



VIRTUAL

MEETING

Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

August 17, 2023



VIRTUAL

MEETING

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Kreyòl Ayisyen (Haitian Creole)

Si yon moun vle genyen enfòmasyon sa yo nan yon lòt lang, tanpri kontakte Espesyalis Boston Region MPO Title VI la nan nimewo 857.702.3700.

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Si necesita esta información en otro idioma, por favor contacte la Boston Region MPO al 857.702.3700.

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Guidelines

1. All participants will join the meeting with muted microphones.
2. Please rename yourself to include your first name, last name and affiliation.
3. After roll call, Board members may mute and unmute themselves. Always remain muted unless actively speaking.
4. To participate in the discussion, please select the “raise hand” function. Find this by clicking either on the “Participants” button at the bottom of the screen, and a window will pop up with a “Raise Hand” button at the bottom, or the “Reactions” button in the toolbar. The Chair will then call on participants.
5. If you are on the phone, you can use *9 to raise your hand.
6. If you have any technical difficulties, please contact Sean Rourke via the chat box, srourke@ctps.org or 857.702.3705.



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Accessibility Statement

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August 17, 2023

AGENDA

1. **Introductions**
2. Chair's Report
3. Executive Director's Report
4. Public Comments
5. Committee Chairs' Reports
6. Regional Transportation Advisory Council Report
7. Action Item: June 15, 2023, MPO Meeting Minutes
8. Action Item: FFYs 2023–27 TIP Amendment 11
9. Action Item: FFY 2023 UPWP Amendment Two
10. Intersection Improvement Study
11. Members' Items

Introductions



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Chair's Report



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Executive Director's Report



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Staffing Updates

- New: Transportation planner with a freight focus
- Open positions include:
 - Manager of MPO Activities
 - Senior Transportation Planner, Multimodal Planning and Design
 - Data Collector
 - Principal Analyst / Travel Demand Modeler
 - Transportation Policy Analyst (New)
 - Public Engagement Coordinator (New)



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Engagement Updates

- US Department of Transportation (DOT) Equity in Transportation Workshops
- Association of MPOs Interest Groups Core Products Webinar on Best Practices of MPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and State TIP Project Integration



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Today's Agenda

- Two action items:
 - Vote to endorse TIP Amendment Eleven
 - Vote to endorse Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2023 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment Two
- Two Intersection Improvement Studies
 - Stow
 - Wellesley



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Next Meetings

- September 7, 2023 — potentially canceled
- September 21, 2023, at 10:00 AM
- Ad Hoc Memorandum of Understanding Committee
 - August 24, 2023, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
 - Contact: Erin Maguire, emaguire@ctps.org
- Transit Transformation Member Workshop
 - August 24, 2023, from 1:00 to 2:00 PM
 - Contact: Ethan Lapointe, elapointe@ctps.org



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Public Comments



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Committee Chairs' Reports



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Regional Transportation Advisory Council Report



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Action Item: June 15, 2023, MPO Meeting Minutes

Vote to approve the June 15, 2023, MPO meeting minutes



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Action Item: Federal Fiscal Years (FFYs) 2023–27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment Eleven

Ethan Lapointe, MPO Staff

Presentation, discussion, and expected vote to endorse the
FFYs 2023–27 TIP Amendment Eleven



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FFYs 2023–27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment Eleven

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Ethan Lapointe
TIP Manager, MPO Activities

Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

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Amendment Eleven Summary

- For the FFY 2023 Program, Amendment Eleven proposes:
 - Cost increases for three FFY 2023 Statewide Highway Projects and one Regional Target Project
 - Programming of two design earmarks in Marblehead and Brookline
 - Deprogramming of anticipated MWRTA Section 5339 Discretionary Grant line items



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FFY = Federal Fiscal Year. MWRTA = MetroWest Regional Transit Authority.

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Public Comment Summary

- Comment period lasted 21 days from July 21 to August 11, 2023
- One comment received from 495/MetroWest Partnership
 - Supportive of changes
 - Requested that MWRTA projects that did not receive grant funding be considered for other funding avenues



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Today's Requested Action

- MPO staff request that the board votes to endorse Amendment Eleven.



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Backup: Changes by Program

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Amendment Eleven Project Changes— FFY 2023 Statewide Highway Funds

Project ID and Name	Change Type	Funding Source	Current Budget	New Budget	Difference	Explanation
608009: Boxborough – Bridge Replacement, B-18-002, Route 111 over I-495	Cost Increase	HIP-BR	\$12,763,392	\$29,304,478	\$16,541,086	The budget for this project has increased following the advancing of project design and identification of additional needs for the structure. The original cost estimate for this project, and the one currently reflected in the FFYs 2023–27 TIP, was initially developed in 2014.
609254: Lynn – Intersection Improvements at Two Intersections on Broadway	Cost Increase	HSIP	\$5,413,401	\$6,059,056	\$645,655	The budget for this project is being revised to reflect the latest design estimate.

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HIP-BR = Highway Investment Program, Bridge. HSIP = Highway Safety Improvement Program. FFY = Federal Fiscal Year.

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Amendment Eleven Project Changes— FFY 2023 Statewide Highway Program

Project ID and Name	Change Type	Funding Source	Current Budget	New Budget	Difference	Explanation
608255: Stow– Bridge Replacement, S-29- 011, Box Mill Road over Elizabeth Brook	Cost Increase	STBG-BR- Off	\$3,454,408	\$4,250,386	\$795,978	The budget for this project is increasing to accommodate additional design elements meant to restore the streambed and embankments of the river.
			Proposed Improvements Include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Scour protection – Post-construction streambed restoration – Channel reconfiguration – Rock vane installation – Addition of a sidewalk – Flow obstruction removal 			

Source: MassDOT

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STBG = Surface Transportation Block Grant. BR-Off = Off-System Bridge. FFY = Federal Fiscal Year.

