

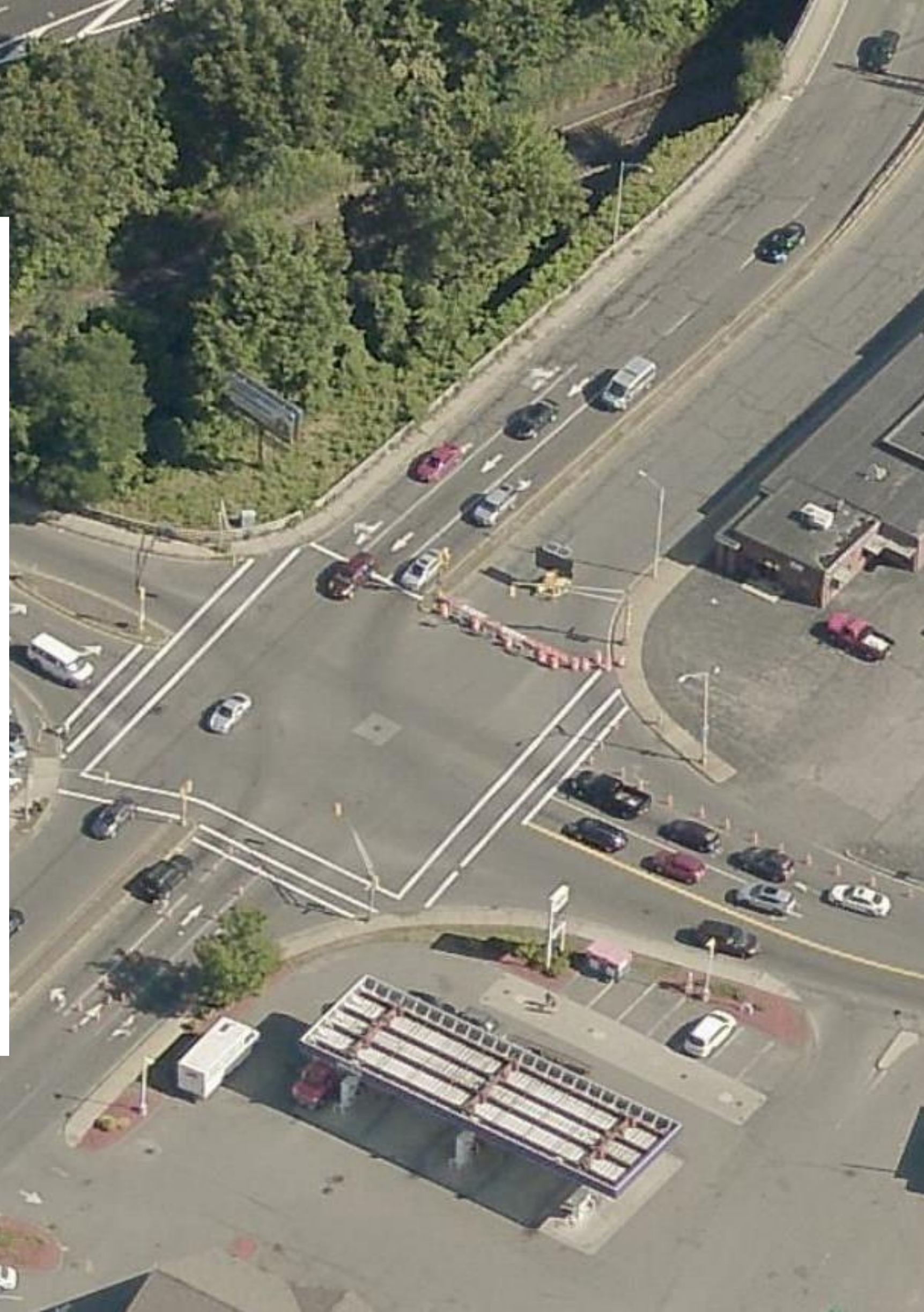


Improvements on St. James Avenue at Tapley Street Springfield, MA






25% Design Public Hearing

Virtual via Zoom | April 5, 2022 | 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Project File No. 608560



Zoom controls

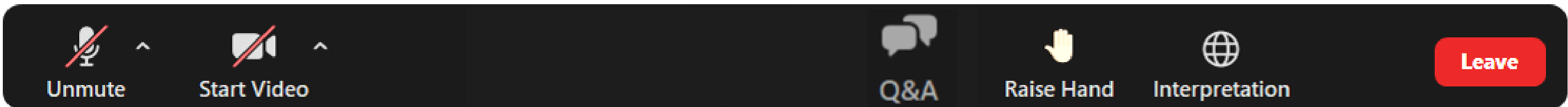
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 • Listen in Spanish
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 • Drop down menu to check microphone and speakers
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 • Ask a question and share comments
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 • Raise your hand
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 • If you are unable to access the internet or are having technical problems, please call into the meeting at 301-715-8592, Webinar ID: 876 4172 4714



If you have trouble with the meeting technology during the presentation, please call:

888-799-9666

Closed captioning automatically generated by Zoom



Public meeting notes and procedures

Notification of recording

- This virtual public meeting is not video recorded. However, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation may choose to retain and distribute any still images, audio, and/or Q&A transcript.
- All recordings and chat transcripts will be considered public records.
- If you are not comfortable being recorded, please turn off your camera, keep your microphone muted, and refrain from chatting in the transcript box. Otherwise, you may choose to excuse yourself from the meeting.

Important notes

- Your microphone and webcam are automatically disabled upon entering the meeting.
- The meeting will be open to questions and answers at the end of the presentation.
- Please take time to respond to our survey at the end of the presentation. Your feedback is important.

All questions and comments are welcome and appreciated, however we do request that you refrain from any disrespectful comments.

Introduction

MassDOT Project Manager

- Jon Freeman, EIT

MassDOT Producer

- Joseph Yoo and Kit McLewee

MassDOT Right-Of-Way

- Zachary Feury

MassDOT District 2

- Laura Hanson and Thomas Ruta

Stenographer – Arlington Typing & Mailing

- Gregory Tarbox

Design Team – Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. (GPI)

- Joe Johnson, P.E., PTOE

City of Springfield

- Christopher Cignoli, P.E.

- Andrew Krar, P.E.



Advertisements & Outreach

Newspaper Advertisements

Notices appeared in 03/23/22 and 03/30/22 issues of the following:

- The Republican (English)
- The Point of View (English)
- El Pueblo Latino (Spanish)

Coordination with the City of Springfield

City officials were involved in the process of Design Public Hearing

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission – outreach emails

Social Media - MassDOT




Design Public Hearing
SPRINGFIELD – Improvements on
Saint James Avenue at Tapley Street

What is happening?
The purpose of this Design Public Hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the Improvements on Saint James Avenue at Tapley Street Project in Springfield, MA. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

How will this affect you?
The project intersection has been listed as a Top 10 high-crash location statewide in recent years. Its proximity to I-291 generates heavy traffic flows, resulting in congested conditions. The existing pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure needs improvement. The project proposes to construct a multi-lane roundabout at the Saint James Avenue/Tapley Street intersection to improve safety and alleviate congestion, and construct shared-use paths to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety, access and connectivity.

When	Attend
Tuesday, April 5, 2022 6:30-8:00pm	www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings

Please note this meeting will be transcribed by a stenographer.
Visit www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings for more information.

This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities and those with limited English proficiency. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request, as appropriate. To request accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone at (857) 368-8580, fax at (857) 368-0602, TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, or by email at MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us. Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the meeting.

