designed and built
  - What *has* changed in this latest streets package is that instead of focusing solely on long stretches of one or two major corridors, construction will take place along one major corridor, Pearl St, as well as at six high-priority intersections. This has become what staff are calling the “Pearl + 6” streets package

# Pearl + 6

- The final list of intersections was determined by combining an analysis of high-crash intersections with an overlay of the city's low-stress network of streets for walking and biking. With an emphasis on communities of concern as outlined in the VZ Action Plan, the following intersections were selected:
  - Temple St at Heath St/Sewall St
  - Cross St at Everett Ave (East Somerville Community School Entrance)
  - Walnut St at Gilman St (Eastern Entrance to Ed Leathers Park)
  - Cross St at Gilman St/Oliver St
  - Glen St at Oliver St
  - Franklin St at Oliver St





Bar Measures 1 inch, otherwise drawing not to scale

City of Somerville  
Pearl Street and Select Areas  
Somerville, Massachusetts  
Temple Street at  
Heath Street and Sewell Street  
Concept Plan

PROJ:	143-314177-21001
DESN:	.....
DRWN:	.....
CHKD:	.....

DRWN:	...
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Weight: 100g

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City of Somerville  
Oliver Street and Select Areas  
Glen Street  
Concept Plan

PROJ:	143-314177-21001
DESN:	
DRWN:	
CHKD:	



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City of Somerville  
Pearl Street and Select Areas  
Somerville, Massachusetts  
**Oliver Street at  
Franklin Street  
Concept Plan**

PROJ:	143-314177-21001
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# Resurfacing Projects and Davis Square



# Alewife Brook Pkwy. @ Powder House Blvd.



## Existing conditions

- Thousands of cars per day (~40,000)
- Hundreds of bikes and peds per day (~300)
- High crash location (~40 from 2014-19)
- Important connection point between residents and transit, essential services, and recreation area/open space

