

MELNEA CASS BOULEVARD DESIGN PROJECT

DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

March 1, 2018



CITY OF BOSTON
Office of the Mayor
Martin J. Walsh



HOWARD STEIN HUDSON

Engineers + Planners

Design Public Hearing Agenda



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- Project Purpose
- “The First Lady of Roxbury” Melnea Cass
- Project Location
- Existing Site Conditions
- Project Goals and Scope of Work
- Proposed Design and Corridor Walk-through
- Project Milestones to FY2019 Advertisement

- **Provide Multimodal Access and Safety Improvements**
- **Transform to a Neighborhood Street**
- **Provide a Gateway to Roxbury and the South End**
- **Balance Stakeholder Design Goals**
- **Serve Regional Traffic Demand**

- “First Lady of Roxbury”
- Community Activist
- Suffragette
- Helped found the Boston Chapter of Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters
- President of NAACP, 1962-64
- Chair of Mass. Advisory Committee for the Elderly, 1975-76



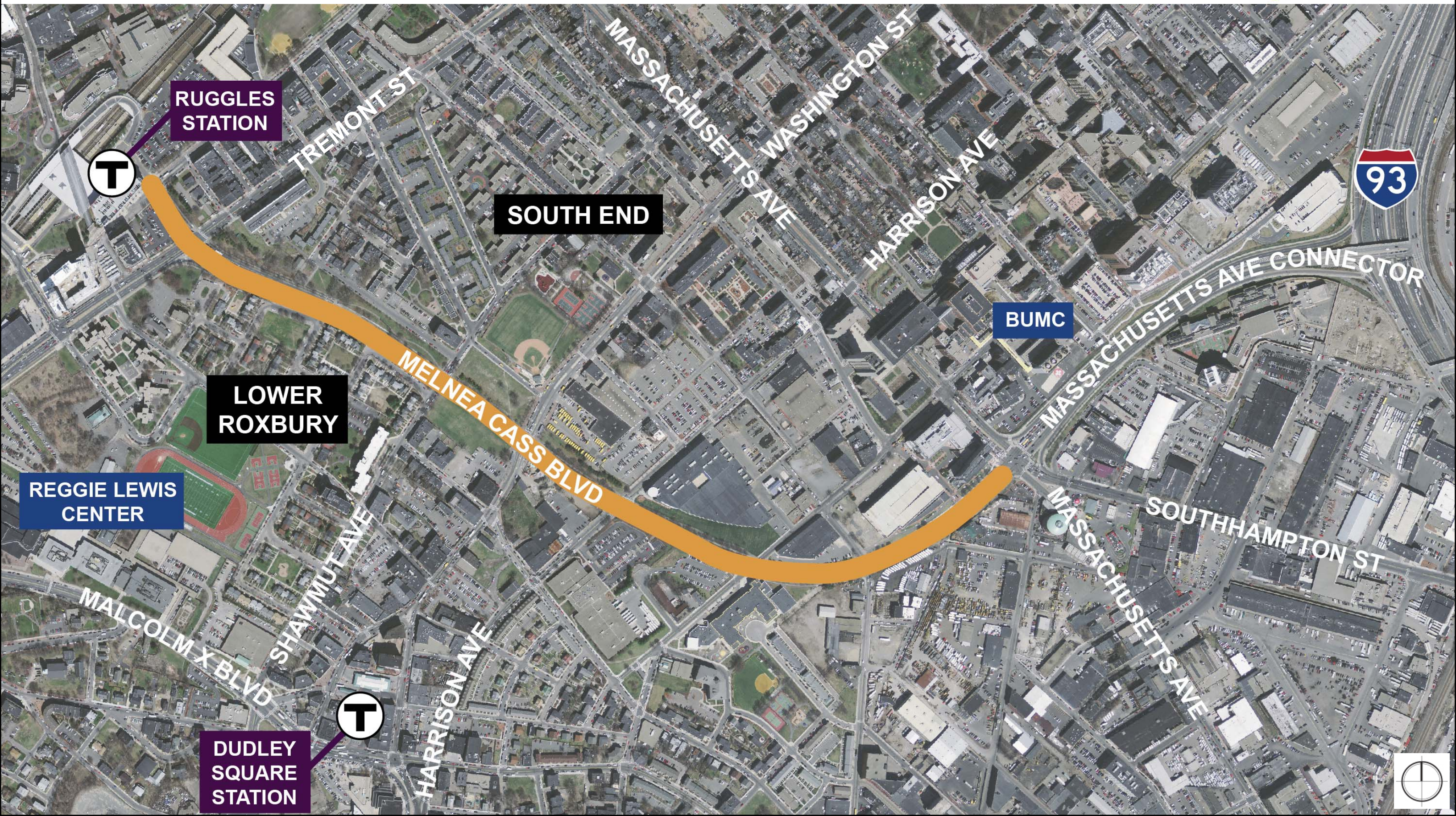
Melnea Cass Blvd.: Location



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- **Urban Principal Arterial**
 - 4 - 5 Lane Cross Section – 2 Eastbound / 2 Westbound / Left-turn Lanes
 - Raised and at Grade Medians
- **Bike, Pedestrian, Trucking/Freight, and Public Transit Users**
- **32,000 ADT, >800 Pedestrians during AM Peak Hour**
- **Commercial, Residential, Community Spaces**
- **South Bay Harbor Trail**
- **Existing Trees Border Roadway and Sidewalks**

South Bay Harbor Trail



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Facing East from
Harrison Ave. Intersection

Melnea Cass Blvd.: Sidewalks



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Facing East from
Brook Marshall St.

Melnea Cass Blvd.: Intersections



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Facing East Towards
Shawmut Ave.

Melnea Cass Blvd.: Intersections



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Facing East Towards
Washington St. Intersection

Melnea Cass Blvd.: Intersections



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Facing East Towards
Harrison Ave. Intersection

Melnea Cass Blvd.: Intersections



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Facing North on
Albany St.

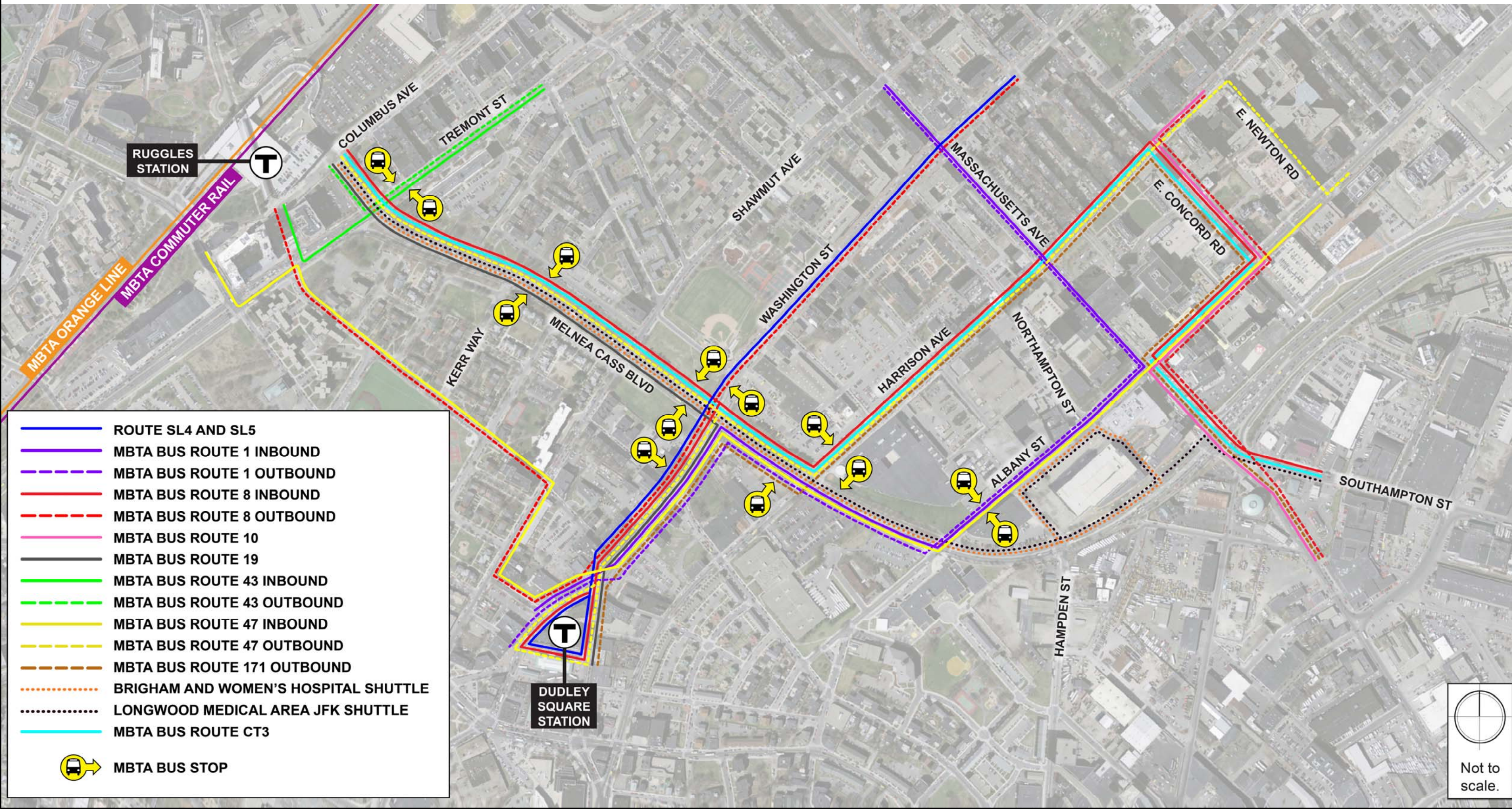
Melnea Cass Blvd.: Transit Use



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Project Goals: Change the Character of the Boulevard



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- **Improve Safety**
 - Implement Traffic Calming
 - Improve Mode Separation and Visibility
- **Support Equal Access for Cyclists and Pedestrians**
 - Wider and Separate Facilities and Crossings
 - Reduced Cross Section for Shorter Crossings
- **Support Regional Traffic**
 - Provide Geometry Needed for Buses and Heavy Vehicles

Project Goals: Change the Character of the Boulevard



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- **Invest for Climate Change and Stormwater Management Resiliency**
 - Upgrade Drainage System / Green Infrastructure
 - Raise Roadway Height
 - Plant Trees to Increase Future Canopy
 - Replace Trees in Poor Health
- **Set the Stage for Economic Vibrancy**
 - Reconstruct Corridor, Upgrade Lighting, Improve Access
- **Upgrade All Traffic Signal Equipment**

Project Goals: Balance of Stakeholder Goals



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- Enhance Safety at Pedestrian Crossings
- Separated Bike Lanes on Both Sides of Melnea Cass Blvd.
- Public Transit Access
- Buffer between Street and Bike and Pedestrian Facilities
- Mobility for First Responders
- Accommodate Regional Traffic Demand

Complete Streets Design Process and Public Outreach



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BTD, Boston Public Works
Pre Public Information Meeting
Coordination Meeting



2016

Meetings with The Friends of
Melnea Cass Boulevard



2017

Concept Design Public
Information Meeting



Tree Impacts	
Block	Complete Streets Concept
Existing Trees on Melnea Cass Blvd.	488
Trees Removed	-159 -215
New Trees	265
Total Trees on Melnea Cass Blvd.	594
Total Net Increase	+106

Complete Streets Design Process and Public Outreach



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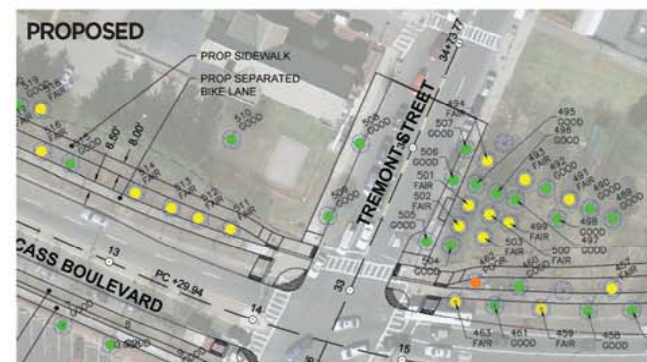
Concept Design Development