Project inquiries may also be emailed to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us. Please submit any written statements regarding the proposed undertaking to: **Carrie A. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, PROJECT FILE NO. 608560**

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
Project File No. 608560

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Improvements on St. James Avenue at Tapley Street project in **Springfield, MA.**

WHEN: 6:30pm-8:00pm, April 5, 2022

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Improvements on St. James Avenue at Tapley Street project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of constructing a roundabout in place of the existing signal at the project location. Pedestrian and bicycle accommodations will be provided in the form of raised shared-use paths, generally 10 feet wide except on the Tapley Street bridge, where an at-grade area for bicycle and pedestrian travel will be provided along the south side. High-visibility crosswalks, ADA-compliant curb ramps, and rectangular rapid flashing beacons are proposed to be provided across each leg of the roundabout to facilitate safe crossings. The left turn onto the on-ramp from St. James Avenue northbound to I-291 westbound is proposed to be signalized.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The **City is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands.** The City's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 6340, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Project Management, Project File No. 608560.** Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted on the MassDOT website listed below.

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g. interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the hearing, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.

This Live Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be hosted on the internet at www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER

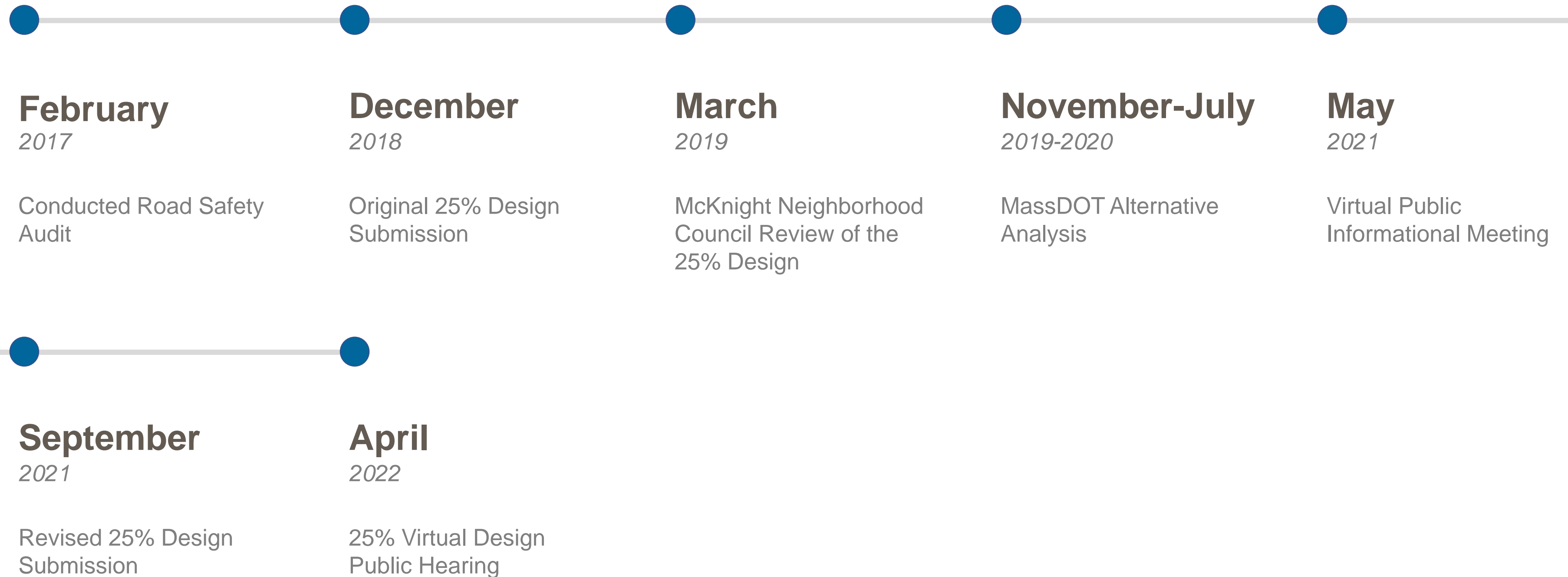


Agenda

- 01 Project History
- 02 Project Need
- 03 Project Objectives
- 04 Proposed Improvements
- 05 Project Impacts
- 06 Project Schedule
- 07 Q&A

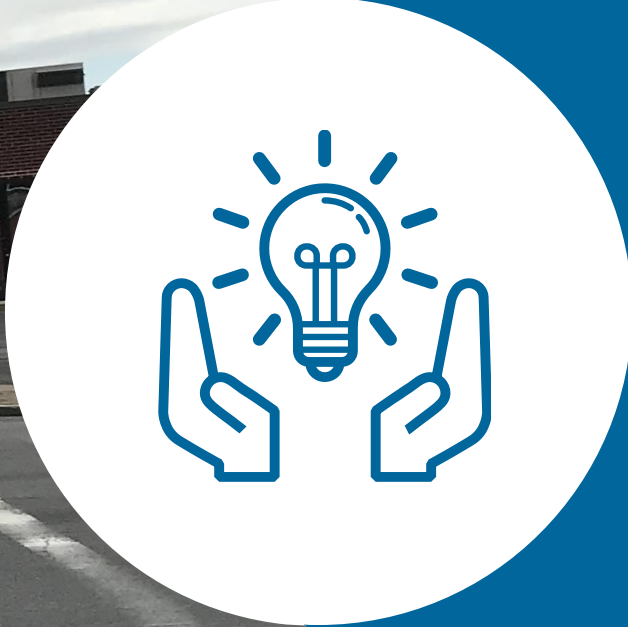


How did we get here?



Project Area





Why was this project initiated?

Project Initiation

- Road Safety Audit
 - High Crash Location
 - Ranked second in the Commonwealth (2017-2019)
- McKnight Neighborhood Council
 - Lack of pedestrian and bicycle accommodations
- Intersection Control Evaluation
 - Intersection improvements



Deficient Pedestrian Accessibility Add sidewalks/shared use paths and shorter/safer crossings.



Lack of Bicycle Accommodations

Add shared use paths and buffered bike lanes.



Intersection Safety

Replace signal with a roundabout.





**What do we
want to
accomplish?**

Project Objectives

- Improve Pedestrian Accommodations
- Add Bicycle Accommodations
- Improve Intersection Safety & Geometry



Improve SAFETY for all modes while staying consistent with MassDOT's Healthy Transportation Policy Directive