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Amendment Eleven Project Changes— FFY 2023 Regional Target/Statewide Highway Funds

Project ID and Name	Change Type	Funding Source	Current Budget	New Budget	Total	Explanation
608889: Framingham– Traffic Signal Installation at Edgell Road at Central Street	Cost Increase	Regional Target: CMAQ	\$2,484,704	\$2,484,704	\$3,110,115	The cost of this project is increasing to incorporate additional enhancements to lighting and multimodal accessibility. The cost increase is being funded through the FFY 2023 Statewide Highway Program, while the remainder of the project is funded in the FFY 2023 Regional Target Program.
		Statewide Highway: TAP	\$0	\$625,411		

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CMAQ = Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality. TAP = Transportation Alternatives Program. FFY = Federal Fiscal Year.

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Amendment Eleven Project Changes— FFY 2023 Earmark Discretionary Funds

Project ID and Name	Change Type	Funding Source	Budget	Explanation
S12758: Marblehead – Border to Boston Trail Design	New Project	Earmark	\$175,000	This line item programs part of a federal earmark obtained through FFY 2022 Congressionally Directed Spending for designing the Border to Boston Trail.
S12849: Brookline – Beacon Street Bridle Path Project Design	New Project	Earmark	\$2,500,000	This line item programs a \$2,000,000 FFY 2023 Community Project Funding request to design the reopening and restoration of Fredrick Law Olmsted and John Charles' original design for Beacon Street to incorporate a two-way multi-use path for 2.3 miles of the roadway.

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Amendment Eleven Project Changes— FFY 2023 Transit Program – MWRTA

Project Name	Change Type	Former Budget	Description
RTD0011113: MWRTA – Competitive Revenue Vehicle Replacement	Remove Project	\$585,200	These line items were programmed in the TIP in anticipation of the receipt of an FTA Discretionary Grant through the Bus and Bus Facilities Discretionary Program using Section 5339(a) funding. MWRTA did not receive awards for these projects in FFY 2023.
RTD0011127: MWRTA – Back Entrance Project	Remove Project	\$2,000,000	
RTD0011129: MWRTA – Cochituate Rail Trail North Framingham Feasibility Study	Remove Project	\$95,000	

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MWRTA = MetroWest Regional Transit Authority. FTA = Federal Transit Administration.

Discussion

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Action Item: FFY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment Two

Srilekha Murthy, MPO Staff

Presentation, discussion, and expected vote to waive the public review period and endorse the FFY 2023 UPWP Amendment Two



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Action Item: Federal Fiscal Year 2023 UPWP Amendment Two

- Third-quarter adjustments to program budgets
 - Accounts for changes in staffing or program needs over the fiscal year
- For example, increase in Long-Range Transportation Plan budget
 - Development process engaged more staff than initially anticipated
 - Staff attrition
- For example, Climate Resilience Program
 - Budget developed prior to hiring a Resiliency Planner
 - Increase supports hiring an intern

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Action Item: Federal Fiscal Year 2023 UPWP Amendment Two

- Adjustments have a net zero impact on the overall budget of the UPWP
- A reduction in budget does not mean that planned work will not be completed
 - Program does not need as much funding to complete anticipated work through the end of the year



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Action Item: Federal Fiscal Year 2023 UPWP Amendment Two

- Waiving comment period means staff have adequate time to complete planned work before the end of the fiscal year with their adjusted budgets



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Intersection Improvement Study

Casey Cooper, MPO Staff

Presentation and discussion of the FFY 2023
Intersection Improvement discrete study



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Intersection Improvement Studies Stow and Wellesley

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Casey Cooper

Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

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 - **Study Purpose**
 - Selection Process
 - Selected Intersections
 - Study Process
 - Stow Study
 - Wellesley Study
11. Members' Items

Study Purpose

- Provide low-cost, small scale, and quickly implementable improvement recommendations for intersections in the Boston region
 - Recommend inexpensive, high-benefit improvements for selected intersection locations



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Selection Process

- Solicited Intersection Suggestions
- Analyzed Data
 - Municipal Support
 - Transportation Equity Populations
 - Total Crashes
 - Bicycle or Pedestrian Crashes
 - Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Crash Clusters
- Determined if well suited for low-cost improvements
 - Google Street View Assessment