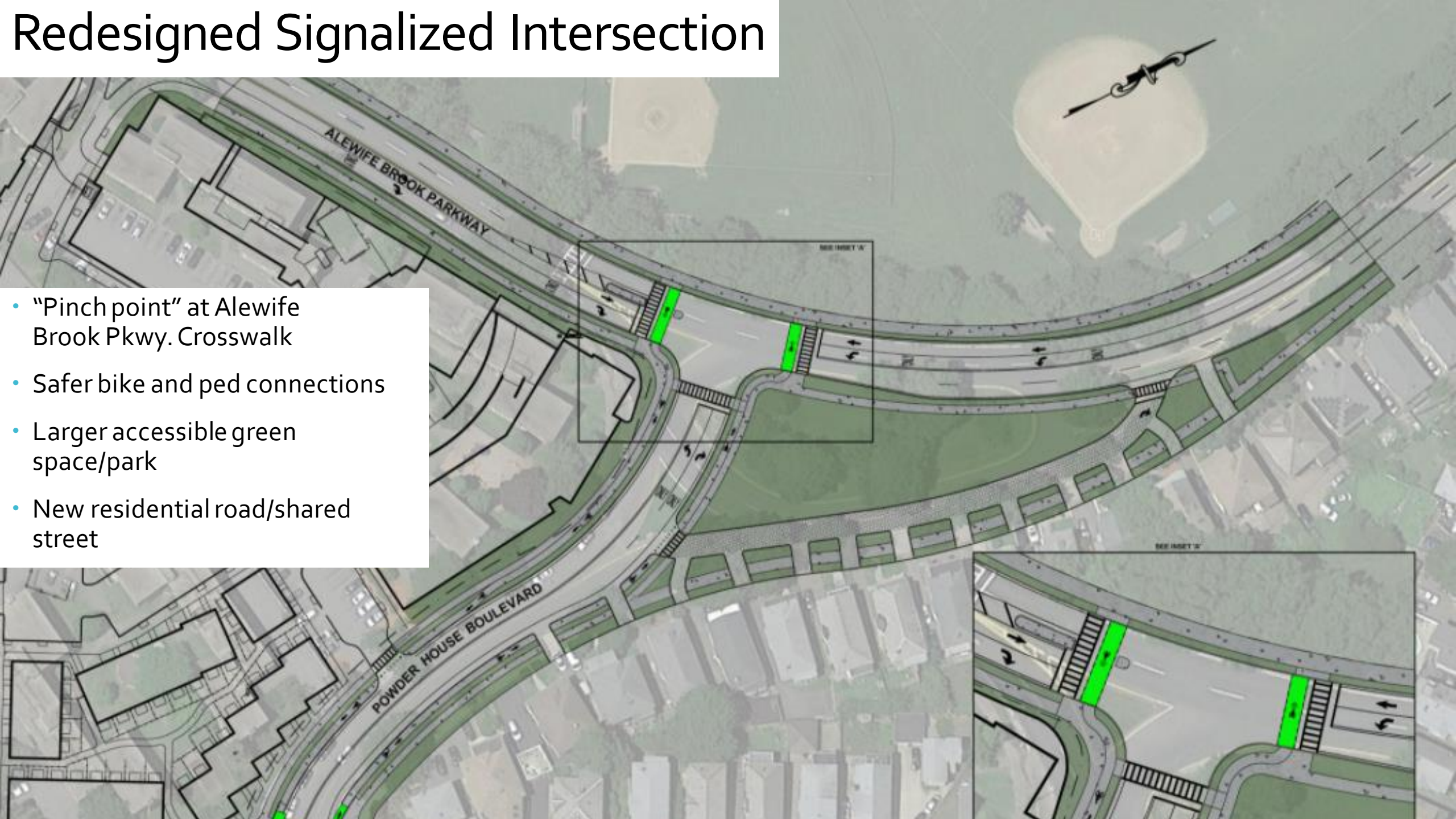
## Project Goals

- Improve safety for all road users
- Enhance bike and ped connections
- Improve access
- Slow vehicles



# Redesigned Signalized Intersection

- “Pinch point” at Alewife Brook Pkwy. Crosswalk
- Safer bike and ped connections
- Larger accessible green space/park
- New residential road/shared street







# What is a Residential Shared Street?

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# Residential shared streets include...



- Physical design to slow vehicles
  - Raised crosswalk at entrance
  - Narrow driving space
  - Plantings or parking spaces to create 'chicane'
- Driving space flush with curb to reinforce pedestrian-priority nature of street
- Residential access only



# Residential shared streets include...



Images from NACTO





# Local examples





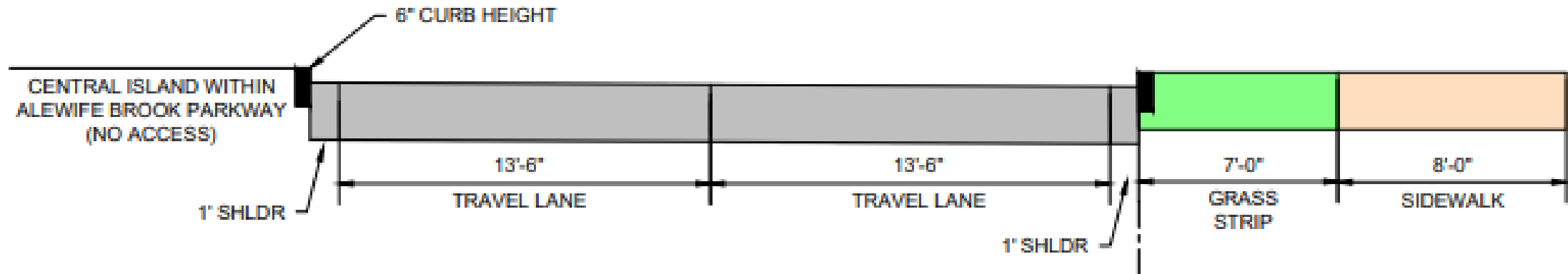
# Initial Residential Shared Street Concept

