

City of **Somerville**

# McGrath Boulevard Construction

*Boston MPO Meeting*

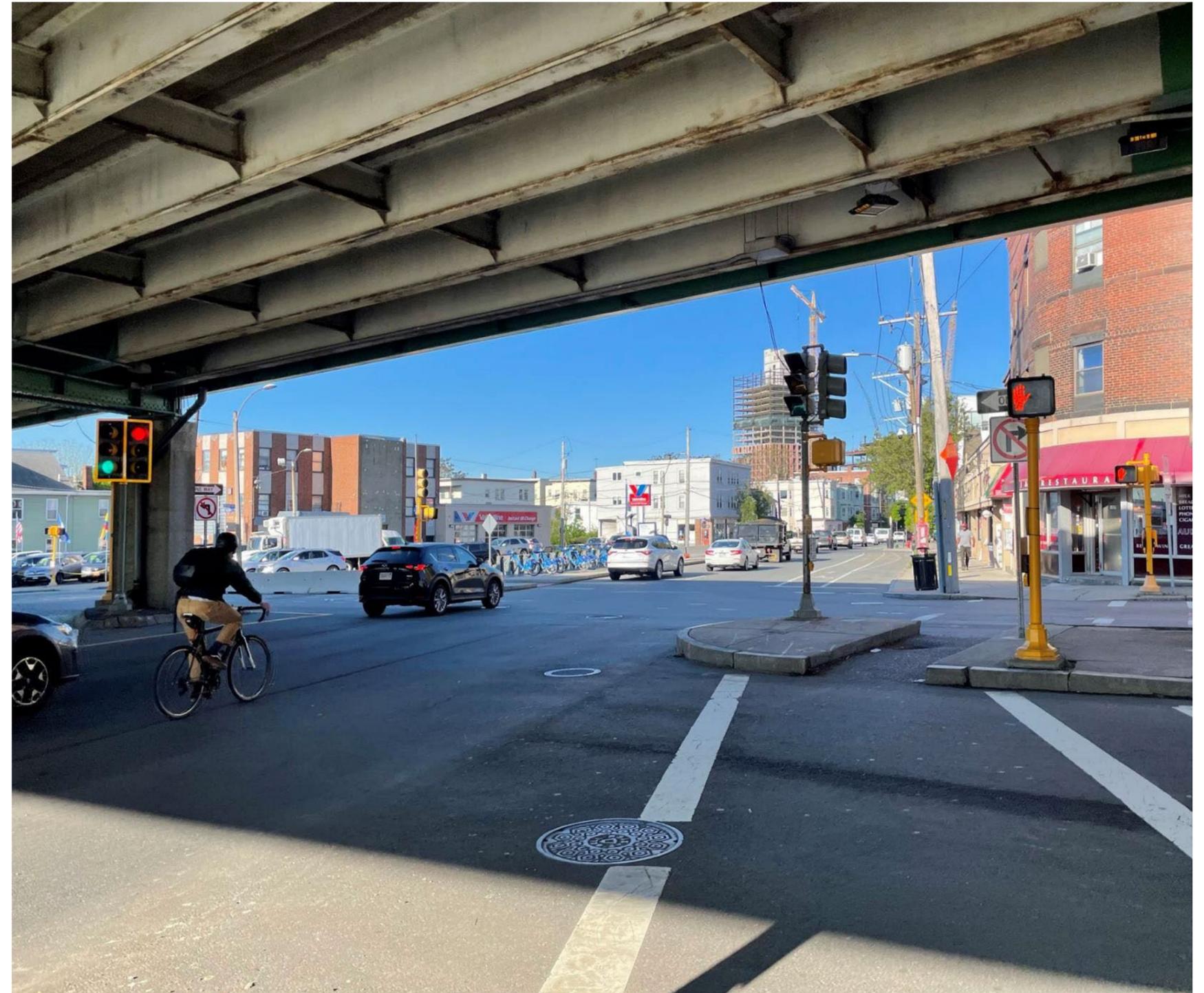
Zoom | December 19, 2024

Project File No. 607981



# Agenda

- 01 Project Overview
- 02 Project Design Updates
- 04 Project Status and Next Steps
- 05 Question & Answer