25% Submission

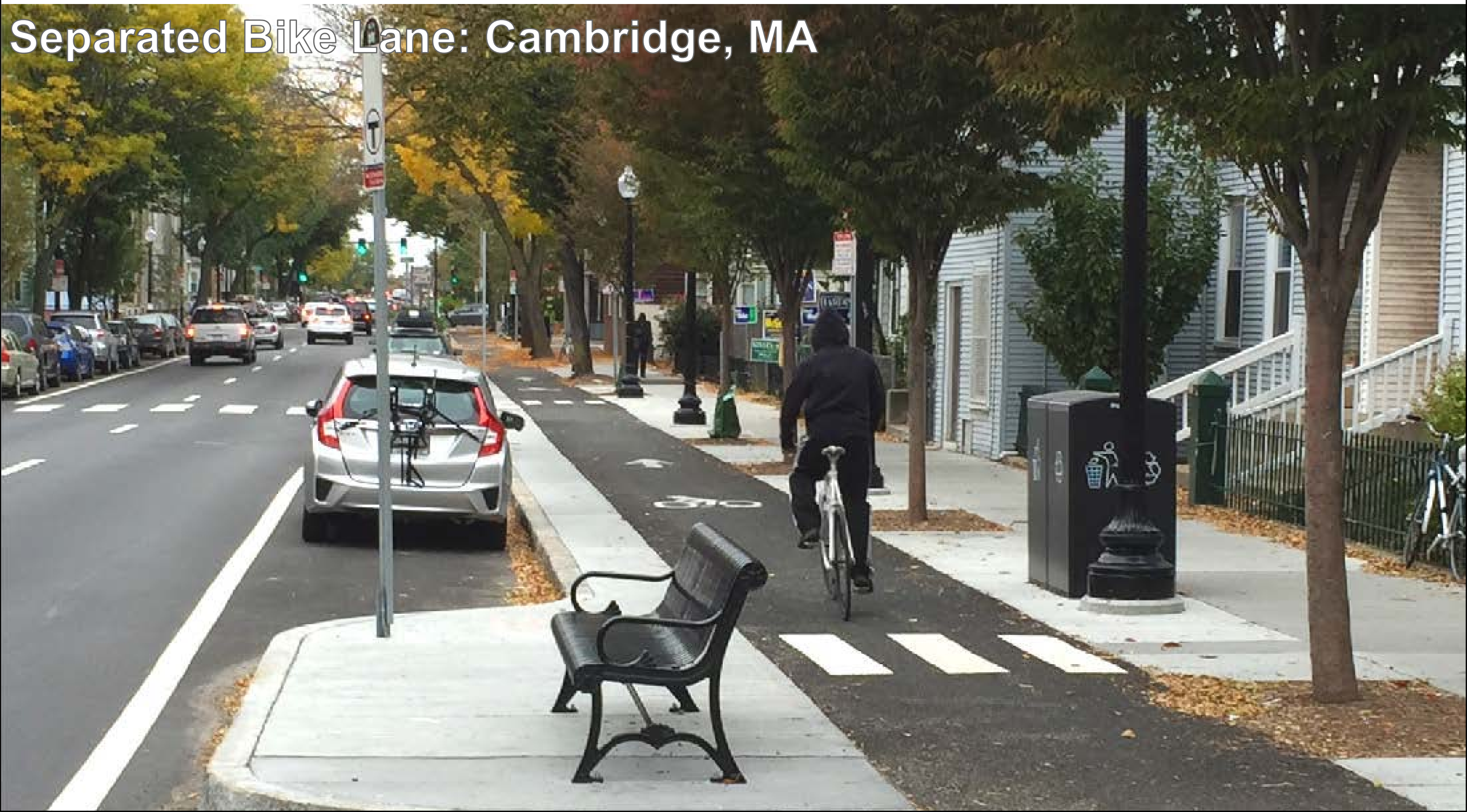
2017

Information Gathering
and Establishment
of Design Requirements



Additional Data Collection
and Analysis

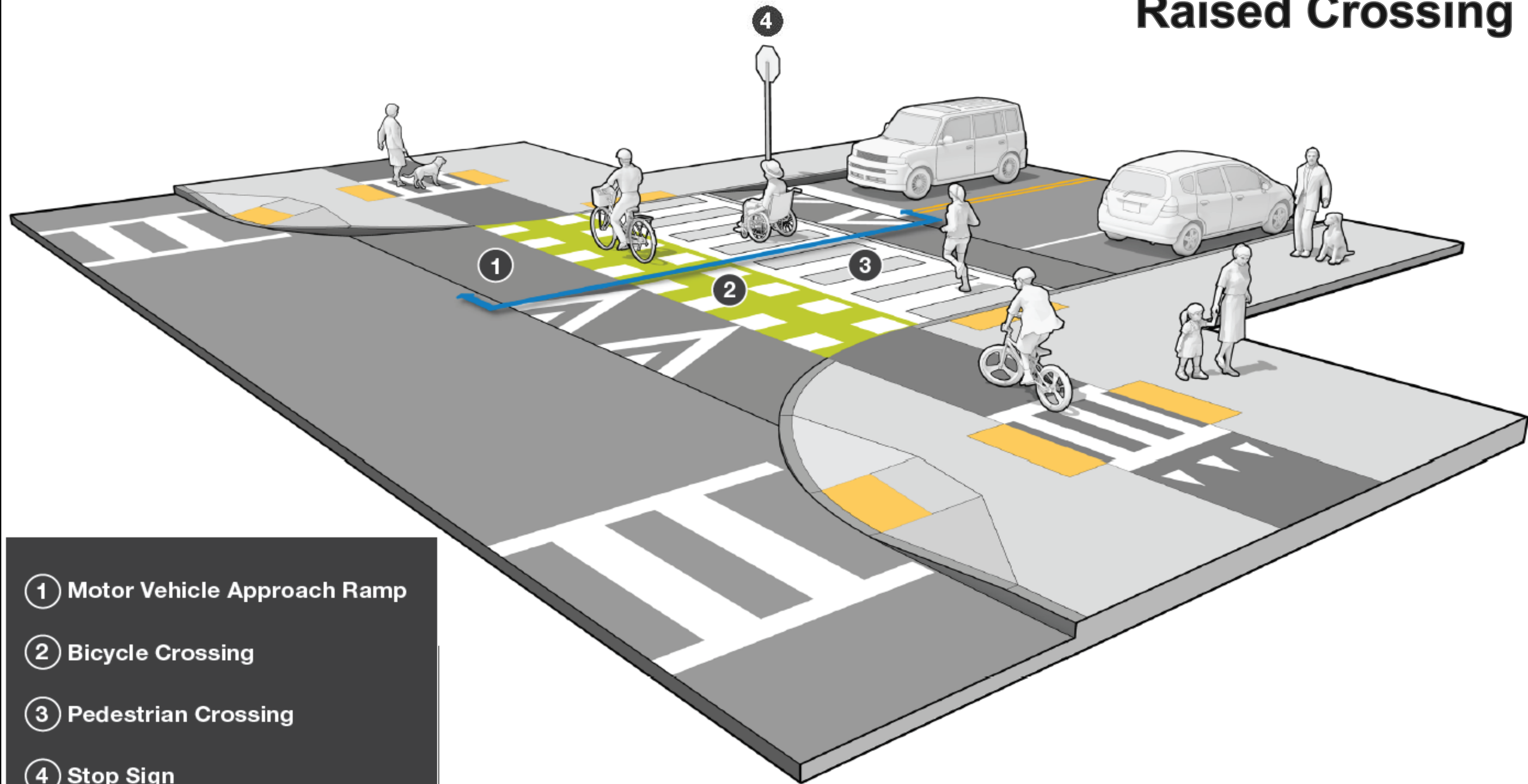
Separated Bike Lane: Cambridge, MA



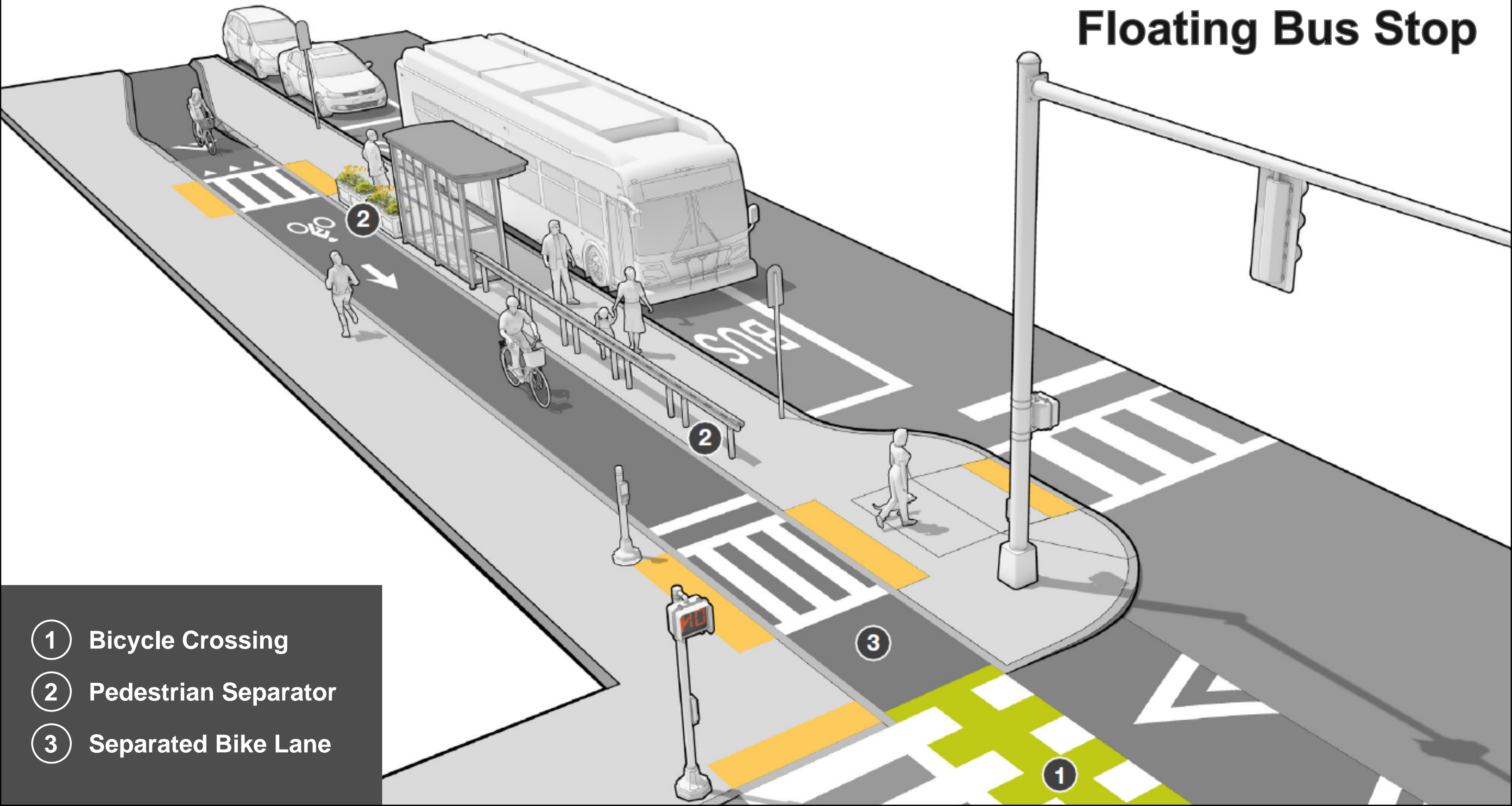
Protected Intersection: Chicago, IL



Raised Crossing



Floating Bus Stop



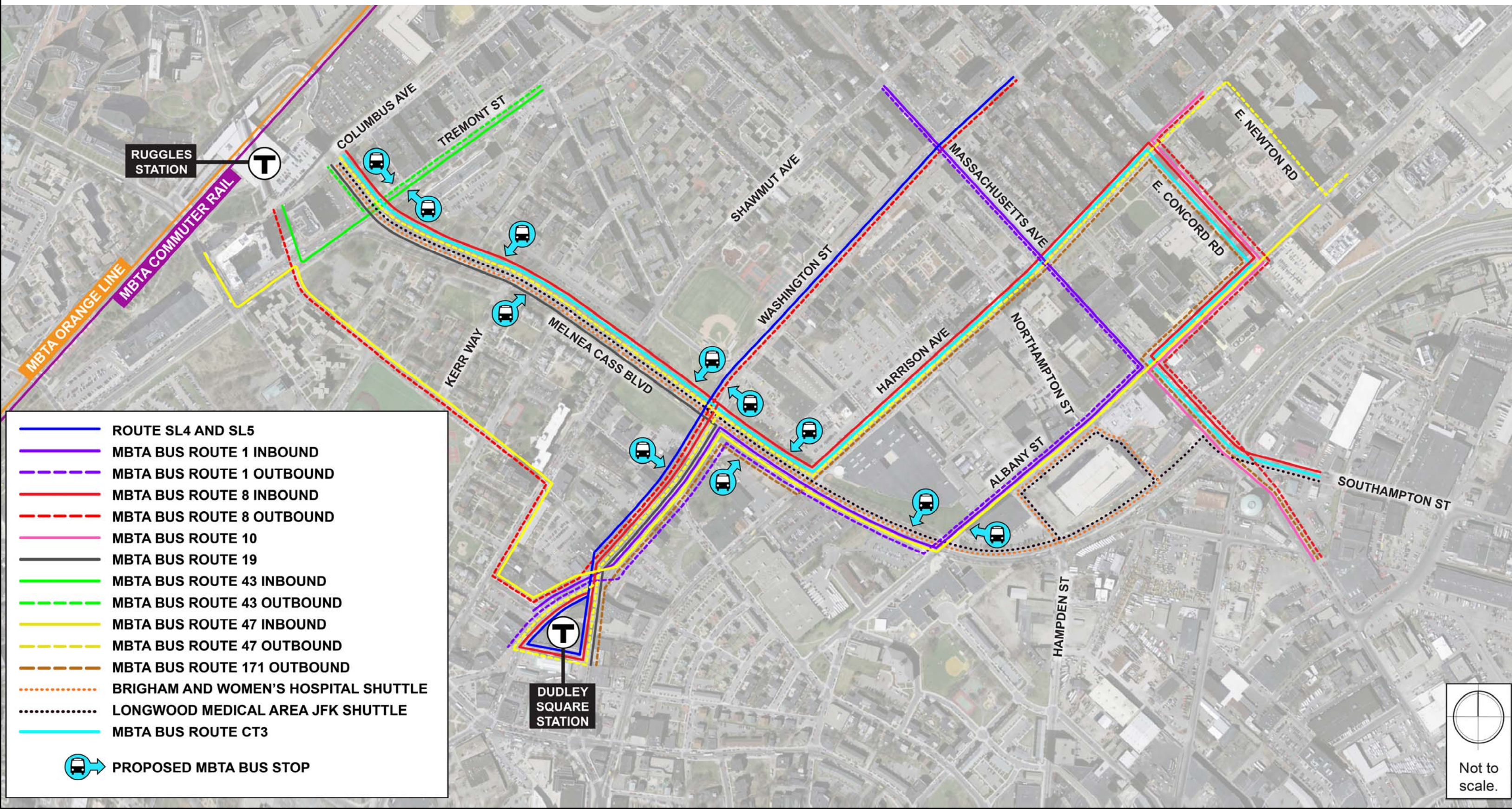
- 1 Bicycle Crossing
