



CEDAR ST  
1724

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

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- **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

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- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **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 13<sup>th</sup>, 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

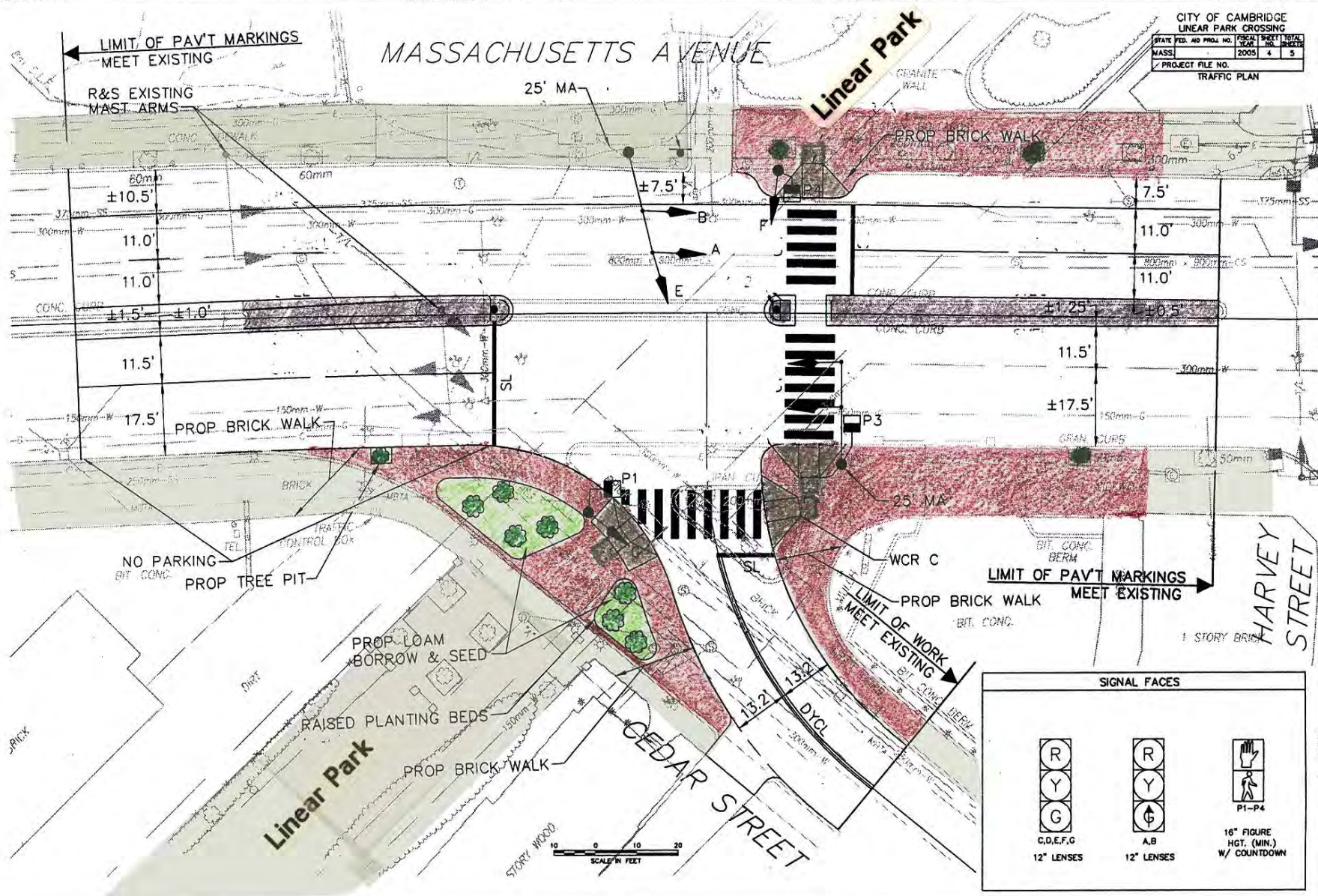
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- **Create a direct, signalized and fully accessible crossing of Linear Park at Mass. Ave.**
- **Keep signals coordinated to facilitate traffic flow on Mass. Ave. and convenient access from adjacent neighborhoods.**

