CEDAR ST
1724

25% Design Hearing of Linear Park Crossing of Mass. Avenue

- **Bill Deignan and Susanne Rasmussen Community Development Department**
- **Philip MacDonald, MassHighway**
- **Dennis Flynn, Earth Tech**
- **Gerald Blumenthal, Judith Nitsch Inc.**

June 28, 2006

Meeting Highlights

- Welcome and Introducations
- Project Background
- Project Goals
- Plan Description
- Comments and Questions
- Schedule
- Next Steps
- Wrap Up

Project Overview

- Cambridge is working with MassHighway and the City of Somerville and Town of Belmont on improving several bicycle/pedestrian connections along Linear Park between Blanchard Road and Davis Square.
- Hearing held on May 13th, 2004, except for Linear Park Crossing which is being added to the project.
- Linear Park is a heavily used community asset but has never had a convenient crossing of Mass. Ave.

Existing Conditions Aerial Photo

City of Cambridge June 26, 2006

Linear Park Crossing of Mass. Ave.

Linear Park Crossing
Existing Conditions

Linear Park Crossing
Existing Conditions

Linear Park Crossing
Existing Conditions

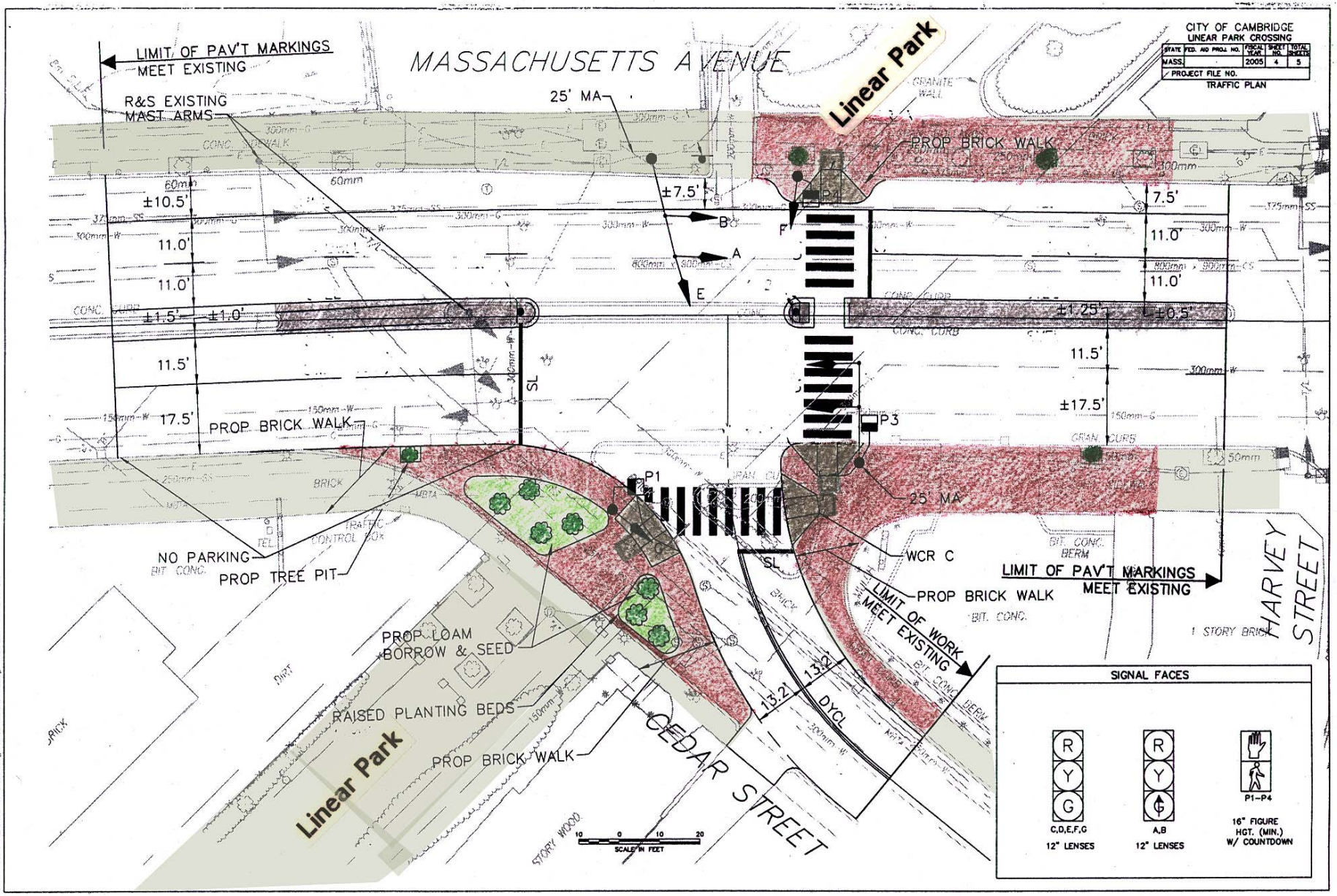
Linear Park Crossing Project Goals

- **Create a direct, signalized and fully accessible crossing of Linear Park at Mass. Ave.**
- **Keep signals coordinated to facilitate traffic flow on Mass. Ave. and convenient access from adjacent neighborhoods.**

