

Welcome!

Minuteman Bikeway Extension
Bedford | Project File No. 607738

Design Public Hearing

Bedford Town Hall

February 6, 2020 | 7:00 pm

Introduction

- **MassDOT Project Manager: Greg Frazier**
- **MassDOT Right-of-Way: Linda Walsh**
- **MassDOT District 4 Projects: Brian Fallon**
- **Consultant Engineer: VHB Inc.**
 - **Trish Domigan, PE, Director of Mass Municipal Services**
 - **Joshua Trearchis, PE, Project Manager**
 - **Stefanie L. Beaver, PE, ENV SP, Senior Project Engineer**

Project Team



Municipality

Town of Bedford, stakeholders/ Board of Selectmen, Department of Public Works, the Transportation & Bicycle Advisory Committees, and the Arbor Resources Committee

Consultant Engineering Firm

VHB Inc.

MassDOT's Highway Division

Responsible for administering the Design Process and provide Resident Engineer Services to oversee construction

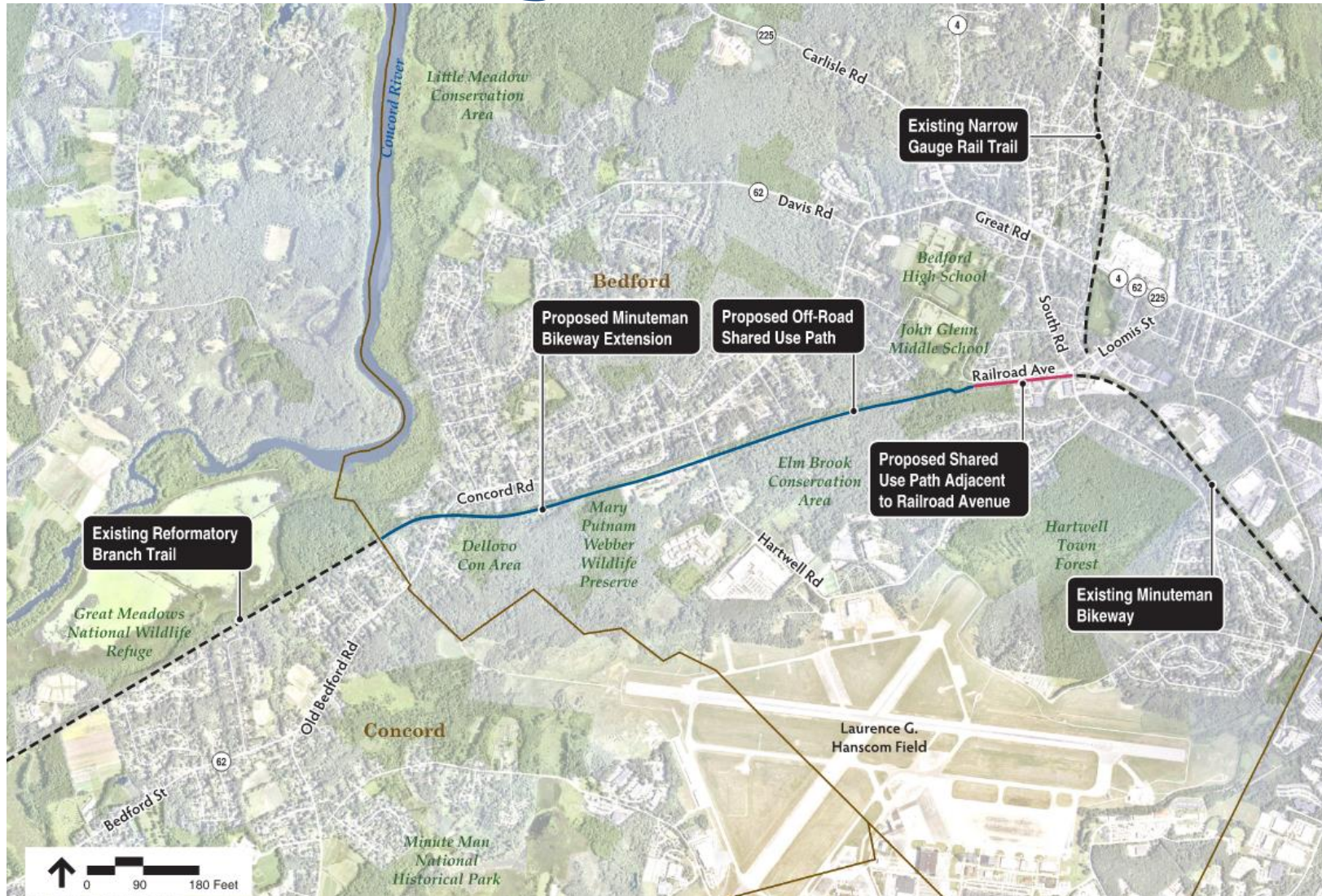
Federal Highway Administration

Responsible for project funding and general oversight

Agenda

- Project Area
- History of Project
- Project Goals & Existing Issues
- Scope of Work & Proposed Improvements
- Project Schedule
- Impacts to Existing Trees
- Temporary Traffic Impacts
- Environmental Permitting
- Next Steps

Project Area



History of Project

- **2005-2008** Initial project feasibility studies completed
- **2008 & 2009** Project presented to the Board of Selectman
- **2010** Town Meeting voted to advance a paved trail to final design (Article 18)
- **2010-2014** Meetings held with the Bedford DPW, Transportation & Bicycle Advisory committees, the Board of Selectman, and project abutters to review alternative cross section design for Railroad Avenue.
