

City of Cambridge

Community Development Department &
Department of Transportation

Grand Junction Connector to the Community Path

Community Meeting

May 21, 2025



**CITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

Department of
Transportation





Introductions

City of Cambridge

Community Development Department

Cortney Kirk, RLA, ASLA

Drew Kane, AICP

Lev McCarthy

Department of Transportation

Charlie Creagh, AICP

Bill Deignan

Department of Public Works

Cambridge Arts

Design Team

VHB

Rob Cahoon, PE



Welcome

Purpose & Objective

Meeting attendees will:

- Learn the background of the project.
- Understand the elements that are beyond the control of this project yet are essential to make the full connection.
- Take a walk with City staff to think about connection ideas.

Process

Digital slide deck presentation with time for Q&A and general discussion. Then a group site walk from Millers River towards Rufo Road.

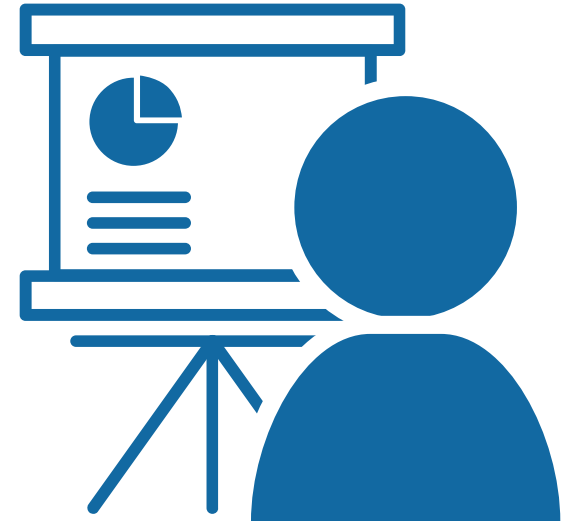


East Cambridge, Twin Cities Plaza, and Gold Star Mothers Park.



Meeting Agenda

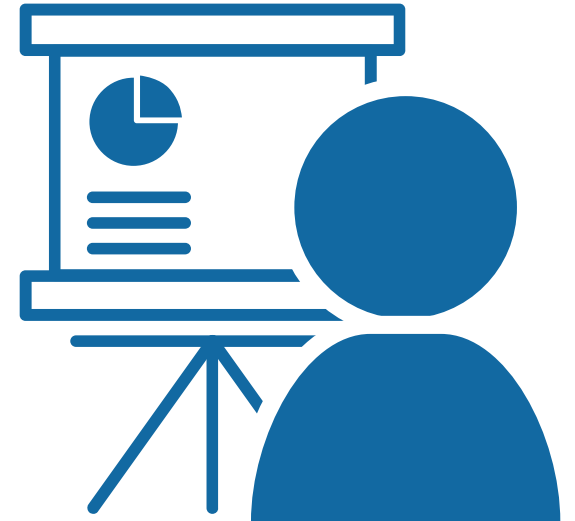
1. Project Area & Stakeholder Plans
2. Other Projects
3. Opportunities & Challenges
4. Outreach & Engagement Schedule
5. Q&A
6. Site Walk





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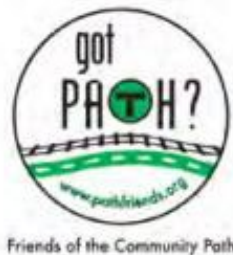
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Project Area



2020 Community Path Extension (CPX) Feasibility Study



Friends of the
**Mystic to
Charles**



TWO FEASIBILITY STUDIES OF REGIONAL TRAIL LINKAGE TO THE COMMUNITY PATH EXTENSION (CPX)

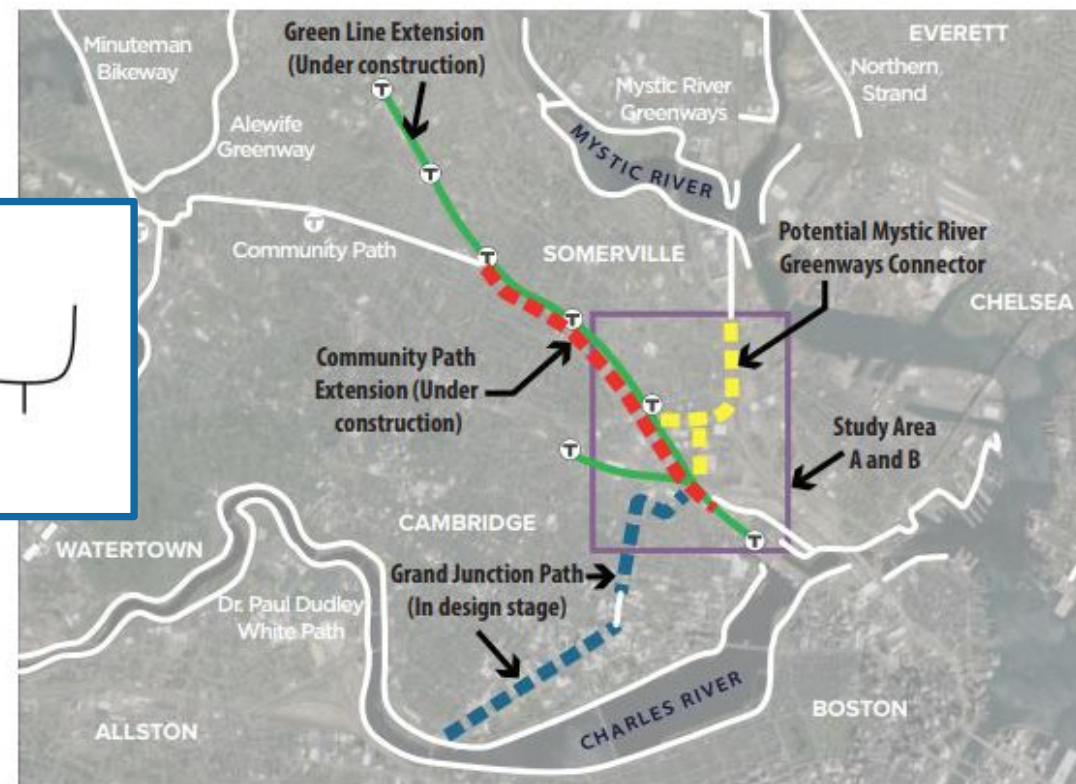
FEASIBILITY STUDY A:

COMMUNITY PATH EXTENSION: CONNECTION TO THE GRAND JUNCTION PATH

FEASIBILITY STUDY B:

COMMUNITY PATH EXTENSION: CONNECTION TO THE MYSTIC RIVER GREENWAYS AT ASSEMBLY SQUARE

JUNE 1, 2020



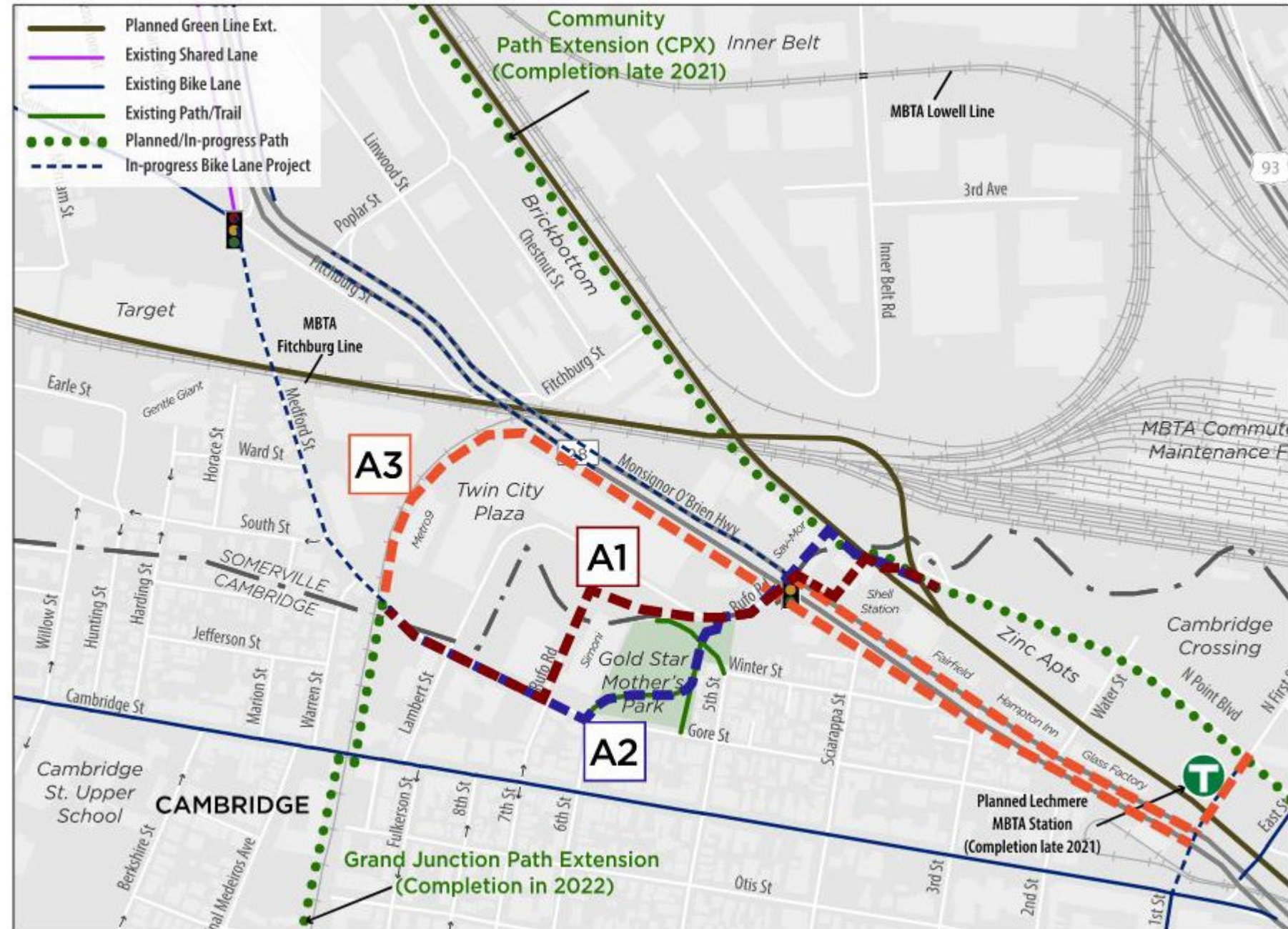
[Please use this link to see the feasibility study titled “Community Path Extension: Connection to the Grand Junction Path”](#)

