



**CITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

Department of
Transportation

Welcome to the Joint Meeting of the Transportation Committees

June 18, 2025, 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Today's Agenda

June 18
2025

5:30 PM

Agenda, welcome, Zoom, minutes (4/24)

5:35

Vassar Street Safety Improvement Project (Leah Grodstein)

- Project Goals and Constraints
- Design Plan Walkthrough
- Design Feedback and Questions
- Wayfinding
- Wayfinding Discussion

6:25

Public comment

Why We're Here

From time to time, the City's Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Transit Advisory Committees hold joint meetings on topics relevant to all transportation committees.

Joint Meetings are held on an as-needed basis.

- The **purpose** is to get feedback from appointed members of the Transportation Committees, the City's "community experts" on pedestrian, bicycle, and transit issues
- The **outcome** is an understanding by City staff of the Transportation Committees' consensus on priorities and reactions to street projects and development proposals
- The **process** to achieve that outcome includes presentations by Committee members and City staff, discussion following presentations, and a public comment period

Who We Are

Citizen Representatives

- Vacant, *Pedestrian Committee Chair*
- Robin Bonner, *Pedestrian Committee Vice Chair*
- Vacant, *Pedestrian Committee Secretary*
- Richard Freierman, *Bicycle Committee Chair*
- Gregory Carey-Medlock, *Bicycle Committee Vice Chair*
- Randy Stern, *Secretary*
- Jackson Moore-Otto, *Transit Advisory Committee Chair*
- Matthew Kramer, *Transit Advisory Committee Vice Chair*
- Andrew Zhou, *Transit Advisory Committee Secretary*
- ...and many committee members

Dept. Representatives

- Andy Reker, *Transportation, Transit Advisory Committee Facilitator*
- Nick Schmidt, *Transportation, Pedestrian Committee and Bicycle Committee Facilitator*
- Quinn Murphy, *Transportation*
- Mohamed Hammad, *Transportation*
- Stephen Meuse, *Transportation*
- Adam Shulman, *Transportation*
- Jerry Friedman, *Public Works*
- Melissa Miguel, *Public Works*
- Steven Magalhaes, *Police*

Minutes

April 24, 2025, Joint Meeting

Vassar Street Safety Improvement Project

5:35-6:25 PM

Project Goals and Constraints

Project Goals

- **Primary goal** set by the Cycling Safety Ordinance: Implement quick-build, vertically separated bike lanes on Vassar Street, a key connection in the 2020 Bicycle Network Plan
 - This means fast project timeline: goal is to implement in early August
 - This means lower-cost materials: pavement markings, flexposts, signs, and parking meters can be changed
- **Secondary goal:** Improve safety and mobility for all users on Vassar Street

What Can We Change in a Quick-build Project?

- Improve everyone's visibility
- Slow driver speeds
- Adjust or add accessible parking
- Relocate bus stops

What can't we change? Curb lines

Daylighting example
(Strong Towns)



Curb extension example
(Tactical Urbanism Design Guide)



Quick-build crossing
island example (Pittsburgh)

A pedestrian refuge island on the Ellsworth Neighborway.

Design Plan Walkthrough

Let's Review the Plans in Three Segments

From south to north:

- Memorial Drive to 353 Vassar Street
- 353 Vassar Street to Amesbury Street
- Amesbury Street to Amherst Alley

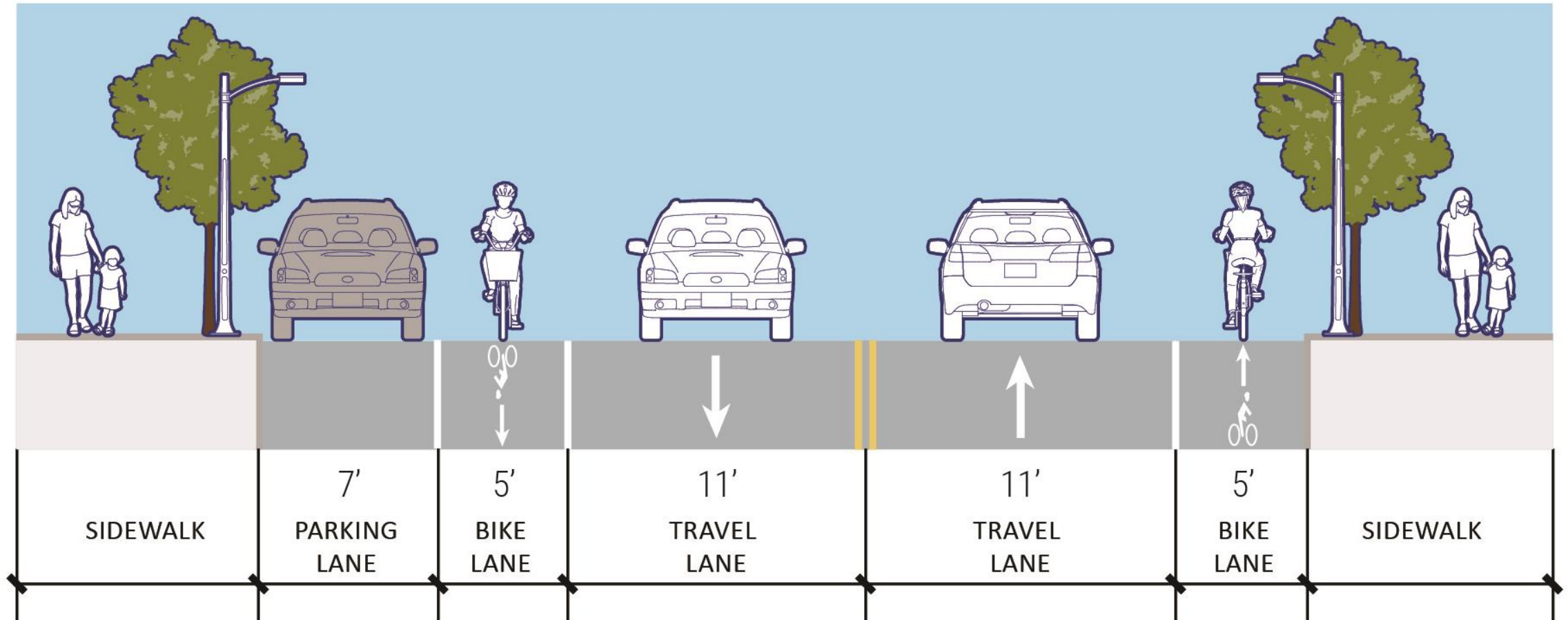
View at Home

A full resolution copy of the design is available on the project website:

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/streetsandtransportation/projectsandprograms/vassarstreetsafetyimprovementproject>

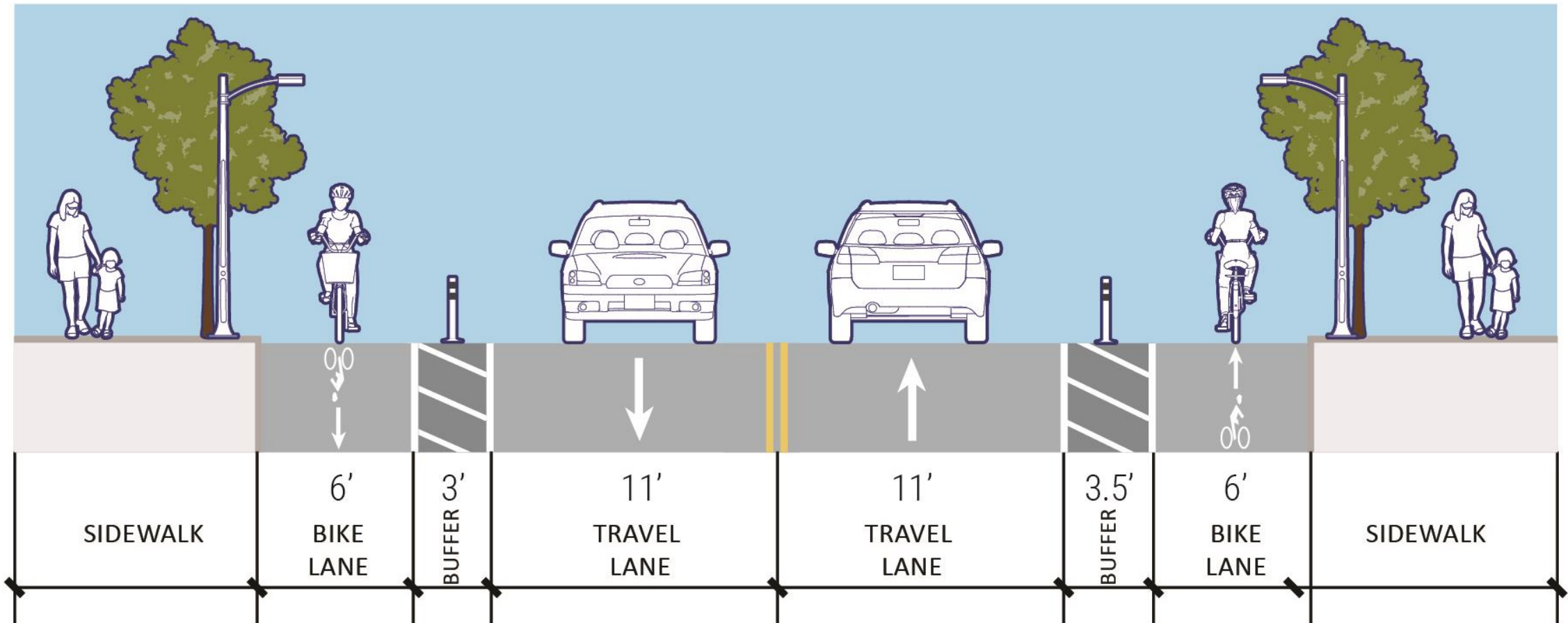
Memorial Drive to 353 Vassar Street

Existing Conditions

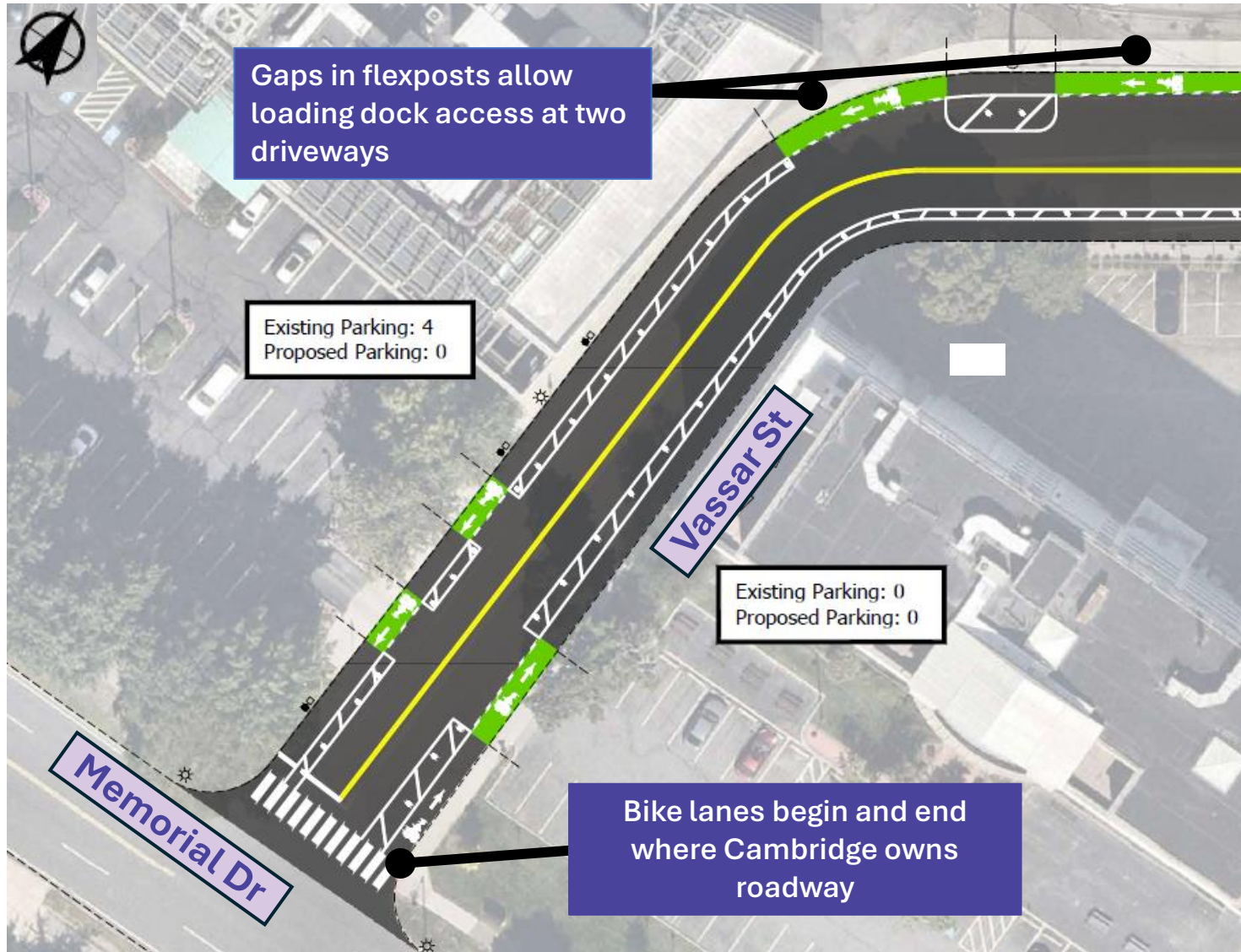











Memorial Drive to 353 Vassar Street

Proposed Conditions