TAPLEY STREET

SAINT JAMES AVENUE

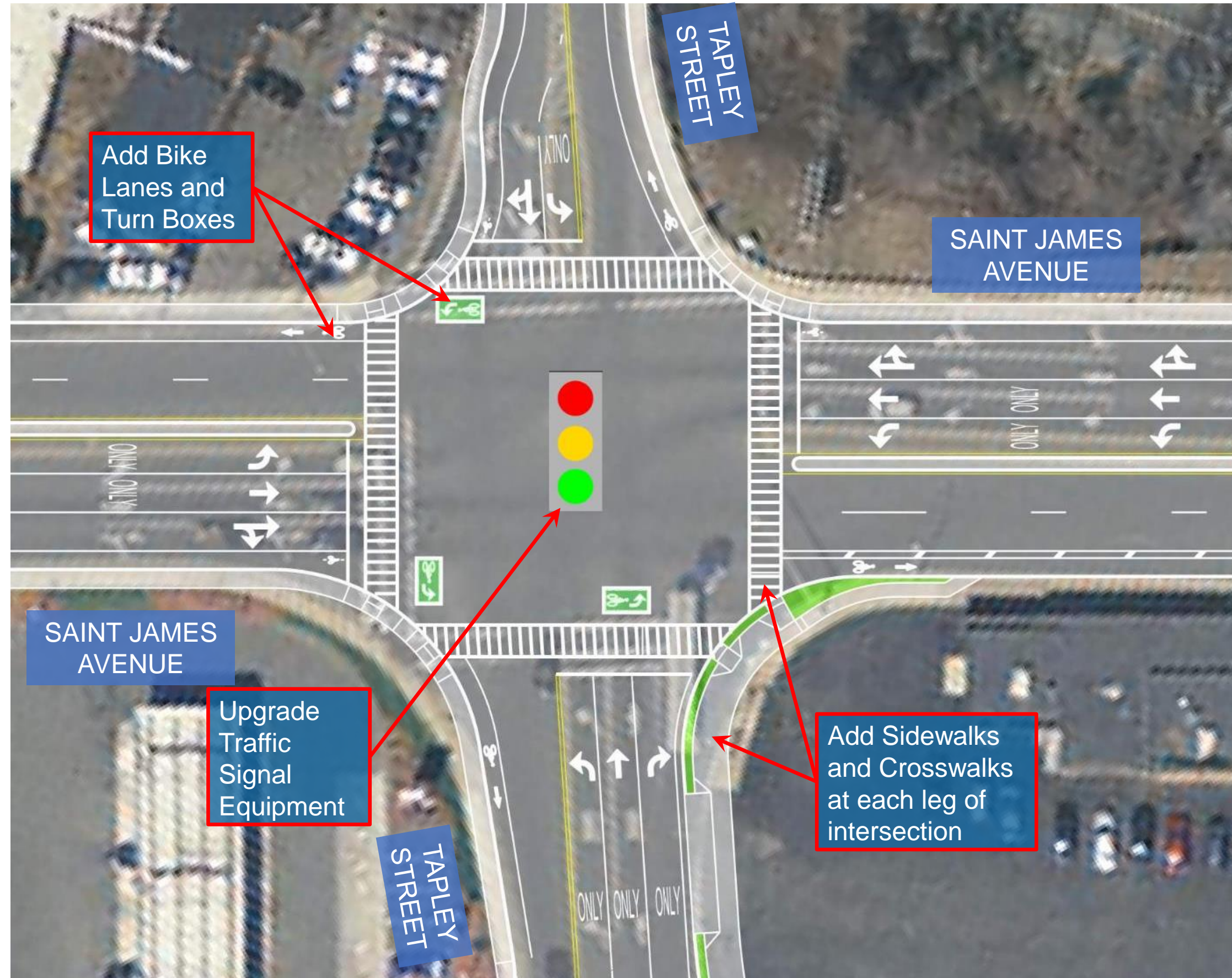
SAINT JAMES AVENUE

TAPLEY STREET

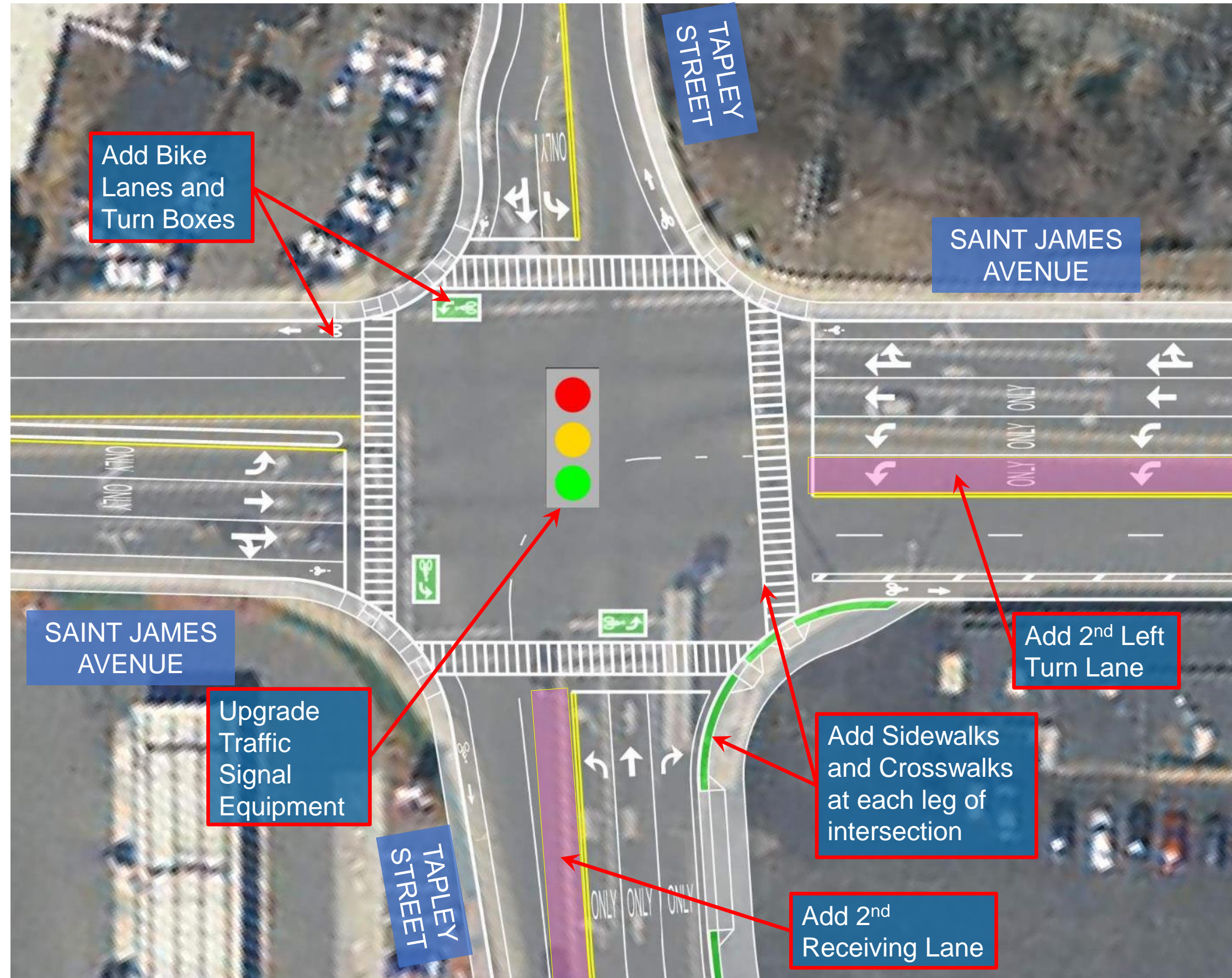


What alternatives were considered?