2020 Friends Groups Study

The 2020 Feasibility Study
Reviewed 3 route options.

Image taken from
2020 Feasibility Plan

STUDY AREA A: ROUTE OPTIONS OVERVIEW MAP

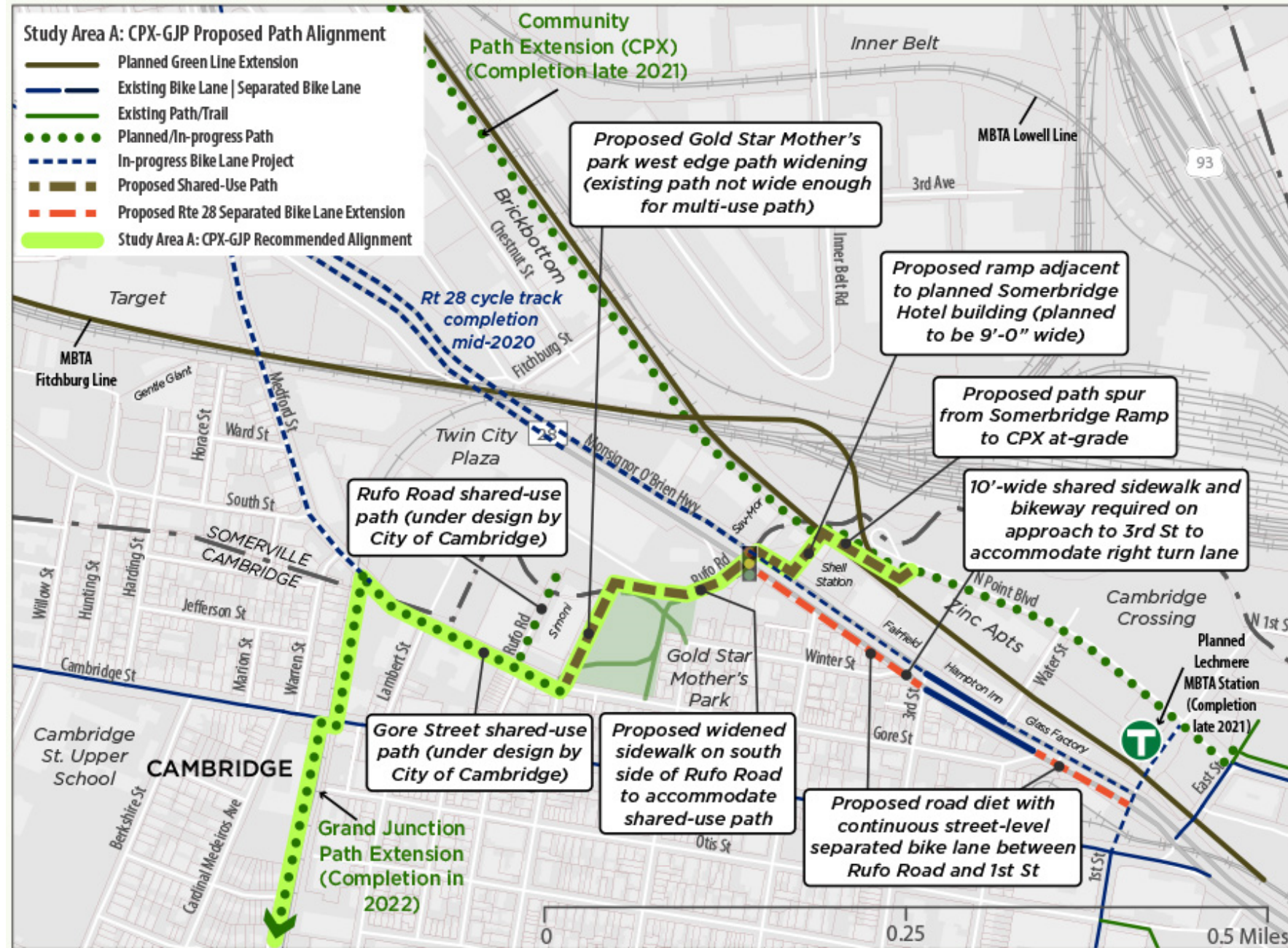


Friends Groups Recommended Route through Park

- Widening the path adjacent to Simoni Rink and going behind the baseball backstop towards Rufo Road.

Image taken from
2020 Feasibility Plan

STUDY AREA A: FINAL RECOMMENDED ROUTE MAP



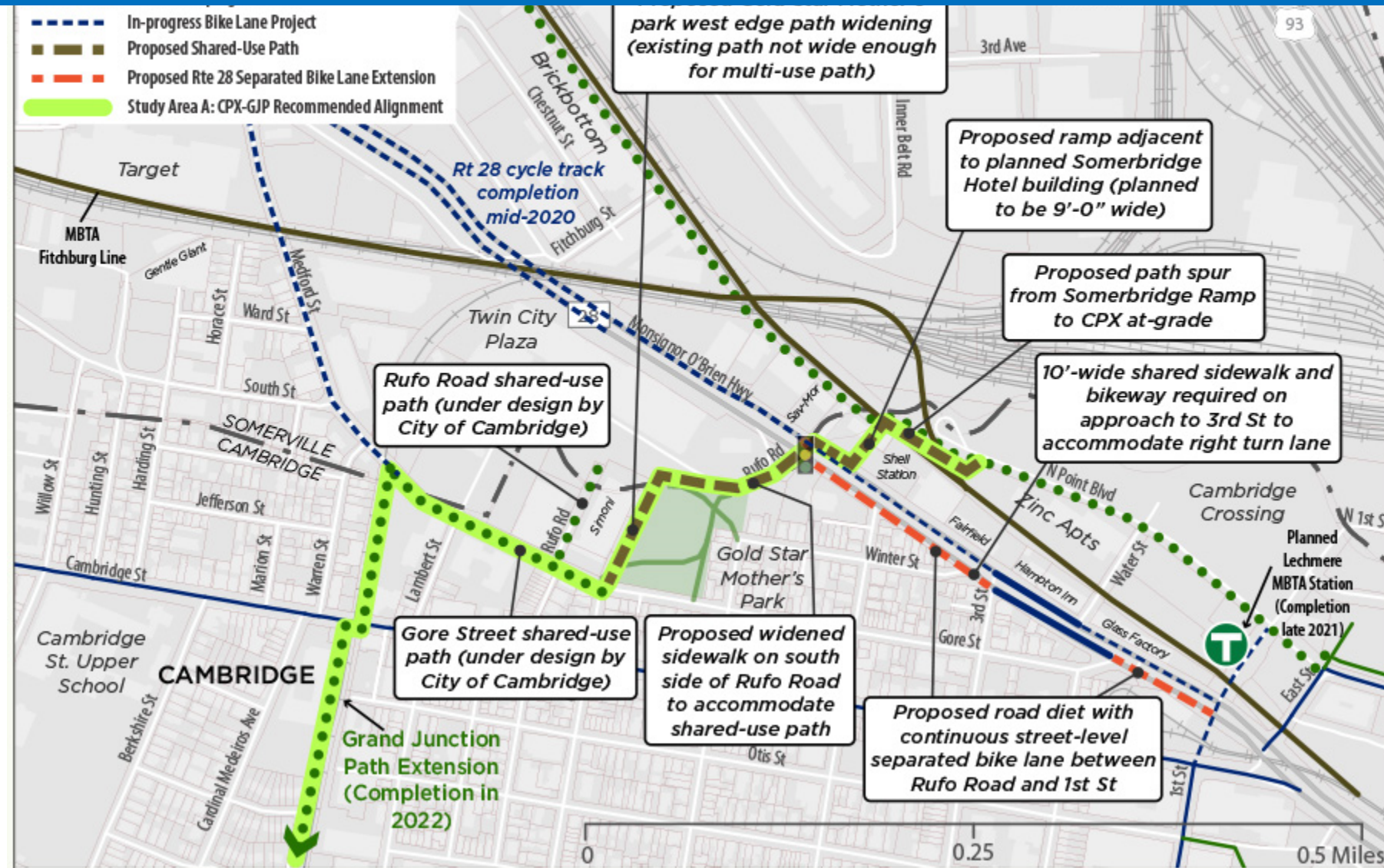
Let us know your input on the 2020 Friends Groups study?