- **2014** Project accepted by MassDOT and programmed for construction funding
- **2014-2015** Additional meetings held with MassDOT, the Bedford DPW, Transportation & Bicycle Advisory committees, the Board of Selectman, and project abutters to select the proposed cross section for Railroad Avenue.
- **2016-2017** Meetings held with the Board of Selectman and MassDOT to discuss the Concord Road (Route 62) crossing and select preferred alternative.
- **2017** 25% Design Plans submitted to MassDOT



**Why do we need
this project?**



Project Goals

- **Connectivity** | Extend the existing Minuteman Commuter Bikeway from the Bedford Depot to the Concord town line
- **Alternative Transportation** | Establish an alternative transportation corridor that is aesthetically pleasing and user friendly
- **Accessibility** | Provide facility that meets state/federal accessibility standards
- **Safety** | Create safer pedestrian & bicycle accommodations that meet state/federal standards

Additional Project Opportunities

- **Drainage** | Improve drainage system within Railroad Avenue to reduce flooding issues
- **Parking** | Formalize parking facilities at path entrances

Existing Issues



Railroad Avenue:

- No Connectivity between Minuteman Bikeway & Reformatory Branch Trail
- No existing bicycle accommodations
- Intermittent sidewalks
- Flooding during large storm events

Design Constraints:

- Right of Way
- Utility poles, hydrants, etc
- Wide driveway openings
- Existing trees



Existing Issues (cont.)



