Rendering of Proposed Design of the Cambridge Street Safety Improvement Project

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE | Department of Transportation

Welcome! Cambridge St Safety Improvement Project

Working Group Meeting #5

August 27, 2025 | 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Remote Participation Instructions

Working Group members

- You will be promoted to "panelist".
- Please turn on your video.
- Raise your hand to join the queue.

Members of the public

- There will be an opportunity to share public comment at ~5:40 PM.
- At that time, you can raise your hand to join the queue.

Guiding Principles For Working Together

- Respect all participants (members, staff, public)
- Listen actively and with empathy
- Talk about the topics, not people
- Be curious about and open to different perspectives and sources of information
- Speak for yourself from your own perspective (avoid referencing "common sense" or "what everyone thinks")
- Focus our work on actionable recommendations for Cambridge Street SIP.

Agenda

4:00 PM	Welcome & Introductions
4:10	Engagement Updates
4:45	DPW Project Updates
5:05	Design Updates and Looking Ahead
5:45	Public Comment
5:50	Wrap-up & Next Steps
6:00	Adjourn

Introductions

- In pairs: please share your favorite summer activity

Action Items - Review

Delivery Vehicles

Working Group encouraged City to collaborate with delivery Apps.

- CamDOT had an informational call with the City of Boston about their exploration of enforcement policies for delivery scooters. Scheduling a follow up conversation.

Snow Removal in Crosswalks and Bike lanes

Member of the public highlighted mounds of snow in the crosswalks can make walking on Cambridge Street challenging.

- CamDOT shared feedback with the Department of Public Works and the concern is being tracked for future snow removal efforts.

Economic Impact Report

Cycling Safety Ordinance Economic Impact Study Report available here on City website

Business Outreach Summary

Summary to be presented today

Action Items - Review

Request for MBTA data on Transit Delays and Reliability

- MBTA Blue Book Open Data Portal
- Data Dashboard — TransitMatters

Questions Regarding Parking

- Interest in the Cambridge St parking utilization study
  - Study is on City website.
- Interest in how changes to commercial zoning and flexible corridors apply to apps such as Spot Hero
  - Occasional commercial parking offered through apps like Spot Hero requires a commercial parking space permit issued by the Commercial Parking Control Committee

01. Engagement Update

Timeline

Business Feedback

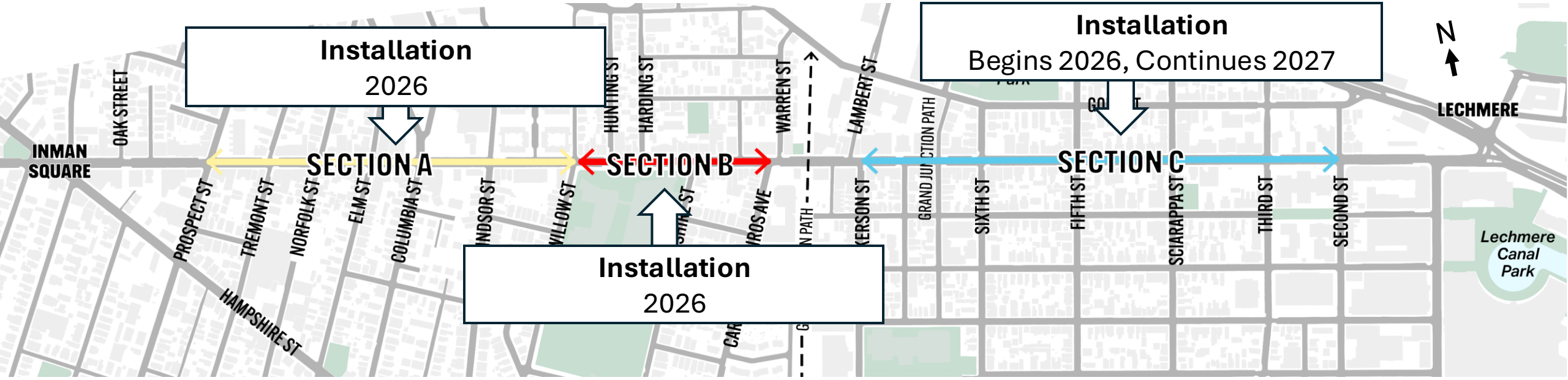
Updated Community Engagement Timeline

Schedule is a draft and subject to change

- **Section A:** Final Design Open House Fall 2025
- **Section B+C:** Engagement Begins Winter 2026

Updated Installation Schedule

- Changes to the installation schedule based on longer design timeline.
- Partial-Build sections will begin construction before 2026.
- Quick-Build sections will be finished by end of 2026.
- Schedule subject to change.



02. Timeline and Construction Updates

Quick-Build vs. Partial Build

Utility and Adjacent City Project Coordination

Quick-Build vs. Construction

Quick-Build Projects

- Examples: Cambridge St, Hampshire St, Broadway
- Limited project construction: can be implemented within months

Construction Projects

- Examples: Western Ave, River St, Inman Square
- Changes to drainage, grading, sidewalks, etc: often take multiple years

Use of Quick-Build and Partial-Build in the Cycling Safety Ordinance

The Ordinance requires the City to install separated bike lanes on:

- All of Massachusetts Ave
- **Broadway** from Quincy St to Hampshire St
- **Cambridge St** from Oak St to Second St
- **Garden St** from Huron Ave to Berkeley St/ Mason St
- **Hampshire St:** from Amory St to Broadway

It also requires **11.6 miles** of separated bike lanes in other locations identified in the 2020 Bicycle Network Vision.

Except for Mass Ave., these were all initiated as quick-build projects

Partial Build Projects

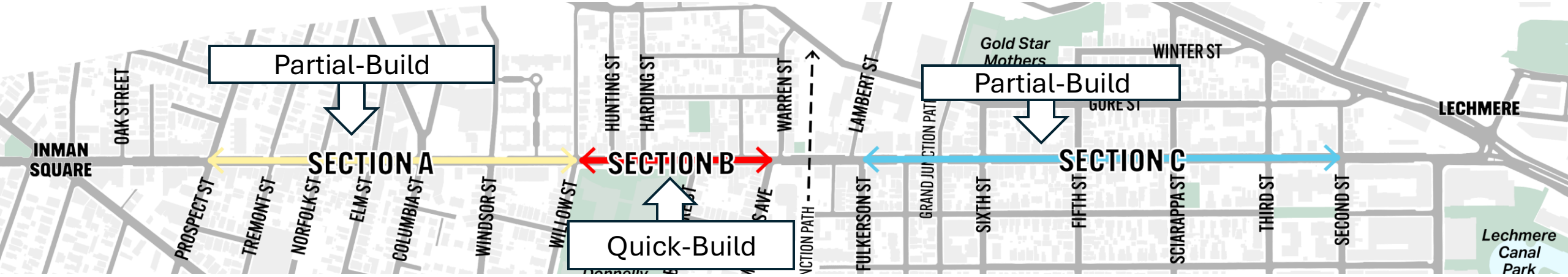
- **Mass Ave.** from Waterhouse St to Alewife Brook Pkwy
- **Broadway** from Quincy St to Ellery St
- **Cambridge St** from Prospect St to Willow St, Fulkerson St to Second St

Because of unique design constraints on certain roads, we have upgraded a few short sections of projects from **quick-build** to **partial-build**

Quick-Build and Partial-Build Limits of Work

- **Quick-Build:** Pavement markings, signs, and flex-posts. No changes to curbs.
- **Partial-Build:** Limited curb changes where impacts to drainage and utilities are minimal.

