

City Update March 2026 PTAC Meeting



Welcome New Committee Members!

- New Members:

- Rachel Chiquoine (Ward 3)
- Susan Foley (Ward 6)
- Christopher Friend (Ward 7)
- Sebastian Lopes-Filho (Ward 4)
- Andrew Rosenfeld (Ward 3)



Agenda

- 2026 Construction Look-Ahead
 - Broadway at Wallace Street & Simpson Avenue
 - Shore Drive Greenway
 - Annual streets projects
 - Elm Beacon Connector
- FY26 Snow Operations Post-mortem





2026 Construction Look-Ahead

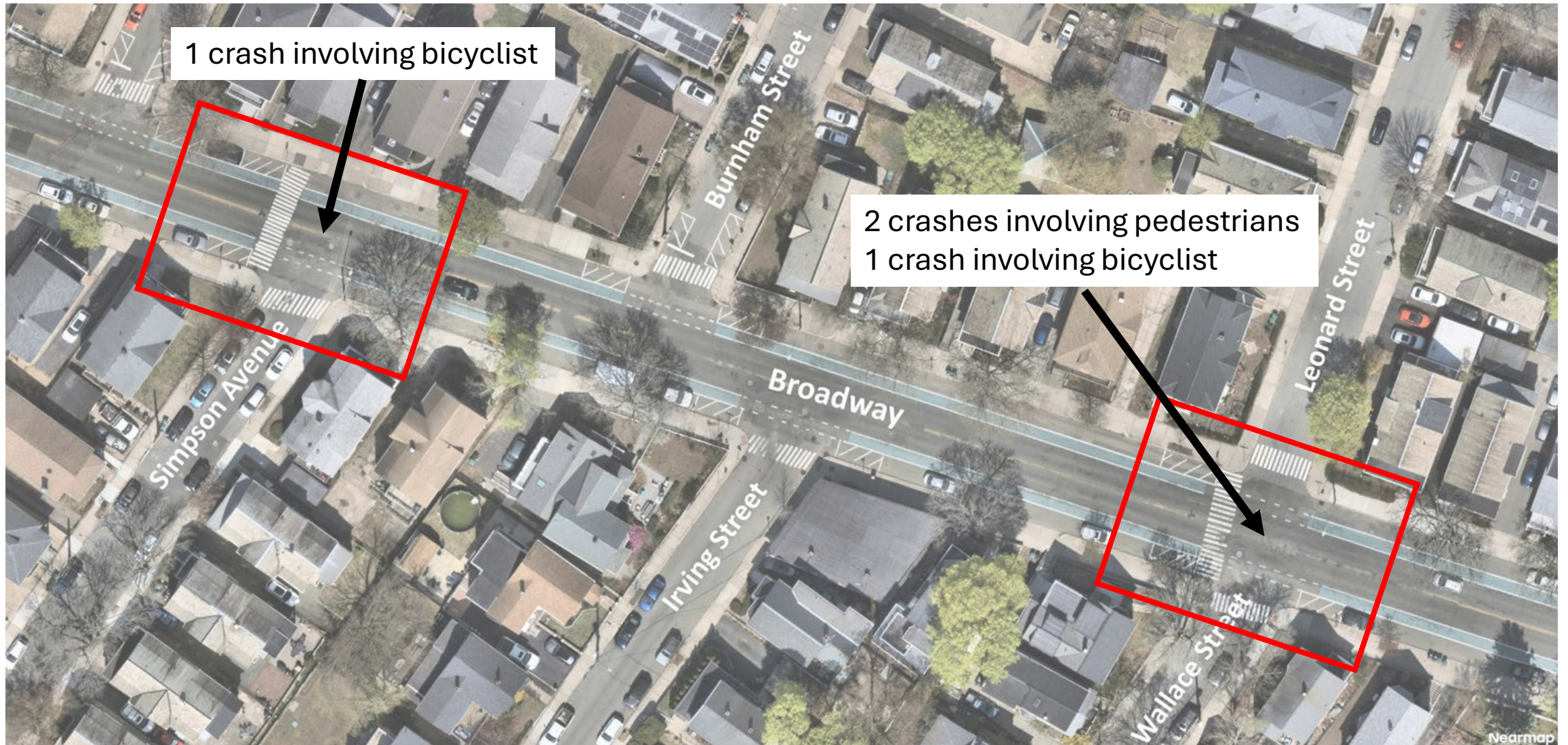
Broadway at Simpson Avenue and Wallace Street/Leonard Street Quick-Build Project



Community Feedback

- **Community members have expressed feeling unsafe crossing the street at the intersections of Broadway & Wallace Street/Leonard Street and Broadway & Simpson Avenue**
 - Vehicles are speeding and not yielding to pedestrians in the crosswalks
 - Vehicles are taking frequent and fast turns from Broadway onto side streets
 - It is difficult for pedestrians to see oncoming traffic because parked vehicles are blocking sightlines
 - Vehicles are using the Broadway @ Leonard Street bus stop to pass other vehicles that have stopped for pedestrians or are waiting to take a left turn
- The project was informed by community feedback received through the Mobility Division's general engagement channels and at two project-specific outreach pop-ups at these intersections in October 2025

Crash History (2020-2024)