Do you agree with their recommendation?

Do you prefer a different route?

Tell us your input.

*Image taken from
2020 Feasibility Plan*

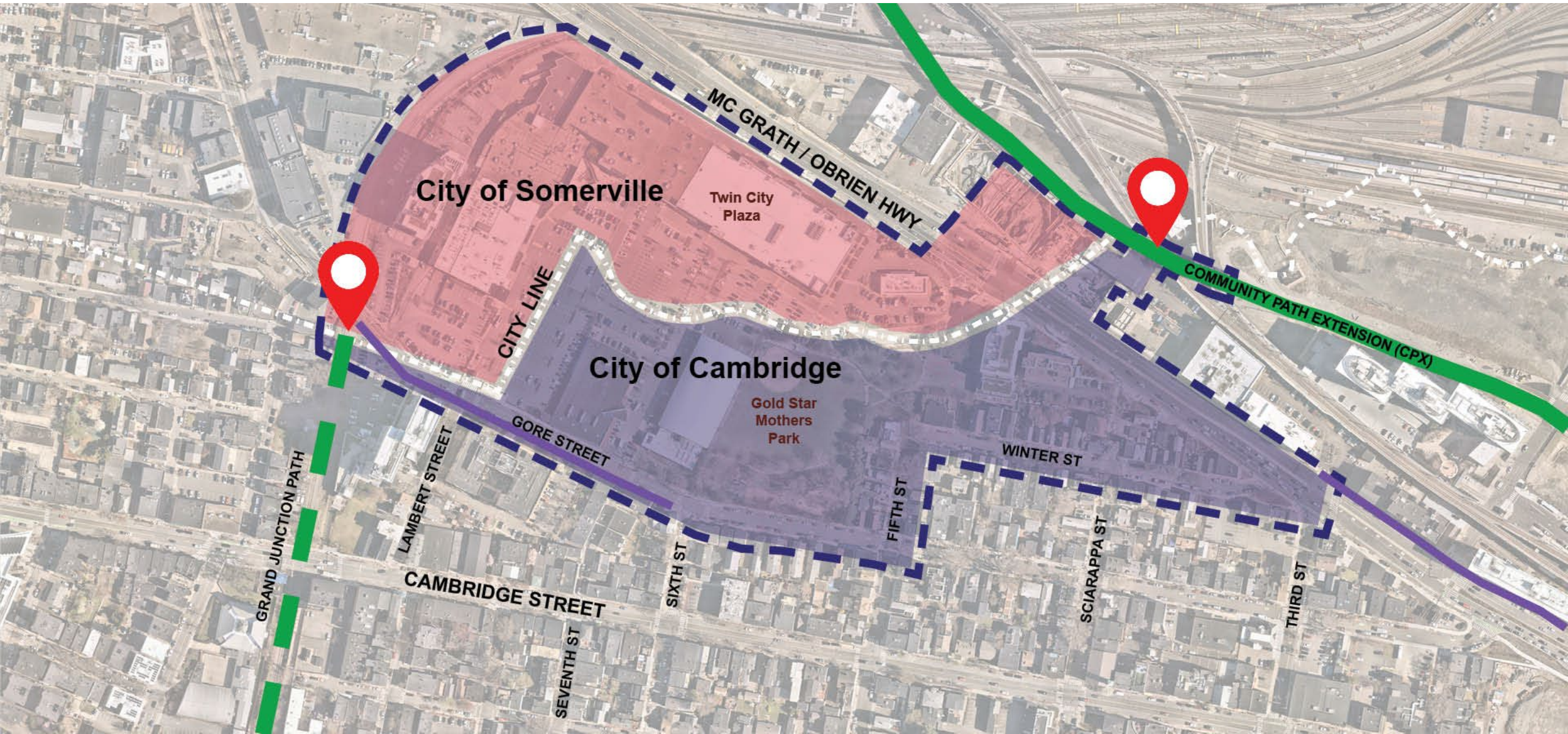




Project Area Control



Project Area Control – Cambridge & Somerville



Project Area Control – MBTA & MassDOT



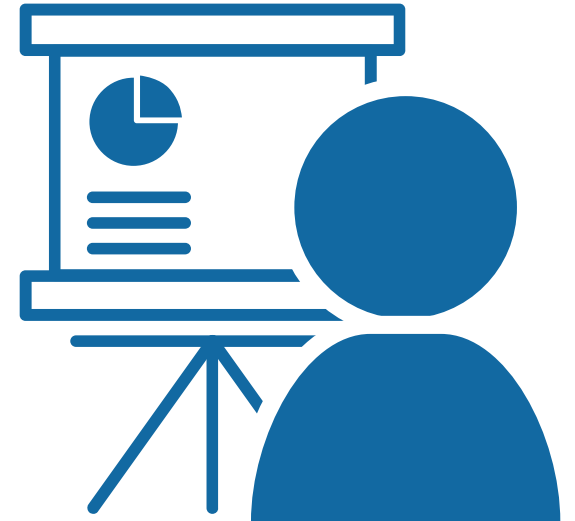
Your feedback matters to develop the best route for the neighborhood