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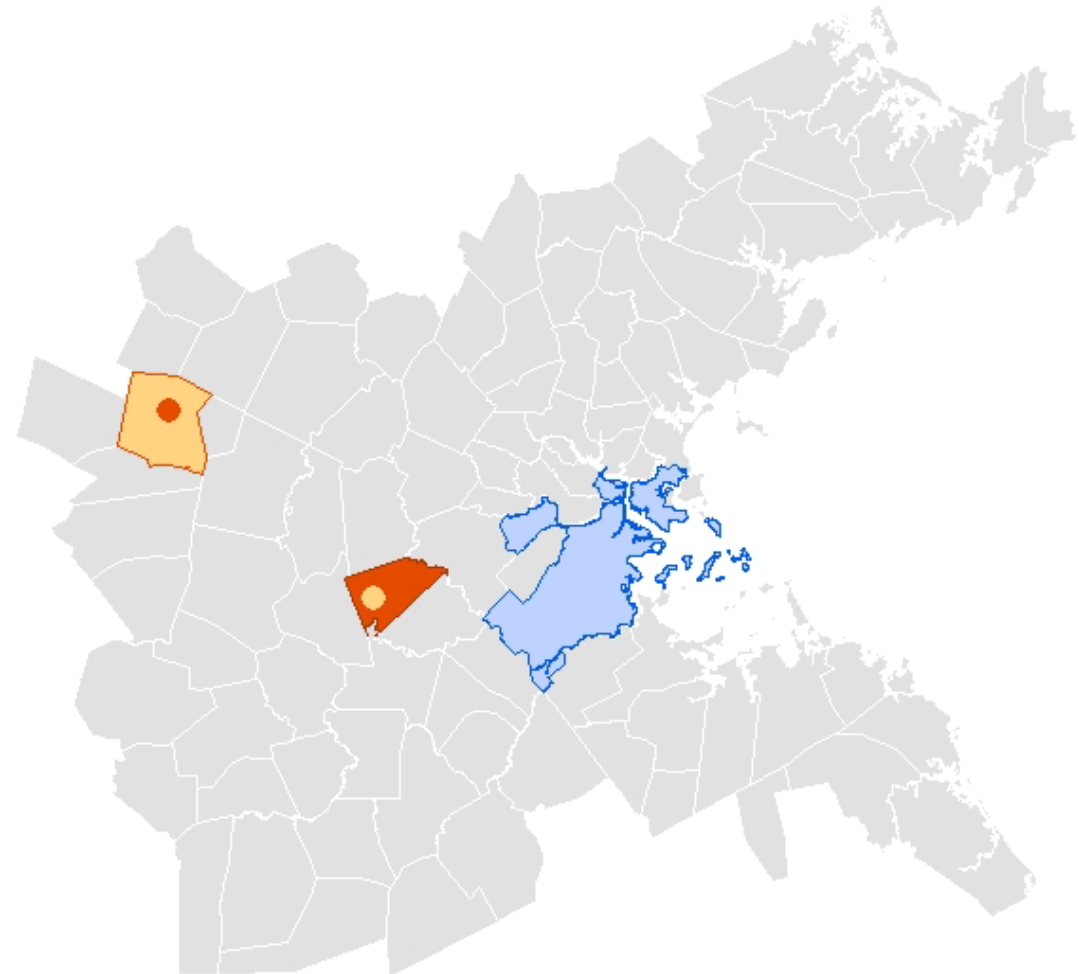
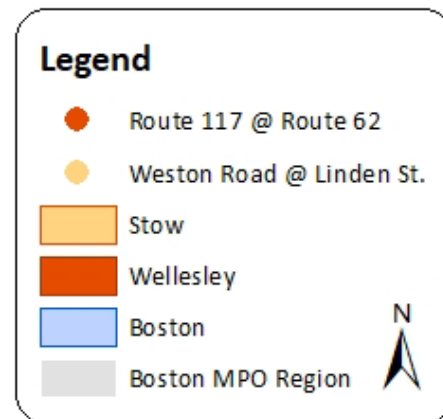
10. Intersection Improvement Study

- Study Purpose
- Selection Process
- **Selected Intersections**
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Selected Intersections



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Study Process

- Document Existing Conditions
- Identify Issues and Concerns
- Assess Bicycle and Pedestrian Conditions
- Analyze Crashes
- Analyze Intersection Traffic
- Recommend Improvements



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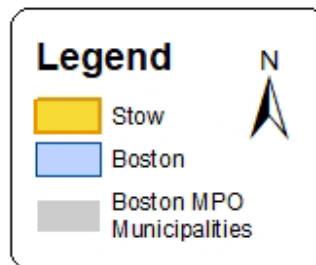
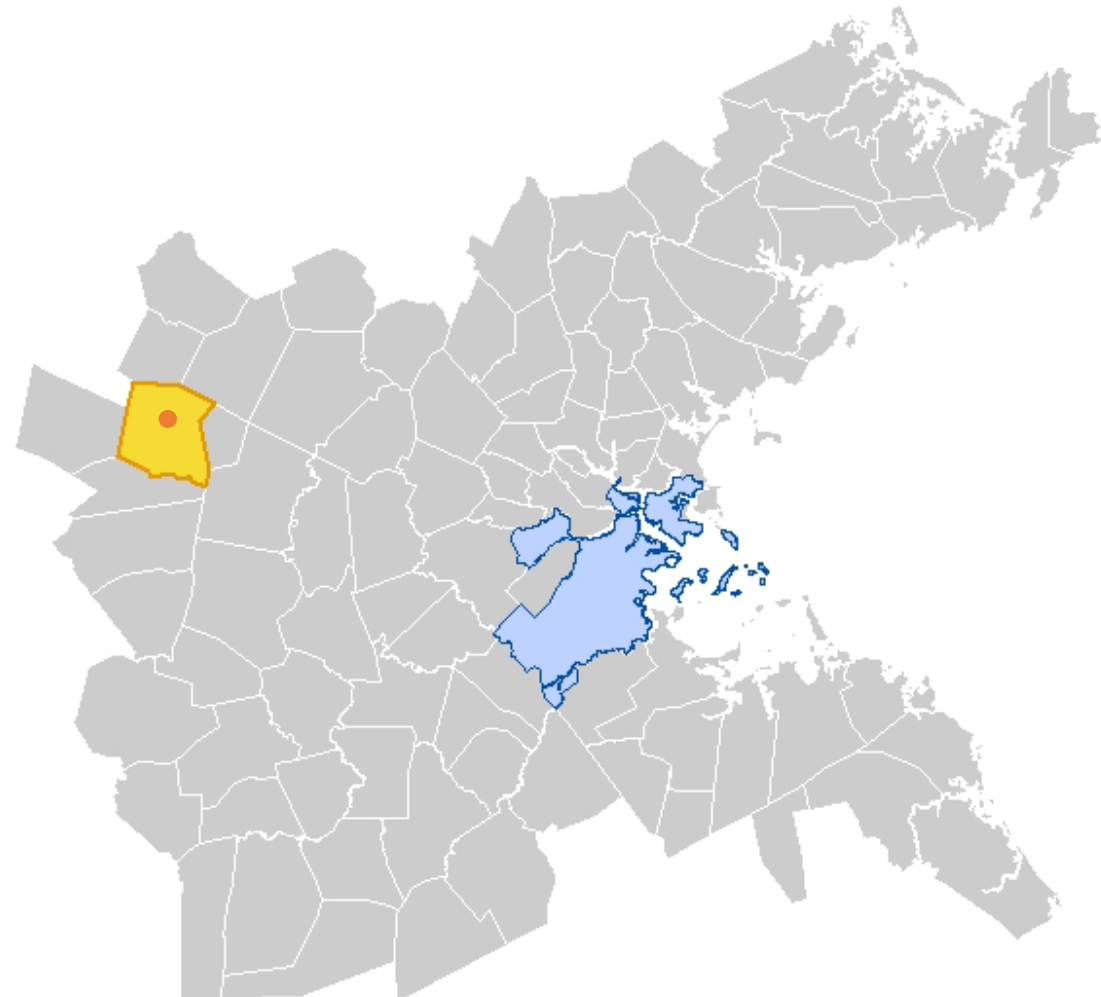
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Stow