Representative Vehicle Speeds*



*85th percentile speeds

Vehicle Volumes: 7am-7pm



Vehicle Volumes: AM Peak Hour

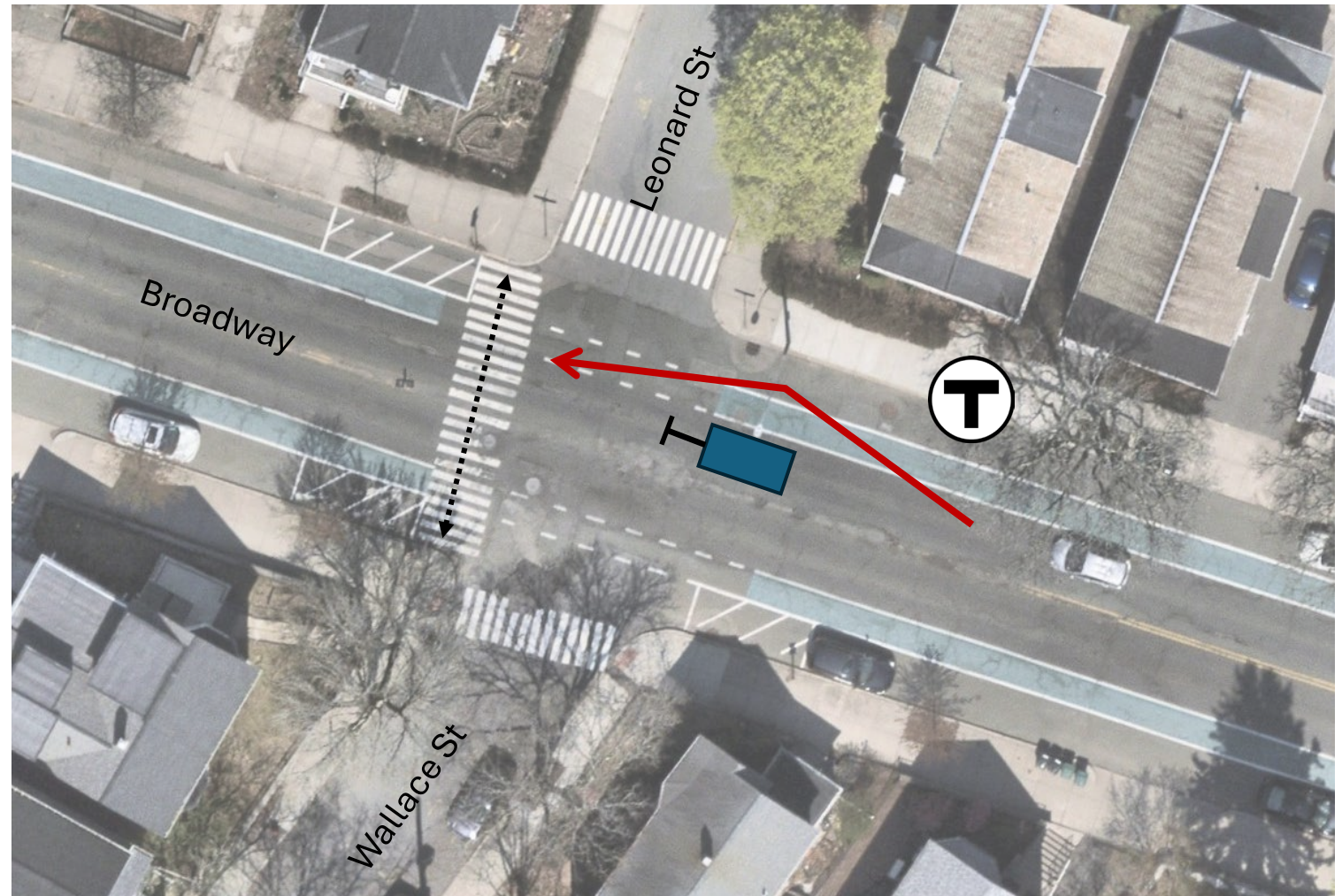


Vehicle Yielding

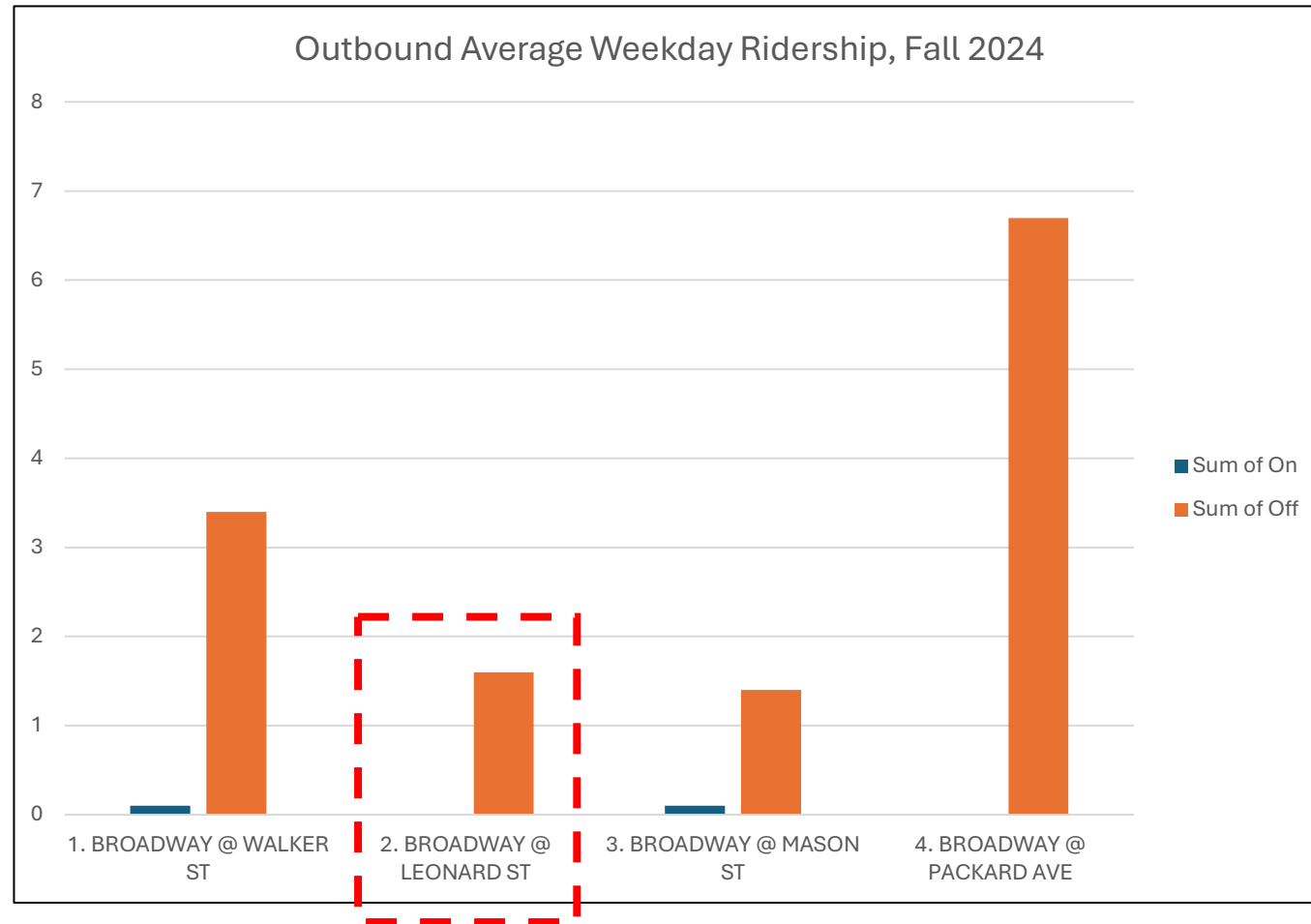


Dangerous passing behavior observed at Wallace Street / Leonard Street crossing

- High volume of left turns from Broadway onto Wallace Street.
- Vehicles traveling thru on Broadway use Broadway @ Leonard Street bus stop to bypass vehicles slowing