Curb changes (such as floating bus stops) are limited to Partial-Build.



Why Partial-Build? Pavement Assessment

Pavement Management – Summary of Findings

- 118 miles of City owned roadways inspected
- Data collected during Spring 2024
- Road Surface Rating (RSR) based on score of 0 to 100
- Survey completed using LIDAR and images collected by specialty vehicle
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology used to assess pavement and assign score
- Average RSR for Cambridge St (excluding in front of King Open)= 50

Scope of Construction

- Typical Pavement Restoration for Partial Build is mill and overlay paving (remove and replace top 2")
- Pavement cores scheduled to determine if more extensive rehabilitation is required due to RSR.
- Full depth restoration may be needed in some locations.
- A total FY26 appropriation of $3,817,500 for Cambridge Street.
- Cambridge Street Prospect Street Second Street $1,817,500 Cambridge Street Prospect Street Willow Street $2,000,000 (pull from budget book p 431)

03. Nearby Projects Coordination

Complete Streets Contract 24 Coordination

Chapter 90 Contract 24 Project:

- Includes the **Elm at Cambridge Street** intersection.
- Scope of work: water main replacement, drainage analysis and improvements, sidewalk replacement, roadway restoration, and repaving the Cambridge Street intersection.
- Elm Street raised crossings to be built ahead of Cambridge Street construction. Future pedestrian refuge islands and lane transition built when Cambridge St project is installed.

Complete Streets Contract 25 Coordination

Chapter 90 Contract 25 Project:

- Includes the **Sciarappa Street at Cambridge Street** intersection.
- Scope of work: drainage improvements, sidewalk replacement, roadway restoration, and repaving the Cambridge Street intersection.
- Construction scheduled to start in Fall 2025 (O'Brien Highway to Charles St)

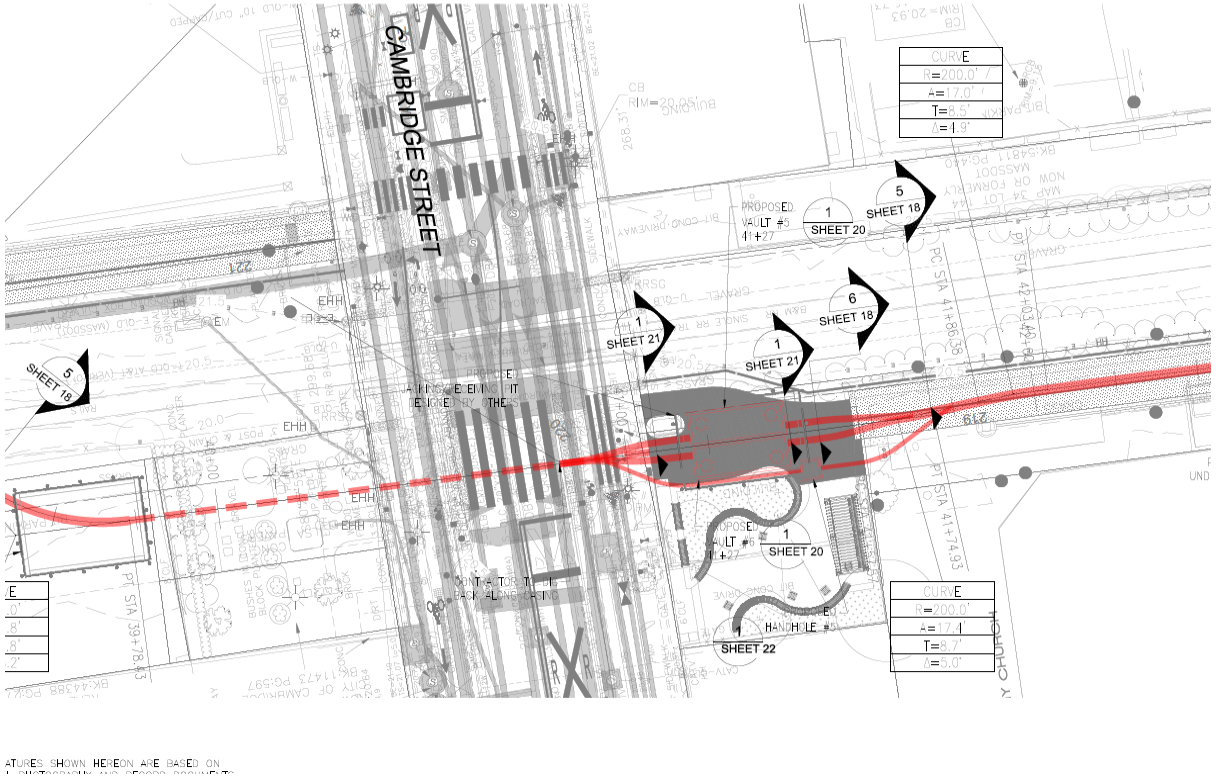
Complete Streets Contract 26 Coordination

Complete Streets Contract 26 Project:

- Includes the **Norfolk at Cambridge Street** intersection.
- Scope of work: water main replacement, drainage analysis and improvements, sidewalk replacement, roadway restoration, and repaving the Cambridge Street intersection.
- Design Teams are working closely to tie-in each project's design.