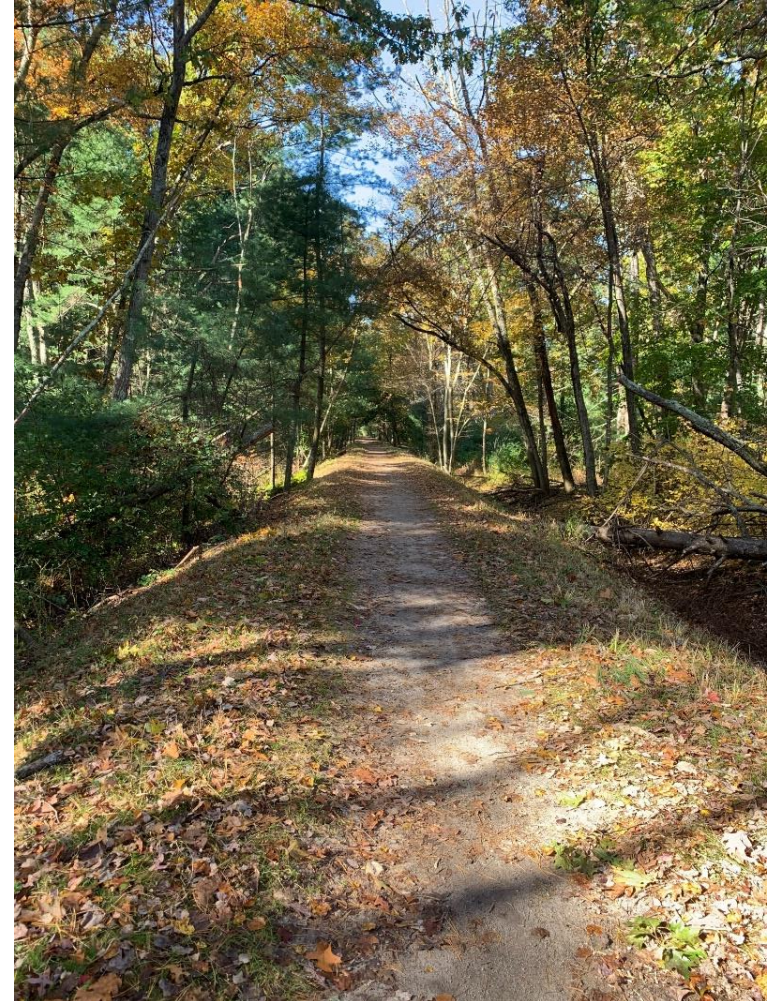
Railroad Ave Parking Lot

- No existing pedestrian crossing
- No formal parking at the trail head

Existing Issues (cont.)

Existing Reformatory Branch Trail

- Narrow
- Unpaved
- Steep side slopes



Existing Issues (cont.)



Hartwell Road Crossing

- Existing unprotected crossing
- Existing path shares the Water Treatment Plant Access Drive



Existing Issues (cont.)

Concord Road Crossing

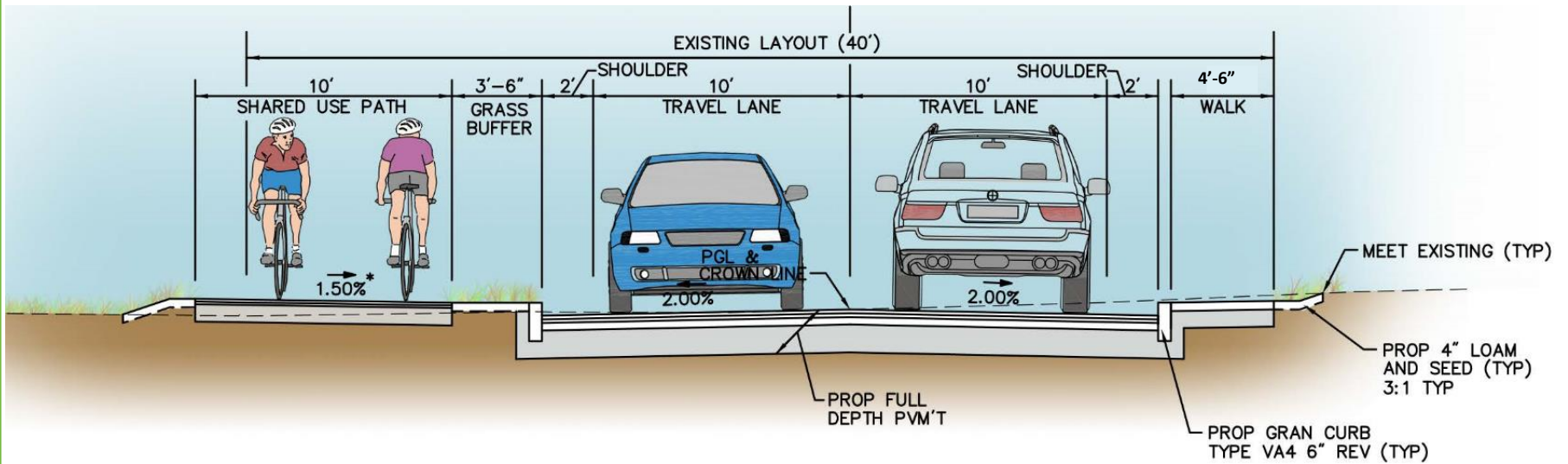
- Existing unprotected crossing
- High speed road
- Unexpected crossing location