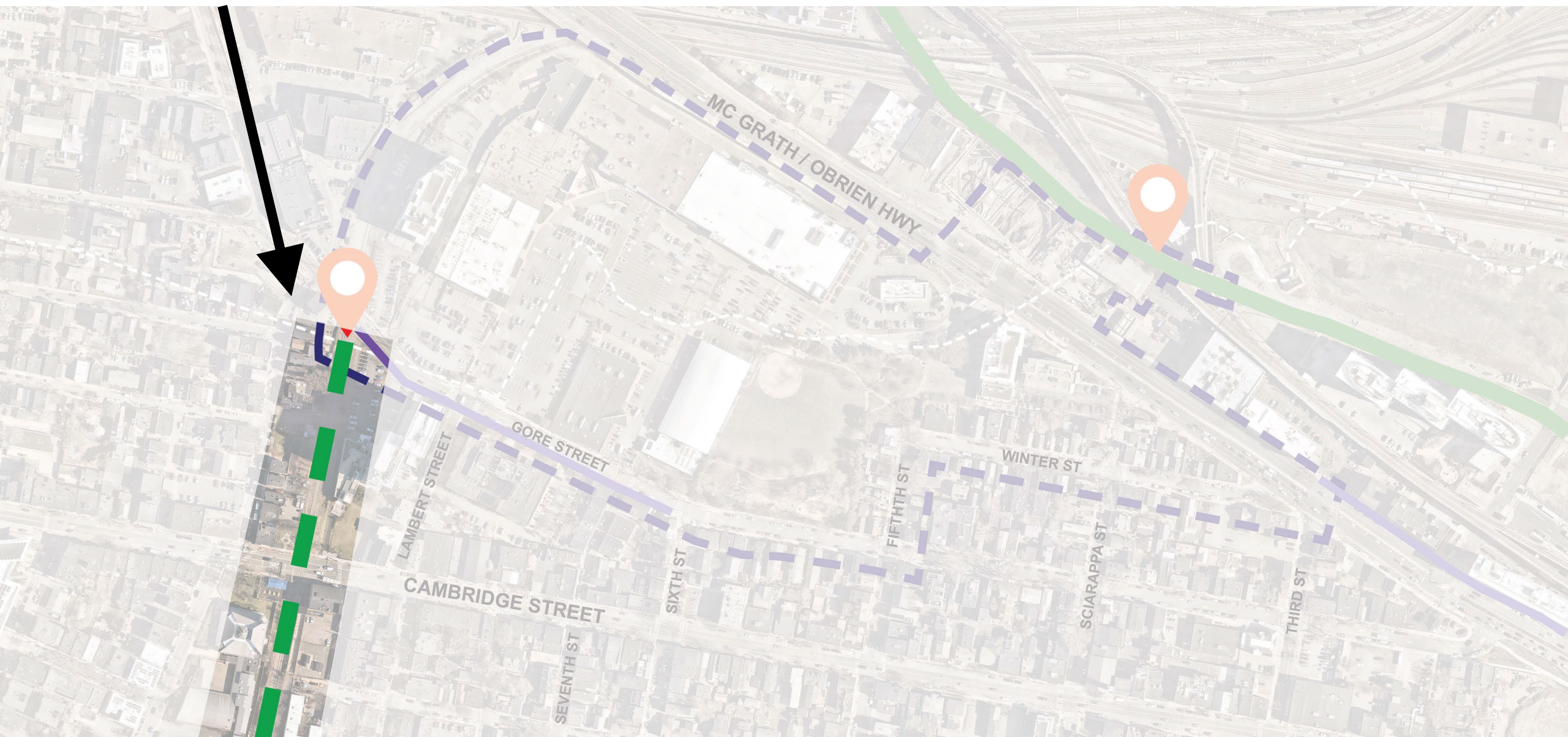
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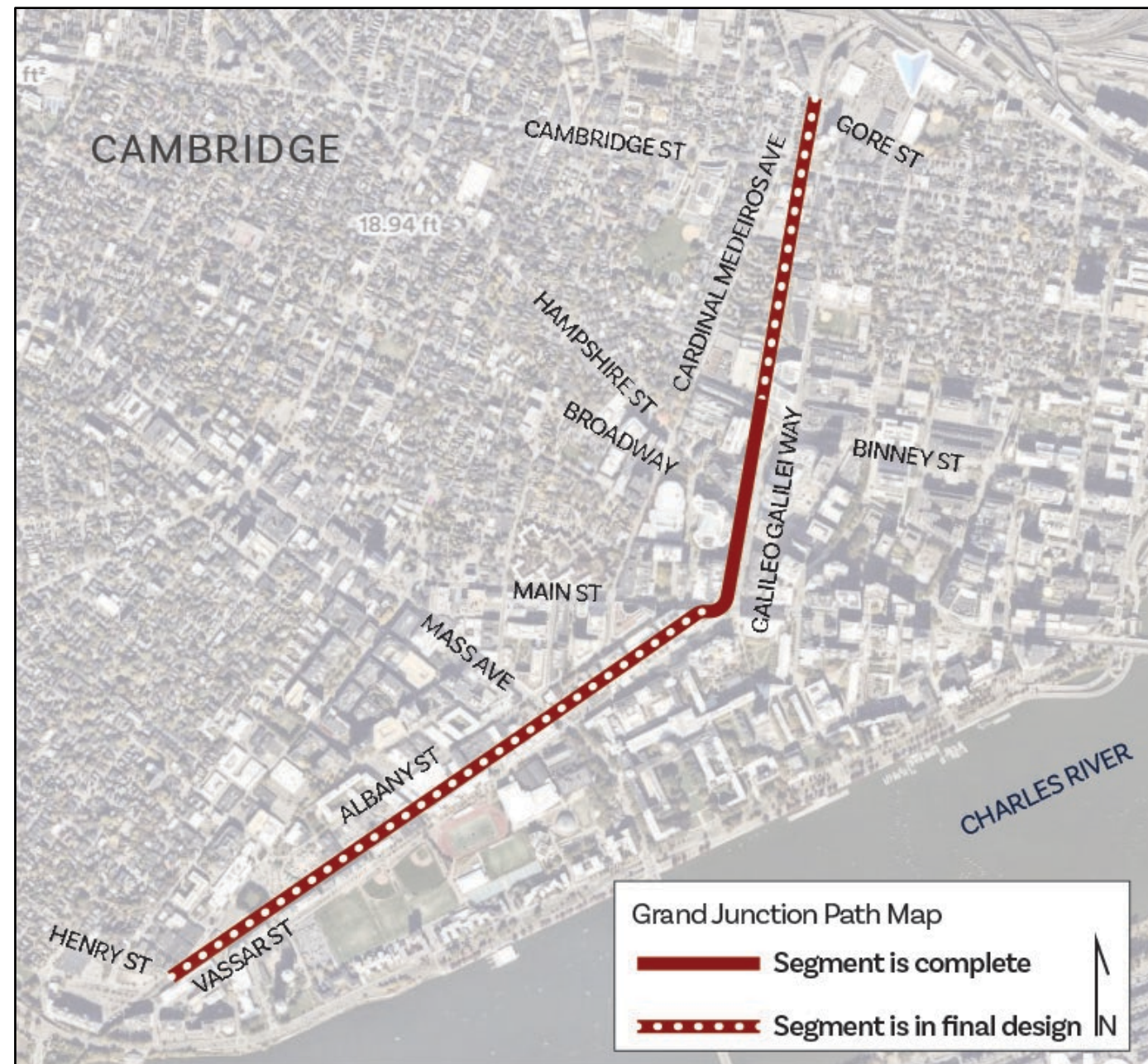


Grand Junction Path



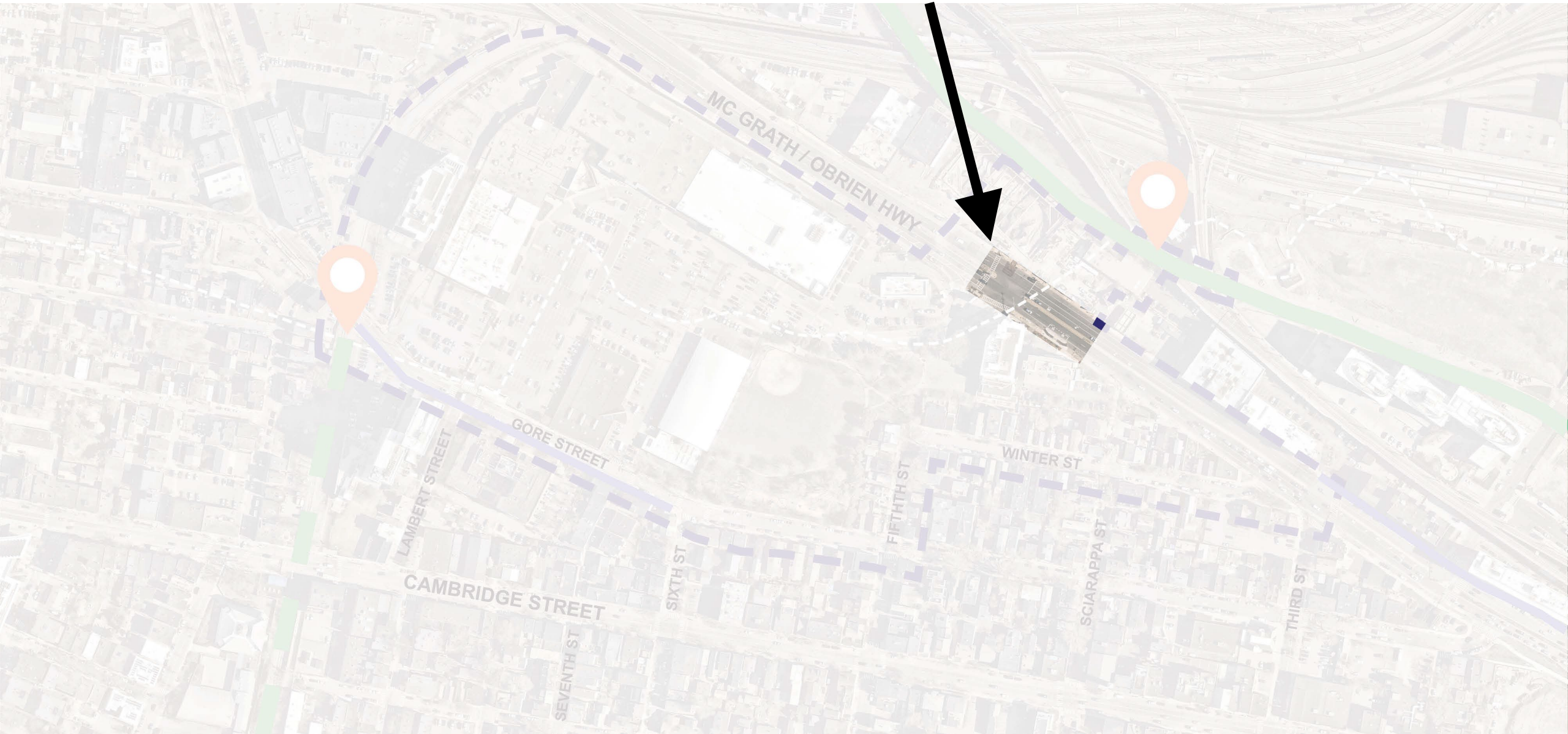
Grand Junction Path

- Working through some design issues with MBTA and MassDOT.
- Area beneath the path surface will have a high voltage electrical line.
- We will begin path construction after the electric line work is complete.



Map of the Grand Junction path area in Cambridge.