Grand Junction Eversource Work

- Eversource will install electric transmission infrastructure in Grand Junction railroad as part of Greater Cambridge Energy Project.
- Preliminary work has started; majority of work in late 2025 into 2026



04. Design Updates

Section A Updated Design

Sections B and C Look Ahead

Section A Updated Design

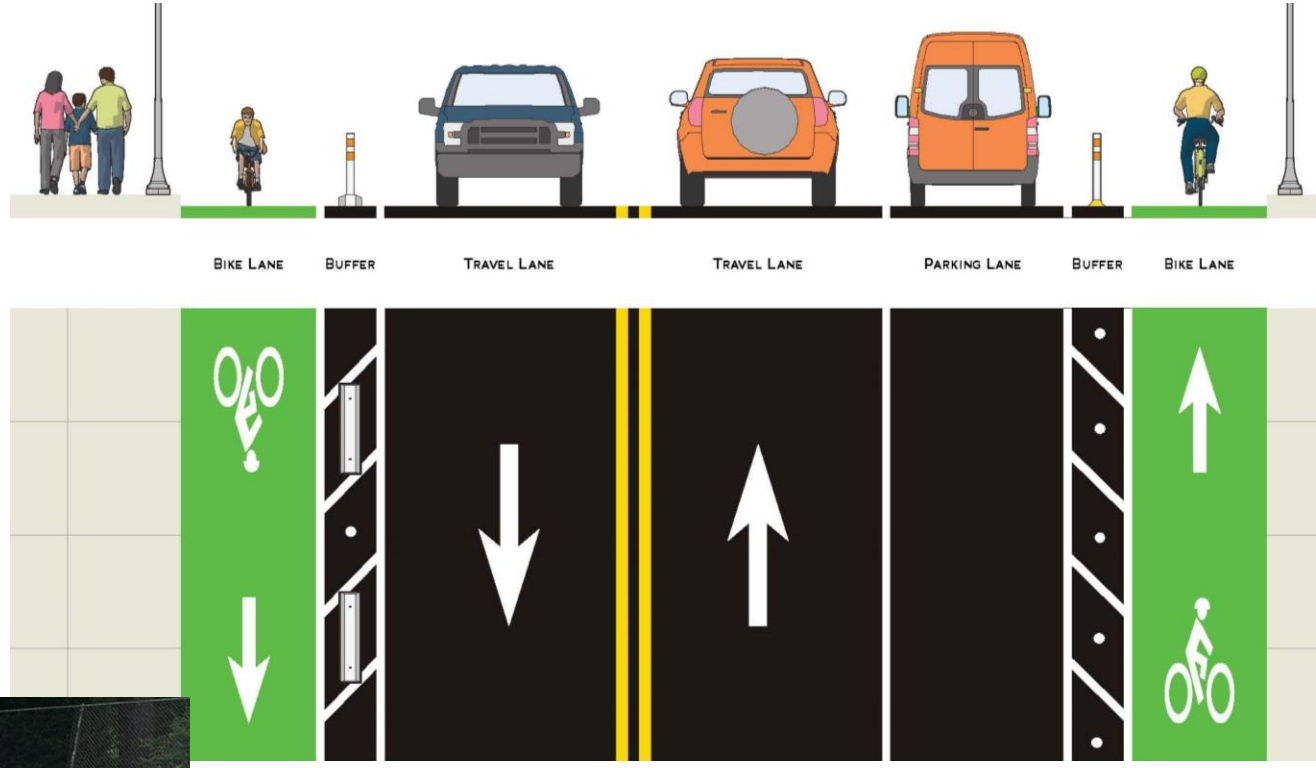
Reminder: Typical Street Layout

Travel lanes in each directions.

- Parking on one side, alternating side.
- Separated bike lanes in each direction.

Proposed Design Change: City evaluating use of precast curbing on Cambridge St.

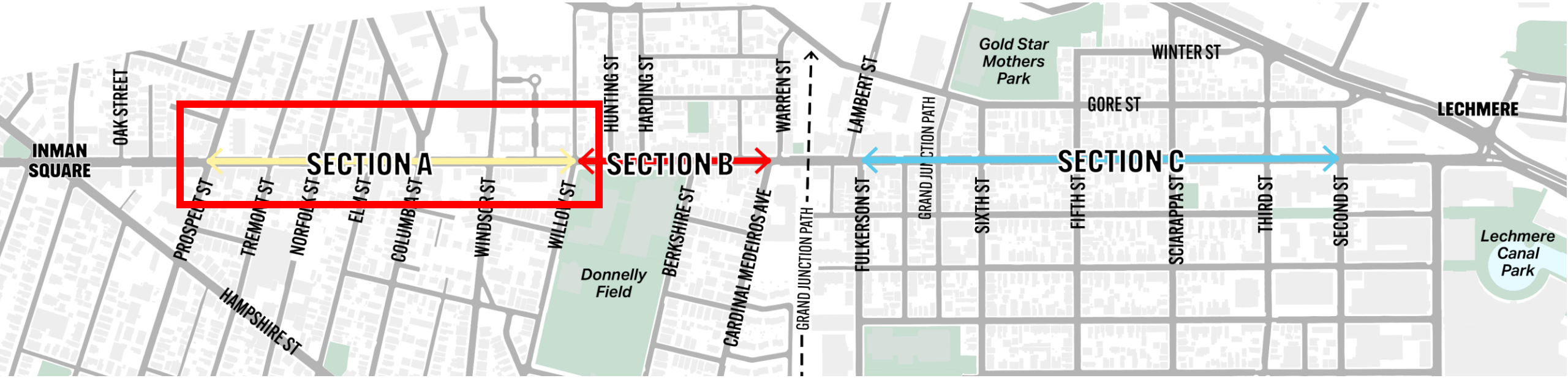
- Proposed for non-parking side of street.
- Reviewing implications for accessibility and maintenance.



Precast curbing in use on Mt. Auburn St

Reminder: Section A Project Area

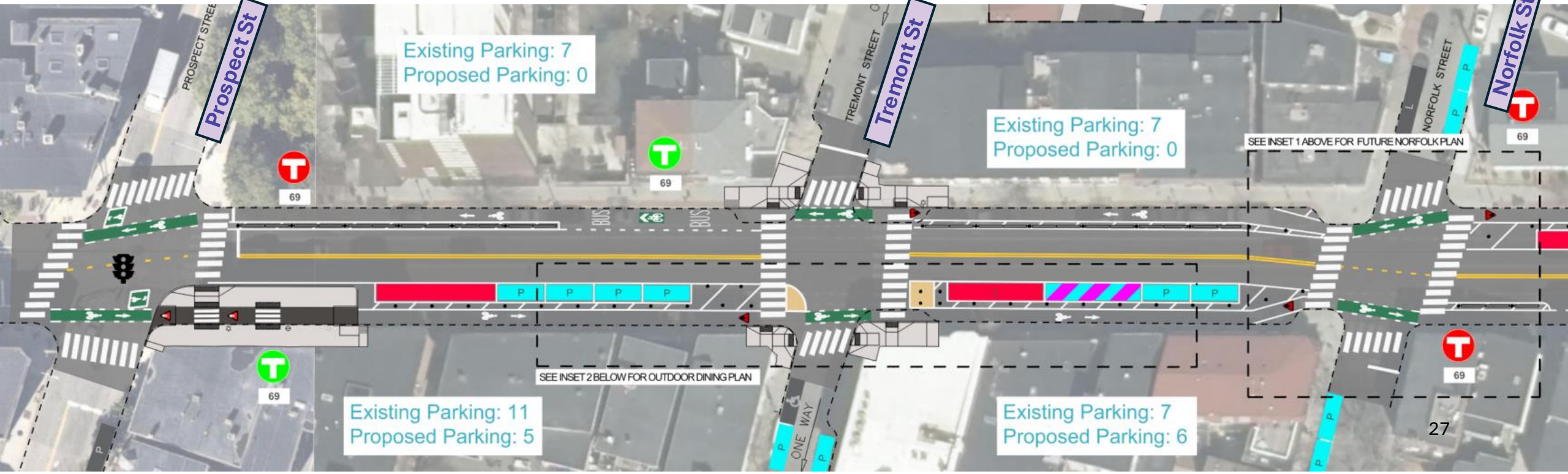
- **Section A Project Limits (Revised):** Prospect St to Willow St
- The City completed work between Oak St and Prospect St earlier this spring.