or stopping to make left turn onto Wallace Street or stopping for pedestrians in the crosswalk.
- This behavior creates a dangerous condition for pedestrians.



Broadway @ Leonard Street bus stop utilization averages <2 riders per day



Existing bus stop spacing



Bus stop spacing w/Broadway @ Leonard Street stop elimination



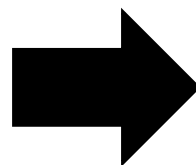
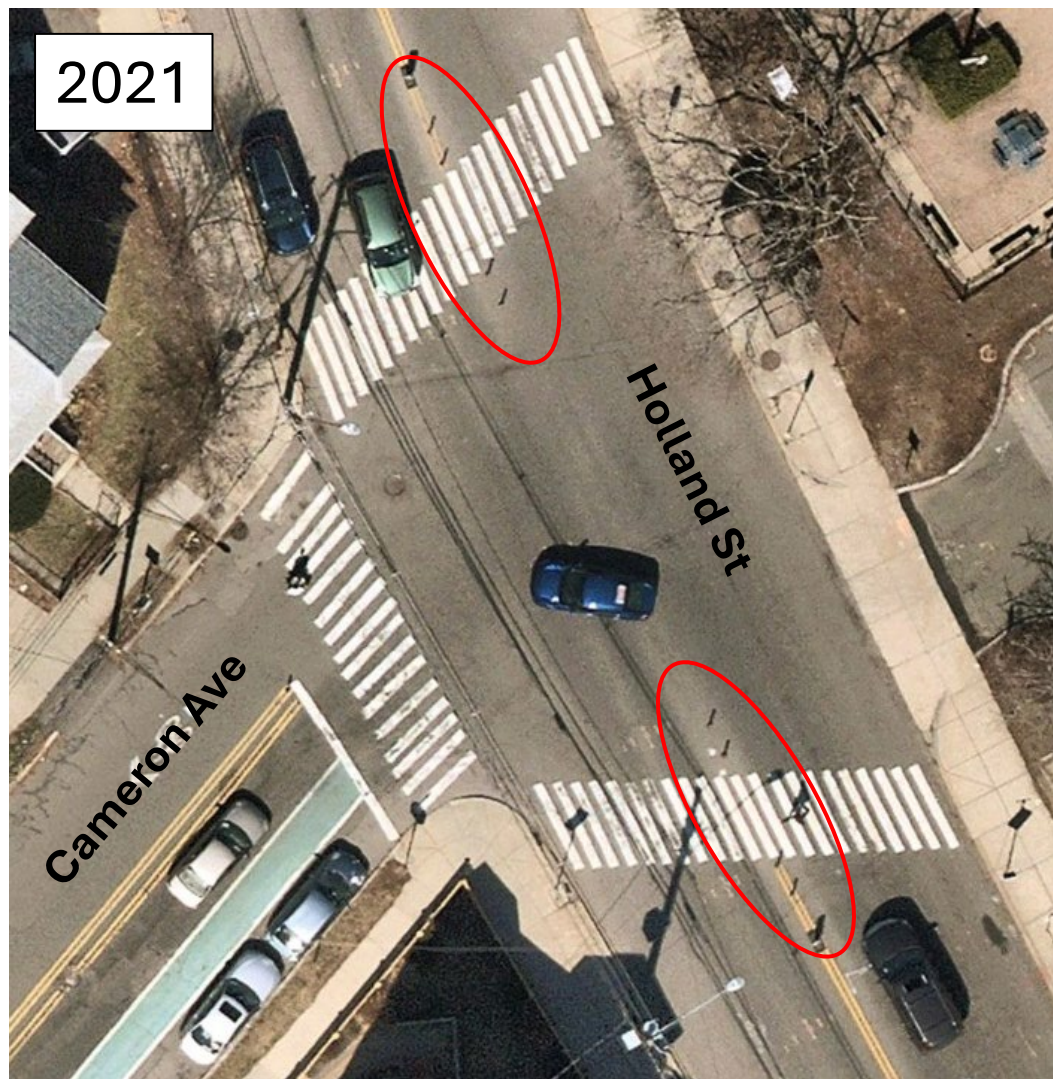
Possible future stop spacing w/stop relocation