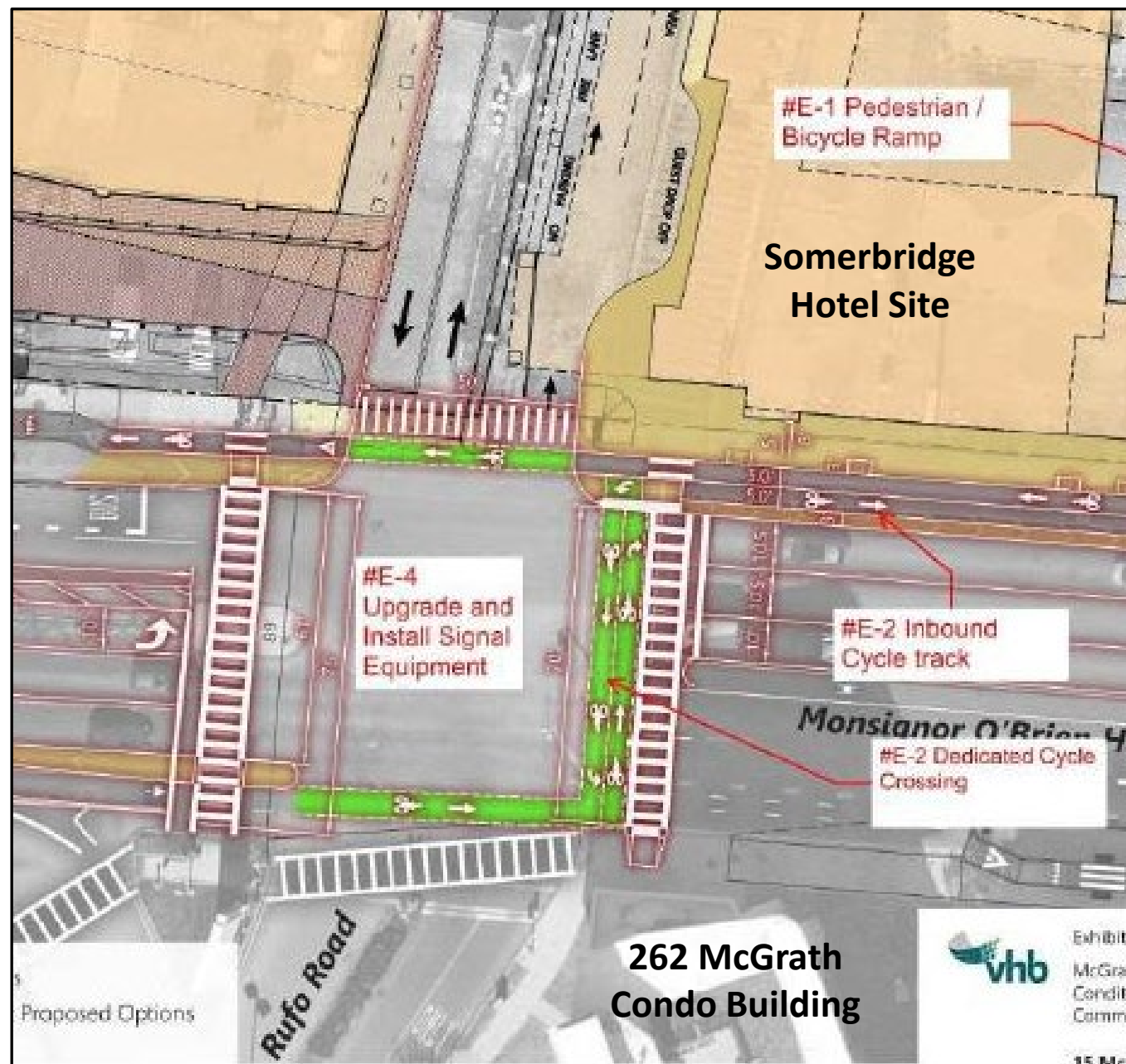
MassDOT Route 28 Repaving + Developer Work



Route 28 Repaving + Developer Work

- Coordinating new shared driveway at Rufo Road signal.
- New crosswalks & Bicycle crossing to connect across Route 28 to Rufo Road.
- Two-way bicycle facility on north side of Route 28 to connect to hotel ramp.

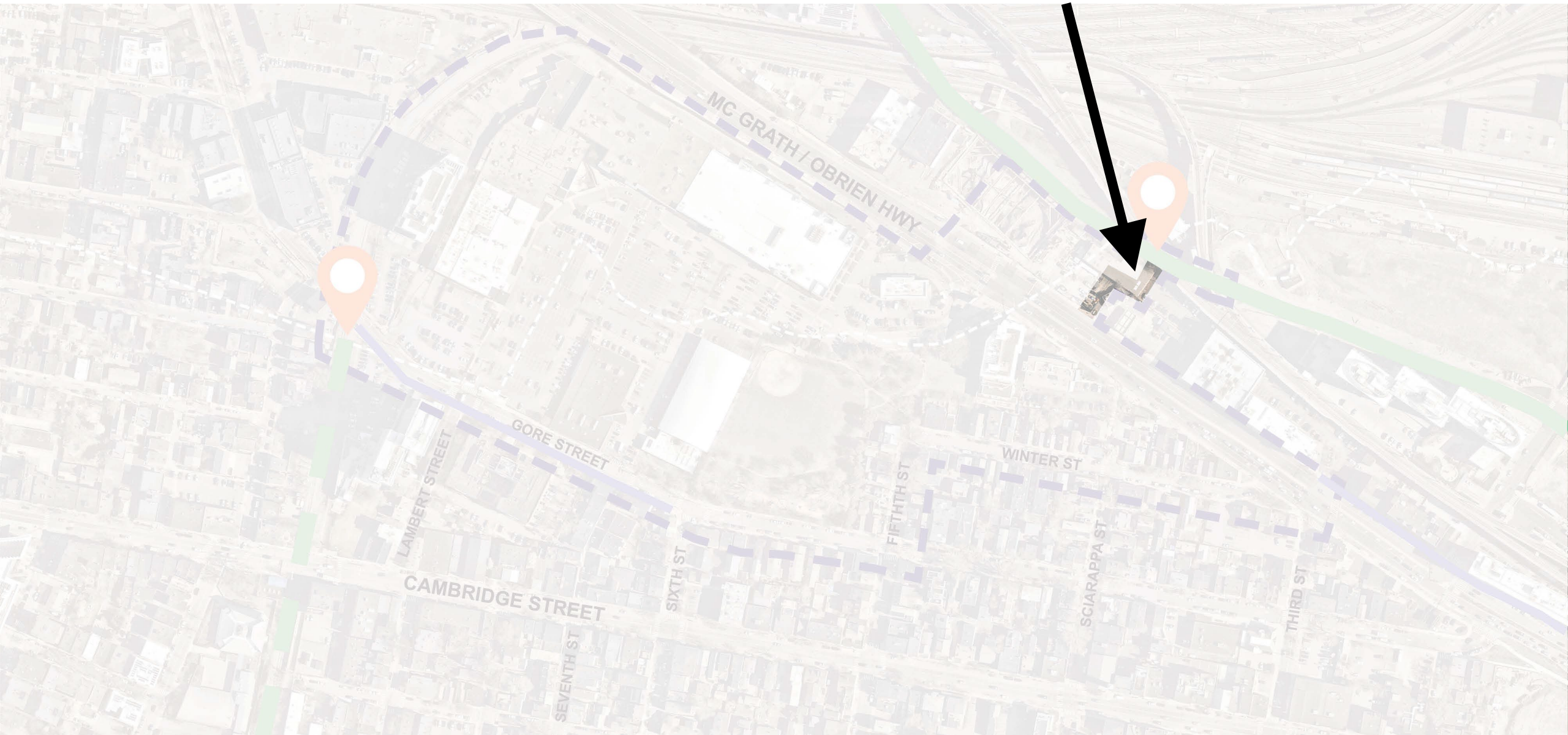
[Please use this link to visit the Grounding McGrath project webpage.](#)



Concept design showing conditions after the construction of the private properties.