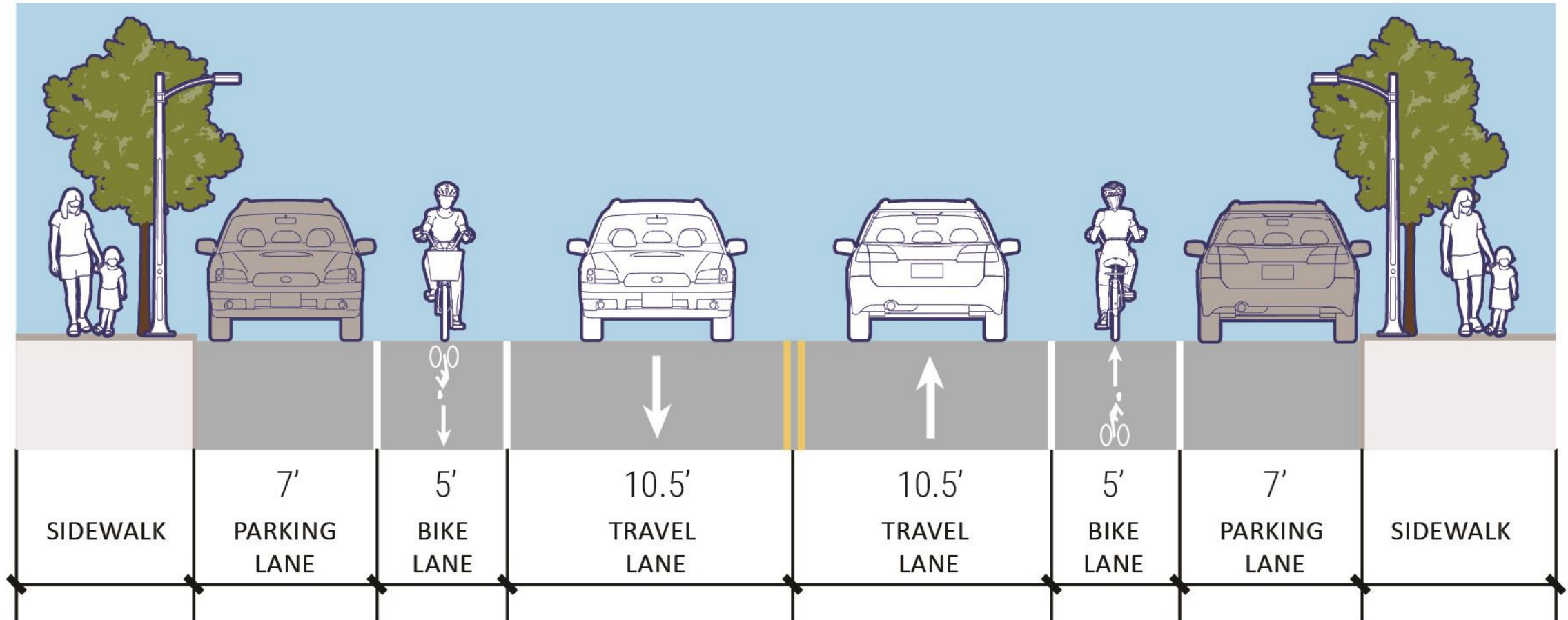
Memorial Drive to 353 Vassar Street (overhead view)



-  Existing Taxi Stand
-  Proposed Metered Parking
-  Proposed Loading Garage Entrance
-  Proposed Accessible Parking
-  Proposed Bicycle Corral
-  Existing MBTA Bus Stop
-  Relocated MBTA Bus Stop
-  Proposed MBTA Bus Stop
-  Proposed Bicycle Facility