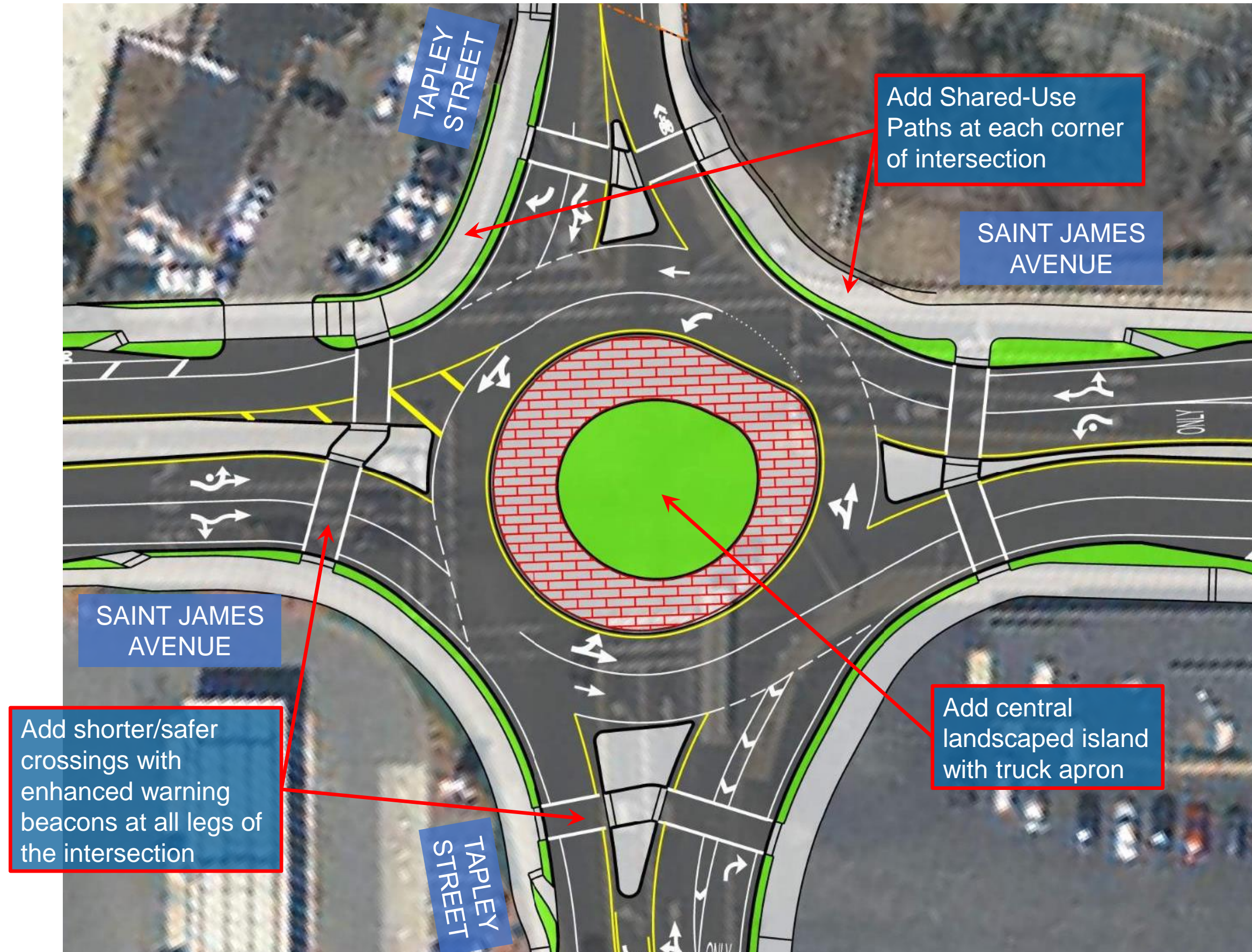
Signal Alternative 1

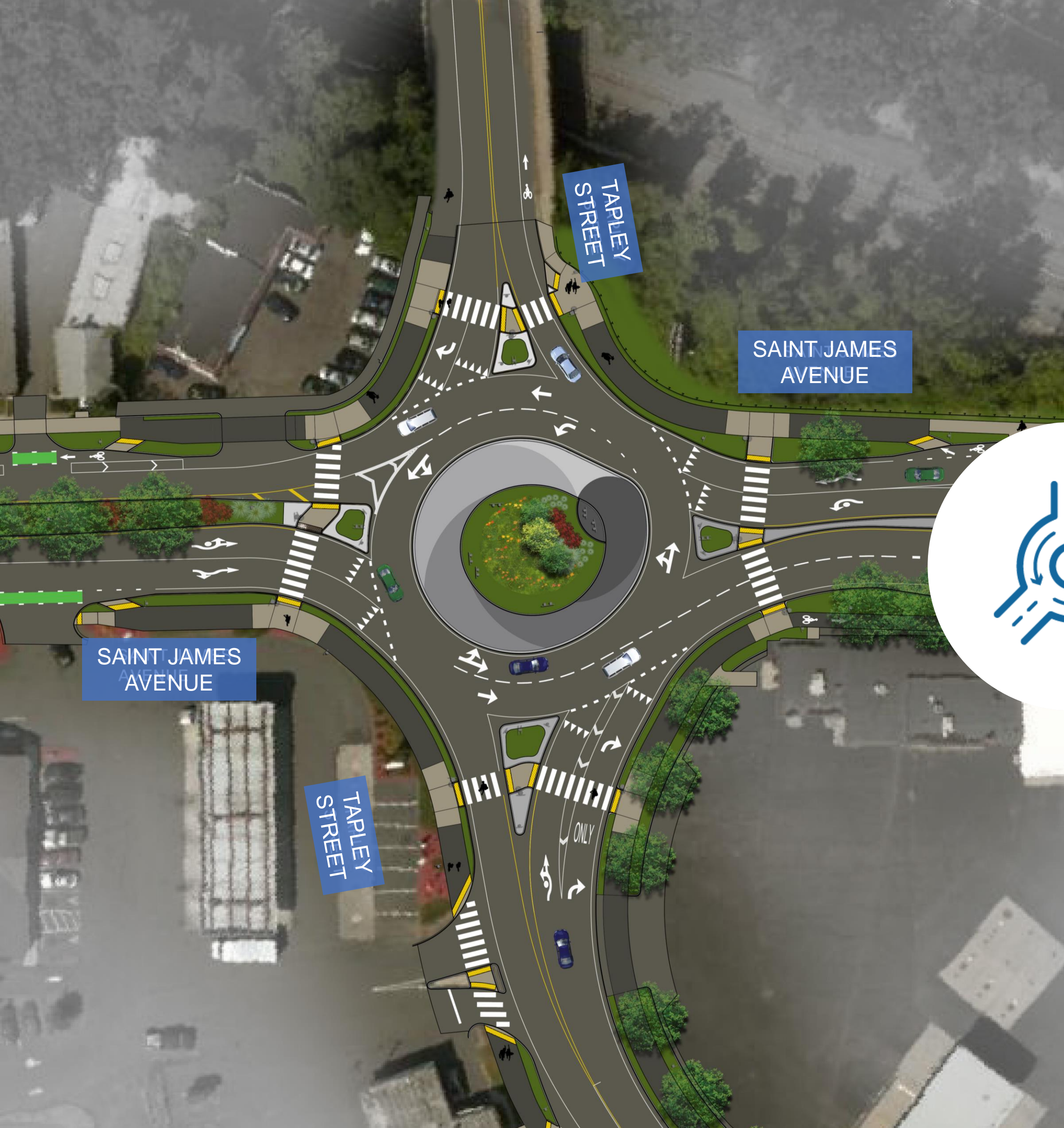


Signal Alternative 2



Mixed Lane Roundabout





What is the preferred alternative?