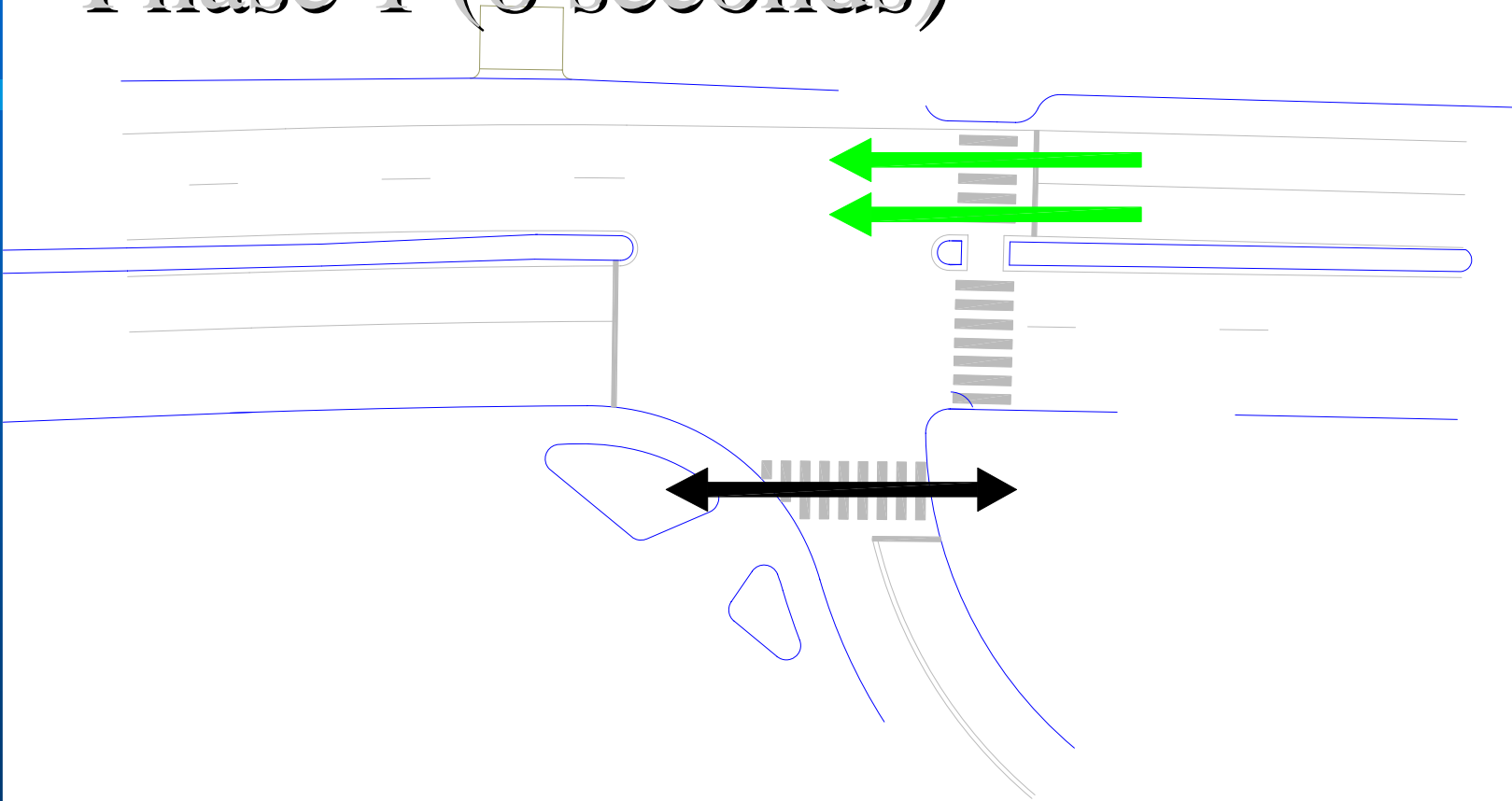
# Project Plan

- 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.