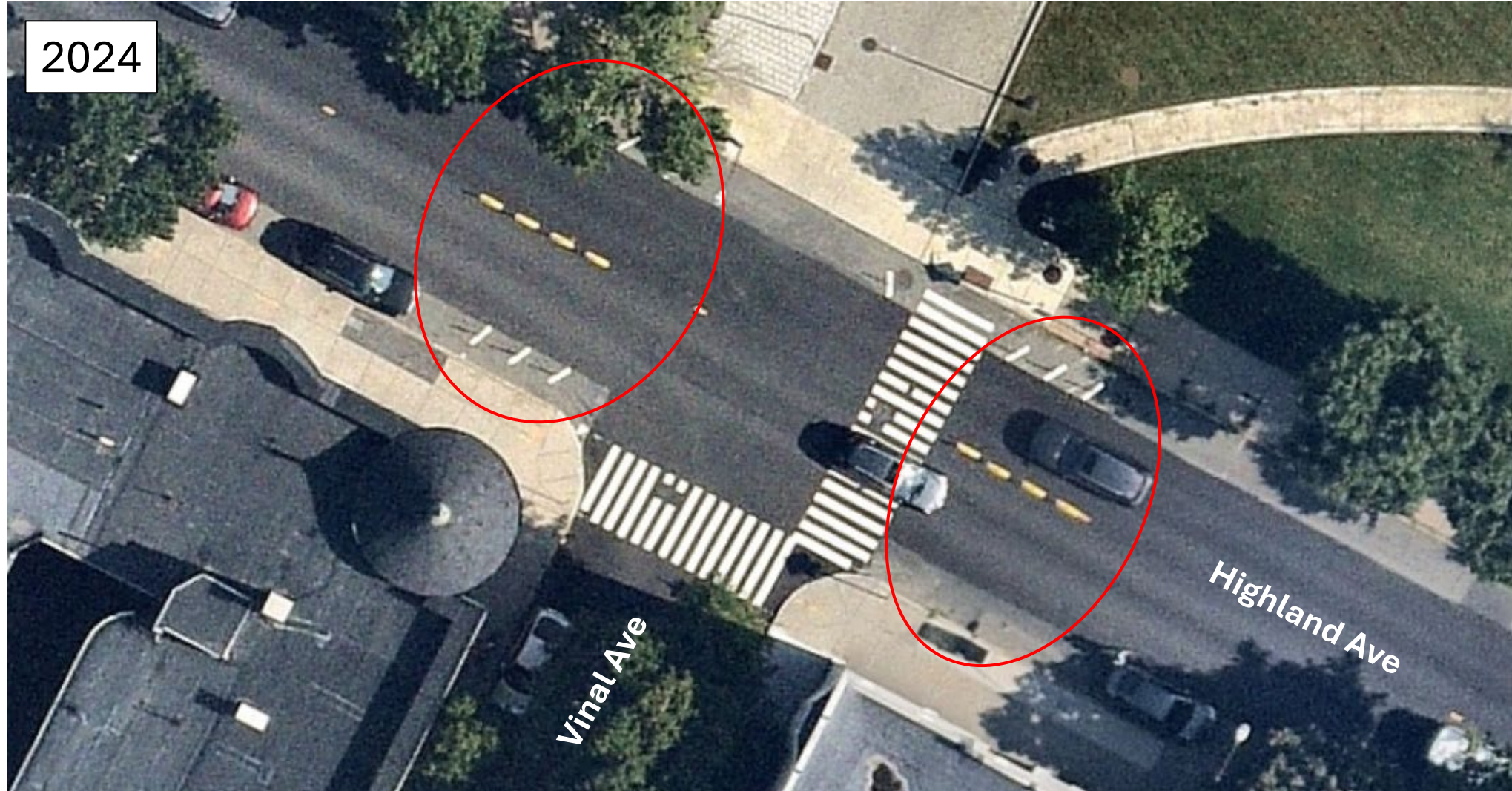
Quick-Build Safety Opportunities

- **Better visibility between road users**
 - Pull parking farther from the intersections to improve sightlines between vehicles and pedestrians in the crosswalks
 - Create greater separation between people driving and biking
- **Reduce vehicle speeds**
 - Install flex posts along the roadway centerline and in buffer areas to force vehicles to turn more slowly
 - Visually narrow travel lanes with pavement markings and flex posts
- **Prevent dangerous passing behavior**
 - Eliminate Broadway @ Leonard Street bus stop