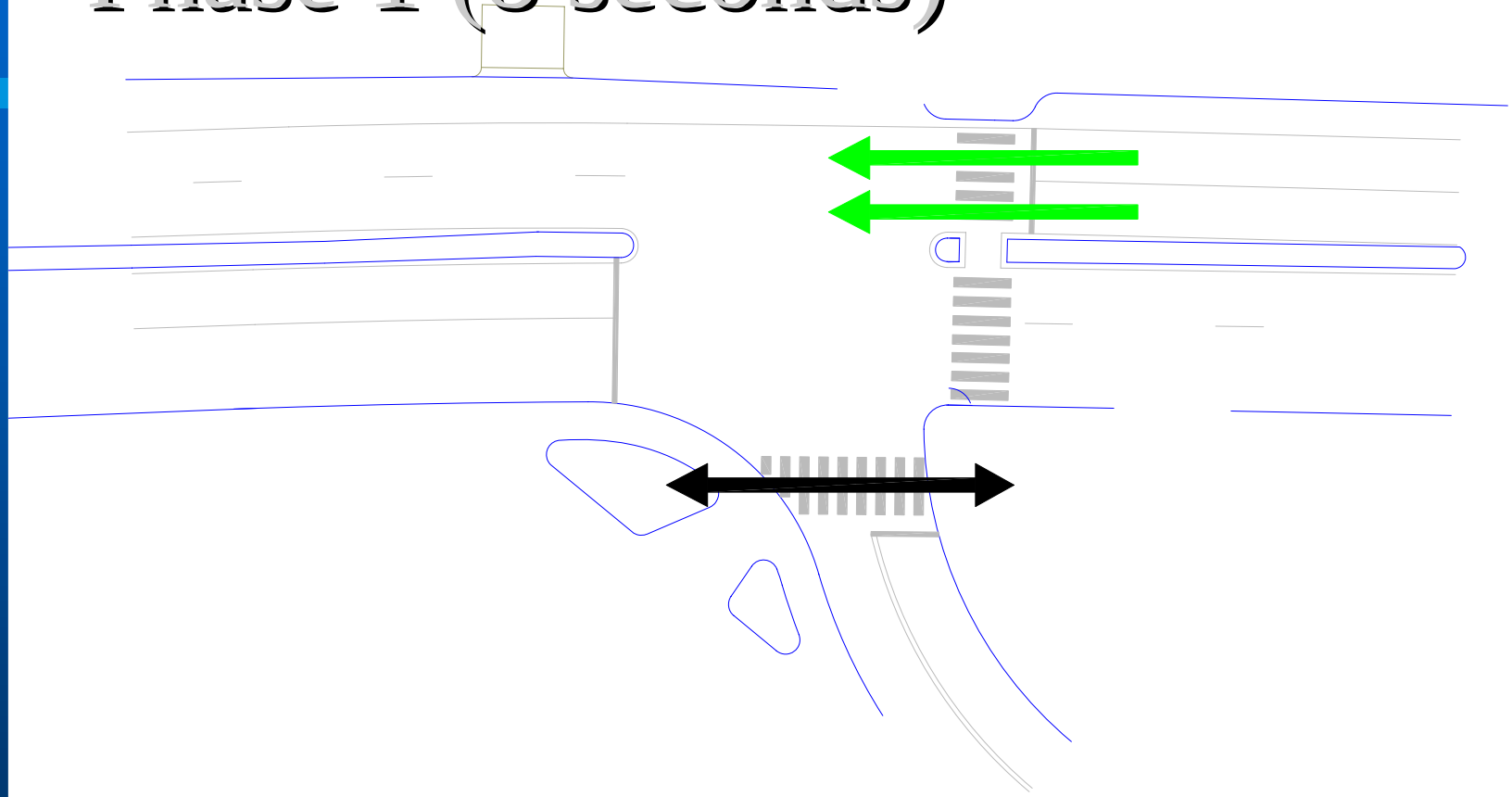
Project Plan

- The plan includes re-aligning the intersection of Cedar St. and Mass. Avenue so Cedar St. meets Mass. Avenue at a right angle. Opening of median will be relocated.
- An adjacent landscaped area will be relocated to the opposite side of Cedar St. and new trees planted.
- Pedestrian crossing phase will be concurrent and part of every cycle of the traffic signal.