- 2 Pedestrian Separator
- 3 Separated Bike Lane

Melnea Cass Boulevard: Proposed Public Transit



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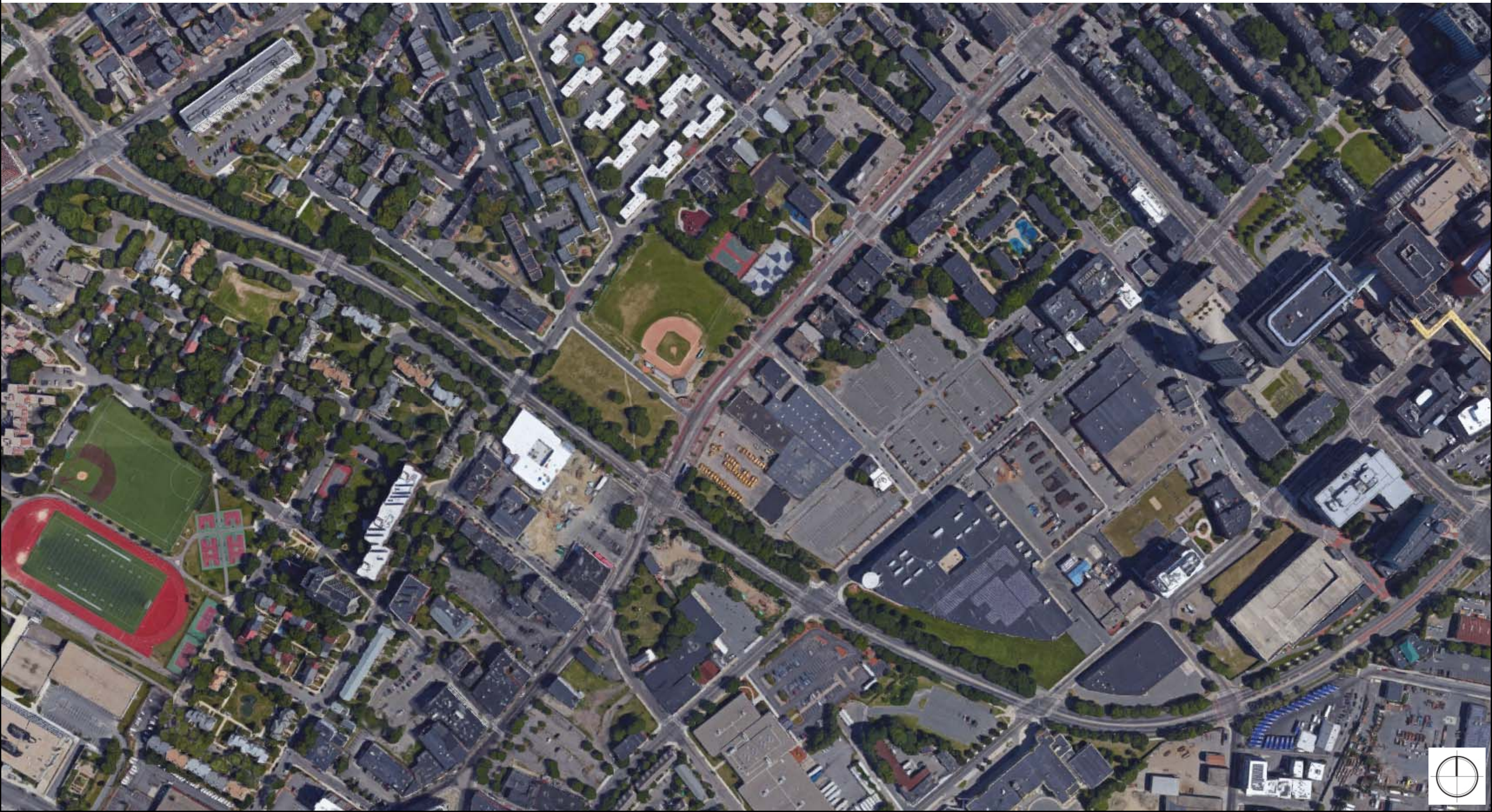
Proposed Design and Corridor Walk-through



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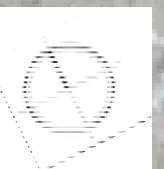
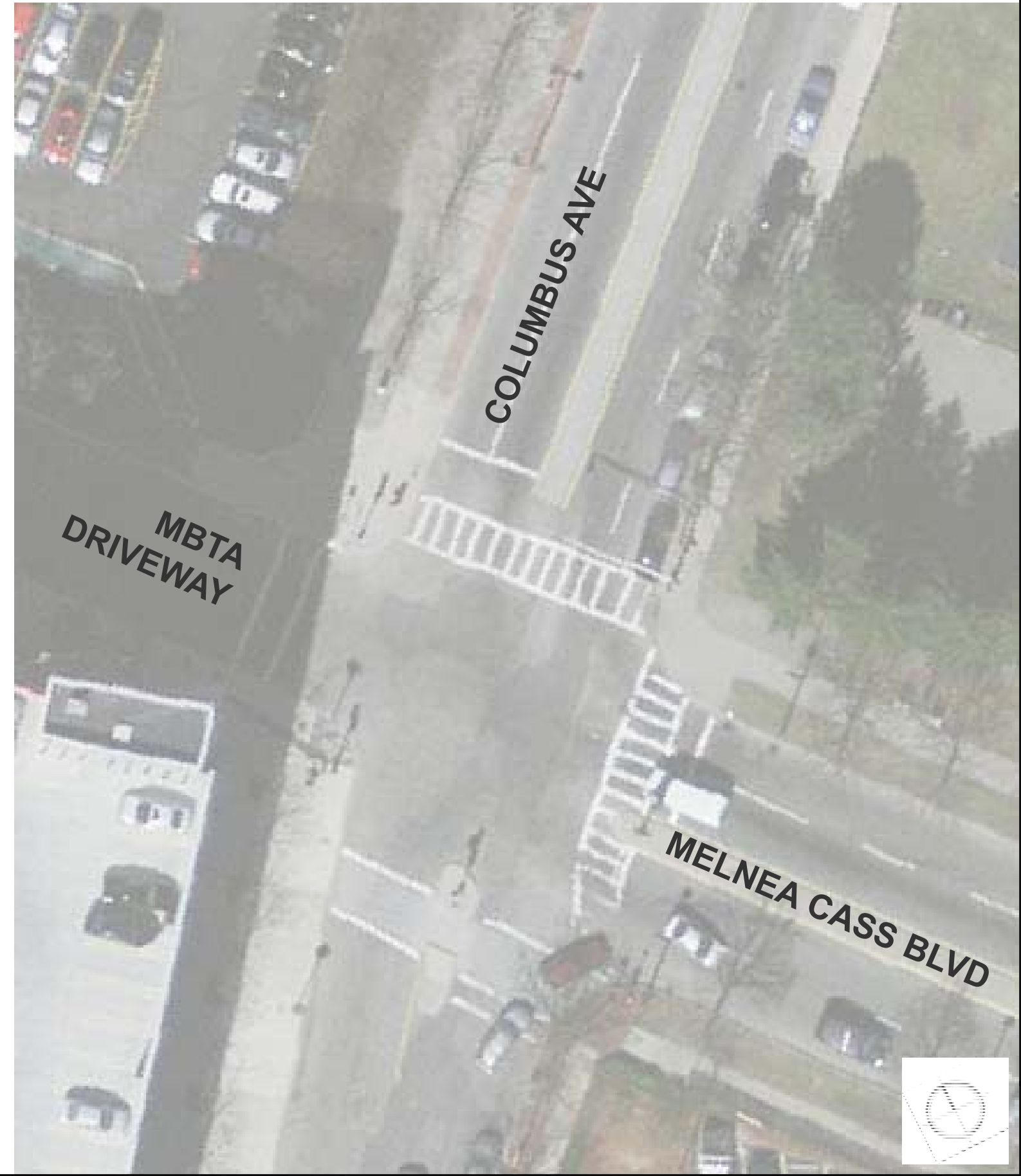
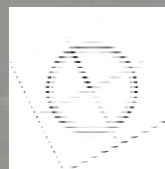
Corridor Walk-through: Columbus Ave.