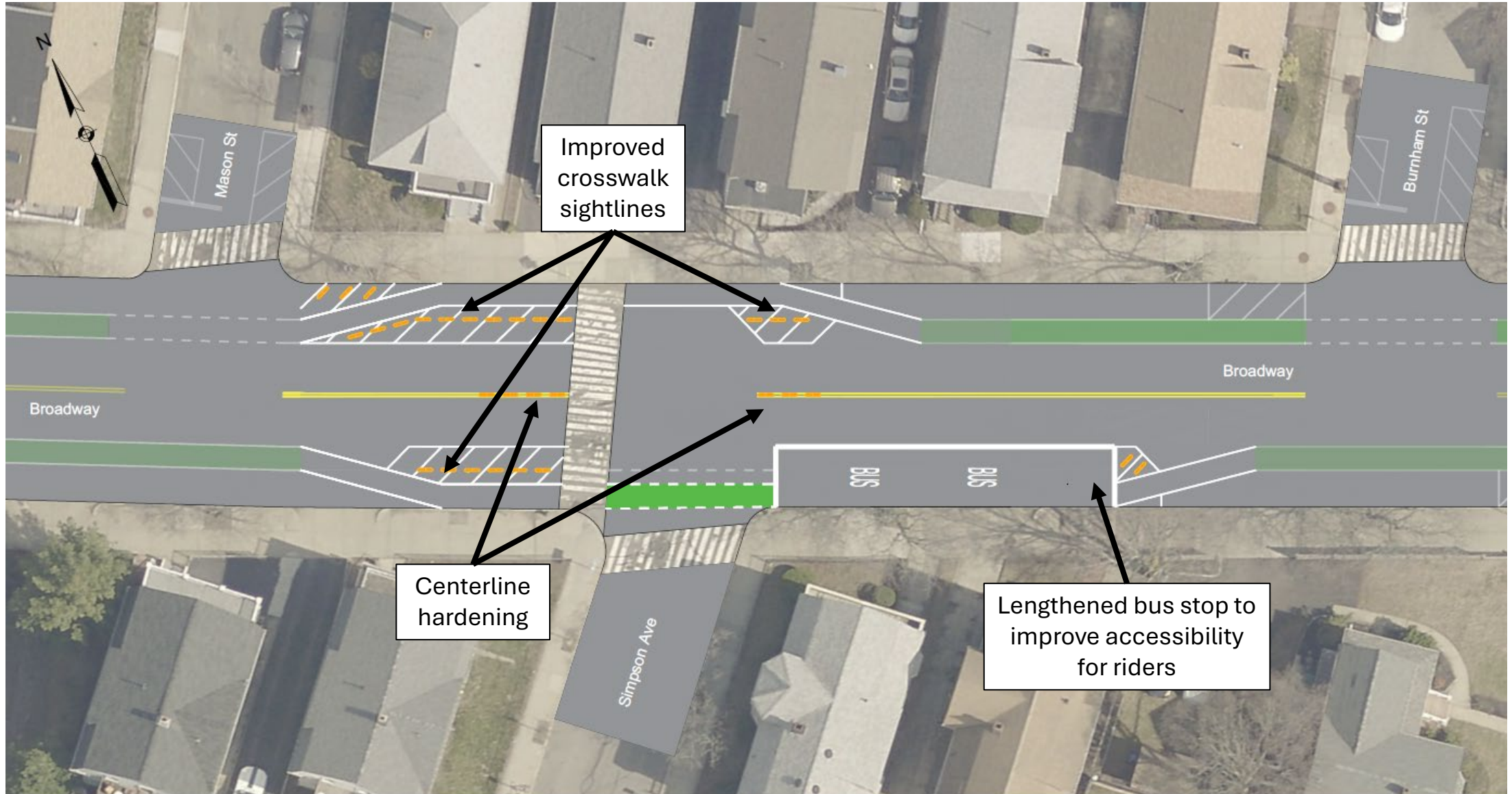
Holland St at Cameron Ave