Great Road, Gleasondale Road, and Library Hill Road (Route 117 @ Route 62)



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Stow

Issues and Concerns

- Most heavily trafficked intersection in Stow
 - Higher volumes anticipated with planned developments
- Signal Timing
- Library Hill Road Approach
 - Interest in left-turn lane
- Common Road
 - Interest in converting to one-way
- Proximity to elementary school, library, preschool, and church
 - No pedestrian signals
 - Missing some curb ramps, crosswalks, sidewalks, and pedestrian detectable warning strips
- No bicycle facilities



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Stow Library Hill Road



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Great Road, Gleasondale Road, and Library Hill Road (Route 117 @ Route 62)



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Stow

Northeast Corner

Pedestrian Detectable Warning Strip without Crosswalk



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Western Great Road Crossing *Crosswalk Leads to Landscaping*



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Stow

Gleasondale Road Crossing

Missing Curb Ramp and Pedestrian Detectable Warning Strip



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Stow

Gleasondale Road Crossing Long Crosswalk



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Stow No Bicycle Facilities



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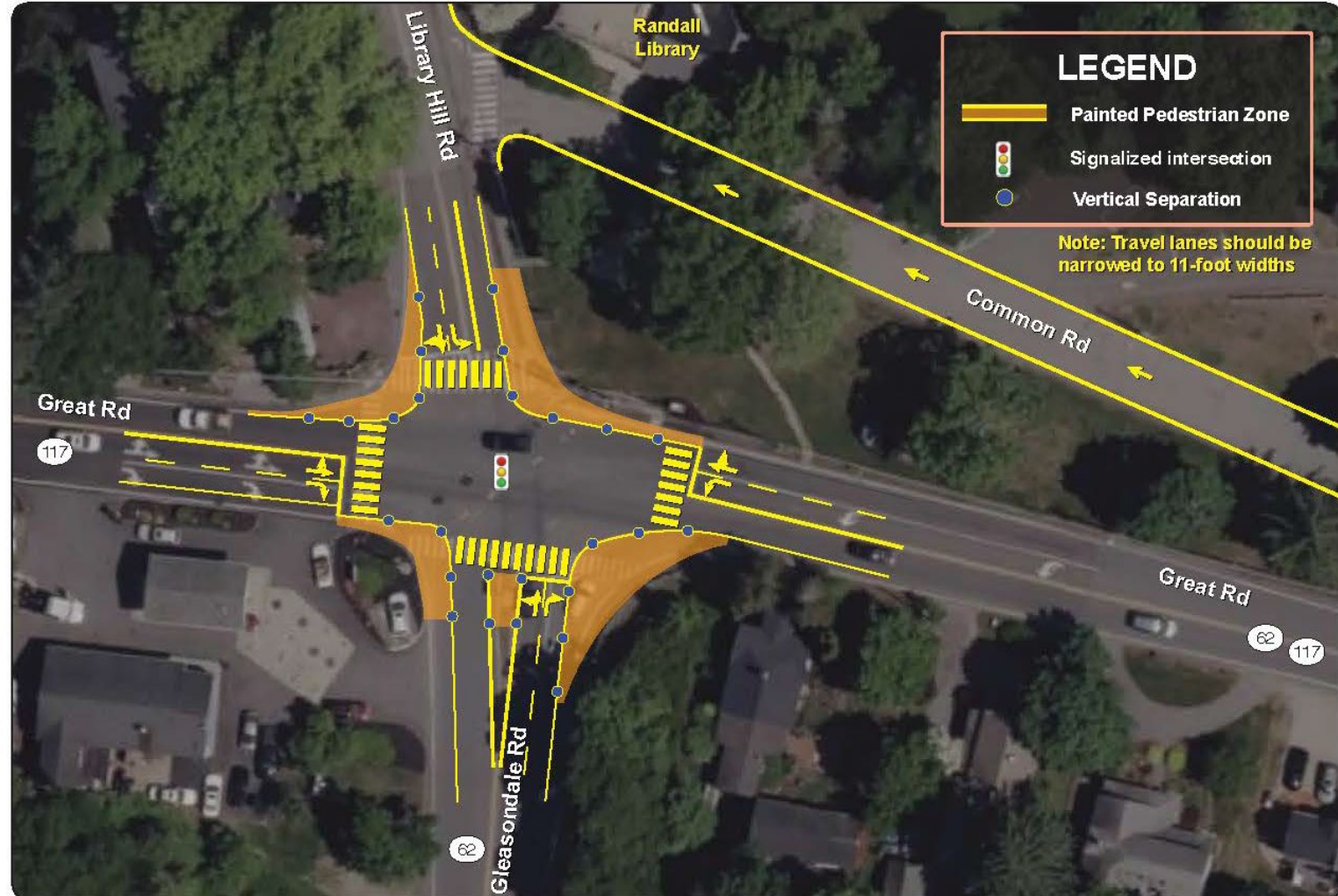
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Stow