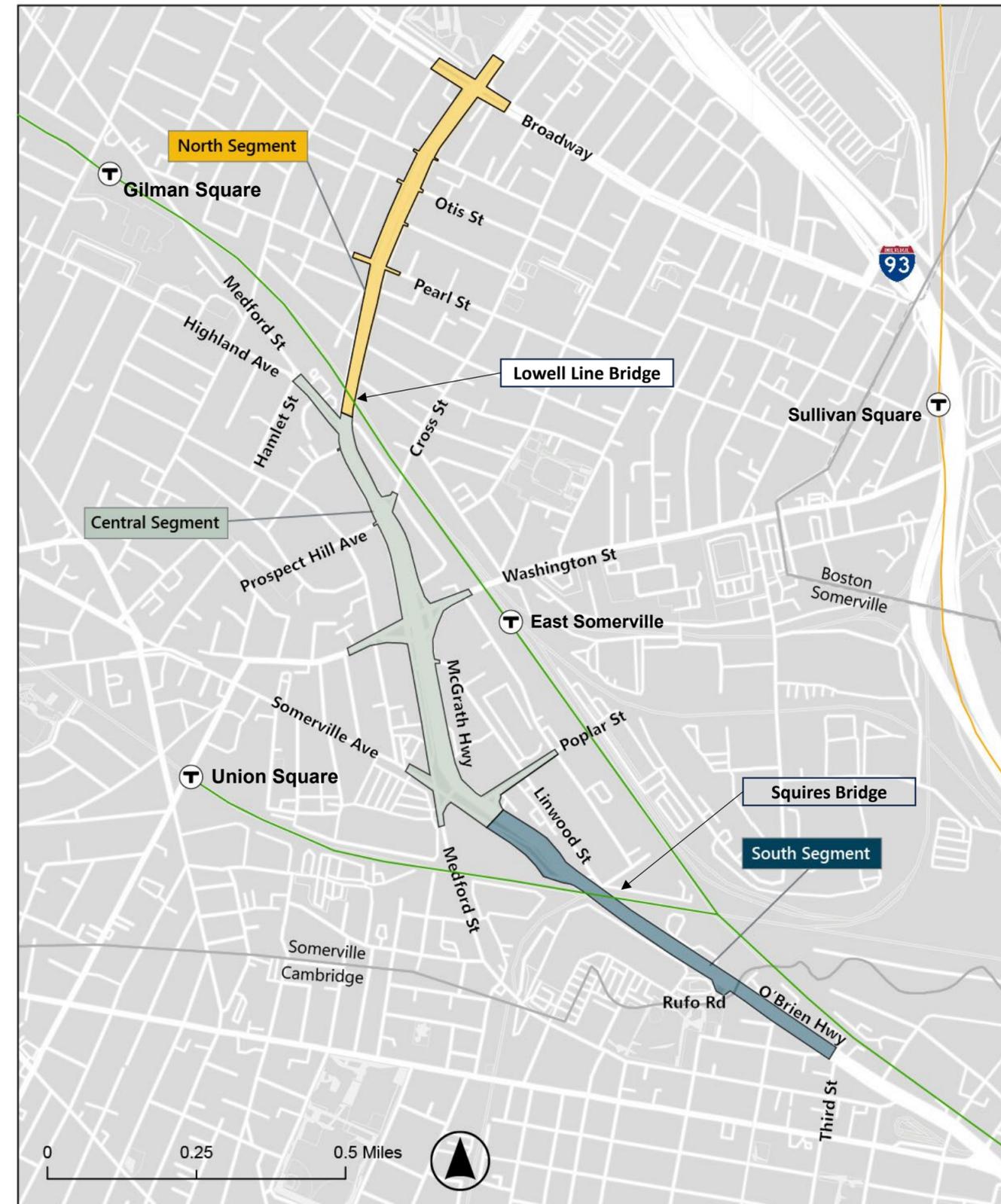




# Project Overview

# Project Area

- This McGrath Boulevard project extends along **McGrath Highway** from the southern extent **Third Street** in Cambridge to **Broadway** in Somerville.
- Project design split into 3 segments
  - **North:** Broadway to MBTA Lowell Line Bridge
  - **Central:** MBTA Lowell Line Bridge to Squire’s Bridge
  - **South:** Squire’s Bridge to Third Street (Cambridge)
- This McGrath Boulevard project is adjacent to the following Somerville neighborhoods:
  - East Somerville
  - Union Square
  - Brickbottom
  - Winter Hill
  - Prospect Hill



# Project Timeline



2011  
McCarthy Overpass identified as needing replacement

2013  
“Grounding McGrath” study recommended its removal & replacement with street-level multimodal boulevard

2015  
MassDOT convened McGrath Boulevard Project Development Working Group

2018  
McGrath Boulevard included in regional transportation plan

2021-present  
Submission of 25% design: conducted survey, environmental studies, utility investigation  
McGrath Boulevard Project programmed for federal and state funding starting in **2027** TIP year

# Public Outreach Overview



**8** working group meetings



**2** public information meetings:



**10** targeted briefings:

- Cities of Somerville and Cambridge
- Abutters
- Somerville Community Groups
- Portuguese Sportsman's Club



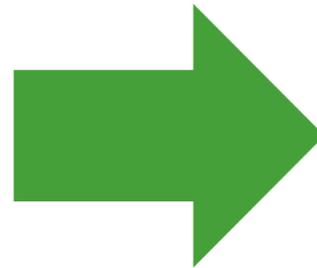
Coordination with:

- Livable Streets Alliance
- MassDOT District offices



Appearances by project team members

- Tufts University
- Somerville ArtBeat festival



## Public Outreach Success

- Consensus for preferred alternative among stakeholders and public
- Successfully programmed construction funding (FY 2027)



## Reasons for the Project

- McCarthy Viaduct overpass is structurally deficient
- McGrath Highway is overbuilt for the number of vehicles that need to use it
- Accessibility standards not met along the corridor