Plan

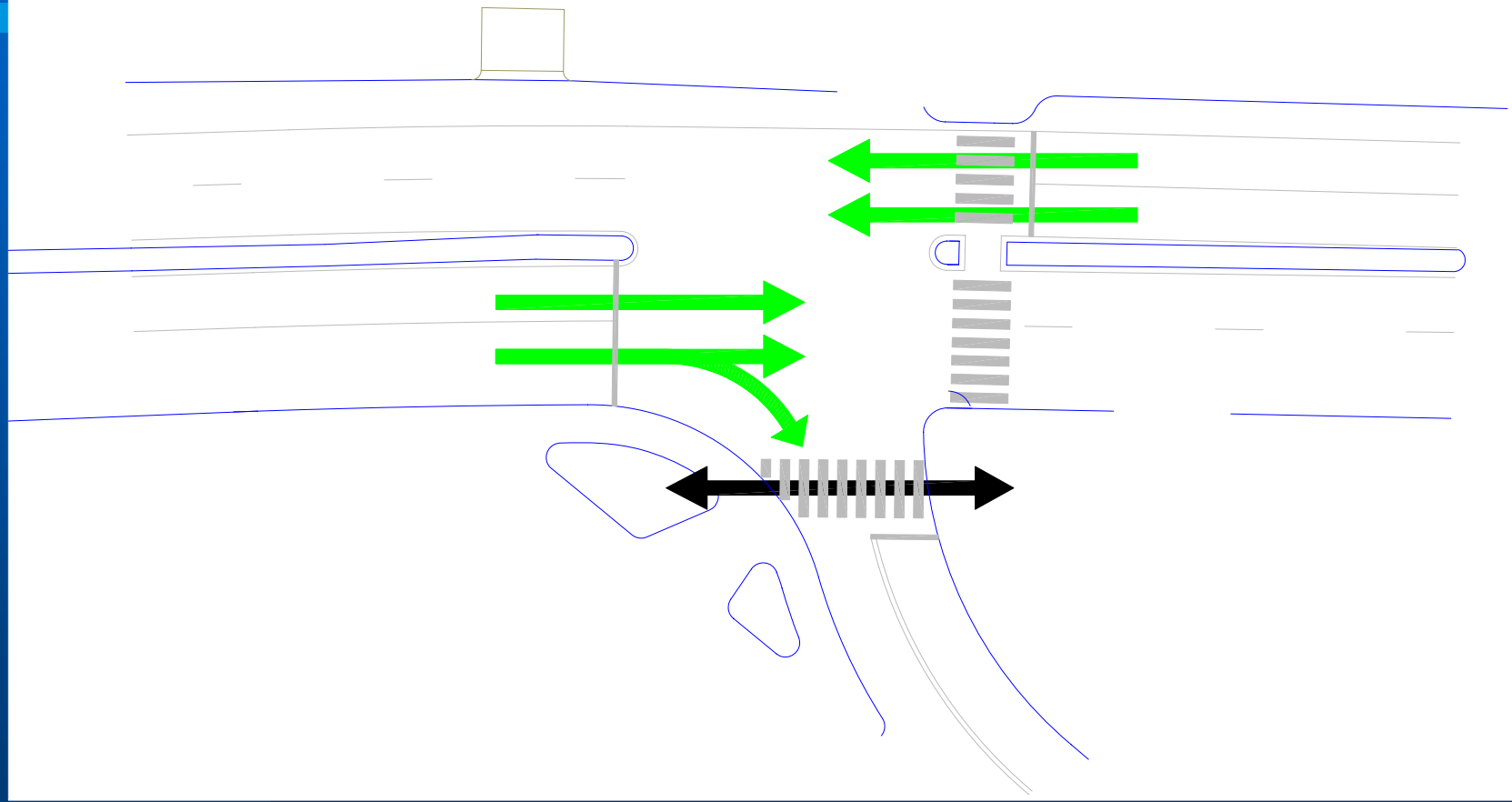

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
LINEAR PARK CROSSING
STATE FED. AID PROJ. NO. | FISCAL YEAR | SHEET NO. | TOTAL SHEETS
MASS. | 2005 | 4 | 5
PROJECT FILE NO.
TRAFFIC PLAN
MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
LIMIT OF PAV'T MARKINGS MEET EXISTING
R&S EXISTING MAST ARMS
25' MA
Linear Park
PROP BRICK WALK
±7.5'
7.5'
±10.5'
11.0'
11.0'
±1.5'
±1.0'
±1.25'
±0.5'
11.5'
17.5'
±17.5'
SL
P1
P2
P3
P4
NO PARKING
PROP TREE PIT
PROP LOAM BORROW & SEED
RAISED PLANTING BEDS
WCR C
LIMIT OF PAV'T MARKINGS MEET EXISTING
LIMIT OF WORK MEET EXISTING
13.2'
13.2'
DYCL
CEDAR STREET
HARVEY STREET
SCALE IN FEET
SIGNAL FACES
R Y G
C,D,E,F,G
12" LENSES
A,B
12" LENSES
P1-P4
16" FIGURE HGT. (MIN.) W/ COUNTDOWN

Phase 1 (8 seconds)