Short-Term Recommendations



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Stow

Short-Term Recommendations

- Optimize signal timing
- Make Common Road one-way
- Split Library Hill Road southbound into two lanes
 - Dedicated left-turn lane
 - Through/right-turn lane
- Restripe lanes to 11-foot widths
- Repaint crosswalks
- Add crosswalk to eastern intersection leg
- Paint pedestrian zones that narrow curb radii and increase pedestrian visibility
 - Add vertical separation
- Use paint and vertical separation to better define Gleasondale Road pedestrian refuge island



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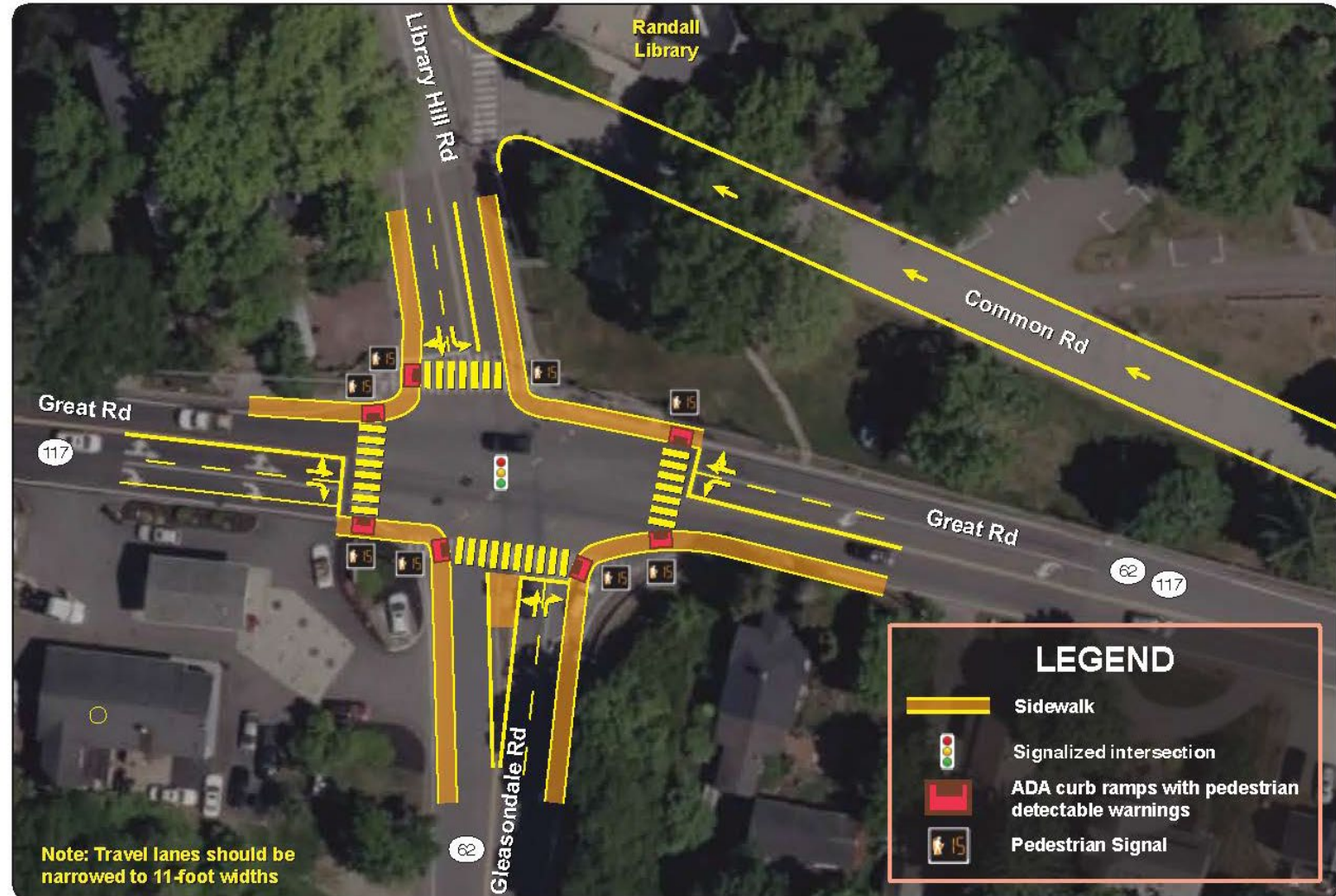
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Stow

Long-Term Recommendations



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Stow

Long-Term Recommendations

- Construct proper sidewalks along all intersection legs
 - Minimum five-foot widths
 - Curb ramps
 - Pedestrian detectable warning strips
- Install audible, vibrotactile pedestrian signals with countdown displays
 - Add pedestrian crossing phase to existing signal timing
- Improve Stow's bicycle network and add bicycle facilities to study intersection