## Project Goals



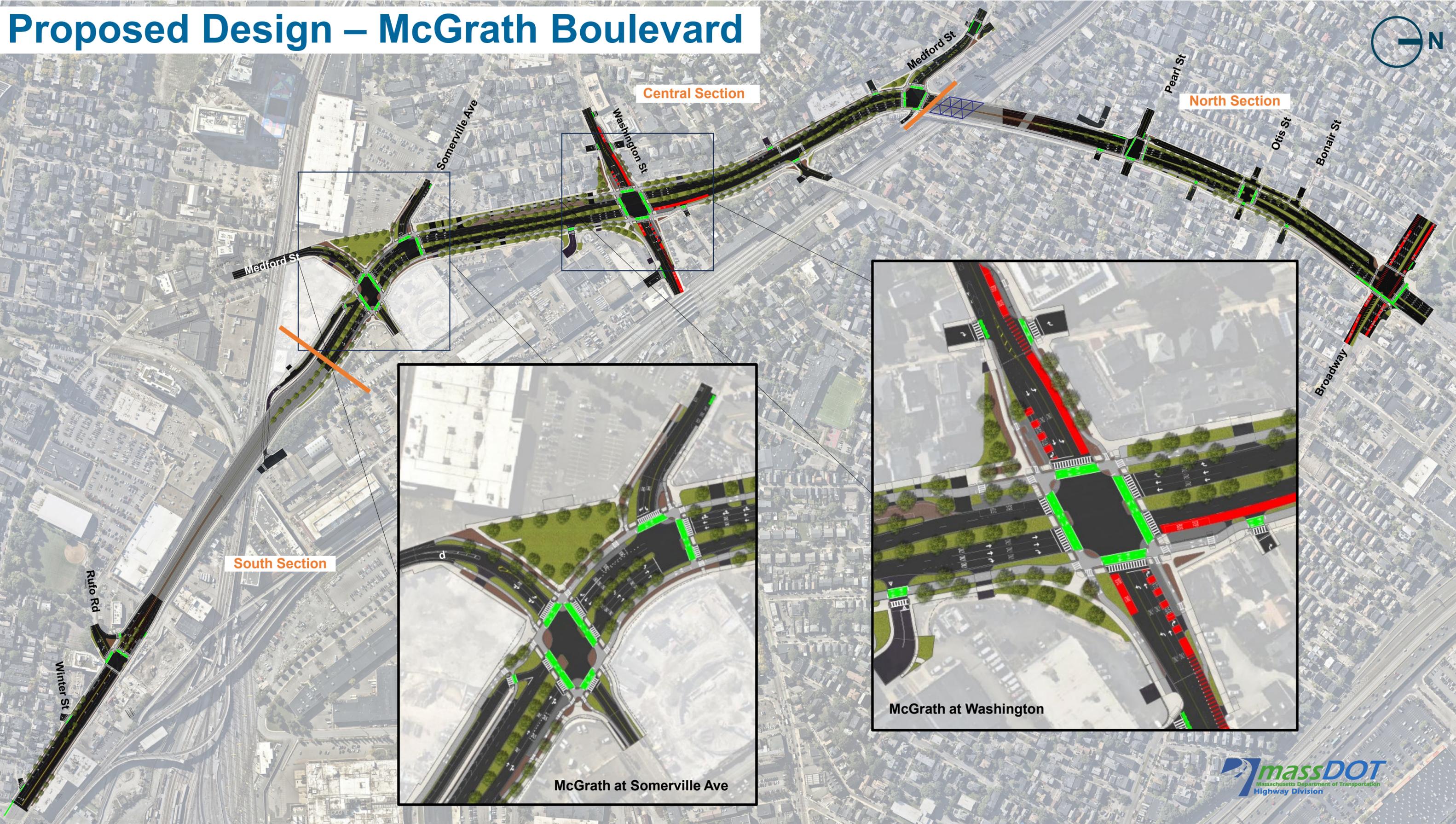
- **Safety improvements** to support Vision Zero objectives
- Improve **neighborhood connections** to nearby amenities
- Improve facilities supporting **sustainable transportation**
- **Resilient infrastructure** to face our changing climate
- **Accessible design** that removes barriers