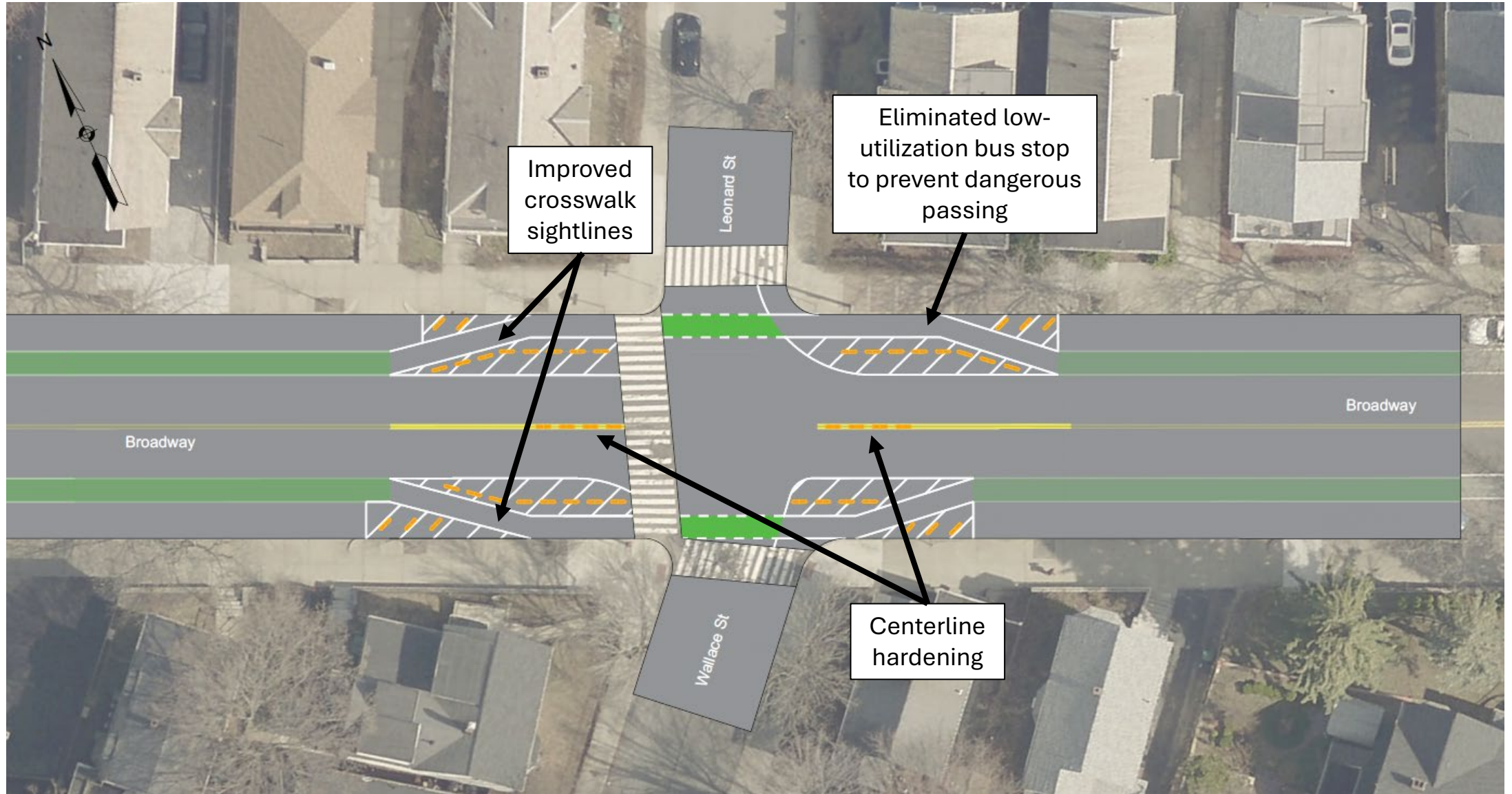
Highland Ave at Vinal Ave/High School Driveway