Design: Prospect St to Norfolk St

Overview

- Space for outdoor dining provided. *See roll plan for seasonal layout.*
- Modifications to bus stop design. *See next slide.*
- Interim quick-build design shown below at Norfolk St until full reconstruction occurs as part of Norfolk St project.



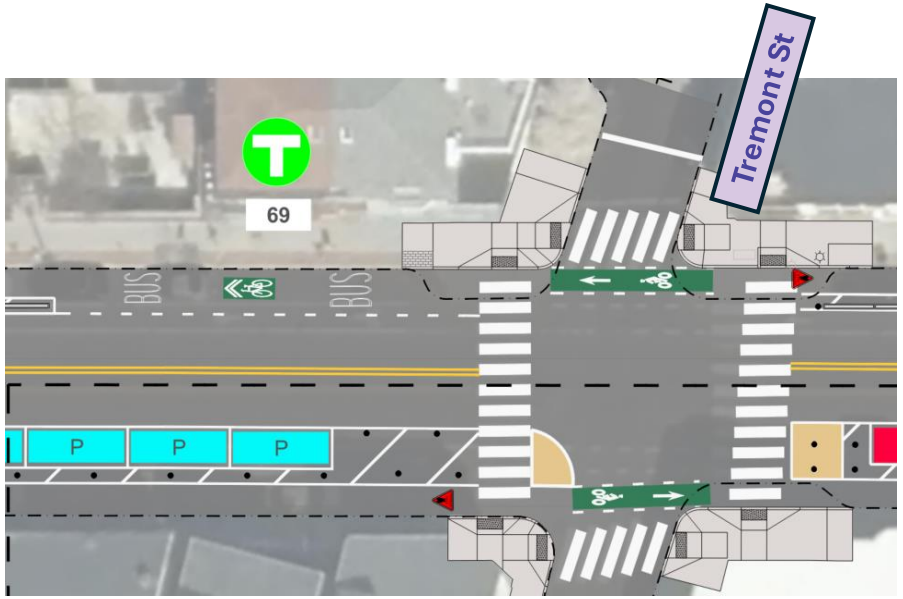
Design: Tremont St Intersection and Bus Stop

Overview

- Changes due to cost and constructability: Primarily uses quick-build materials: No floating bus stop. Pedestrian refuge islands are painted and use flex-posts, not raised.
- Curb ramps will be rebuilt to meet accessibility requirements.

Future Project Coordination

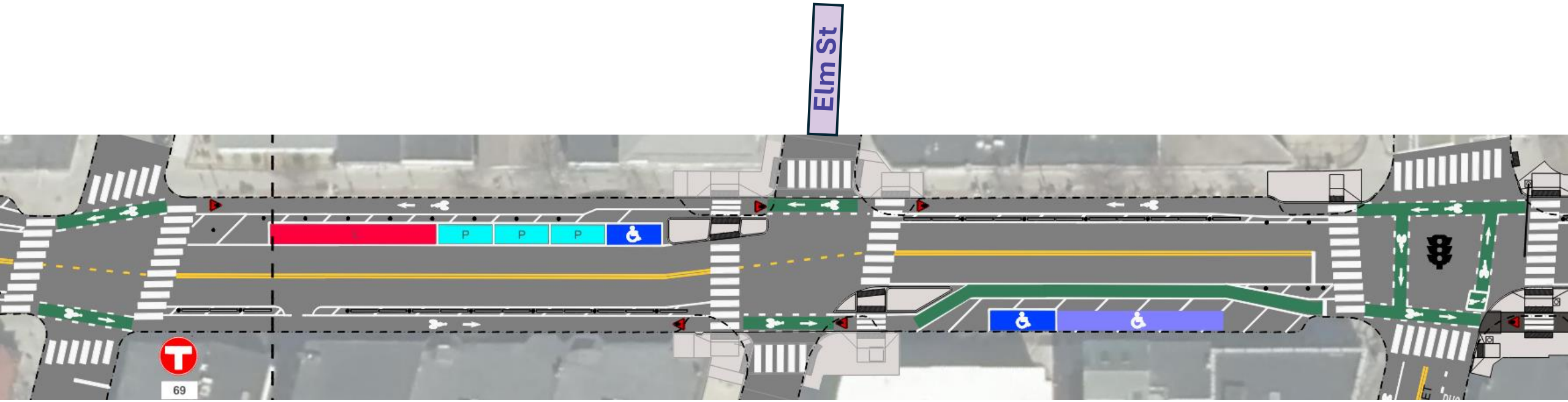
- Tremont St on city's 5-year plan as a street with major reconstruction.
- Design changes are possible in the future when Tremont St is reconstructed. Design challenges discussion from last working group meeting valuable in development of constrained bus stop design locations, such as this.
- Doing these changes now would conflict with upcoming utility work. This limits the design to quick-build in this area for now.



Design: **Norfolk St to Webster Ave**

Overview

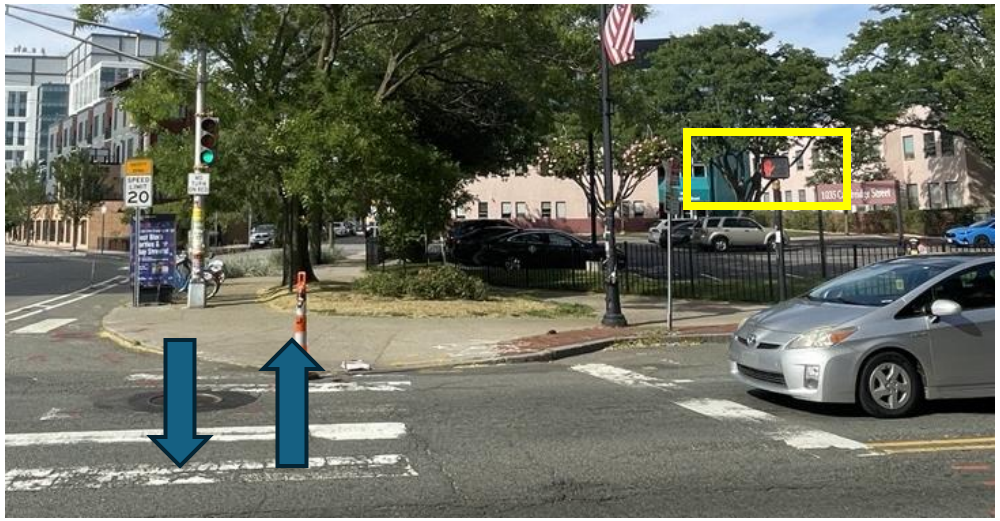
- Coordination with adjacent Elm St project. Construction work on Elm St already underway.
- No other major changes to street layout than previous plans.