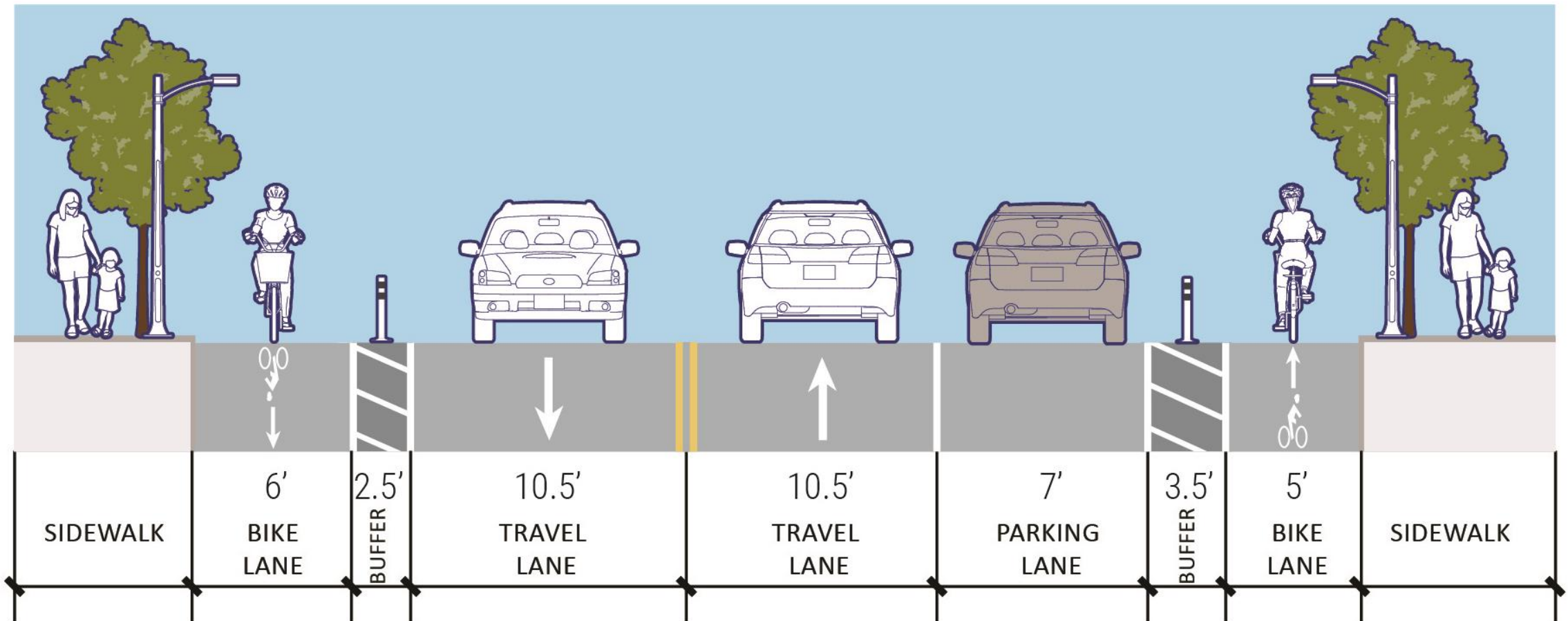
353 Vassar Street to Amesbury Street

Existing Conditions

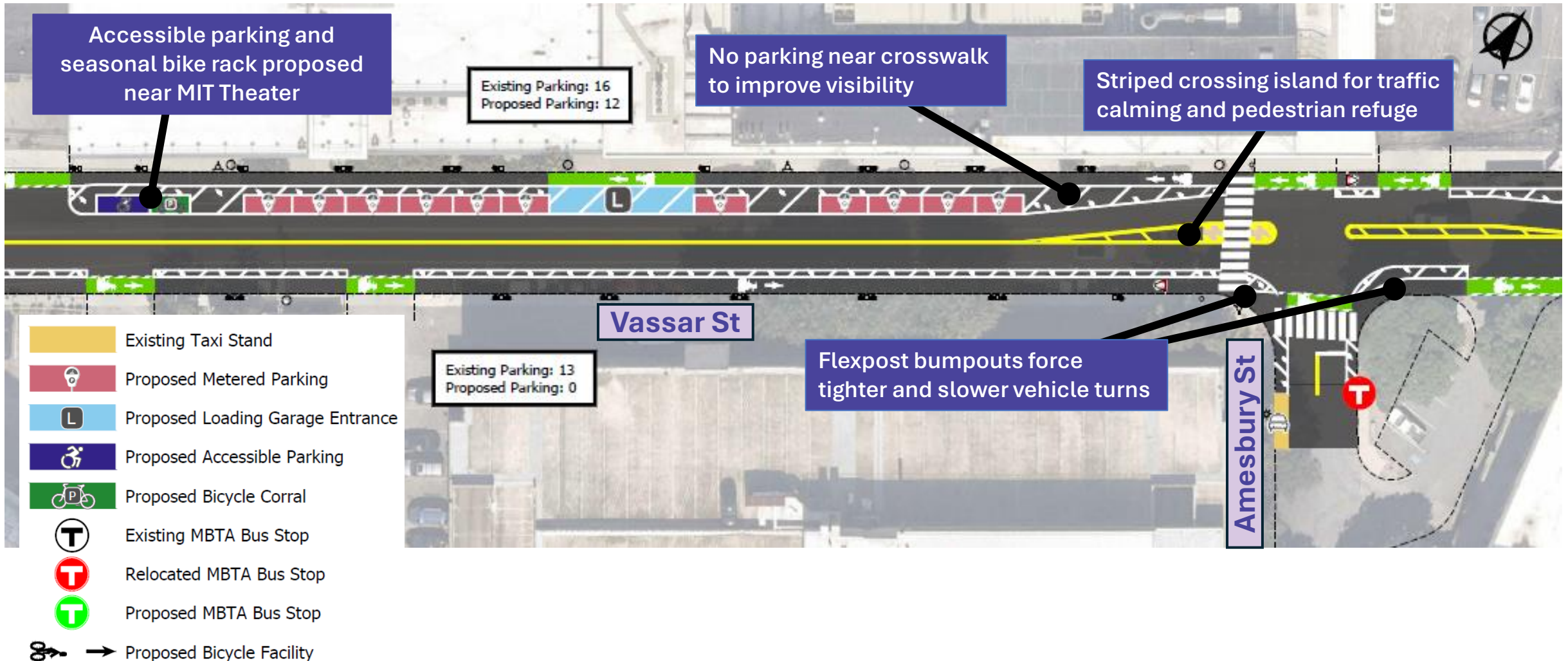


353 Vassar Street to Amesbury Street

Proposed Conditions

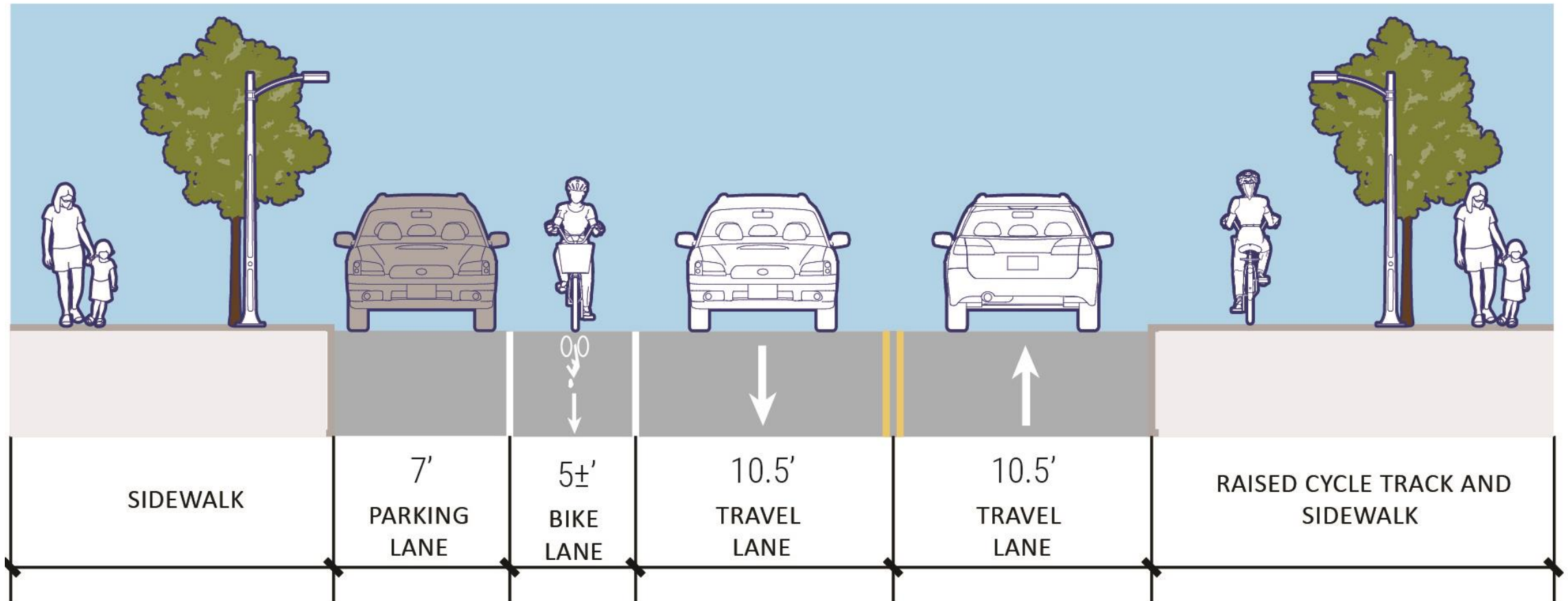


353 Vassar Street to Amesbury Street (overhead view)