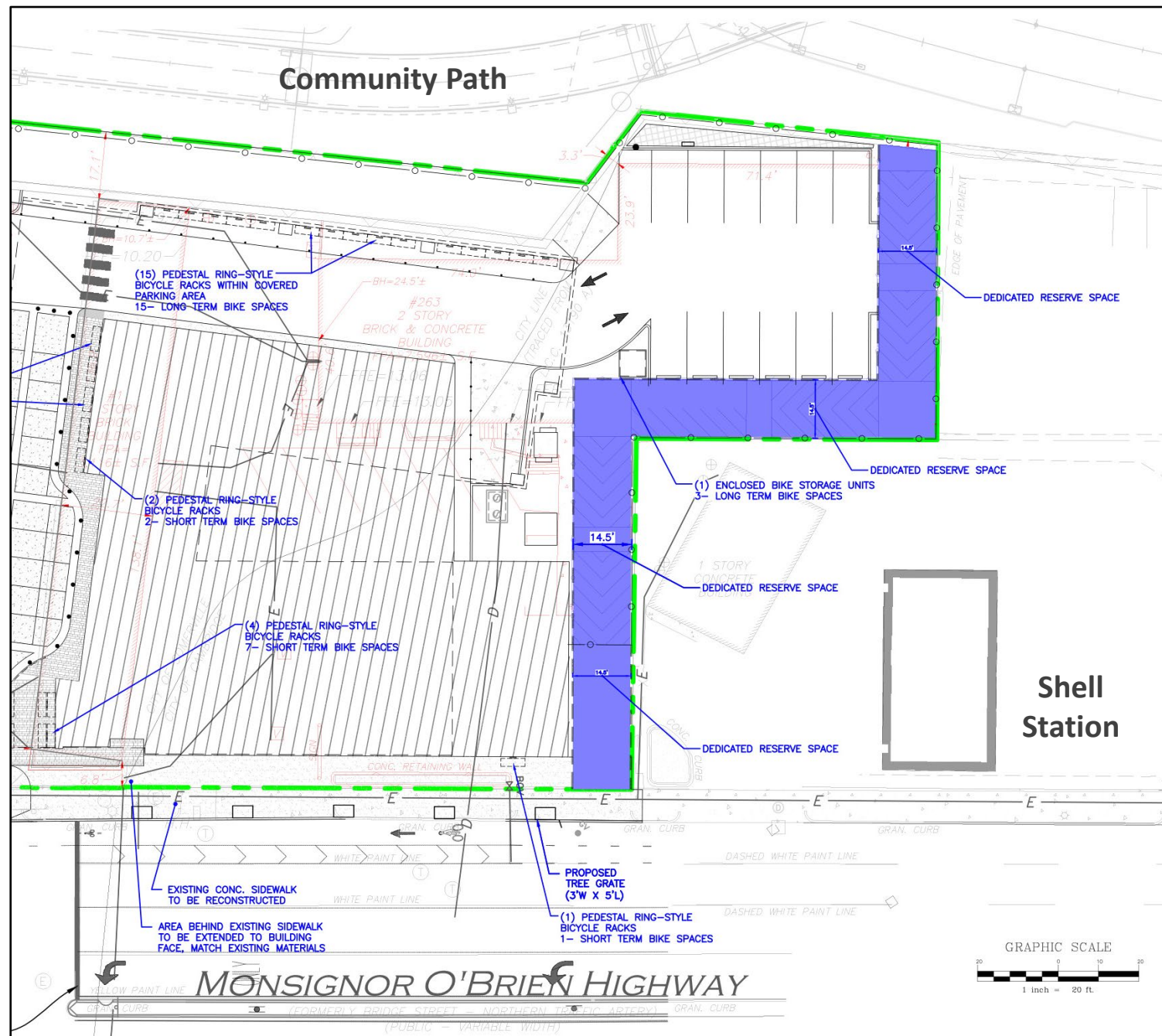
Somerbridge Hotel Ramp



Somerbridge Hotel Ramp

- Permitted hotel planned to include a bicycle and pedestrian ramp between the hotel property and the Shell station.
- Rises the grade difference from Route 28 to the area underneath the Green Line and Community Path Extension.

[Please use this link to visit the Planning Board documents for this hotel project in Somerville and Cambridge.](#)

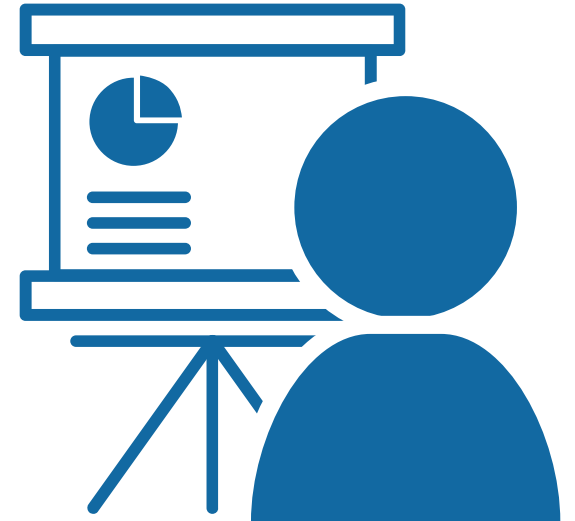


The future Somerbridge Hotel pedestrian-bicycle ramp shown in blue.



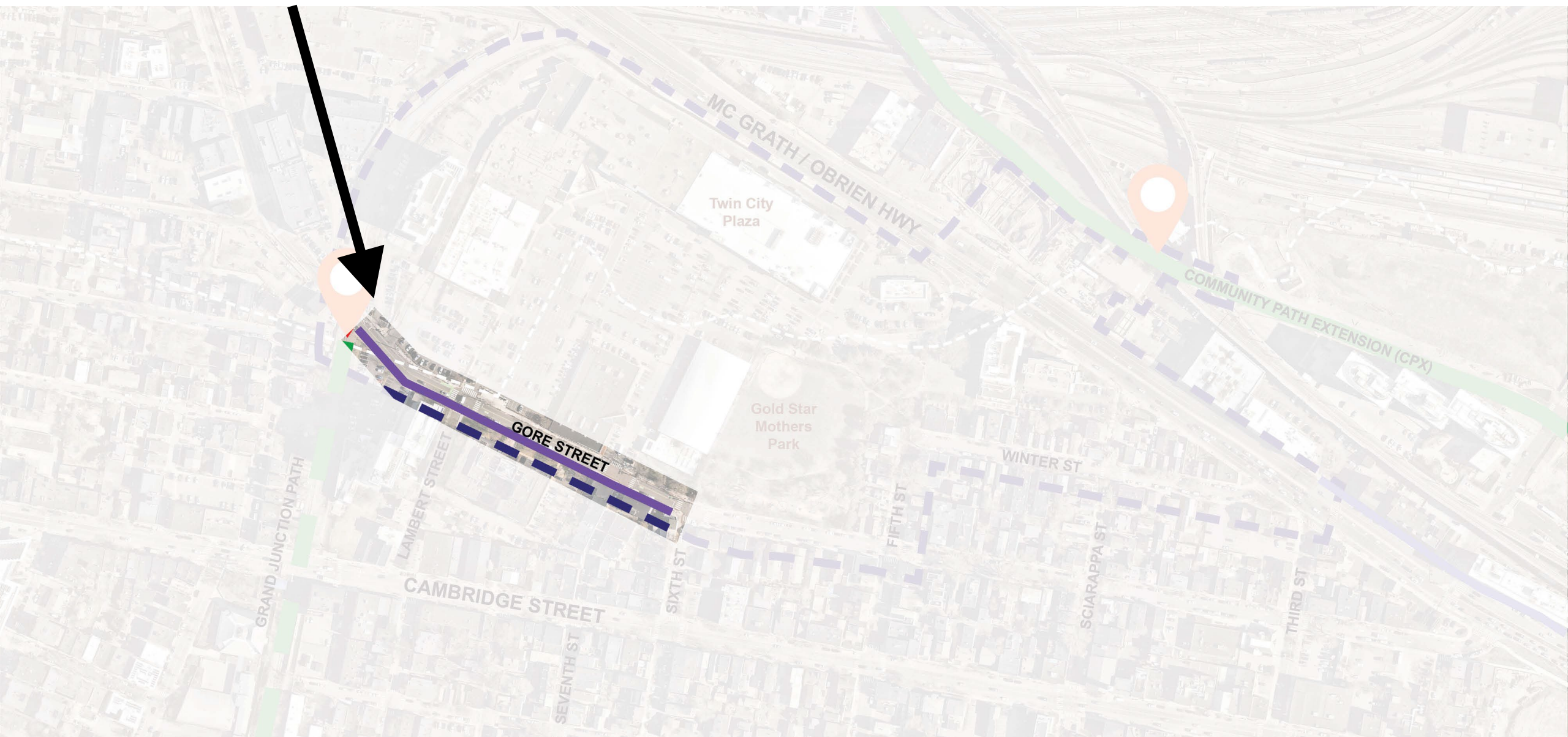
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Gore Street Path



Gore Street Path

- From end of Grand Junction path, the Gore Street two-way multi-use path continues along the south side of Gore Street from Warren Street to Sixth Street.
- Path users cross Gore Street at the signal at Sixth Street towards Gold Star Mothers Park.

Photo facing east



Side path along Gore Street will enable Grand Junction Path users to reach the path extension.



Gold Star Mothers Park



Gold Star Mothers Park

- **Oasis in East Cambridge-** This is an active, well-loved park and green space in a dense neighborhood.
- **Established Tree Canopy** - There are many large trees with established roots. Various route ideas may have more or less impact on trees.
- **Balance perspectives-** Critical to ensure that path users know this is not a quick, unimpeded through route.