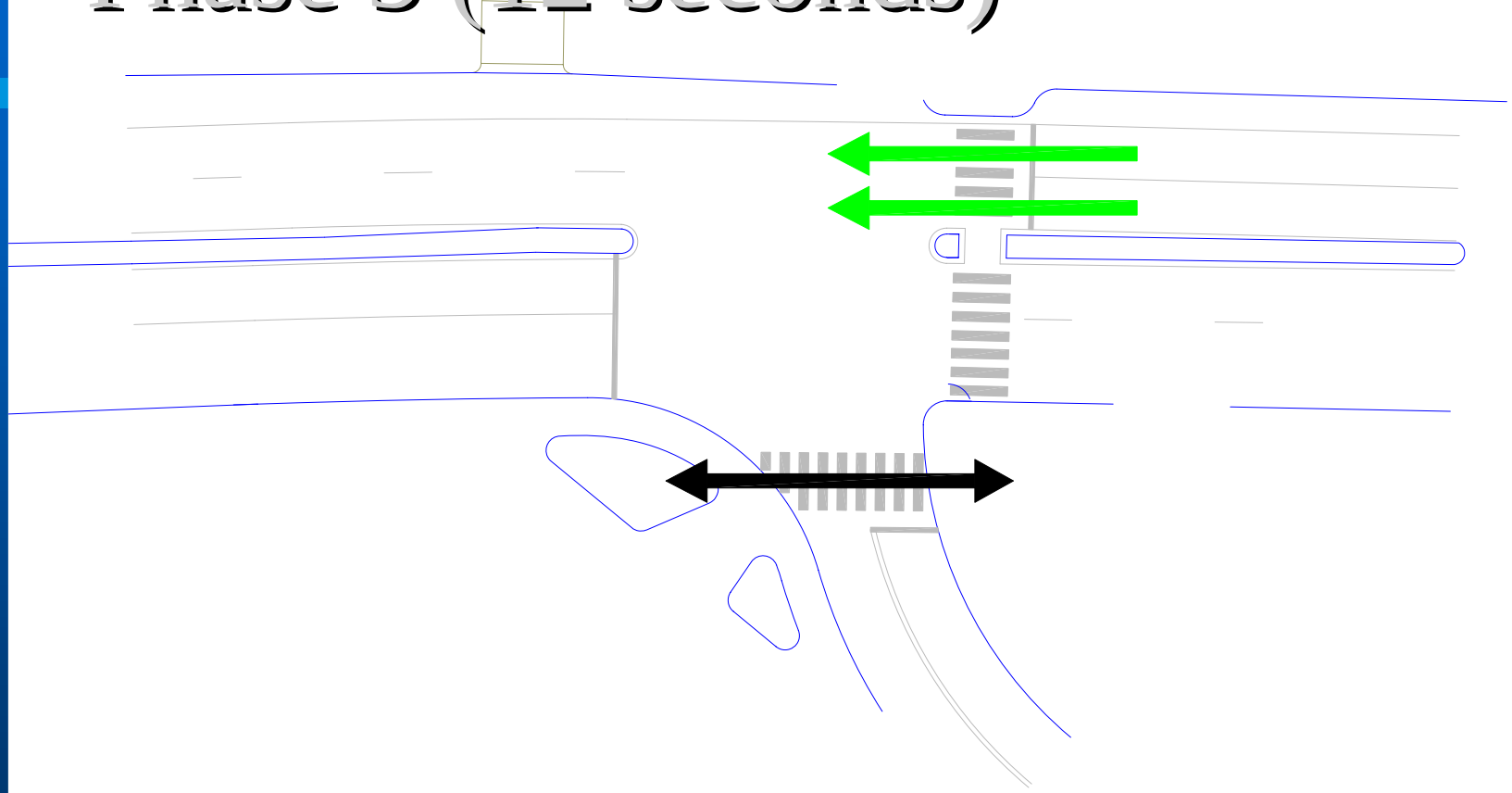
Cedar crosswalk gets a head start of several seconds before Mass Ave. northbound gets a green light

Phase 2 (65 sec. AM/52 sec. PM)