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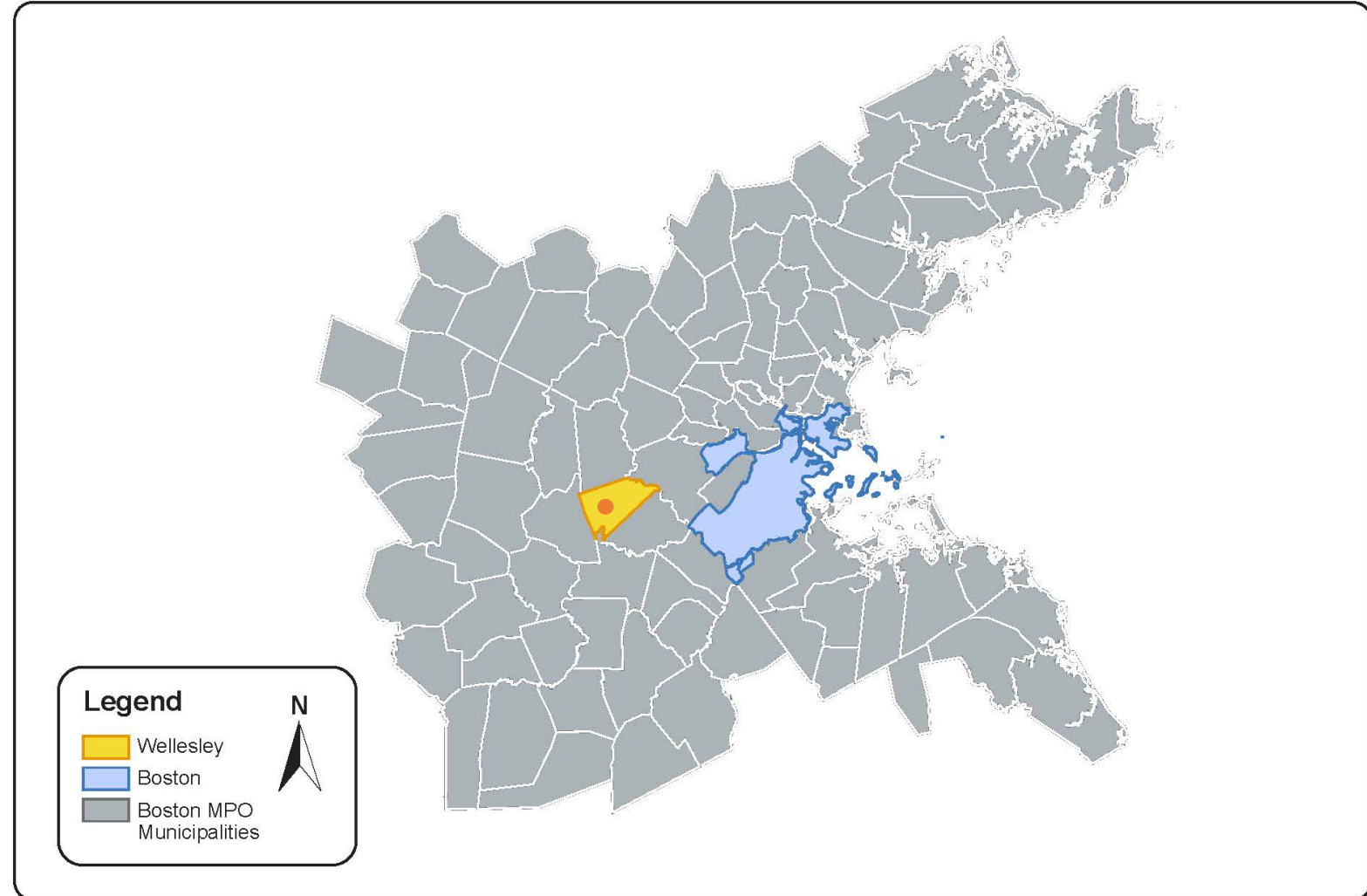
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Wellesley

Weston Road and Linden Street



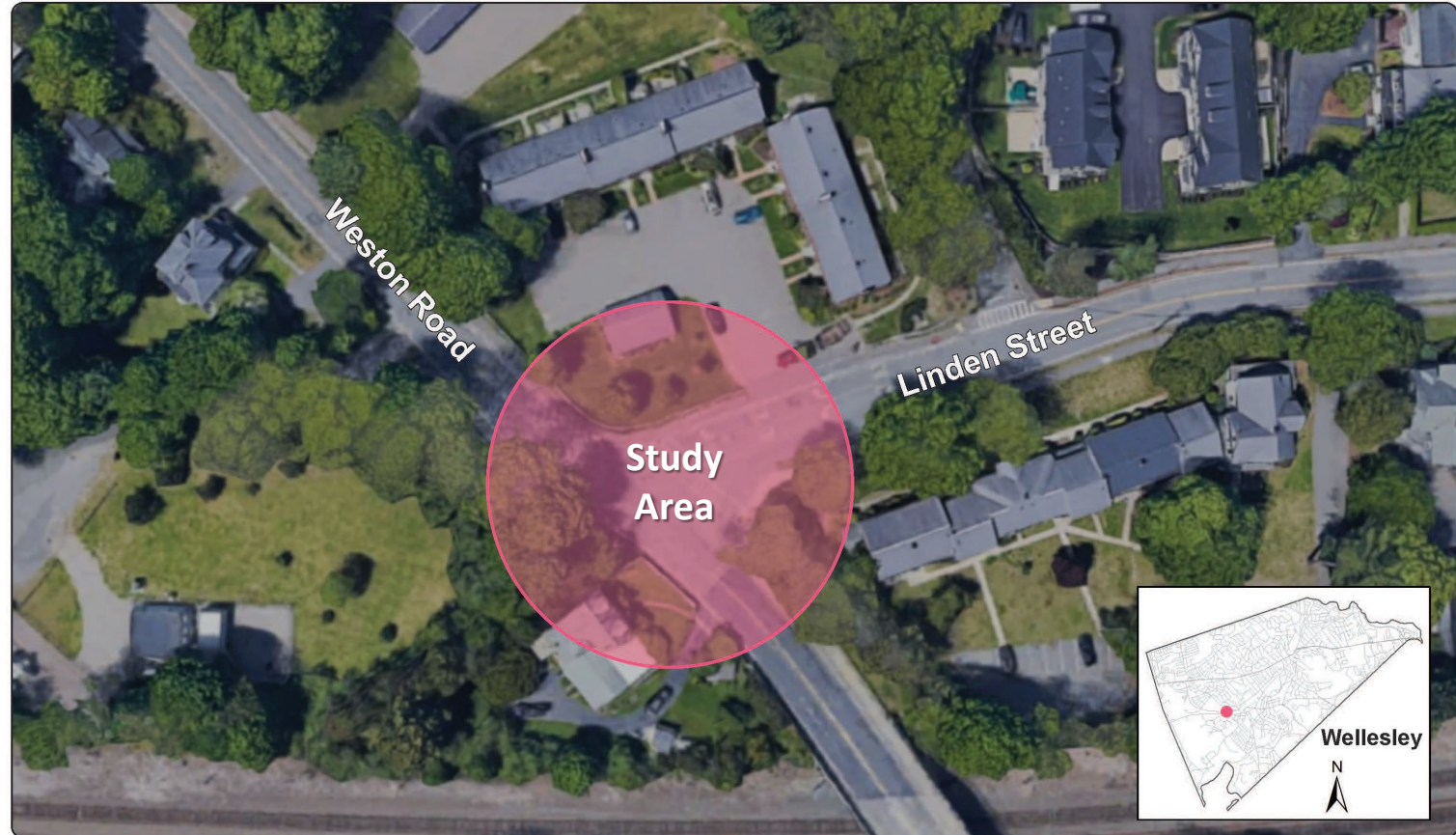
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Weston Road and Linden Street