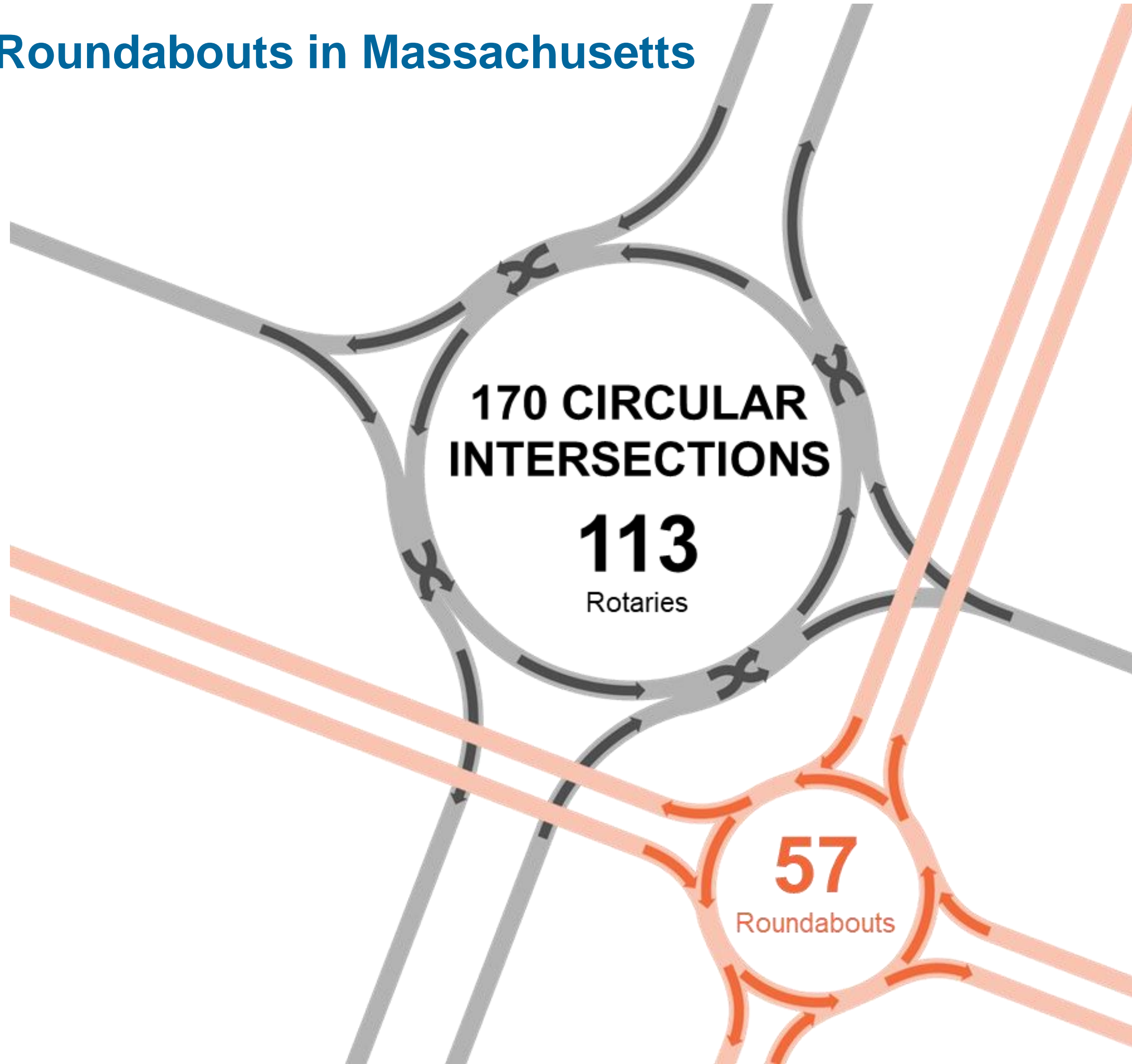
Preferred Alternative Results

INTERSECTION CONTROL EVALUATION RESULTS

INTERSECTION ALTERNATIVE	CONSTRUCTION COST	LONG TERM MAINTENANCE	CONGESTION	SAFETY	RECOMMENDATION
SIGNAL ALTERNATIVE 1	\$2,750,000	HIGHEST	WORSE	BETTER	UNFAVORABLE
SIGNAL ALTERNATIVE 2	\$2,850,000	HIGHEST	LESS	BETTER	FAVORABLE
MULTILANE ROUNDABOUT	\$3,100,000	LOWEST	LEAST	BEST	PREFERRED