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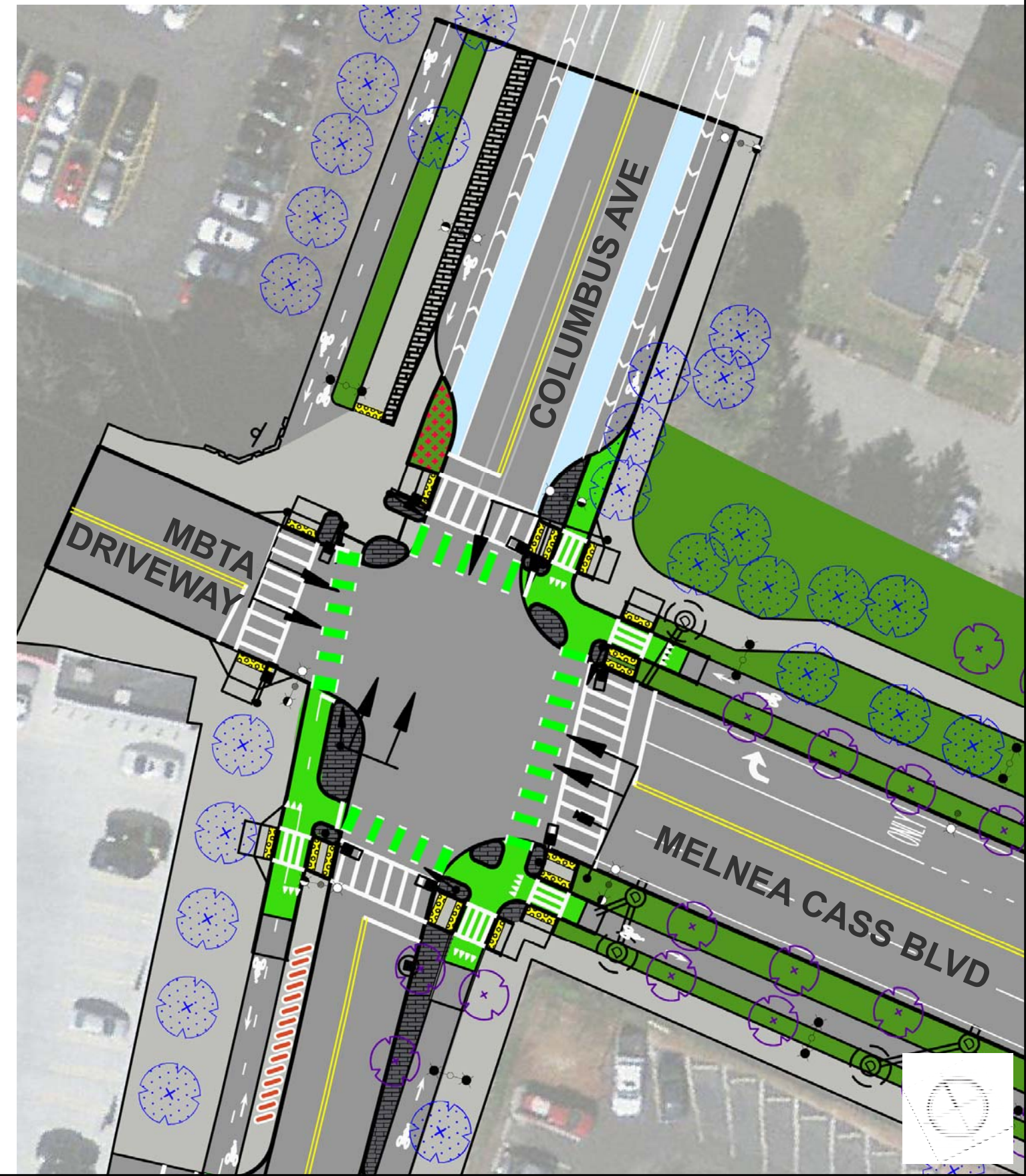
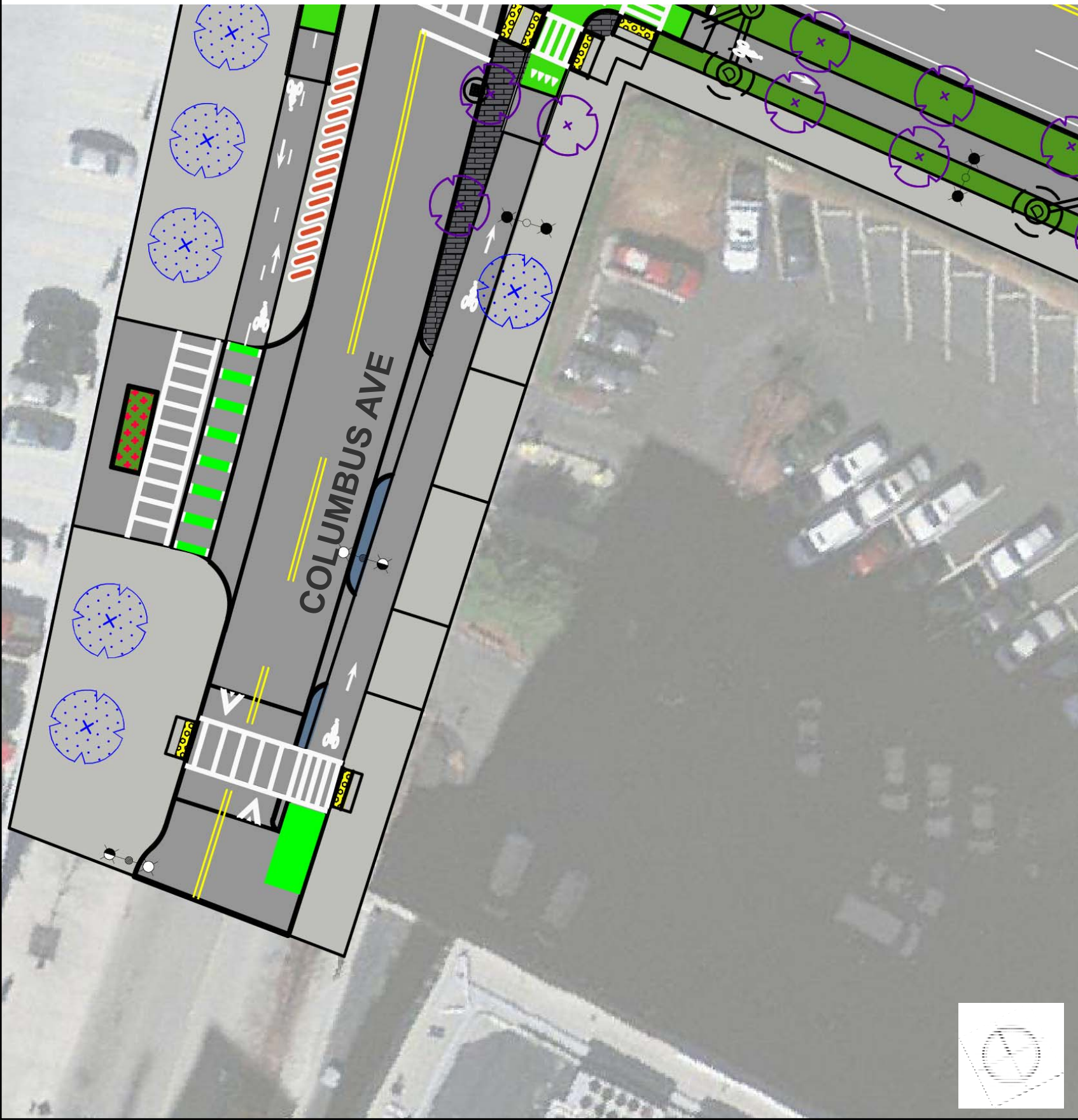


Corridor Walk-through: Columbus Ave.



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Corridor Walk-through: Tremont St.



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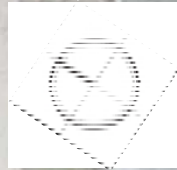
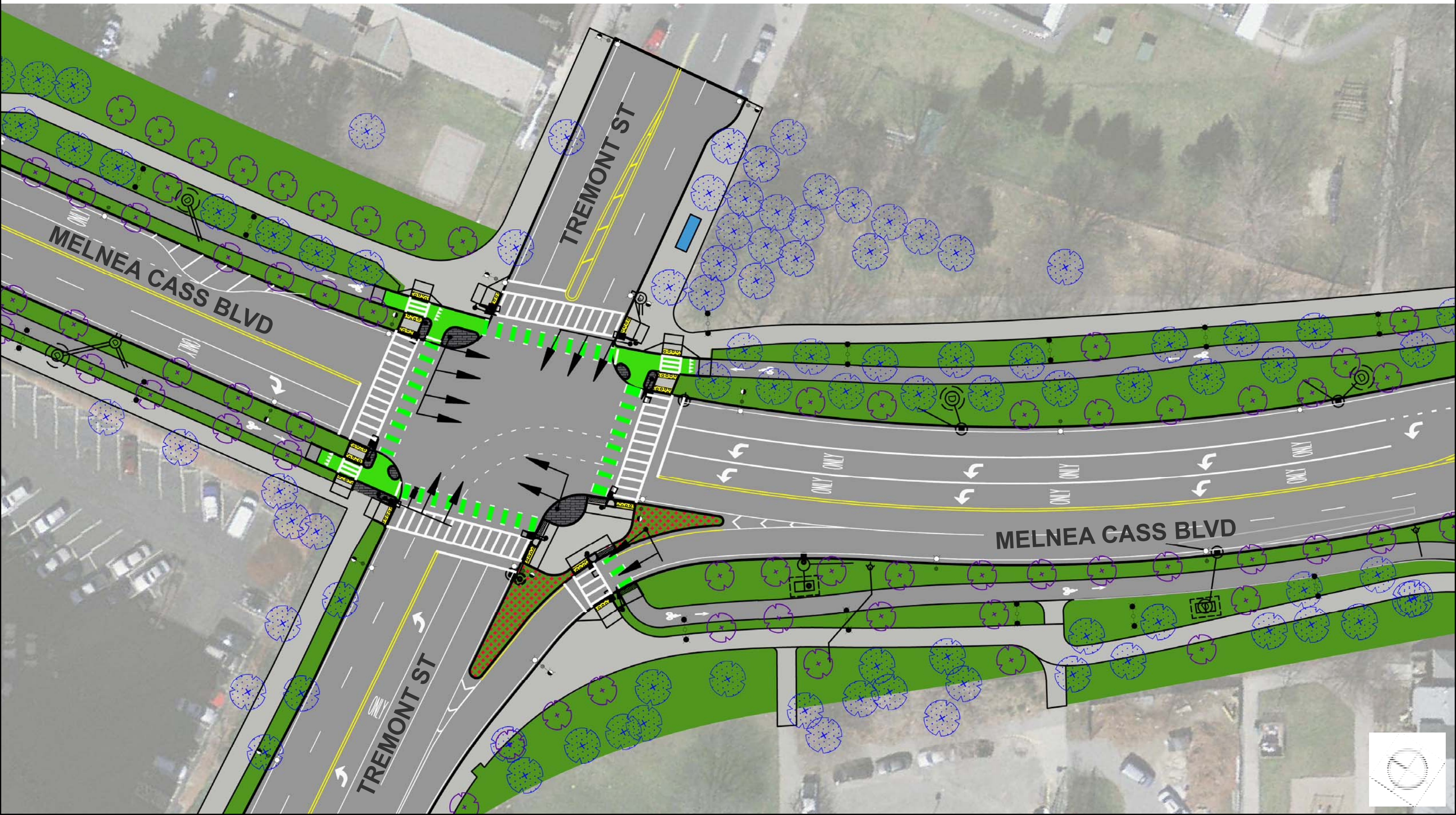


Corridor Walk-through: Tremont St.