Project Scope

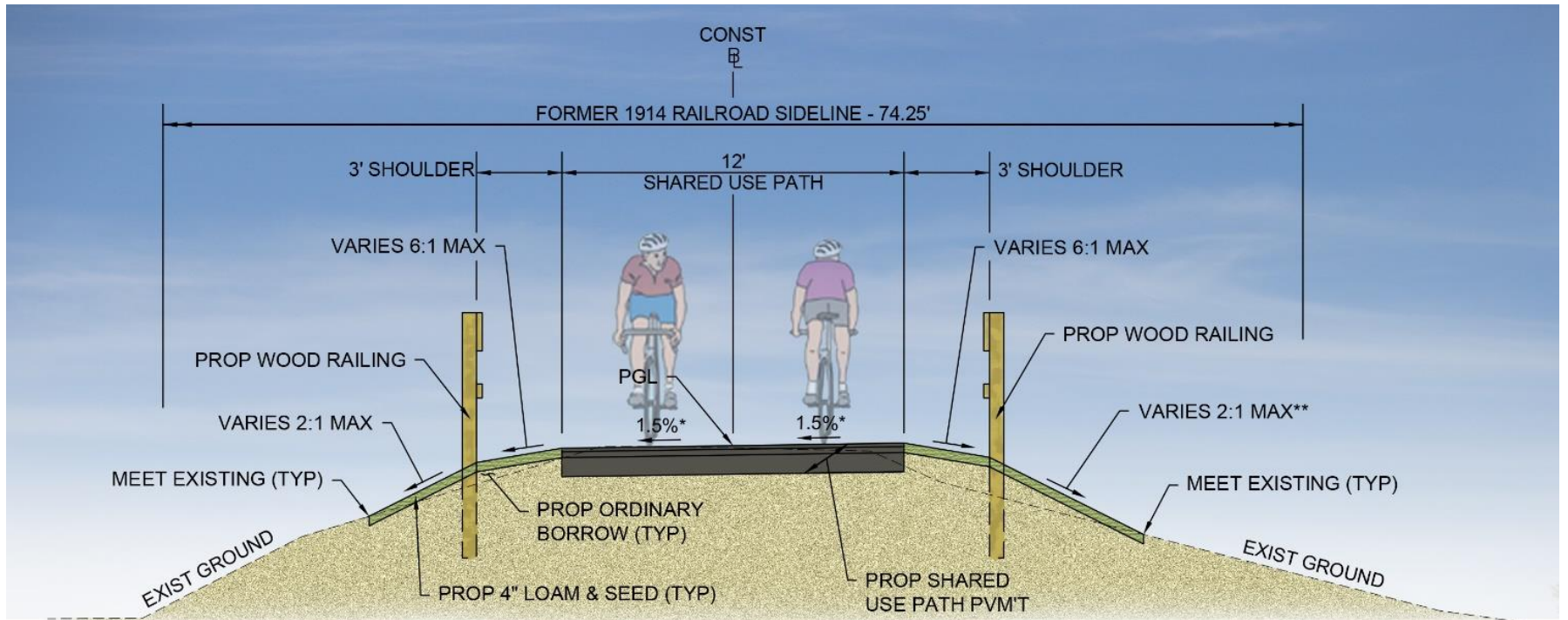
- **Railroad Avenue at South/ Loomis Street**
 - Traffic signal modifications to enhance bikeway crossing at Depot Park
- **Railroad Avenue**
 - 10 foot wide shared use path along north side of road, ± 0.3 miles
 - Roadway & Drainage improvements
 - Protected crossing at Railroad Avenue parking lot
- **Off Road Bikeway**
 - 12 foot wide paved bikeway, ± 1.7 miles
 - Parking lots at Railroad Avenue, Lavender Lane and Concord Road
 - Access to adjacent trails and side streets
 - Protected crossing at Hartwell Road
 - Proposed Bikeway underpass at Concord Road (Route 62)