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Destinations Near Study Intersection



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Wellesley Weston Road South



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Wellesley Weston Road North



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Wellesley Linden Street Crossing



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Wellesley

Issues and Concerns

- Motorists turn across and impede Linden Street crosswalk despite red light during pedestrian phase
- Planned development expected to increase traffic
- Part of Wellesley's Complete Streets prioritization list
- Proximity to Weston Road's Central Street intersection
- North 40 destination west of intersection
- Person bicycling was hit and killed in 2012
 - No bicycle facilities



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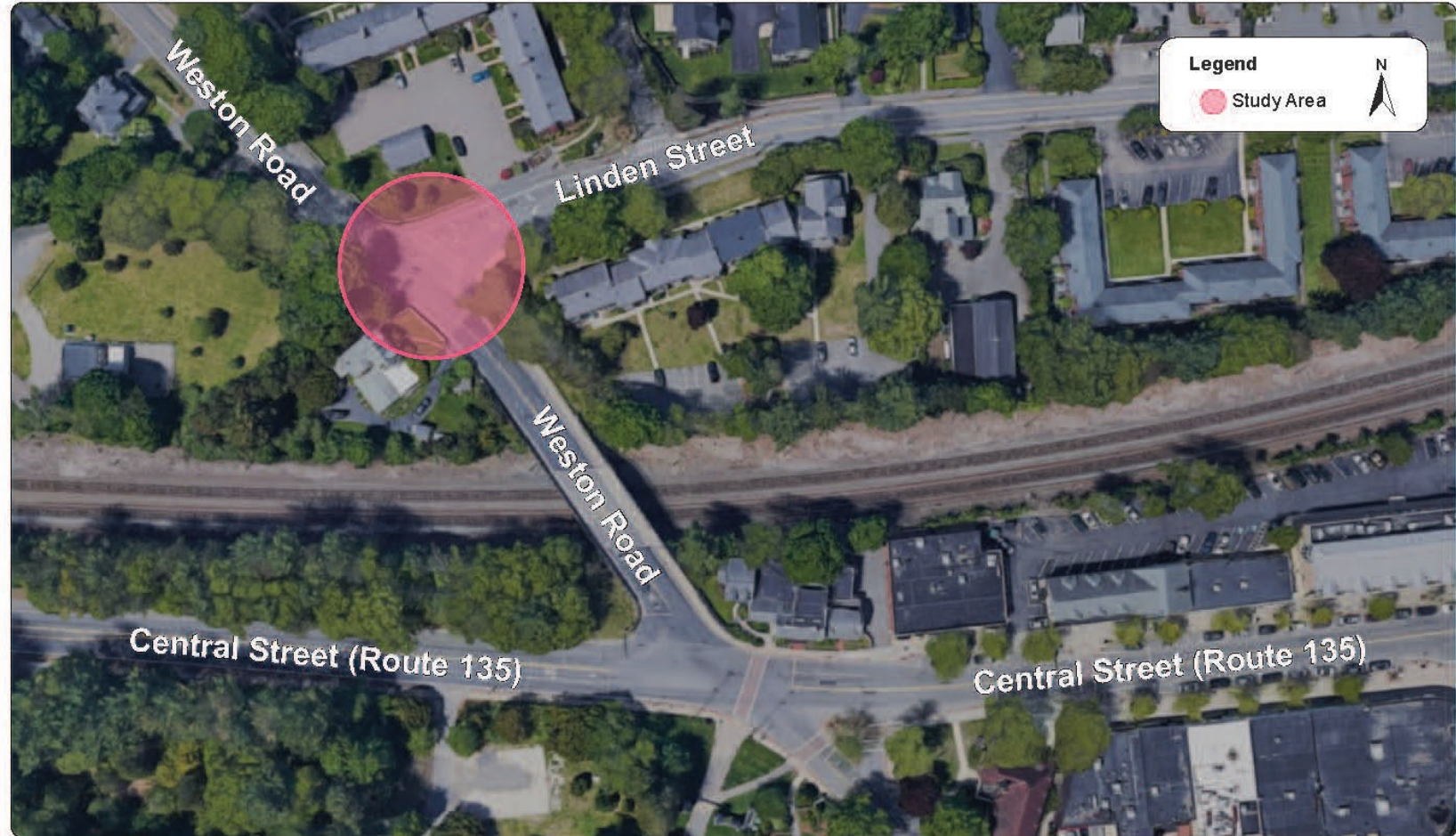
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Proximity to Central Street Intersection



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Wellesley

Central Street Queue along Weston Road



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Wellesley

Issues and Concerns

- Motorists turn or impede crosswalk despite red light when pedestrian activation stops all vehicle traffic
- Planned development expected to increase traffic
- Part of Wellesley's Complete Streets prioritization list
- Proximity to Weston Road's Central Street intersection
- North 40 destination west of intersection
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Destinations Near Study Intersection