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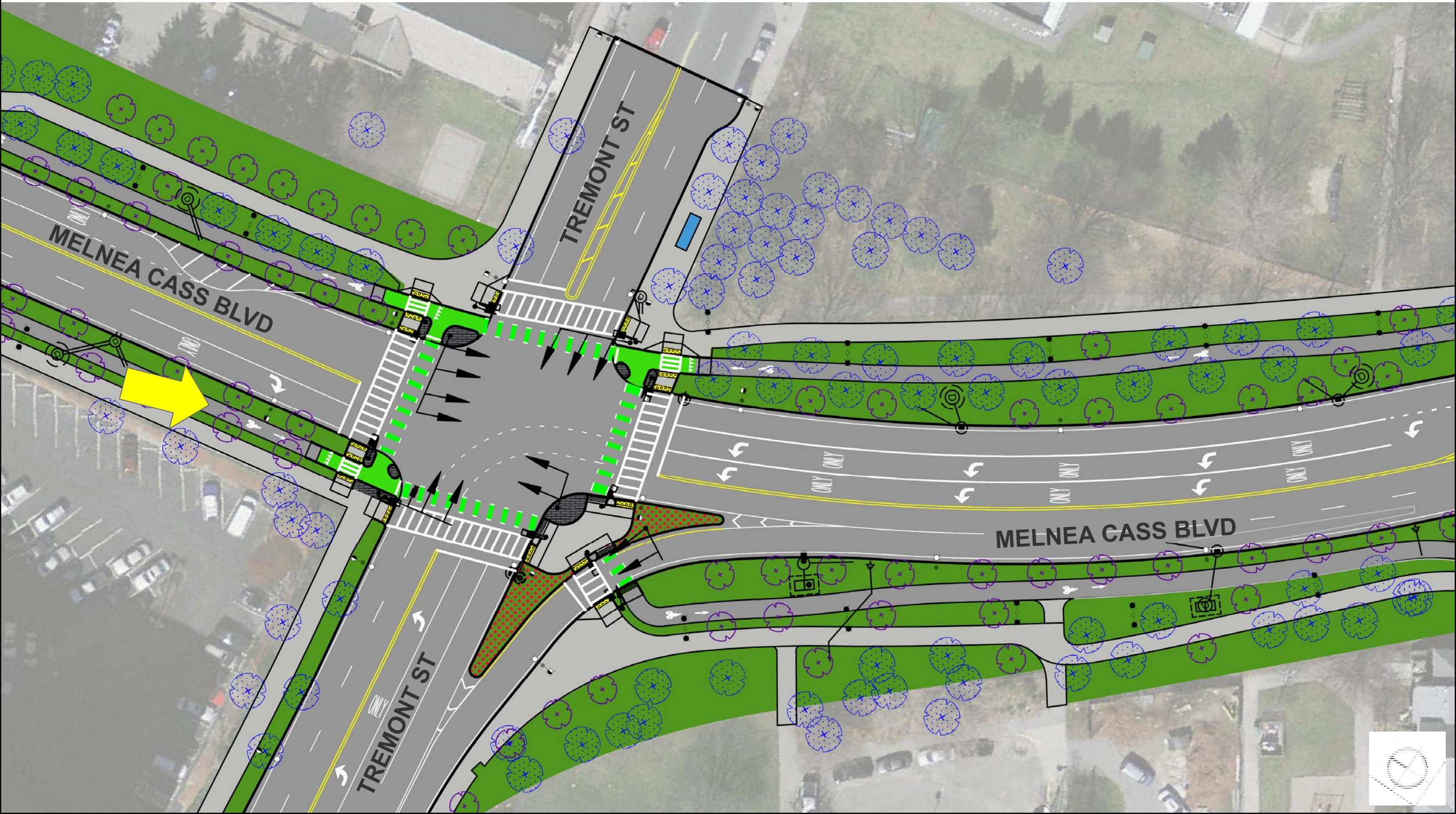


Corridor Walk-through: Tremont St.



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Corridor Walk-through: Tremont St.



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Corridor Walk-through: Brook Marshall St. to Kerr Way



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31



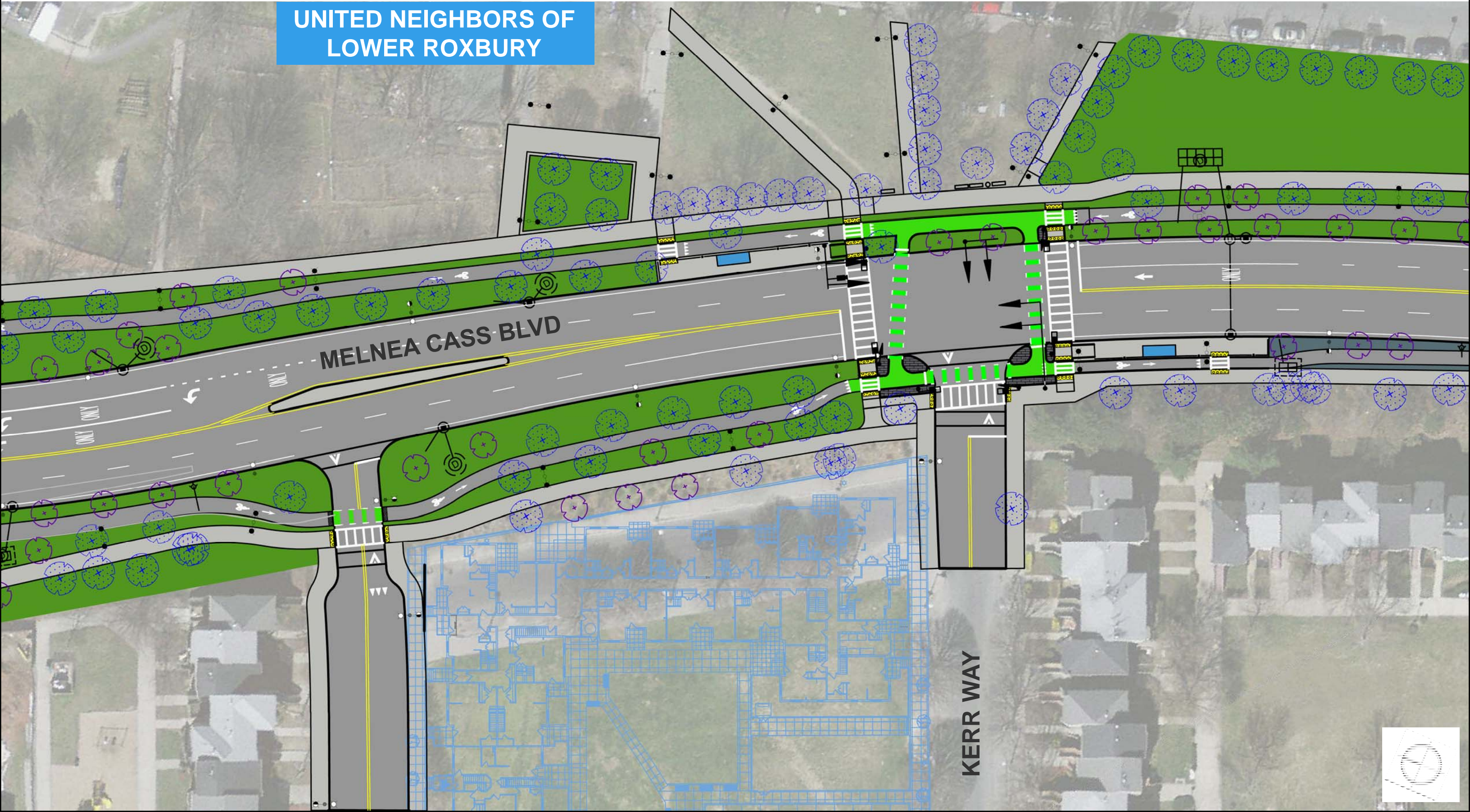
Corridor Walk-through: Brook Marshall St. to Kerr Way



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UNITED NEIGHBORS OF
LOWER ROXBURY



Corridor Walk-through: Brook Marshall St. to Kerr Way

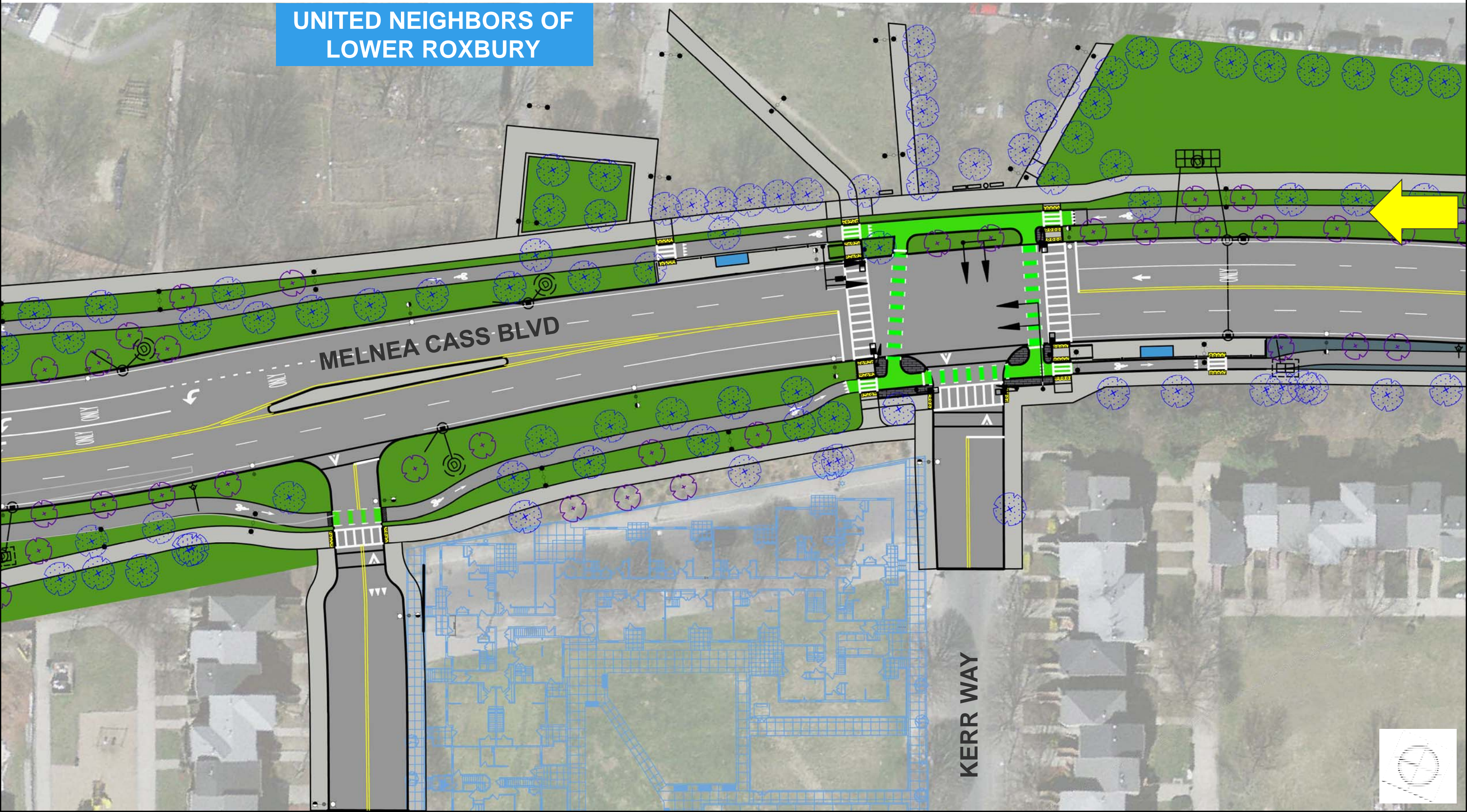


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LOWER ROXBURY



KERR WAY



Corridor Walk-through: SJ Truth to Shawmut Ave.



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Corridor Walk-through: Shawmut Ave. to Washington St.