[illegible]

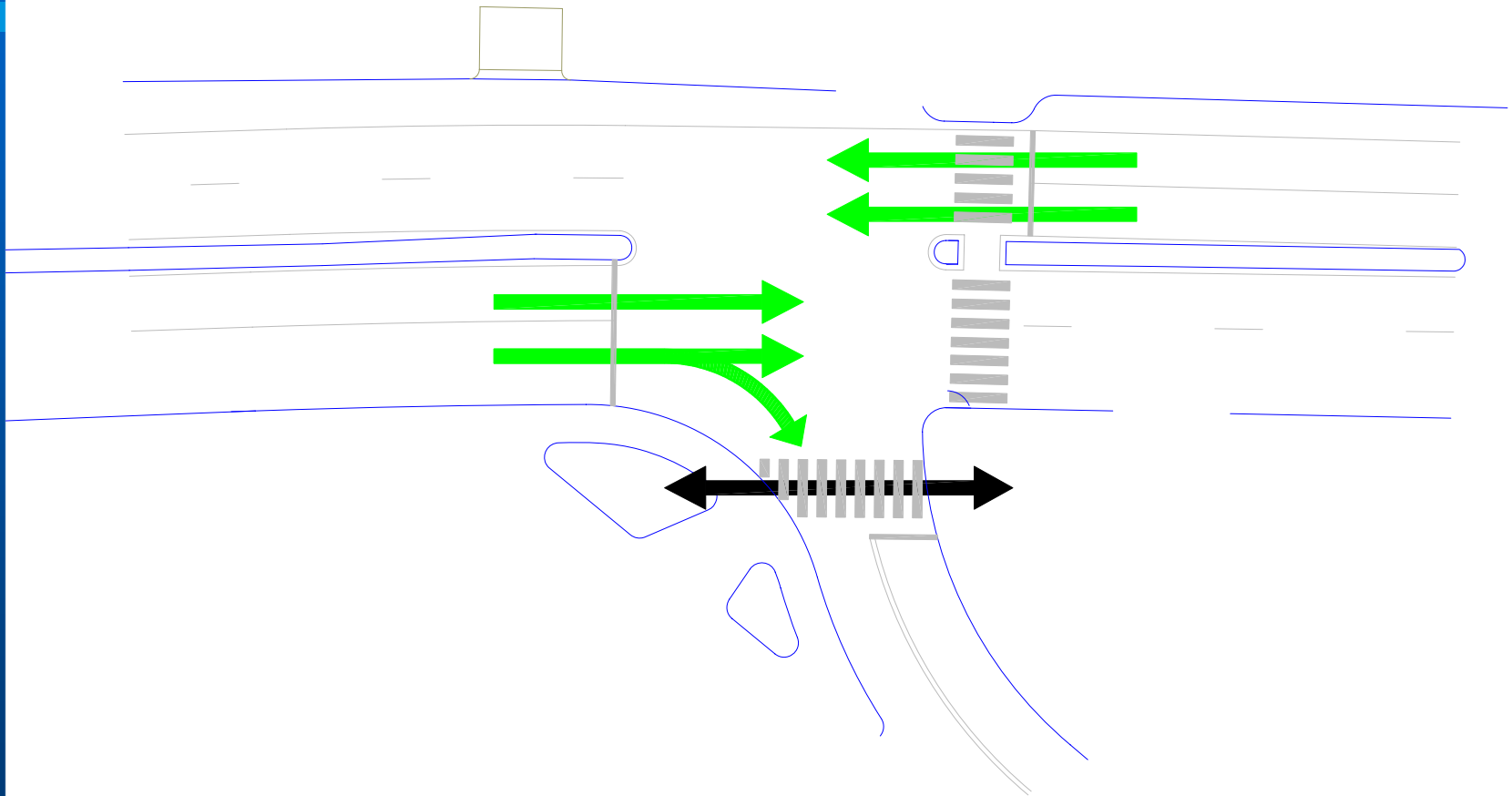
# Phase 1 (8 seconds)