Photo facing north

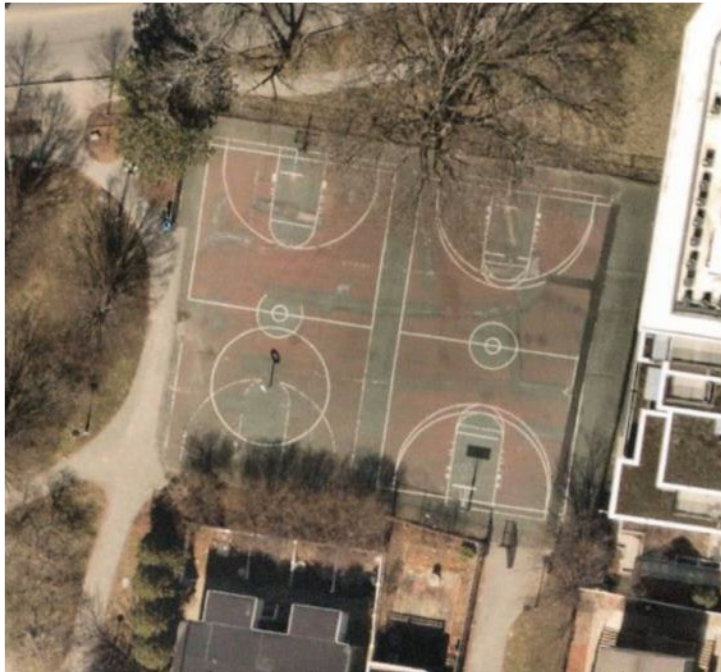


Existing pedestrian path through Gold Star Mothers Park.

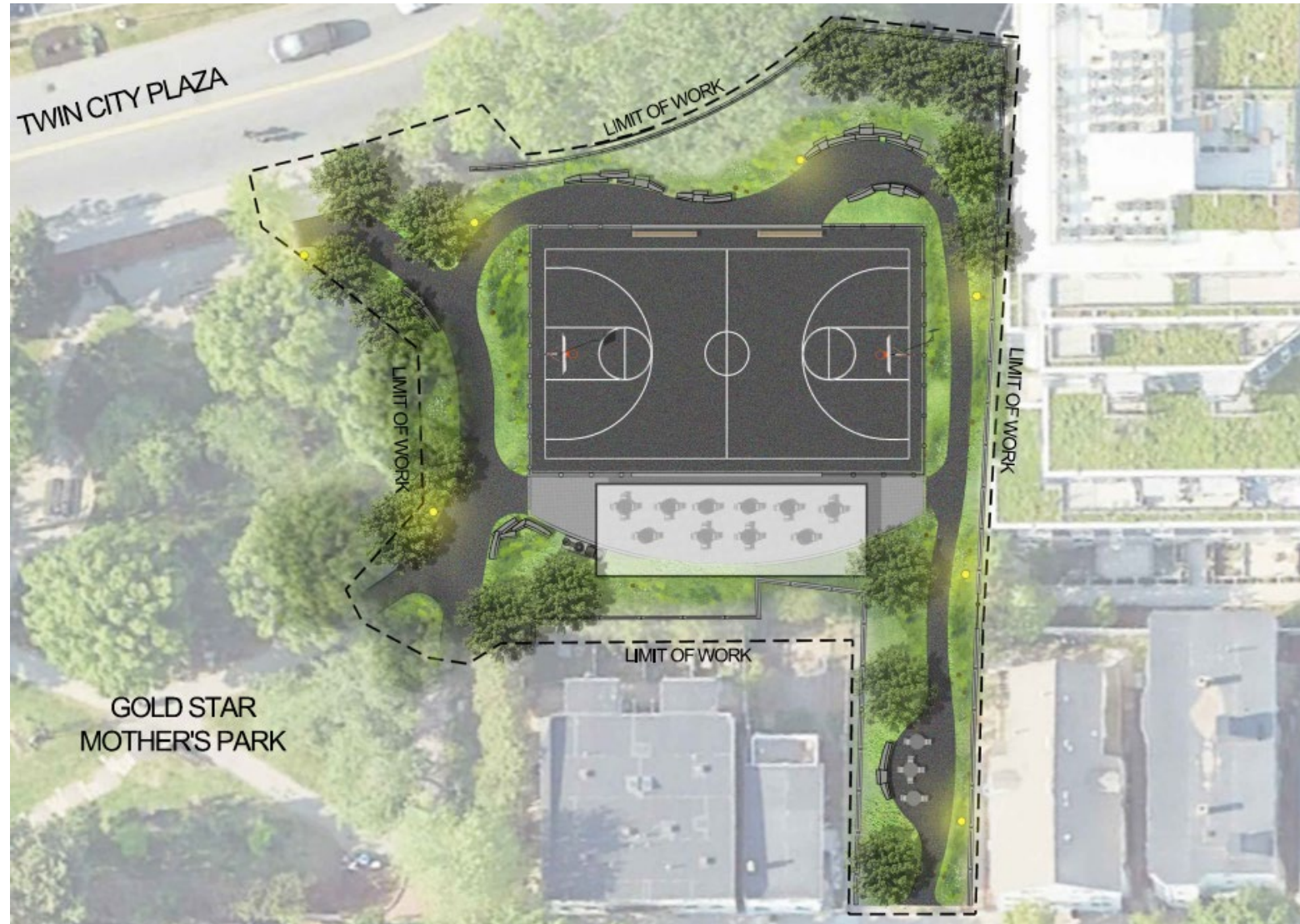
Gold Star Mothers Park

- The basketball court area is currently under reconstruction and includes a new court, shaded seating areas, and new landscaping.

Existing Conditions

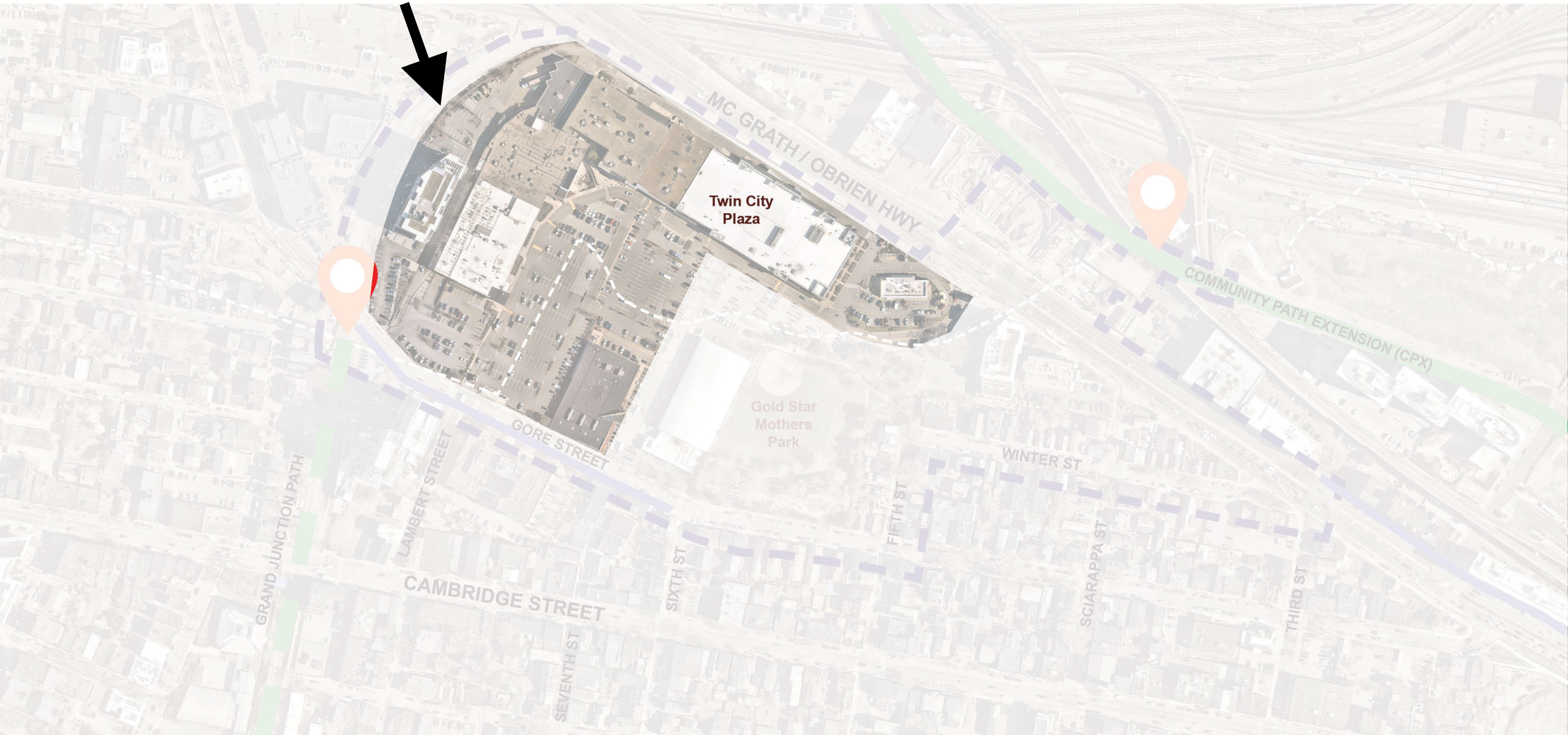


Gold Star Mothers Park – Basketball Court Renovation Project





Twin City Plaza



Twin City Plaza

- Private property.
- Look at possibilities to route the pathway through the edge of the parking area.