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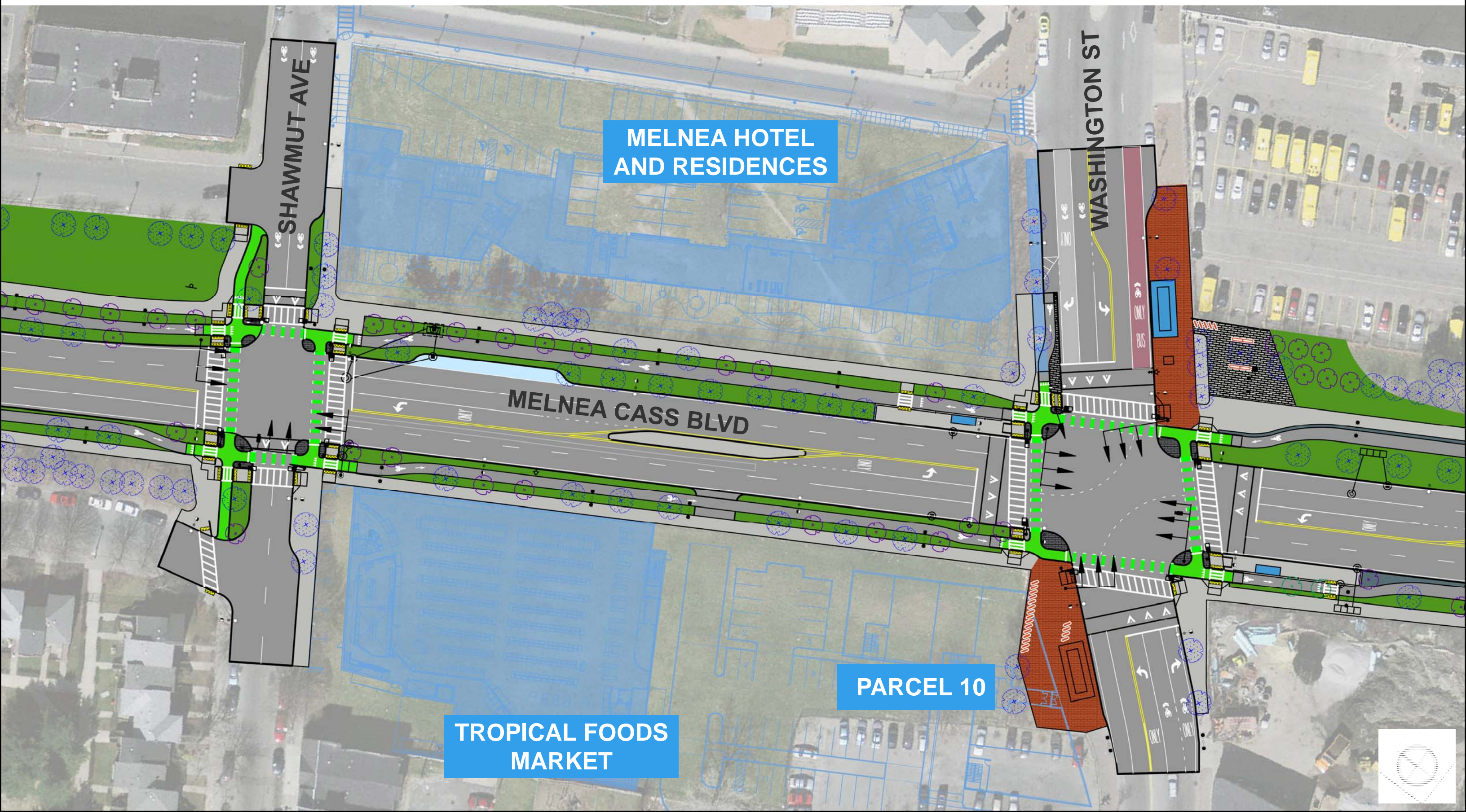
Corridor Walk-through: Shawmut Ave. to Washington St.



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Corridor Walk-through: Washington St.



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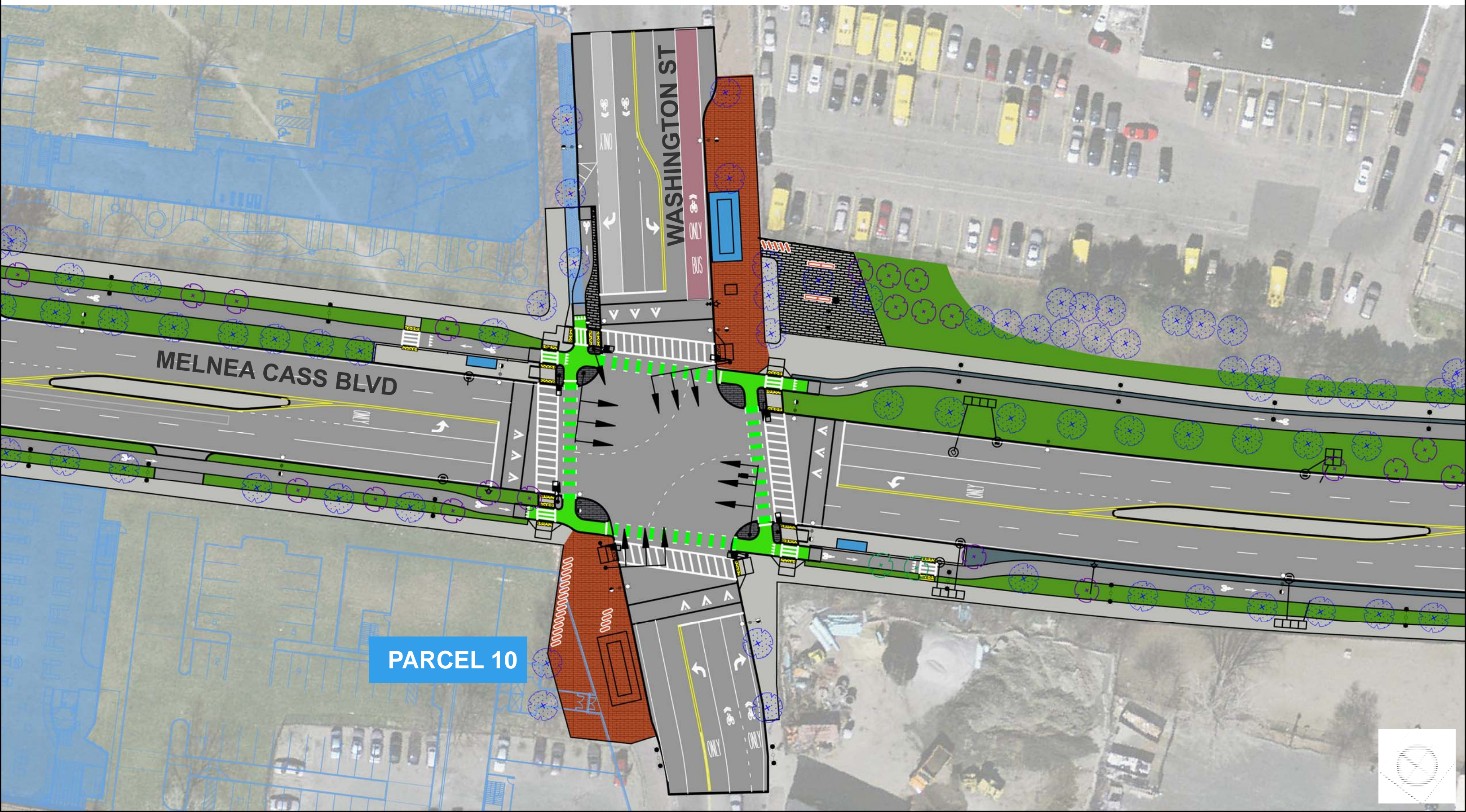
Corridor Walk-through: Washington St.



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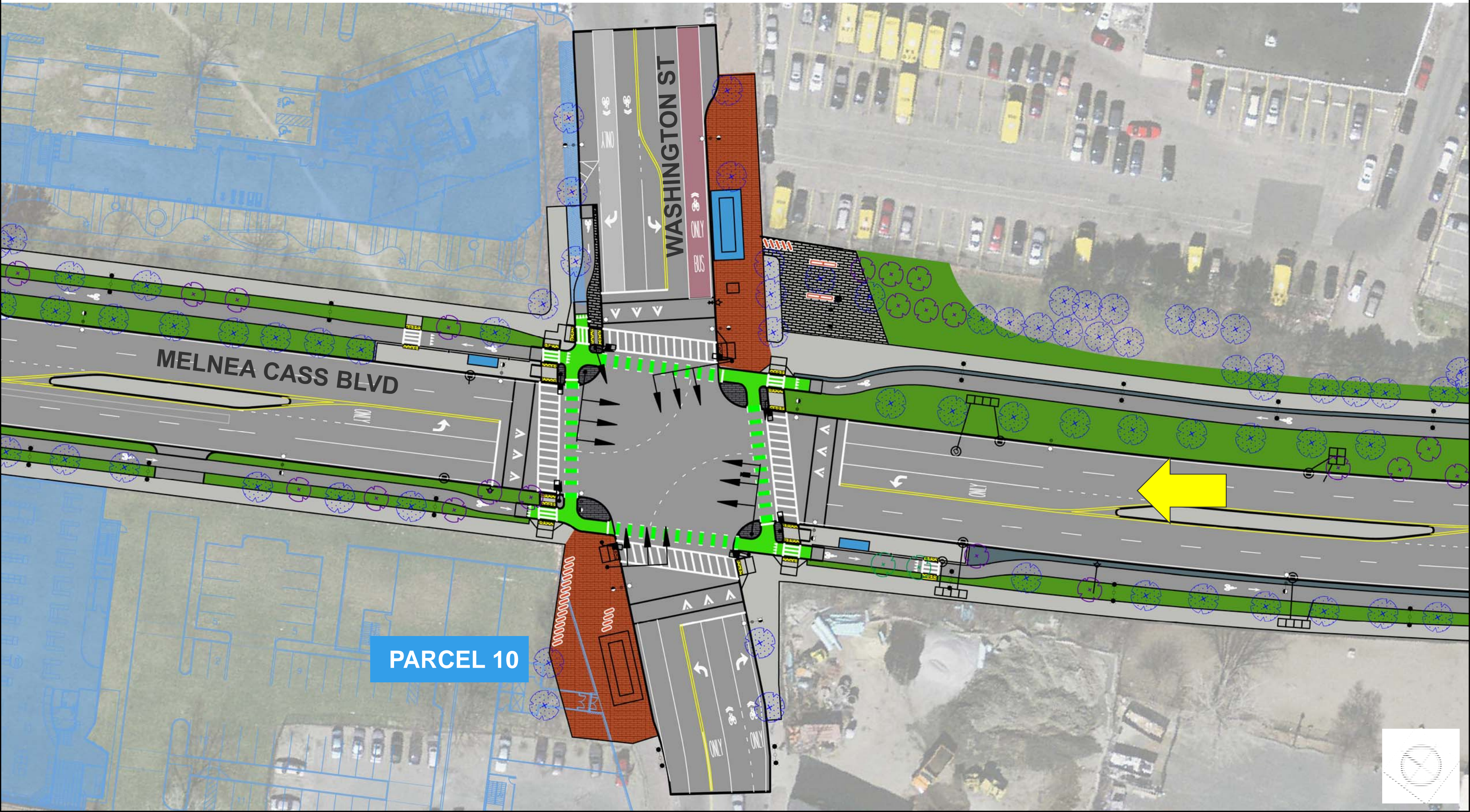
Corridor Walk-through: Washington St.



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PARCEL 10



Corridor Walk-through: Washington St.