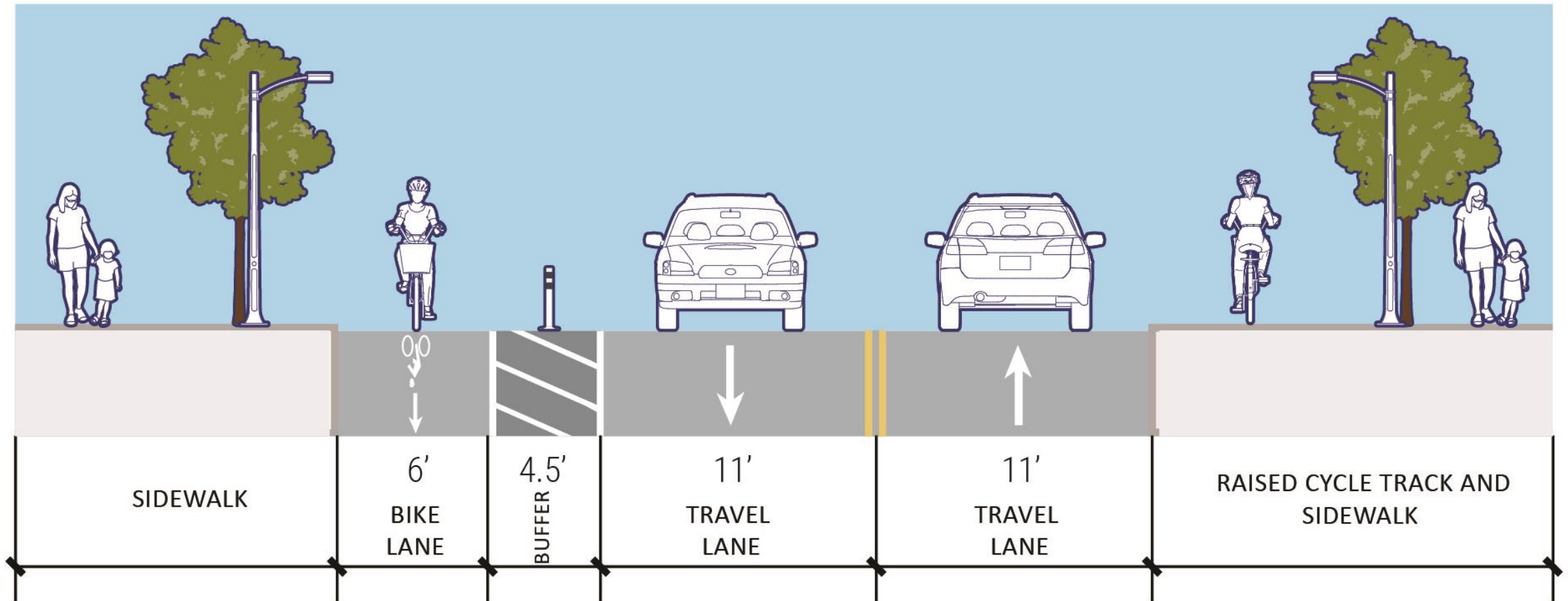
Amesbury Street to Amherst Alley

Existing Conditions

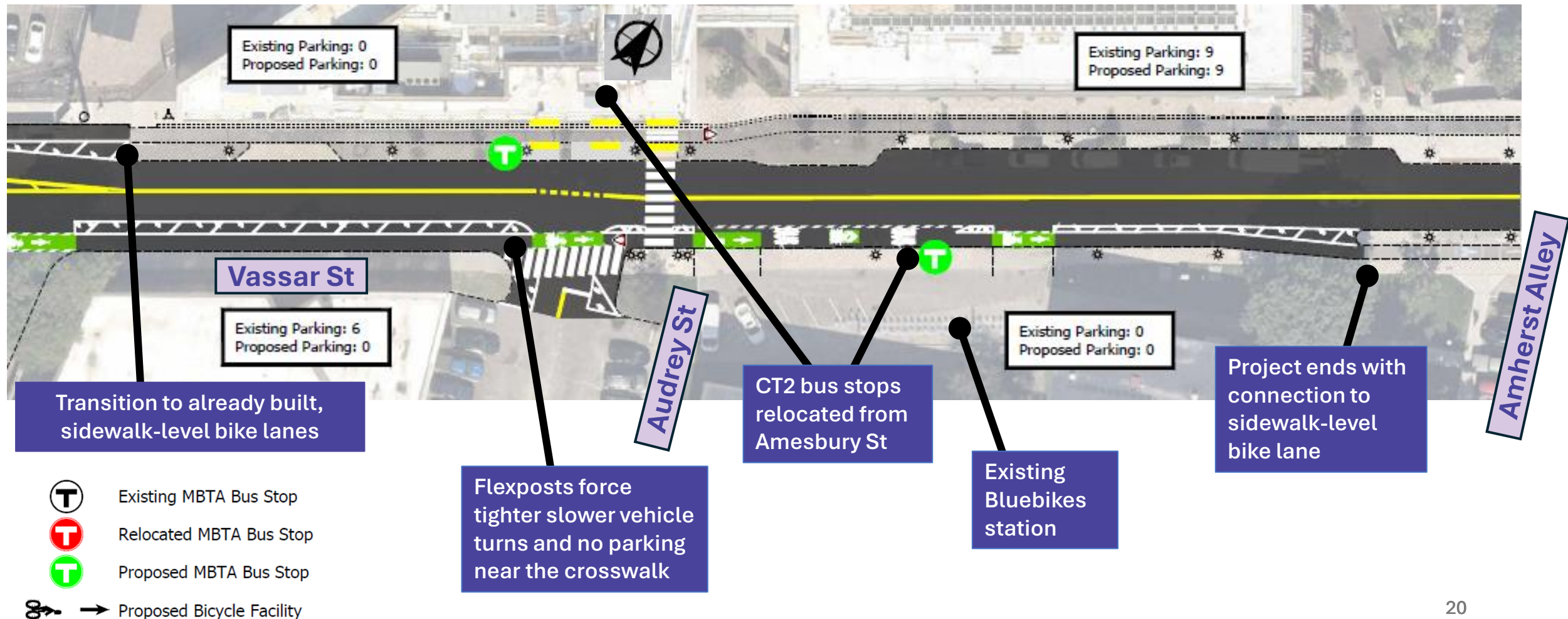


Amesbury Street to Amherst Alley

Proposed Conditions



Amesbury Street to Amherst Alley (overhead view)