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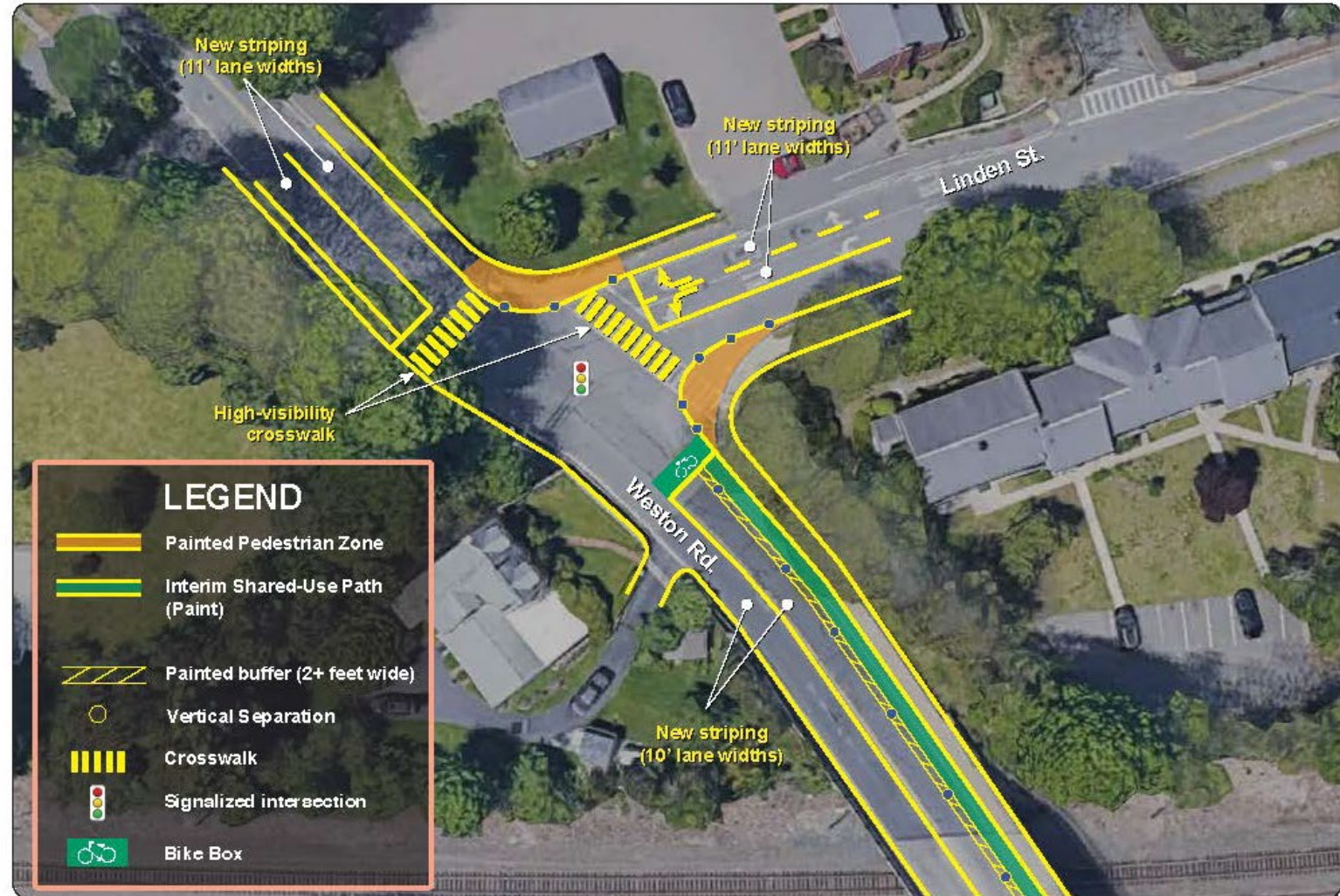
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Wellesley

Short-Term Recommendations



August 17, 2023

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Chair's Report
3. Executive Director's Report
4. Public Comments
5. Committee Chairs' Reports
6. Regional Transportation Advisory Council Report
7. Action Item: June 15, 2023, MPO Meeting Minutes
8. Action Item: FFYs 2023–27 TIP Amendment 11
9. Action Item: FFY 2023 UPWP Amendment Two
- 10. Intersection Improvement Study**
 - Study Purpose
 - Selection Process
 - Selected Intersections
 - Study Process
 - Stow Study
 - **Wellesley Study**
11. Members' Items

Technical difficulties?
Call Sean Rourke at 857.702.3705 or
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Wellesley

Short-Term Recommendations

- Restripe lanes to 11-foot widths
 - Slow vehicle speeds
 - Allocate more space to non-motorists
- Expand pedestrian zones using paint and vertical separation
 - Minimize crossing distance
 - Improve pedestrian visibility
- Fully signalize the intersection
- Test shared-use path along Weston Road between Linden Street and Central Street using paint and vertical separation
 - Wellesley prefers shared-use paths to on-street bike lanes
 - Add wayfinding signage
 - Include bike box to facilitate left turns to North 40



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Long-Term Recommendations

- Actuate intersection signals
 - Coordinate with Weston Road's Central Street signal
- Formalize painted quick-build facilities
 - Concrete sidewalks with curbing
 - Vertically separated, paved, shared-use path
- Additional countermeasures to slow vehicle speeds
 - Vertical countermeasures
 - Raised crosswalks
 - Horizontal countermeasures
 - Chicanes
 - Lane shifts



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Weston Road Southbound Approach



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Thank You!

Questions?



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Members' Items

Reports and notices by MPO members, including regional concerns and local community issues



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