Roundabouts in Massachusetts

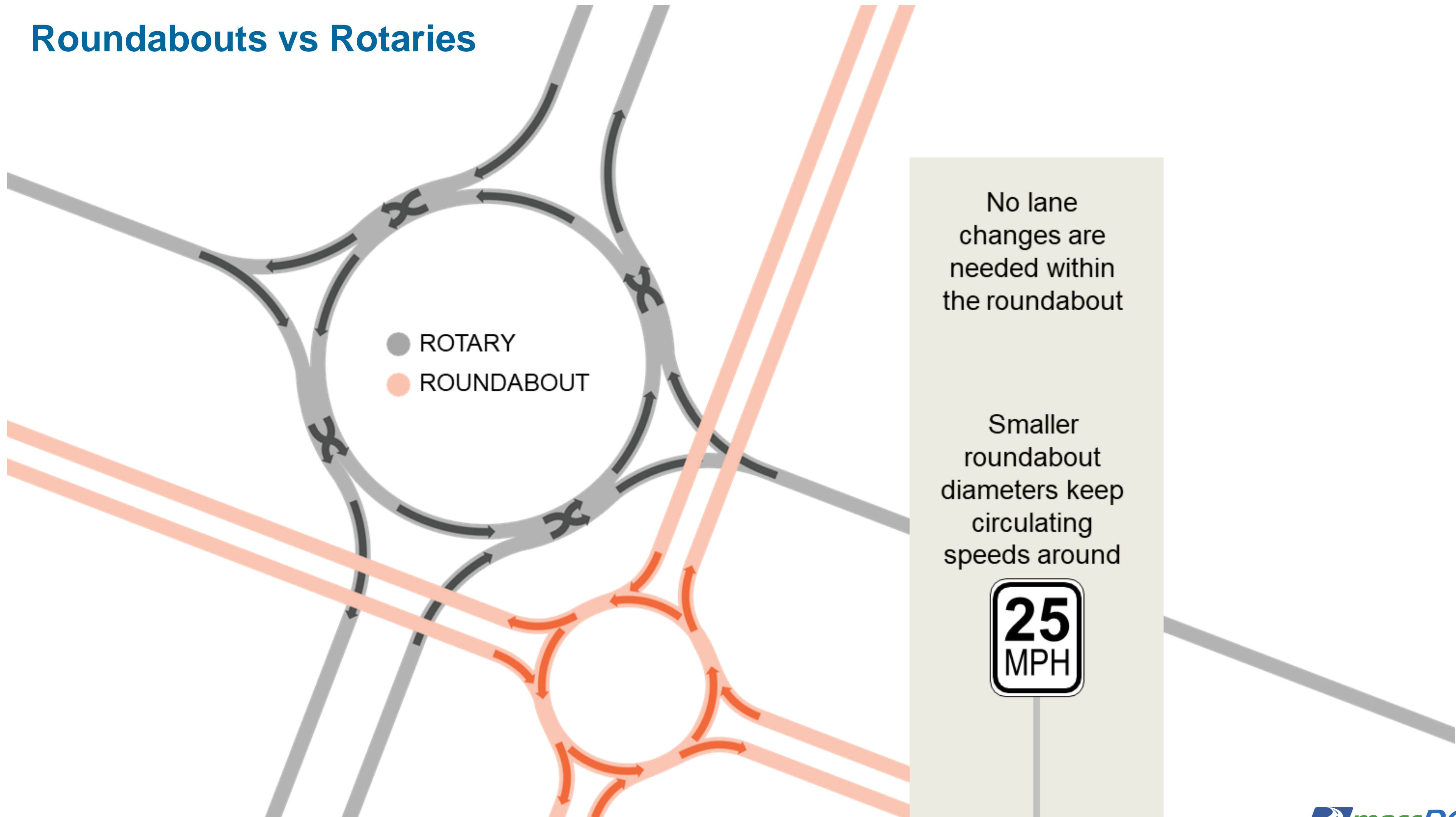


ROUNDBABOUTS LOCATED IN MANY DIFFERENT CONTEXTS

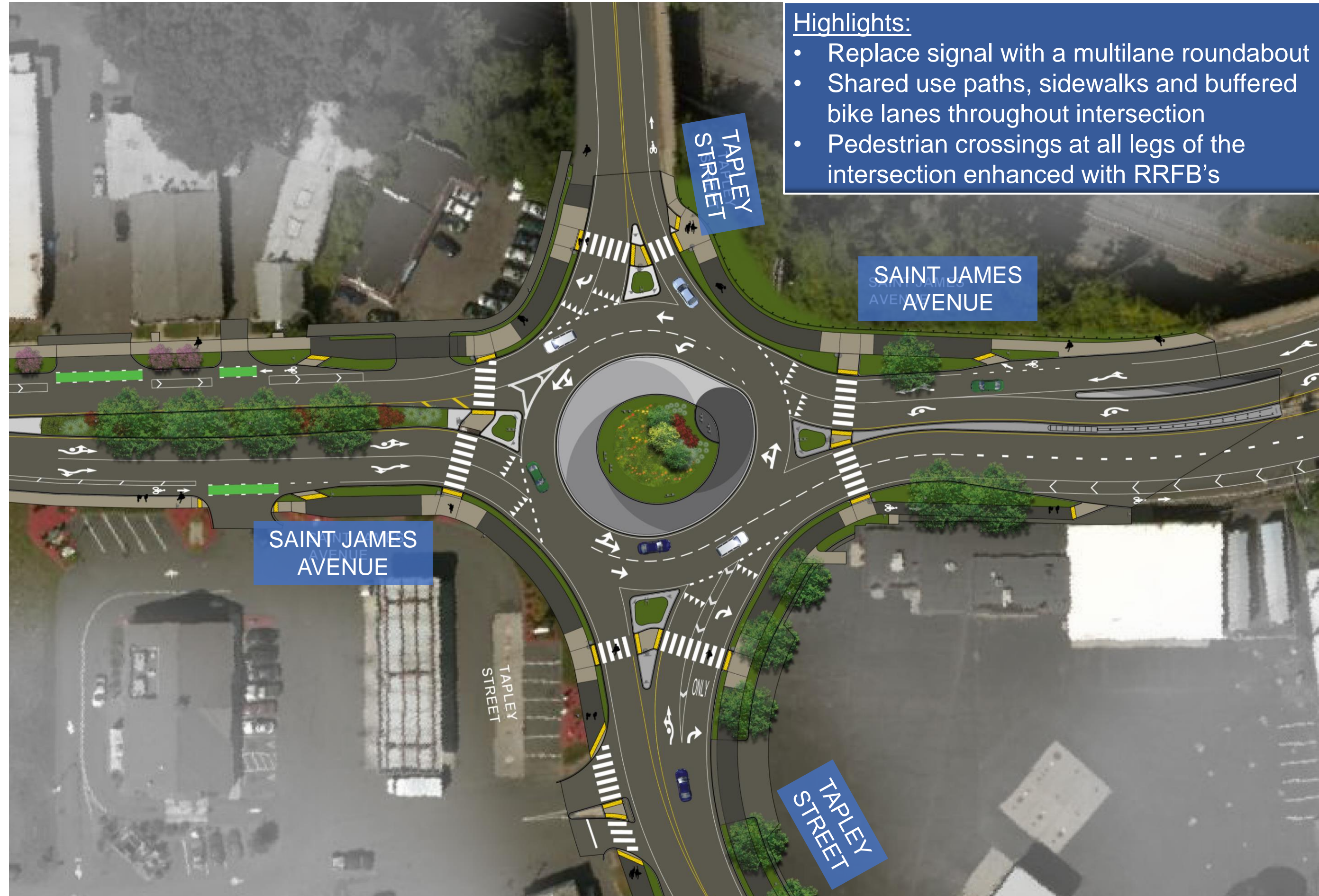
<p>Northampton (Rural State Highway)</p>	<p>Belmont (Neighborhood)</p>
<p>North Andover (Town Center)</p>	<p>Springfield (Urban Downtown)</p>
<p>Barnstable (Limited Access Interchange)</p>	<p>Amherst (Collegian)</p>

Poll Question?

Roundabouts vs Rotaries



Preferred Alternative Mixed Lane Roundabout



- Highlights:**
- Replace signal with a multilane roundabout
 - Shared use paths, sidewalks and buffered bike lanes throughout intersection
 - Pedestrian crossings at all legs of the intersection enhanced with RRFB's

Tapley Street at Nottingham Street Intersection Improvements

Flex Post Delineators:



Highlights:

- Added WB bike lane and EB on-road shared use path separated by flex post delineators over the Tapley Street bridge
- Upgrade pedestrian curb ramps and provide marked crossings across 3 legs of the intersection.



St. James Avenue/I-291 WB On-Ramp/Page Boulevard Intersection Improvements

Highlights:

- Buffered bike lanes over the St. James Ave bridge and dedicated bike lanes through Page Blvd intersection
- New signal equipment installed at the St. James Ave/I-291 WB Ramp to accommodate double left turn lanes
- Added bicycle accommodations at Page Blvd intersection



Intersection Capacity Results – St. James Ave at Tapley St

- Future Condition improvement over the existing condition
- Reduce crash severity and vehicle speeds
- Promotes traffic calming
- Pedestrian and Bicycle accommodations throughout project area

St. James Avenue at Tapley Street	Overall Intersection Vehicle Delay (s)		Overall Intersection Level of Service	
	AM Peak	PM Peak	AM Peak	PM Peak
Existing (2018) with Signal	40.0	55.6	D	E
Existing (2018) with Roundabout	12.8	20.5	B	C
Future (2038) with Signal	46.8	71.5	D	E
Future (2038) with Roundabout	15.3	33.1	C	D