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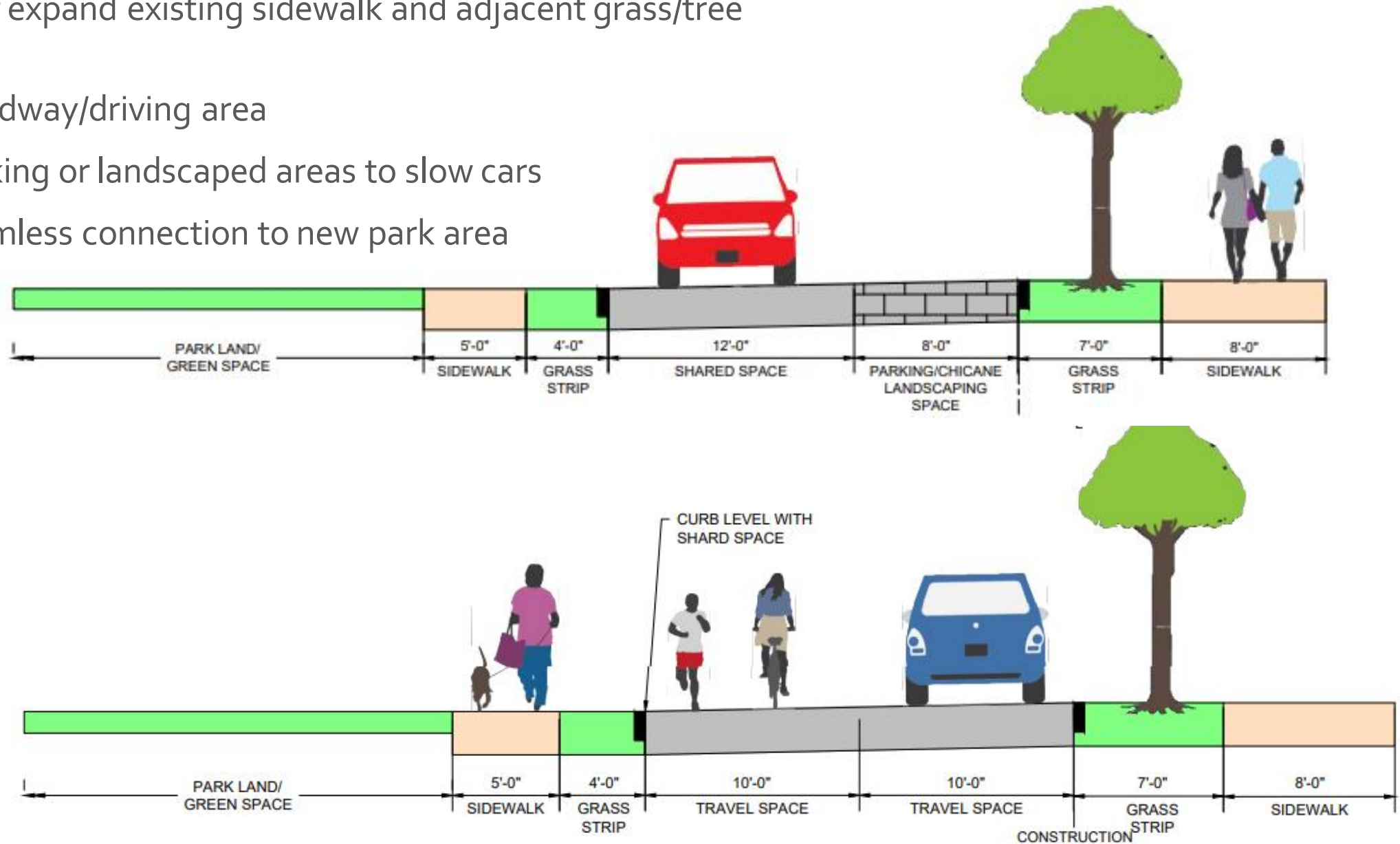