Proposed Improvements



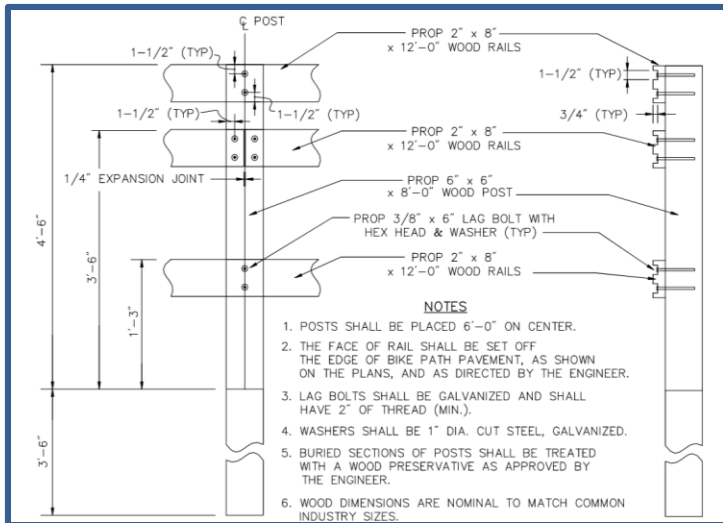
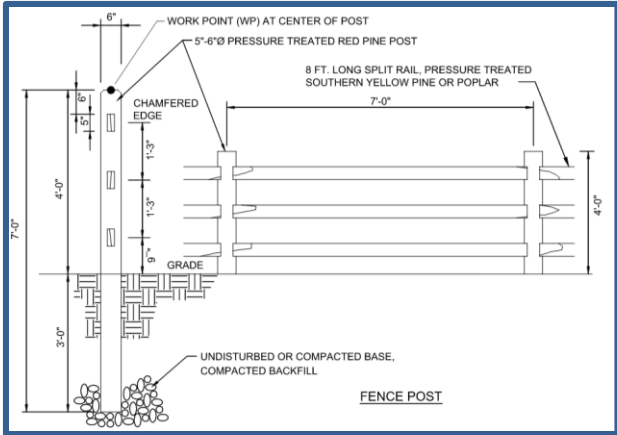
Railroad Avenue