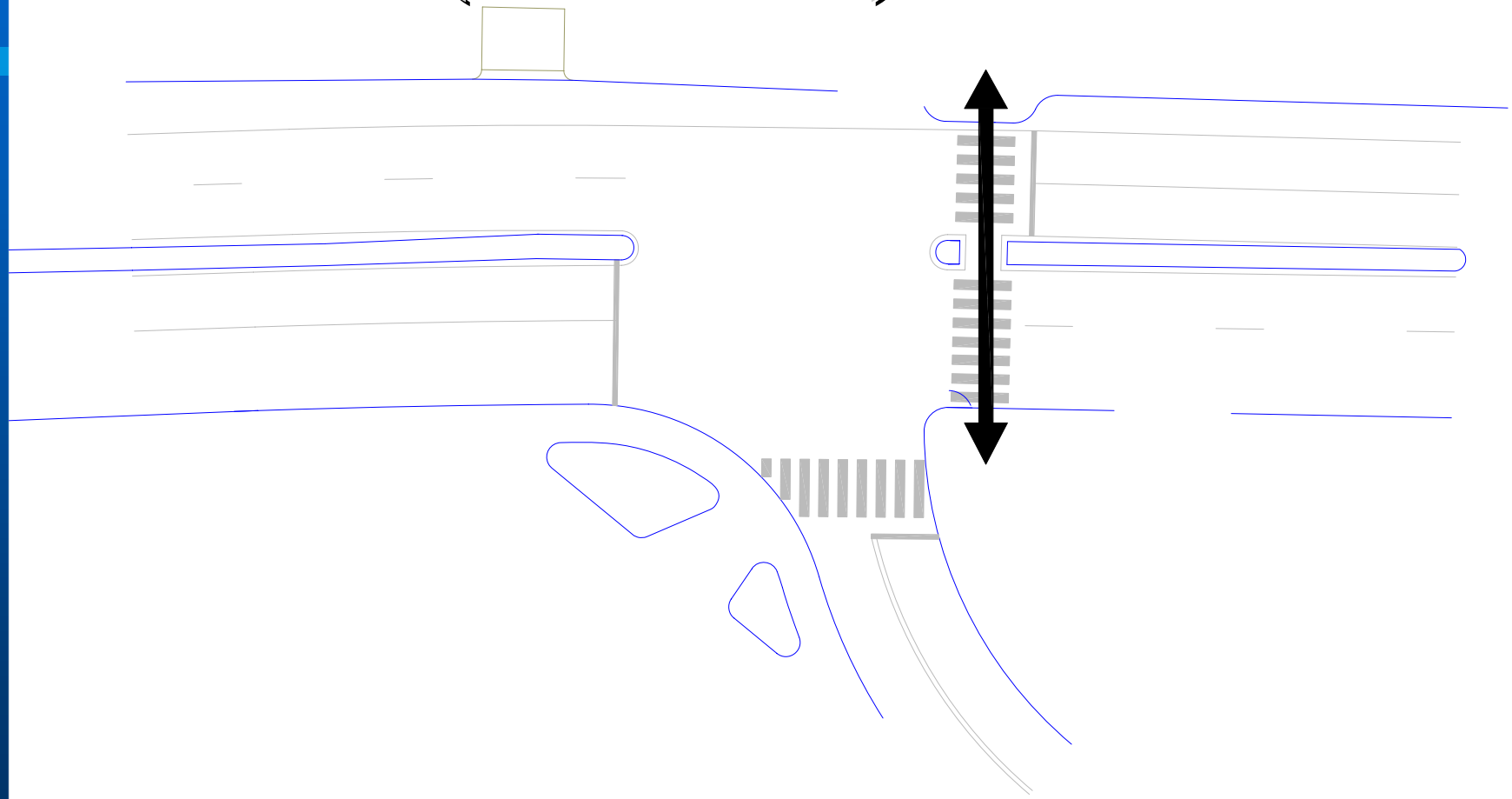
Mass Ave. southbound begins

Phase 3 (12 seconds)