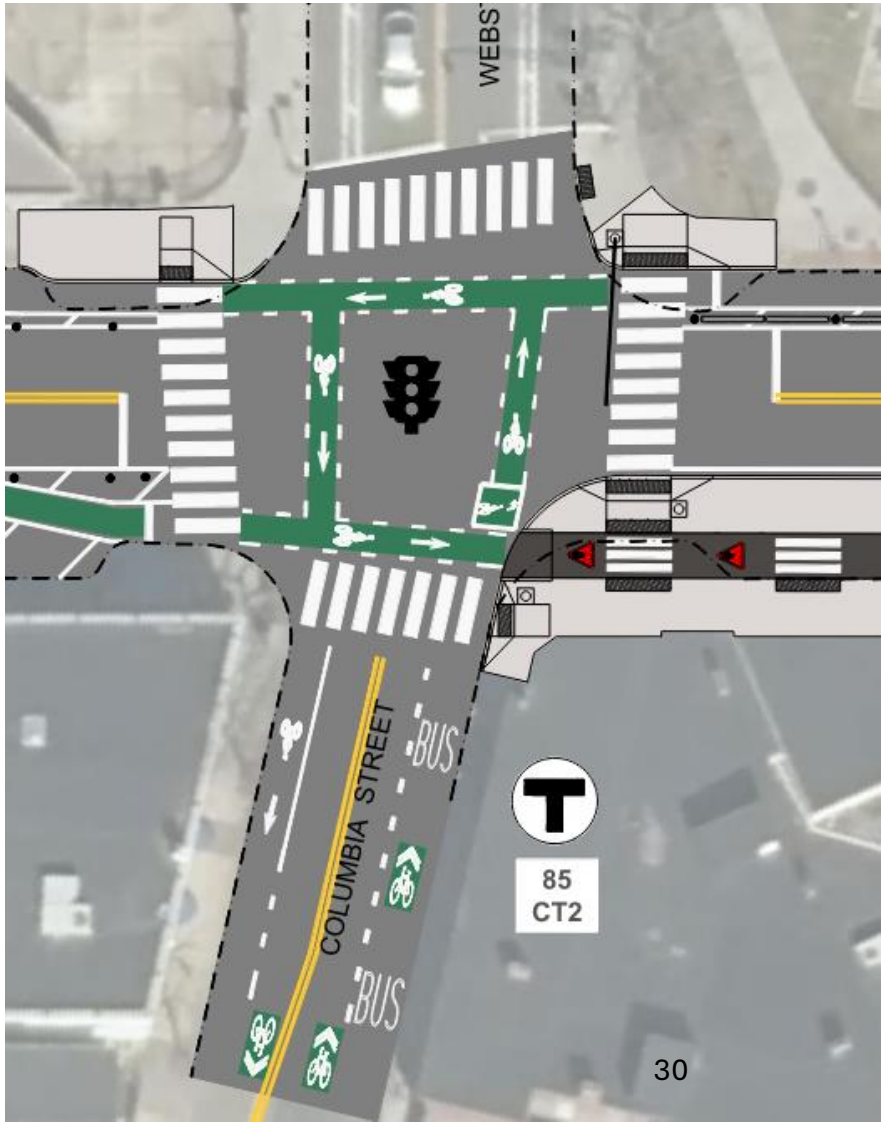
Design: **Cambridge St at Webster Ave /Columbia St**

Overview

- Short section of bike lane is added on Columbia St in the intersection to improve traffic flow, operations, and safety.
- We're planning additional traffic signal repairs at this location, including new wiring, a new cabinet and controller and new pedestrian signals.



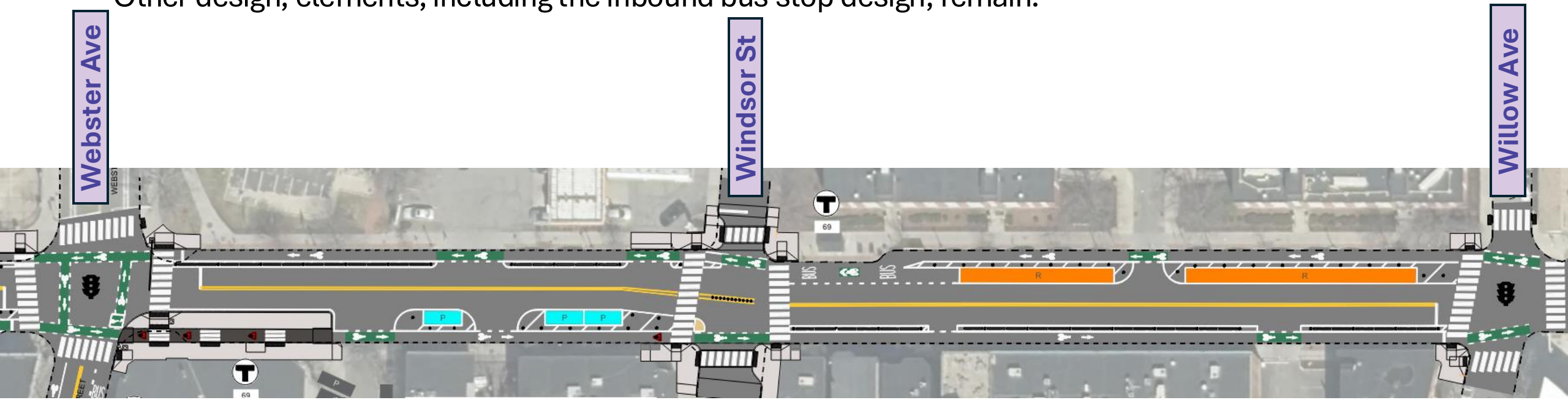
Example of signal equipment that should be relocated.
The signal head does not line up with a pedestrian's path of travel.



Project Design: Webster Ave to Willow St

Overview

- More significant changes planned at the Windsor St intersection due to crash history. More information provided on the next slide.
- Bus stop at Windsor St changed to quick-build design.
- Other design, elements, including the inbound bus stop design, remain.