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

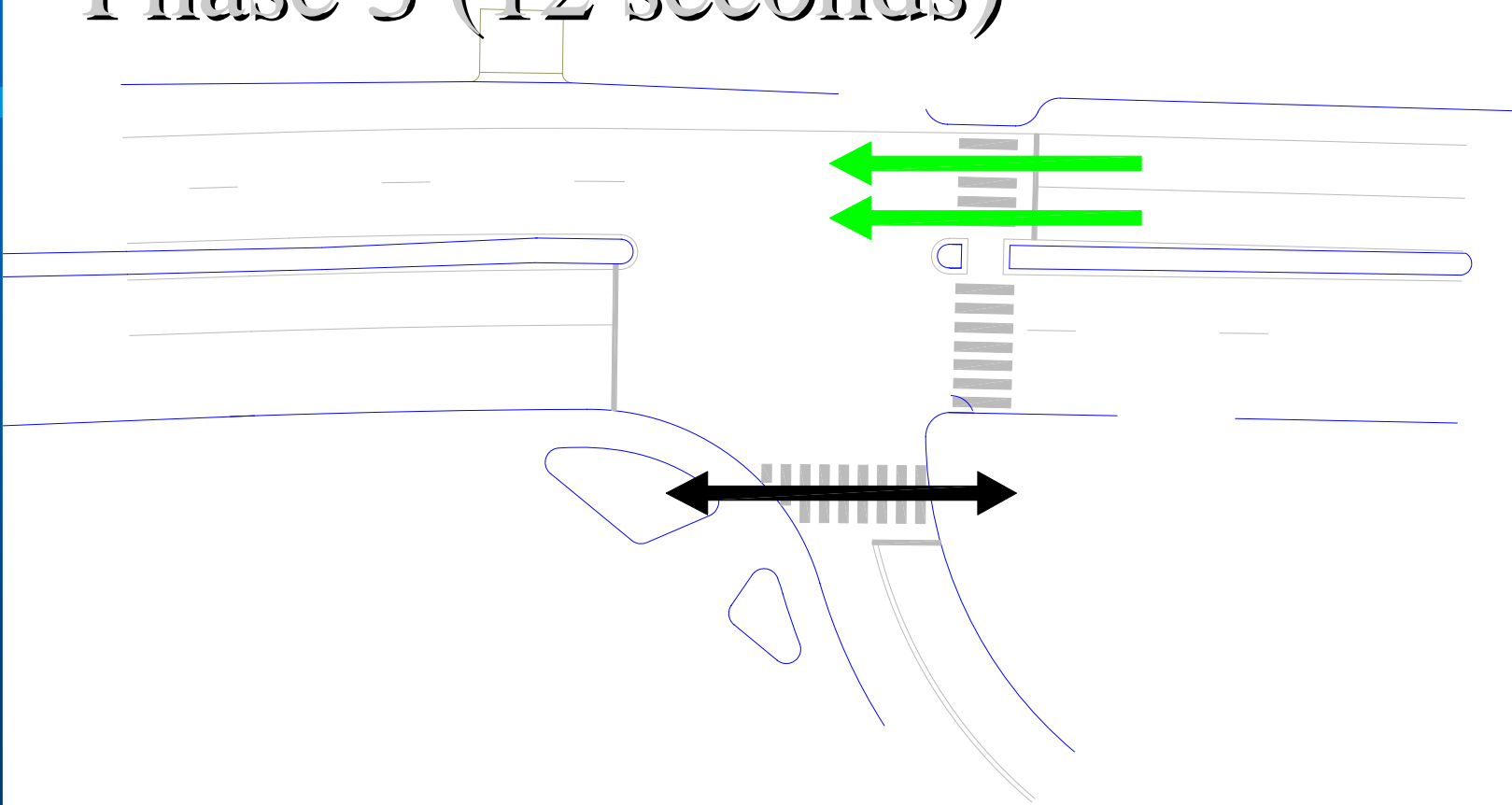


# Phase 2 (65 