# Project Design Updates

# Proposed Design – McGrath Boulevard



Central Section

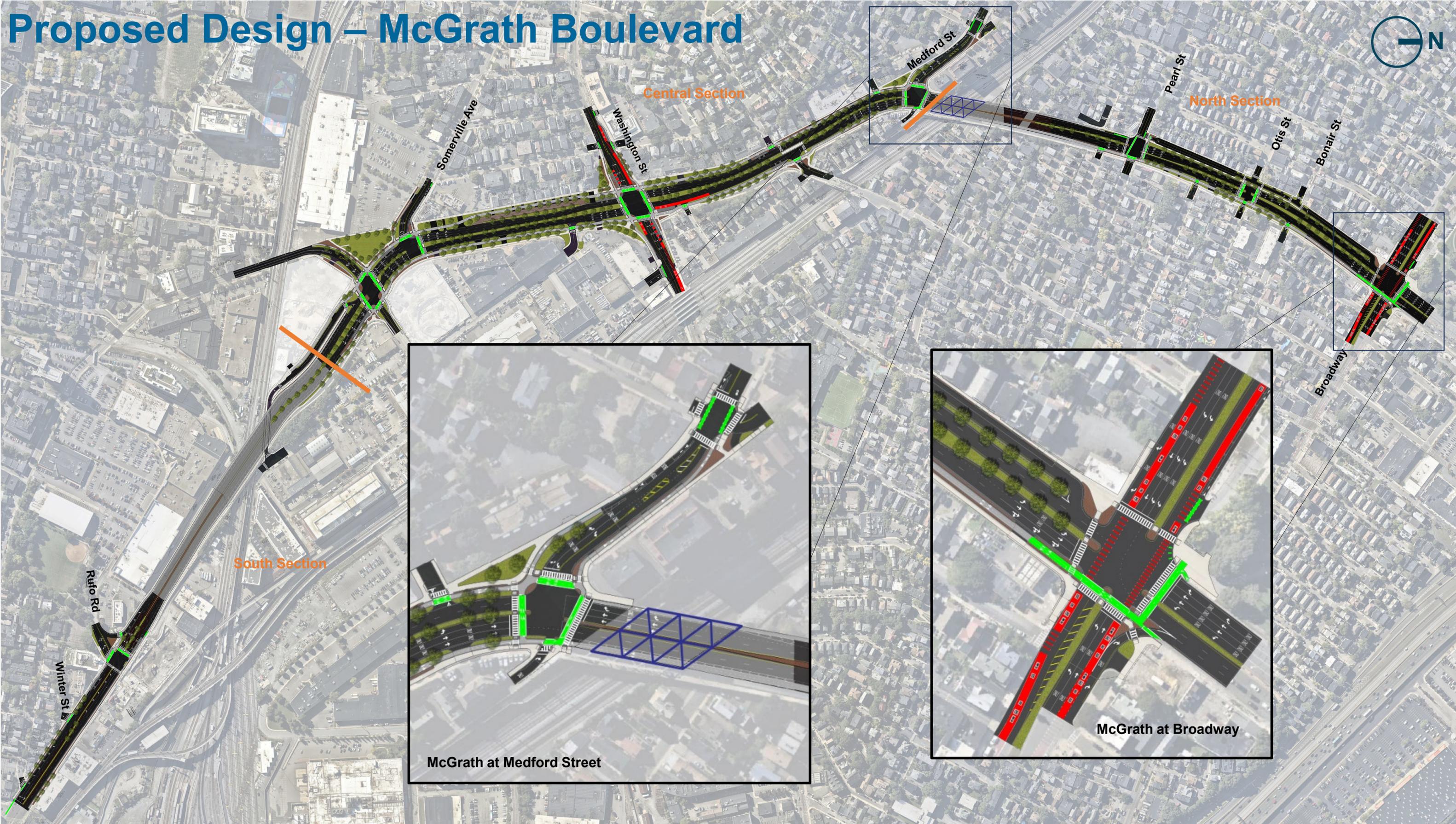
North Section

South Section

McGrath at Somerville Ave

McGrath at Washington

# Proposed Design – McGrath Boulevard



Central Section

North Section

South Section

McGrath at Medford Street

McGrath at Broadway



# Roadway Reallocation



Representative location south of the pedestrian overpass bridge near Otis Street

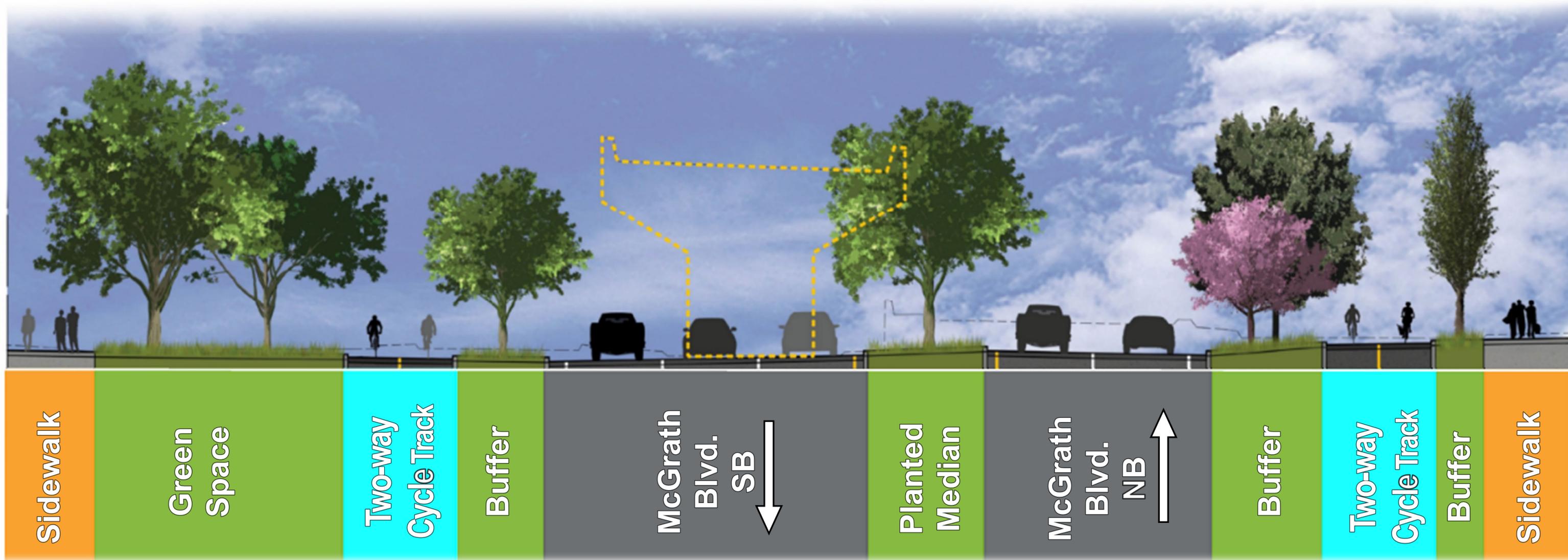
# McGrath Boulevard Cross Section north of Somerville Avenue



Existing McGrath Highway



Section Location



## Washington Street – Existing Condition



*View Location*



Existing condition, as seen looking south from Washington Street

## Washington Street – Concept Rendering



*View Location*



Conceptual design, as seen looking south from Washington Street

## Somerville Avenue – Existing Condition



Existing condition, as seen looking north at the Somerville Avenue intersection



*View Location*

## Somerville Avenue – Concept Rendering



*View Location*

Conceptual design, as seen looking north at the Somerville Avenue intersection



# Project Status

# Project Status

## Project Cost

- Total project cost estimate (as of 25% design): **\$123,448,000**

North Segment	Central Segment	Southern Segment