Proposed Improvements



Off Road Bikeway

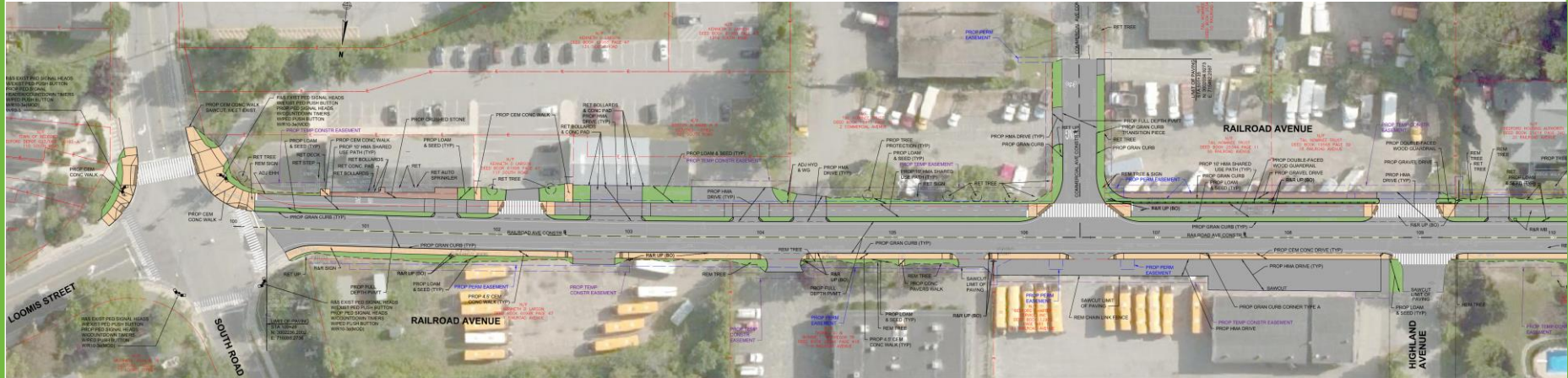
Proposed Improvements



Wood Safety Railing

Proposed Improvements

Depot Park to Railroad Ave Parking Lot



Proposed Improvements

Caesar Jones Way to Lavender Lane



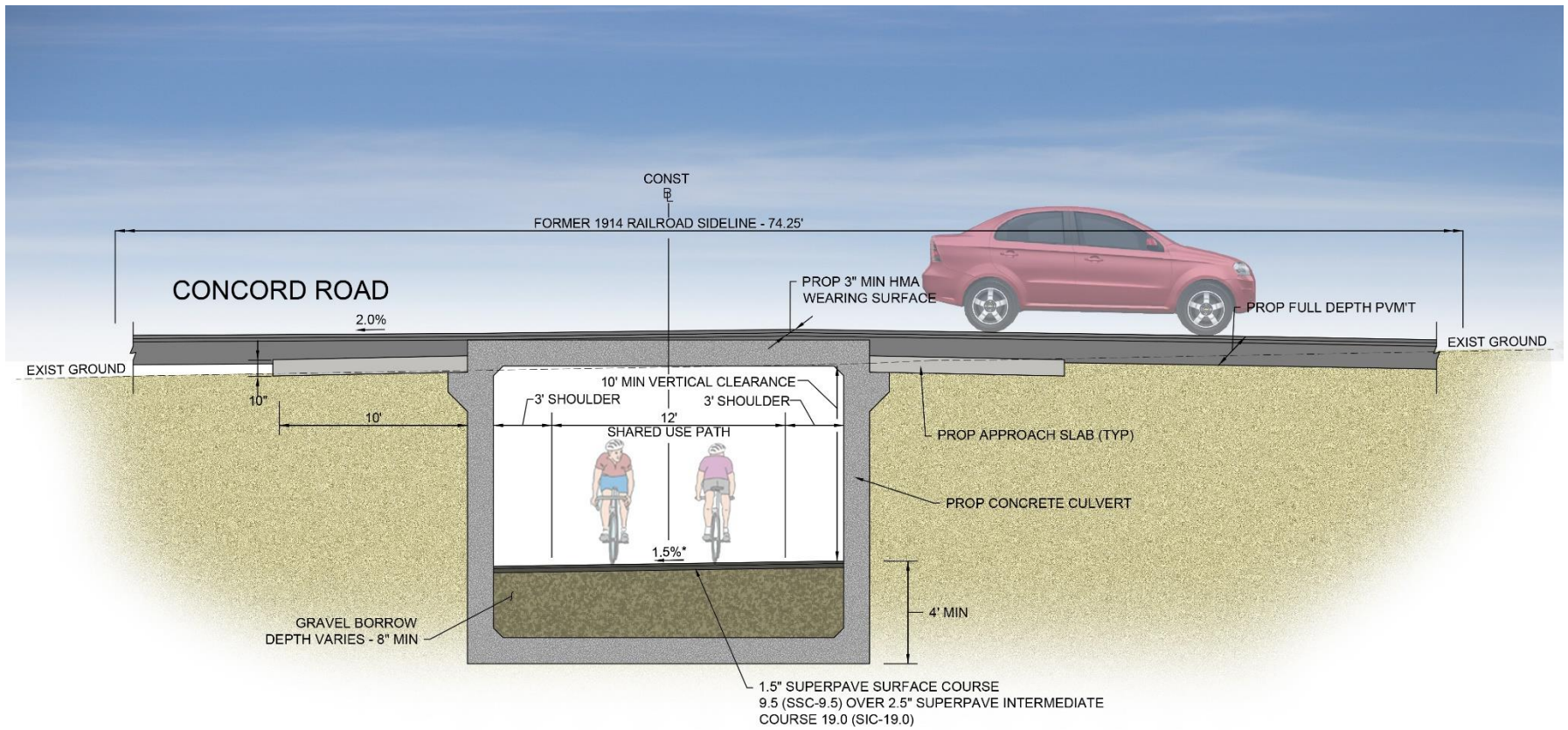
Proposed Improvements

Concord Road Underpass



Proposed Improvements

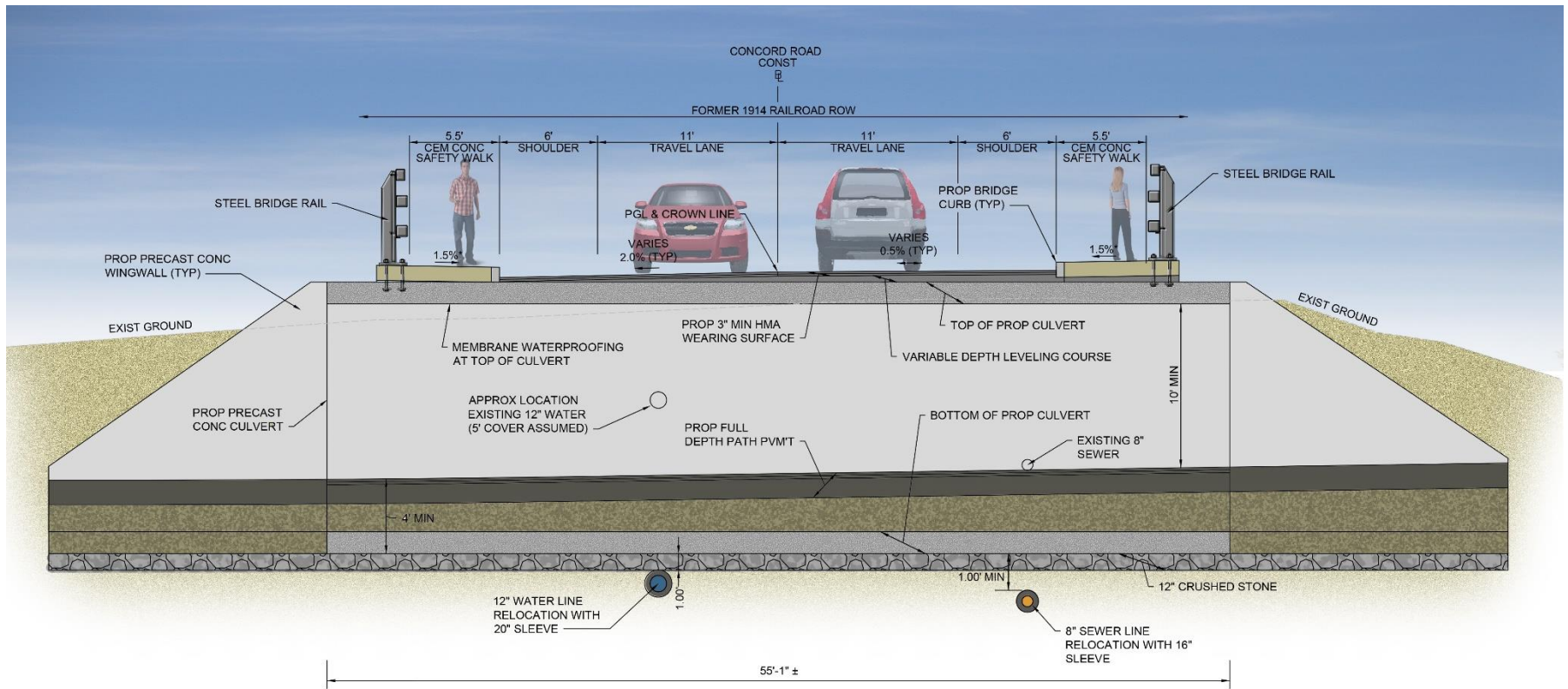
Concord Road Underpass



Bike Path Cross Section at Culvert

Proposed Improvements

Concord Road Underpass



Concord Road Cross Section at Culvert

Proposed Improvements

Concord Road Underpass



Culvert Example



Project Schedule

**25% Design
Submittal**
April, 2017

**75% & 100%
Design Submittals**
Spring 2020
& Fall 2020

**Advertise for
Construction**
Summer 2021

**Design Public
Hearing**
February, 2020

**PS&E Submittal
& Secure ROW
(Easements)**
Spring 2021

**Construction
Begins**
Fall 2021

Impacts to Existing Trees