sec. AM/52 sec. PM)



Mass Ave. southbound begins

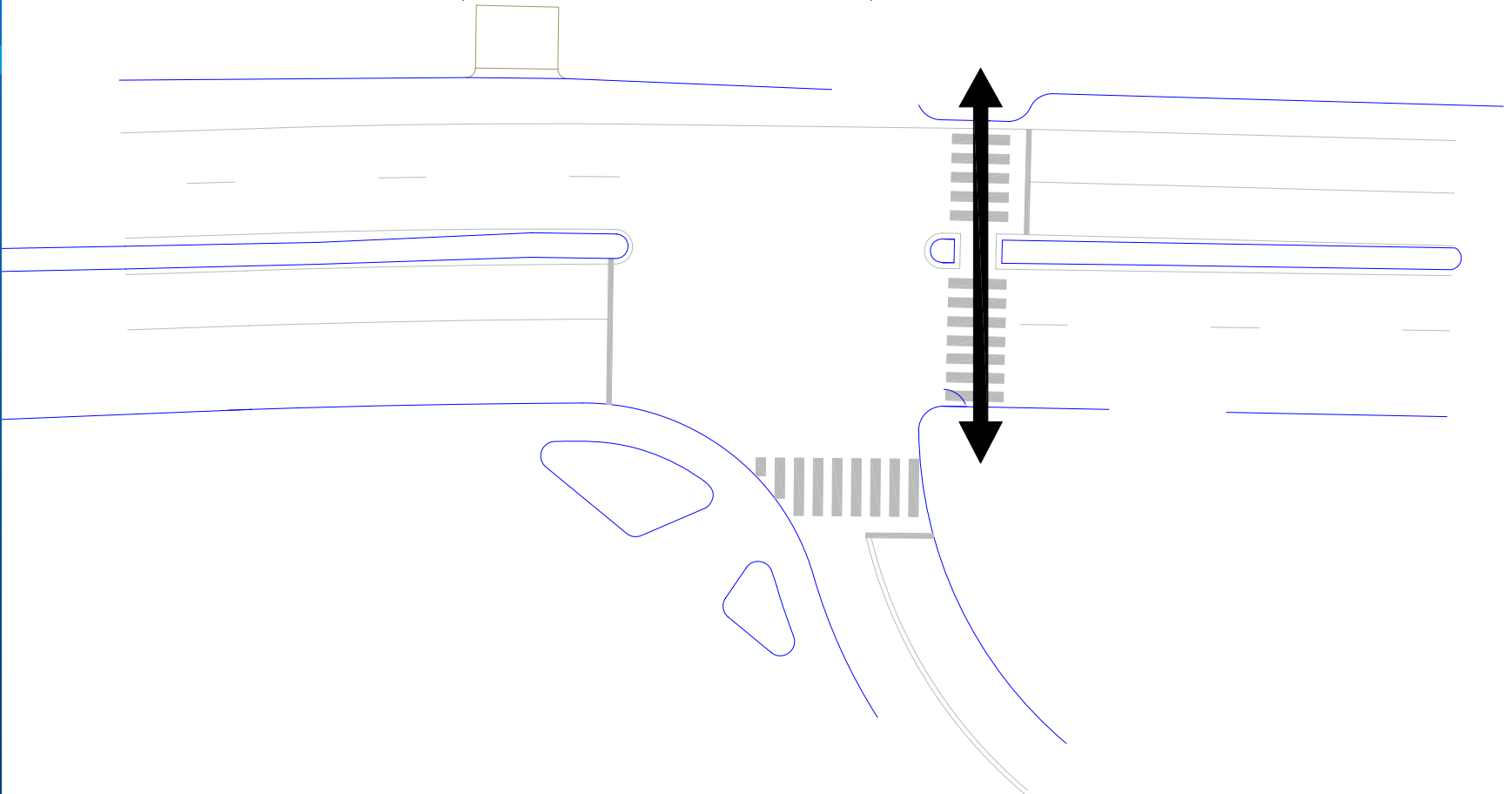
## Phase 3 (12 seconds)