Roundabout Safety

FEWER CONFLICT POINTS THAN SIGNALIZED INTERSECTIONS

56% fewer vehicle-to-vehicle conflict points

57% fewer vehicle-to-pedestrian conflict points

LIVES SAVED

Up to **90%** reduction in fatalities

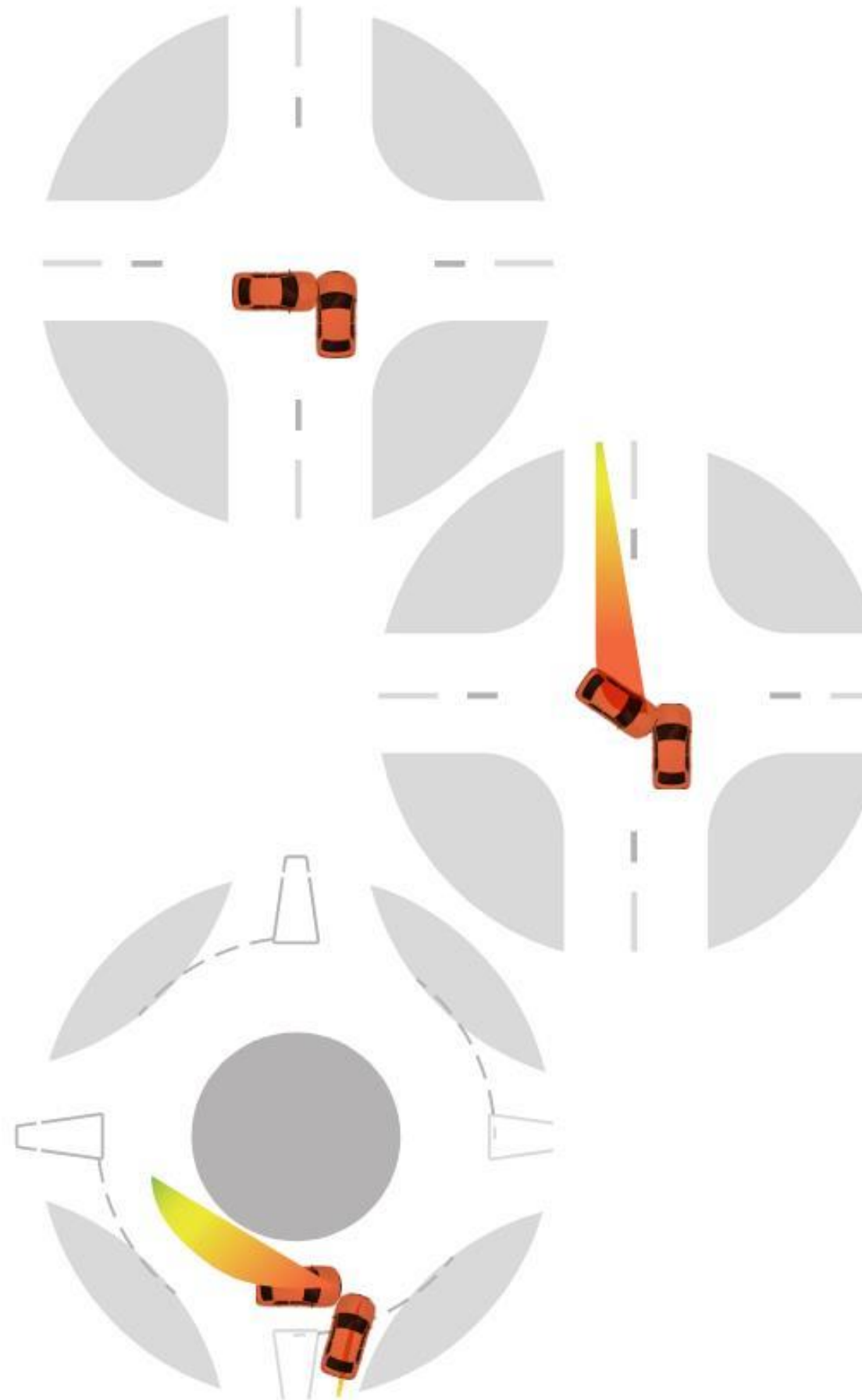
76% reduction in injury crashes

30-40% reduction in pedestrian crashes

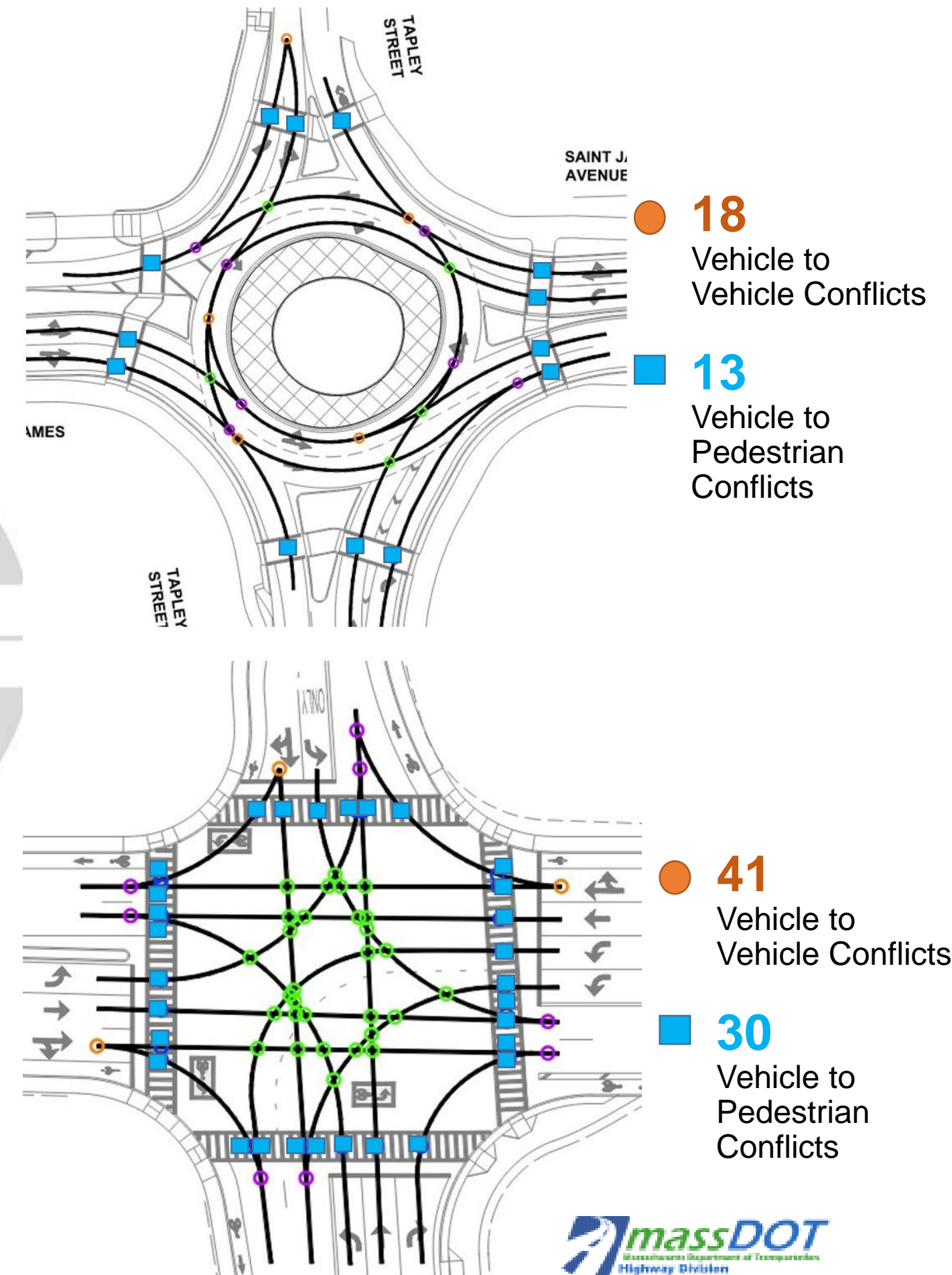
10% reduction in bicycle crashes

FIGURE 1-4: PRIMARY CRASH TYPE ALTERATION AT ROUNDABOUTS

Courtesy of Kittelson & Associates, Inc.



Possible Conflict Points: Multilane Roundabout vs Signal Alternative 2



Emergency Vehicles and Trucks in Roundabouts

Benefit of lower vehicle speeds and never having to run through a red traffic signal



Truck apron can be used by larger vehicles or to bypass a disabled vehicle





How will bicyclists and pedestrians be impacted?