# Existing

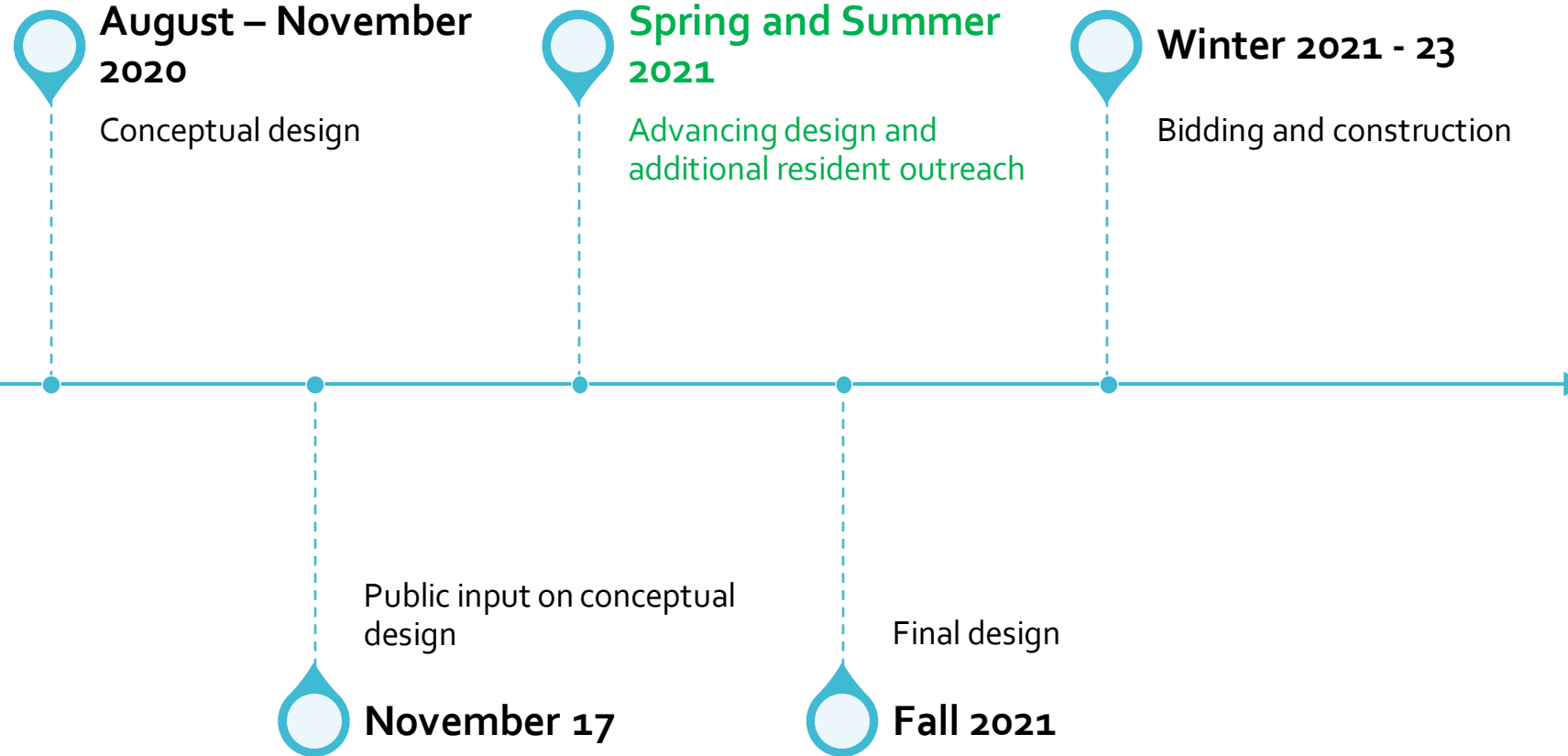


# Proposed

- Maintain or expand existing sidewalk and adjacent grass/tree area
- Narrow roadway/driving area
- Create parking or landscaped areas to slow cars
- Create seamless connection to new park area







Anticipated  
project  
timeline

# Summer Project Updates

- [Somerville Ave Utility and Streetscape Improvements Project](#) (SAUSI)
  - Raised crosswalks have been built at side streets between Prospect St and Medford St
  - Paving in the heart of Union Square is completed
  - Striping is expected to begin the following week
- Lower Medford St
  - Majority of flex posts have been installed
  - Concrete truck apron installed last night
- Vision Zero
  - 3 resident members selected for VZ Working Group
  - Working Group meeting #2 being scheduled for late August/early September
- Union Square Plaza and Streetscapes Project
  - SomerVoice online survey: [Union Square Plaza and Streetscapes | SomerVoice \(somervillema.gov\)](https://www.somervillema.gov/somervoice)
  - In-person pop-up public outreach in the square



Lower Medford St flex posts



Wellington Bridge PBL striping



# Summer Project Updates

- Washington St Underpass
  - Sidewalks/retaining walls were completed in mid June, followed shortly after by a mill and pave between Tufts St and Joy St
  - Crews have been installing pavement markings over the last couple of weeks, final night of red bus lane application
- College Ave
  - Sidewalk reconstruction is underway (starting just south of Powder House Circle)
  - Link to recently published storymap: [bit.ly/collegeaveproject](https://bit.ly/collegeaveproject)
  - Holland St work likely won't begin until Spring 2022
- Powder House Circle
  - Contract is being finalized, goal is to have implementation begin and end in August but will be dependent on contractor's schedule and crew availability
  - Expecting to release a storymap next week as part of final outreach push ahead of implementation. Also working to have message boards placed on at least one or two approaches to help increase project awareness
- Parking Study
  - Inventory continues (>50% complete)
  - Occupancy data collection to begin in September
  - Phase 2 policy study contract signed, kickoff in August



Wash Underpass Ruby Lake application



College Ave sidewalk pouring