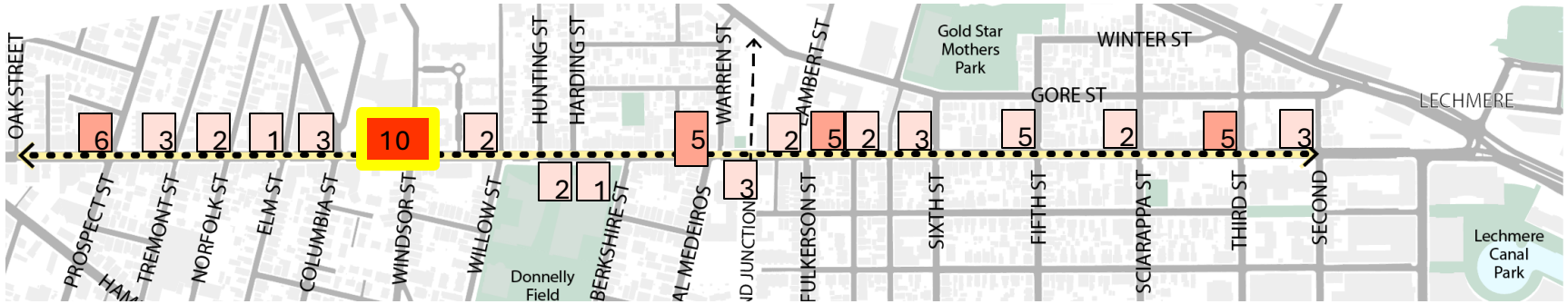
Project Design: Cambridge St at Windsor St

Overview

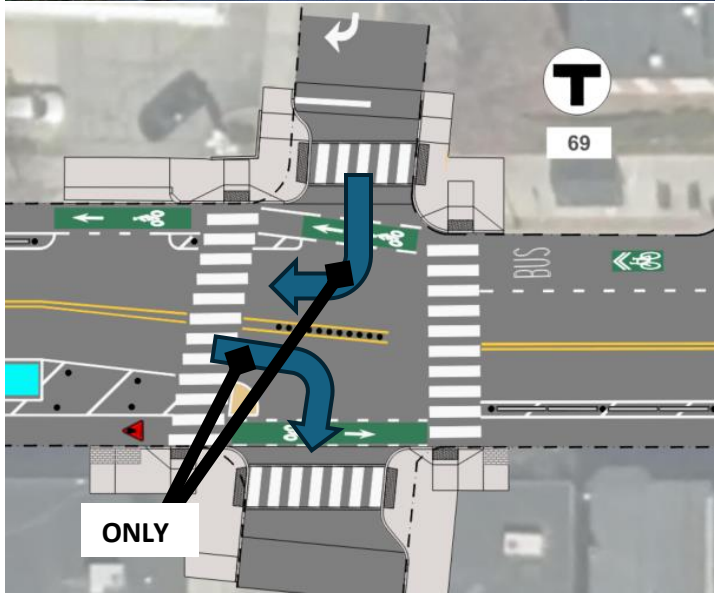
- Windsor St becomes right-turn only for vehicles
- No left turn into Windsor St from Cambridge Street
- Future "Contra-flow" bike lane on Windsor St as part of separate project on a similar but separate schedule.
- Raised crosswalks across Windsor St, with funding from participatory budgeting.

Next Steps

- Conducting additional analysis of traffic diversion impacts.
- Follow up engagement targeted to local abutters.



Map of Injury Crashes Occurring on Cambridge Street (Inman Square to Second Street) Jan. 2021 – Sept. 2023



Project Design: Parking

- Ongoing adjustments to parking regulations as part of final design.
- Additional side-street metered parking locations. See roll plan for details.
- Block-by-Block parking totals provided on the roll plan.

Total number of spaces reduced from 94 to approximately 35.

Existing on-street parking spaces by type	
1-Hour or 2-Hour Metered Parking	67
Loading Zones	8*
Part-time meter/loading	2
Accessible/Disability Parking	4
Resident Permit Parking	13

Proposed on-street parking spaces by type	
1-Hour or 2-Hour Metered Parking	19, 13**
Loading Zones	5*,3**
Accessible Pick-Up/Drop-Off	1*
Accessible/Disability Parking	4
Resident Permit Parking	11

*Length varies. Total loading/drop-off length will change from 350(f/t), 390(p/t) to 280 linear ft (200 linear with patios).

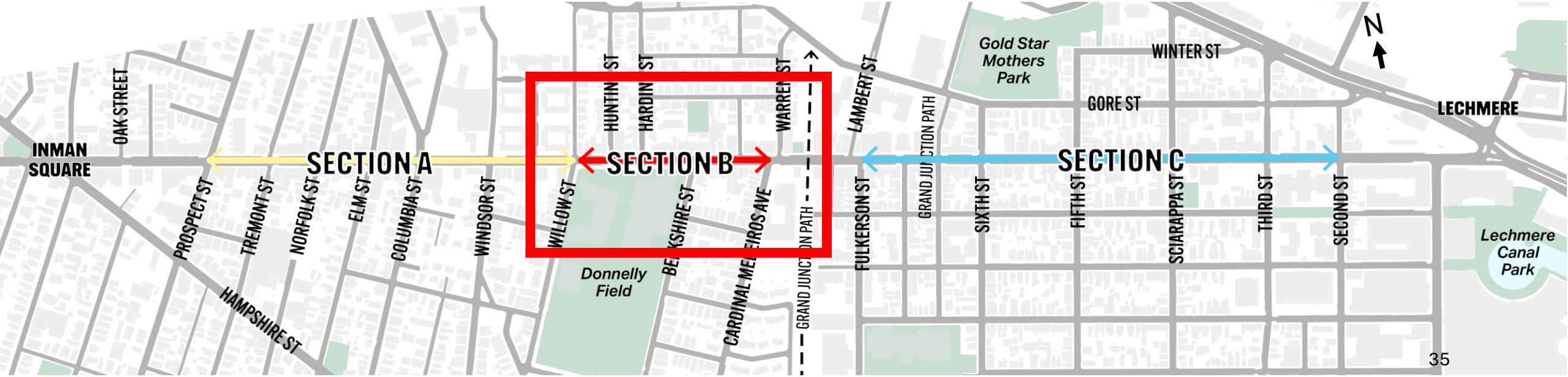
**Summer totals with outdoor patios. Four outdoor patios would take 12 spaces in the summer (8 spaces for dining, 4 spaces for transitions).

Section B Look Ahead

Section B: Project Limits

- **Section B Project Limits:** Willow St to Cardinal Medeiros Ave.
- **Previous Section A Project Limits:** Willow St to Fulkerson St.