Broadway at Simpson Ave Redesign



Broadway at Wallace St/Leonard St Redesign



Shore Drive Greenway

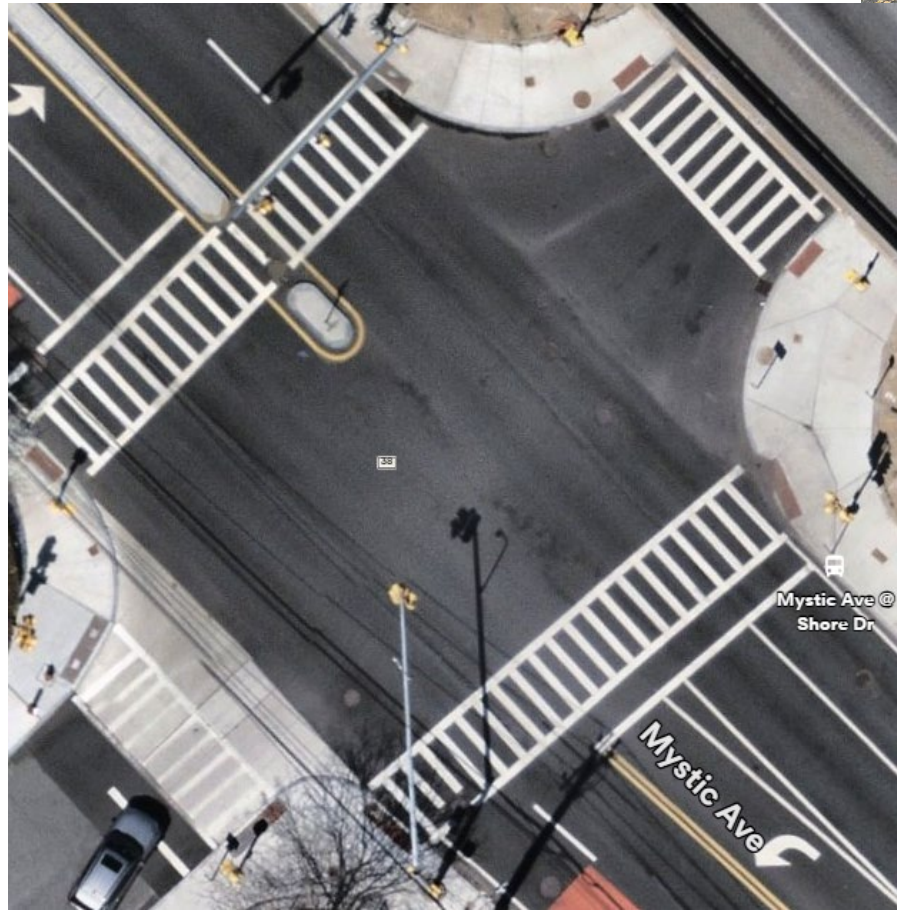


- The Shore Drive Greenway will be a 12-foot shared-use path through Blessing of the Bay Park along the Mystic River
 - 85 new shade trees
 - 520 square feet of native plantings
 - Underground green stormwater infrastructure.
- Construction set to begin in early May
 - Community meeting on May 7, 6-7pm to discuss construction impacts.
- Substantial completion expected by summer 2027; final completion by fall 2027

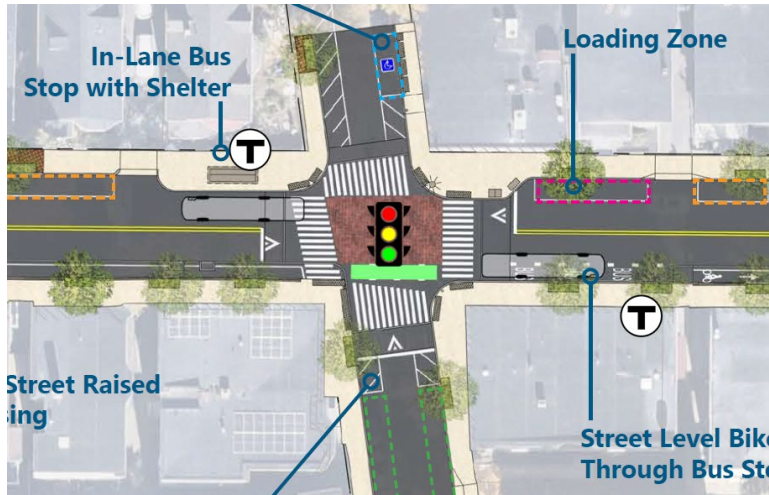


Shore Drive Greenway

- Shore Drive has been a longtime source of traffic calming requests.
- Mobility added a protected bike lane to Shore Drive between Fellsway and Mystic Ave in 2021
 - This project extends the curb into that space to widen the substandard multi-use path, add trees on both sides of the path, and narrow Shore Drive
- In 2024, Mobility project improved pedestrian and bike infrastructure at Mystic Ave at Shore Drive
 - Connection from SHA Mystic Housing to Blessings of the Bay Park



Annual Streets Projects: 2026-2027 Projects



Western Pearl Street Reconstruction

- The final design for Pearl Street was published in early February.
- Bidding was completed early this year and a contract has been awarded.
- Project is expected to get underway during the 2026 or 2027 construction season, but we do not have a more specific schedule at this time.



Additional Street, Sidewalk, and Paving Projects

- Additional roadway and sidewalk repairs are planned through the City's Pavement and Sidewalk Management program, which uses a multi-phase, data-driven process to evaluate needs and select streets and sidewalks for reconstruction.
- Curb-to-Curb Paving and New Sidewalks
 - Perry Street (Washington St to Marion St)
 - Holyoke Road (Elm St to Elm St)
 - Aldersey Street (Vinal Ave to Walnut St)
 - Grandview Avenue (Vinal Ave to Walnut St)
- Sidewalk Replacement Only
 - Prescott Street (Highland Ave to Summer St)
 - Howe Street (Marshal Street to School St)
 - Rush Street (Broadway to End of Street)
- Partial Paving of Travel Lanes Only
 - 11 street segments
 - See link above for specific locations planned for partial paving.

Elm-Beacon Connector

- The final design for this project as been [posted](#)
 - Changes were approved the Somerville Traffic Commission on April 9
- Bidding process to secure pavement markings and traffic signal contractors expected to be completed by end of July.
- Implementation could begin as early as July and be completed by November 2026.
 - Schedule updates to be posted to project website.
 - Most pavement markings work will likely occur overnight.
- Coordinating design and implementation timelines with the project team for the Kennedy School Playground Renovations.
 - Working to maintain anticipated timelines and minimize impact on Kennedy School operation.