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

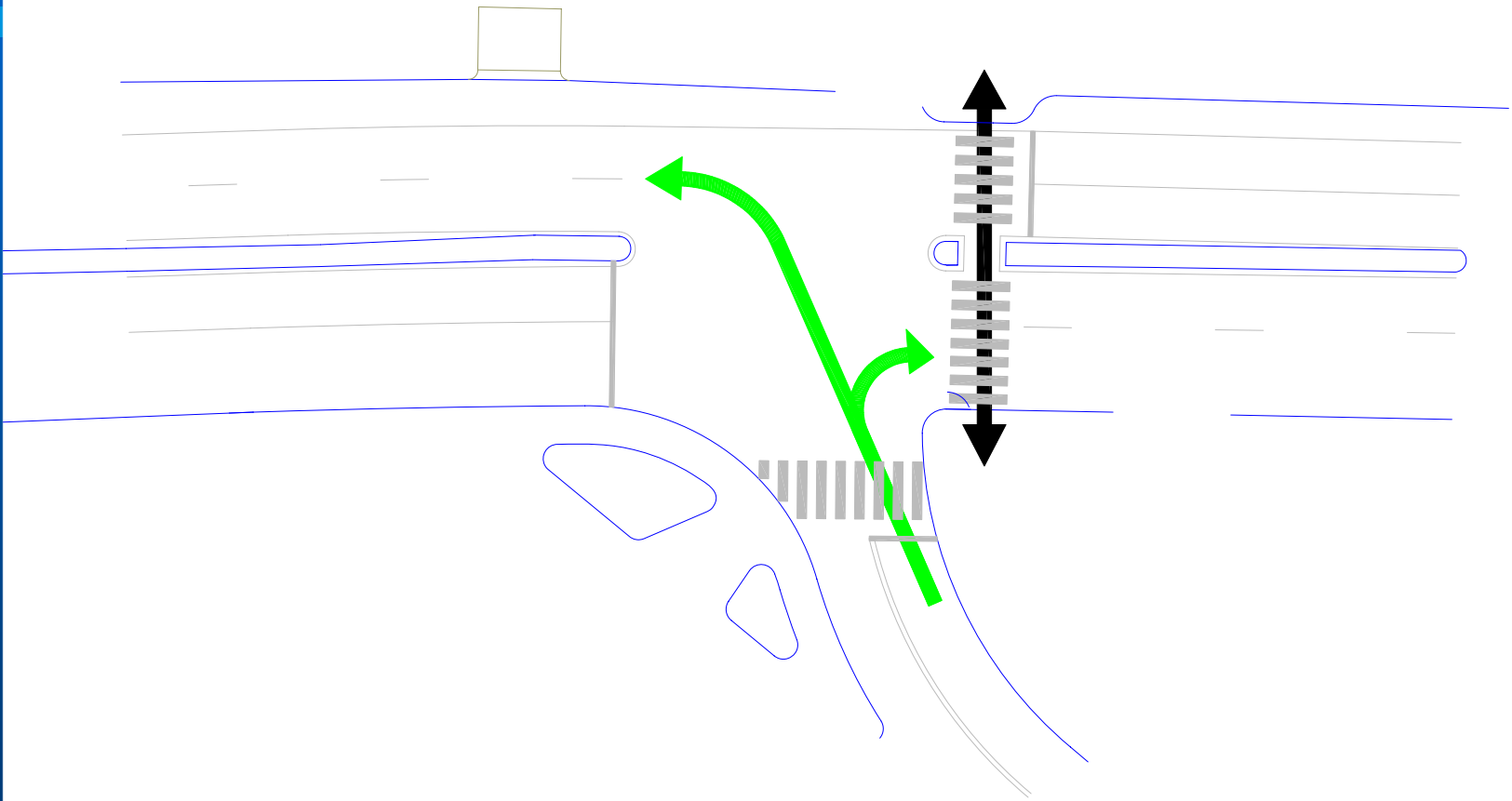


## Phase 4 (4 seconds)



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.

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- 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

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- 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

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- **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

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- 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

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