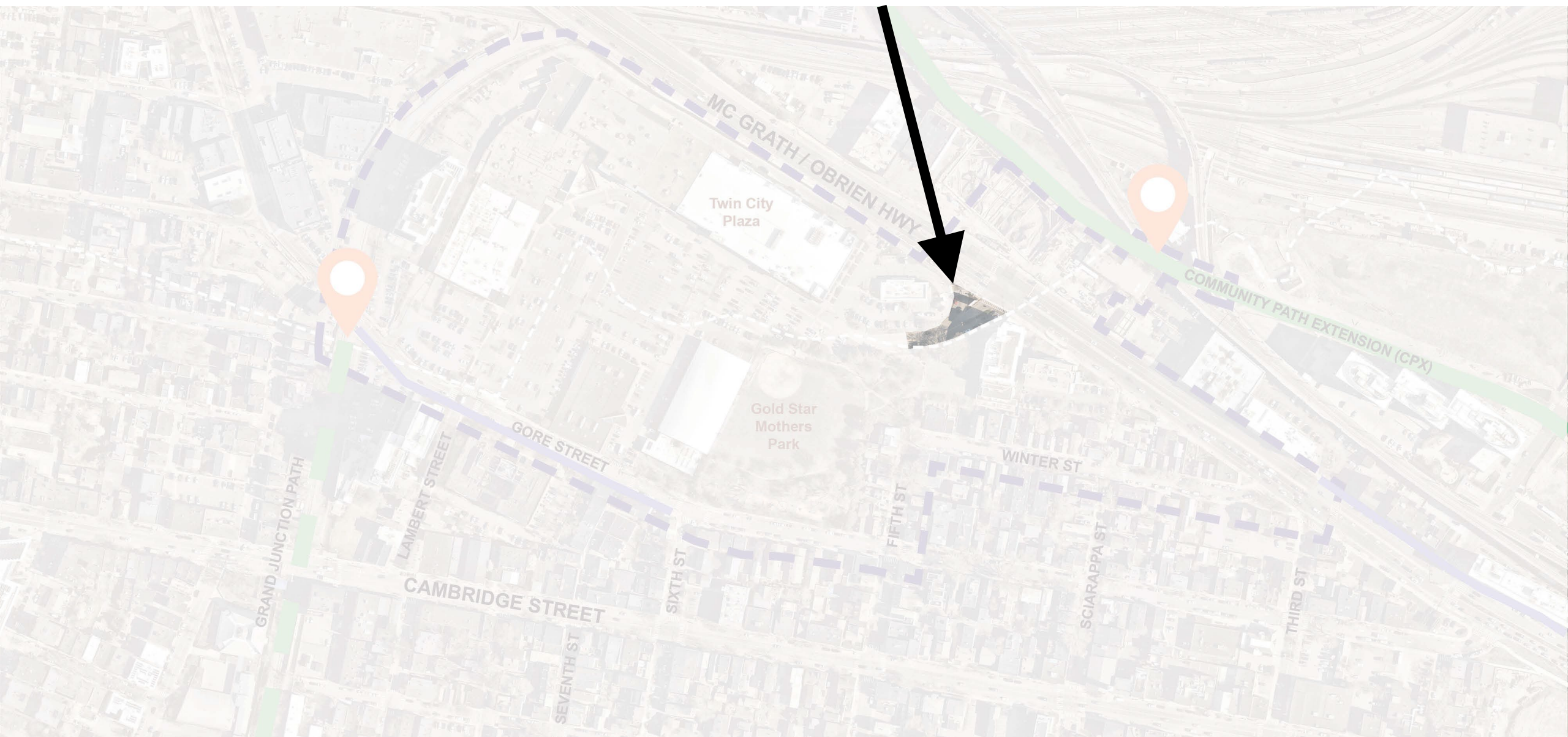
Photo facing west



Twin City Plaza parking with evergreen trees separating parking from the park.



Rufo Road



Rufo Road

- Eastern parts of Rufo Road and some sidewalk are private property.
- Review widening of sidewalk leading up to MA-28 for a grade separated multi-use path.
- Review possibilities of taking roadway space for widening in selected areas if needed.

Photo facing east

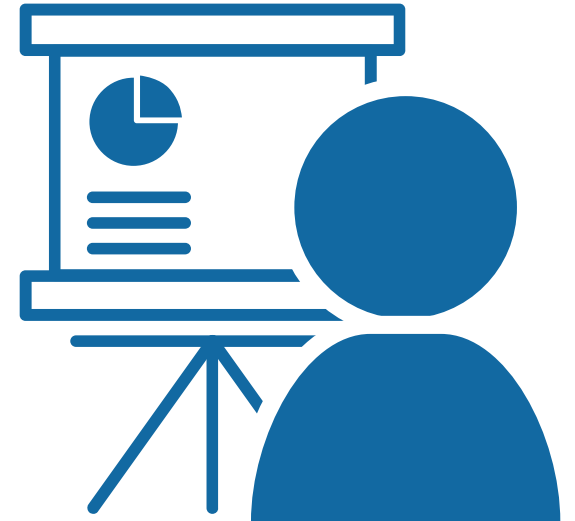


Rufo Road, with Twin City Plaza in the background. A portion of the existing sidewalk shown may be on private property.



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Outreach & Engagement Schedule

Project Phases

Phase 1

Spring + Summer 2025

- ✓ *Kick-off the project and community engagement.*
- ✓ *Share information, explore routes through the neighborhood, voice feedback.*

Phase 2

Fall 2025

- ✓ *Establish neighborhood goals.*
- ✓ *Evaluate design alternatives.*
- ✓ *Discuss feedback.*
- ✓ *Build consensus on an ideal path or paths.*

Phase 3

Winter 2026

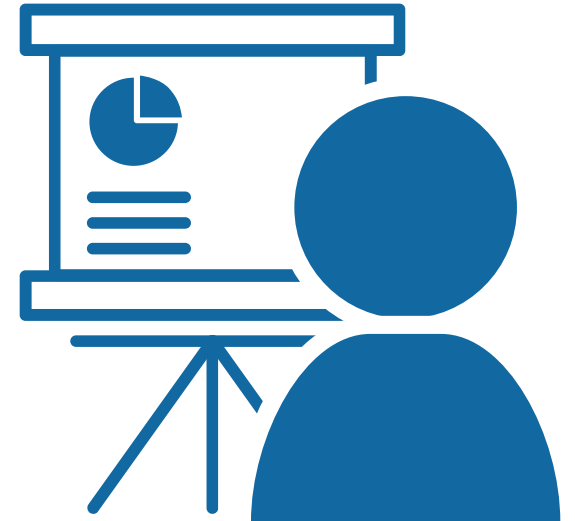
- ✓ *Confirm the ideal path or paths.*
- ✓ *Establish funding sources for future construction.*



Each phase will include at least one community meeting in addition to other engagement opportunities.

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Q&A

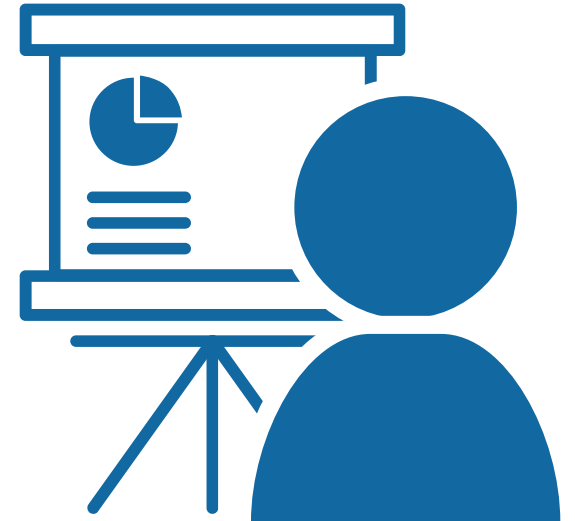
- What ideas do you have for routing a walking and bicycling path?
- What things would you like more information on at the next meeting?



East Cambridge, Twin Cities Plaza, and Gold Star Mothers Park.

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Site Walk Map





Contact Info

City Staff

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Ckirk@cambridgema.gov

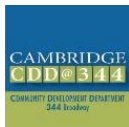
Charlie Creagh, AICP
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Webpage

Camb.ma/grandjunctionconnector

Newsletter

Visit the webpage using the URL above or scan the QR code with your smartphone to sign up for the e-newsletter.



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Thank You