FY26 Snow Season Post-Mortem



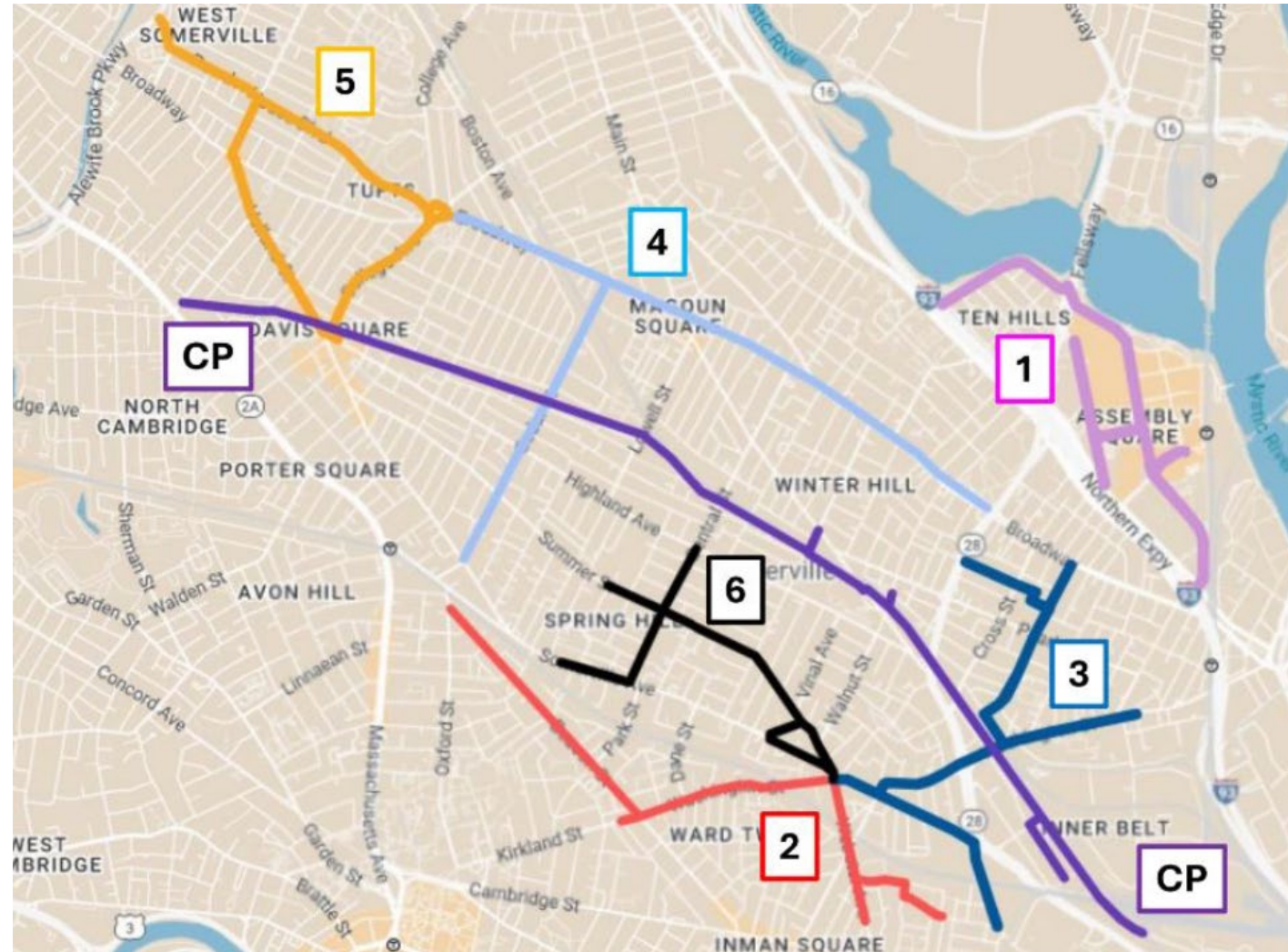
FY26 Snow Season Post-Mortem

- DPW Commissioner Eric Weisman discussed operations during the past winter in detail at the City Council Sustainability & Infrastructure Committee Meeting on March 18th
 - [Agenda](#)
 - [Video](#)
 - [Presentation](#)
- Given previous PTAC focus we recommend reviewing the video and slides.



FY26 Snow Season Post-Mortem - Highlights

- 68.1 inches of snow – most since 2015
- Route map for Bike Lanes and Shared Use Paths
- Clearing Mobility Infrastructure
 - Maintaining Community Path access
 - Feb storm required temp suspension of operations on path for one overnight
 - Some bike lane clearing abandoned in favor of removal in Feb storm
 - Became counterproductive with roadway and sidewalk operations
 - SOP changes for >8” storm could free up small equipment for other uses



FY26 Snow Season Post-Mortem - Highlights

- Enhanced enforcement areas
 - School Street & Broadway

Date	Properties Ticketed and Cleared:
1/20/26	9
1/27/26	14
2/24/26	23

- Level of snow response

Forecast	Deicing	City Plowing Operations	Bike & Pedestrian Facilities	Contractors	Removal Operations
0"-2"	Salting, brining (weather permitting).	Plowing dependent on forecast.	Pretreatment of community path.	None.	As needed.
2"-4"	Salting, brining (weather permitting).	Plows on each route.	Plow path, plow separated bike facilities	May supplement on major and selected routes.	Snow removal from schools, back-dragging bus stops.
4"-8"	Salting, brining (weather permitting).	Plows on each route.	Plow path, plow separated bike facilities	More expansive contractor activity.	Snow removal from schools. Likely removal from bus stops.
8"+	Deicing may be limited to beginning and end of storm.	Plows on each route.	Plow path, transition to removal operations on separated facilities.	Tandem plowing with City plows on every route.	Snow removal from schools, bus stops, bike lanes, corners as possible.