\$18.6 million	\$92.6 million	\$12.3 million

## USDOT Grant

- Applied for Reconnecting Communities Discretionary Grant Program for central section of McGrath for **\$43.15 million**
  - Anticipating results of grant application **in early 2025**

## Design Status

- 25% design, state ROW plans and environmental review checklist submitted **October 18, 2024**
- 25% design under review
- Schedule shows Ad Date: **7/3/2027**

### McGrath Boulevard: Viaduct Removal and Road Reconstruction in Somerville, MA

*Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP)  
Discretionary Grant Program FY 2024*



September 30, 2024

Submitted to: Office of the Secretary of Transportation, USDOT

Submitted by: Massachusetts Department of Transportation



# Our next steps



## Continue Outreach

- Stakeholders
- EJ neighborhoods
- Somerville
- Cambridge
- Public Information Meeting

Ongoing



## Design Public Hearing

- Present full 25% level design

Summer 2025



## 75% Design

- Project coordination
- Plan development
- Environmental Review
- 75% ROW

2025-2026



## Final Design

- Complete Environmental Review
- 100% Design
- Complete ROW
- Prepare Bid Package

2026 – 2027



## Construction

- Advertisement
- Bid Review
- Select Contractor
- Notice to Proceed

Begins 2027



# Questions + Answers