Design Discussion

Design Discussion

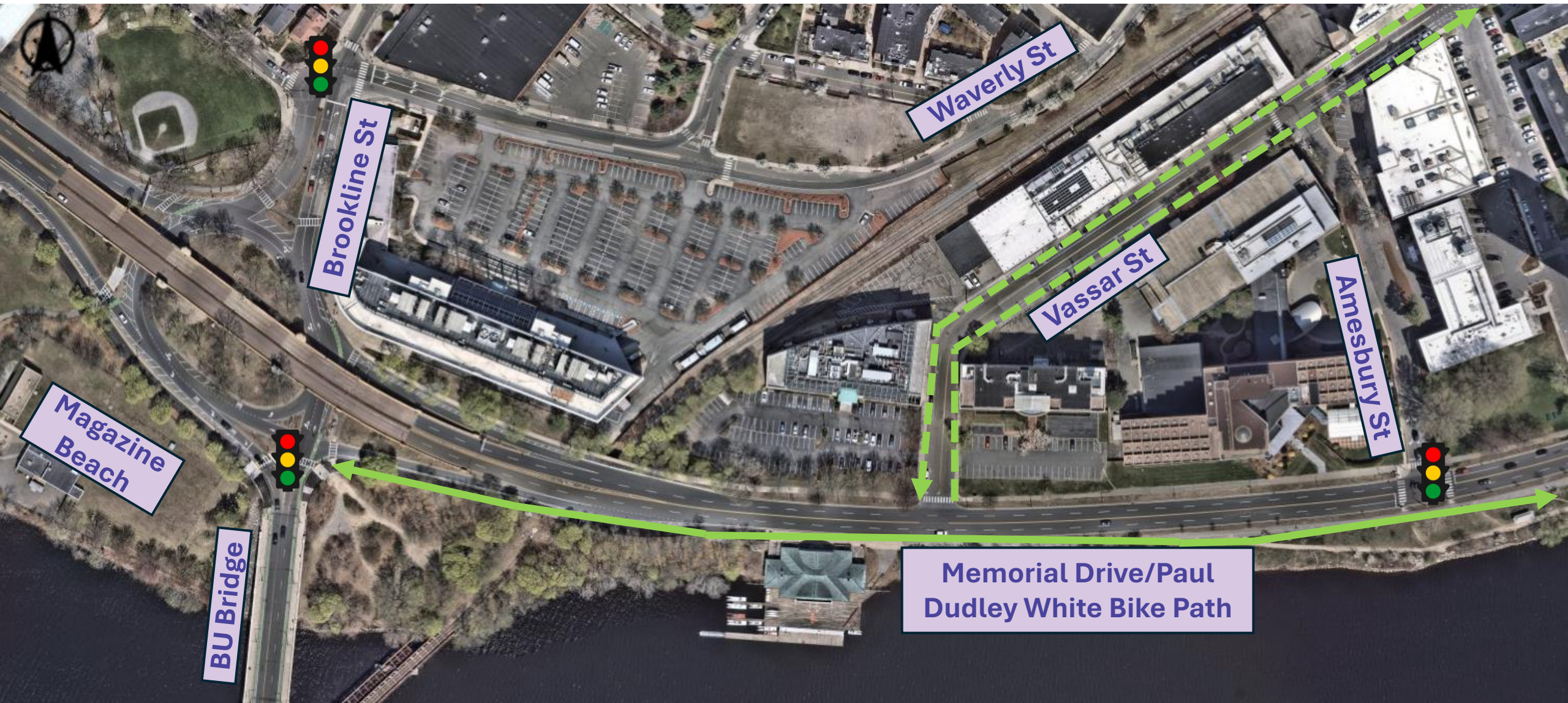
Clarifying questions? General feedback?

Specific questions:

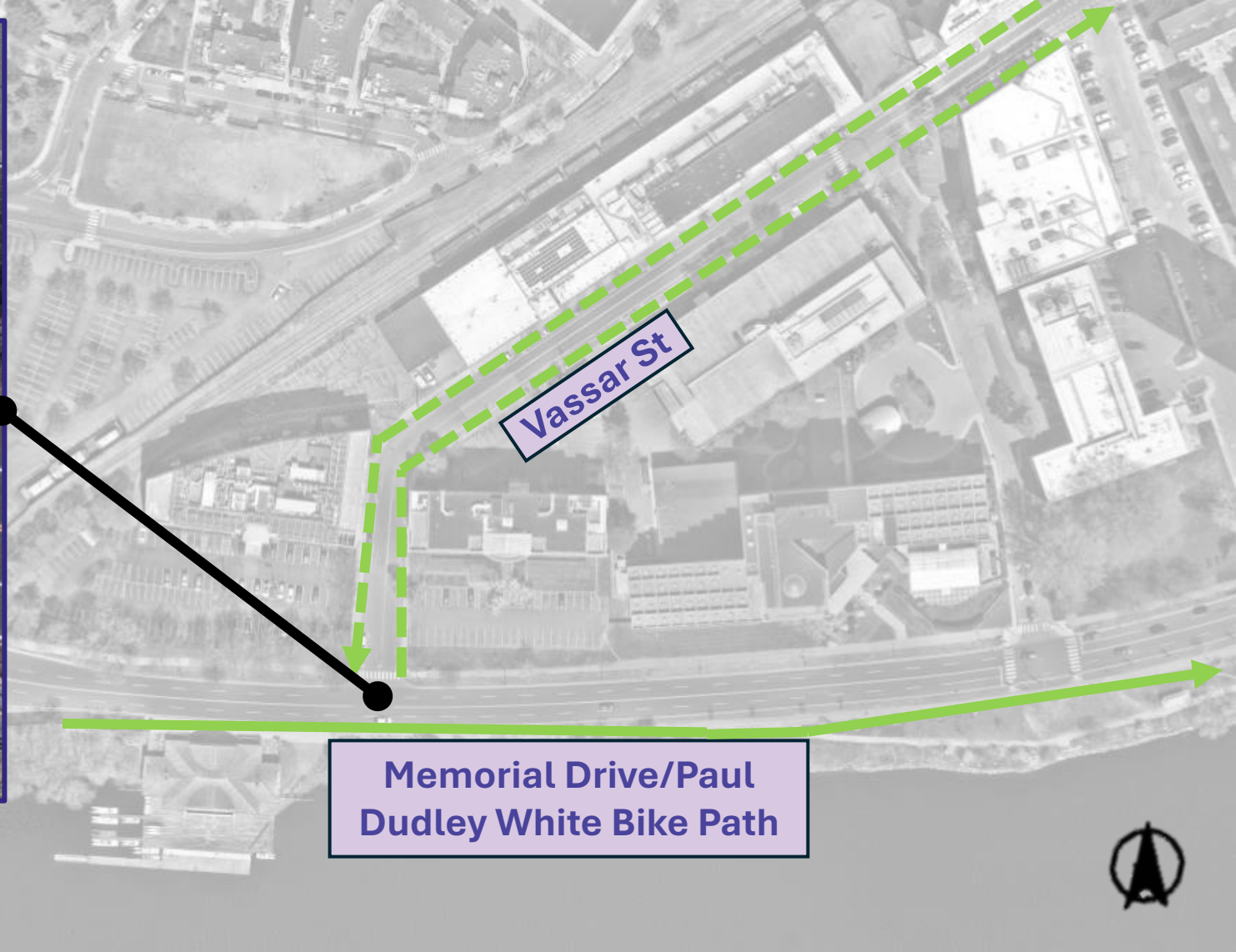
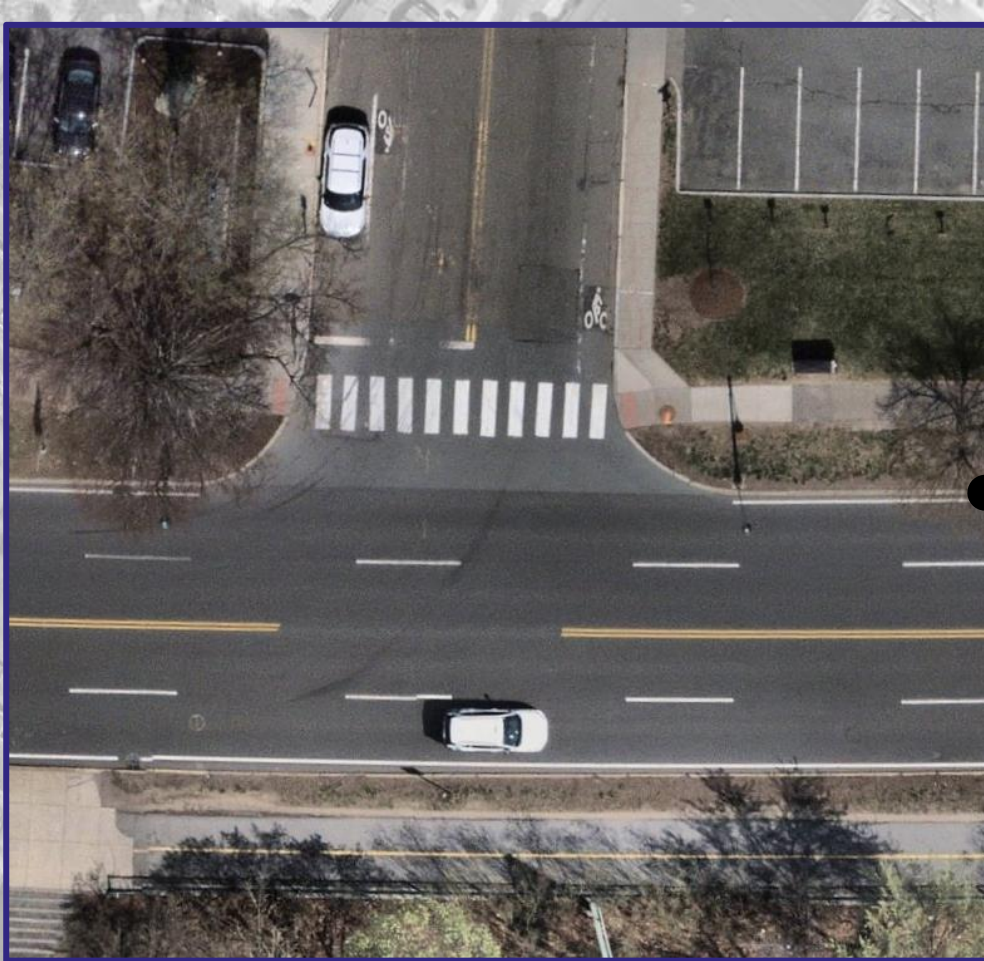
1. Does this project accomplish the goal of bicycle safety? If not, what are your suggestions to improve the design?
2. Has the design team made all possible quick-build safety improvements for other users? Consider people walking, taking the bus, and driving.
3. Are there other quick-build changes that can be made to address other mobility-related goals, such as access or predictability?