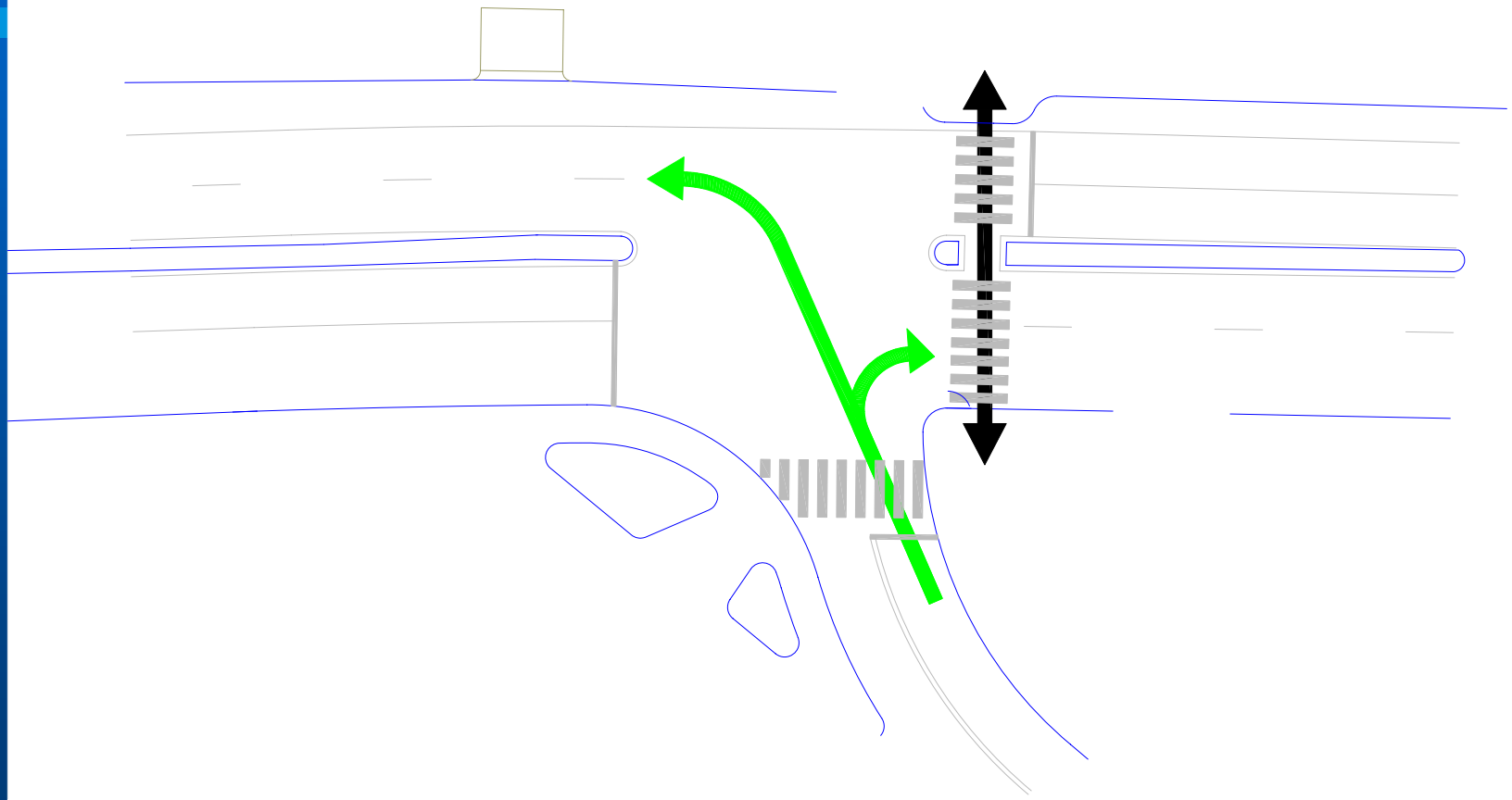
Mass Ave. southbound stops while northbound continues, acting as a ‘clearance’ phase. The Cedar crosswalk continues without conflict

Phase 4 (4 seconds)



Mass crosswalk gets a head start of several seconds before Cedar St. gets a green light

Phase 5 (31 sec. AM/24 sec. PM)



Cedar St. gets a green light while the Mass Ave. crosswalk continues running. At most, only about 20% of cars will turn across the crosswalk

Alternative Crossing Alignment

- **During design, a diagonal crossing was analyzed. This design would create long cycle lengths and wait times for pedestrians and long delay for vehicles resulting in poor intersection operation for all users.**

Alternative Crossing Alignment cont.

- **Using a diagonal crossing, even if pedestrians were given only the minimum time needed to cross, in rush hour the intersection would fail for vehicles which is unacceptable.**
- **Wait time for pedestrians would also be very high.**

Schedule

- It is anticipated that state and/or federal construction funds will be programmed in federal fiscal year 2007.
- Construction by MassHighway will likely begin in 2007.

Next Steps

- **MassHighway and the City will gather and review comments and incorporate them into the design where feasible.**
- **MassHighway's consultants, Judith Nitsch will develop full construction documents to put out to bid.**

Wrap Up

- **Please put name on sign in sheet for future information and updates**
- **Project web site is up and will have updates. Go to CDD web page and search "Linear Park" or look on your agenda.**

Comments and Questions