- Design is intended to avoid impacts to trees to the maximum extent practicable
- Removal of public shade trees within existing Right of Way will be in accordance with Mass General Law (Chapter 87) & the Town Tree Policy
- Trees removed along existing path will be quantified and mitigated per acre of tree removal, in accordance with Town Tree Policy
- All excavation/construction in the vicinity of existing trees shall conform to Chapter 13 (Landscape and Aesthetics) of the MassDOT Project Development and Design Guide
- New trees will be planted where feasible within the project limits

**How will traffic
be affected?**





Temporary Traffic Impacts

- All streets will remain open to traffic during construction
- Work that interrupts traffic will be limited during peak travel times
- Abutter driveway access will be maintained during construction
- Work on Railroad Ave and road crossing at Hartwell Road may require temporary lane reductions or temporary lane closures during working hours
- Concord Road culvert installation will require temporary lane closures or temporary bypass road

Environmental Permitting



- **WPA Notice of Intent (NOI)**
 - Preparing to File (Spring 2020)
- **NEPA – Categorical Exclusion Checklist**
 - Preparing to File (Spring 2020)
- **MEPA – Environmental Notification Form**
 - Preparing to File (Spring 2020)
- **Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program**
 - Submit for Review (Spring 2020)
 - Completed Thru MassDOT

Next Steps/Meeting

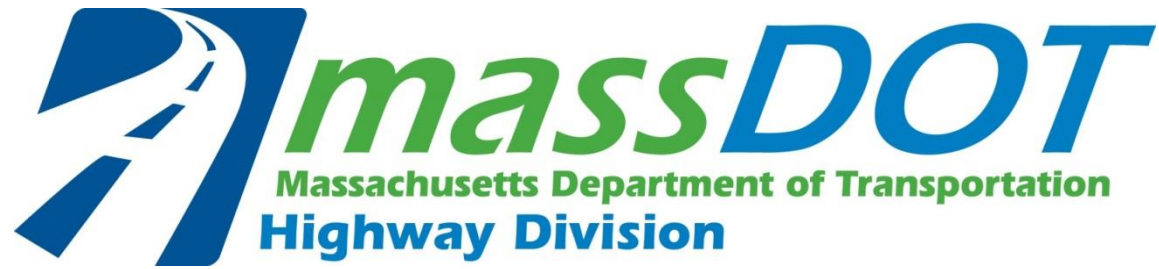
- **75%/100% Design Submissions**
(Spring – Fall 2020)
- **Environmental Permitting**
(Spring – Fall 2020)
- **Right of Way Appraisals/Easement Process**
(Summer 2020 – Spring 2021)
- **Advertise for Construction**
(Summer 2020 – Spring 2021)

Contact Information



Provide:

- Mail-in comment sheets
- Greg Frazier; greg.frazier@state.ma.us



Thank You

Q&A

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