Wayfinding

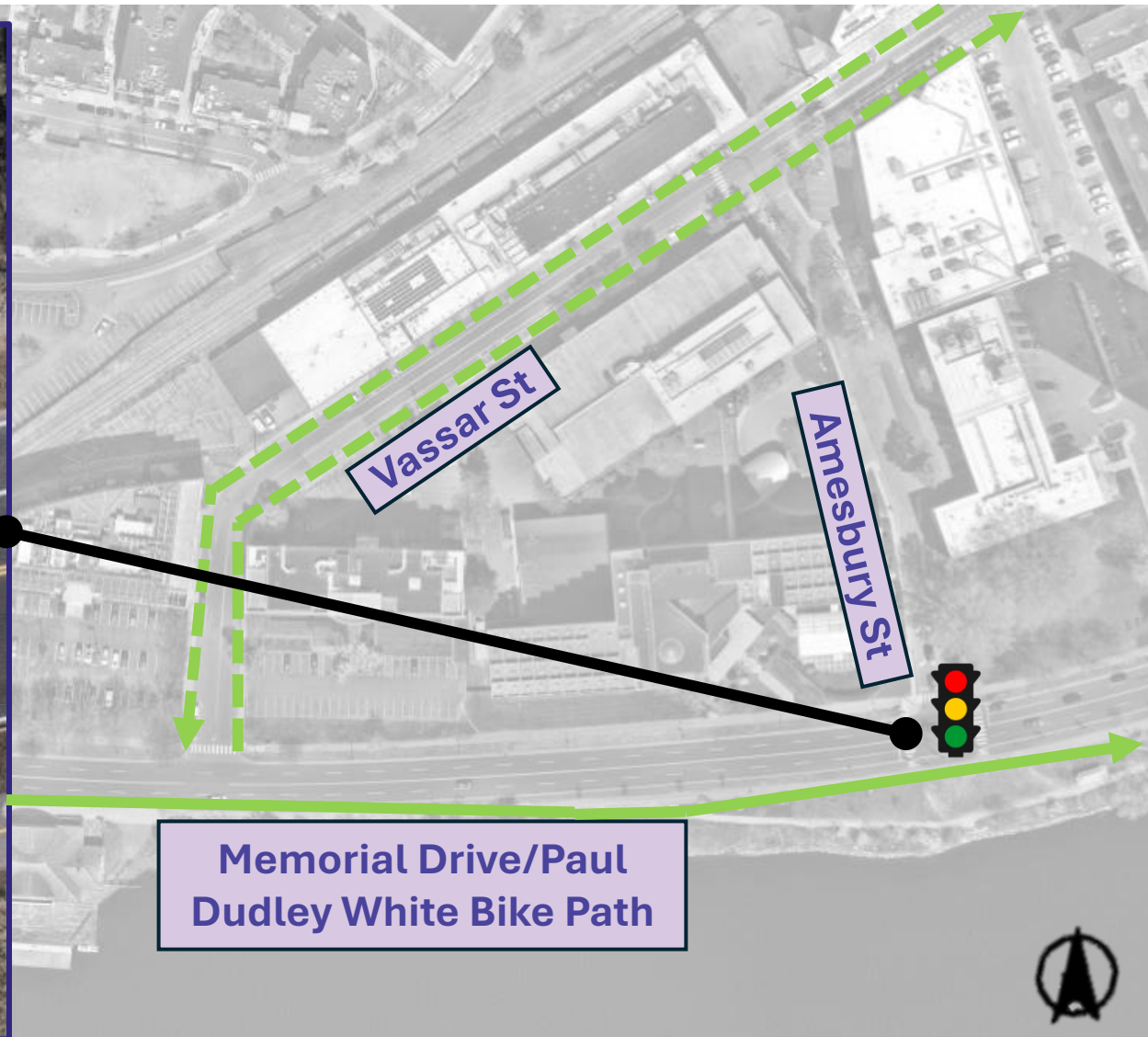
Locus Map



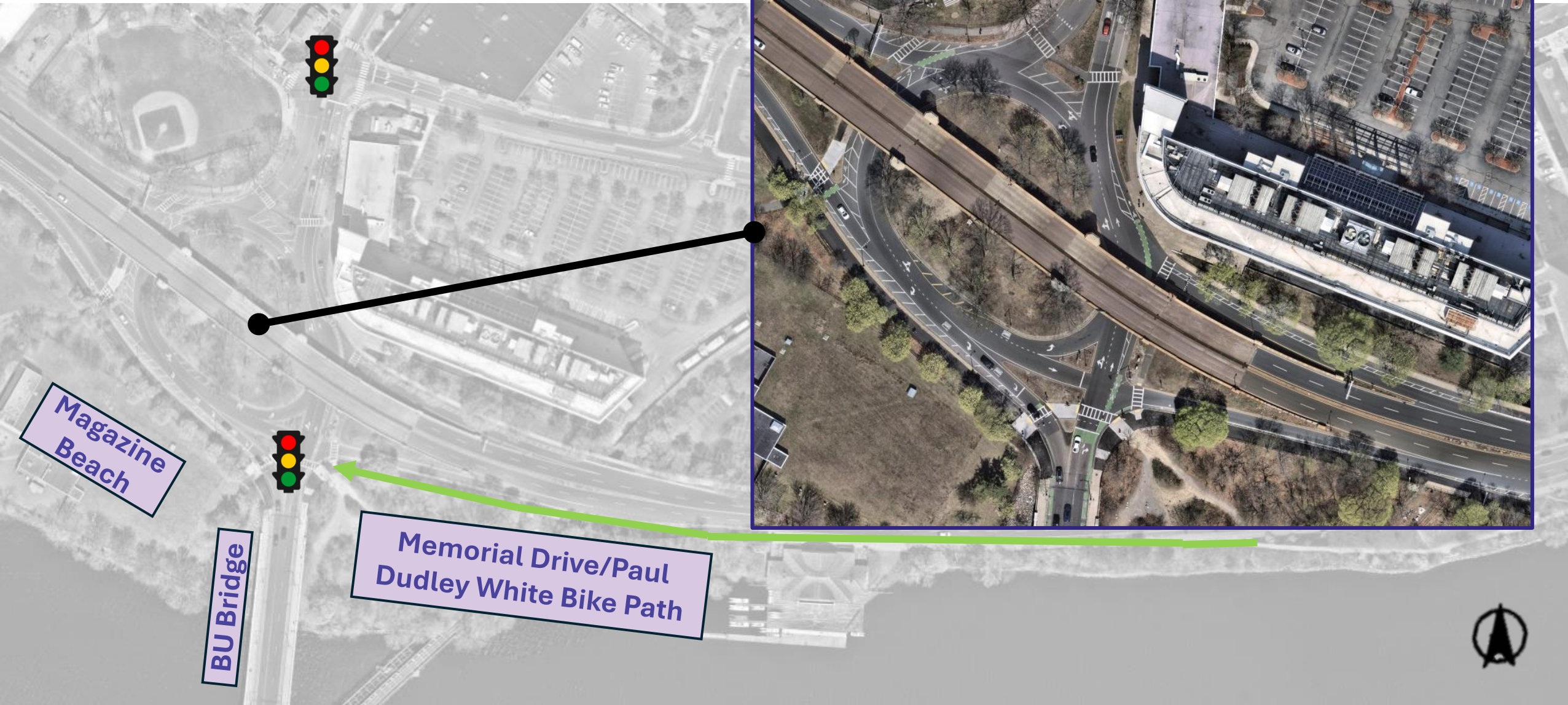
Vassar Street at Memorial Drive



Amesbury Street at Memorial Drive



BU Rotary Restriping



Extra Photos



Vassar St



Wayfinding Discussion

Wayfinding Discussion

Clarifying questions?

Questions to guide our discussion:

1. Where do you think people using the Vassar Street bike lanes will be coming from and going to?
2. What are the best routes to get to Vassar Street to other bike lanes (and vice versa)?
3. Where are effective places to put wayfinding signs?
4. If DCR is willing to make small changes to Memorial Drive in this area, what would be most effective?

Public Comment

6:25-6:30 PM