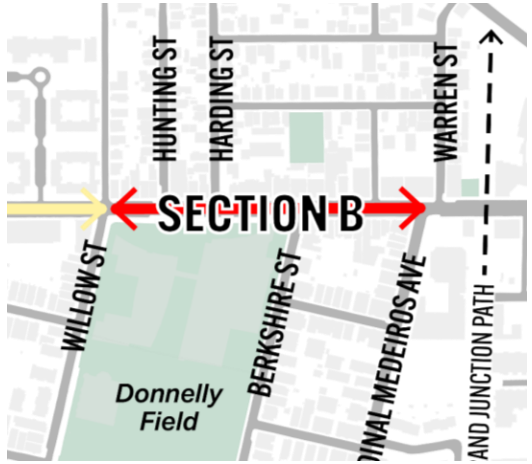
Updated limits due to change in scope of work at the Grand Junction/Cambridge St intersection.

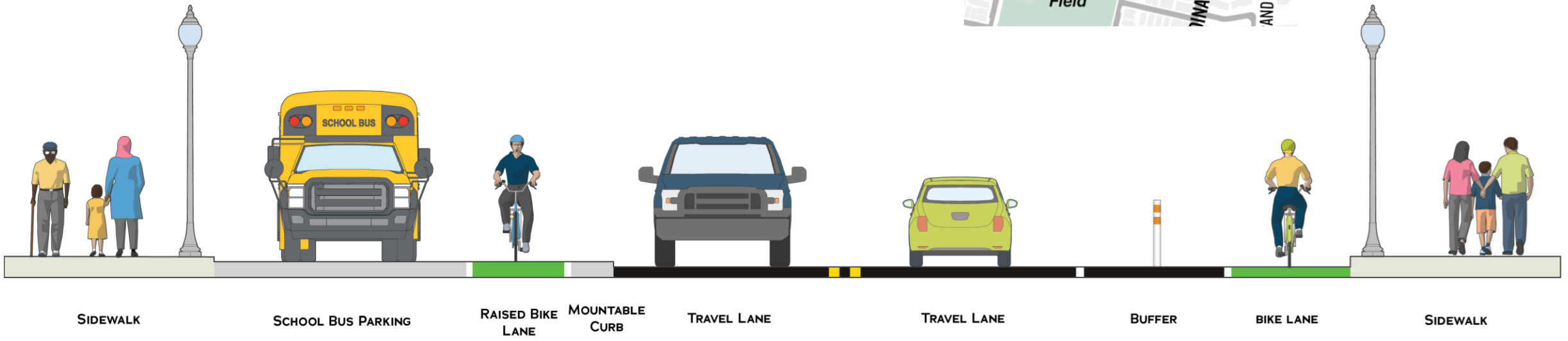


Section B: Quick-Build Design

Proposed Section B Design:

- Removes all parking
- No construction work or repaving required
- Maintains school pick up drop off and bus zone as is
- Outdoor dining accommodations under review

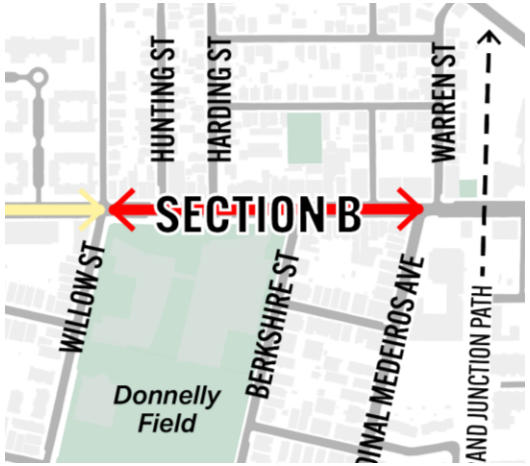


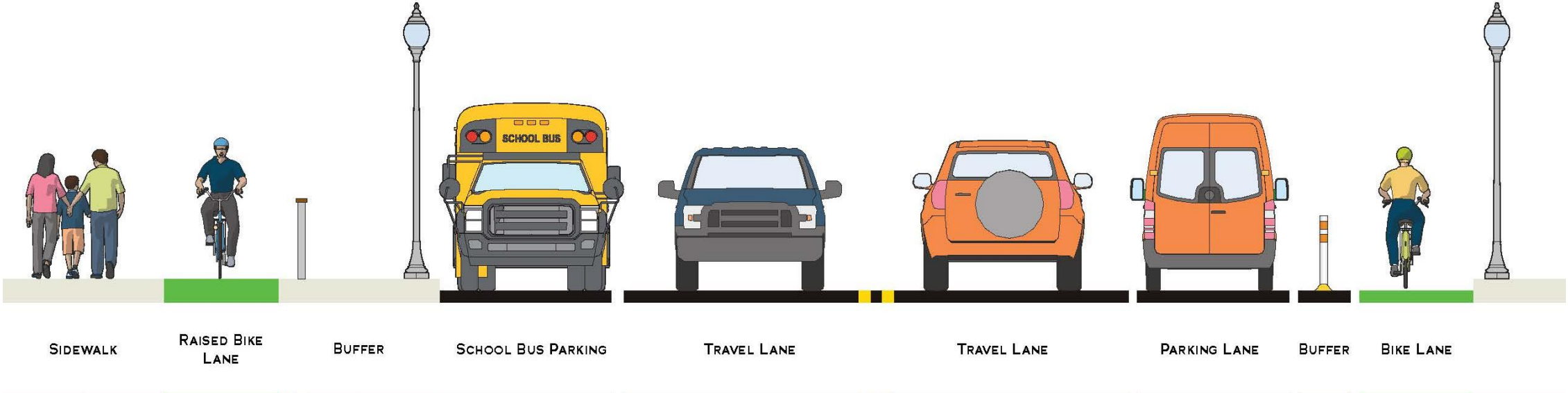


Not Advanced: Section B Partial-Build Design Alternative

Evaluating options beyond CSO timeline

- City advanced the design anticipating using MassDOT funding for construction.
- Funding request unsuccessful due to permitting and funding timeline constraints.





Partial-Build Design Alternative, not advanced for construction

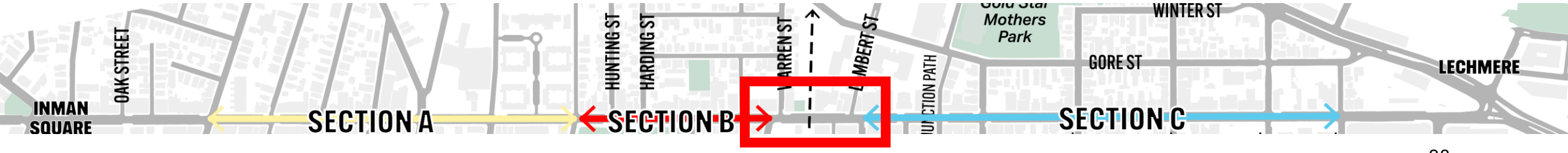
Grand Junction Project
Cardinal Medeiros Ave to Fulkerson St

Grand Junction Update

- The Grand Junction Project will take considerably more time to complete due to utility work.
- Elements of the design on major intersecting streets, such as Cambridge St, will begin work before path construction starts, where feasible.