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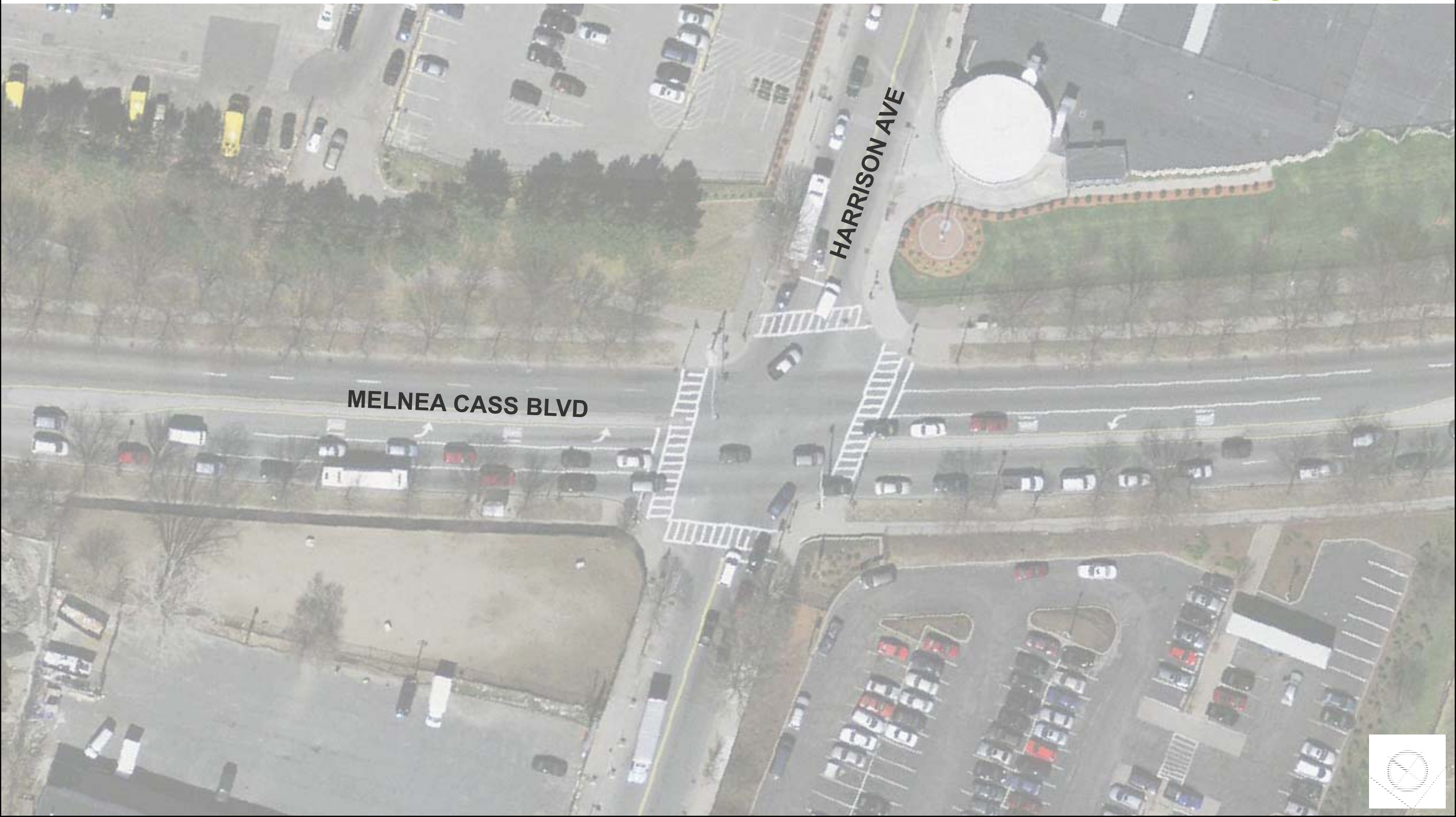
Corridor Walk-through: Harrison Ave.



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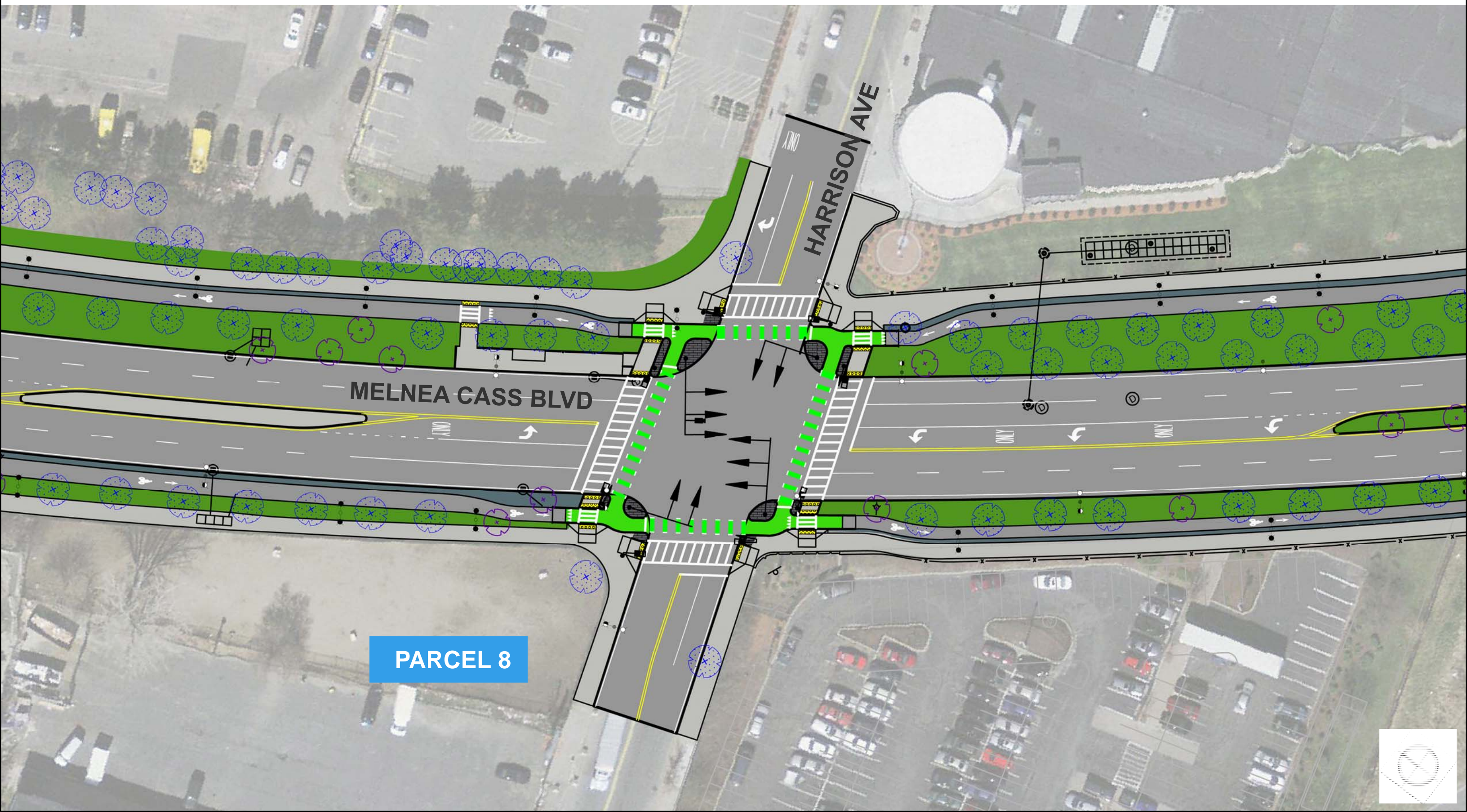
Corridor Walk-through: Harrison Ave.



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PARCEL 8



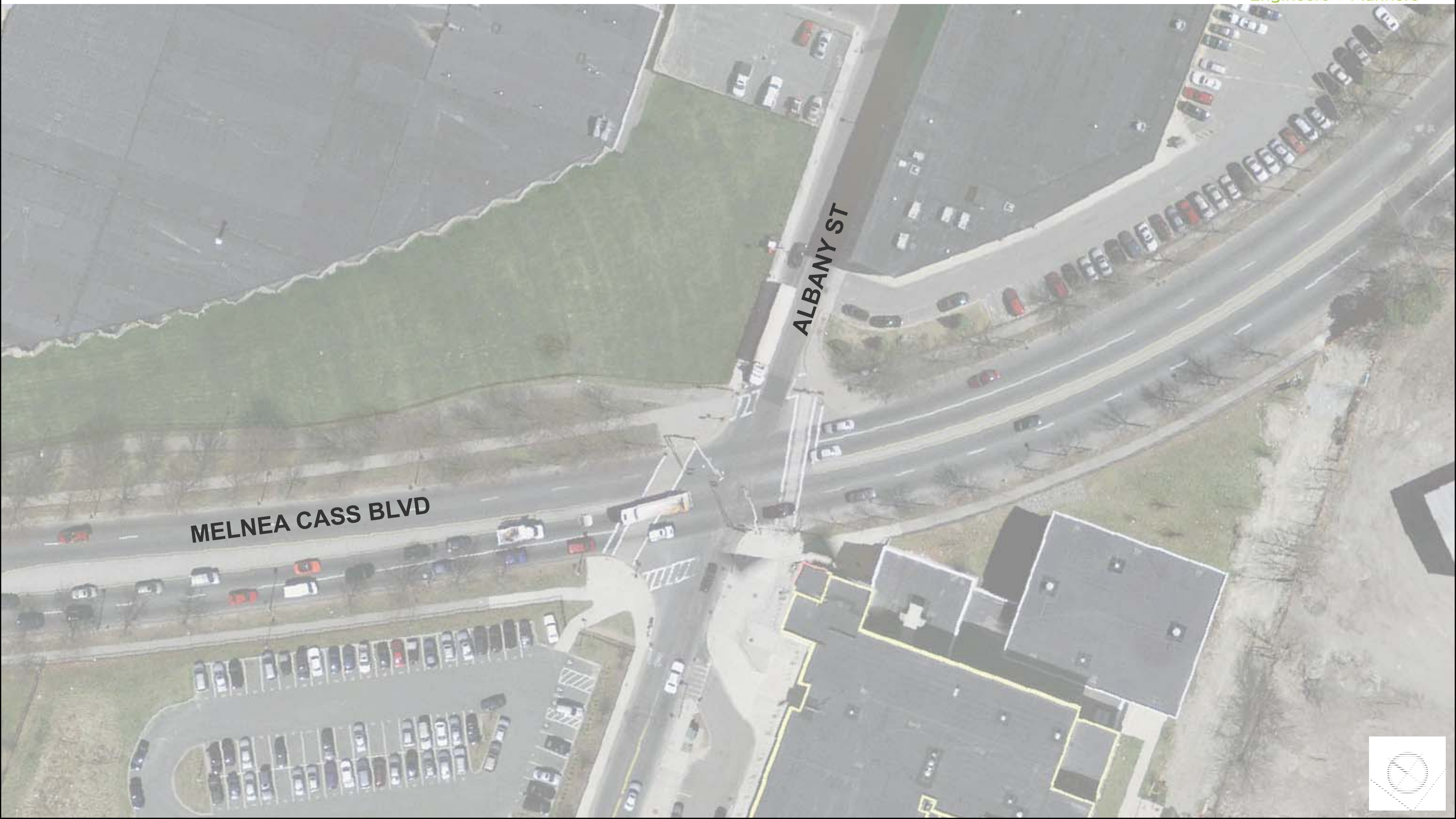
Corridor Walk-through: Albany St.



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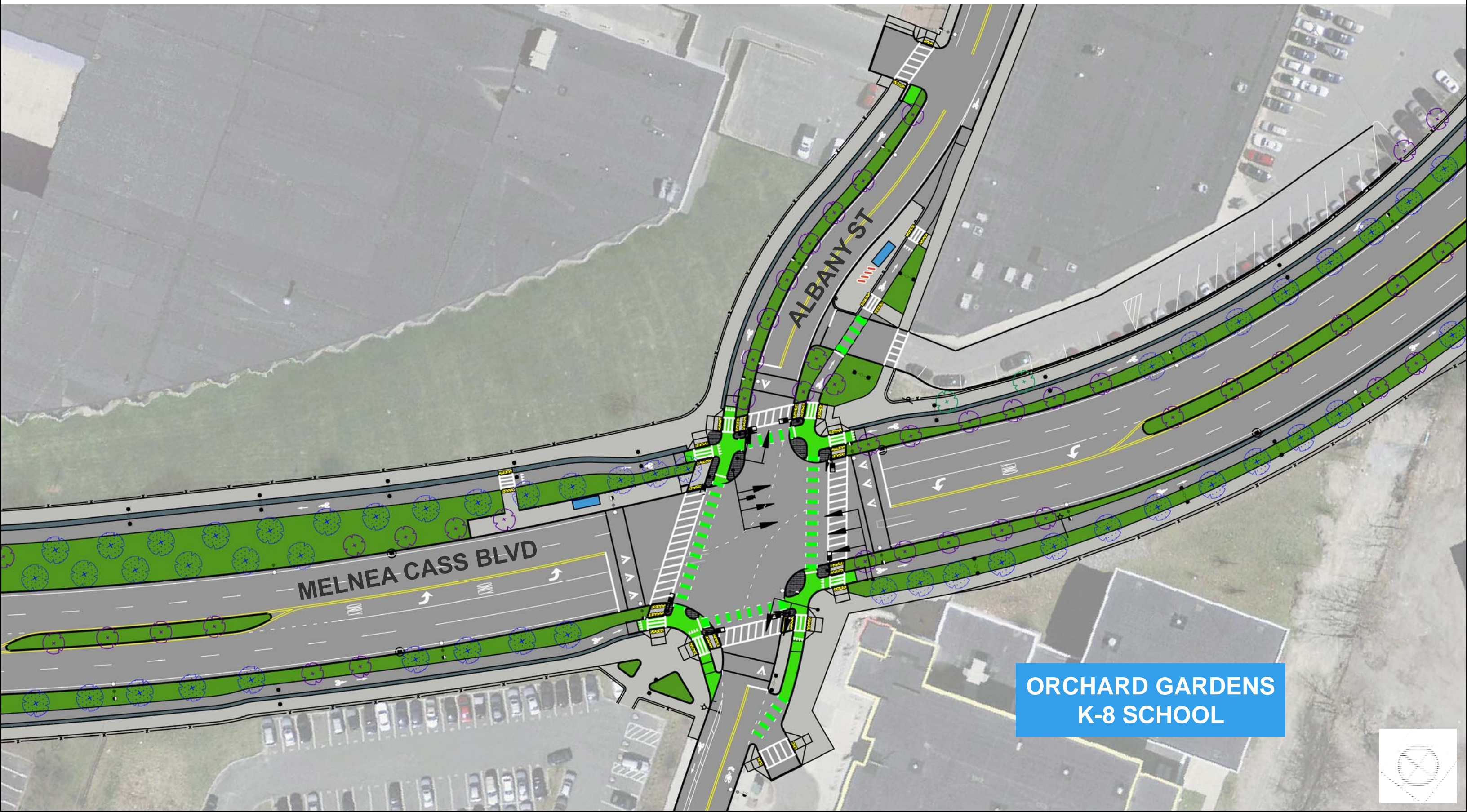
Corridor Walk-through: Albany St.