Benefits of a Roundabout for Bicyclists and Pedestrians

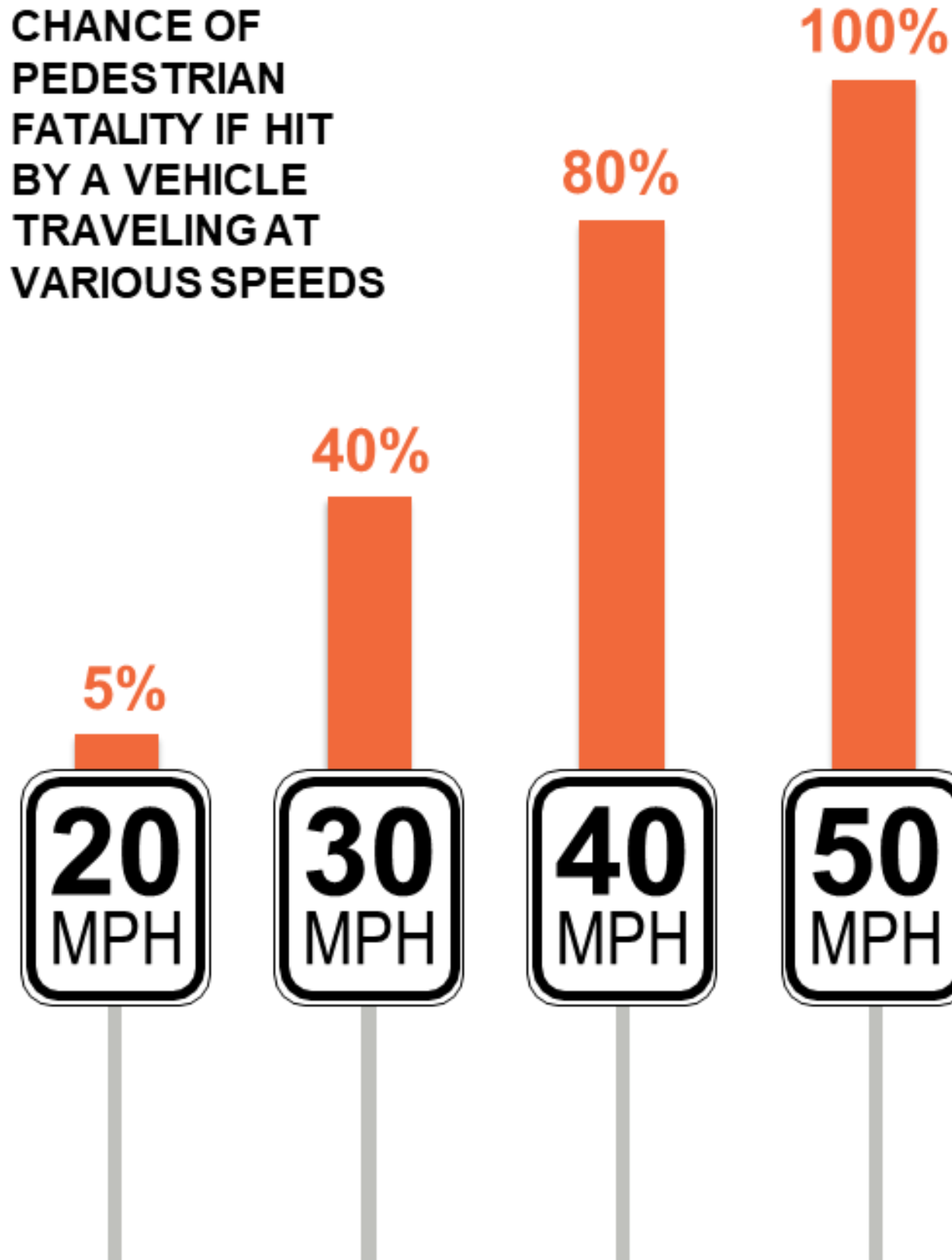
FEATURES FOR ALL USERS

- Adding certain treatments at roundabouts can enhance the experience for both pedestrians and bicycles.

LESS CONFLICT

- Roundabouts have fewer conflict points. The multilane roundabout alternative has 57% fewer pedestrian-vehicle conflict points than the signal alternative two. Conflicts between bicycles and vehicles are reduced as well.

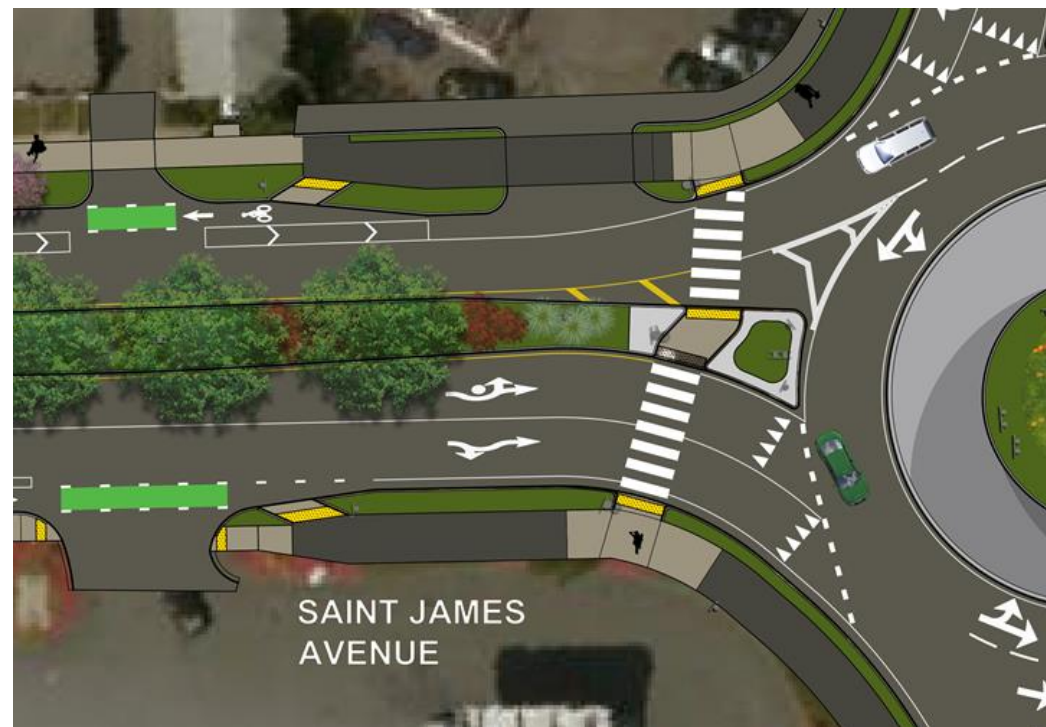
CHANCE OF PEDESTRIAN FATALITY IF HIT BY A VEHICLE TRAVELING AT VARIOUS SPEEDS



Source: Leaf, W. A. and D. F. Preusser. Literature Review on Vehicle Travel Speeds and Pedestrian Injuries. Final Report DOT HS 809 021. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, Washington, D.C., October 1999

Pedestrian Improvements

- ADA Pedestrian curb ramps provided throughout the project
- Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) at all crossings
- Proposed 8'-10' shared-use paths along both sides of the roadway
- Highly visible crosswalks
- Shorter, two-stage crossings



Bicyclists at Roundabouts

INCREASING LEVEL OF COMFORT, SAFETY, AND INTEREST IN BICYCLING

No bike lanes on a busy street



Narrow bike lane or shoulders on a busy street



Buffered bike lane on a calm street



Separated bike lane, bicycle boulevard, or shared use path



Slower vehicle operating speeds make roundabouts safer and more comfortable for bicyclists



Bicyclists can either use the roundabout as a vehicle or use dedicated ramps to access the crosswalks



How will your property be impacted?

Right of Way (ROW) discussion – 25% Design

- City is responsible for acquiring all necessary rights in public land for design, construction, and implementation of a project.
- Affected property owners will be contacted by personnel representing the City of Springfield.
- Procedures must comply with state and federal regulations governing the acquisition process.
 - Property owners are protected under Massachusetts General Laws, primarily Chapter 79.
 - If project receives federal funds, property owners are further protected under Title III of the Real Property Act of 1970, as amended.
- Fee takings, permanent easements, and/or temporary construction easements may be required.
- Copies of the preliminary ROW plans will be available upon request from the City of Springfield.



**What is the
construction
approach?**



Proposed Construction Approach

- Removal of existing traffic signal
- Installation of a temporary traffic signal to control traffic flow
- Existing travel lanes to be maintained as much as possible to limit travel disruption
- The contractor will develop a staging plan to share with the community prior to construction
- Variable Message Boards will be placed 14 days prior to construction
- Police details for all roadway work



**How will the
road user be
affected?**

Construction Impacts

- Roadside work during regular construction hours
 - Shared use path & sidewalk construction
 - Curb installation
- Roadway work during off-peak hours
 - Paving and roadway reconstruction
- Short term detours and/or alternating traffic expected at times
- Limited impact to abutters
 - Maintain access to businesses, driveways, pedestrian routes and DPW
- Night work is not anticipated and will require approval by the City and MassDOT
- Construction duration: Approximately 2 years



Our next steps



25% Design
Public Hearing –
April 5, 2022



75% Design
Completed –
Summer 2022



Final Design Completed
and ROW Secured –
Winter 2023



Advertise Project
for Construction –
Winter 2023



**How will we
keep you
informed?**

Contact Information

- **Submit Comments via Mail:**

Carrie Lavalley, P.E.
Chief Engineer MassDOT
10 Park Plaza
Suite 6340
Boston, MA 02116

Att. Roadway Project Management Project File No. 608560

(Must postmark mailed comments within 10 days of webinar publish date for inclusion in public hearing transcript)

- **Submit Comments or Inquiries via E-Mail:**

MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us

Subject: MassDOT Project File No. 608560 - Springfield

Email is preferred!





Questions and discussion

Questions and discussion



- “Raise your hand” to be unmuted for verbal questions



- Submit your questions and comments using the Q&A button



- Please state your name before your question



- Please share only 1 question or comment at a time, limited to 2 minutes, to allow others to participate



- To ask a question via phone, dial *9 and the moderator will call out the last 4-digits of your phone number and unmute your audio when it is your turn.



- Please take a few minutes to complete the survey after the meeting to let us know how your experience was with this virtual meeting.

**All questions and comments are subject to disclosure for public records.
Please use these functions for project related business only.**



Thank You

Improvements on St. James Avenue at Tapley Street

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Project File No. 608560

[Project Manager – Jonathan Freeman](#)