What This Means

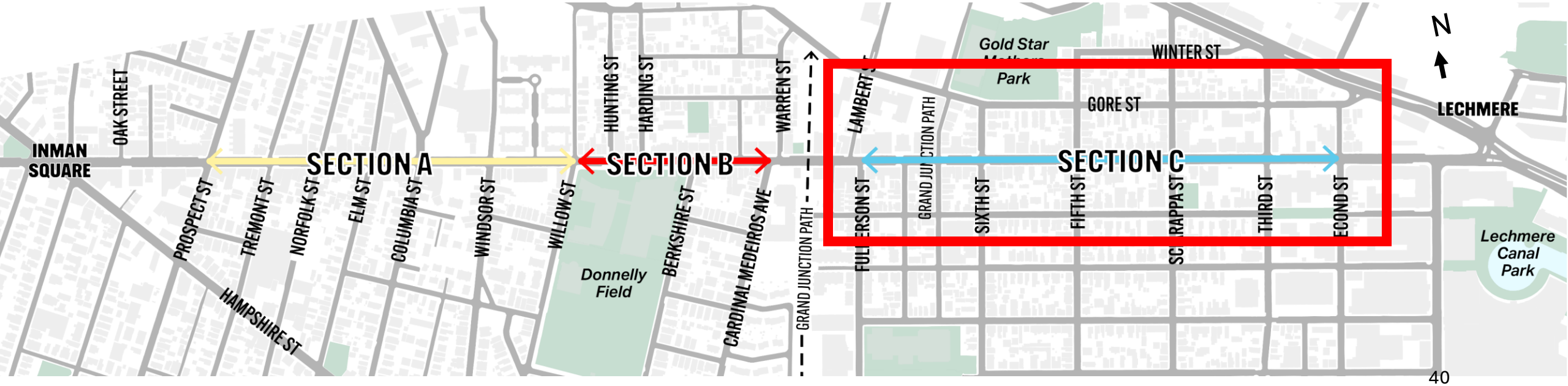
- Fewer construction impacts. We can design Cambridge St one time, in a way that works with the future path design. Less need to “re-do” Cambridge St when the path is built.
- The team responsible for designing the Grand Junction Project will take over design of this section of Cambridge St to ensure design consistency.



Section C Look Ahead

Section C: Fulkerson St to Second St

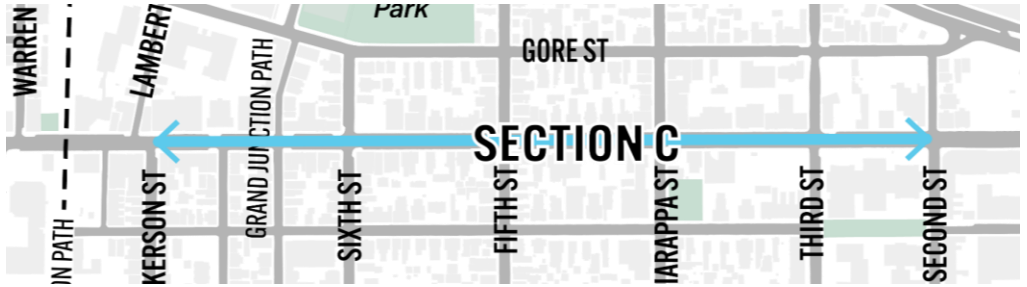
- Project limits are unchanged from before
- Section C, like Section A, also has a poor sub-surface.
- Recent paving only touched surface, roadway possibly requires more construction for state of good repair.

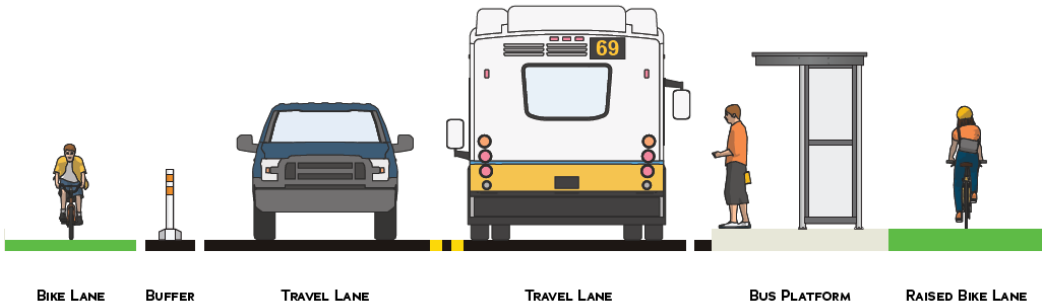


Section C: Typical Street Layout

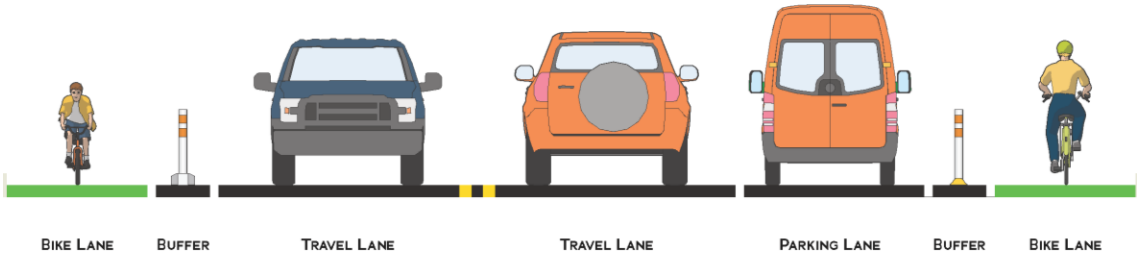
Similar Roadway Layout to Section A

- Travel lanes in both directions
- Parking on one side, alternating sides as needed.
- Separated bike lanes in each direction.
- Potential for floating bus stops where feasible.





Typical street layout of Section C at a bus stop



Typical street layout of Section C with one-side parking

Questions?

05. Public Comment

Public Comment

Public Comments Welcome

- Share thoughts in Q&A or verbally
- To comment verbally, raise virtual “hand” or signal interest in Q&A window
- Limit comments to 2 minutes; may need to adjust if many speakers

Please keep all comments…

- On-point
- Respectful
- Focused on issues (not individuals)

06. Next Steps

Working Group Next Steps

Working Group Members:

- Share feedback with the City on the project updates and their clarity

CBI:

- Share meeting 5 summary

Future Working Group Topics:

- Grand Junction Project Planning and Design
- Sections B + C Design Review
- Project Installation and Construction Coordination Updates