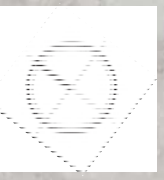
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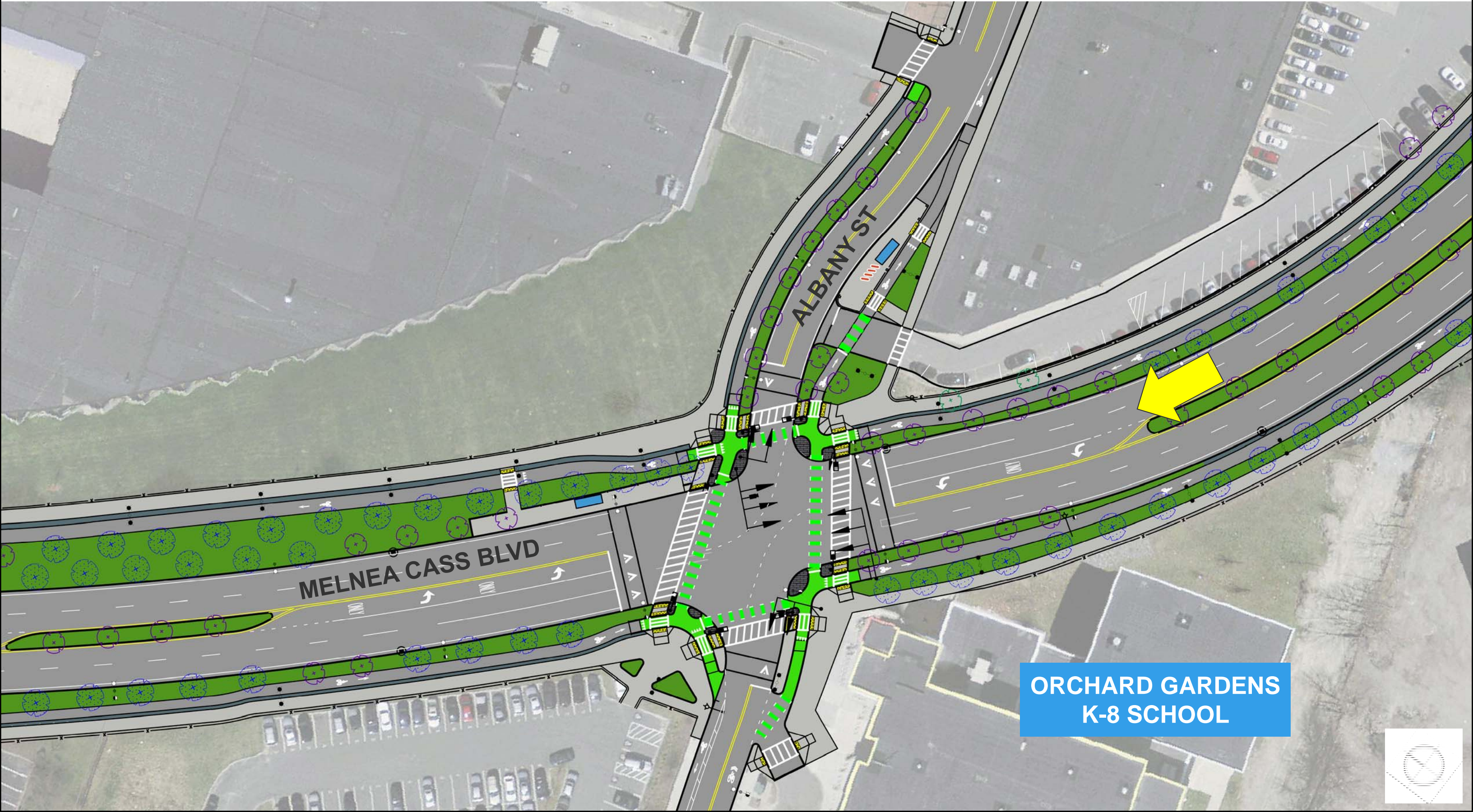
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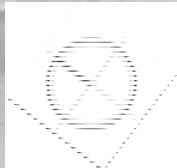


ORCHARD GARDENS
K-8 SCHOOL





ORCHARD GARDENS
K-8 SCHOOL



Corridor Walk-through: Albany St.



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Corridor Walk-through: Hampden St. to Mass. Ave.



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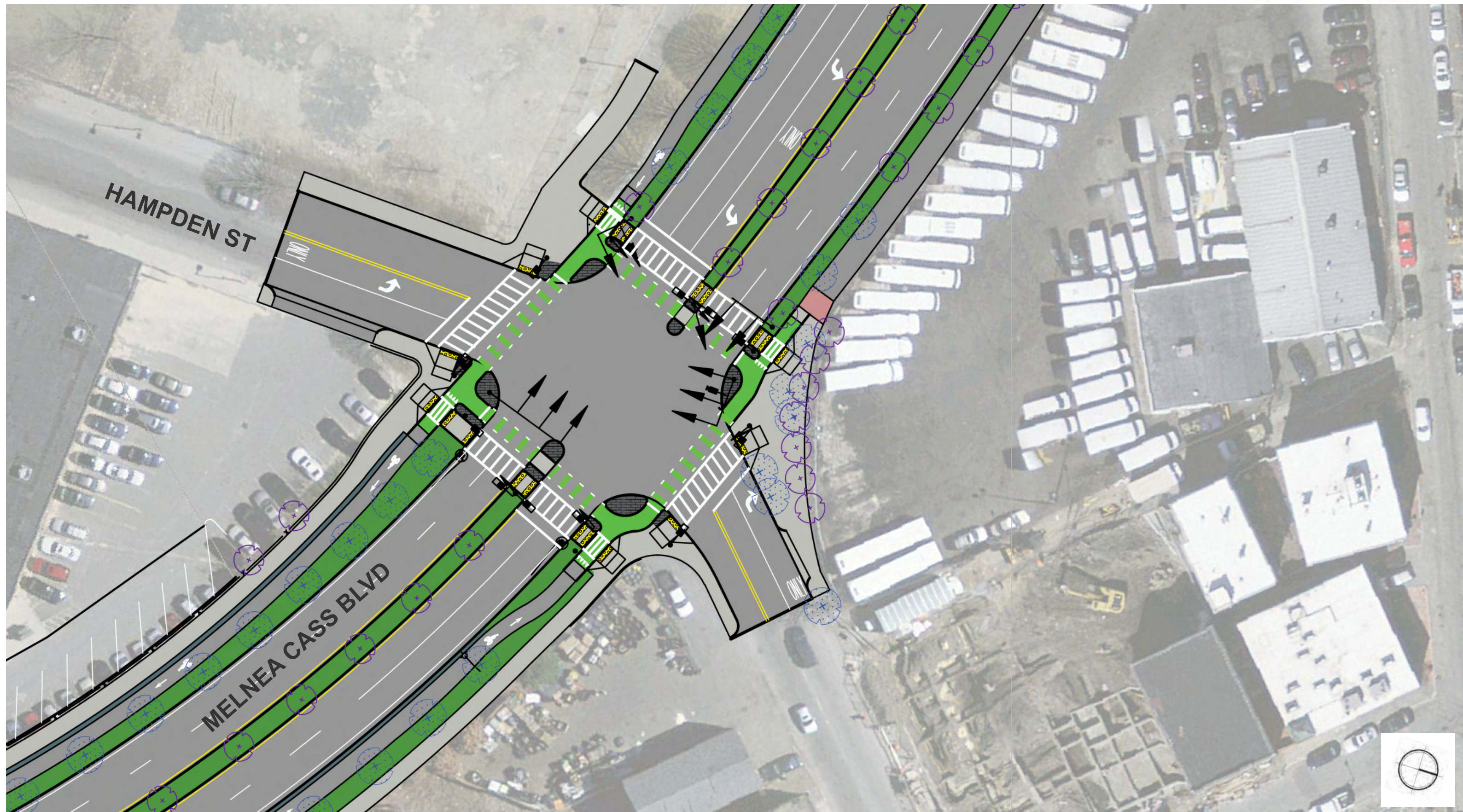
Corridor Walk-through: Hampden St. to Mass. Ave.

48



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Corridor Walk-through: Hampden St. to Mass. Ave.

49



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Corridor Walk-through: Hampden St. to Mass. Ave.



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- Improved Stormwater Storage, Porous Bike Lanes and Green Infrastructure
- Raise Roadway Low Point 1 Foot to Protect Against Tidal Flooding
- Net Increase of Trees for future Tree Canopy Growth

	Tree Counts (Design Iteration)
Existing Trees on Melnea Cass Blvd.	536
Trees Conflicting with Design	-215 -159 -101 -62 -48
New Trees Planted	250
Total Trees After Planting & Conflicts	738
Total Net Increase	+202

- **Emergency Response Operations**
 - Boston MC, Boston Fire, EMS, Boston PD, Longwood MC
- **Community Groups and Transportation Advocates**
 - UNLR, Orchard Gardens, Friends of Melnea Cass Blvd, Boston Cyclist Union, Livable Streets, Walk Boston
- **Transit Needs**
- **Regional Traffic Demand**
- **Future Maintenance**
 - City Interagency Coordination Effort for Sustainability

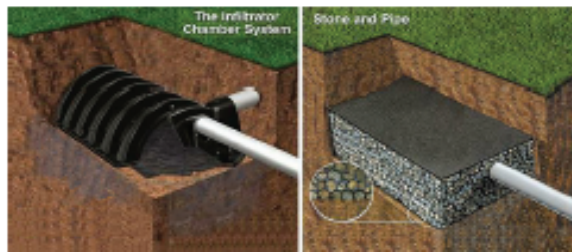
Future Milestones



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75% Submission

Public Information Meeting

**Plans, Specifications
and Estimate Submission**

REVIEW PERIOD

REVIEW PERIOD

2018

2019

**Review Period
and Utility Coordination**

**Ongoing Community
Outreach**



100% Submission



**Construction
Start**

**Public
Notification**

- FHWA Review and Coordination
- Community Outreach and Public Engagement
- MassDOT Design Review Process
- Environmental Coordination, MEPA/NEPA Review
- City of Boston Offices and PIC Review
- 25% Design Public Hearing
- 75% Public Informational Meeting
- FY 2019 Advertisement

- Comment Response Mailer in Public Hear Handout
- Submit within 10 days to be included within Official Transcript

Address:

Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer
MassDOT – Highway Division
10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116-3973
Attn: Roadway Project Management, Project File No. 605789

Project Website
boston.gov/transportation/melnea-cass

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

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